

ARTS COMMISSION

Notice of Meeting on **Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.**

ELECTRONIC MEETING ONLY – USE ZOOM LINK

| | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| M. Alto (Chair) | M. Brame | S. Gray | C. Plant | C. Smart |
| J. Bateman | R. Fawcett | G. Lemon | K. Roessingh | |

The public viewing room for this meeting is Room 129 – please sign in at reception. Delegations will have the option to participate electronically. Please complete the online application at www.crd.bc.ca/address no later than 4:30 pm two days before the meeting and staff will respond with details.

AGENDA

1. Territorial Acknowledgement
2. Approval of Agenda

Recommendation: That the agenda for the March 25, 2026 Arts Commission meeting be approved.

3. Adoption of Minutes of January 28, 2026

Recommendation: That the minutes of the Arts Commission meeting of January 28, 2026, be adopted.

4. Chair's Remarks
5. Presentations/Delegations
6. Commission Business

6.1 Arts Advisory Council Update

- 6.1.1. Arts Advisory Council Chair's Report (verbal)
- 6.1.2. Arts Advisory Council Minutes: March 10, 2026 - for information
- 6.1.3. Arts Advisory Council *Activities by Council Summary*: March 10, 2026 – for information

6.2. Manager's Report (verbal)

- 6.2.1 Outreach Report (written)

6.3 2026 January Project Grant Recommendations

Recommendation: The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:
That the 2026 January Project Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

Attachments: Staff Report: 2026 January Project Grant Recommendations
Appendix A: 2026 January Project Grant Recommendations and Summaries

*Commissioners: To ensure quorum,
please advise Erin Sterling (esterling@crd.bc.ca) if you or your alternate cannot attend.*

6.4 CRD Arts & Culture Support Service: Name & Brand Review

Recommendation: The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission: that staff include an amendment to Section 1 of Bylaw No. 2884 so that the service name is “Arts Development Service” the next time that the bylaw is being amended for other reasons and, if the amending bylaw is adopted, that staff should carry out an awareness campaign to ensure name recognition and traction.

Attachment: Staff Report: Arts & Culture Support Service Name & Brand Review

6.5 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards Funding Request

Recommendation: That \$6,000 be provided to ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria to support the 2026 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards to convene and celebrate the CRD arts community with \$5,000 dedicated to funding the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award and \$1,000 dedicated to supporting the production of the event.

Attachments: Staff Report: GV Regional Arts Awards Funding Request
Appendix A: Letter from ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria (March 2, 2026)

6.6 New National Report on Arts Vibrancy Index

Recommendation: There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Attachment: Staff Report: New National Report on Arts Vibrancy Index
Appendix A: Arts Vibrancy Index (February 2026)

7. New Business

8. Correspondence: Thank You Letters from Impulse Theatre, Pacific Opera Victoria, Victoria Conservatory of Music and Yellowhouse Art Centre

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: April 22, 2026



Meeting Minutes Arts Commission

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

4:00 PM

Room 129
625 Fisgard St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

PRESENT

Commissioners: M. Alto (Chair), J. Bateman (EP), R. Fawcett, S. Gray, G. Lemon (EP), C. Plant (EP), K. Roessingh, C. Smart (EP)

Staff: C. Gilpin, A. Gibbs, E. Sterling (Recorder), V. Somosan

EP – Electronic Participation

Arts Advisory Council: J. Noomen, Vice-Chair (EP); R. Ditor, Funding Chair

Regrets: M. Brame, P. Brent (R. Fawcett attending as alternate), S. Epp (resigned; S. Gray attending as alternate)

The meeting was called to order at 4 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Alto welcomed all participants and offered a territorial acknowledgement, expressing our gratitude and our understanding that it is a privilege to do our work on the traditional and current territories of the Lkwungen people (the Songhees and Xwsepsum) who have stewarded these lands since time immemorial.

2. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED by Commissioner Plant, SECONDED by Commissioner Gray,
To add an item under new business: recognition of Commissioner Epp.
CARRIED**

**MOVED by Commissioner Roessingh, SECONDED by Commissioner Gray,
That the agenda for the January 28, 2026 Arts Commission meeting be
approved as amended. CARRIED**

3. Adoption of Minutes

**MOVED by Commissioner Roessingh, SECONDED by Commissioner Gray,
That the minutes of the Arts Commission meeting of September 17, 2025 be
adopted as circulated. CARRIED**

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Alto thanked the staff for the amazing job at facilitating the Arts Champions Summit on November 4th – it was well attended, and the feedback was very positive. The opportunity to learn was tremendous and the opportunity for members of the arts community to interact with one another was very valuable. As well, although we will discuss this under new business, thanks to Sharie Epp, Councillor from Metchosin, who has done so much for her community over many years.

5. Presentations/Delegations - none

6. Commission Business

6.1 Arts Advisory Council (AAC) Chair's Report (verbal)

J. Noomen (Vice-Chair), standing in for R. Gale (Chair) shared a few items:

- We have three new Commissioners that started in January: Dylan Clark (returning), Jody Bauche, and Terence Wong. We are back to a full complement of 12 with a variety of backgrounds.
- Council has been working through enormous amounts of paperwork to adjudicate Operating Grants. There was outstanding dedication from Council members and staff as they scrutinized and scored the applications and held an in-person adjudication.
- The Arts Champions Summit received great feedback and had the opportunity for the arts community to speak directly to arts funders at all levels.

6.1.2 Arts Advisory Council Minutes: January 13, 2026 Meeting – received for information

6.1.3 Arts Advisory Council Activities by Council Summary - received for information

In response to a question, J. Noomen explained that the ABCs are a list compiled at each AAC meeting, of cultural activities that members have attended between meetings. It represents the involvement of the AAC in the arts community, is a starting point for conversations, and raises awareness of how many events take place within our jurisdictions.

6.2 Manager's Report (verbal)

6.2.1 Outreach Report (attached)

C. Gilpin introduced the staff, including V. Somosan, acting CFO, and reported on a few items:

- January Project Grants intake closed on January 16th with 36 applications received.
- Equity, IDEA, and April Project Grants intakes were launched on January 20th.
- The next Arts Champions Summit will be in 2027 and will inform the next strategic plan.
- The Performing Arts Facilities Select Committee brought a recommendation to the CRD Board last fall to create a new service to scale up support for three regional theatres and support development of a fourth theatre on the West Shore. This was endorsed by the Board

unanimously on Oct 8th. We received statutory approval from the province, the next stage is Alternative Approval Process in the spring. This new service would have a transition year in 2026 and then take effect as part of budget 2027.

6.2.2 CRD Arts Commission 2026 Meeting Schedule

C. Gilpin noted that the AC meetings are normally the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Boardroom. If there is a meeting in July, it will be entirely online because of Boardroom renovations. In September, the meeting date was moved to the third Wednesday to allow budget recommendations to be made in time for the Committee of the Whole on the fourth Wednesday.

C. Smart suggested we get RSVPs for September early to ensure quorum as the Union of BC Municipalities also meets on the 16th.

6.3 2026 Operating Grant Recommendations

C. Gilpin reported that there were 26 applications to the Annual stream, with 2 new applicants: Yellowhouse Arts Centre on Galiano Island is being recommended, and Other Guise Theatre is not (they are, however, pursuing funding through April Project Grants). There were 7 Notices of Significant Concern going into the adjudication; four were cleared and three are continuing.

R. Ditor, AAC Funding Chair, wanted to reiterated J. Noomen's comments about the process; it is an honour to serve with this Council. Staff is incredibly supportive and wise. The decisions were difficult to make but it is a very healthy jury with healthy discussion.

R. Fawcett entered the meeting at 4:22 pm.

In response to questions, it was noted that:

- the Notice of Significant Concern (NOSC) policy gives an opportunity for any organization to address concerns without any change to their funding. In their subsequent application they are allowed a supplementary letter to address concerns. If concerns are not met, it is possible in for their funding to be reduced or removed entirely, but not until that second year.
- any organization who receives a NOSC will have a follow-up conversation with staff to receive synthesized information from the adjudication.

C. Smart noted that stable funding is a reduction in purchasing power year over year.

R. Ditor added that the Council wanted to give a financial lift to the top 12 ranking organizations, but that would have meant an extra \$92k that was not in the budget. J. Noomen noted that the Council thought through different options and concluded that it was more impactful to give a larger lift to fewer organizations than giving smaller amounts to more groups.

**MOVED by Commissioner Roessingh, SECONDED by Commissioner Gray,
That the 2026 Operating Grant recommendations be approved as presented.**

CARRIED

6.4 Arts & Culture Support Service Strategic Plan Check-in

C. Gilpin noted that this is an annual report to update the Commission on the work done to implement the strategic plan – we are starting year three. The only slight delay is the review of name and brand but that will come to one of the next few meetings. Everything else is on schedule and all will be accomplished within the term.

7. New Business – recognition of Commissioner Epp.

**MOVED by Commissioner Plant, SECONDED by Commissioner Lemon,
That the Arts Commission spend up to \$200 to courier a thank you card and
flowers to Sharie Epp on behalf of the AC, AAC, and staff. CARRIED**

8. Correspondence – letter from CRD Board chair to Minister Kang re: reconsideration of BC Arts Council’s Regional Areas Policy.**9. Adjournment**

**MOVED by Commissioner Roessingh, SECONDED by Commissioner Gray,
That the January 28, 2026 Arts Commission meeting be adjourned at 4:42 pm.
CARRIED**

Chair

Recorder



Meeting Minutes Arts Advisory Council

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

5:00 PM

Via Video Conference

Members: R. Gale (Chair), J. Bauche, D. Clark, C. Haska, E. Mushumanski, J. Noomen,
A. Reid, S. Reid, P. Tsolo, T. Wong

Staff: C. Gilpin, A. Gibbs, E. Sterling (Recorder)

Regrets: R. Ditor, J. Smillie

1. Territorial Acknowledgement – R. Gale opened with a territorial acknowledgement. We are grateful to live and work on these lands, with respect to the nations whose longstanding relationship with the lands continues to this day.

2. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED S. Reid, SECONDED by E. Mushumanski,
That the agenda for the March 10, 2026 Arts Advisory Council meeting be approved.
CARRIED**

3. Minutes

**MOVED by C. Haska, SECONDED by T. Wong,
That the January 13, 2026 minutes of the Arts Advisory Council be approved as
presented. CARRIED**

Arts Commission Minutes of September 17, 2025 were received for information

4. Chair's Report

R. Gale accepted the AAC's acclamation of his nomination for chair in his absence. J. Noomen spoke about the last Arts Commission meeting. A good discussion was had about Operating Grants, and a seed was planted about the gap between the budget and the need.

5. Manager's Report

C. Gilpin reported on the following:

- A few changes on the Arts Commission: Sharie Epp (Metchosin) resigned, replaced by Steve Gray, and from SGI, Paul Brent is handing off to Rob Fawcett. We did an orientation for the both of them. After a few changes, Esquimalt is currently represented by Meagan Brame.

- The Alternate Approval Process for the proposed Arts Facilities Service is continuing until March 30th.
- We are receiving high numbers of applicants for the IDEA and Equity granting intakes.

6. 2026 January Project Grant Recommendations

MOVED by S. Reid, SECONDED by E. Mushumanski,

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

That the 2026 January Project Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

CARRIED

A Reid and D. Clark reported from the adjudication team. There were some exciting proposals, with a good variety of applications across genres of art-making and regional distribution.

7. CRD Arts & Culture Support Service: Name & Brand Review

A. Gibbs spoke to the staff report – the Arts Service gets named correctly only 25% of the time. There are concerns with how using the word Culture leads to misinterpretation by clients of the mandate.
C. Gilpin reminded the AAC that this initiative is part of the strategic plan.

MOVED by J. Bauche, SECONDED by J. Noomen,

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

That staff include an amendment to Section 1 of Bylaw No. 2884 so that the service name is “Arts Development Service” the next time that the bylaw is being amended for other reasons and, if the amending bylaw is adopted, that staff should carry out an awareness campaign to ensure name recognition and traction. CARRIED

8. ABCs (Activity by Council Summary)

A robust discussion of arts activities members had seen and were looking forward to led to a larger discussion of live shows and films.

- 9. Correspondence** Thank You Letters from Impulse Theatre, Pacific Opera Victoria, Victoria Conservatory of Music, and Yellowhouse Art Centre

10. Adjournment

MOVED by C. Haska, SECONDED by J. Noomen,

That the March 10, 2026 Arts Advisory Council meeting be adjourned at 5:50 pm.

CARRIED

Chair

Recorder

Arts Advisory Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Activities by Council (ABCs)

Local:

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Art Gallery of GV | Winter Celebration |
| Ballet Victoria | Carmina Burana, Frankenstein |
| Belfry Theatre | Maanomaa, My Brother |
| Bragi Theatre | The Hawk Lover and other tales of strange desire |
| Broken Rhythms | On Hold |
| Caravan World Rhythms | Ladysmith Black Mambazo |
| Dance Victoria | CCN/ Aterballetto |
| Frocktails @ the Empress | |
| Gage Gallery | Here & There: Paintings by Martin Osberg |
| IMAX Film Festival: | 3D Coral Sea, 3D Lasting Impressions, 3D Secrets of Great Salt Lake |
| Inhale/ Exhale: A Celebration of Contemporary Indigenous Storytelling and Art (UVic) | |
| International Guitar Night (2026 Canada Tour) | |
| Langham Court Theatre | I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change |
| Little Fernwood Gallery | Book Release: A Cat Called Elephant |
| Lloyd Arntzen Band | |
| Madeleine Peyroux | concert at the Royal Theatre |
| Madrona Gallery | Field Notes: Shawn O'Keefe and Collin Elder |
| Na Mara | |
| Pacific Opera | Zombie Blizzard (Luminary Series) Tosca |
| Phoenix Theatre | A Sudden Violent Burst of Rain |

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Spec Theatre | The Strange Hour |
| Victoria Film Festival | Hello Betty, Jimpa, Starwalker, Mile End Kicks, CineVic Screening |
| Victoria Symphony | Kluxen-Grieg's Peer Gynt Vivaldi's Four Seasons |
| Wondering Snakes | |

Online (VR) PXR Launch Party – Canadian Festival Event

Out of Town:

Vancouver Nier Piano Concert
Wise Hall: Lola Kirke with Chloe Kimes, Sabine McCalla & Dani Rae Clark
Vancouver Art Gallery: Nan Goldin: Stendhal Syndrome
Jim Lambie: Zobop (colour chrome)
Enemy Alien: Tamio Wakayama
That Green Ideal: Emily Carr and the idea of Nature
We Who Have Known Tides: Indigenous Art from the
Collection

Toronto Good Kid (band): United Boxing Association
Summer and Smoke: Crow's Theatre
Witch: Soulpepper Theatre

London Martin Carthy & Friends concert, Cecil Sharp House
The Shitheads, Royal Court Theatre
The Long Now: Saatchi Gallery at 40

Belgium

Music

Jasen Weaver Quintet, Toots Jazz Club, Brussels
Joe Sanders, Toots Jazz Club, Brussels
Erik Vermeulen, Toots Jazz Club, Brussels
Student Jazz Jam, Toots Jazz Club, Brussels
Anne Wolf Trio with Chrystel Wautier, The Music Village, Brussels
Mazzle, de Muze, Antwerp
Arno Goossens, de Muze, Antwerp
Milan Verbist, de Muze, Antwerp
Daniel Menezes, de Muze, Antwerp
De Muze Five, de Muze, Antwerp
Jazz Jam, de Muse, Antwerp

Art

Cathedral of our Lady, Antwerp

KMSKE (Royal Museum of Fine Arts), Antwerp

M HKA (Museum of Contemporary Art), Antwerp

Museum Mayer van den Bergh, Antwerp

St. George's Church, Antwerp

St. James's Church, Antwerp

Basilica of the Holy Blood, Bruges

Groeningemuseum, Bruges

BRAFA Art Fair, Brussels

Magritte Museum, Brussels

Musical Instruments Museum, Brussels

Oldmasters Museum, Brussels

Royal Museums of Fine Art, Brussels

St. Michael & St. Gudula Cathedral, Brussels

St. Nicholas Catholic Church, Brussels

St. Bavo's Cathedral (Ghent Altarpiece), Ghent

Museum voor Schone Kunsten, Ghent

OUTREACH REPORT TO THE ARTS COMMISSION MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

The following is a short summary of the outreach initiatives undertaken since the last Arts Commission meeting on January 28, 2026:

RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE VALUE OF THE ARTS

LandMarks Public Art

- Ongoing updates of LandMarks content and additions of new artworks

Send quarterly e-newsletters

- January e-newsletter
 - Featured: 2026 Spring Grant Launch, 2026 Grant Calendar
 - Sent to 1,025 subscribers; 64% open rate; 10% click rate

RE-EVALUATE THE ARTS & CULTURE SUPPORT SERVICE NAME & BRAND

Analyze findings and develop recommendations

- Brought recommendations to the Arts Advisory Council on March 10, Council approved and voted to bring it forward to the Arts Commission
- Recommendation will be brought to Arts Commission for review at March 25 meeting

EXPANDED PROMOTION OF GRANT INTAKES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Develop / update funding resources

- Producing an arts funding infrastructure resource to distribute to community partners
- Distributed 2026 Grant Calendar for earlier notice of intakes as requested by community
- Grant important dates now included on CRD community events calendar

Host Information session

- Hosted workshop: presented slides via Zoom detailing eligibility, guidelines, common issues, application advice, budget demonstration and 20-minute Q&A period
 - 66 registrants
 - 33 participants

Launch 2026 Spring Grant Intake

- Deadline public notice and guideline updates published on Arts Funding webpage
- Ran public notice and digital ads promoting the intake; reached 17,000 + users
- Social media posts/stories shared on Threads, Facebook & Instagram
- Featured in e-newsletter

PRODUCE ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Develop report

- Expected completion on schedule for May Arts Commission meeting



Making a difference...together

**REPORT TO ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING OF TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026**

SUBJECT January 2026 Project Grants Recommendations

ISSUE SUMMARY

The adjudication committee for the January 2026 Project Grants program has completed its work and made recommendations for approval by the Arts Advisory Council and Arts Commission.

BACKGROUND

As per Bylaw No. 2973, the Arts Advisory Council is responsible for adjudicating funding programs for the Arts and Culture Support Service. Section 5 of the Bylaw states: “The Council shall act as an arm’s length adjudicating body for the Arts Development Funding Programs¹.” The Arts Advisory Council fulfills this role through its adjudication committees, which are composed of Council members and, if necessary, external appointees to the adjudication committee who bring perspectives or expertise that meet certain adjudication needs.

The Projects, Series & Extended Programming Grants (commonly known as “Project Grants”) provide support for organizations to produce or present one-time projects, a short series of events, or extended programming taking place over 12 months or less.

At the January 2026 deadline of Project Grants, 36 applications were received, higher than the 4-year average (see Table 1). No applications were ruled ineligible by staff. The total request from eligible applications of \$337,979 was significantly higher than the 4-year average. 20 grants were awarded with a slightly lower-than-average award amount. The applicant success rate of 56% was lower than average, in part due to the high number of applications.

Table 1. Project Grants: Recent Funding History

| Year | Intake | # Eligible Applications | # Awards | Success Rate | Total Request | Total Awarded | Median Request | Median Award |
|------|--------|-------------------------|----------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 2022 | Jan | 27 | 18 | 67% | \$259,732 | \$120,000 | \$10,000 | \$6,600 |
| 2022 | Apr | 36 | 22 | 61% | \$285,212 | \$120,000 | \$7,807 | \$5,000 |
| 2023 | Jan | 28 | 20 | 71% | \$231,335 | \$140,000 | \$8,150 | \$6,513 |
| 2023 | Apr | 21 | 20 | 95% | \$196,552 | \$142,400 | \$9,300 | \$8,000 |
| 2024 | Jan | 35 | 23 | 65% | \$317,211 | \$140,000 | \$9,000 | \$6,000 |
| 2024 | Apr | 20 | 16 | 80% | \$203,838 | \$140,000 | \$10,000 | \$9,450 |
| 2025 | Jan | 34 | 17 | 50% | \$316,020 | \$140,000 | \$10,000 | \$7,000 |
| 2025 | Apr | 32 | 19 | 59% | \$321,530 | \$140,000 | \$9,650 | \$7,500 |
| 2026 | Jan | 36 | 20 | 56% | \$337,979 | \$140,000 | \$9,203 | \$6,965 |

An adjudication committee of three Council members met in March 2026 to consider 36 applications. The adjudicators’ scores were averaged in a comparative assessment of each organization’s proposal. Applications were discussed to ensure the scores reflected the information provided.

¹ The Arts and Culture Support Service was originally known as the Arts Development Service.

The adjudicators assessed and scored each of the applications using a matrix that reflects the desired outcomes of the program in the areas of:

- payment of artists
- the benefit to the art form and to the arts in the region
- knowledge of the target audience
- benefits to the community, including to equity-seeking groups and underrepresented arts and cultural practices
- reasonableness of the budget and of projected expenses and revenues

The scoring methodology provided a comparative assessment of the merits of each proposal relative to the program’s published goals and intended outcomes. The adjudication committee also considered factors related to regional distribution of arts funding and organizational niche in the arts ecosystem.

Twenty applications are recommended for funding and sixteen also are not recommended for funding at this time (see Appendix A for more details). Unsuccessful applications will have the option to reapply at the April deadline intake of Projects Grants.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:
That the January 2026 Project Grants recommendations be approved as presented.

Alternative 2

That this report be referred to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Ratification and approval of these recommendations will allocate \$140,000 to the 2026 Project Grants program, which is equal to the amount in the preliminary 2026 budget for this intake (see Table 2).

Organizations that have applied to Operating Grants have been notified about their funding amount as approved by the Arts Commission at its meeting in January 2026. Operating Grant recipients that requested advances on their grant will be paid in April. The majority of Operating Grants will be paid immediately following August 1, when the CRD receives its annual allocation of tax revenue.

Table 2. Update on Arts Granting Budget for the CRD Arts and Culture Support Service

| Granting Program | 2026 Budget | 2026 Allocated | 2026 Paid Out |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Operating Grants | \$2,432,570 | \$2,432,570 | \$0 |
| Project Grants | \$280,000 | \$140,000 | \$0 |
| Equity Grants | \$50,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Grow Forward Grants | \$75,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| IDEA Grants | \$33,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total | \$2,870,570 | \$2,572,570 | \$0 |

January Project Grants will be paid out in early April 2026. The remainder of the Project Grants budget and the Equity, IDEA and Grow Forward Grants will be allocated at the upcoming intakes for these programs.

CONCLUSION

The adjudication committee has assessed 36 applications received at the January 2026 Project Grants deadline. The 20 projects recommended for a grant will fulfil the Arts & Culture Support Service’s purpose to provide benefits to the community through its funding programs and will support a range of organizations to produce arts programming for audiences in the capital region.

RECOMMENDATION

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:
That the January 2026 Project Grants recommendations be approved as presented.

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Submitted by: | Chris Gilpin, MPA, Manager, Arts & Culture Support Service |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------|

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: January 2026 Project Grants Recommendations and Summaries

2026 January Project Grants

| | Organization | Jurisdiction | Eligible Request | 2026 Recom'd |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Active Passive Performance | SGI | \$13,000 | \$10,400 |
| 2 | Afro Latin Cultural Exchange | Victoria | \$10,000 | \$7,000 |
| 3 | Between Words Theatre | Esquimalt | \$8,000 | \$4,800 |
| 4 | Bounce Performance Works | Victoria | \$17,857 | \$0 |
| 5 | Broken Rhythms Dance | Saanich | \$9,900 | \$6,930 |
| 6 | Campbell Bay Music Festival | SGI | \$11,500 | \$9,200 |
| 7 | Choral Evolution | Sooke | \$7,500 | \$0 |
| 8 | Civic Orchestra of Victoria | Victoria | \$7,000 | \$0 |
| 9 | Eine Kleine Summer Music | View Royal | \$5,000 | \$0 |
| 10 | Fernwood Community & Arts | Victoria | \$6,000 | \$0 |
| 11 | Flamenco de la Isla | Victoria | \$6,000 | \$0 |
| 12 | Galiano Island Literary Festival | SGI | \$9,000 | \$7,500 |
| 13 | Garden City Electronic Music | Victoria | \$12,000 | \$7,200 |
| 14 | Hapax Theatre | Victoria | \$5,000 | \$4,075 |
| 15 | Hispanic Film Society of Victoria | View Royal | \$4,500 | \$4,000 |
| 16 | Island String Players | Saanich | \$5,667 | \$0 |
| 17 | Meridiem Wind Orchestra | Saanich | \$2,000 | \$0 |
| 18 | Metchosin ArtPod (NEW) | Metchosin | \$6,868 | \$4,800 |
| 19 | Newcombe Singers | Oak Bay | \$15,000 | \$10,000 |
| 20 | Noble Riot Dance Theatre | Victoria | \$13,200 | \$0 |
| 21 | Other Guise Theatre Company | Victoria | \$10,000 | \$0 |
| 22 | Societe Francophone de Victoria | Victoria | \$20,000 | \$8,000 |
| 23 | Sooke Community Choir | Sooke | \$3,000 | \$3,000 |
| 24 | Sooke Philharmonic | Sooke | \$5,305 | \$0 |
| 25 | Spec Theatre | Victoria | \$7,000 | \$0 |
| 26 | Timetheft Theatre | Saanich | \$11,000 | \$0 |
| 27 | Township Community Arts Council | Esquimalt | \$15,000 | \$10,000 |
| 28 | Ubuntu Afro-Caribbean Perf. (NEW) | Victoria | \$11,500 | \$6,900 |
| 29 | Vancouver Isl. Caribbean Hub | Victoria | \$10,000 | \$8,000 |
| 30 | Victoria Assoc of Mask & Puppetry (NEW) | Esquimalt | \$9,606 | \$6,725 |
| 31 | Victoria Book Prize (NEW) | Victoria | \$5,500 | \$0 |
| 32 | Victoria Festival of Authors | Victoria | \$14,000 | \$9,700 |
| 33 | Victoria Latin Dance Assoc (NEW) | Victoria | \$6,887 | \$0 |
| 34 | Victoria Summer Music Festival | Victoria | \$4,000 | \$0 |
| 35 | View Royal Arts Foundation (NEW) | View Royal | \$9,700 | \$5,820 |
| 36 | Vox Humana Chamber Choir | Victoria | \$8,500 | \$5,950 |
| Total: | | | \$ 325,990 | 140,000 |

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| ACTIVE PASSIVE PERFORMANCE SOCIETY | SGI | SS | 13,800 | 11,040 |

Funding History: 2021 IDEA: \$3000; 2022 JanPG: \$0; 2022 AprPG: \$7950; 2023 JanPG: \$6000; 2024 JanPG: \$12250; 2025 JanPG: \$12700

Mandate

Active / Passive Performance Society (A/PPS)'s mandate is to:

- (1) bring creative, experimental, singular and exceptional music to the Southern Gulf Islands via performances, installations, broadcasts, workshops, residencies and more;
- (2) build an audience and community for new and exciting creative endeavours, including music, media and technology; and
- (3) amplify and support diverse artist voices from throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Project Summary

2026-2027 Season

A/PPS's season includes:

- (1) Active / Passive Vol. 8: the eighth installment of our annual 3-day music festival with youth showcase. Includes four free hands-on workshops, free family-friendly DJ stage, two days of live music performances at two stages, visual art exhibitions, interactive sound & visual installations, and live video arts.
- (2) BioSonic! 2027: stewarded by Indigenous matriarch and biodiversity expert Jeannine Georgeson. Musicians, video artists, and youth use expressive arts as a lens to explore biodiversity, biology, environmental sustainability and stewardship through live performances, workshops, speakers, sound installations, and a dance party.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project | 2026 | 2026 |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|----------|---------|----------------|
| | Category | Category | Request | Recommendation |
| AFRO LATIN CULTURAL EXCHANGE | Victoria | OT | 10,000 | 7,000 |

Funding History: 2020 JanPG: \$0; 2020 AprPG: \$5500; 2022 JanPG: \$5500;
2023 JanPG: \$8250; 2024 JanPG: \$8400; 2025 JanPG: \$7000

Mandate

Afro Latin Cultural Exchange (ALCE) is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to building connection and promoting equal participation between Afro-Latin and Canadian Cultures and Arts through Dance, Music and Artistic Activities.

Project Summary

Victoria International Kizomba Festival, 7th Edition

Held April 2 – 6, 2026, this includes:

- Welcome gathering at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, including a Kizomba seminar, social dancing, and artist mingling.
- Outdoor programming at Centennial Square with live performances, exhibitions, drumming sessions, introductory dance lessons, DJ sets, and social dancing.
- Indoor Gala at the Victoria Convention Centre: performances, African fashion shows, live music.
- Workshops and Social Dancing.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| BETWEEN WORDS THEATRE | Esquimalt | EXT | 8,000 | 4,800 |

Funding History: 2025 JanPG: \$0

Mandate

Between Words Theatre Society was founded in January 2023 to grow community theatre in Victoria by providing an accessible, supportive stage for a wide diversity of local talent and voices to share their stories and artistic work. The Society advances participation in the performing arts through public presentation, skills development, and opportunities for emerging and community-based artists to create, collaborate, and build audiences in the Capital Regional District.

Project Summary

Emerging Theatre Artist Pipeline for One Act Festival

1) Victoria One Act Play Festival (June 2-6, 2026)

A short-form theatre festival showcasing approximately 13 one-act plays involving roughly 100 artists (actors, directors, writers, designers, stagehands, and producers). These are public performances plus professional adjudication for every group.

2) First Word Play Reading Series (every 2 months)

A curated play reading series that pays artists to present new, unproduced works in a low-risk development format.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| BOUNCE PERFORMANCE WORKS | Victoria | SS | 25,000 | 0 |

Funding History: 2015 JanPG: \$8000; 2016 JanPG: \$8000; 2023 AprPG: \$9000;
2025 AprPG: \$0

Mandate

Bounce Performance Works creates and performs original theatre and adapts existing texts. We make use of the forms of dance, physical theatre, music, poetry, visual art, film, television, and other creative mediums in multidisciplinary productions.

Project Summary

The Bounce Cabaret Series

1. The Bounce Cabaret: Before the Leap - invites artists to explore the charged moment just before action, when fear, desire, and readiness converge (movement, theatre, comedy and music).
2. The Bounce Cabaret: Something I Cannot Ignore - arts development for youth aged 13 to 17, transforming careful observation into original performance.
3. The Bounce Cabaret: Don't be Evil - adult satirical cabaret combining live performance, puppetry, music and video to explore consumerism and technology.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited a stronger focus on presentation activities as opposed to arts training activities and a more realistic request amount.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| BROKEN RHYTHMS VICTORIA | Saanich | OT | 9,900 | 6,930 |

Funding History: 2016 AprPG: \$5500; 2017 AprPG: \$7500; 2018 AprPG: \$7350; 2019 AprPG: \$10000; 2020 EQ: \$0; 2020 AprPG: \$7500; 2021 AprPG: \$10000; 2022 AprPG: \$9000; 2023 AprPG: \$5000; 2024 AprPG: \$10500

Mandate

- To create a society in Victoria, BC, in which dancers are able to study, work and perform
- To be outspoken advocates for women and gender nonconforming dancers
- To be involved in community events and collaborate with multidisciplinary artists and art forms supporting both the arts and overall local and rural arts communities
- To make dance accessible to the broader community by making it affordable and by incorporating story lines that are relatable, current and reflect the human condition
- To showcase the unique style of Rhythmical Contemporary – a style that combines and celebrates contemporary and jazz and recognizes the history and importance of each

Project Summary

1,000 Pieces of π & 52 Stories (Night of Memory)

This one-night-only collaboration brings together two acclaimed works that explore memory: how it works, how it fails, and how it lives in the body. The first show is inspired by a memory experiment rooted in Dyana’s learning disabilities; the second is a solo show inside the memory palace of Dave Morris, blending narratives with astonishing acts of recall. Presented as a double feature with an intermission between the two, there will be a post-show talkback with the artists.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|----------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| CAMPBELL BAY MUSIC FESTIVAL | SGI | EXT | 11,500 | 9,200 |

Funding History: 2019 AprPG: \$2850; 2021 AprPG: \$7905; 2022 JanPG: \$8000;
2023 JanPG: \$6000; 2024 JanPG: \$8475; 2025 JanPG: \$8000

Mandate

Campbell Bay Music Festival Society (CBMFS) is a non-profit organization supporting music, arts, and educational programming on SKTAK/Mayne Island. The purpose of the Society is to foster relationships across cultural and generational gaps guided by the values of revitalization, reconciliation, and restoration, through the curation and support of community events, performing arts, and educational programming on Mayne Island.

Project Summary

Longest Day Festival + 4th Coast Salish Art Exhibit + Fall Folk Dance

- The Festival, in its 17th year, encompasses music, installations, shared meals, and performance art
- The art exhibit spotlights the work of Chris Paul from Tsartlip, focusing on the theme of “Rebuilding the Connections” and highlighting the history of the Tsartlip people through the Paul family.
- The dance features caller Peg Evans and accomplished square dance band Black Rabbit Rounders from Port Alberni

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| CHORAL EVOLUTION | Sooke | SS | 7,500 | 0 |

Funding History: 2023 JanPG: \$3000; 2024 JanPG: \$2500; 2025 JanPG: \$0; 2025 AprPG: \$0

Mandate

To promote the arts and share the gift of song.

Project Summary

The Holiday Hit Parade

A contemporary, high-energy choral concert blending rock and pop holiday repertoire arranged in four to nine parts for a SATB choir. The program will avoid traditional carols and standard community-choir fare; instead, every piece will be a popular song presented in an inventive genre, arrangement or style. The concert will be presented 2 – 3 times at the Sooke Community Hall.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of artist compensation levels, personnel, and outline of previous programming. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more clarity and detail in the application as well as explanation of the impact and significance of the shows listed in the history of programming.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| CIVIC ORCHESTRA OF VICTORIA | Victoria | EXT | 7,000 | 0 |

Funding History: 2013 JanPG: \$1500; 2014 JanPG: \$1500; 2015 JanPG: \$1500; 2016 AprPG: \$3000; 2017 AprPG: \$2250; 2018 AprPG: \$2000; 2019 JanPG: \$2500; 2020 JanPG: \$2500 (cancelled); 2020 AprPG: \$3500 (declined); 2021 AprPG: \$2800; 2023 JanPG: \$0; 2024 JanPG: \$3500

Mandate

The Civic Orchestra Society of Victoria is a volunteer organization dedicated to providing an opportunity for musicians of varying ages and abilities to perform a wide repertoire of orchestral music for supportive audiences in the Victoria region. The orchestra also serves as a platform for aspiring soloists and for choral groups, both as a learning experience and for the enjoyment of its members.

Project Summary

2026 – Three Concerts

1. Monuments – May 30 at Dave Dunnet Community Theatre
Hebrides Overture (Mendelssohn), The Muse and the Poet (Saint-Saens), Symphony No. 2 (Sibelius)
2. Remembrance Concert – Nov 14 at Dave Dunnet Community Theatre
Program TBD
3. Sing-Along Messiah (Handel) – Dec 16 at United Commons

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of artist compensation levels, personnel, and benefits to the region. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more explanation of what aspects of the proposed programming are innovative and in what way.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| EINE KLEINE SUMMER MUSIC | View Royal | SS | 5,000 | 0 |

Funding History: 2012 JanPG: \$1500; 2013 JanPG: \$2500; 2014 JanPG: \$2000;
2015 JanPG: \$2700; 2016 JanPG: \$2500; 2017 JanPG: \$2000;
2018 JanPG: \$2000; 2019 JanPG: \$2000; 2020 JanPG: \$0;
2024 JanPG: \$0; 2025 JanPG: \$0

Mandate

Eine Kleine Summer Music's Mandate: The purpose of the society is to produce and present concerts of classical chamber music for the entertainment, education, and cultural enrichment of the audiences which attend.

Project Summary

Eine Kleine Summer Music 39th Season

1. Chicago-based Galvin Cello Quartet in a return performance.
2. Victoria classical musicians: David Bourque-Boutin, Jennifer Gunter, Terence Tam, Kenji Fuse, Brian Yoon, Alana Despina, and Malcolm Armstrong present an eclectic program.
3. American violinist Sean Lee performs Paganini's Caprices.
4. Japanese pianist and violinist Ray Uchikubo, accompanied by pianist Lorrain Min, presenting works by Shubert, Debussy, and Milstein.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of artist compensation levels, outline of previous programming, personnel, and benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more explanation of how artist compensation levels are determined.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| FERNWOOD COMMUNITY & ARTS | Victoria | OT | 6,000 | 0 |

Funding History: 2022 IDEA: \$2000; 2024 IDEA: \$0

Mandate

The purposes of the Society are:

1. To advance community economic and social development
2. To advance the public's appreciation of the arts by:
 - a. Operating a vibrant welcoming, inclusive and accessible neighbourhood venue for arts and culture for residents of Fernwood and adjacent neighbourhoods in need of arts and culture space for connection, creativity and community building;
 - b. Providing programming, workshops and events by and for community members and artists;
 - c. Providing a forum for qualified artists to exhibit, present, or perform their artistic works through participation in such events;
 - d. Curating exhibitions and managing a public gallery for the display of visual arts productions or installations; and
 - e. Providing public access to affordable, accessible performance space, co-working spaces and art studios.

Project Summary

Little Fernwood Gallery Art Shows and Public Engagement Talks

Twelve monthly visual art exhibitions, each one providing an opportunity for the artist to engage with the community about their work.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of artist compensation levels, personnel, benefits to the region, benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detail in the application as several responses were very short and contained limited information.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| FLAMENCO DE LA ISLA | Victoria | EXT | 6,000 | 0 |

Funding History: 2013 AprPG: \$5000; 2014 JanPG: \$5000; 2015 JanPG: \$6000; 2016 JanPG: \$7000; 2017 JanPG: \$7000; 2018 JanPG: \$8000; 2019 JanPG: \$7000; 2020 JanPG: \$7000; 2021 JanPG: \$10000; 2022 JanPG: \$6000; 2023 JanPG: \$5700; 2025 JanPG: \$7000

Mandate

The purposes of the Society are:

- a) to promote awareness of the art of flamenco in Greater Victoria and on Vancouver Island;
- b) to advance the knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of flamenco through education, financial support, and performance opportunities for professional, amateur, and aspiring flamenco artists on Vancouver Island;
- c) to stimulate and encourage the development of flamenco related projects and activities that will broaden the understanding, involvement, and support for the art of flamenco; and
- d) to act as a community resource for information on the art of flamenco.

Project Summary

Flamenco Frequency: Connecting Communities in the CRD

Flamenco de la Isla Society (FDLI) will coordinate flamenco performances at established community events throughout the CRD, including but not limited to: Greekfest, Multicultural Day, Folkloria, Oak Bay Tea Party, FernFest, LatinFest, Redfern Parkfest, Quadra Village Day, North Park Community Day, Gorge Canada Day Picnic, Dragonboat Festival. In addition to these free shows, FDLI will produce one ticketed show at the Coda.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of personnel, benefits to the region, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application only contained one self-produced event and was mainly asking for fees to take part in festivals produced by other organizations. Future applications could be strengthened by a different approach focused on events that are produced by the applicant organization.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| GALIANO ISLAND LITERARY FESTIVAL | SGI | SS | 10,000 | 7,500 |

Funding History: 2023 AprPG: \$8000; 2024 AprPG: \$9400; 2025 AprPG: \$6675

Mandate

- a) To preserve and promote the literary arts industry in BC and Canada, to maintain high standards in that industry by exhibiting to the public examples of high quality works and by providing workshops, forums, and masterclasses where writers share their experiences;
- b) To advance the public’s appreciation of and engagement with the literary arts by producing an annual festival for readers and writers;
- c) To advance education in the field of literary arts by organizing and producing forums for the presentation of works of literature;

Project Summary:

2026 Galiano Island Literary Festival

July 18/19 – “Stories of Home” will showcase local writers, an open mic, and host writer story-telling workshops at Yellowhouse Art Centre

Aug 17 – “Islanders II: Landing Stories” – a storytelling/ story-gathering event.

Aug 21-Sep 30 – “Islanders II: Landing Stories” – portraits and stories of settlers to Galiano and their connections to Galiano’s First Peoples

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| GARDEN CITY ELECTRONIC MUSIC | Victoria | SS | 12,000 | 9,000 |

Funding History: 2018 JanPG: \$2000; 2019 JanPG: \$1500; 2020 JanPG: \$3000;
2021 JanPG: \$6000; 2022 JanPG: \$10000; 2023 JanPG: \$12000;
2024 JanPG: \$8000; 2025 JanPG: \$15000

Mandate

The purposes of the Society are:

- (1) To advance the public's appreciation of the arts by producing public art exhibitions, presentations, and performance art(s) events, and by providing a forum for qualified artists to exhibit, present, or perform their artistic works through participation in such events;
- (2) To advance education by providing structured learning activities such as courses, instructional seminars, and workshops about electronic music and electronic music technology, and by providing opportunities for artists to publicly exhibit, present, or perform their works, or develop their crafts or skills in conjunction with these learning activities;

Project Summary

Garden City Electronic Music Society Presentations 2026

1. Live Ambient/Electronic and Audio-Visual Media Performances at Cameron Bandshell (Aug 2)
2. Live Ambient/Electronic Performances at Banfield Park (Aug 3)
3. NeuzTec (11th Edition): November 13 – 15 at Metro Theatre & Wood Hall

The summer events cater to the broad demographic of park users with more accessible music, and NeuzTec Festival events focus on media-art (predominantly audio performances coupled with live video art), capturing public curiosities where technology and artistic expression meet.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|---------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| HAPAX THEATRE | Victoria | OT | 5,000 | 4,075 |

Funding History: 2019 INC: \$5000; 2022 AprPG: \$0; 2023 JanPG: \$3350

Mandate

The purposes of the Society is to provide opportunities for emerging and established theatre artists to grow and practice their craft.

Project Summary

Beside Myself

A Victoria-based production of *Beside Myself* by Jennifer Webber at the Belfry Theatre’s BMO Studio, running April 30; May 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9. hapax will be facilitating a thoughtful re-write by Jennifer Webber to re-envision the play for two women and crafting the narrative as an explicitly LGBTQIA2S+ story situated within a queer, feminist framework. *Beside Myself* is an intimate examination of identity, mental illness, and selfhood, interrogating how women’s interior lives are often misunderstood, medicated, or rendered invisible. The play centers lived experience over diagnosis, resisting narratives that reduce emotional complexity to pathology. Instead, it foregrounds agency, subjectivity, and the right to self-definition - particularly for those whose experiences exist at the intersections of femininity, queerness, and vulnerability.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| HISPANIC FILM SOCIETY | View Royal | OT | 4,500 | 4,000 |

Funding History: 2013 IDEA: \$2000; 2014 JanPG: \$3000; 2015 JanPG: \$2500; 2016 JanPG: \$3000; 2017 JanPG: \$3000; 2018 JanPG: \$3500; 2019 JanPG: \$3500; 2020 JanPG: \$3000; 2022 JanPG: \$3500; 2023 JanPG: \$4000; 2024 JanPG: \$2500; 2025 JanPG: \$3600

Mandate

The mandate of our organization is:

- (a) To promote Latin American and Spanish cinema in Victoria through the organization of an annual Latin American and Spanish Film Week, and
- (b) To further the knowledge and enjoyment of films produced in Latin America and Spain through cultural and academic events for the benefit of the community.

Project Summary

16th Latin American and Spanish Film Week

Hosted at Cinecenta, at UVic, we plan to show six films. We aim to include other artistic events that align with our mission of promoting Hispanic culture. “A Night of Latin American Folk” will present traditional music from Mexico, Cuba, Argentina and Chile. For an interactive event, we will screen and host a film debate around the Spanish movie “Marco, la verdad inventada” (2024) which deals with the impersonation of a Holocaust survivor. The debate will be free and open to the public.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. It had a modest request amount (under \$5,000) where reductions would have affected the feasibility of the project. The recommendation is for the full amount or near full amount of the grant request.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| ISLAND STRING PLAYERS | Saanich | SS | 6,800 | 0 |

Funding History: 2012 JanPG: \$7000; 2013 JanPG: \$6000; 2014 JanPG: \$5000; 2016 JanPG: \$5000; 2017 JanPG: \$3000; 2018 JanPG: \$2000; 2019 JanPG: \$1500; 2020 JanPG: \$0; 2021 AprPG: \$1500; 2022 AprPG: \$0; 2024 JanPG: \$4000; 2025 JanPG: \$0

Mandate

The purposes of the Society are:

- a. To promote and advance music for strings by forming at least one string orchestra to give public performances.
- b. To support the development of student string instrumentalists.

We have formed 2 orchestras: the Victoria Chamber Orchestra, now in its 31st year, and the Raven Baroque Summer Celebrations Orchestra, now in its 24th year.

Project Summary

Raven Baroque Summer Celebrations

Raven Baroque, a group of 10 musicians in baroque period dress and wigs, performs six free, open-air concerts in August on Mt. Tolmie, the Brentwood stage, the atrium of the Victoria Public Library, the Cameron Bandshell, the lawn of Christ Church Cathedral, and the lawn at Willows Beach. The repertoire is “Hits from the 1650s”: works by Albinoni, Bach, Corelli, Handel, and other baroque composers.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of benefits to the region and of benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. One of the six proposed events in this application would take place at the Brentwood Library, which is in Central Saanich, a non-participating jurisdiction, and thus is not eligible for support through this grant program. The application could have benefited from more explanation of the artistic significance of previous programming, community benefits, and the impact of this type of programming can have.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| MERIDIEM WIND ORCHESTRA | Saanich | EXT | 2,000 | 0 |

Funding History: 2020 JanPG: \$3000; 2022 JanPG: \$3500; 2023 JanPG: \$0; 2024 JanPG: \$0; 2025 JanPG: \$0

Mandate

The mandates of the Meridiem Symphonic Wind Orchestra Society (also known as Meridiem Wind Orchestra) as per our constitution are to model good music and musicianship; create a collaborative experience for professional musicians; inspire music lovers with high quality performances of music written for wind ensembles; and to promote Canadian content, including new compositions, by musical performance.

Project Summary

Sanctuary

A public concert at the Dave Dunnet Theatre, featuring a performance by the winner of a previously held Youth Soloist Competition. The remainder of the program explores the theme of Sanctuary, with pieces from Omar Thomas (Mother of a Revolution), Kelijah Dunton (Stillwater), Julie Giroux (Mile High), Mark Camphouse (A Movement for Rosa), and Alfred Reed (Movement 1 Awakening).

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of artist compensation levels, benefits to the region, benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more clarity in the application around the featured musicians and their relation to Youth Soloist Competition as well as more explanation of how the project contributes to broader regional benefits such as artist development.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| (NEW) | Jurisdiction | Project | 2026 | 2026 |
|-----------|--------------|----------|---------|----------------|
| METCHOSIN | | Category | Request | Recommendation |
| ART POD | Metchosin | SS | 6,868 | 4,800 |

Funding History: N/A

Mandate

Metchosin ArtPod is located in the rural village of Metchosin, on Greater Victoria’s West Shore. We strive to support visual artists by offering opportunities for them to learn, create, show, and sell original work, and to promote the health of our community by providing a venue for the public to engage with the Arts. To meet our mandate, we offer:

- Open calls for art submissions to artists in our region and beyond
- Externally juried art shows and sales in a gallery setting
- Show opening events, featured artist talks, and discussion forums
- Weekly drop-in art sessions
- Art workshops, resource networks and learning opportunities

Project Summary

Circulations – Collaborative Art Installation

Fifteen artists will each create a panel-based artwork, produced using a shared, gridded visual system. These individual panels will “puzzle” together to form one unified collaborative artwork to form a primary exhibition at ArtPod Gallery as a feature installation in the Collaborations art exhibit (running from July 3-Aug. 23); then will move to a public location in the District of Metchosin. Working across textiles, photography, sculpture, sound, printmaking, painting, poetry, and participatory forms, the artists will create a unified installation centred on water circulation—tides, currents, species movement, and the layered relationships between people and place. A robust community engagement program accompanies the exhibitions and a documentary book will be produced featuring project artworks, artist essays, seaweed knowledge, process documentation, and community contributions.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| NEWCOMBE SINGERS ASSN | Oak Bay | EXT | 15,000 | 10,000 |

Funding History: 2024 JanPG: \$2250; 2025 JanPG: \$4000

Mandate

- The Newcombe Singers is proud to be an almost 60 year old continuous non-auditioned community choir that welcomes singers of all ages and abilities. We are a warm "choir community", too, where anyone can come to improve their music skills and have fun.
- We aim to be widely accessible by keeping our fees very affordable.
- We are committed to paying our director and accompanist competitive wages & appropriate raises.
- We are committed to performing works by living composers with a special focus on Canadian, female, and Indigenous composers.
- In 2022 we launched our "Choral Bridges" concert series, working with many other cultural groups to enrich our performances and showcase the work of cultures not well represented in classical choral music. In recent concerts we've paired with singers and dancers from Japan, India, and the Jewish tradition, and performed music from many Indigenous groups, South Africa (in Afrikaans), Scandinavia, and the Sami World.

Project Summary

Earthsong & Chrosmos

Earthsong, our May concert is a journey to hear the Earth sing through Land Acknowledgement, mixing Indigenous and non-Indigenous voices. Three voices walk together: Coast Salish artist Bradley Dick, Metis composer Rebecca Hass and the settle culture of the choir. Artistic Director Kathryn Whitney and Rebecca Hass have collaborated for over 2 years to design the performance. A Metis Tea will be hosted during intermission.

Chrosmos, our December concert is in collaboration with the Victoria Multifaith Centre and features creation and love songs from different cultural and religious traditions: Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Indigenous, Pagan, and Christian. Chrosmos celebrated the common light all faiths teach.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| NOBLE RIOT DANCE THEATRE | Victoria | OT | 13,200 | 0 |

Funding History: 2021 INC: \$5000; 2022 AprPG: \$6600; 2023 JanPG: \$7500; 2024 JanPG: \$7000; 2025 JanPG: \$9600

Mandate

"To create and produce high quality, innovative and professional contemporary dance. To challenge the audience to look at dance differently."

NOBLE RIOT DANCE THEATRE is committed to making art that addresses our global existence, questions the dominant culture, provokes emotional responses and inquires.

Project Summary

Final Creation – “The Cledon”

Noble Riot Dance Theatre (NRDT) seeks support for the final creation phase of "The Cledon," a multidisciplinary work blurring the boundaries between contemporary dance, live music, theatre, interactive projections, and complex textile design. Support is requested for a four-week creation period in April 2026 within the Capital Regional District, culminating in a free work-in-progress public showing. This phase transitions The Cledon from a technical experiment into a fully realized performance ready for the 2026/2027 touring season.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of anticipated audience, benefits to the region, benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detail in the application about the anticipated audience and projected attendance as well as a stronger focus on presentation activities.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| OTHER GUYS/GUISE THEATRE COMPANY | Victoria | SS | 10,000 | 0 |

Funding History: 2012 JanPG: \$7000; 2013 JanPG: \$8000; 2014 AprPG: \$12000; 2015 AprPG: \$12000; 2017 AprPG: 11250; 2018 AprPG: \$10000; 2019 AprPG: \$0; 2020 AprPG: \$8000; 2023 AprPG: \$10000; 2024 JanPG: \$0; 2024 AprPG: \$6012; 2025 JanPG: \$0; 2025 AprPG: \$0; 2026 OP: \$0

Mandate

The purposes of the Society are:

- a) To promote the theatrical arts through the production of project work that showcases local talent.
- b) To develop new Canadian plays and encourage a high standard of writing for the stage through an active and ongoing play development programme.

Other Guise is committed to developing theatrical presentations which reflect the history and culture of our community, and to supporting the livelihoods of Vancouver Island professionals; established and emerging artists alike. Other Guise is a community-motivated theatre company that makes world-class productions that often tour internationally. Other Guise serves a wide range of artist and audiences of the Pacific Northwest by nurturing productions and propelling careers, and by finding, renovating and operating shared performance spaces.

Project Summary

Summer Series

Fourteen artists will spend three weeks devising programming that will run nightly for nine weeks. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will be strategically themed around events that are theatrical in nature, like an open mic night, music bingo or karaoke. These nights will open with a song or sketch comedy by the host. Wednesday through Sunday will have more original content, and will feature more performers. These works will be based upon the talents of the artists we hire. On Saturday a night of musical theatre takes over, including games and songs with several cast members like diva tag.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of previous programming, anticipating audience, and benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more specifics around the how the show development process will work in a compressed timeline and more explanation of how this initiative relates to the long-term artistic vision for the organization.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| SOCIETE FRANCOPHONE DE VICTORIA | Victoria | EXT | 20,000 | 8,000 |

Funding History: 2022 JanPG: \$5500; 2024 JanPG: \$11250; 2025 JanPG: \$15000

Mandate

La Société francophone de Victoria's mandate is to promote and celebrate French language and culture in Greater Victoria through a variety of cultural and artistic programs. The Society also runs a francophone community centre in Bastion Square called la Maison de la francophonie, where it supports other francophone non-profits and its members.

Project Summary

French Programming in the CRD

La Société francophone de Victoria (SFV) presents over 150 arts and culture projects, events, and programs each year for Francophones and Francophiles across Greater Victoria. The Spring program features multicultural activities such as dance and painting workshops, alongside monthly social gatherings. The Summer Season begins with World Cup celebrations and continues with SFV's free annual summer festival, *Rendez-vous Victoria*. In Fall and Winter, SFV maintains a schedule of recurring programs, including a Francophone choir, concert series, meet-ups, artistic workshops and seasonal celebrations. Special programming marks Black History Month in February, and Francophonie Month in March, highlighted by the two-week Franco Fest featuring concerts, theatre workshops and cultural events.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| SOOKE COMMUNITY CHOIR | Sooke | EXT | 3,000 | 3,000 |

Funding History: 2019 JanPG: \$2000; 2020 JanPG: \$0; 2023 AprPG: \$2075; 2024 AprPG: \$2500; 2025 AprPG: \$0

Mandate

The Sooke Community Choir was established in 1989 to make choral arts accessible to all in the District of Sooke. The purpose of the Society, as stated in our constitution, is to promote, develop and enhance the artistic life of the community through music. As you will see from our application, community is not just in our name, it is core to how the choir operates.

Project Summary

Sooke Community Choir

We have two seasons, Spring and Winter, and each culminates in central performances. In addition, we volunteer at numerous other community events throughout the year. Our spring season supports youth choral arts at our Spring Sing Out, where we partner with local schools for a free performance. In the winter we support our local veterans by performing at the Remembrance Day ceremony, we volunteer at our local museum to sing carols, and we offer a free performance at a local seniors' facility. We are always looking for new opportunities to engage with the community.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. It had a modest request amount (under \$5,000) where reductions would have affected the feasibility of the project. The recommendation is for the full amount or near full amount of the grant request.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| THE SOOKE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY | Sooke | OT | 5,305 | 0 |

Funding History: 2019 AprPG: \$5000; 2022 AprPG: \$0; 2025 AprPG: \$0

Mandate

To support, develop, promote, and enhance an orchestra and a chorus which will benefit the community through providing a high standard of musical performances, encouraging music appreciation, and supporting the development of young musicians.

Project Summary

April Spring Concert

The Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra’s concert on April 12, 2026, at the Sooke Community Hall will highlight local talent by featuring Matty Angus, age 15, winner of the Jenny and Norman Nelson Concerto Competition held last May. Matty will perform Weber's Clarinet Concerto No. 1 with orchestral accompaniment—an exceptional opportunity for a musician of his age. The concert will also include Weber’s Oberon Overture, and Schumann’s Symphony No. 1 in B-flat major, Op. 28 “Spring.”

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of development of artists, history of previous programming, personnel, benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detail and greater specificity in the application as several responses were very short and contained limited information.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| SPEC THEATRE | Victoria | OT | 7,000 | 0 |

Funding History: 2025 JanPG: \$0

Mandate

The mandate of Spec Theatre is to create performance-based artworks that explore contemporary society and culture through a speculative lens. Key aspects include:

- Creating Artworks
- Community and Collaboration
- Supporting Marginalized Voices
- Artistic Practice
- Social and Political Commitment
- Land Acknowledgment

Project Summary

Misshapen Island

This project is a two-week public presentation of an original puppet theatre play called "Misshapen Island". The production combines live puppetry, actors, music, and humour. It is a scripted theatrical work created for adult audiences. The story takes place on a fictional island where a group of handmade puppets live together while being filmed for a reality television show. Each puppet has a visible physical difference, such as loose stitching, mismatched parts, or unusual proportions. The puppets are aware of the cameras and perform versions of themselves for the show's audience, while also maintaining a private community off-camera. When a new puppet who appears flawless is added to the show, the balance of the group changes, and the puppets begin to question how they are being represented and used for entertainment.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more explanation of the reasons for low performer compensation and lack of ticket revenue in the budget considering the significant anticipated attendance.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| TIMETHEFT THEATRE | Saanich | SS | 11,000 | 0 |

Funding History: 2024 INC: \$5000

Mandate

Timetheft theatre society strives to create and produce exciting theatre by emerging, queer, and neurodivergent theatre artists. We aim to help artists platform their original and reimagined art in an accessible and engaging manner.

Project Summary

Tales from the Galaxy: A Spare Parts/Static Double Feature

This is a double billed live theatre event presenting two fully produced one-act musicals (with an intermission in between). We will present this double feature four times over three days from April 17th to April 19th. This double feature series will be performed at the new performance venue at 716 Johnson Street operated by the Other Guise Theatre. Both musicals are written by early career Victoria-based playwrights and composers interested in science fiction. Pairing these shows together supports two exciting new projects and provides Victoria audiences with an evening/afternoon of exciting intergalactic musical entertainment. By producing both shows through Timetheft Theatre, we hope to maximize our audience turnout and minimize venue costs.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of personnel, anticipated audience, benefits to the region, benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more explanation of the rationale for such a compressed timeline to production.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY | | | | |
| ARTS COUNCIL | Esquimalt | EXT | 15,000 | 10,000 |

Funding History: 2015 AprPG: \$4700; 2016 AprPG: \$10000; 2017 JanPG: \$8000; 2018 JanPG: \$6000; 2019 JanPG: \$7500; 2021 JanPG: \$10000; 2022 AprPG: \$3750; 2023 JanPG: \$0; 2024 JanPG: \$5000; 2025 JanPG: \$0; 2025 AprPG: \$10000

Mandate

The purpose of TCAC is to:

- Nurture and create opportunities to enjoy and participate in a wide range of artistic and cultural events, projects and activities within Esquimalt;
- Foster interest and pride in the arts and cultural heritage of this community;
- Stimulate and encourage development of arts and cultural projects, and the corresponding facilities and locations in which exhibitions and events may take place;
- Work with partners and local governments to promote action and deepen scope and impact of the arts in the community;
- Advocate for the arts; support and provide services to local artists and groups and share our knowledge and arts-related information with others;
- Acquire, accept, solicit and receive gifts, contributions, donations, bequests of money, property and rights and to hold, invest, allocate and use them to invest in projects, events, artists and art organizations; and
- Build membership and fulfill all such purposes as established by members of our Society.

Project Summary

Esquimalt Lantern Festival 2026 and Memorial Park Music Fest 2026

ELF is a free, all-ages event that takes place in Gorge Park with local musicians, puppeteers, and installation artists. There are a series of lantern-making sessions to repair and create lanterns, and then the main event begins at sunset. A marching band that leads the crowd around the park in a glowing procession. MPMF is an eight-week free concert series held outdoors at Esquimalt’s Memorial Park.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| (NEW) | Jurisdiction | Project | 2026 | 2026 |
| UBUNTU AFRO-CARIBBEAN PERFORMANCE | Victoria | Category SS | Request 11,500 | Recommendation 6,900 |

Funding History: N/A

Mandate

Our organization’s mandate is to support, produce, and present accessible arts programming that centres culturally diverse voices and contemporary performance practices. We aim to create platforms for artists from equity-seeking communities to share work that reflects lived experience, fosters cultural exchange, and strengthens community connection through the arts. The organization prioritizes public-facing programming in comedy, storytelling, music, and interdisciplinary performance, with a focus on works that engage diasporic African and underrepresented communities within the Capital Regional District. Through curated festivals, live performances, and community-based arts events, we seek to contribute to a vibrant, inclusive arts ecology while supporting fair compensation and professional development for artists.

Project Summary

Abantu Comedy Festival and Jingle Canadian-African Christmas Festival

May 2026: Abantu Comedy Festival presents a curated lineup of stand-up comedy performances by African and African-diasporic comedians for adult audiences.

November 2026: Jingle Festival is a multidisciplinary arts event combining live music, comedy, spoken word, and festive storytelling in an inclusive, family-friendly cultural celebration.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| VANCOUVER ISLAND | | | | |
| CARIBBEAN HUB | Victoria | EXT | 10,000 | 8,000 |

Funding History: 2024 JanPG: \$6000; 2025 JanPG: \$8000

Mandate

Vancouver Island Caribbean Hub is committed to being the leading organization on Vancouver Island dedicated to promoting and celebrating the rich arts and diverse cultures of the Caribbean through the development of vibrant events, educational programs, and community initiatives.

Project Summary

i-Land Fest 2026

i-Land Fest 2026 is a three-day Caribbean arts and culture festival taking place July 3–5, 2026, at Ship Point in Victoria, BC. The festival presents a full program of Caribbean music, dance, carnival arts, and cultural expression, and remains the only Caribbean carnival-style festival of its kind within the Capital Regional District, and overall, on Vancouver Island.

The project will feature a curated lineup of professional Caribbean artists, including musicians, DJs, dancers, and cultural practitioners, alongside a large-scale Carnival Parade that highlights traditional and contemporary masquerade, movement, and storytelling. Programming will also include live performances, cultural exhibits, a vendor market, a family-friendly Kids Zone, and opportunities for the public to engage directly with Caribbean heritage through participatory arts activities. It is designed as a free, accessible public festival, ensuring broad community participation and removing financial barriers for audiences.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| (NEW) | Jurisdiction | Project | 2026 | 2026 |
|----------------------------|--------------|----------|---------|----------------|
| VICTORIA ASSN | | Category | Request | Recommendation |
| MASK & PUPPETRY | Esquimalt | OT | 9,606 | 6,725 |

Funding History: N/A

Mandate

The Victoria Association of Mask and Puppetry (VAMP) is a dynamic incubator, curator, and producer of innovative mask and puppetry art. We celebrate and advance these timeless art forms by fostering creativity, collaboration, and community engagement.

Our mission is to:

- **Inspire Curiosity:** Empower professional and emerging artists to explore the possibilities of animated storytelling, by supporting the development of original mask and puppet productions.
- **Share Knowledge:** To further the development of the genre on the west coast, VAMP will become a hub for local and international practitioners by providing mask/puppetry training, and opportunities for dialogue and exchange.
- **Curate and Showcase:** Present local, national, and international works that highlight the diversity, innovation, and cultural significance of puppetry and mask related art.

Project Summary:

Rebel Rhythm

Rebel Rhythm is a non-verbal physical theatre production that uses live music, movement, projected media, and mask performance as its primary storytelling tools. The project is co-produced by Theatre SKAM and VAMP, and will be developed and rehearsed at the Canadian College of Performing Arts (CCPA) in Oak Bay, beginning March 30, 2026, and culminating in three public performances at the CCPA Performance Hall during the weekend of May 16, 2026. Rebel Rhythm is a marriage of music, movement, and visual landscapes. It is a wordless theatrical work that explores identity, grief, belonging, and cultural memory through the body and rhythm rather than text.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| (NEW) | Jurisdiction | Project | 2026 | 2026 |
|---------------|--------------|----------|---------|----------------|
| VICTORIA BOOK | | Category | Request | Recommendation |
| PRIZE | Victoria | OT | 5,500 | 0 |

Funding History: N/A

Mandate

Founded in 2004, the Victoria Book Prize Society (the Society) advances public appreciation of books written by authors residing in the Capital Regional District. The Society celebrates excellence in poetry, general works (fiction and nonfiction) and children’s literature, and promotes awareness of the region’s literary talent through annual awards and public engagement.

The Society fulfills its mandate by:

- administering three annual book prizes,
- promoting books shortlisted for the awards through public programming, and
- fostering partnerships with libraries, schools, booksellers, First Nations, governments and arts organizations to increase public access to local literature

Project Summary

Victoria Book Prizes Community Engagement

In 2026, the Victoria Book Prize Society will present a series of free and low-cost public events that showcase the nine authors shortlisted for the Victoria Book Prizes:

- An evening of conversation with the nine shortlisted authors, moderated by CBC Radio host and reporter Kathryn Marlow. The theme will be shaped by the shortlisted books. (November 3, 2026 – Sherri Bell Hall, Camosun College, Lansdowne campus)
- A public poetry reading featuring the three shortlisted poets. (November 10, 2026 – Caffè Fantastico, Quadra Street)
- Library-based author readings hosted by public libraries in jurisdictions that participate in the CRD Arts Service. Scheduled by host libraries between October and December 2026.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of benefits to the region and benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more specifics in the application around the featured authors and more explanation of how the project contributes to regional benefits such as artist development.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| VICTORIA FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS | Victoria | SS | 14,000 | 9,700 |

Funding History: 2017 JanPG: \$5000; 2018 JanPG: \$6000; 2019 JanPG: \$9000; 2020 JanPG: \$9000; 2021 AprPG: \$10000; 2022 JanPG: \$10000; 2023 JanPG: \$12000; 2024 JanPG: \$9000; 2025 JanPG: \$12000

Mandate

The purpose of the Victoria Festival of Authors Society is:

- a) To preserve and promote the literary arts industry in British Columbia and Canada, and to maintain high standards in that industry by exhibiting to the public examples of high-quality works and by providing workshops, forums and master classes where writers share their experiences.
- b) To advance the public’s appreciation of and engagement with the literary arts by producing an annual festival for readers and writers.
- c) To advance education in the field of literary arts by organizing and producing forums for the presentation of works of literature.

Project Summary

Victoria Festival of Authors 2026

The eleventh annual Victoria Festival of Authors (VFA), this event will foster engagement between the reading and writing public of Victoria, and regional and national authors. We will present a hybrid festival of ten in-person events featuring primarily regional authors and four virtual events. Three to five of these in-person events will be livestreamed. This year, we will continue to increase the accessibility of the festival, eliminating barriers to participation for our artists and audience alike. We will provide closed captioning for in-person and virtual programming as with previous years, with ASL interpretation upon request. We will also offer sliding-scale admission for in-person evening events and all virtual programming. Free tickets will be available for all virtual programming, and for in-person upon request.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| (NEW to PG) | Jurisdiction | Project | 2026 | 2026 |
|----------------|--------------|----------|---------|----------------|
| VICTORIA LATIN | | Category | Request | Recommendation |
| DANCE ASSN | Victoria | EXT | 8,800 | 0 |

Funding History: 2025 EQ: \$0

Mandate

The Victoria Latin Dance Association (VLDA) is dedicated to advancing Latin American cultural expression through professional-quality dance instruction, performance, and community engagement.

Our mandate is to:

- Create accessible, welcoming spaces where community members and the general public can experience authentic Latin dance instruction from confident, experienced teachers.
- Teach diverse Latin dance forms including salsa, kizomba, bachata, merengue, cha cha, and zouk at all skill levels.
- Foster cultural connection, mutual understanding, and social cohesion across community boundaries through dance as a lived art form.
- Demonstrate sustained organizational capacity through professional governance, volunteer management, and program delivery.

Project Summary

2026 Latin Arts Season: Cultura en Movimiento

A comprehensive, year-long extended programming initiative running from April 2026 through March 2027 across multiple venues in Victoria. This cohesive season unites interconnected pillars:

- Quarterly Masterclass & Development Series: World-class visiting instructors lead intensive workshops for local dancers, building professional skills and artistic depth.
- "Calle y Escenario" Performance Series: High-quality public performances including monthly Social & Performance nights (functioning as live art showcases), summer outdoor activations at Centennial Square and other public spaces, and a culminating year-end Gala performance.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of history of previous programming, personnel, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from a stronger focus on presentation activities as opposed to arts training activities.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| VICTORIA SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL | Victoria | SS | 4,000 | 0 |

Funding History: 2012 JanPG: \$3000; 2013 JanPG: \$2500; 2014 JanPG: \$2500; 2015 JanPG: \$3000; 2016 JanPG: \$3000; 2017 OP-A: \$0; 2017 JanPG: \$3500; 2018 JanPG: \$4000; 2019 JanPG: \$4250; 2020 JanPG: \$4000; 2022 JanPG: \$4000; 2023 JanPG: \$4150; 2024 JanPG: \$3000; 2025 JanPG: \$3200

Mandate

The Victoria Summer Music Festival Society (VSMF) was formed in 1996 with the mandate to encourage an interest and appreciation of classical music, in particular, chamber music. Key elements of the mandate include:

- provide local music-loving audiences with an opportunity to hear some of the best national and international chamber music solists and groups who otherwise would not be heard in Victoria,
- support talented local professional musicians by giving them an opportunities to perform chamber music before appreciative local audiences,
- contribute to the development of young up-and-coming musicians by providing opportunities to perform before appreciative local audiences,
- give opportunities for young people to experience the joy of chamber music through a free and discounted ticket program,

Project Summary

Victoria Summer Music Festival 2026

The 2025 Festival will be its 30th anniversary and will consist of 6 public concerts held at the Phillip T. Young Recital Hall at the University of Victoria, and the Dave Dunnet Community Theatre, including:

- the Poiesis Quartet, 2025 winners of the Banff International String Quartet Competition,
- violist Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt, and pianist, Arthur Rowe,
- world-renown Canadian violinist, James Ehnes, accompanied by pianist, Andrew Armstrong,
- Canadian pianist, Élisabeth Pion, the 2025 winner of the Honen International Piano Competition,
- cellist Desmond Hoebig, pianist, Arthur Rowe, and another musician TBD.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of artist compensation levels and benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more information related to the engagement of equity-seeking groups, rural areas, or underrepresented arts and cultural practices.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| (NEW) | Jurisdiction | Project | 2026 | 2026 |
|-----------------|--------------|----------|---------|----------------|
| VIEW ROYAL ARTS | | Category | Request | Recommendation |
| FOUNDATION | View Royal | SS | 9,700 | 5,820 |

Funding History: N/A

Mandate

The purposes of the Society are to:

1. Advance the arts within the Town of View Royal and surrounding communities by supporting, presenting, and promoting artistic, cultural, and creative activities.
2. Provide accessible arts programming including workshops, classes, performances, exhibitions, and community arts initiatives for people of all ages and backgrounds.
3. Support the development of local artists—including emerging, established, and underrepresented creators—through education, mentorship, professional development, and performance or presentation opportunities.
4. Collaborate with schools, other charity and not-for-profit organizations, community organizations, cultural groups, and local governments to deliver arts-based programs and initiatives that enhance community engagement and cultural vitality.
5. Develop and administer grants, scholarships, or financial supports, when resources allow, to enable community members to participate in arts activities or to advance the work of local artists.
6. Promote community well-being and social connection by using the arts as a tool for inclusion, expression, and community-building.
7. Acquire, manage, or maintain assets or facilities that support the delivery of arts programming, including rehearsal, performance, workshop, and community gathering spaces.
8. Raise funds, seek grants, and engage in fundraising activities to support the Society’s purposes.

Project Summary

Performing Arts for All

1. A professional level multi-discipline show based on the Joan Bessie performances from the Victoria Fringe Festival 2025.
2. A community talent show with outreach, auditions, and production of a cabaret-style show.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2026 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

| | Jurisdiction | Project Category | 2026 Request | 2026 Recommendation |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| VOX HUMANA CHAMBER CHOIR | Victoria | OT | 8,500 | 5,600 |

Funding History: 2012 JanPG: \$3000; 2012 AprPG: \$4000; 2013 JanPG: \$5000; 2013 AprPG: \$4000; 2014 JanPG: \$0; 2014 AprPG: \$3000; 2015 JanPG: \$0; 2015 AprPG: \$3500; 2016 AprPG: \$1925; 2017 JanPG: \$2000; 2017 AprPG: \$0; 2018 JanPG: \$2000; 2019 JanPG: \$3500; 2019 AprPG: \$0; 2020 JanPG: \$2000; 2025 JanPG: \$6000

Mandate

Vox Humana's mandate is:

- a) To advance the public's appreciation of the arts by providing high-quality public performances of choral works in/from a variety of musical genres; and providing a forum for the presentation of works of Canadian composers.
- b) To advance education by providing structured learning activities such as instructional rehearsal, and workshops about choral music, and by providing opportunities for students to publicly exhibit, performs, or develop their crafts or skills in conjunctions with these learning activities.

Project Summary

Vox in the Stars

A unique presentation of choral music under the dome of the historic Plaskett Telescope on Observatory Hill in Saanich. The music presented is chosen to express or relate to the themes of the stars, skies, science, and nature, resonating with the venue. Much of the choral music is recently composed, including pieces by local and Canadian composers. A high-quality performance of significant and rarely performed choral works in a unique venue, drawing connections between art, science, and place.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

**REPORT TO ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING OF TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026**

SUBJECT Arts & Culture Support Service Name & Brand Review

ISSUE SUMMARY

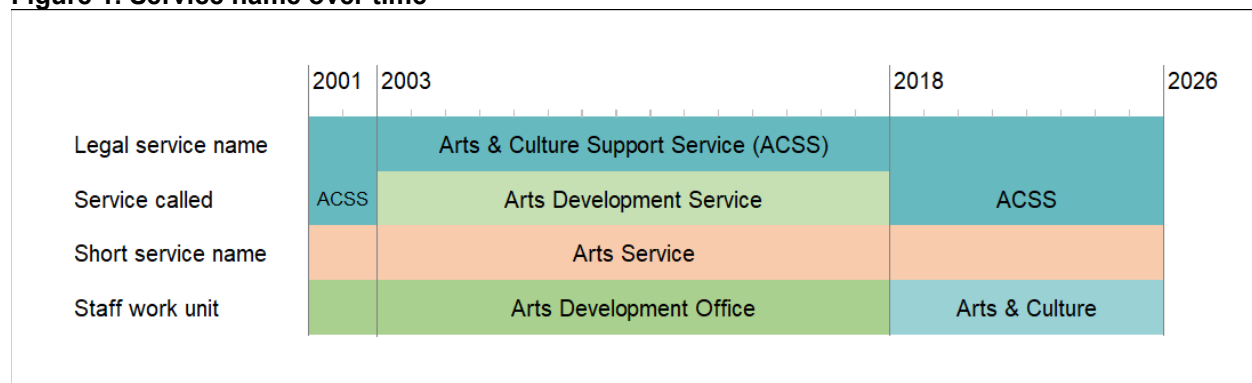
Goal 10 of the Arts & Culture Support Service’s 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan directed staff to “enhance the branding of the Arts Service to clarify its focus” by conducting a “full review of the service name and brand and implement findings.” This goal aims to address concerns surrounding both evolving implications of the word “culture” as well as an observed inconsistent use of the correct service name, particularly in how grant recipients publicly acknowledge funding.

BACKGROUND

The Arts Service and its corresponding staff department have been referred to by different names since its establishment (Figure 1.):

- 2001 – CRD “**Arts & Culture Support Service**” established to take over the Greater Victoria Intermunicipal Committee’s (IMC) “**Arts Development Office**” functions
 - Would often be called the “**Arts Service**” for short
 - “Arts Development Office” carried over from the IMC and was used to refer to the staff work unit
- 2003 – Service began to be called “**Arts Development Service**”
 - Reasons for this are unclear but probably a carry over from the IMC office name
 - Appears to be an unofficial name; service name in the bylaw never changed
 - Staff work unit continued to be called “Arts Development (Office)”
 - The short name remained “Arts Service”
- 2018 – Name changed back to “**Arts & Culture Support Service**”
 - To address inconsistent recognition of the service, staff conducted a brand audit
 - The name was changed with the decision to continue to apply CRD brand and identity and not implement a sub-brand or unique program identifier
 - The short name remained “Arts Service”
 - Staff work unit changed to “Arts & Culture”
- 2026 – Service name and brand review conducted as per Strategic Plan 2024 – 2027

Figure 1. Service name over time



Section 1. of the Arts and Culture Support Service Establishment Bylaw No.1, 2001 (Bylaw No. 2884) states that:

The service hereby established is the provision of assistance in relation to arts and culture for the purpose of benefiting the community or an aspect of the community to be known as the “Arts and Culture Support Service.”

The service seems to have inherited its working name “Arts Development Service” from the Intermunicipal Committee and its Arts Development Office. The legal name has always been the “Arts and Culture Support Service” and, after the review in 2018, this was formalized.

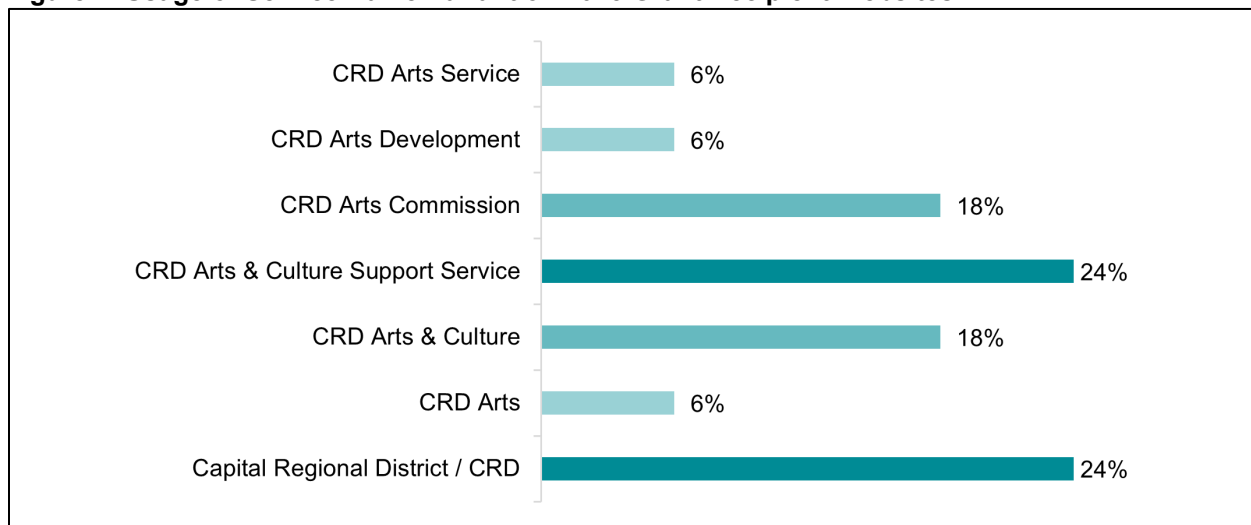
Despite the name change in 2018, issues surrounding the service name persist:

- Lack of new name traction, indicating inadequate implementation and awareness efforts
- Continued misuse and confusion caused by name variations used over time
- Evolving implications of the term “culture” including negative connotation to “culture wars”
- Vagueness of term “culture” which can refer to the customs, values, and beliefs of any group, leading to confusion and policy drift, such as repeated attempts from heritage organizations to receive funding through CRD arts granting programs

The primary issue remains the inconsistent use of the service name in grant recipient funding acknowledgements. Most often, only the CRD wordmark is used in digital and print materials, and the service may only be referred to by name during a verbal acknowledgement before an event or on a client website. While statistics on the distribution of name variant uses in verbal acknowledgements are not available, staff and members of the Arts Advisory Council have observed that events we attend do not consistently use the correct name for the service.

Using client website acknowledgements as an example of common misuses of name variants; we see that of organizations that refer to the service by name, only 24% use the correct name, while another 24% only mention the CRD, and the remaining majority, 52%, use a variety of other incorrect or truncated versions of the service name.

Figure 2. Usage of Service Name Variant on 2025 Grant Recipient Websites



ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission: that staff include an amendment to Section 1 of Bylaw No. 2884 so that the service name is “Arts Development Service” the next time that the bylaw is being amended for other reasons and, if the amending bylaw is adopted, that staff should carry out an awareness campaign to ensure name recognition and traction.

Alternative 2

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission: that the CRD Arts & Culture Support Service should not be re-named, and that staff should carry out an awareness campaign to improve the service’s name recognition and traction.

Alternative 3

That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

This recommendation is in alignment with the Arts Service’s 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan, Goal 10, to “conduct full review of the service name and brand and implement findings.”

The mission of the service is to “Support, champion & develop the arts.” Each of the two recommendations contains one of the words in the mission statement. However, development is noted as an objective in multiple sections of the strategic plan and the development of the local arts ecosystem has been a long-standing goal of the service. While both options align to the strategic plan, the Arts Development Service avoids the policy drift and confusion that comes with the term ‘culture’ and emphasizes the ultimate purpose of public funding (to develop the arts).

Legal Implications

Section 1 of Bylaw No. 2884 establishes the service name as the Arts and Culture Support Service. Changing the service name would require an amending bylaw to amend section 1 to a different service name. As the amending bylaw process is a significant legislative process requiring participant approval, it is recommended that this should only be undertaken if other, more urgent bylaw amendments were implemented. Amending bylaws can update and amend multiple sections of the bylaw at the same time.

Service Implications

In many senses, the short form “Arts Service” seems the simplest and thus most straightforward name for the service. However, the CRD is in the process of ratifying a second service related to the arts, the Performing Arts Facilities Service. Referring to an “Arts Service” could immediately beg the question “Which one?” For this reason, “Arts Service” is not recommended as an option to consider.

A new name has not been recommended because of the possibility of additional confusion that may result from having three names in circulation (Arts and Culture Support Service, Arts Development Service, and a potential new name). It is clear from research that we have limited ability to ensure that all clients will consistently use any service name.

Staff will consider updating the internal division name to reflect the change organizationally for consistency should the recommendation be ratified and approved. Corporate Communications and Engagement has confirmed the 2018 decision that there should not be a unique sub-brand or program identifier – in terms of a visual identity – for the service, recommending instead that this program continue using the CRD brand and identity. Reverting to the previous service name would decrease the risk of more confusion with the addition of another name to the already large pool of variants. Additionally, the main program email address is still artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca and would therefore not need to be altered.

Financial Implications

Ratification and approval of this recommendation will allocate \$500 to execute an awareness campaign through social media and direct communication with clients to ensure traction with assistance from the Corporate Communications and Engagement division. Important learning from 2018 is that a name change in itself does not guarantee traction.

CONCLUSION

Several issues have been identified with the current name of the Arts and Culture Support Service, including inconsistent name recognition by grant recipients and complicating factors due to the broad range of activities which can be referred to through the term ‘culture.’ Staff have researched current ways that the name is being used and have generated options for how to approach the issue.

RECOMMENDATION

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission: that staff include an amendment to Section 1 of Bylaw No. 2884 so that the service name is “Arts Development Service” the next time that the bylaw is being amended for other reasons and, if the amending bylaw is adopted, that staff should carry out an awareness campaign to ensure name recognition and traction.

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Submitted by: | Chris Gilpin, MPA, Manager Arts & Culture |
| Concurrence: | Andy Orr, Senior Manager CRD Corporate Communications & Engagement |
| Concurrence: | Kristen Morley, J.D., General Manager, Corporate Services & Corporate Office |
| Concurrence: | Varinia Somosan, Senior Manager Financial Services, Deputy CFO |



Making a difference...together

**REPORT TO ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026**

SUBJECT Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards Funding Request

ISSUE SUMMARY

The ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria has submitted a funding request to the Arts Commission for a one-time \$6,000 grant to support the Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards.

BACKGROUND

In 2020, the Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards included the inaugural CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award. The event took place as an entirely online event, due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions.

In 2021, the event had a hybrid presentation, due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions, with an in-person component hosted at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney. In 2022, the event was held as an in-person gathering at Kwench; in 2023, the event was held at Victoria City Hall; and in 2024 and 2025, the event was held in-person in the Wingate Studio of the Baumann Centre.

Funding History

The Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards receives funding from multiple sources, including local businesses, City of Victoria, and Victoria Foundation. Recipients are selected through an open nomination process that is adjudicated by a jury of peers. The Arts Service has funded the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award since 2020 (see Table 1).

Table 1. Funding for Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards

| Year | Funding from CRD Arts Service | Recipient |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2020 | \$5,000 | Theatre SKAM |
| 2021 | \$5,000 | Intrepid Theatre & Puente Theatre (collaboration on residency project) |
| 2022 | \$6,000 | Esquimalt Community Arts Hub |
| 2023 | \$6,000 | Victoria Arts Council |
| 2024 | \$6,000 | Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival |
| 2025 | \$6,000 | SNAFU Theatre |
| 2026 | \$6,000 (this request) | TBD |

ProArt Alliance is requesting \$5,000 to sponsor the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award and an additional \$1,000 to assist with the production of the event.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That \$6,000 be provided to ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria to support the 2026 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards, to convene and celebrate the CRD arts community with \$5,000 dedicated to funding the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award and \$1,000 dedicated to supporting the production of the event.

Alternative 2

That this report be referred to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with CRD Arts & Culture Strategic Plan

Supporting the 2026 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards aligns with goal #2 in the Arts & Culture Support Service strategic plan, to “[r]aise awareness of the value of the arts to demonstrate how it contributes to economic sustainability, community vitality, and quality of life.”

Financial Implications

At the direction of the CRD Arts Commission, the budget planning for 2025 allocated \$6,000 for this strategic initiative so that, unlike prior years, the funding for this initiative did not require permission to access the operating reserve. It was also included in the granting budget of the Arts and Culture Support Service at this level for 2026.

Service Delivery Implications

This initiative is delivered through a partnership with ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria who handle all aspects of award nominations and event production. Continuing to support the award named for the CRD Arts Commission would be aligned with the CRD Arts and Culture Support Service mission to “Support, champion, and develop the arts.”

CONCLUSION

The Arts Commission has received a funding request from the ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria for a grant of \$6,000 to support the Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards with \$5,000 to be dedicated to the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award and \$1,000 to be dedicated to supporting the production of the event, which is in line with previous support for this event. The staff report recommends a grant in the full amount of the request.

RECOMMENDATION

That \$6,000 be provided to ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria to support the 2026 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards to convene and celebrate the CRD arts community with \$5,000 dedicated to funding the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award and \$1,000 dedicated to supporting the production of the event.

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Submitted by: | Chris Gilpin, Manager, Arts & Culture Support Service |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------|

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: Letter from ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria, dated March 2, 2026, re: Request for Impact Award sponsorship, Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards 2026



510 Fort St, 2nd Floor
Victoria, BC, V8W 1E6
www.proartalliance.ca
info@proartalliance.ca
250-858-3079

Marianne Alto
Chair, Arts Commission
CRD Arts & Culture Support Service
625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

March 2, 2026

RE: Request for Impact Award sponsorship, Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards 2026

Dear Marianne,

On behalf of the ProArt Alliance member organizations and the broader regional arts community, please accept our sincere thanks to the CRD Arts Commission for sponsoring the **CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award** at the *2025 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards*. The event was a meaningful celebration of the talent, leadership, and creative excellence that exists across the Capital Region, work that is strengthened through recognition and support such as yours.

Last year's Impact Award was presented to the **SNAFU Society of Unexpected Spectacles** and accepted by Co-Artistic Producer Kathleen Greenfield. SNAFU was recognized as a well-established alternative performance company whose work spans projects both intimate and large-scale. Their practice engages significant collaborations, employs numerous local artists, works with diverse communities, activates found spaces, and explores sites across municipalities throughout the region.

ProArt deeply appreciates the Arts Commission's ongoing support of the awards program and your shared commitment to celebrating the cultural vitality of the Capital Region. Recognizing organizations such as SNAFU highlights the meaningful social, cultural, and economic contributions that arts and culture bring to our communities.

We are pleased to share that the 2026 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards will once again be presented as an in-person event at a venue within the Capital Region. Building on the momentum of previous years, the program will continue to prioritize community engagement, accessibility, and broad regional representation.

To support the *2026 CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award*, we respectfully request the following:

- Sponsorship of the 2026 CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award, including a \$5,000 cash prize.
- A \$1,000 cash contribution toward the operating costs of the awards program.
- Support in promoting the 2026 awards by sharing the nomination package, deadlines, event details, and award results through CRD Arts & Culture's communications and social media channels.

We invite the Commission to once again join us in celebrating the exceptional work being created, presented, and supported throughout the Capital Region. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. We look forward to working together on this year's awards.

All the best,

Doug Jarvis
Administrator
ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria
info@proartalliance.ca

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Jarvis", written over a light blue horizontal line.



Making a difference...together

REPORT TO ARTS COMMISSION MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

SUBJECT **New National Report on Arts Vibrancy Index**

ISSUE SUMMARY

In February 2026, a new report was issued by Business / Arts, including research by the Business Data Lab at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, comparing the socio-economic impact of arts in 22 census metropolitan areas (CMA) across Canada, including Greater Victoria.

BACKGROUND

According to the Canadian Chamber of the Arts:

The Arts Vibrancy Index is Canada's first measure to track vibrant Canadian arts communities and their impact on local economic activity. The index factors-in the arts presence in a particular community and the health of the local economy. A high index score indicates that the local economy has both a thriving arts community and broader economic activity.

The index weights ten socio-economic measures, mainly from Statistics Canada, to produce a total score for each CMA. Greater Victoria CMA includes all municipalities in the Capital Regional District plus some parts of the Juan de Fuca electoral area, but does not include Salt Spring Island or Southern Gulf Islands electoral areas. Greater Victoria ranked highly in all categories, including #1 in arts jobs per capita and #1 in tourism per capita. Overall, Greater Victoria ranked #1, the highest-performing CMA in the comparison (see Attachment A, page 8).

CRD Arts and Culture staff will promote the report and its key findings through all of its communication channels (e-newsletter and social media) to fulfill the "Champion" function of the Arts Service's mission and to advance Goal #2 in the strategic plan, namely: "[r]aise awareness of the value of the arts to demonstrate how it contributes to economic sustainability, community vitality, and quality of life".

CONCLUSION

In a comparative analysis of 22 metro regions across Canada, Greater Victoria CMA achieved the top rank in the new Arts Vibrancy Index. This indicates the region's arts sector produces high socio-economic impact relative to the size of its population.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Submitted by: | Chris Gilpin, MPA, Manager Arts & Culture |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------|

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: Arts Vibrancy Index (February 2026)

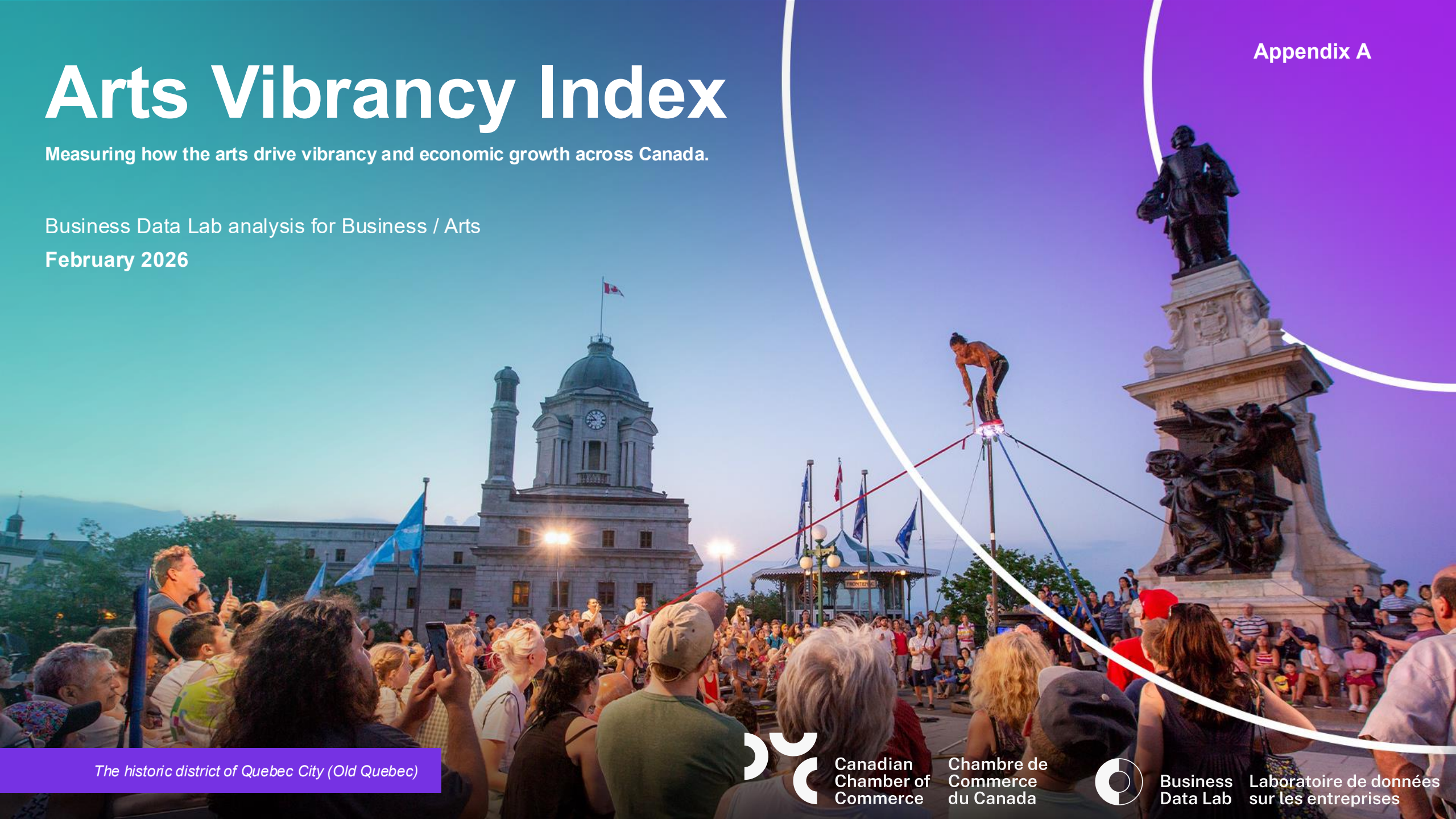
Arts Vibrancy Index

Measuring how the arts drive vibrancy and economic growth across Canada.

Business Data Lab analysis for Business / Arts

February 2026

Appendix A



The historic district of Quebec City (Old Quebec)



Canadian
Chamber of
Commerce

Chambre de
Commerce
du Canada



Business
Data Lab

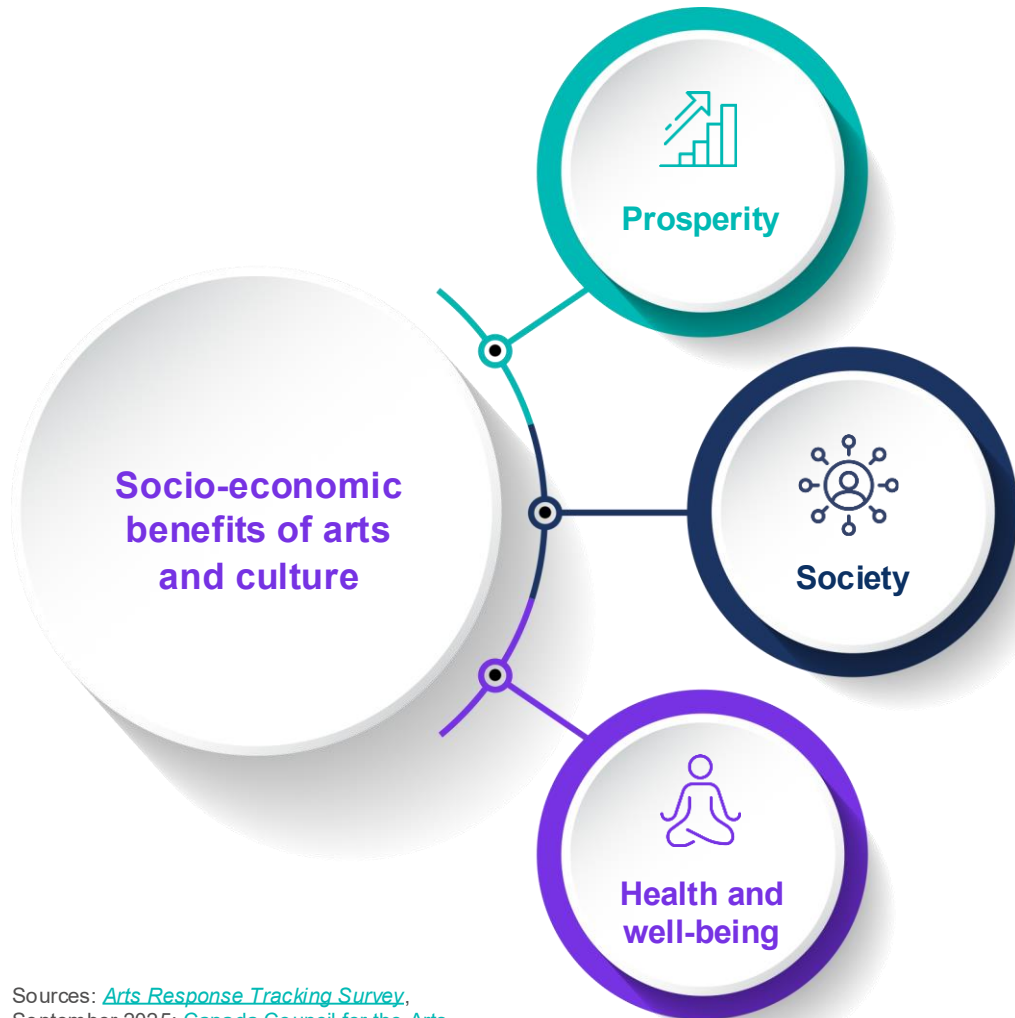
Laboratoire de données
sur les entreprises



There is currently no timely, comprehensive data on the arts community's impact on local economies in Canada.

The Arts Vibrancy Index seeks to bridge this data gap by measuring the relationship between arts & culture and economic growth across 22 Canadian communities.

Arts and culture are central to higher quality of life.



75% ↑ 12 percentage point increase from August 2024.

of Canadians believe that attending arts and culture events positively impacts their sense of belonging in Canada.

Business / Arts, through their quarterly *Arts Response Tracking Survey (ARTS)*, examine Canadian “culture-goers” attitudes and behaviours, finding that people are drawn to participate in arts and culture for several key reasons. These include fostering connections with others, gaining new perspectives, and building a sense of belonging within their communities. Previous releases have pointed to arts’ ability to help reduce stress and enhance well-being.

These findings are consistent with central indicators in the [Quality of Life Framework for Canada](#).

Arts improve other aspects of the economy and society.



Knowledge

- Stimulates the creative economy.
- Increases understanding of diverse communities.
- Changes attitudes towards community participation.
- Increases employability and improves skills associated with development in society.



Society

- Improves business and entrepreneurial culture.
- Positive impact on the residential and property sectors.
- Improves productivity and competitiveness.
- Boosts innovation and digital technology.



Networks

- Builds social cohesion, community, and integration of newcomers.
- Improves health and well-being.
- Creates attractive ecosystems and cities for top talent.
- Stimulates urban development and economic impact of clusters.



The art of the city: talent, inclusion, and community.

Arts communities drive socio-economic outcomes in cities.

Talent attraction and retention

Vibrant arts communities are magnets for skilled workers. Cities that invest in culture attract and keep “creative-class” talent (people in tech, science, design, media, and professional services), driving higher innovation and growth.

Enhanced social cohesion

Cultural participation builds belonging and attachment, especially for equity-seeking groups. Cohesive, engaged communities are more resilient and better able to collaborate, which supports business growth and investment attraction.

Immigrant integration

Participation in arts and cultural life accelerates newcomers' sense of belonging and civic connection. Programs like the Institute for Canadian Citizenship's [Canoo](#) provides newcomers with free access to cultural institutions, strengthening settlement outcomes.

Canadian global cities like Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver exemplify urban arts vibrancy. Research suggests that culture is central to why people stay in a particular city.

Gensler's *City Pulse 2025* finds that the strongest predictors of staying include emotional connection and a sense of belonging, both powerfully shaped by arts and cultural life. Cities that create engaging cultural experiences, nurture an authentic local identity, and foster urban vibrancy are more likely to retain people over time.

Tourism is also a force multiplier when it comes to culture, sustaining downtowns, venues and small businesses. Ontario cultural tourists generate a disproportionate share of total tourism spending, according to a 2023 Ontario Arts Council report. Culture visitors also stay longer: 40% of Canadian cultural tourists taking trips of three days or more; nearly one in three international visitors engaged in cultural activities while in Ontario.

It's not all about cities — rural communities play an important role in providing cultural programming for residents. Distance is the main barrier to increased arts participation by culture-goers reported in the *Arts Response Tracking Survey*.

Overview

The Arts Vibrancy Index is Canada's first measure to track vibrant Canadian arts communities and their impact on local economic activity. The index factors-in the arts presence in a particular community and the health of the local economy. A high index score indicates that the local economy has both a thriving arts community and broader economic activity.

The Index sets out to highlight linkages between economic growth and vibrancy of local arts communities through regional data. Covering 22 census metropolitan areas (CMAs)*, this first-of-a-kind indicator can help track which Canadian CMAs are driving growth through arts and culture.

Objectives:

- Identify communities where strong arts presence correlates with economic strength.
- Create a consistent, comparable measure of arts vibrancy using unique datasets.

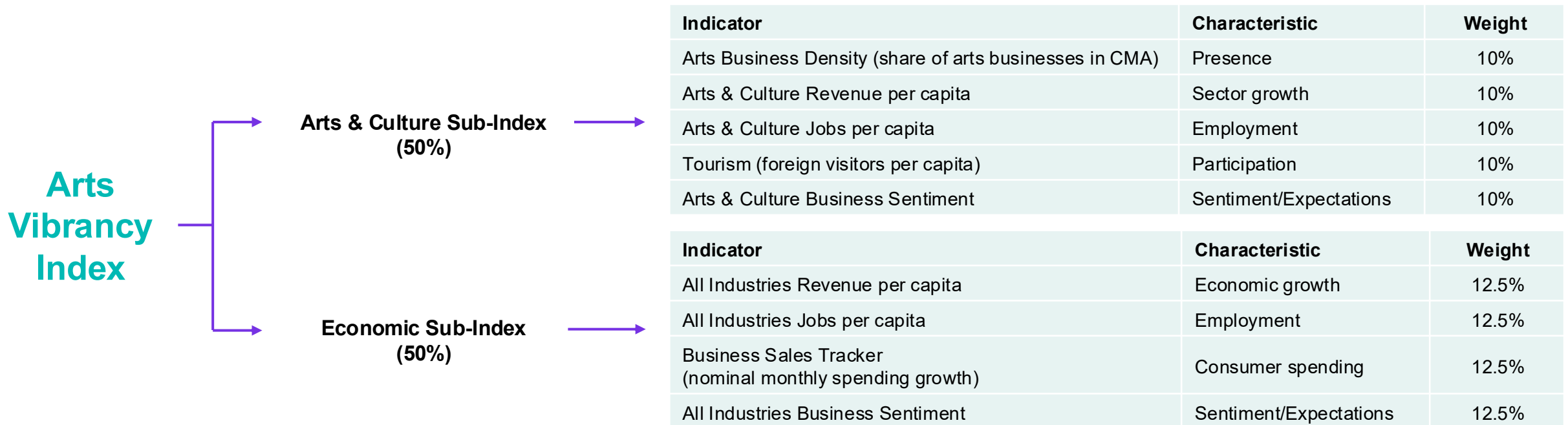
**Canada has 41 CMAs, but the index is limited to 22 due to data availability across all categories.*

Index Framework

The Arts & Culture Vibrancy Index measures the performance of Canadian CMAs in fostering vibrant and economically strong arts communities. To achieve this, the index is composed of two equally weighted sub-indices:

- Arts & Culture Sub-Index (50%) - captures local arts presence and participation.
- Economic Sub-Index (50%) - assesses broader economic performance of the community.

Each sub-index draws on five and four indicators respectively, using publicly available data and Statistics Canada Custom Dataset.



Note: Sector data is available at the two-digit North American Industry Classification (NAICS) level. Arts and culture are represented by NAICS 51 and 71 (71 – Arts, entertainment and recreation; 51 – Information and culture). The index uses NAICS 71 as it relates more closely to regional arts participation and in-person arts and culture events.

Overall Rankings

Arts Vibrancy Index

| Ranking | Census Metropolitan Area |
|---------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Victoria, British Columbia |
| 2 | Kelowna, British Columbia |
| 3 | Québec, Quebec |
| 4 | Halifax, Nova Scotia |
| 5 | Vancouver, British Columbia |
| 6 | Regina, Saskatchewan |
| 6 | Moncton, New Brunswick |
| 8 | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan |
| 9 | Calgary, Alberta |
| 10 | Toronto, Ontario |
| 11 | Montréal, Quebec |
| 12 | Winnipeg, Manitoba |
| 13 | Sherbrooke, Quebec |
| 14 | Kitchener – Cambridge – Waterloo, Ontario |
| 14 | Ottawa, Ontario - Gatineau, Quebec |
| 16 | St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador |
| 17 | Windsor, Ontario |
| 18 | St. Catharines - Niagara, Ontario |
| 18 | Edmonton, Alberta |
| 20 | Oshawa, Ontario |
| 21 | London, Ontario |
| 22 | Hamilton, Ontario |

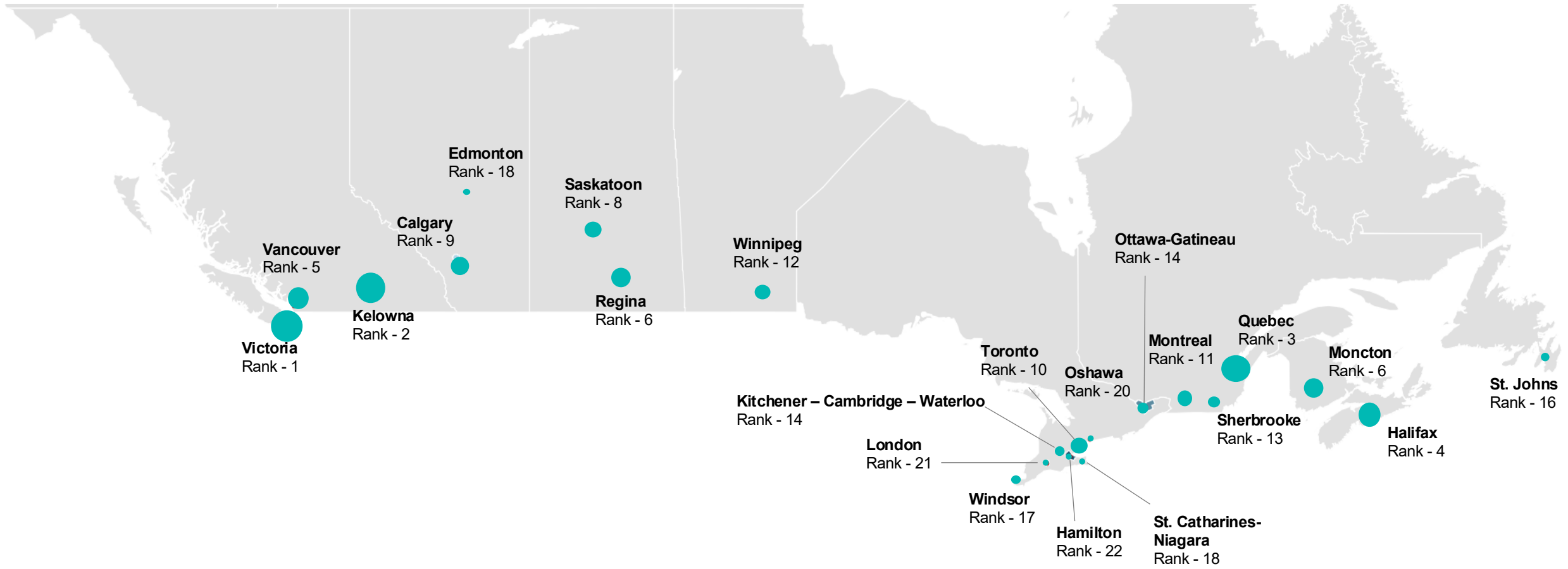
Note: Index scores are scaled from 0 to 100 using min-max normalization, where the top CMA is set to 100 and the lowest to 0. CMAs are ranked directly from these scores, with Rank 1 indicating the highest-performing community in the comparison set.



Credit: Open House at the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Toronto, ON. Photo by Allan Cabral

Arts Vibrancy Index Results

Rankings by census metropolitan area



Note: Index scores are scaled from 0 to 100 using min-max normalization, where the top CMA is set to 100 and the lowest to 0. CMAs are ranked directly from these scores, with Rank 1 indicating the highest-performing community in the comparison set. Bubble size corresponds to the overall score, with larger bubbles reflecting higher relative vibrancy.

Rankings by Arts & Culture Indicators

Arts and Culture Business Density (share of overall businesses)

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Sherbrooke, Quebec |
| 2 | St. Catharines – Niagara, Ontario |
| 3 | Ottawa - Gatineau |
| 4 | Kelowna, British Columbia |
| 5 | Québec, Quebec |
| 6 | Montréal, Quebec |
| 7 | Halifax, Nova Scotia |
| 8 | St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador |
| 9 | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan |
| 10 | Winnipeg, Manitoba |
| 11 | Moncton, New Brunswick |
| 12 | Victoria, British Columbia |
| 13 | Hamilton, Ontario |
| 14 | Vancouver, British Columbia |
| 15 | Regina, Saskatchewan |
| 15 | Oshawa, Ontario |
| 17 | Kitchener – Cambridge – Waterloo, Ontario |
| 18 | London, Ontario |
| 19 | Windsor, Ontario |
| 20 | Toronto, Ontario |
| 21 | Calgary, Alberta |
| 22 | Edmonton, Alberta |

Arts and Culture Revenue per capita (output)

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Kelowna, British Columbia |
| 2 | Moncton, New Brunswick |
| 3 | Vancouver, British Columbia |
| 4 | Calgary, Alberta |
| 5 | Québec, Quebec |
| 6 | Regina, Saskatchewan |
| 7 | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan |
| 8 | Toronto, Ontario |
| 9 | Victoria, British Columbia |
| 10 | Winnipeg, Manitoba |
| 11 | Montréal, Quebec |
| 12 | St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador |
| 13 | Ottawa - Gatineau |
| 14 | St. Catharines – Niagara, Ontario |
| 15 | Hamilton, Ontario |
| 15 | Halifax, Nova Scotia |
| 17 | Kitchener – Cambridge – Waterloo, Ontario |
| 18 | Edmonton, Alberta |
| 19 | London, Ontario |
| 20 | Sherbrooke, Quebec |
| 21 | Windsor, Ontario |
| 22 | Oshawa, Ontario |

Arts and Culture Jobs per capita

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Victoria, British Columbia |
| 2 | Kelowna, British Columbia |
| 3 | St. Catharines – Niagara, Ontario |
| 4 | Calgary, Alberta |
| 5 | Vancouver, British Columbia |
| 6 | Oshawa, Ontario |
| 7 | Edmonton, Alberta |
| 8 | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan |
| 9 | Regina, Saskatchewan |
| 10 | Winnipeg, Manitoba |
| 11 | Windsor, Ontario |
| 12 | Montréal, Quebec |
| 13 | Sherbrooke, Quebec |
| 14 | Kitchener – Cambridge – Waterloo, Ontario |
| 15 | Halifax, Nova Scotia |
| 15 | Toronto, Ontario |
| 17 | Hamilton, Ontario |
| 18 | London, Ontario |
| 19 | Moncton, NB |
| 20 | Ottawa - Gatineau |
| 21 | Québec, Quebec |
| 22 | St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador |

Note: CMA's are ranked from highest to lowest score; Rank 1 indicates the best-performing CMA for each indicator.

Rankings by Arts & Culture Indicators

Non-residents entering Canada per capita

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Victoria, British Columbia |
| 2 | Windsor, Ontario |
| 3 | Vancouver, British Columbia |
| 4 | Calgary, Alberta |
| 5 | Halifax, Nova Scotia |
| 6 | Toronto, Ontario |
| 7 | Montréal, Quebec |
| 8 | Québec, Quebec |
| 9 | St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador |
| 10 | Winnipeg, Manitoba |
| 11 | Edmonton, Alberta |
| 12 | Ottawa - Gatineau |
| 13 | Regina, Saskatchewan |
| 14 | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan |
| 15 | Kelowna, British Columbia |
| 15 | Hamilton, Ontario |
| 17 | St. Catharines – Niagara, Ontario |
| 18 | London, Ontario |
| 19 | Moncton, New Brunswick |
| 20 | Kitchener – Cambridge – Waterloo, Ontario |
| 21 | Sherbrooke, Quebec |
| 22 | Oshawa, Ontario |

Arts and Culture Business Sentiment

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Oshawa, Ontario |
| 2 | Kitchener – Cambridge – Waterloo, Ontario |
| 3 | Québec, Quebec |
| 4 | Calgary, Alberta |
| 5 | Kelowna, British Columbia |
| 6 | Vancouver, British Columbia |
| 7 | Ottawa - Gatineau |
| 8 | Moncton, New Brunswick |
| 9 | Victoria, British Columbia |
| 10 | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan |
| 11 | Winnipeg, Manitoba |
| 12 | Toronto, Ontario |
| 13 | St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador |
| 14 | St. Catharines – Niagara, Ontario |
| 15 | Windsor, Ontario |
| 15 | Sherbrooke, Quebec |
| 17 | Regina, Saskatchewan |
| 18 | Hamilton, Ontario |
| 19 | Montréal, Quebec |
| 20 | Halifax, Nova Scotia |
| 21 | Edmonton, Alberta |
| 22 | London, Ontario |

Note: CMAs are ranked from highest to lowest score; Rank 1 indicates the best-performing CMA for each indicator.

Rankings by Economic Indicators

All Industries Revenue per capita (output)

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Toronto, Ontario |
| 2 | Vancouver, British Columbia |
| 3 | Calgary, Alberta |
| 4 | Kelowna, British Columbia |
| 5 | Edmonton, Alberta |
| 6 | Regina, Saskatchewan |
| 7 | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan |
| 8 | Montréal, Quebec |
| 9 | Québec, Quebec |
| 10 | Halifax, Nova Scotia |
| 11 | St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador |
| 12 | Victoria, British Columbia |
| 13 | Moncton, New Brunswick |
| 14 | Winnipeg, Manitoba |
| 15 | Hamilton, Ontario |
| 15 | Sherbrooke, Quebec |
| 17 | Kitchener – Cambridge – Waterloo, Ontario |
| 18 | London, Ontario |
| 19 | Windsor, Ontario |
| 20 | Ottawa - Gatineau |
| 21 | St. Catharines – Niagara, Ontario |
| 22 | Oshawa, Ontario |

All Industries Jobs per capita

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Victoria, British Columbia |
| 2 | Halifax, Nova Scotia |
| 3 | Kitchener – Cambridge – Waterloo, Ontario |
| 4 | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan |
| 5 | Calgary, Alberta |
| 6 | Vancouver, British Columbia |
| 7 | Ottawa - Gatineau |
| 8 | Québec, Quebec |
| 9 | Winnipeg, Manitoba |
| 10 | Moncton, New Brunswick |
| 11 | Toronto, Ontario |
| 12 | London, Ontario |
| 13 | Edmonton, Alberta |
| 14 | St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador |
| 15 | Regina, Saskatchewan |
| 15 | Montréal, Quebec |
| 17 | Hamilton, Ontario |
| 18 | Oshawa, Ontario |
| 19 | Sherbrooke, Quebec |
| 20 | Windsor, Ontario |
| 21 | St. Catharines – Niagara, Ontario |
| 22 | Kelowna, British Columbia |

Note: CMAs are ranked from highest to lowest score; Rank 1 indicates the best-performing CMA for each indicator.

Rankings by Economic Indicators

Nominal Monthly Spending Growth

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Québec, Quebec |
| 2 | Halifax, Nova Scotia |
| 3 | London, Ontario |
| 4 | Kelowna, British Columbia |
| 5 | Regina, Saskatchewan |
| 6 | Toronto, Ontario |
| 7 | Victoria, British Columbia |
| 8 | Calgary, Alberta |
| 9 | Sherbrooke, Quebec |
| 10 | Windsor, Ontario |
| 11 | Moncton, New Brunswick |
| 12 | Vancouver, British Columbia |
| 13 | Oshawa, Ontario |
| 14 | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan |
| 15 | Ottawa - Gatineau |
| 15 | Montréal, Quebec |
| 17 | Edmonton, Alberta |
| 18 | St. Catharines – Niagara, Ontario |
| 19 | Winnipeg, Manitoba |
| 20 | Hamilton, Ontario |
| 21 | St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador |
| 22 | Kitchener – Cambridge – Waterloo, Ontario |

All Industries Business Sentiment

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------------|
| 1 | St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador |
| 2 | Halifax, Nova Scotia |
| 3 | Regina, Saskatchewan |
| 4 | Kelowna, British Columbia |
| 5 | Sherbrooke, Quebec |
| 6 | Moncton, New Brunswick |
| 7 | Victoria, British Columbia |
| 8 | Québec, Quebec |
| 9 | Winnipeg, Manitoba |
| 10 | Montréal, Quebec |
| 11 | Kitchener – Cambridge – Waterloo, Ontario |
| 12 | Edmonton, Alberta |
| 13 | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan |
| 14 | Toronto, Ontario |
| 15 | St. Catharines – Niagara, Ontario |
| 15 | Windsor, Ontario |
| 17 | Vancouver, British Columbia |
| 18 | Oshawa, Ontario |
| 19 | Calgary, Alberta |
| 20 | London, Ontario |
| 21 | Ottawa - Gatineau |
| 22 | Hamilton, Ontario |

Note: CMAs are ranked from highest to lowest score; Rank 1 indicates the best-performing CMA for each indicator.

Key finding: Creative Intensity Outperforms Scale

The Arts Vibrancy Index shows that creative intensity - not population size drives arts vibrancy. Communities that perform well share three traits: high participation, strong presence in the business ecosystem, and ripe economic conditions.



Participation

Indicators

- ✓ Arts jobs per capita
- ✓ Arts revenue per capita
- ✓ Tourism per capita

Top CMA examples:

Victoria, BC: Ranked #1 in both arts jobs per capita and tourism per capita.

Kelowna, BC: Ranked #1 in arts and culture revenue per capita and ranked #2 in arts and culture jobs per capita.

Vancouver, BC: Ranked #3 in both arts revenue per capita and tourism per capita.



Presence

Indicators

- ✓ Arts business density
(share of arts businesses out of all businesses in the CMA)

Top CMA examples:

Sherbrooke, QC: Ranked #1

St. Catharines Niagara, ON: Ranked #2

Ottawa – Gatineau: Ranked #3



Alignment

Indicators

- ✓ All industries revenue per capita
- ✓ All industries jobs per capita
- ✓ Consumer spending growth
- ✓ Business sentiment

Top CMA examples:

Québec, QC: Ranked #1 in nominal growth spending and #3 for arts and culture business sentiment.

Halifax, NS: Ranked #2 in all industries jobs per capita, nominal growth spending and all industries' business sentiments.

Kelowna, BC: Ranked #4 in all industries revenue per capita, nominal growth spending and all industries' business sentiments.

Methodology

1. Data Collection: Data was compiled from multiple sources: ¹

- Arts Business Density is from Statistics Canada (Table 33-10-1016-01).
- Revenue and jobs were obtained from Statistics Canada Custom Industry Datasets.
- Tourism data (foreign visitors entering Canada) ² is from Statistics Canada (Table 24-10-0055-01).
- Business sentiment indicators³ were sourced from the Business Data Lab's Business Expectations Index (BEI; Q3 2025).
- Consumer spending nominal growth ² was measured using Moneris transaction data (August 2025 monthly % change).

2. Data Transformation for Comparability: Variables like revenue, jobs, and tourism visits were expressed in per capita terms to control for CMA size in comparison to smaller CMAs.

3. Standardization: Z-scores were calculated for each CMA and variable to standardize across different units.

4. Weighting: Indicator z-scores were multiplied by their respective weights (10% or 12.5%) and summed to form sub-indices.

5. Index Construction: Sub-indices were combined (Arts & Culture 50%, Economy 50%) to derive the Arts & Culture Vibrancy Score.

6. Rescaling: Final composite scores were rescaled using min - max scaling (0 -100), with the highest performing CMA = 100 and lowest performing CMA = 0. A score of 50 is the average.

7. Ranking: CMAs were ranked from 1-22 based on rescaled composite scores (Rank 1 being most vibrant and 22 being least vibrant CMA).

Notes:

1) *Industry Scope:* Arts & culture represented by NAICS 71 (Arts, Entertainment and Recreation), which more directly reflects community-level participation than NAICS 51.

2) *Ottawa–Gatineau CMA:* Ottawa–Gatineau is treated as a single CMA. International tourism data is available for Ottawa only - this variable carries a small (10%) weight, minimizing impact on the composite score. Nominal spending growth for Ottawa-Gatineau CMA was derived by averaging their respective growth numbers - Ottawa (2.56) and Gatineau (-2.02).

3) *CMAs in NB, NL used provincial BEI values as proxies for CMA-level BEI because of data availability constraints.*

Data Sources

| Indicator | Source | Time period |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Arts and culture business density (% of businesses in CMA) | Statistics Canada (Table: 33-10-1016-01) | June 2025 |
| Arts and culture revenue (output) | Statistics Canada Custom Dataset | 2024 |
| Arts and culture jobs | Statistics Canada Custom Dataset | 2024 |
| Tourism (foreign visitors per capita) | Statistics Canada (Table: 24-10-0055-01) - July 2025 | July 2025 |
| Arts and culture business sentiment | Business Expectations Index, Business Data Lab | Q3 2025 |
| All Industries revenue (output) | Statistics Canada Custom Dataset | 2024 |
| All industries jobs | Statistics Canada Custom Dataset | 2024 |
| Business Sales Tracker (nominal monthly growth spending) | BDL analysis of Moneris transaction data | August 2025 |
| All industries business sentiment | Business Expectations Index, Business Data Lab | Q3 2025 |
| Canadian Population | Statistics Canada (Table: 17-10-0148-01) | July 2024 |



IMPULSE THEATRE

February 13, 2026

Attn: CRD Arts Commission

To members of the CRD Arts Commission;

We are writing to express our heartfelt gratitude for the continued support through the Operating Grant program.

We continue to grow and refine our role within the Capital Regional District, and this funding allows us to use our values to guide our relationships in both our artistic and community engagement programming. We celebrated our fifteenth year, continued developing four new artistic projects, and presented our first Presentation Series with nationally-recognized artists. The CRD Arts Commission and the Arts Support Service have been integral in endorsing us as an emerging leader within our regional performing arts landscape.

Thank you again for your invaluable contribution to Impulse Theatre. We look forward to sharing our journey with you: all our successes, lessons, and curiosities.

Sincerely,



Jackie Adamthwaite, President



Andrew Barrett, Artistic Producer

February 9, 2026

Chris Gilpin, Manager - CRD Arts & Culture Support Service
CRD Arts Advisory Council and Chair

Via email: cgilpin@crd.bc.ca

Dear Chris, Arts Advisory Council and Chair

Re: CRD 2025 - 2027 Multi-Year Operating Grant & Early Payment Request

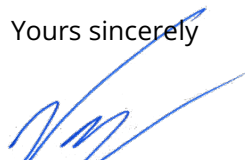
I am writing on behalf of Pacific Opera Victoria's Board of Directors to thank you for your letter of February 2, 2026 in which you confirm that the second payment of our 2025 - 2027 multi-year operating grant of \$259,150 will be made in early August 2026.

I confirm that Pacific Opera Victoria would welcome an early partial payment up to 50% of the 2026 operating grant.

Pacific Opera Victoria greatly appreciates the support and commitment of the CRD Arts Service, and thanks you for stewarding this important investment in the region's vibrant arts and cultural economy.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the sustained growth and impact of the arts in our community.

Yours sincerely



Ian Rye
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Sameer Shah - Director of Finance, Pacific Opera Victoria sameer@pacificopera.ca

Cc: Erin Sterling - Administrative Assistant, CRD Arts & Culture Support Service

esterling@crd.bc.ca

cc: CRD Arts Development - artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca

February 12, 2026

CRD Arts & Culture
Attn: CRD Arts Advisory Council and CRD Arts Commission
c/o Chris Gilpin, Manager, CRD Arts and Culture
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V9A 3C3

Dear CRD Arts Advisory Council and CRD Arts Commission,

Thank you for your continued support through the Operating Grant program and for your recent grant notification of \$55,000.

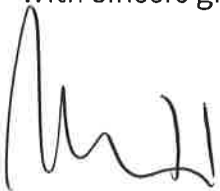
Your commitment helps our stages shine brightly!

The Conservatory is entering an exciting new phase with an expanded events team, allowing us to grow our programming and contribute even more to the diverse and vibrant cultural landscape of the Capital Regional District. Your support plays a vital role in making this growth possible.

Your contribution is instrumental in helping us welcome, inspire, and entertain thousands of CRD audience members each year, while also providing a platform for artists from a wide range of genres. Recent highlights include hip hop artist Nicole Ermineskin (“Nikky E”) at our National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event, and acclaimed lutenist and guitarist Lucas Harris at our upcoming Pacific Baroque Festival. Thank you for believing in our work and helping make these moments possible.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, faculty, staff, students, and artists, **thank you**. We look forward to continuing our work together to ensure sustained growth and a bright future for performing arts in Greater Victoria.

With sincere gratitude,



Nathan Medd
CEO



Mhiran Faraday
Director of Events, Partnerships, & Rentals



Feb 18, 2026

Dear Members of the Arts Advisory Council and Arts Commission,

On behalf of the Yellowhouse Art Centre Society, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for awarding YHACS its first Operating Grant for 2026.

This support represents a significant milestone for our organization. As a rural, island-based arts centre serving Galiano Island, surrounding communities, visitors and beyond, stable operating funding provides a strong foundation for our continued growth and sustainability. It allows us to plan with greater confidence, deepen our commitment and remain focused on delivering meaningful and impactful artistic & cultural programming for people of all ages and backgrounds, year-round. This is an investment in community connection, learning, healing, creativity, and cultural vitality. It affirms the important role that accessible arts spaces play in rural communities.

A few of our board members shared:

“ As a board member, knowing that this vital community hub has stable funding helps me focus on the Centre's core work – their connection to and support of arts on the island. ”

Caitlin Pencarrick Hertzman (she/her) Director

“ Galiano is so lucky and well served by this community art space- accessible to all. I see this directly working in our community school, where students take multiple trips each school year to the Yellowhouse to take in art and culture projects. Thank you for supporting this precious gem on Galiano. ” Jodie Bard (she/her) Director

“ Thank you for supporting this deeply community-centred arts organization. The Yellowhouse offers something meaningful to so many people on Galiano, and receiving operational funding is a vital step towards its sustainability. ” Dayna Szyndrowki (she/her) Treasurer

We are deeply appreciative of your trust in our work and your commitment to supporting arts and culture across our region. This grant strengthens not only YHACS, but the wider creative ecosystem we are proud to be part of.

Gratefully,
Roksan Parfitt

Program Coordinator
Yellowhouse Art Centre Society

