



Meeting Minutes Arts Commission

Thursday, March 25, 2026

4:00 PM

Electronic Meeting
via Zoom link

PRESENT - Electronic Participation

Commissioners: C. Plant (Acting Chair), J. Bateman, M. Brame, R. Fawcett, S. Gray,
C. Green, G. Lemon, K. Roessingh

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

AAC Members: R. Ditor, R. Gale

Regrets: M. Alto, P. Brent, C. Smart

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Acting Chair Plant provided a Territorial Acknowledgement from his location in Saanich. He opened the meeting by asking each participant to share the first music concert they had attended.

2. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED by Commissioner Roessingh, SECONDED by Commissioner Brame,
That the agenda for the March 25, 2026 Arts Commission meeting be
approved. CARRIED**

3. Adoption of Minutes

**MOVED by Commissioner Brame, SECONDED by Commissioner Roessingh,
That the minutes of the Arts Commission meeting of January 28, 2026 be
adopted as circulated. CARRIED**

4. Chair's Remarks

Acting Chair Plant mentioned that it is an interesting time in the arts ecosystem in terms of arts facilities, thinking of Hermann's/View Street Social and Other Guise's project at 716 Johnson St.

5. Presentations/Delegations none

6. Commission Business

6.1 Arts Advisory Council (AAC) 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

R. Gale, Chair of the AAC, noted that it is a busy time for project-based grants, with Equity and IDEA grants in process, and the April intake of Project Grants currently open. The AAC is pleased to see arts innovation happening across the CRD. The number of applicants to granting programs, and the amount of requests are both increasing; current funding levels are insufficient to meet the current need.

6.2 Manager's Report (verbal)

6.2.1 Outreach Report (written)

C. Gilpin provided an update on the following:

- Langford's consultant, who is working on an arts development strategy, gave a presentation that included a verbal recommendation not to join the CRD Arts Service.
- On February 23rd there was an orientation for new AC members Steve Gray and Rob Fawcett.
- The proposed Performing Arts Facilities Service is in its last week of the Alternate Approval Process (AAP). Results from the AAP will be presented to CRD Board on April 8th.
- On March 11th the CRD Board considered a motion with notice from View Royal's mayor that the town transition from Tier 1 to Tier 2 participation in the Arts Service. The CRD Board referred it to staff to create a report on the implications and impact of that potential change, and to bring that report to the Arts Commission. The report is being assembled and will be presented no later than the May AC meeting. The AC is being asked to provide advice to the Board, who will make the final decision.

6.3 2026 January Project Grant Recommendations

Thirty-six applications were received by the deadline and twenty are recommended for funding. Unsuccessful applicants can reapply to the April intake if they wish. Commissioners expressed gratitude for the work of the Arts Advisory Council adjudicators.

**MOVED by Commissioner Brame, SECONDED by Commissioner Lemon,
That the 2026 January Project Grant recommendations be approved
as presented. CARRIED**

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

C. Gilpin reminded commissioners that this review was part of the 2024-2027 strategic plan, and the chosen name is one of the names already in circulation, with the added benefit of removing the confusion surrounding the use of the word "culture." The only costs for this change are in advertising, but the allocated amount is part of the existing budget. Social media advertising is the most impactful to create awareness about this change.

**MOVED by Commissioner Green, SECONDED by Commissioner Brame,
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**

6.5 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards Funding Request

**MOVED by Commissioner Gray, SECONDED by Commissioner Bateman,
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. CARRIED**

6.6 New National Report on Arts Vibrancy Index

This report was created for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, using Statistic Canada data for twenty-two Census metropolitan areas (CMAs). The Greater Victoria CMA includes all CRD municipalities plus a portion of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. Data from the report will be included in the Arts & Culture Impact Report.

**MOVED by Commissioner Bateman, SECONDED by Commissioner Fawcett,
That the Arts Commission Chair write to the CRD Board, member municipalities
and Electoral Area Directors, and ensuring that we share the content and
substance of the arts vibrancy report. CARRIED**

Commissioner Bateman suggested that content of the 2021 Nordicity Report be included. Acting Chair Plant suggested contacting the authors of the report to see if they could include the other two Electoral Areas. Commissioners thanked staff and the AAC for all the work they have done to contribute to a vibrant art scene.

7. **New Business** none

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

9. **Adjournment**

**MOVED by Commissioner Gray, SECONDED by Commissioner Roessingh,
That the March 25, 2026 Arts Commission meeting be adjourned at 5:12 pm.
CARRIED**

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 – hybrid meeting

Chair

Recorder