

## ARTS COMMISSION

Notice of Meeting on **Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.**  
Room 488, 4th Floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC; and Electronic Participation

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

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The public are welcome to attend Arts Commission meetings in-person. Delegations will have the option to participate electronically. Please complete the online application at [www.crd.bc.ca/address](http://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 May 27, 2026 Arts Commission meeting be approved.
3. Adoption of Minutes of March 25, 2026  
**Recommendation:** That the minutes of the Arts Commission meeting of March 25, 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: May 12, 2026 - for information
    - 6.1.3 Arts Advisory Council *Activities by Council Summary*: May 12, 2026 – for information
  - 6.2. Manager's Report (verbal)
    - 6.2.1 Outreach Report (written)
  - 6.3 2026 Equity Grant Recommendations  
**Recommendation:** The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:  
That the 2026 Equity Grant recommendations be approved as presented.  
  
**Attachments:** Staff Report: 2026 Equity Grant Recommendations  
Appendix A: 2026 Equity Grant Recommendations and Summaries

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

6.4 2026 IDEA Grant Recommendations

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

**Attachments:** Staff Report: 2026 IDEA Grant Recommendations  
Appendix A: 2026 IDEA Grant Recommendations and Summaries

6.5 Recommendation on View Royal Motion

**Recommendation:** The Arts Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board that staff report back with the necessary amendments to Bylaw No. 2884, “Arts and Culture Support Services Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2001”, to change View Royal’s participation from a Tier 1 to a Tier 2 membership level.

**Attachments:** Staff Report: Impact of View Royal Changing Participation Level from Tier 1 to Tier 2 in Arts & Culture Support Service  
Appendix A: Letter from View Royal  
Appendix B: Consolidated Bylaw No. 2884  
Appendix C: Simulation of Impact to Cost-Sharing

6.6 Financial Planning for Budget 2027

**Recommendation:** No recommendation. For discussion only.

**Attachments:** Staff Report: Financial Planning for Budget 2027 Including Phase Out Options for Transfer from Arts Development Service Operating Reserve  
Appendix A: 2027 Serve and Financial Planning Guidelines  
Appendix B: Financial Framework of Options for Phasing Out Operating Reserve Transfer to Arts Development Service Budget

7. New Business

8. Correspondence: Response Letter from BC Arts Council (dated March 20, 2026)  
Thank You Letter from Newcombe Singers (dated April 13, 2026)  
Thank You Letter from Township Community Arts Council (dated April 17, 2026)

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: June 24, 2026



## 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup>.
- On March 11<sup>th</sup> 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

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Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recorder



## Meeting Minutes Arts Advisory Council

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Thursday, May 12, 2026

5:00 PM

Via Video Conference

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Members: R. Gale (Chair), D. Clark, R. Ditor, C. Haska, E. Mushumanski, J. Noomen, S. Reid, J. Smillie

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

Regrets: J. Bauche, A. Reid, P. Tsolo, T. Wong

**1. Territorial Acknowledgement** – R. Gale opened with an acknowledgement of the nations on whose territories we live and work. We are immensely grateful.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED by C. Haska, SECONDED by R. Ditor,  
That the agenda for the May 12, 2026 Arts Advisory Council meeting be approved.  
CARRIED**

**3. Minutes**

**MOVED by S. Reid, SECONDED by E. Mushumanski,  
That the March 10, 2026 minutes of the Arts Advisory Council be approved as  
presented. CARRIED**

The Arts Commission Minutes of January 28, 2026 were received for information.

**4. Chair's Report**

R. Gale had nothing to report.

**5. Manager's Report**

C. Gilpin thanked the assessment teams for all of their work on the adjudications, and spoke about the four year cycle of a strategic plan: one year of planning, two years of activating, and one year of finishing up while working on the next one.

**6. 2026 Equity Grant Recommendations**

S. Reid chaired the adjudication, and shared that there were good conversations around impact - how to balance funding projects that serve a small group of people versus projects that have a shallower but wider impact (e.g. Victoria Women's Transition House vs Victoria Pride). There were a good projects that the group wanted to fund but could not because of the limited budget.

**MOVED by C. Haska, SECONDED by J. Noomen,  
The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:  
That the 2026 Equity Grant recommendations be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED**

**7. 2026 IDEA Grant Recommendations**

C. Haska chaired the adjudication, and shared that they had a large number of applicants, and over half were new to the program (15 out of 28). She noted that applicants seemed to be improving their skills in responding to questions, although a few lacked specificity and need to work on their plans before reapplying. The team noticed a few projects where the arts aspect seemed very adjacent to the main project.

**MOVED by E. Mushumanski, SECONDED by J. Smillie,  
The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:  
That the 2026 IDEA Grant recommendations be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED**

**8. Project-based Grants Review**

C. Gilpin introduced the topic, reminding members that this review is part of our strategic plan. Feedback shared tonight will inform a staff report that will come back in June. The suggested changes were gleaned from the strategic planning process, during adjudications, directly from clients, and from staff (administrative pieces). The most important changes include:

1. Catching-up the project based grants to match the changes made to Operating Grants that are working, eg. scoring categories rather than individual questions. The three categories would be artistic merit, community engagement, and feasibility.
2. We have heard repeatedly that travel expenses being ineligible is a big impediment for our SGI clients, among others, so we are changing this.
3. As part of strategic plan, we want to focus more support for events that are “for youth/by youth.” We will change the equity question to include this.

Discussion ensued about financial requirements, multiple applications, and Board compensation. Financial requirements will be aligned with Operating Grants. C. Gilpin noted that he and A. Gibbs would be working on new slides for info sessions, to help educate clients about the changes. Members endorsed the modifications proposed in the discussion paper and expressed full support for the changes to scoring in particular.

**9. ABCs (Activity by Council Summary)**

Members discussed arts activities they had experienced recently, and others they were looking forward to.

- 10. Correspondence** Thank You letters from Newcombe Singers and Township Community Arts Council were received.

**11. Adjournment**

**MOVED by E. Mushumanski, SECONDED by C. Haska,  
That the May 12, 2026 Arts Advisory Council meeting be adjourned at 5:59 pm.  
CARRIED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recorder

**Arts Advisory Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2026**  
**Activities by Council (ABCs)**

**Local:**

Alan Doyle	in concert
Archer's Community Hub	Art Gallery
Bagatelle	in concert
Belfry Theatre	Benevolence (Spark Festival) Big Stuff (Spark Festival) Casey and Diana
Bema Productions	Perseverance
Camosun College	Art Exhibition
Caravan World Rhythms	Le vent du nord
Dance Victoria	Boya Tuca
Daniel Champagne	in concert
Delhi 2 Dublin	in concert
Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
Hapax Theatre	Beside Myself
Hecklers	Jeremy Scippio Stand-Up
Mayne Island Little Theatre	Far Away
Ministry of Casual Living	Good Grief Exhibition
Pacific Opera	Orpheus and Eurydice
Phoenix Theatre	In My Day
Ryan Oliver Sextet	Coltrane x Cuba

Secret Magic	Lucky Numbers
St. Luke's Players	Waiting in the Wings
Swing Shift Jazz Combo	in concert
Timetheft & Dead Horse Theatre	Tales from the Galaxy: a Sci-Fi Musical Double Feature
University of Victoria BFA Dep't	2026 Grad Exhibitions: Say When and Passage
Victoria Contra Dance	Jeremy Walsh and Finn Letourneau
Victoria On Stage	Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat
Victoria Symphony	Jeremy Dutcher in Concert Kluxen & Brantelid – Prokofiev and Medelssohn's Scottish
Yellowhouse Art Centre	Alex Percy Solo Exhibition

**Out of Town:**

Vancouver, BC

Broadway Across Canada                      Les Misérables

Kelowna, BC

Kelowna Art Gallery                              Home Without a Name: Alexandra Goodall and  
Danielle Savage exhibition

Minneapolis, US

Wizard of Oz - Children's Theatre Company, Minneapolis

Madrid, Spain

CORRIDA DE TOROS - PLAZA DE TOROS DE LAS VENTAS, Madrid  
Festival de la Guitarra (Manolo Franco) - Teatros del Canal, Madrid  
Galería de las Colecciones Reales - Madrid  
Helnwein: mundos invertidos - SOLO Contemporary, Madrid  
LOS LOCOS JAZZ TRÍO - Cafe Despertar, Madrid  
Mastretta - Cafe Berlin, Madrid  
Museo del Prado - Madrid  
Museo Lazaro Galdiano - Madrid  
Museo Reina Sofia - Madrid  
Museo Thyssen - Madrid  
ROMÁN FILIÚ TRÍO Ft. Dan Pratt - Cafe Despertar, Madrid

## **OUTREACH REPORT TO THE ARTS COMMISSION MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026**

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The following is a summary of recent progress on activities outlined in the Arts & Culture Support Service's 2024-2027 Communications and Outreach Plan:

### **RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE VALUE OF THE ARTS**

#### **Foster sectoral recognition and promotion**

- Continued collaboration with municipal staff to update LandMarks Public Art Database
- Developed Impact stories for 2025 Impact Report and corresponding social media posts to be published as part of report launch and ongoing series
- Continued sharing of economic arts impact facts on social media

### **INCREASE ARTS SECTOR CAREER PATHWAYS REPRESENTATION**

#### **Plan and create resource content**

- Guided by conversations with 8 secondary, post secondary and industry career guidance professionals to discuss existing resources, gaps in support; and opportunities for future collaboration, beginning development of two career pathways projects:
  - Arts Career Pathways interview features: mini-interviews with arts professionals discussing their career paths to be made into social media posts and included in e-newsletters.
  - Arts Career Pathways Resource document: An online resource document specifically bringing together many of the local resources available to youth and young professionals looking to begin a career in the arts.

### **RE-EVAUATE THE ARTS & CULTURE SUPPORT SERVICE NAME & BRAND**

#### **Analyze findings and develop recommendations**

- Name change reviewed and approved by Arts Commission at March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 meeting

#### **Begin Implementation**

- Exploring internal divisional name change to "CRD Arts" to better reflect the service's new name and incorporation of the new Performing Arts Facilities Service
- Developed communications plan to coordinate "launch" of new service name in coordination with possible divisional name change
- Hard launch of service name change with targeted outreach efforts will be implemented pending the divisional name change decision

### **EXPANDED PROMOTION OF GRANT INTAKES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Develop / update funding resources**

- Distributed 2026 Grant Calendar for earlier notice of intakes as requested by community
- Developing 2027 Grant Calendar document to be distributed once approved

## **2026 Grant Intakes**

- Hosted 4 workshops for the 2026 Grant intake so far with high level of attendance
- Preparing content for Grow Forward launch including workshop in June (now will be its own separate session rather than a joint session with Equity and IDEA programs)
- Distributed recordings to all registrants and received very positive feedback on the usefulness of the information provided

## **PRODUCE ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT**

### **Develop report**

- Incorporated data and key findings from national Arts Vibrancy Index
- Completed and moving through the internal approvals process
- Expected presentation at June Arts Commission meeting

### **Publish & launch report**

- Developed report launch and distribution plan
  - Includes targeted mailings, social media and e-newsletter promotion, media releases, and online advertising
- Launch planned for second half of July after review at the Board meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup>



Making a difference...together

**REPORT TO ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING OF TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026**

**SUBJECT    2026 Equity Grant Recommendations**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

The adjudication committee for the 2026 Equity Grants has completed its work and made its 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 Development Service. Section 5 of the Bylaw states: “The Council shall act as an arm’s length adjudicating body for the Arts Development Funding Programs.” 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.

Equity Grants are intended to support applicants that face systemic barriers to accessing support through other CRD Arts Development Service funding programs. Equity Grants is unique among CRD funding programs as it allows a non-profit society to function as a “Sponsor Society,” on behalf of an Equity applicant that is not a society.

Twenty-one applications were received at the 2026 intake of the Equity Grants program with over \$200,000 in total requested funding, both of which are record highs (see Table 1).

**Table 1. Equity Grant Program: Recent Funding History**

Year	# eligible applications	# awards	Success Rate	Total Request	Total Awarded	Average Request	Average Award
2020	4	2	50%	\$19,000	\$9,000	\$4,750	\$4,500
2021	5	5	100%	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
2022	8	8	100%	\$39,700	\$37,950	\$4,963	\$4,744
2023*	14	8	57%	\$131,668	\$55,000	\$9,405	\$6,875
2024	15	10	67%	\$128,507	\$51,250	\$8,567	\$5,125
2025	19	7	37%	\$170,014	\$50,000	\$8,948	\$7,143
2026	21	8	38%	\$200,499	\$50,000	\$9,548	\$6,250

\*In 2023 the maximum request amount was raised from \$5k to \$10k

No applications were ruled ineligible by staff.

An adjudication committee of three Council members reviewed and scored applications in April 2026, meeting via videoconference, to consider the 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. The adjudicators assessed and scored each of the applications using a matrix that reflects the desired outcomes of the programs in the areas of:

- The description of the proposed project
- The benefits and impacts for the group, their community and the regional community
- An understanding of the intended audience
- Accessibility considerations
- Partnerships or collaborations
- Budget and projected expenses and revenues

Scores and rankings were reviewed to ensure there was a consensus on the merits of the information provided. The scoring and ranking methodology provided a comparative assessment of the merits of each proposal relative to the program’s published goals and intended outcomes.

Eight applications are recommended for funding at various levels. The highest-ranking applications are recommended to receive a greater proportion of their requested amount with some scaling back to applications that were ranked highly but not at the very top. By scaling award amounts back from the full amount of the applicant request, a greater number of projects can be activated with funding support within the limits of the program budget.

**ALTERNATIVES**

*Alternative 1*

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

*Alternative 2*

That this report be referred to staff for additional information.

**IMPLICATIONS**

*Financial Implications*

Ratification and approval of the recommendations will allocate \$50,000 to the 2026 Equity Grant program (see Table 2 for all granting program budgets and allocations), which is the exact amount that was budgeted.

**Table 2. Update on Arts Granting Budget for the CRD Arts Development Service**

<b>Granting Program</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>	<b>2026 Allocated</b>	<b>2026 Paid Out</b>
Operating Grants	\$2,432,570	\$2,432,570	\$326,714
Project Grants	\$280,000	\$140,000	\$140,000
Equity Grants	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
IDEA Grants	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$0
Grow Forward Grants	\$75,000	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,870,570</b>	<b>\$2,655,570</b>	<b>\$466,714</b>

Equity Grants will be paid out by the end of May 2026, pending approvals. The remaining portion of the Operating Grant funding will be paid out at the beginning of August 2026.

**CONCLUSION**

The adjudication committee has assessed all applications received at the 2026 Equity Grant deadline. The eight projects recommended for grants will fulfil the desired purpose and outcomes of the Equity Grants programs.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

Submitted by:	Chris Gilpin, MPA, Manager, Arts & Culture
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**ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A: 2026 Equity Grant Recommendations and Summaries

## 2026 Equity Grants

	Non-profit Organization or Collective + Sponsor Society	Jurisdiction	Eligible Request	2026 Recom'd
1	Archers Community Hub (NEW)	Victoria	10,000	0
2	Art & Justice Collective + Fifty/Fifty (NEW)	Victoria	9,720	5,000
3	Bayanihan Cultural & Housing	Victoria	10,000	5,000
4	BC Black History Awareness	Victoria	9,150	7,000
5	Bridging Black Futures, Foundation for (NEW)	Victoria	10,000	0
6	Fireweed Healing Society (NEW)	Victoria	10,000	0
7	Gay4Nature Collective+ Gorge Waterway	Esquimalt	10,000	0
8	Gender Generations (NEW)	Victoria	10,000	0
9	Inter-Cultural Association	Victoria	9,559	0
10	Johny's Lil G's Foundation (NEW)	Victoria	10,000	0
11	Kulea Culture Society	Victoria	10,000	0
12	Lina's Stories + Belfry Theatre (NEW)	Victoria	10,000	0
13	Literacy Circle Society, The (NEW)	Victoria	10,000	5,000
14	Metis Nation of Greater Victoria (NEW)	Saanich	10,000	10,000
15	Oasis Society for the Spiritual Health of Victoria	Victoria	10,000	7,000
16	RPG Nite Collective + Open Space Arts	Victoria	10,000	0
17	VI Brazilian Association -VIBRA (NEW)	Victoria	10,000	0
18	Victoria Disability Arts Collective (NEW)	Victoria	2,070	0
19	Victoria Pride Society	Victoria	10,000	7,000
20	Victoria Women's Transition House	Saanich	10,000	4,000
21	VIDEA (NEW to EQ)	Victoria	10,000	0
<b>Total:</b>			<b>200,499</b>	<b>50,000</b>

## 2026 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Community	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>ARCHERS COMMUNITY HUB</b>	Victoria	Indigenous, BIPOC	10,000	0

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *The Main Street Narrative Residency*

Transforming a storefront into a professional gallery, 10 emerging artists from equity-deserving groups will receive 1 month window residencies featuring monthly rotations and bi-weekly portfolio workshops.

**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 audience/participants, approach to accessibility, partnerships, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more details on the timeline of the project and a more structural approach to accessibility.

## 2026 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

<b>ART &amp; JUSTICE (NEW)</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2026</b>
<b>Sponsored by</b>			<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>FIFTY FIFTY ARTS</b>	Victoria	Racialized, Incarcerated	9,720	5,000

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *The Backroom Exhibition (working title)*

A collective of 15 federally-incarcerated artists will produce works for a two-month-long art exhibition at Fifty Fifty Arts – including large scale acrylic paintings, ceramics, and a range of two- and three-dimensional works.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Equity Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The assessment team also noted that funding this application contributed to a breadth of funded applicants across a wide variety of equity-seeking communities. 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 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	Community	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>BAYANIHAN CULTURAL &amp; HOUSING</b>	Victoria	Racialized	10,000	5,000

**Funding History:** 2021: \$5000; 2023: \$5000; 2024 : \$5000; 2025: \$0

**Project:** *Maria Cacao (remastered)*

A contemporary dance theatre production that tells the story of a Philippine mythical character, Maria Cacao, whose arrival signals devastation, death, or loss. This production premiered in 2025 at the Bayanihan Cultural Centre and is now being improved and expanded upon for a larger presentation at the BMO Studio in the Belfry Theatre.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Equity Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The assessment team also noted that funding this application contributed to a breadth of funded applicants across a wide variety of equity-seeking communities. 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 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	Community	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>BC BLACK HISTORY AWARENESS</b>	Victoria	Racialized	9,150	7,000

**Funding History:** 2023: \$8000; 2024: \$7500; 2025: \$8000

**Project:** *Black Notes*

A two-part event showcasing Black artists through traditional oral storytelling, spoken word performance, writing, poetry and music. Part 1 is an open mic night followed by two featured writers. Part 2 features an evening of sharing music & stories from throughout the African diaspora.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Equity Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The assessment team also noted that funding this application contributed to a breadth of funded applicants across a wide variety of equity-seeking communities. 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 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Community	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>BRIDGING BLACK FUTURES</b>	Victoria	Racialized	10,000	0

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *BC Black Film Festival 2026*

Building on the success of the inaugural festival in 2025, this two-day festival will present a curated program of short and feature films by Black filmmakers from British Columbia and across the diaspora. Panel discussions and Q&As with filmmakers will create opportunities for community members to engage with the artists and reflect on the stories and themes.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application was in the middle tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored at a satisfactory level in all categories. It is not recommended for support at this time. The main reason it has not been recommended for funding is due to program budget constraints. The application could have benefited a more detailed project budget where in-kind amounts are explained and the allocation of the CRD request section is completed.

## 2026 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Community	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>FIREWEED HEALING SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	Indigenous, LGBTQ2+	10,000	0

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *Indigenous Artists & Aunties Creative Residence Series*

Two Indigenous artists will participate in artist development residencies totaling 40 hours of creative development time, including open studio hours when community members can engage with the creative process. One artist-led workshop or talk, one Aunty-led cultural gathering, and a community exhibition and public showcase are all part of these residencies.

**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 project, benefits to the region, payment of artists, description of audience/participants, accessibility, partnerships, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detail and clarity in the responses on roles of various organizations and nature of the programming.

## 2026 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

<b>GAY4NATURE COLLECTIVE</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2026</b>
<b>Sponsored by</b>			<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>GORGE WATERWAY</b>	Victoria	LGBTQ2+	10,000	0

**Funding History:** 2025: \$8000 (sponsored by Victoria Baroque)

**Project:** *Gay4Choir: Queer & Trans Choir Project*

Weekly choir rehearsals and two performances to support, connect, and empower the queer and trans community, held at the Baumann Centre.

### **Comments on Recommendation:**

This application was in the middle tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored at a satisfactory level in all categories. It is not recommended for support at this time. The main reason it has not been recommended for funding is due to program budget constraints. The application could have benefited from a stronger focus on public presentation.

## 2026 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Community	2026	2026
<b>GENDER GENERATIONS</b>			<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>PROJECT SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	LGBTQ2+	10,000	0

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *Gender Generations Project Fall 2026 Retreat*

A weekend retreat in Fall of 2026 will bring together 100 trans, two spirit, non-binary, and gender-diverse people (kids, youth, families, adult mentors, seniors) and various volunteers for a weekend of intergenerational connection, sharing stories, and creating art for a creative non-fiction book.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application was in the middle tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored at a satisfactory level in all categories. It is not recommended for support at this time. The main reason it has not been recommended for funding is due to program budget constraints. The application could have benefited from a budget where in-kind amounts and cash amounts balanced in each of those budget categories.

## 2026 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	Community	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>INTER-CULTURAL ASSOCIATION</b>	Victoria	Racialized	9,559	0

**Funding History:** 2019 IDEA : \$2000; 2020 IDEA : \$0; 2025 EQ: \$6800 (as sponsor)

**Project:** *Being Visible*

A series of workshops for 15 racialized migrant and refugee adults to engage in hands-on visual arts activities and storytelling. Each participant will put together a few pages of a magazine with a short paragraph written in their first/primary language and translated into English.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application was in the middle tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored at a satisfactory level in all categories. It is not recommended for support at this time. The main reason it has not been recommended for funding is due to program budget constraints. The application could have benefited from more details on the workshops including timelines.

## 2026 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Community	2026	2026
<b>JOHNY'S LIL G's</b>			<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>FOUNDATION</b>	Saanich	Racialized, Indigenous	10,000	0

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *The Cultural Graze Gala Series*

A community arts networking program designed to support emerging artists. Four cultural gatherings will be held; each will feature artists' talks, live music or DJ performances, cultural storytelling and informal networking sessions. Grazing tables will provide a welcoming environment for participants to connect and build relationships.

**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 project, description of audience/participants, approach to accessibility, partnerships, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more details on artists involved, timeline, and feasibility as it relates to previous programming.

## 2026 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	Community	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>KULEA CULTURE SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	Racialized, Indigenous	10,000	0

**Funding History:** 2025: \$0

**Project:** *Colourful Business*

A one-day, community-based arts and cultural event at the Royal BC Museum. Live artistic performances (including Indigenous singing and dancing, African music and dance, and musical bands) alongside a community market that highlights immigrant-led creativity and cultural practices. Prior to the market opening, there will be a facilitated workshop for participating vendors and artists to support skills development and create space for learning and connection.

**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 project. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more details on the artists/creatives involved and feasibility of this project in relation to previous programming.

## 2026 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

<b>LINA'S STORIES (NEW)</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2026</b>
<b>Sponsored by</b>			<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>BELFRY THEATRE</b>	Victoria	Racialized	10,000	0

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *Lina's Stories Project*

The project creates space for artists and community members to gather and reflect on Dr. Lina de Guevara's life and work, while generating new artistic responses connected to the experiences of Victoria's Latin American arts community. The activities supported focus on community gatherings, storytelling and artistic exchange, as part of the larger film documentary project.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application was in the middle tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored at a satisfactory level in all categories. It is not recommended for support at this time. The main reason it has not been recommended for funding is due to program budget constraints. The application could have benefited from more explanation about the nature of the in-kind amounts in the project budget.

**2026 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries**

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Community	2026	2026
<b>LITERACY CIRCLE SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	Indigenous	<b>Request</b> 10,000	<b>Recommendation</b> 5,000

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *Learning for Life – Chapbooks for Legacy*

Approximately 8 – 12 Indigenous elders/ adults/ survivors will participate in this project over a three-semester program year. The learners will explore the works of Indigenous authors and then will work on writing their own stories and poems, ending the year with the creation of personal chapbooks. A free in-person storytelling event will give participants the opportunity to share their stories with an invitation-only community.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Equity Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The assessment team also noted that funding this application contributed to a breadth of funded applicants across a wide variety of equity-seeking communities. 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 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries**

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Community	2026	2026
<b>MÉTIS NATION</b>			<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>OF GREATER VIC</b>	Saanich	Indigenous	10,000	10,000

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *Widening the Circle*

A series of community-based workshops focused on traditional Métis cultural arts, including playing the fiddle, jigging, and visual arts such as moccasin making, beading, bead painting, and tufting. Métis Elders, Knowledge Carriers, and artists will guide the workshops, ensuring that teachings are shared respectfully and authentically.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Equity Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. This application was notable in the way it advanced multiple aspects of equity, Indigenous cultural self-determination, and artistic development in the region. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

## 2026 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	Community	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>OASIS SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	Indigenous	10,000	7,000

**Funding History:** 2018: \$4000; 2021 : \$5000; 2022 : \$5000; 2024 : \$2500; 2025: \$0

**Project:** *Carving Space*

This wood carving program is for small groups of Indigenous persons experiencing multi-generational trauma. Participants learn historical teachings, engage in healing circles, design a panel, carve it, and paint it, within supportive community. One session will be for a group of six Indigenous women survivors of intimate partner violence, and one for Indigenous men who have experienced multi-generational trauma.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Equity Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The assessment team also noted that funding this application contributed to a breadth of funded applicants across a wide variety of equity-seeking communities. 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 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

<b>RPG NITE COLLECTIVE Sponsored by OPEN SPACE ARTS</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>2026 Request</b>	<b>2026 Recommendation</b>
	Victoria	LGBTQ2+, Disability	10,000	0

**Funding History:** 2025: \$0

**Project:** *Labs*

Labs is a workshop series designed to guide artists through the process of making their own RPG (role-playing game). Building on the success of the pilot program in 2024, Labs will be a 5-week intensive. Participants will explore ideas, collaborate on game systems and mechanics, and then invite the wider CRD to play-test the games developed.

**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 benefits to the broader community. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more information on audience/participant development and promotion to reach a wider audience.

## 2026 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Community	2026	2026
<b>VANCOUVER ISLAND</b>			<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>BRAZILIAN ASSN</b>	Victoria	Racialized	10,000	0

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *Carnaval Bloco – Phase 1*

Carnaval Bloco is a Brazilian samba/bloco street band development project. The funded phase will focus on artistic training, ensemble-building, and early public sharing through two introductory workshops, ongoing rehearsals, and a small number of public presentations.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application was in the middle tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored at a satisfactory level in all categories. It is not recommended for support at this time. The main reason it has not been recommended for funding is due to program budget constraints. The application could have benefited from more details on the approach to recruiting participants and the feasibility of the projects in relation to previous community outreach activities.

## 2026 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Community	2026	2026
<b>VICTORIA DISABILITY ARTS COLLECTIVE</b>	Victoria	Disability	<b>Request</b> 2,070	<b>Recommendation</b> 0

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *Crafting Connection: QTBIPOC Workshop Series*

A series of 4 to 6 artist-led workshops for QTBIPOC community members. Participants would be learning from each artist’s skills, as well as building community with other participants.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application was in the middle tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored at a satisfactory level in all categories. It is not recommended for support at this time. The main reason it has not been recommended for funding is due to program budget constraints. The application could have benefited from more details on the workshops including timelines and approach to outreach.

## 2026 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	Community	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>VICTORIA PRIDE SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	LGBTQ2+	10,000	7,000

**Funding History:** 2022: \$5000; 2025: \$5000

**Project:** *Victoria Pride Week*

Funding would support the Pride Festival Main and Kids Stage for 2026, which provides opportunities for BIPOC and 2SLGBTQIA+ performers, artists and musicians. The grant would also support the writers and artists participating in “Pride in the Word,” Canada’s largest queer literary event, taking place during pride week.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Equity Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The assessment team also noted that funding this application contributed to a breadth of funded applicants across a wide variety of equity-seeking communities. 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 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	Community	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>VICTORIA WOMEN'S TRANSITION HOUSE</b>	Saanich	Women affected by IPV	10,000	4,000

**Funding History:** 2016 IDEA: \$2000; 2018 EQ: \$5000; 2019 IDEA: \$2000; 2020 IDEA: \$3000; 2021 IDEA: \$3000; 2025 EQ: \$8000

**Project:** *Healing Through the Arts*

This program offers free access to structured art programs for clients aged 45 and above, healing from the devastating effects of intimate partner violence. Two 8-week sessions, each with 12 participants, will be open to transition house clients and members of the public.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Equity Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The assessment team also noted that funding this application contributed to a breadth of funded applicants across a wide variety of equity-seeking communities. 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 Equity Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	Community	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>VIDEA – A BC BASED INT’L DEVELOPMENT</b>	Victoria	Disability, Racialized	10,000	0

**Funding History:** 2013 IDEA: \$2000 (under former name Victoria International Development Education Association)

**Project:** *Belonging*

This project will bring together 15 youth participants with disabilities in the CRD for an accessible community arts workshop facilitated by a local Indigenous artist with lived experience of disability, an Elder, and VIDEA’s inclusion team. Participants will create artwork and share stories that will be combined to create a professionally printed card set that will be distributed to schools, community organizations, and public spaces.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application was in the middle tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored at a satisfactory level in all categories. It is not recommended for support at this time. The main reason it has not been recommended for funding is due to program budget constraints. The application could have benefited from more details on the potential involvement of the school districts as partners.



Making a difference...together

**REPORT TO ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING OF TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026**

**SUBJECT    2026 IDEA Grant Recommendations**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

The adjudication committee for the 2026 IDEA Grant program has completed its work and made its 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 Development Service. Section 5 of the Bylaw states: “The Council shall act as an arm’s length adjudicating body for the Arts Development Funding Programs.” 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 IDEA Grant program supports and encourages initiatives by non-arts mandated organizations, or those that may not otherwise be eligible for other CRD programs, to develop and use arts initiatives in the delivery of their mandates.

28 eligible applications were received in the 2026 intake of the IDEA Grant program, which is the second-highest number of applications received since the IDEA grant program was reintroduced in 2019 (see Table 1).

**Table 1. IDEA Grant Program: Recent Funding History**

Year	# eligible applications	# awards	Success Rate	Total Request	Total Awarded	Average Request	Average Award
2020	18	13	72%	\$53,000	\$38,000	\$2,944	\$2,923
2021	18	13	72%	\$49,815	\$35,000	\$2,768	\$2,692
2022	17	16	94%	\$50,480	\$32,050	\$2,969	\$2,003
2023	13	11	85%	\$36,560	\$31,000	\$2,812	\$2,818
2024	20	15	75%	\$52,600	\$38,350	\$2,630	\$2,557
2025	29	16	55%	\$82,950	\$33,000	\$2,860	\$2,063
2026	28	14	50%	\$80,150	\$33,000	\$2,863	\$2,357

No applications were ruled ineligible by staff.

An adjudication committee of three Council members met in May 2026, via videoconference, to consider 28 eligible 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. The adjudicators assessed and scored each of the applications using a matrix that reflects the desired outcomes of the program in the areas of:

- Project description (clarity and impetus)
- Key personnel
- Fulfillment of the goals of the IDEA program
- Knowledge of the target audience
- Reasonableness of budget and 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. Regional distribution of funding was also a key consideration in forming the recommendations.

Six applications are recommended for funding at the full amount of their request. Eight applications are recommended for funding at a scaled back amount in order to activate as many good projects as possible. Fourteen applications are not recommended for funding due to low scores and multiple other concerns (see Appendix A for details).

**ALTERNATIVES**

*Alternative 1*

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

*Alternative 2*

That this report be referred to staff for additional information.

**IMPLICATIONS**

*Financial Implications*

Ratification and approval of the recommendations will allocate \$33,000 to the 2026 IDEA Grant program (see Table 2 for all granting program budgets and allocations).

**Table 2. Update on Arts Granting Budget for the CRD Arts Development Service**

<b>Granting Program</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>	<b>2026 Allocated</b>	<b>2026 Paid Out</b>
Operating Grants	\$2,432,570	\$2,432,570	\$326,714
Project Grants	\$280,000	\$140,000	\$140,000
Equity Grants	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
IDEA Grants	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$0
Grow Forward Grants	\$75,000	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,870,570</b>	<b>\$2,655,570</b>	<b>\$466,714</b>

IDEA Grants will be paid out by the end of May 2026, pending approvals. The remaining portion of the Operating Grant funding will be paid out at the beginning of August 2026.

**CONCLUSION**

The adjudication committee has assessed all eligible applications received at the 2026 IDEA Grant deadline. The fourteen projects recommended for a grant will fulfil the desired purpose and outcomes of the IDEA Grant program.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

Submitted by:	Chris Gilpin, MPA, Manager, Arts & Culture
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**ATTACHMENT**

Appendix A: 2026 IDEA Grant Recommendations and Summaries

## 2026 IDEA Grants

	Non-profit Organization	Jurisdiction	Eligible Request	2026 Recom'd
1	Amber Academy Youth Fine Arts	Sooke	3,000	1,700
2	Botched Clubhouse (NEW)	Victoria	3,000	0
3	CREAN Society (NEW)	Victoria	3,000	3,000
4	Galiano Conservancy Association	SGI	3,000	3,000
5	Galiano Library Society (NEW)	SGI	3,000	0
6	GV Performing Arts Festival (NEW to IDEA)	Saanich	3,000	2,500
7	GV Social Gathering Place	Victoria	2,000	0
8	Harmony Project (Sooke)	Sooke	3,000	1,700
9	Help Ukraine Vancouver Island (NEW)	Victoria	3,000	3,000
10	James Bay New Horizons	Victoria	3,000	0
11	Lifecycles Project Society (NEW)	Esquimalt	2,800	0
12	MakeWay - Existence Project (NEW)	Victoria	3,000	0
13	Mayne Isl Conservancy (NEW)	SGI	3,000	2,000
14	Mayne Isl Ukulele Festival (NEW)	SGI	3,000	0
15	Mental Health Recovery Partners (NEW)	Victoria	3,000	0
16	Our Place Society	Victoria	3,000	0
17	Pender Island Pride	SGI	2,800	2,800
18	Postively Vegan Society (NEW)	Victoria	3,000	0
19	Salish Sea Inter-Isl Transportation	SGI	3,000	2,500
20	SGI Community Resource Centre	SGI	3,000	2,000
21	A Third Place Community Arts (NEW)	Victoria	2,000	0
22	UVic Students' Society (NEW)	Saanich	1,800	1,800
23	Victoria Brain Injury Society	Victoria	3,000	3,000
24	Victoria Compost & Conservation (NEW)	Victoria	3,000	0
25	Victoria Contra Dance (NEW)	Saanich	3,000	2,000
26	Victoria Downtown Residents Assn	Victoria	3,000	0
27	Victoria Hospice Society	Victoria	3,000	0
28	Victoria West Community Assn	Victoria	2,750	2,000
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>80,150</b>	<b>33,000</b>

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
AMBER ACADEMY YOUTH FINE ARTS	Sooke	3,000	1,700

**Funding History:** 2019 IDEA: 0; 2020 IDEA: 3000; 2023 IDEA: 3000; 2025 IDEA: 2500

**Project:** *2027 Spring Musical Theatre Production*

An after-school program teaching students about set design, costumes, sound, lighting, props, and performance, and then showcasing those skills in a musical theatre production.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program and scored above a satisfactory level according to the assessment criteria. 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 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	2026	2026
<b>BOTCHED CLUBHOUSE SOCIETY</b>		<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
	Victoria	3,000	0

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *Expo*

A large-scale, community-driven group exhibition featuring 40-50 local artists, each contributing one work, alongside 2 to 3 larger-scale installation artists to create an immersive and engaging environment. This one-day event will be free, open to the public, and include live musical performances.

**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 project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more details on the timeline of the project and a more specifics on project feasibility based on previous programming.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	2026	2026
<b>CREAN SOCIETY</b>		<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
(Coastal Research, Educ, Advocacy)	Victoria	3,000	3,000

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *Millie’s Lane Pop-Up Market 2026*

An annual outdoor arts and cultural event held in Millie’s Lane, a public walkway in downtown Victoria, named in honour of longtime business operator Millie Hawkes. CREAN’s

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program and scored above a satisfactory level according to the assessment criteria. The proposed project advances multiple aspects of Innovation, Development, Experimentation, and Access. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>GALIANO CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION</b>	SGI	3,000	3,000

**Funding History:** 2023 IDEA: 3000

**Project:** *Musical Walkalong 2026*

A yearly, inclusive outreach and community-building event where approximately 230 participants connect with nature through music and art performances. Local and regional musicians serenade visitors as they walk the trails and watch visual artists create artworks in real time, alongside interpretive stops and educational activities.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program and scored above a satisfactory level according to the assessment criteria. The proposed project advances multiple aspects of Innovation, Development, Experimentation, and Access. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW) <b>GALIANO LIBRARY SOCIETY</b>	Jurisdiction  SGI	2026 Request 3,000	2026 Recommendation 0
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**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *One Book for Galiano: Author Visit*

A project asking all island residents to read one Indigenous-authored book and participate in activities to promote the discussion of it, shedding light on Indigenous experiences and settler-colonial relations on Galiano and more generally. The project will bring the author to Galiano for a reading and Q & A with the public, facilitated by an Indigenous respondent.

**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 alignment to the purposes of the program and approach to accessibility. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more clarity and articulation of the scope of impact.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>GREATER VICTORIA PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL</b>	Saanich	3,000	2,500

**Funding History:** New to IDEA (Operating client 2016 – 2024)

**Project:** *GV Performing Arts Festival – Annual Festival*

Each year’s festival brings together more than 5,000 participants (mainly school-aged youth), their families, teachers, and audience members for more than 50 professional adjudicated sessions comprising of more than a dozen disciplines in music, dance, and speech arts. A culminating series of Highlights Concerts are open to the public. 2027 will be the 100<sup>th</sup> annual festival.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program and scored above a satisfactory level according to the assessment criteria. 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 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>GREATER VICTORIA SOCIAL GATHERING PLACE SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	2,000	0

**Funding History:** 2024 IDEA: 2920; 2025 IDEA: 1750

**Project:** *Art for Wellness Workshop Series*

An 8-week workshop series led by professional artists teaching painting, writing, collage, movement, poetry, and mixed media. The project primarily serves equity-seeking individuals experiencing mental health challenges, financial insecurity, and social isolation. The series will conclude with a community art showcase.

**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 description of personnel and benefits to the broader community. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more information on the facilitators and the scope of impact.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>HARMONY PROJECT SOCIETY OF BC (SOOKE)</b>	Sooke	3,000	1,700

**Funding History:** 2019 IDEA: 2000; 2020 IDEA: 3000; 2021 IDEA: 0; 2023 IDEA: 3000; 2024 IDEA: 3000; 2025 IDEA: 2500

**Project:** *Harmony Project Sooke*

Out-of-school music instruction and performance opportunities for children and youth from underserved families. Students in the Strings program receive a cello, violin, or viola to use while enrolled and have twice weekly rehearsals, as do Drumline students. For the 2026-2027 year, HPS is expanding its Strings program with a special focus on the Junior Orchestra class.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program and scored above a satisfactory level according to the assessment criteria. 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 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	2026	2026
HELP UKRAINE		Request	Recommendation
VANCOUVER ISLAND	Victoria	3,000	3,000

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *A Dictionary of Emotions in War Time*

This play is written and performed by Ukrainian refugees who have a lived experience of the reality of the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces. It will be performed 5 – 6 times and post-show discussions and artist talks will invite dialogue with the audience.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program and scored above a satisfactory level according to the assessment criteria. The proposed project advances multiple aspects of Innovation, Development, Experimentation, and Access. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
JAMES BAY NEW HORIZONS	Victoria	3,000	0

**Funding History:** 2018 EQ: 0; 2019 IDEA: 2000; 2025 IDEA: 0

**Project:** *The Artist’s Way for Seniors*

An interdisciplinary arts program of music, movement, writing, and theatrical skills for low-income seniors using the workshop technique of *The Artist’s Way* by Julia Cameron.

**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 description of project, approach to accessibility, engagement of equity-seeking groups, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more explanation of impact beyond the participant group.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	2026	2026
LIFECYCLES PROJECT		Request	Recommendation
SOCIETY	Esquimalt	3,000	0

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *Artists Growing in the Orchard*

Lifecycles stewards a community teaching space called Welland Orchard, a public park in View Royal. This grant would compensate artists for the development and delivery of three art workshops at the orchard.

**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 description of project, description of personnel, benefits to the broader community, engagement of equity-seeking groups, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more explanation on how this contributes to the development of arts in the region and consistency of the request amount throughout the application.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	2026	2026
MAKEWAY CHARITABLE		Request	Recommendation
SOCIETY – EXISTENCE PROJECT	Victoria	3,000	0

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *The Existence Project: HJP Community Gathering and Art Showcase*

Housing Justice Project (a cohort of homeless survivors) asked Existence Project for assistance with this project to raise awareness of homelessness in the CRD. This project has two elements: Storyboxes (that display the reflections of homeless participants as an art canvas or speech bubbles) and banner art (a 75 foot mural banner with artists interpreting the Right to Housing).

**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 approach to accessibility, benefits to the broader community, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more clarity overall including details on the temporary or permanent nature of the proposed mural banner.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	2026	2026
MAYNE ISLAND		Request	Recommendation
CONSERVANCY	SGI	3,000	2,000

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *Opening Ceremony for S̄K̄T̄ĀK̄| Mayne Island Ethnobotany Garden*

Over the past three years, MIC has partnered with W̄S̄ÁNEĆ and Island organizations in the creation of a wetland ethnobotany garden. The project would bring W̄S̄ÁNEĆ youth drummers and dancers and Elders to the Island for the official opening of the Garden.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program and scored above a satisfactory level according to the assessment criteria. 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 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	2026	2026
<b>MAYNE ISLAND</b>		<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>UKULELE FESTIVAL</b>	SGI	3,000	0

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *Mayne Island Ukulele Festival*

This inaugural festival will focus on learning new skills through workshops, while also having performances and sing-a-long /jam sessions. The festival will bring the same level of professionalism found in larger urban festivals to the rural Gulf Islands.

**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 description of project and approach to accessibility. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more explanation on how this contributes to the development of arts in the region and on how the impact extends beyond the participant group.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	2026	2026
<b>MENTAL HEALTH</b>		<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>RECOVERY PARTNERS</b>	Victoria	3,000	0

**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *Therapeutic Photography Workshops*

Inviting participants to “capture their world as only they see it,” workshops will begin with smartphone camera skills basics and then will invite folks to explore their mental health journeys through images. Each of the three workshops runs for four weeks, two hours per week.

**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 description of project and engagement of equity-seeking groups. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more details on project activities and more explanation about how the impact extends beyond the participant group.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>OUR PLACE SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	3,000	0

**Funding History:** 2014 IDEA: 2000; 2021 IDEA: 2940; 2022 IDEA: 0; 2025 IDEA: 2000

**Project:** *“More Than This” Art Exhibition*

A public art showcasing original works created by individuals experiencing homelessness, poverty, addiction, and mental health challenges. A volunteer art therapist will design and deliver a series of structured art-making sessions, and other volunteers will assist with event hosting and front-of-house support during exhibition days.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program, but did not demonstrate financial need for this grant in the context of its organizational budget. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more details on how impact extends beyond the participant group.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>PENDER ISLAND PRIDE SOCIETY</b>	SGI	2,800	2,800

**Funding History:** 2025 IDEA: 2100

**Project:** *Pender Island Pride Parade and Festival*

Celebrating the local LGBTQ2S+ community and promoting a safe and welcoming environment, this event includes a parade and a two-day festival, adding an art show to the established live performances (speakers, musicians, bands, drag queens), community gatherings, and educational activities.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program and scored above a satisfactory level according to the assessment criteria. The proposed project advances multiple aspects of Innovation, Development, Experimentation, and Access. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW) <b>POSTIVELY VEGAN SOCIETY</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>  Victoria	<b>2026 Request</b>  3,000	<b>2026 Recommendation</b>  0
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**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *VegFest Victoria*

A free two-day Vegan festival with dedicated stage programming, the majority of which is live music, alongside a DJ and drag show, juggling and shuffle dance performances and workshops, cooking demonstrations, face painting, speakers, an artist marketplace and a Kidz Zone.

**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 description of personnel and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more explanation of how arts forms a core component of the proposed project and a budget where in-kind amounts and cash amounts balanced in each of those budget categories.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>SALISH SEA INTER-ISLAND TRANSPORTATION SOCIETY</b>	SIG	3,000	2,500

**Funding History:** 2019 IDEA: 1000; 2020 IDEA: 3000; 2022 IDEA: 1000; 2025 IDEA: 0

**Project:** *Tour des Iles Festival 2026*

An annual multi-island arts and culture event that brings together communities across the Southern Gulf Islands. Affordable passenger-only boat transportation is provided to enable audiences to travel between participating islands to attend performances, markets, and cultural events.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program and scored above a satisfactory level according to the assessment criteria. 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 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>SGI COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE SOCIETY</b>	SGI	3,000	2,000

**Funding History:** 2021 IDEA: 0; 2022 IDEA: 1500; 2023 IDEA: 3000; 2025 IDEA: 0

**Project:** *The CRISP Festival*

Support is requested for the artistic programming component of the CRISP Festival 2026, including performances by local musicians, artist workshops, industry discussions, and an Indigenous-led film presentation and dialogue. The 2026 festival expands on previous programming by introducing new artist development and knowledge-sharing opportunities.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program and scored above a satisfactory level according to the assessment criteria. 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 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW) <b>A THIRD PLACE COMMUNITY ARTS</b>	Jurisdiction  Victoria	2026 Request 2,000	2026 Recommendation 0
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**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *Listening Sessions*

A weekend-long series invites artists, creatives, organizers, and community members to share a story through curated sound selections. Participants are invited to speak as much or as little as they wish, some may provide deep context and storytelling, while others may allow the sound selections to speak for themselves. The format is intentionally flexible and low-pressure, encouraging participation from people who may not see themselves reflected in traditional performance or panel formats.

**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 description of project, description of personnel, approach to accessibility, benefits to the broader community, engagement of equity-seeking groups, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed responses overall and more explanation on how the impact extends beyond the participant group.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW) <b>UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA STUDENTS' SOCIETY</b>	Jurisdiction  Saanich	2026 Request 1,800	2026 Recommendation 1,800
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**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *Garden Summer Music Series*

Three performing arts events held in the summer, featuring 2-3 musical artists, allowing up to an hour per set. By allowing the garden to be used as an event and arts venue, we can create space in our neighborhood for people to connect, grow, and celebrate local artists outdoors.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program and scored above a satisfactory level according to the assessment criteria. The proposed project advances multiple aspects of Innovation, Development, Experimentation, and Access. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>VICTORIA BRAIN INJURY SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	3,000	3,000

**Funding History:** 2015 IDEA: 2000; 2020 IDEA: 2000; 2021 IDEA: 0; 2022 IDEA: 2000; 2024 IDEA: 2500

**Project:** *SPARK: Survivor-Led Public Art for Reach & Knowledge*

Brain injury survivors will create handmade cards in a facilitated art group, and the cards will then be displayed at each of 4-6 community events. Survivors and staff will engage the public in conversations about acquired brain injury (ABI) and the role of creative expression in recovery. Visitors will be invited to participate in a simple, hands-on creative activity designed to be welcoming and accessible.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program and scored above a satisfactory level according to the assessment criteria. The proposed project advances multiple aspects of Innovation, Development, Experimentation, and Access. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW) <b>VICTORIA COMPOST &amp; CONSERVATION</b>	Jurisdiction  Victoria	2026 Request 3,000	2026 Recommendation 0
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**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *Celebrations: Healing City Soils, Food Forest, Plant Sale*

Funding is sought to support artistic elements at three events: pedal powered music with local queer/BIPOC musicians at the Garden Street Food Forest Grand Opening; a DJ for a dance party and an artist in residence at Healing City Soils, and musicians at the Plant Sale.

**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 description of project, alignment to purposes of the program, benefits to the broader community, engagement of equity-seeking groups, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more specifics on the presenting artists and explanation of how arts form a core component of the proposed project.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

(NEW) <b>VICTORIA CONTRA DANCE SOCIETY</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>  Saanich	<b>2026 Request</b>  3,000	<b>2026 Recommendation</b>  2,000
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**Funding History:** N/A

**Project:** *Autumn Allemande 2026*

A yearly all-day event consisting of live folk music, contra dancing, and workshops. Workshops will be used to include and collaborate with other local traditional dance groups such as Morris Dance, Folk Waltz, Salsa, and Quebecois Step.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program and scored above a satisfactory level according to the assessment criteria. 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 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>VICTORIA DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION</b>	Victoria	3,000	0

**Funding History:** 2023 IDEA: 3000, 2024 IDEA: 3000; 2025 IDEA: 2000

**Project:** *Concerts in Downtown Parks*

A series of free concerts in three public parks in downtown Victoria – each featuring live bicycle-powered performances by two local music acts, and one local poet or storyteller.

**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 approach to accessibility, engagement of equity-seeking groups, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more specifics on the presenting artists and details on safety and accessibility supports.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
VICTORIA HOSPICE SOCIETY	Victoria	3,000	0

**Funding History:** 2019 IDEA: 3000; 2020 IDEA: 3000; 2024 IDEA: 3000; 2025 IDEA: 2000

**Project:** *Music Therapy*

Arts-based therapeutic services for patients in palliative care. This is the only regular therapy offered on the unit.

**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 alignment to purposes of the program, benefits to the broader community, engagement of equity-seeking groups, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more explanation of demonstrated financial need in the context of the organizational budget and on how the impact extends beyond the participant group.

## 2026 IDEA Grants – Recommendation Summaries

	Jurisdiction	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>VICTORIA WEST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION</b>	Victoria	2,750	2,000

**Funding History:** 2025 IDEA: 0

**Project:** *Vic West Fest 2026*

A free, vibrant, family-oriented festival that celebrates the diverse culture, creativity, and community spirit of Victoria West. Live music highlights multiple genres and showcases the creative talent of local artists, alongside dance, puppetry, arts & crafts, and food & drink.

**Comments on Recommendation:**

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program and scored above a satisfactory level according to the assessment criteria. 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.



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## REPORT TO ARTS COMMISSION MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026

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**SUBJECT**     **Impact of View Royal Changing Participation Level from Tier 1 to Tier 2 in the Arts Development Service**

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board has referred a motion with notice to the Arts Commission to review and provide advice to the CRD Board on the matter, along with additional information from staff on the potential process and its implications.

### **BACKGROUND**

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the CRD Board deliberated on a motion with notice from Director Tobias related to a letter from View Royal (Appendix A) that requested to change the participation level of View Royal in the Arts Development Service<sup>1</sup>. The Motion with Notice stated:

That the Capital Regional District Board amend CRD Bylaw No. 2884 – Arts & Cultural Support Services Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2001, to authorize the Town of View Royal to transition from Tier 1 participation to Tier 2 participation in the CRD Arts Service, effective upon adoption of the amendment bylaw.

Following discussion, the CRD Board passed a referral motion:

That this motion with notice be referred to staff to report back on the impact of the Town of View Royal transitioning from Tier 1 to Tier 2 participation in the CRD Arts Service, and report back through the Arts Commission.

The CRD Arts Development Service has always had two different levels of participation. In 2018, through amending Bylaw No. 4127, the relative amount of these levels was clarified into a Tier 1 and Tier 2 structure where Tier 2 contributes 30% of the Tier 1 level. During the deliberations and approval processes of the amending bylaw, the Arts Commission indicated that the purpose of Tier 2's lower contribution was to provide an entry level for new participants.

Currently, Tier 1 includes Esquimalt, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, and View Royal, while Tier 2 includes Highlands, Metchosin, Sooke, and the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

#### *Alternative 1*

The Arts Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board that staff report back with the necessary amendments to Bylaw No. 2884, "Arts and Culture Support Services Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2001", to change View Royal's participation from a Tier 1 to a Tier 2 membership level.

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<sup>1</sup> In March 2026, the Arts Commission approved a name change from "Arts and Culture Support Service" to "Arts Development Service."

*Alternative 2*

The Arts Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board that View Royal's request for a change in its membership level to Tier 2 be denied, due to financial impacts to other participants and lack of alignment with existing CRD plans and strategies.

*Alternative 3*

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

**IMPLICATIONS**

*Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities*

In the CRD Corporate Plan 2023-26, initiative 10b-1 is to “[s]cale up regional participation in the CRD Arts & Culture Support Service.”<sup>2</sup> The proposed amending bylaw is not aligned with this initiative as it reduces the participation level of a participating jurisdiction, which would result in scaling down regional participation in the CRD Arts Development Service.

*Alignment with CRD Arts & Culture Strategic Plan*

Goal #1 in the 2024-27 Arts Development Service Strategic Plan is to “[s]cale up regional participation in the Arts Service to expand its scope and impact.” The proposed amending bylaw is not aligned to this goal as it would downgrade the participation level of a participating jurisdiction in the Arts Service and/or reduce service levels, which, in turn, would reduce scope and impact.

*Legal & Legislative Implications*

If Alternative #2 is approved by the CRD Board, the proposed amending bylaw would be drafted by staff and brought back to the CRD Board for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings. The CRD Board has the option to approve or reject the amending bylaw at that time.

If the amending bylaw is approved by the CRD Board, it would then be sent to participating jurisdictions for council consent (or consent on behalf in the case of electoral areas) or proceed by way of alternative approval process at the option of the Board. Proceeding by council consent, at least two-thirds of the current participants (Esquimalt, Highlands, Metchosin, Oak Bay, Saanich, Sooke, Southern Gulf Islands, Victoria, and View Royal) must consent to the amending bylaw for it to advance to Inspector of Municipalities review.

Prior to adoption, establishing bylaw amendments must receive Inspector of Municipalities approval. Due to the unusual nature of this tiered structure for service contribution, and the impact this change has on cost-sharing certainty for participants, it is possible that the Inspector of Municipalities may require an alternative participating area approval method, such as a referendum.

If the proposed amending bylaw is approved by the Inspector, then the final stage would be adoption of the amending bylaw by the CRD Board. While unlikely, a regional district Board may choose not to adopt an Inspector-approved bylaw.

Should a bylaw permitting service tier changes or service withdrawal not be approved, View Royal could initiate a service review under the *Local Government Act*. Contrasted with an informal review, typically conducted by staff or consultants, a statutory review may be commenced where

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<sup>2</sup> The Arts & Culture Support Service has been subsequently renamed the Arts Development Service.

no review has occurred in the last three years, no alternative withdrawal process is specified in the bylaw, and has default timelines for review, the option to use a Provincially-appointed facilitator, and cost-sharing provisions.

### *Financial Implications*

The nine current participants in the Arts Service contribute as either Tier 1 (Esquimalt, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, View Royal) or Tier 2 (Highlands, Metchosin, Sooke, Southern Gulf Islands) with Tier 1 apportionment based on 50% population and 50% converted assessments. Tier 2 participation is a lower level of contribution and is calculated as 30% of the Tier 1 level.

Because the cost-sharing formula is constructed in this way, if all participants were to choose to move to Tier 2, then there would be no possible comparison to a Tier 1 level. In such a scenario, all participants would contribute at the same rate, essentially a Tier 1 rate, even though they were listed in the bylaw in the Tier 2 participation group. This precedent could defeat the purpose of the tiered structure and the ability of the CRD to provide cost-sharing certainty to current and potential future participants of this service.

In Budget 2026, View Royal's portion of the requisition related to the Arts Development Service at the Tier 1 level was \$131,538 or 4.2% of the total requisition of \$3,134,020. Based on the current forecast for budget 2027 (from the approved financial plan for 2026-30), if View Royal's participation level was changed to Tier 2, then View Royal's portion would be approximately \$41,603, a savings of \$92,994 compared to the cost-sharing estimate for 2027 at Tier 1 rates.

The earliest that this change could be implemented would be for Budget 2027. The approach of staff would be to consider this change as related to a redistribution of the cost-sharing formula, not to the budget level of the service; however, the Arts Commission could recommend to the CRD Board that the budget is reduced by the difference in View Royal's contribution, or the CRD Board could decide to make this adjustment at any point in its financial planning deliberations.

If View Royal's participation level was changed from Tier 1 to Tier 2, and this change was treated as a modification to the cost-sharing formula with a stable service budget, then the other participants would pay more to offset View Royal's lower requisition amount (see Appendix C for simulation of estimated cost-sharing implications based on approved financial plan for 2026-30).

In summary, if the proposed amending bylaw were passed, then either the other existing participants would need to pay more, or the budget would need to be reduced. If the latter, then the Arts Service would need to reduce the number of grants distributed and the number of arts activities supported (i.e. smaller budget would result in lower service level).

### **CONCLUSION**

The CRD Board charged the Arts Commission with the task of reviewing the impact of the motion with notice to downgrade View Royal's participation in the Arts Development Service from Tier 1 to Tier 2. Staff have advised that the motion with notice is not aligned to the intent of the tiered structure in the bylaw, nor to the CRD Corporate Plan initiative 10b-1 to "[s]cale up regional participation in the CRD Arts Development Service." Additionally, it could create a precedent that would contravene the service's ability to provide cost-sharing certainty to service participants.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Arts Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board that staff report back with the necessary amendments to Bylaw No. 2884, “Arts and Culture Support Services Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2001”, to change View Royal’s participation from a Tier 1 to a Tier 2 membership level.

Submitted by:	Chris Gilpin, MPA, Manager, Arts & Culture
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Chief Financial Officer & General Manager, Finance & Technology
Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, J.D., Corporate Officer & General Manager, Corporate Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Appendix A: Letter from View Royal (15 January 2026)
- Appendix B: Consolidated Bylaw No. 2884 (including changes from amending Bylaw No. 4127)
- Appendix C: Simulation of Impact to Cost-Sharing



## TOWN OF VIEW ROYAL

Appendix A

45 View Royal Avenue, Victoria, BC, Canada V9B 1A6  
Ph: 250-479-6800 · E: info@viewroyal.ca · www.viewroyal.ca

January 15, 2026

**VIA EMAIL:** crdboard@crd.bc.ca

Capital Regional District  
PO Box 1000  
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

**Attention: Cliff McNeil-Smith, Chair, CRD Board**

Dear Chair McNeil-Smith:

**Re: CRD Bylaw No. 2884 - Arts & Cultural Support Services Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2001, Amendment Bylaw No. 4255**

This letter is to confirm the Town of View Royal's position to request to become a participant in the CRD Arts Service, pursuant to CRD Bylaw No. 2884 - Arts & Cultural Support Services Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2001 at a Tier 2 level.

View Royal Council has been a long-time supporter and participant in the CRD Arts Service, having increased its contribution to Tier 1 in 2008. In addition to participating in the CRD Arts Service, the Town has consistently provided significant annual funding to its local arts and cultural community, which provides sub-regional benefits that extend well beyond View Royal's boundaries.

While Council strongly supports the local arts and recognizes its important economic, social, and cultural benefits, the Town is not prepared to continue a higher Tier of funding within the CRD Arts Service. As such, View Royal wishes to transition from Tier 1 participation, and continue as a participant at the Tier 2 level.

We respectfully encourage members of the Board to consider supporting View Royal's request to participate in the CRD Arts Service at a Tier 2 level, and to consent to the adoption of an amendment to Bylaw No. 4255.

Yours truly,

Scott Sommerville  
Chief Administrative Officer

cc. Township of Esquimalt  
District of Highlands  
District of Metchosin  
District of Oak Bay  
District of Saanich  
City of Victoria  
District of Sooke  
Southern Gulf Island Electoral Area Director



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**BYLAW NO. 2884**

**CONSOLIDATED ARTS AND CULTURE SUPPORT SERVICE  
ESTABLISHMENT BYLAW NO. 1, 2001**

**Consolidated for Public Convenience  
(This bylaw is for reference purposes only)**

ORIGINALLY ADOPTED JUNE 27, 2001  
(Consolidated with Amending Bylaws 3481, 3616, 4127, 4255)

For reference to original bylaws or further details, please contact the Capital Regional District,  
Legislative Services Department, 625 Fisgard St., PO Box 1000, Victoria BC V8W 2S6  
T: (250) 360-3127, F: (250) 360-3130, Email: [legserv@crd.bc.ca](mailto:legserv@crd.bc.ca), Web: [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca)

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

BYLAW NO. 2884

\*\*\*\*\*

A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH THE GIVING OF  
ARTS AND CULTURAL GRANTS AS A SERVICE

\*\*\*\*\*

**WHEREAS** under section 176(1)(c) of the *Local Government Act* the Capital Regional District may provide assistance for the purpose of benefiting the community or any aspect of the community;

**AND WHEREAS** there is a desire on the part of the municipalities which currently participate in the Greater Victoria Inter-Municipal Committee (“IMC”) to move activities of the IMC to the Capital Regional District and establish a service to carry out these same activities;

**AND WHEREAS** the participating municipalities of the IMC, being the City of Victoria, the District of Saanich, the District of Oak Bay and the Township of Esquimalt have established a Greater Victoria Arts Commission to provide advice on matters involving the arts within the Greater Victoria area and there is a desire to allow for the establishment of committees to provide advice to the Capital Regional District on these same matters;

**AND WHEREAS** the Board of the Capital Regional District considers it desirable to establish for the regional district a service to provide for the giving of assistance for the purpose of benefiting the community or an aspect of the community to be known as the “Arts and Cultural Support Service”;

**AND WHEREAS** the Board of the Capital Regional District wishes to proceed under section 796 of the *Local Government Act* to establish the service under Division 4.1 of Part 24 of the *Local Government Act*;

**AND WHEREAS** the Board of the Capital Regional District has obtained the consent of the Councils of the municipalities of Victoria, Saanich, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, Highlands, Metchosin, View Royal, and Sidney;  
*(Bylaws 3481, 3616)*

**AND WHEREAS** under section 804(2)(g) of the *Local Government Act* with respect to a service established to provide assistance under section 176(1)(c) the cost of providing the service may be apportioned among the municipalities or electoral areas benefiting from the assistance, with the service area deemed to be all those areas and the Board of the Capital Regional District wishes to establish a service for the purpose of providing assistance with the cost of the service being apportioned among the municipalities or electoral areas benefiting from the assistance;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Board of the Capital Regional District in open meeting assembled enacts as follows:

1. **Service**

The service hereby established is the provision of assistance in relation to the 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”.

2. **Boundaries**

The boundaries of the service area shall be the boundaries of the municipalities of Victoria, Saanich, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, Highlands, Metchosin, View Royal, Sooke, and the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area.  
*(Bylaw 4255)*

3. **Participating Areas**

- (1) The Township of Esquimalt, District of Highlands, District of Metchosin, District of Oak Bay, District of Saanich, District of Sooke, City of Victoria, Town of View Royal, and the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area are the participating areas for this service. (Bylaw 4255)
- (2) In this bylaw, "**Group 1 Participating Areas**" in each year means the Township of Esquimalt, District of Oak Bay, District of Saanich, City of Victoria, and the Town of View Royal.
- (3) In this bylaw, "**Group 2 Participating Areas**" in each year means the District of Highlands, District of Metchosin, District of Sooke, and the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area.  
(Bylaw 4255)  
(Bylaw 4127)

4. **Cost Recovery**

The annual cost of providing the service shall be recovered by one or more of the following:

- (a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with Division 4.3 of Part 24 of the *Local Government Act*;
- (b) fees and charges that may be imposed under section 797.2 of the *Local Government Act*;
- (c) revenues raised by other means authorized by the *Local Government Act* or another act;
- (d) revenue received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise.

5. **Maximum Requisition**

The maximum amount that may be requisitioned under sections 805 and 805.1 of the *Local Government Act* for the annual cost of the service shall be the greater of:

- (a) \$1,980,000; or
- (b) an amount equal to the amount that could be raised by a property value tax of \$0.102 per \$1,000 which, when applied to the net taxable value of land and improvements of the initial Group 1 Participating Areas (Victoria, Saanich, Oak Bay and Esquimalt) within the service area, would yield a maximum amount that may be requisitioned under sections 805 and 805.1(a) for the service.

6. **Apportionment**

- (1) The amount of annual costs recovered by requisition in accordance with Section 4 (a) of this bylaw, shall be apportioned among the Participating Areas by dividing the costs into two equal parts, one part to be apportioned on the basis of population and one part to be apportioned on the basis of assessments and applying the formulae in Section 6 (2) below.
- (2) For the purpose of this section:
  - (a) **Group 1 Participants:**
    - (i) **Population** is the total population estimate as determined annually by the Regional Planning Services Department of the Capital Regional District, and
    - (ii) **Assessments** are the annual converted value of land and improvements in the Participating Areas.
  - (b) **Group 2 Participants:**

- (i) **Population** is 30% of the population estimate as determined annually by the Regional Planning Services Department of the Capital Regional District, and
  - (ii) **Assessments** are 30% the converted value of land and improvements in the Participating Areas, or
  - (iii) A greater percentage amount if indicated in writing by a Participating Area.
- (c) **Transitional provisions for Group 2 Participants:**  
New Participants may withdraw from the Service within two years of joining provided that written notice that the Participant intends to withdraw is delivered to the CRD Corporate Officer on or before July 1<sup>st</sup> of the first or second year of membership to be effective as of January 1<sup>st</sup> the following year.

(Bylaw 4127)

7. **Voting**

On a vote of the Board of the Regional District in respect of the amount to be placed in the annual budget with respect to annual grant funding, each director representing a Group 1 Participating Area is entitled to five votes and each director representing any other participating area is entitled to one vote.

8. **Grants in Lieu of Taxes**

For the purpose of sections 807(1) to (3) of the *Local Government Act*, funds paid to the Regional District in respect of the service established by this bylaw will be held to the credit of the participant making the payment.

9. **Citation**

This Bylaw may be cited as “**Arts and Culture Support Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2001**”.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 2001.

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 2001.

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 2001.

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR  
OF MUNICIPALITIES THIS 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 2001.

ADOPTED THIS 27<sup>th</sup> day of June 2001.

Christopher Causton  
CHAIR

Carmen Thiel  
SECRETARY

FILED WITH THE INSPECTOR  
OF MUNICIPALITIES THIS 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July 2001.

## Appendix C

### Simulation of Impact to Cost-Sharing

Scenario: View Royal Changes Participation Level in Arts Service from Tier 1 to Tier 2

	Current Requisition 2026*	Planned Requisition 2027*	Revised Requisition 2027**	Change in Cost- Sharing 2027**
<b>Tier 1 (100%)</b>				
Esquimalt	\$ 188,238	\$ 192,790	\$ 198,657	\$ 5,867
Oak Bay	\$ 250,070	\$ 256,118	\$ 263,785	\$ 7,667
Saanich	\$ 1,318,002	\$ 1,349,877	\$ 1,390,771	\$ 40,894
View Royal	\$ 131,418	\$ 134,597	-	-
Victoria	\$ 1,142,103	\$ 1,169,726	\$ 1,205,068	\$ 35,342
<b>Tier 2 (30%)</b>				
Highlands	\$ 9,072	\$ 9,292	\$ 9,572	\$ 280
Metchosin	\$ 16,323	\$ 16,718	\$ 17,224	\$ 506
Sooke	\$ 48,572	\$ 49,745	\$ 51,261	\$ 1,516
View Royal			\$ 41,603	-\$ 92,994
Southern Gulf Islands	\$ 30,222	\$ 30,951	\$ 31,873	\$ 922
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,134,020</b>	<b>\$ 3,209,814</b>	<b>\$ 3,209,814</b>	<b>n/a</b>

\*Based on approved Final Budget 2026-30

\*\*Based on Scenario of Change in View Royal Participation from Tier 1 to Tier 2



Making a difference...together

## REPORT TO ARTS COMMISSION MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026

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**SUBJECT**     **Financial Planning for Budget 2027 Including Phase Out Options for Transfer from Arts Development Service Operating Reserve**

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

The Arts Commission has directed staff to report back with Capital Regional District (CRD) annual financial planning information for consideration in shaping the budget recommendation for the Arts Development Service as part of the financial planning process leading to Budget 2027.

### **BACKGROUND**

At its September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting, the Arts Commission passed two motions arising from its approval of the budget recommendation as part of the financial planning process for Budget 2026, namely:

The Arts Commission request staff bring an information report on the approved CRD Service and Financial Planning Guidelines annually to a Commission meeting in May or June and provide an opportunity for comment on the Commission's Budget for the following year.

The Arts Commission request staff provide the Commission a report with options on transitioning the funding of all CRD Arts & Culture Support Service<sup>1</sup> programming from Operating Reserves to Core Budget. And that this report be based on making potential changes for Budget 2027 and forward.

This report completes the requests included in both motions arising.

At its April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 meeting, the CRD Board reviewed and approved a staff report on the 2027 Service and Financial Planning Guidelines (Appendix A). Key information from that report that affects the Arts Commission includes the following:

- The 2027 planning cycle will be accelerated to present the service plans and provisional budget at the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for September 23, 2026, ahead of the general election on October 17, 2026. This results in service and financial planning processes beginning earlier and the overall planning timeline contracted.
- In 2027, staff will prioritize programs and initiatives that:
  - Align with and, in some cases, continue to advance the 2023-2026 Board priorities or Corporate Plan initiatives;
  - Ensure the maintenance of core service levels following regulatory changes or address safety risks to customers, communities or staff; and
  - Have been explicitly directed to proceed by the Board or a commission or standing committee.

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<sup>1</sup> In March 2026, the CRD Arts Commission approved a change in the service name from Arts & Culture Support Service to Arts Development Service.

- Based on economic indicators reported by the Bank of Canada and the Province at the beginning of 2026, the 2027 CRD budget will include a 2.1% base inflation rate adjustment, aligned with the province’s 2027 inflation forecast. Recent collective bargaining and compensation review outcomes will also impact the CRD budget in 2027.
- The 2027 consolidated requisition increase for CRD and Capital Regional Hospital District (excluding municipal debt) is forecast at 8.9%, with a potential range from 7.3% to 15.7%.

In the past 5 years, the Arts Development Budget has been within the core inflationary adjustment of the CRD financial planning guidelines in four of the past five years (see Table 1). In a challenging economic environment, this service has achieved notable track record of fiscal prudence and cost constraint.

**Table 1. Recent History of Key Financial Planning Parameters**

Budget Year	Core Inflationary Adjustment*	Arts Service’s Requisition Increase	Increase to Grants Budget (percentage)	Increase to Grants Budget (amount)
2022	2.0%	2.0%	1.8%	\$44,730
2023	3.0%	3.0%	3.6%	\$93,440
2024	3.5%	3.5%	2.0%	\$53,693
2025	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	\$81,707
2026	1.8%	2.9%	2.0%	\$56,500

\*Approved by CRD Board through the annual financial planning guidelines.

Staff are designing the budget recommendation for the Arts Development Service by prioritizing the parameters of the approved service and financial planning guidelines. The core inflationary adjustment for Budget 2027 is 2.1%.

The stated purpose of the operating reserve of the Arts Development Service is “to cover cyclical expenditures, unforeseen operating expenses, special projects, as well as to mitigate fluctuations in revenue”.

In May 2022, the Arts Commission approved the transfer of up to \$39,000 on an annual basis to support expanded initiatives based on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Framework, including the doubling of the Equity Grants budget. In May 2023, the Arts Commission approved the transfer of up to \$3,700 on an annual basis from the operating reserve to support outreach initiatives that advanced strategic priorities. In October 2024, the Arts Commission approved the transfer of up to \$10,000 from the operating reserve to support the launch of Grow Forward, an expanded capacity-building grant program. Also, in 2024, the Arts Commission directed staff to integrate the \$6,000 transfer from the operating reserve dedicated to the ProArt Alliance for Greater Victoria into the core budget, which was done as part of Budget 2025.

The current annual transfer from the operating reserve is \$52,700, which is the amount in Budget 2026 projected to be transferred on an annual basis moving forward (in a status quo scenario).

Phasing out the transfer from the operating reserve of the Arts Development Service would increase the amount of requisition, assuming a stable budget (see Financial Implications below).

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Financial Implications*

If the operating reserve transfer was phased out over 5 years, the impact on Budget 2027 would be an increased requisition of 0.32% to maintain a stable budget. If the operating reserve transfer was phased out over 3 years, the impact on Budget 2027 would be an increased requisition 0.8% to maintain a stable budget. If the operating reserve transfer were eliminated entirely in Budget 2027, an increased requisition of 1.68% would be required to maintain a stable budget.

These increases would be in addition to regular increases to the administrative and granting budgets. Part of these are unavoidable cost pressures connected to the terms of the new collective agreement and its associated wage increases as well as other overhead costs that are still being determined as part of the financial planning process.

The levels of the Arts Development Service's operating reserve are within the recommended parameters for CRD operating reserves in all three of the scenarios modeled in Appendix B. As a granting service (with a few additional functions), the external dependencies of the Arts Service are very low, meaning that cost variances from approved budget levels are rare and minimal.

### *Service Delivery Implications*

There are many key factors in the service and financial planning process; however, the most direct impact on service delivery is the amount of funding distributed through the grants budget. 100% of the funds in this component of the budget go directly to local non-profit organizations. These organizations are essentially the service delivery partners of the Arts Development Service, as they are the ones who produce and present arts events.

Arts organizations have provided consistent feedback that post-pandemic expenses have risen substantially, especially security and insurance costs associated with producing arts events. In addition, an incremental increase in applications has led to lower success rates in most Arts Development Service granting programs. Overall, this means that – compared to five years ago – it is more difficult to attain CRD Arts Service funding and those grant awards do not go as far in terms of covering costs associated with activating arts experiences across the region.

The needs met and opportunities activated by the grants budget must be weighed against the direction for cost containment at the organizational level and the cost pressures resulting from unavoidable overhead expenses and possible reserve fund transfer phase out. Staff are considering all these factors in crafting a recommendation for the budget of the Arts Development Service as part of the current financial planning process.

## **CONCLUSION**

The CRD Arts Commission has directed staff to provide additional information to inform the financial planning process leading to Budget 2027, including the annual service and financial planning guidelines and options for phasing out the transfer from the operating reserve of the Arts Development Service. Staff are planning to bring a report with a detailed budget recommendation for the Arts Development Service to the September 2026 meeting of the Arts Commission.

Submitted by:	Chris Gilpin, MPA, Manager, Arts & Culture
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Chief Financial Officer & General Manager, Finance & Technology

**ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A: 2027 Service and Financial Planning Guidelines (April 8, 2026)

Appendix B: Financial Framework of Options for Phasing Out Operating Reserve Transfer to Arts Development Service Budget

**REPORT TO THE CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 08, 2026**

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**SUBJECT**    2027 Service and Financial Planning Guidelines

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

This report provides guidelines for annual service and financial planning while highlighting key budget considerations.

**BACKGROUND**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has commenced its 2027 service and financial planning processes. Board priorities and core service delivery requirements typically form the foundation of the Five-Year Financial Plan. Appendix A outlines the overall corporate planning process, while Appendix B provides details about the timeline specific to the planning cycle.

In late 2026 the CRD will enter a period of transition as strategic priorities are established for the 2027 to 2030 Board term. Service level activity in the first year of the term ensures organizational continuity through the development of the 2027 to 2030 Corporate Plan and continued implementation of strategic initiatives that span Board terms. Given the transition year, staff aim to limit Initiative Business Cases (IBCs) to support approved initiatives and critical programs.

The organization is addressing several challenges impacting its operating environment as it plans for 2027 and beyond. Similar to the approach deployed in 2025 and 2026, the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) will prioritize all planned work for 2027 and will only bring forward staff resourcing requests to advance critical deliverables and newly established services. A critical need, in this context, is defined as initiatives required to meet legal, safety or risk management obligations and initiatives where postponements or cancellation would result in significant service disruption or other negative impacts.

IBCs will be reprioritized or rescope, with ELT determining which of these are included in the 2027 to 2031 financial plan. This ELT review will be completed in early spring and will develop a recommended package of work for Board approval in the early fall. As in prior years, this report recommends planning guidelines in the context of observed trends, assumptions and drivers impacting the organization.

The 2027 planning cycle will be accelerated to present the service plans and provisional budget at the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for September 23, 2026, ahead of the general election on October 17, 2026. This results in service and financial planning processes beginning earlier and the overall planning timeline contracted.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### *Alternative 1*

That the service and financial planning guidelines be approved, and that staff be directed to prepare the draft financial plan review based on the timeline presented.

### *Alternative 2*

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

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities*

The organizational financial policies, practices and assumptions guide the Board and staff in allocating resources to implement the Corporate Plan. These are periodically reviewed and adjusted based on current economic trends and financial health targets for the organization. Aligning the financial plan with strategic priorities and financial management strategies ensures service delivery is efficient and effective. The 2027 financial planning process will incorporate feedback from various commissions, committees and the Board.

In 2027, staff will prioritize programs and initiatives that:

- Align with and, in some cases, continue to advance the 2023-2026 Board priorities or Corporate Plan initiatives;
- Implement capital commitments and investments;
- Ensure the maintenance of core service levels following regulatory changes or address safety risks to customers, communities or staff; and
- Have been explicitly directed to proceed by the Board or a commission or standing committee.

### *Financial Implications*

## **Financial Planning Guidelines**

The financial planning guidelines are centered around the CRD's consolidated requisition forecast, which is influenced by past Board approvals but also include recommended inflation rate adjustments and consideration of other economic factors. The organization's financial management policies and practices related to surpluses, reserves, debt and cost containment measures also guide the service and financial plan development and are intended to support service sustainability, optimize revenue needs and minimize requisition increases. They are informed by analysis of economic conditions, core service levels, infrastructure investment and financial management strategies.

## **Economic Conditions**

External economic conditions continue to shape the CRD's financial planning and service delivery. Factors such as inflation, interest rates, population growth and labour market dynamics directly influence borrowing costs, capital project delivery and long-term sustainability.

Highlights of key interrelated economic indicators in this report include interest, inflation and unemployment rates and population growth.

### **Inflation and Interest Rates**

Inflation and interest rates continue to be key drivers of budget pressure. The Bank of Canada reduced its overnight rate from 3.25% at the start of 2025 to 2.25% by year-end and maintained that level in January 2026<sup>1</sup>. The CRD continues to work with the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia (BC) to monitor indicative borrowing rates and adjust long-term planning assumptions accordingly.

Inflation has remained close to target. For 2025 overall, BC's annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) averaged 2.1%, the lowest annual increase since 2020<sup>2</sup>. Looking ahead, the province forecasts Canadian CPI growth of 2.2% in 2026 and 2.1% in 2027<sup>3</sup>, while BC CPI is forecast at 2.1% in 2026, and 2.0% in 2027. The Bank of Canada similarly expects inflation to remain near 2% through 2027, with upward and downward pressures expected to broadly offset each other<sup>4</sup>.

### **Population Growth and Service Demand**

Greater Victoria's population has grown materially over the past decade, although annual growth slowed in 2025<sup>5</sup>. This is consistent with provincial budget commentary that lower federal immigration targets are reducing net inflows of temporary residents and moderating population growth<sup>6</sup>.

Population growth continues to place pressure on infrastructure and core services, including transportation, water, wastewater, solid waste management and housing, increasing fiscal pressure on both capital programs and operating budgets. Balancing service expansion with affordability, sustainability and infrastructure capacity remains a central focus of the CRD's planning framework.

### **Labour Market Conditions**

Labour market conditions have softened modestly but remain relatively tight in the Victoria area by historical standards. As of February 2026, the unemployment rate was 4.5% in Victoria, compared with 6.7% nationally, 6.2% in both BC and Vancouver<sup>7</sup>.

Employers may continue to face wage pressures and recruitment challenges in professional fields such as finance and accounting, information technology and engineering as well as skilled trades.

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<sup>1</sup>Bank of Canada, policy rate announcement / press release, Jan. 28, 2026: <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2026/01/fad-press-release-2026-01-28/>

<sup>2</sup> Province of British Columbia, Budget and Fiscal Plan 2026/27 to 2028/29, p. 95

<sup>3</sup> Province of British Columbia, Budget and Fiscal Plan 2026/27 to 2028/29, Table 3.6.4, p. 116

<sup>4</sup> Bank of Canada, Monetary Policy Report (January 28, 2026): <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/publications/mpr/mpr-2026-01-28/canadian-outlook/>

<sup>5</sup>BC Population Estimates: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/statistics/people-population-community/population/population-estimates>

<sup>6</sup> BC Stats, Municipal Population Estimates, 2025: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/statistics/people-population-community/population/population-estimates>; and BC Budget 2026 / BC Stats population outlook (including 2025-2026 slowdown assumptions), page 9: [https://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2026/pdf/2026\\_Budget\\_and\\_Fiscal\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2026/pdf/2026_Budget_and_Fiscal_Plan.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Statistics Canada, Table: 14-10-0459-01: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1410045901>

These constraints can affect recruitment and retention, lengthen project timelines and reduce delivery efficiency.

### Housing and Development Trends

Housing affordability remains constrained across the region. In February 2026, the benchmark price for a single-family home in the core of the CRD was \$1.3 million<sup>8</sup>. Persistently high land and construction costs continue to pressure households and increase demand for CRD services and infrastructure.

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation reports that housing starts in Greater Victoria remained high, totaling 4,859 in 2025 versus 4,185 in 2024<sup>9</sup>, indicating firm near-term construction activity.

Within CRD, building permit activity in 2025 was relatively stable. Total permit values were \$2.01 billion, up 2% from \$1.97 billion in 2024, while permit volumes declined 7% to 2,589 from 2,775<sup>10</sup>. Residential projects accounted for the largest share and non-residential trends were mixed, with commercial values largely unchanged, industrial higher and institutional lower than in 2024.

Overall, the total CRD development in 2025 remained substantial. However, if lower permit volumes persist, future housing supply growth, parts of the development pipeline and related development-related revenues could moderate over time.

### Impacts on the 2027 Budget

Based on economic indicators reported by the Bank of Canada and the Province at the beginning of 2026, the 2027 CRD budget will include a 2.1% base inflation rate adjustment, aligned with the province's 2027 inflation forecast<sup>11</sup>. Recent collective bargaining and compensation review outcomes will also impact the CRD budget in 2027. It is important to note that inflation assumptions may change based on evolving economic conditions. Updated information and any resulting adjustments will be included with the Provisional Budget to be presented in September.

The consolidated requisition forecast includes multi-year projects, programs and initiatives already underway. A number of in-flight activities, including annualization of initiatives introduced in prior years, the implementation of new services and increasing debt obligations for existing capital commitments, are expected to contribute to a 2027 budget increase above the base inflation rate. Appendix D summarizes some key decisions during the 2023 to 2026 Board term and associated 2027 to 2030 implications.

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<sup>8</sup> Victoria Real Estate Board, January 2026 report. In the report, “Core” is a specific sub-region made up of 7 VREB districts: Victoria, Victoria West, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, View Royal, Saanich East, and Saanich West: <https://www.vreb.org/pdf/VREBNewsReleaseFull.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Monthly Housing Starts and Other Construction Data Tables (December 2025-Table 2): <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/professionals/housing-markets-data-and-research/housing-data/data-tables/housing-market-data/monthly-housing-starts-construction-data-tables>

<sup>10</sup> At: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/data/regional-information/monthly-permit-reporting-tool>

<sup>11</sup> Province of British Columbia, Budget and Fiscal Plan 2026/27 to 2028/29, p. 96

## **Financial Capacity**

The CRD's organizational capacity is linked to both current and projected financial capacity. Following established CRD financial management strategies, capacity is regularly evaluated to inform target-setting and manage upper financial limits. As growth continues to affect service delivery, financial forecasting provides critical visibility into associated impacts—enabling proactive mitigation and reduction of financial risk.

Given the complexity and variability of factors influencing revenue projections, sensitivity analysis is used to estimate approximately the financial capacity in future years. The 2027 consolidated requisition increase for CRD and Capital Regional Hospital District (excluding municipal debt) is forecast at 8.9%, with a potential range from 7.3% to 15.7%. The range is influenced by past commitments and Board approvals, including a loan authorization in the Land Banking and Housing Service, the establishment of new regional services such as the Regional Transportation Service and the Performing Arts Facilities Service, capital cost-sharing commitments for health infrastructure through the Hospital District and previously approved loan authorization bylaws. Any direction to decrease the requisition will potentially result in deferral or cancelation of previously approved initiatives or decreases in services levels.

Debt management is an essential part of the financial strategy, ensuring that borrowing decisions align with both operational demands and long-term asset needs. Regular assessments of overall debt levels, alongside available borrowing capacity under current loan authorization bylaws, position the organization to respond effectively to evolving financial and service delivery pressures.

## **Core Service Levels**

The CRD Board's 2023 to 2026 strategic priorities form the basis of the existing Corporate Plan and service plans until the new Board determines its strategic priorities and establishes the 2027 to 2030 Corporate Plan. The five-year financial plan assumes maintaining service level continuity, with adjustments for timing, scope and cost estimates.

Service delivery costs include capital and operating expenses like salaries, benefits, debt servicing, materials and equipment. These expenses are influenced by economic conditions such as unemployment rates, tariffs, supply and demand as well as contractual agreements.

## **Financial Management Strategies**

Financial management strategies incorporate essential financial objectives into organizational decision-making and operations. Appendix C summarizes the existing financial management strategies outlined for corporate planning.

## **Infrastructure Funding**

There are plans in place or under development across the CRD, reflecting a long-term view for asset investments and levels of service. The 2019 Board-approved Corporate Asset Management Strategy and Policy set activities required in planning and managing infrastructure assets of the organization.

Initiatives include development and completion of:

- Sustainable Service Delivery (asset management) plans to maintain and replace existing assets in the short, medium and long-term
- Operationalizing asset management practices into day-to-day asset lifecycle activities
- Financial guidelines aimed at optimizing reserves and borrowing capacity, while lowering current costs and diversifying revenue

**Public Engagement**

As in prior years, public engagement on the financial plan is considered an integral part of the process. The CRD continually seeks to improve this process by developing a plan reflective of community desired methods of engagement. Ongoing opportunities for public input through committee, commission and Board meetings will be available throughout the year.

**CONCLUSION**

Board priorities and core service delivery requirements will form the foundation of the 2027 to 2031 Five-Year Financial Plan. To proactively influence the planning process, this report recommends planning guidelines in the context of observed trends, assumptions and drivers impacting the organization. The organization’s financial management policies and practices related to surpluses, reserves, debt and cost containment measures also guide the service and financial plan development and are intended to support service sustainability, optimize revenue needs and minimize requisition increases.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the service and financial planning guidelines be approved, and that staff be directed to prepare the draft financial plan review based on the timeline presented.

Submitted by:	Varinia Somosan, CPA, CGA, Senior Manager, Financial Services & Deputy Chief Financial Officer
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Appendix A: Corporate Planning Framework
- Appendix B: Financial Planning Timetable Service and Financial Planning Guidelines
- Appendix C: Financial Management Strategies
- Appendix D: 2027 Anticipated Requisition Impacts

**Options for Phasing Out Operating Reserve Transfer to Arts Development Service Budget**

	2026*	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031**
Total Budget	\$ 3,374,591	\$ 3,450,833	\$ 3,516,839	\$ 3,594,962	\$ 3,660,779	\$ 3,733,995
<b>Transfer Amount from Operating Reserve</b>						
No phase out / status quo	\$ 52,700	\$ 52,700	\$ 52,700	\$ 52,700	\$ 52,700	\$ 52,700
3-year phase out	\$ 52,700	\$ 27,700	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5-year phase out	\$ 52,700	\$ 42,700	\$ 32,700	\$ 22,700	\$ 12,700	\$ -
<b>Amount Remaining in Operating Reserve***</b>						
No phase out / status quo	\$ 343,491	\$ 300,701	\$ 248,001	\$ 195,301	\$ 142,601	\$ 89,901
3-year phase out	\$ 343,491	\$ 315,791	\$ 305,791	\$ 305,791	\$ 305,791	\$ 305,791
5-year phase out	\$ 343,491	\$ 300,791	\$ 268,091	\$ 245,391	\$ 232,691	\$ 232,691
<b>Estimated % Impact on Requisition</b>						
3-year phase out (Year-over-Year)	-	0.80%	0.53%	0.27%	0.00%	0.00%
5-year phase out (Year-over-Year)	-	0.32%	0.30%	0.29%	0.28%	0.27%

\*Actuals from Budget 2026 may differ

\*\*Not part of Budget 2026-30, total estimated based on +2%

\*\*\*Interest included in current year (2026, impact on 2027 balance). Interest not included in planning years (2027-31) as per financial planning guidelines.



Ref: 90091

Cliff McNeil-Smith  
Board Chair  
Capital Regional District  
Email: [crdchair@crd.bc.ca](mailto:crdchair@crd.bc.ca)

Dear Cliff McNeil-Smith:

Thank you for your letter of December 17, 2025, to the Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, regarding the Capital Regional District's request for reconsideration of the BC Arts Council's Regional Areas policy. As the Executive Director of the BC Arts Council Secretariat within the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (Ministry) I am pleased to respond on behalf of Minister Kang.

The Ministry and the BC Arts Council recognize the significant contributions that the capital region artists, cultural workers, and organizations make to the British Columbia arts and culture ecology. We appreciate the detailed information your letter provided regarding the size, vitality, and economic impact of the arts and culture sector in the CRD, and we recognize the concerns you have raised about how BC Arts Council policies are experienced by applicants in your region.

As noted in earlier correspondence, including the November 15, 2024, response to the CRD Arts Commission, the BC Arts Council Designated Priority Groups policy and the associated definition of "regional areas" were developed to advance the priorities set out in *Extending Foundations: Action Plan 2022–2024*. These priorities responded to longstanding evidence of systemic barriers and historic funding imbalances, with the goal of broadening impact and increasing accessibility and equity across the province. Under this framework, "regional areas" are defined specifically for use in BC Arts Council grant programs and are intended to guide targeted supports—not to diminish the importance of major urban arts ecosystems such as the capital region.

Smaller and more rural communities within the capital region—such as Sooke, Metchosin, the Gulf Islands, and the Juan de Fuca electoral area—are included within the Regional Areas designation and receive prioritized support under the policy.

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Your letter highlights specific concerns related to the Accelerate Program and assessment criteria in other funding streams. The Accelerate Program is designed to reduce barriers to funding and support capacity for both equity-deserving and regional applicants through flexible, multi-year support. Applicants from the capital region meeting the required criteria are eligible to apply and, since it was launched, 15 organizations in the capital region have received funding through the program, with grants exceeding a total of \$800,000 by the end of this year.

Within the Designated Priority Groups policy, regional criteria are applied alongside other factors. The policy does not comprehensively or categorically deny eligibility or instruct assessors to reduce scores for applicants in the capital region or larger urban areas, nor does it guarantee funding for any group. Instead, it provides strategic considerations that complement the existing review process applied across all applications.

We also appreciate the concerns expressed about overall funding trends. While the BC Arts Council does not use per capita allocations in decision making, it is worth noting as a point of reference that the capital region continues to receive a proportion of BC Arts Council funding that exceeds its relative population. Based on 2024 provincial population estimates, the capital region represents approximately 8 percent of British Columbia's population; over the past five years the region has consistently received between 10 to 12 percent of BC Arts Council funding delivered annually (excluding temporary resilience supplements).

We acknowledge your request for reconsideration of the regional categories within the policy and your call for a level playing field for applicants in the capital region; I can assure you we have a shared goal in ensuring that investments in arts and culture are made in an equitable way. The Ministry and the BC Arts Council appreciate the thoughtful advocacy from the CRD Board and Arts Commission, as well as the collaborative approach undertaken in meetings throughout 2024 and 2025. As you may be aware, the Province is currently undertaking expenditure management and program review processes. Any modifications to BC Arts Council programs or policies—including regional category definitions within the policy—will be considered carefully within this broader context.

On behalf of the BC Arts Council, I want to thank you for bringing forward the perspectives of the capital region and for your ongoing leadership in supporting arts and culture in British Columbia. We remain committed to meaningful dialogue and to ensuring that arts and culture organizations across the province are well-supported and able to thrive. Please feel free to reach out should you have further questions or wish to continue these discussions. I am happy to meet with yourself or CRD Arts Commission staff to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Allison Bottomley  
Executive Director  
BC Arts Council Secretariat

Cliff McNeil-Smith

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pc: Honourable David Eby, KC  
Premier

Honourable Anne Kang  
Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

Honourable Diana Gibson, MLA  
Oak Bay–Gordon Head

Honourable Nina Krieger, MLA  
Victoria–Swan Lake

Honourable Grace Lore, MLA  
Victoria–Beacon Hill

Honourable Ravi Parmar, MLA  
Langford–Highlands

Honourable Lana Popham, MLA  
Saanich South

Darlene Rotchford, MLA  
Esquimalt–Colwood

Rob Botterell, MLA  
Saanich North and the Islands

Dana Lajeunesse, MLA  
Juan de Fuca–Malahat



Newcombe Singers  
Association  
P.O. Box 23015,  
RPO Cook Street,  
Victoria, BC V8V 4Z8

April 13, 2026

CRD Arts Development Service

625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000

Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

Dear Members of the CRD Arts Commission and Arts Advisory Council,

On behalf of the BOD of the Newcombe Singers Association and, indeed, our entire choir, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the terrific support you have given us for our concerts in 2026.

Receiving such generous funding for these concerts will allow us to make fuller, richer choices regarding the music we select, the musicians we invite to join us, and our overall concert planning.

It is especially gratifying to know that our "Choral Bridges" vision is appreciated by such an important arts support agency in the broader Greater Victoria community.

It is a pleasure to work with the CRD Arts Development Service in seeking grant monies, too. The support your agency provides for all the arts groups who seek funding is simply outstanding and very much appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lorne McLash".

Lorne McLash

President,

Newcombe Singers Association



April 17, 2026

To: Chris Gilpin, Manager, CRD Arts and Culture  
CRD Arts Advisory Council and Arts Commission Members

Re: CRD 2026 January Project Grant Application

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Township Community Arts Council (TCAC), our volunteers and sponsors, we would like to express our gratitude for the January Project Grant award of \$10,000.

This grant will be used specifically to partially fund two of our events that are free to the community: Memorial Park Music Fest, a series of eight free weekly concerts; and our Esquimalt Lantern Festival, which provides a wide variety of artistic entertainment, fun for all ages. This grant allows us to pay a variety of musicians, entertainers and performers at these two annual events.

Full details on these events, as well as our full slate, can be found on our website. The vast majority of our events are free, which allows for wide community access to performing and visual arts in Esquimalt.

Thank you again from the Board of the Township Community Arts Council.

Uta Gewald  
President  
Township Community Arts Council

**Mailing address: c/o The Sharkz Store, 525 Head St Suite 110, Esquimalt, BC V9A 5S1**

**e-mail: [townshiparts@gmail.com](mailto:townshiparts@gmail.com)**

**website: [www.townshiparts.org](http://www.townshiparts.org)**