



Meeting Minutes

Arts Commission

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

4:00 PM

6th Floor Boardroom
625 Fisgard St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

PRESENT

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

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

Arts Advisory Council: R. Ditor, Funding Chair (EP); R. Gale, Chair

EP – Electronic Participation

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

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Plant acknowledged that the location of today’s meeting is on the contemporary and traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən People, known as the Songhees and x̱w̱sepsum Nations, although the CRD does its business across the territories of many nations. We are grateful and offer our respect to those nations, and to each other in our work.

2. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED by Commissioner Smart, SECONDED by Commissioner Fawcett,
That the agenda for the May 27, 2026 Arts Commission meeting be approved.
CARRIED**

3. Adoption of Minutes

**MOVED by Commissioner Brame, SECONDED by Commissioner Fawcett,
That the minutes of the Arts Commission meeting of March 25, 2026 be
adopted as circulated. CARRIED**

4. Chair’s Remarks none

5. Presentations/Delegations none

6. Commission Business

6.1 Arts Advisory Council (AAC) Update

6.1.1 Arts Advisory Council Chair's Report (verbal)

R. Gale, Chair of the AAC, noted that at their May meeting, the Arts Advisory Council discussed the Equity and IDEA Grant adjudication recommendations and the project-based grants review. Success rates are falling and projects with merit are going unfunded, mostly because the resources are not available. A \$45,000 increase to the project-based grants budget would allow the support of a wider and more diverse pool of applicants. The April Project Grant adjudication was held on Monday and there were more new applicants than ever before.

6.1.2 Arts Advisory Council Minutes: May 12, 2026 – received for information

6.1.3 AAC Activities by Council Summary: May 12, 2026 – received for information

6.2 Manager's Report (verbal)

6.2.1 Outreach Report (written)

C. Gilpin provided an update on the following:

- On April 8th the CRD board adopted the bylaw for a new Performing Arts Facilities Service which will be incorporated into financial planning for budget 2027.
- There were 28 applications to April Project Grants, and the recommendations from that adjudication will come to the June Arts Commission meeting.
- The full version of the Grow Forward grant program will launch on June 2nd.
- From the Outreach report – a communications plan is being developed to communicate the name change from the Arts & Culture Support Service to the Arts Development Service.
- The 2025 Impact Report is almost complete and will incorporate information from applicants as well as the Arts Vibrancy Index (Canadian Chamber of Commerce) – this will be brought to the Arts Commission's June meeting and the CRD Board on July 8th.

6.3 2026 Equity Grant Recommendations

Twenty-one applications were received by the deadline and eight are recommended for funding. Feedback is given to unsuccessful applicants and people can apply every year so long as they submit a final report. Commissioners noted the growth of the program and expressed gratitude for the work of the Arts Advisory Council adjudicators.

**MOVED by Commissioner Plant, SECONDED by Commissioner Brame,
That the 2026 Equity Grant recommendations be approved as presented.
CARRIED**

6.4 2026 IDEA Grant Recommendations

Twenty-eight applications were received by the deadline and fourteen are recommended for funding. Commissioner Smart recused herself from the vote due to a potential conflict of interest.

**MOVED by Commissioner Plant, SECONDED by Commissioner Roessingh,
That the 2026 IDEA Grant recommendations be approved as presented.
CARRIED**

6.5 Recommendation on View Royal Motion

In January, the CRD received an official request from View Royal Council, to change their participation level in the Arts Development Service from Tier 1 to Tier 2, which contributes at 30% of the Tier 1 rate. This became a motion with notice at the March CRD Board meeting, and was referred by the CRD Board to staff to report back on the impacts of this request through the Arts Commission. The two alternatives are suggested language for the two options for the Arts Commission to move this forward. The CRD Board makes the final decision, but they are asking the Arts Commission for advice.

Commissioner Lemon recused herself from the vote.

**MOVED by Commissioner Plant, SECONDED by Commissioner Smart,
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. CARRIED**

6.6 Financial Planning for Budget 2027

At its September 2025 meeting, the Arts Commission asked staff to bring back the financial planning guidelines for the next budget, and also to provide options for phasing out the operating reserve of the Service. C. Gilpin noted that the Arts Development Service budget has kept within the core inflationary adjustment in four out of the past five years.

In terms of the operating reserve, it is meant to cover cyclical expenditures, unforeseen operating expenses, special projects, as well as to mitigate fluctuations in revenue.

The 2027 budget recommendations will come back to September meeting.

Langford Council will be voting soon on the final version of their “Arts Master Plan” that will weigh in on whether or not they will join the Arts Development Service.

7. New Business none

8. Correspondence

The Arts Commission received a response letter from the BC Arts Council re: reconsideration of their Regional Areas Policy, as well as two thank you letters from Newcombe Singers and Township Community Arts Council.

9. Adjournment

**MOVED by Commissioner Smart, SECONDED by Commissioner Fawcett,
That the March 25, 2026 Arts Commission meeting be adjourned at 4:55 pm.
CARRIED**

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 24, 2026 – hybrid meeting

Chair

Recorder