

## ARTS COMMISSION

Notice of Meeting on **Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.**  
CRD Boardroom, 6th 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 June 24, 2026 Arts Commission meeting be approved.
3. Adoption of Minutes of May 27, 2026  
**Recommendation:** That the minutes of the Arts Commission meeting of May 27, 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: June 9, 2026 - for information
    - 6.1.3 Arts Advisory Council *Activities by Council Summary*: June 9, 2026 – for information
  - 6.2. Manager's Report (verbal)
    - 6.2.1 Outreach Report (written)
  - 6.3 2026 April Project Grant Recommendations  
**Recommendation:** The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:  
That the 2026 April Project Grant recommendations be approved as presented.  
  
**Attachments:** Staff Report: 2026 April Project Grant Recommendations  
Appendix A: 2026 April Project 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 Project-Based Grant Programs Review

**Recommendation:** The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:  
That the modifications to the Equity, IDEA, and Projects grant programs be approved as presented.

**Attachments:** Staff Report: Project-Based Grant Programs Review  
Appendix A: Project-Based Grant Programs: Evaluation and Recommended Improvements  
Appendix B: Equity Grants Program Guidelines (redlined version)  
Appendix C: IDEA Grants Program Guidelines (redlined version)  
Appendix D: Projects Grants Program Guidelines (redlined version)  
Appendix E: 2024-27 Strategic Plan Implementation Timeline

6.5 CRD Arts Development: 2025 Impact Report

**Recommendation:** The Arts Commission recommends to the CRD Board that staff distribute the *CRD Arts Development: 2025 Impact Report* virtually through the CRD website and as physical copies to all councils and electoral area directors to raise awareness about the positive impact of the Arts Development Service throughout the capital region.

**Attachments:** Staff Report: CRD Arts Development: 2025 Impact Report  
Appendix A: CRD Arts Development: 2025 Impact Report  
Appendix B: List of 2025 Grant Recipients  
Presentation: CRD Arts Development: 2025 Impact Report

7. New Business

8. Correspondence: none

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: July 22, 2026



## Meeting Minutes

### Arts Commission

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

4:00 PM

6<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 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 8<sup>th</sup>.

### 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



## Meeting Minutes Arts Advisory Council

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Tuesday, June 9, 2026

5:00 PM

Via Video Conference

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

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

Regrets: E. Mushumanski, J. Noomen, A. Reid, J. Smillie

**1. Territorial Acknowledgement** – R. Gale opened with an acknowledgement of the many local first nations on whose territories we live and work. It is a joy and a gift to share these lands.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED by J. Bauche, SECONDED by P. Tsolo,  
That the agenda for the June 9, 2026 Arts Advisory Council meeting be approved.  
CARRIED**

**3. Minutes**

**MOVED by S. Reid, SECONDED by C. Haska,  
That the May 12, 2026 minutes of the Arts Advisory Council be approved as presented.  
CARRIED**

The Arts Commission Minutes of March 25, 2026 were received for information.

**4. Chair's Report**

R. Gale participated in the April Project Grant adjudication that took place on May 25<sup>th</sup> and the results will be presented later in the meeting. He also attended the May Arts Commission meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup>, and Commissioners expressed strong support for the Arts Advisory Council and their work.

**5. Manager's Report**

C. Gilpin reported on the following:

- Grow Forward Grant has launched, and there will be an info session on June 25<sup>th</sup>
- The Commission members voted to deny View Royal's motion with notice
- The Arts Commission approved the name change to the granting service – it is now the Arts Development Service, not the Arts & Culture Support Service

- BC Arts Council has launched a public engagement process to get feedback on draft strategic priorities for its next strategic plan.

**6. April Project Grants**

R. Gale reported that there were a large number of applications, with many new applicants, and higher requests for funding. He and P. Tsolo agreed that there were some stark differences between successful and unsuccessful applications.

**MOVED by C. Haska, SECONDED by R. Ditor,  
The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:  
That the 2026 April Project Grant recommendations be approved as presented.  
CARRIED**

**7. Project-based Grants Review**

C. Gilpin integrated the feedback from the discussion last month, and this is the formal recommendation. Included are some suggested increases to the budgets of the project-based grants which staff will try to incorporate into budget 2027.

**MOVED by T. Wong, SECONDED by C. Haska,  
The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:  
That the modifications to the Equity, IDEA, and Projects grant programs be approved  
as presented. CARRIED**

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

Members discussed arts activities they had attended and shared upcoming events.

**9. Correspondence** none

**10. Adjournment**

**MOVED by P. Tsolo, SECONDED by D. Clark,  
That the June 9, 2026 Arts Advisory Council meeting be adjourned at 5:44 pm.  
CARRIED**

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Chair

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Recorder

## **Arts Advisory Council Meeting: Tuesday, June 9, 2026**

### **Activities by Council (ABCs)**

#### **Local:**

Atomic Vaudeville	Hot Horse Dirty Snake (Spring Cabaret)
Between Words	One Act Festival: The Landlord's Game; Finer, Further, Faster; The Death of the Sun; Game Night; Motherland; Something Weird is Happening in Balanchine's Backyard; Ask the Oracle; Be Free; Death, the Dance, and the Girl; Blessed Are the Hungry
Broken Rhythms/ Dave Morris (Paper St Theatre)	Double Feature:      1000 Pieces of Pi 52 Stories
Cook Street Block Party	
Design Victoria	Powered by Pecha Kucha
Dogwood Rambler	in concert
Gage Gallery	Wild Art for the Big of Heart (Tanya Bub sculpture show)
Langham Court Theatre	Shakespeare in Love
Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy	Allied Harmonies – concert with the Republic of Korea Navy Band
National Theatre	Playboy of the Western World (at Tillicum)
St. Luke's Players	Acting Can Be Murder
Theatre Inconnu	The Comeuppance
The Usual Suspects	live music
Victoria Association of Mask & Puppetry	Rebel Rhythms (in association with SKAM)
Victoria Gilbert & Sullivan Society	The Gondoliers

**Out of Town:**

Vancouver, BC

Vancouver Art Gallery

Stephen Shore: Uncommon Places

Cannupa Hanska Luger: Capture Billboard

Future Ancestral Technologies: WE SURVIVE YOU

Calgary, AB

Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium Leonard and Joni: the Untold Love Story

Toronto, ON

Fran Lebowitz: In Conversation @ Roy Thompson Hall

Graffiti Alley

Textile Museum of Canada

Always in Fashion - Indigenous Design (Curated by Amber-Dawn Bear Robe)

50 Years of the Textile Museum of Canada

Art Gallery of Ontario

David Blackwood: Myth and Legend

Paul McCartney: Eyes of the Storm: Photographs 1963-64

Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrored Room - Let's Survive Forever

Montreal, QC

Lucas Moreau: Queer Newfoundland Hockey League @ La Centrale Galerie Powerhouse

The Brokes @ Theatre Fairmont

Musee des Beaux Arts:

Richard Avedon: Immortal. Portraits of Time Passing 1951-2004

Keerat Kaur: When Worlds Become Gentle

Rajni Perera: A Subspecies with Starry Eyes (installation)

The Torlonia Collection: Masterpieces of Roman Sculpture

## **OUTREACH REPORT TO THE ARTS COMMISSION MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 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 development of impact stories for 2025 Impact Report and corresponding social media posts to be published as part of report launch and ongoing series

#### **Send quarterly e-newsletters**

- June e-newsletter
  - Featured: 2026 Grow Forward Grant Launch; Performing Arts Facilities Service update; Rethink Waste Grants
  - Sent to 1,140 subscribers; 62% open rate; 9% click rate

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

#### **Begin Implementation**

- Implementing internal divisional name change to "CRD Arts" to better reflect the service's new name (Arts Development Service) and incorporation of the new Performing Arts Facilities Service
- Implementing communications plan to coordinate "launch" of new service name in coordination with divisional name change

### **PLAN AND DELIVER CAPACITY AND SKILL-BUILDING WORKSHOPS**

#### **Promote & host workshop**

- Online Grow Forward Grant workshop on June 25
  - Now will be separate session rather than a joint with Equity and IDEA programs
  - Promoted in e-newsletter, and on social media, published in CRD events calendar
  - Includes guidelines, budget tutorial, application advice and 20-minute Q&A period
  - 25 registrants at time of writing
- Online invite-only Operating Grant workshop on August 27
  - Includes guidelines, budget tutorial, application advice and 20-minute Q&A period
  - Includes guidelines, common issues, application advice and Q&A period
  - All 34 current Operating clients to be invited

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

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

- Developing 2027 Grant Calendar document to be distributed once approved

### **2026 Grant Intakes**

- Grow Forward Grant intake launched
  - Deadline and guideline updates published on website
  - Social media posts/stories shared on Threads, Facebook & Instagram; featured in e-newsletter
  - Print ad published in the Times Colonist June 23; digital ads ongoing
  - Online info session June 25
- Preparing for Operating Grant Launch on July 2
  - Deadline and guideline updates drafted on website
  - Print ad (legal requirement) drafted
  - Direct outreach to current and prospective operating clients via email
  - Online info session August 27

## **PRODUCE ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT**

### **Develop report**

- Completed for commission's review and approval

### **Publish & launch report**

- Distribution and promotion planned for second half of July after Board meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>
- Preparing to distribute Impact Report with customized letter to arts service organizations, grant recipients, councils and electoral area directors of participating and non-participating jurisdictions with physical copies available upon request.
- Promotion of the report via social media, e-newsletter, media releases, and advertising pending board approval



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## REPORT TO ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING OF TUESDAY, JUNE 09, 2026

### **SUBJECT**    April 2026 Project Grants Recommendations

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

The adjudication committee for the April 2026 Project Grants 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 Projects, Series & Extended Programming Grants (commonly known as “Project Grants”) provide support for organizations to produce or present one-time projects, a short series of events, or extended programming taking place over 12 months or less.

At the April 2026 deadline for Project Grants, 27 applications were received, average for the April intake (see Table 1). No applications were ruled ineligible by staff. The total request from eligible applications of \$249,668 was also average for the April intake. 18 grants were awarded, which is in line with previous years. The applicant success rate of 67% is lower than the five-year average for the April intake.

**Table 1. Project Grants: Recent Funding History**

Year	Intake	# Eligible Applications	# Awards	Success Rate	Total Request	Total Awarded	Median Request	Median Award
2022	Jan	27	18	67%	\$259,732	\$120,000	\$10,000	\$6,600
2022	Apr	36	22	61%	\$285,212	\$120,000	\$7,807	\$5,000
2023	Jan	28	20	71%	\$231,335	\$140,000	\$8,150	\$6,513
2023	Apr	21	20	95%	\$196,552	\$142,400	\$9,300	\$8,000
2024	Jan	35	23	65%	\$317,211	\$140,000	\$8,000	\$6,000
2024	Apr	20	16	80%	\$203,838	\$140,000	\$10,000	\$9,450
2025	Jan	34	17	50%	\$316,020	\$140,000	\$10,000	\$7,000
2025	Apr	32	19	59%	\$321,530	\$140,000	\$9,650	\$7,500
2026	Jan	36	20	56%	\$337,979	\$140,000	\$9,203	\$6,956
2026	Apr	27	18	67%	\$249,668	\$140,000	\$9,900	\$8,000

An adjudication committee of three Council members met in May 2026 to consider 27 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:

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

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

18 applications are recommended for funding. 9 applications are not recommended for funding (see Appendix A for more details).

### **ALTERNATIVES**

#### *Alternative 1*

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

#### *Alternative 2*

That this report be referred to staff for additional information.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### *Financial Implications*

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

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

**Table 2. Update on Arts Granting Budget for the CRD Arts 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	\$280,000	\$140,000
Equity Grants	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
IDEA Grants	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$33,000
Grow Forward Grants	\$75,000	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,870,570</b>	<b>\$2,795,570</b>	<b>\$549,714</b>

### *Service Delivery Implications*

On September 27, 2023, the Arts Commission passed a motion that “eligibility for Projects Grants be changed so that unsuccessful applicants to the first intake have the option to apply to the second intake with the same project or a new project,” as well as a separate motion that “staff report back to the Art Commission with the results of this policy change, after both project grant adjudications in 2024.”

The program guidelines for 2024 Projects Grants were modified to reflect this policy change and to notify applicants that: “Organizations that apply to CRD Projects Grants at the January deadline and are not successful may apply again at the April deadline.”

At the January 2026 intake of Projects Grants, sixteen applicants were not successful. Of those, there was only one applicant who reapplied to the April intake:

- Choral Evolution Society (Sooke): was successful in this intake

Overall, the change in policy resulted in one additional application to the April Project Grants intake, which was successful. This is a manageable amount in terms of administration and adjudication capacity. Staff will continue to monitor re-applications and any emerging trends due to this policy.

### **CONCLUSION**

The adjudication committee has assessed 27 applications received at the April 2026 Project Grants deadline. The 18 projects recommended for a grant will fulfil the Arts Development Service’s purpose to provide benefits to the community through its funding programs and will support a range of organizations to produce arts programming for audiences in the capital region.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

Submitted by:	Chris Gilpin, MPA, Manager, Arts Development Service
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### **ATTACHMENT**

Appendix A: April 2026 Project Grants Recommendations and Summaries

## 2026 April Project Grants

	Organization	Jurisdiction	Category	Eligible* Request	2025 Award
1	31 Iguanas Theatre Society (NEW)	View Royal	OT	\$8,300	\$0
2	Alter Arts Society	Victoria	EXT	\$10,000	\$10,000
3	Blue Bridge Theatre Society	Victoria	OT	\$10,000	\$0
4	Capriccio Vocal Ensemble Society	Victoria	EXT	\$8,783	\$8,700
5	Choral Evolution Society	Sooke	SS	\$4,800	\$4,800
6	Croatian Cultural Society of Victoria (NEW)	Saanich	OT	\$21,235	\$8,000
7	Ensemble Laude Choral Society	Victoria	SS	\$9,900	\$8,000
8	Fifty Fifty Arts Collective, The	Victoria	EXT	\$12,700	\$8,000
9	Galiano Concert Society	SGL	OT	\$5,000	\$5,000
10	Island Chamber Winds Society	SGL	EXT	\$16,000	\$8,000
11	Johnny's Lil G's Foundation (NEW)	Esquimalt	OT	\$10,000	\$0
12	Kizuna Theatre Society (NEW)	Oak Bay	OT	\$8,000	\$8,000
13	Linden Singers of Victoria	Victoria	SS	\$5,000	\$0
14	Ministry of Casual Living Assn, The	Victoria	EXT	\$11,000	\$7,000
15	Mixtape Singers Society (NEW)	Sooke	SS	\$2,500	\$0
16	Planet Earth Poetry Reading Series Society	Victoria	EXT	\$6,750	\$6,750
17	Rockslide Arts Society (NEW)	Victoria	EXT	\$6,500	\$6,500
18	Salty Broad Productions Society	Victoria	OT	\$10,000	\$8,000
19	SingYourJoy Young Adult Chorus Society	Oak Bay	SS	\$3,950	\$0
20	Three on the Tree Productions Society	SGL	OT	\$4,500	\$0
21	Vancouver Isl Visual Arts Society - VIVAS	Victoria	SS	\$10,000	\$8,700
22	Veselka Ukranian Dance Assn	Saanich	OT	\$2,500	\$0
23	Victoria Philharmonic Choir Society	Victoria	SS	\$12,000	\$8,000
24	Victoria Poetry Project Society	Victoria	EXT	\$10,000	\$9,000
25	Victoria Storytellers' Guild (NEW)	Victoria	OT	\$1,000	\$0
26	William Head on Stage Theatre Society	Metchosin	OT	\$21,000	\$9,550
27	Xchanges Artists Gallery & Studios Society	Victoria	EXT	\$10,000	\$8,000

**Total:****\$241,418**

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Project	2026	2026
		Category	Request	Recommendation
<b>31 IGUANAS THEATRE SOCIETY</b>	View Royal	OT	8,300	0

**Funding History:** N/A

### Mandate

31 Iguanas Theatre Society creates, and present innovative theatrical productions in surprising ways and innovative spaces and places. We blend (and bend) classic and pop culture stories, characters using diverse theatrical mediums like site-specific performance, puppet, mask, movement, and storytelling. We are committed to professionally engaging and working with Canadian artists and creators with a focus on Vancouver Island residents. We also aim to engage new audiences through partnerships with businesses and organizations not traditionally associated with theatrical activities like Heritage Acres. We also link performances to seasonal celebrations to further engage non-traditional theatre audiences.

### Project Summary: *Development & Rehearsal of High Moon: A Werewolf Western 2026*

High Moon blends Horror and Western genres through a combination of live performance, environmental staging and guided audience movement through outdoor spaces to create an immersive storytelling experience. This project will support the creation and rehearsal phase of High Moon for 2026, expanding the show's scale and artistic ambitions through enhanced costume and monster designs (bigger scarier monsters and more surprising onstage transformations), more innovative use of space and improved audience interactivity (added staging and effect elements to inter-scene audience movement).

### Comments on Recommendation

This application ranked in the lower third of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have been improved by a focus on presentation activities in an eligible jurisdiction (show takes place in Central Saanich) and more information on how performers would be paid in the rehearsal production phase of building the show.

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>ALTER ARTS SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	EXT	10,000	10,000

**Funding History:** 2021 JanPG: \$0; 2021 AprPG: \$7200; 2022 JanPG: \$7200; 2023 JanPG: \$8000; 2024 JanPG: \$6000; 2023 JanPG: \$0

### Mandate

Alter Arts' mandate is to make the world a better place by creating and supporting artistic, educational, environmental, and social activities and events.

### Project Summary: *Community Arts Connection*

We are requesting support with funding the Community Art Hub's weekly drop-in hours and activities, including our annual Cozy Queer Affair (Nov 14 & 15). The Community Art Hub is a neighborhood-based arts space, providing low-barrier access to art-making tools, equipment, and supplies, fostering an inclusive and collaborative creative environment since 2021. The third annual Cozy Queer Affair will continue the tradition of acoustic music, storytelling, workshops, art installations, and a tea lounge. The event is by-donation and geared toward 2SLGBTQIA+, disabled, and neurodivergent communities.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. It ranked in the top of all applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	OT	10,000	0

**Funding History:** 2015 AprPG: \$5000; 2016 JanPG: \$10000; 2017 JanPG: \$0;  
2017 AprPG: \$11250; 2018 JanPG: \$5000; 2020 JanPG: \$0;  
2020 AprPG: \$0; 2021 JanPG: \$7500; 2022 JanPG: 7500;  
2023 JanPG: \$9600; 2024 AprPG: \$0; 2025 JanPG: \$7000

### Mandate

BBTS's Mission is to provide

- Primarily Victoria based professional theatre artists the opportunity to engage with, and create, fresh contemporary interpretations of the great plays from the past or new works inspired by classic sources.
- Significant creative opportunities to emerging professional theatre artists wishing to pursue a career in the arts.
- The ability for these young actors, directors, writers, producers and other career professionals to train for, participate in, and occupy major creative, production and administrative roles alongside some of Canada's most established theatre artists.
- An environment in which these artists can develop, exchange and experiment with new techniques and ideas in the theatre - particularly as these techniques and ideas relate to the production of 'classic' works drawn from, or new works inspired by, the European, North American and World theatre traditions.
- The audiences of Greater Victoria its own professional theatre company that focuses on these masterworks, or new works inspired by these classic sources.

### Project Summary: *Blue Bridge Returns – A Musical Retrospective*

A two-act musical performance with performers who sang iconic songs from a selection of Blue Bridge musical hits such as Ride the Cyclone, Sweeney Todd, My Fair Lady, and The Fantastics. A journey down memory lane and an opportunity to revitalize our audience for future productions.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application ranked in the lower third of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the projected attendance, benefits to the region, and benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have been improved by more information on community outreach and how the proposed programming aligns to the artistic vision / organizational mandate.

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>CAPRICCIO VOCAL ENSEMBLE SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	EXT	8,783	8,700

**Funding History:** 2012 JanPG: \$2000; 2013 JanPG: \$2000; 2014 JanPG: \$3000; 2015 JanPG: \$4000; 2016 JanPG: \$2000; 2017 JanPG: \$2000; 2018 JanPG: \$3000; 2019 JanPG: \$2750; 2020 JanPG: \$1500; 2022 JanPG: \$0; 2022 AprPG: \$1850; 2024 AprPG: \$0; 2025 AprPG: \$0

### Mandate

Capriccio is an acclaimed, multi-voice vocal ensemble of 30-40 members who love to sing. Our mandate is to perform, and enable the enjoyment of, outstanding public programming in the choral arts. We sing a wide variety of music ranging from before the 15th Century to the present, from intricate unaccompanied works to large choral/orchestral productions, all performed in Capriccio's signature style of virtuosic clarity with a sensitive, compelling spirit.

### Project Summary: 2026-2027 Season: *"Home is Where the Heart Is"*

A three-concert season centered on Remembrance Day, Home for the Holidays, and "One Earth, Our Home." Funding will support guest artists, composition fees, and music acquisition, enabling performances of the highest artistic quality while illuminating lesser-known stories and deepening community engagement.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for close to the full amount of the grant request.

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>CHORAL EVOLUTION SOCIETY</b>	Sooke	SS	4,800	4,800

**Funding History:** 2023 JanPG: \$3000; 2024 JanPG: \$2500; 2025 JanPG: \$0;  
2025 AprPG: \$0; 2026 JanPG: \$0

### Mandate

"To promote the arts and share the gift of song."

Choral Evolution is a young organization, formed in the wake of covid isolation. As Choral Evolution (CE) nears its fifth anniversary, a strategic plan review is underway to refresh its mission and priorities so they more accurately reflect current goals - strengthening artistic development, expanding access across Sooke and surrounding rural areas, nurturing diverse voices and genre-bending repertoire, retaining and developing singers through training and leadership opportunities, growing and diversifying its audience and building sustainable community partnerships.

### Project Summary: *The Holiday Hit Parade (working title)*

Three performances of a contemporary, high-energy choral concert blending rock and pop holiday repertoire arranged in four to nine parts for an SATB (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) choir. The program will avoid traditional carols and standard community-choir fare - instead every piece will be a popular song presented in an inventive genre, arrangement or style.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Project	2026	2026
CROATIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA		Category	Request	Recommendation
	Saanich	OT	21,235	8,000

**Funding History:** N/A

### Mandate

Through quality programs and services, the Croatian Cultural Society of Victoria brings together all those interested in promoting, celebrating and preserving Croatian culture, language and customs. Our values are Diversity, Service, Continuous improvement, Sustainability, Community, Collaboration, and Growth.

The purposes of the Society are:

- to operate as a charitable institution without profit to its members for the promoting and encouraging the development or establishment of activities or endeavours within the area served by the Society in the field of education, culture and social betterment of those living within the general territorial jurisdiction of the Society
- to promote the social, cultural and educational standards of the Croatian people in Victoria, BC
- to promote the better understanding of Canadian Institutions and Canadian Citizenship
- to teach students, and others, Croatian language, dance and folklore

### Project Summary: *49<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Canadian Croatian Folklore Festival West*

This long-standing cultural event brings together Croatian dance and music groups from across Western Canada and beyond to celebrate, preserve, and share Croatian heritage with the broader community. The event will feature over 350 performers, including junior, senior, and alumni groups from Victoria, alongside invited ensembles from Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, and Winnipeg. The performance is expected to draw approximately 500 attendees and will be live-streamed to ensure accessibility for seniors, individuals with mobility limitations, and global audiences.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>ENSEMBLE LAUDE CHORAL SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	SS	9,900	8,000

**Funding History:** 2012 JanPG: \$1400; 2013 JanPG: \$2300; 2014 JanPG: \$2250; 2015 AprPG: \$2800; 2016 AprPG: \$2400; 2017 AprPG: \$9000; 2019 JanPG: \$3500; 2020 AprPG: \$4500; 2025 AprPG: \$0

### Mandate

Our mandate is to perform and record a variety of choral music for the enjoyment and education of audiences, while cultivating and expanding the appreciation of choral music in the community. A key purpose in our constitution is “to educate, encourage, and engage youth in the appreciation of choral music.” As part of this mandate, we provide programs for Emerging Artists and regularly commission new Canadian choral works.

### Project Summary: *DREAM – A Climate Passion Play*

Three performances of a ground-breaking choral performance project, conceived as a “Passion” in the quasi-religious dramatic format inherited from J.S. Bach. The concert uses composed music, improvisations, and choir/audience singing to help our community process the emotional impact of the climate crisis and to create the feeling of collective agency.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>THE FIFTY FIFTY ARTS COLLECTIVE</b>	Victoria	EXT	15,700	8,000

**Funding History:** 2012 JanPG: \$2300; 2013 JanPG: \$4500; 2014 AprPG: \$6500; 2016 JanPG: \$6000; 2017 JanPG: \$8000; 2018 JanPG: \$8000; 2019 JanPG: \$6500; 2020 JanPG: \$6000; 2021 JanPG: \$7950; 2022 JanPG: \$7300; 2023 JanPG: \$6375; 2024 JanPG: \$0; 2025 JanPG:\$0; 2025 AprPG: \$7000

### Mandate

The Fifty Fifty Arts Collective is a not-for-profit, volunteer-run, multi-disciplinary programming space that supports both emerging and established artists. We are committed to the underground, the underdog, the experimental and the emergent; to curatorial proposals, workshops and skill-sharing; and to group exhibitions, collaborations and artist talks. We seek to make our exhibition space viable to artists outside of Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, in order to exhibit work and share it with our communities, thereby deepening both our critical and innovative engagement with the arts.

### Project Summary: *2026/2027 Gallery Exhibition Series and Special Programming*

In the project period 2026-2027, the Fifty Fifty Arts Collective will host 7 individual and group 6-week visual arts exhibits (including paintings, sculpture, textile, etc), by local and visiting artists. The collective has already scheduled 4 exhibits for July - December 2026, and will make a Call for Submissions in late Summer for artists to show in 2027. These exhibitions will encompass multiple formats in the gallery location and online, and will also include supplementary activities, such as workshops and artist talks, opening and closing events, small musical events, and more. The Collective will also coordinate with local arts organizations to create connections between programming and local artists, through exhibition space at festivals.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>GALIANO CONCERT SOCIETY</b>	SGI	OT	5,000	5,000

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

### Mandate

The purposes of the Society are:

- a) to bring high quality musicians to Galiano Island to perform concerts for the Galiano community;
- b) to provide high quality musical concerts for the Galiano community at a reasonable cost; and
- c) to promote and encourage the appreciation and enjoyment of high-quality music on Galiano Island.

### Project Summary: *Chris Derksen in Concert*

Cris Derksen is a professional cellist of Cree/Mennonite ancestry from Northern Alberta. She identifies as 2-Spirited. Her signature style weaves together her traditional Indigenous heritage and classical music training, with modern electronic elements. In her performances, she typically makes use of an array of electronic processing tools, including a looper and digital effects unit. She will be accompanied by a singer, drummer, and hoop-dancer.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>ISLAND CHAMBER WINDS SOCIETY</b>	SGI	EXT	16,000	8,000

**Funding History:** 2024 INC: \$2500; 2025 AprPG: \$8550

### Mandate

To perform classical and contemporary chamber music for new, diverse, and existing audiences.

### Project Summary: *Island Chamber Winds 2026/27 Season*

Two performances each of two concerts. The fall program is centered on folksong from around the world, including three pieces from the Women in Harmoniemusik Consortium. In the spring, the world premiere of our first commission by an Indigenous composer, Virginia Sparvier-Wells, a Cree flute player and composer from the Cowessess First Nation. Both programs will be for wind dectet: pairs of flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons, and French horns. Some pieces will include percussion, and Virginia’s piece will also include piano.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>JOHNY'S LIL G'S FOUNDATION</b>	Esquimalt	OT	10,000	0

**Funding History:** 2026 EQ: \$0

### Mandate

Johnny's Lil G's Foundation supports underserved youth aged 18 -34 by providing safe, welcoming access to arts training, creative space, and mentorship. We prioritize youth who face barriers to participation, including Indigenous, Black, African-Canadian, racialized, LGBTQIA+, disabled, neurodivergent, low-income, housing-insecure, and newcomer youth. We operate a community arts and media hub that includes gallery, studio, recording, and workshop spaces where youth and emerging artists can learn, create, collaborate, and share their work with the public. We offer training in music, media arts, visual arts, and creative entrepreneurship to help participants build skills and explore pathways toward arts-related opportunities.

### Project Summary: *Sonic Bridge Series*

A year-long project design to mentor and showcase emerging talent in technical and rhythmic arts. During the production phase, participants receive hands-on technical mentorship and resources to create a digital album "Sonic Narratives." Monthly activities include community-curated shows, skill-sharing workshops, and works-in-progress performances that emphasize low-barrier participation and creative experimentation. This culminates in a 12-week public showcase series, "Saturdays at the Hub," running from March to May 2027. These events, held from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm, feature live music and drumming that bring diverse perspectives to downtown Victoria.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application ranked in the lower third of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of history of previous programming. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have been improved by a track record of previous programming as a non-profit organization and financial statements for a full 12-month period.

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Project	2026	2026
KIZUNA		Category	Request	Recommendation
<b>THEATRE SOCIETY</b>	Oak Bay	OT	8,000	8,000

**Funding History:** N/A

### Mandate

The official mandate of Kizuna Theatre Society, as stated in our constitution, is to create, produce, and present theatrical works, and to foster collaboration, artistic development, and community engagement through the performing arts.

In plain language, we exist to make theatre that brings people together and helps them find common ground. Our name, Kizuna, is a Japanese word that means "bond" or "connection." This word is the foundation of our organization. We believe that the process of creating a play is just as important as the performance itself because it builds trust and empathy between artists and the audience.

### Project Summary: *Misshapen Island*

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

### Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. It ranked in the top of all applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>LINDEN SINGERS OF VICTORIA</b>	Victoria	SS	5,000	0

**Funding History:** 2012 AprPG: \$3000; 2013 AprPG: \$0; 2014 AprPG: \$500; 2015 JanPG: \$1200; 2016 JanPG: \$1075; 2017 AprPG: \$2100; 2019 JanPG: \$2500; 2020 JanPG: \$1000; 2023 JanPG: \$0

### Mandate

The purposes of the Society are:

- To advance the public’s appreciation of the arts by providing:
  - High-quality public performances of choral music, and
  - Free performances for audiences that may not be able to attend regular performances.
- To advance arts education by providing training through joint performances of choral music with children and youths, and by providing funds to qualified donees for their music scholarship program.

### Project Summary: 2026 – 2027 Choir Season

Two or three choral concerts with prepared repertoire to be determined. The choir will also take on a dozen or more caroling gigs around the Victoria area, from the BC Legislature rotunda to assisted living residences.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application ranked in the lower third of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the approach of payment to artists, anticipated attendance, benefits to the region, and benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have been improved by more rationale for the significance of the project and description of the qualifying aspects of the personnel.

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>MINISTRY OF CASUAL LIVING ASSOCIATION</b>	Victoria	EXT	12,000	7,000

**Funding History:** 2013 JanPG: \$0; 2013 AprPG: \$0; 2014 AprPG: \$3000; 2015 AprPG: \$0; 2016 JanPG: \$2000; 2017 JanPG: \$2000; 2018 AprPG: \$3000; 2019 AprPG: \$4000; 2020 AprPG: 7000; 2021 AprPG: \$7000; 2022 AprPG: \$0; 2023 AprPG: \$12000; 2024 AprPG: \$10000; 2025 AprPG: \$7500

### Mandate

The Ministry of Casual Living (MoCL) is an artist-run centre based in Victoria. Established in 2002 to provide artists from all disciplines with an accessible venue for experimentation, MoCL is committed to promoting critical, self-reflective discourse, and integrating the artistic process into all aspects of everyday life.

MoCL is committed to supporting diversity, inclusion, and purposeful programming for artists from the LGBTQ2S+, persons with disabilities, and the IBPOC communities.

### Project Summary: 2026-2027 Extended Programming

Studio Gallery Exhibition Program – presenting a series of four multidisciplinary group exhibitions, and two solo artist’s exhibitions and projects, plus a “Writing about Art” residency and 2 IBPOC residencies for artists exploring research practices in a gallery context. The grant would also support the Program Coordinator who collaborates with the Board on program research and selection, contracts, budgeting, installation, and managing web and social media content.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Project	2026	2026
MIXTAPE SINGERS		Category	Request	Recommendation
SOCIETY	Sooke	SS	2,500	0

**Funding History:** N/A

### Mandate

The purpose of the Society is to:

- Foster a vibrant and inclusive vocal arts community on Southern Vancouver Island.
- Provide opportunities for singers of all backgrounds an opportunity to engage in choral, ensemble and professional collaborative music.
- Promote mental health and well-being through music, recognizing the power of artistic expression in fostering emotional resilience and connection.
- Address systemic poverty-based inequality by offering sponsorships to eligible individuals who may not otherwise have access to participation due to financial barriers.
- Support local artists and collaborations within the performing arts sector.
- Have the group be available for civic and charitable functions.
- Engage in creative studio recordings to document and share artistic projects, provide professional development opportunities, and expand accessibility to musical works.
- Deliver high-quality live performances that bring artistic excellence to the community, enriching cultural engagement and fostering meaningful connections between audiences and performers.

### Project Summary: *Mixtape Volume 3 (4 concerts)*

Season 3 concert – four performances in Sooke, Metchosin, and Victoria.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application ranked in the lower third of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of project and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have been improved by more information on the artistic content of the programming and the venues for the Victoria and Metchosin shows, as well as more detail on the fees for artists.

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>PLANET EARTH POETRY</b>				
<b>READING SERIES SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	EXT	9,000	6,750

**Funding History:** 2020 JanPG: \$4000; 2022 AprPG: \$0; 2024 JanPG: \$7560  
2025 AprPG: \$9000

### Mandate

1. to promote and celebrate poetry, writing and literary arts and performance with the Southern Vancouver Island community;
2. to provide an open, respectful and professional atmosphere where any interested person may come and listen to, and participate in, group readings;
3. to support and make space for traditionally under-represented, including Indigenous, BIPOC, poets who experience disability, and 2SLGBTQIA+ poets
4. to grow our audiences to reflect British Columbia's cultural diversity;
5. to educate and increase understanding and appreciation of Canadian poetry and literature, with a particular focus on writers from British Columbia;
6. to advance the study and teaching of writing craft by conducting workshops and retreats taught by accomplished writers;
7. to act as a literary hub for the community for readings, workshops, contests and submission opportunities;
8. to expand access to poetry and writing across British Columbia in collaboration with partners and affiliates;

### Project Summary: *We Gather: Poetry in Practice*

A series of mini-workshops and two poetry masterclasses, woven into our ongoing weekly poetry reading schedule. As always, the core of our programming is the free weekly poetry readings: our readings include an open mic where people of all ages, races, and walks of life are encouraged to share their poetry, followed by featured readings from exceptional published poets from across Canada. Our featured poets are chosen with a particular emphasis on poets with freshly published books from equity-deserving communities (e.g. LGBTQIA2S+, BIPOC, and poets living with disability). This year, we will be adding one free mini-workshop per month, led by one of our featured readers and presented directly before their Friday night reading. We will also offer two longer poetry masterclasses throughout the season: paid (with a sliding scale) opportunities for a more in-depth exploration of one specific aspect of craft.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. It ranked in the top of all applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the eligible portion of the grant request.

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Project	2026	2026
ROCKSLIDE		Category	Request	Recommendation
ARTS SOCIETY	Victoria	EXT	6,500	6,500

**Funding History:** N/A

### Mandate

The purposes of the Society are:

- Providing affordable arts production space for emerging and established artists
- Empowering artists with knowledge and skill-building opportunities
- Offering accessible arts exhibitions and programming
- Fostering community engagement with the arts
- Providing artist residency opportunities

### Project Summary: *The Hourglass Window Gallery*

An exhibition program at its newly built window gallery located at The Hourglass, 1101 Yates Street, in Victoria. The program present ten solo exhibitions, each one month in duration. The gallery is a unique, purpose-built, public facing presentation space situated at the high-traffic corner of Yates and Cook Streets, in the heart of the city. Its innovative design features movable walls that allow for a variety of configurations, making it adaptable to the needs of 2D, 3D, and media-based artists. Works will be visible to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at no cost to viewers. The program will be launched through an open call to artists across the region, with selected artists receiving a fee to produce and present original work.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>SALTY BROAD PRODUCTIONS SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	OT	10,000	8,000

**Funding History:** 2024 AprPG: \$10000; 2025 AprPG: \$0

### Mandate

To create immersive, experimental theatre experiences in Victoria, BC. The society hopes to cultivate the creation of original performance art, as well as reinvent established works from a fresh perspective. Salty Broad’s events and productions are primarily female and queer driven artistic endeavors that aim to support local emerging artists.

### Project Summary: *Hail Santa: A Salty Broadmas Holiday Spectacular!*

Three performances of an original immersive cabaret-style theatre production that blends music theatre, drag, burlesque and interactive performance into a comedic and community-driven holiday experience. The production is created and led by artists from the LGBTQ2+ community and features 10 performers supported by a professional creative and technical team.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>SINGYOURJOY YOUNG ADULT CHORUS SOCIETY</b>	Oak Bay	SS	3,950	0

**Funding History:** 2018 AprPG: \$0; 2019 AprPG: \$3850; 2023 AprPG: \$3500  
2024 AprPG: \$9500

### Mandate

SingYourJoy Young Adult Choir is Greater Victoria's only non-auditioned, accessible, no-cost performing chorus for youth and young adults ages 16-29. Our purposes are to provide a supportive and inclusive musical community for young people who might face financial and social challenges in other community choral groups; to perform a broad repertoire of contemporary music for community audiences; and to promote life-long musical appreciation for young people after they leave high school. Chorus members and directors covenant with each other to promote mutual tolerance, inclusion and respect in order to foster diversity and to strengthen choir members' artistic capacity regardless of their starting point.

### Project Summary: *SYJ Inter-generational choral series*

We propose to develop a series of 6 to 8 mini-concerts to be delivered by a new small performance choir (8-16 members) to nursing homes, seniors' residences or seniors' centres in various communities in the region. Planning would start in the fall, and the project would take place over the period January - April 2027. Choir directors will select and modify musical arrangements mostly from the choir's current repertoire, solicit enthusiastic members for this new small choir, hold supplementary rehearsals adjacent to regular rehearsal times when space and personnel are available, and then accompany and lead the small choir groups at performances.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application ranked in the lower third of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the approach to paying artists, anticipated attendance, and benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have been improved by more detailed information and rationale regarding most aspects of the project.

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>THREE ON THE TREE PRODUCTIONS SOCIETY</b>	SGI	OT	4,500	0

**Funding History:** 2020 AprPG: \$1675; 2023 JanPG: \$2300; 2024 JanPG: \$2000; 2025 AprPG: \$4000

### Mandate

To provide artistic opportunities to the rural community in the way of new works, workshops, and productions. To liaise with the community and other similar minded non-profits to find ways to deliver arts programming to our isolated community.

### Project Summary: *Magic Lake Lantern Festival*

A free, all-ages New Year's Eve event that allows local performers and artists to showcase their work. Workshops held the week prior allow the public to create lanterns to join the project in a participatory way. The main spectacle of the event is a parade that allows the local community to join the celebration and is followed by an outdoor performance on land and water that celebrates the holiday in a non-denominational style with art, dance and music.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application ranked in the lower third of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of project, payment of artists, and benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have been improved by more details and rationale in all the application responses that had limited information, including specifics for the in-kind amounts in the project budget.

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
VANC. ISLAND VISUAL ARTS SOCIETY - VIVAS	Victoria	SS	10,000	8,700

**Funding History:** 2023 INC: \$5000; 2024 INC: \$1000; 2024 JanPG: \$0; 2025 AprPG: \$7500

### Mandate

- Acquiring, leasing, and managing properties for the purpose of facilitating artist studios, art exhibitions, and arts education spaces.
- Providing affordable workspaces for artists and organizations that support the arts.
- Facilitating interactive arts events, exhibitions, and studio tours.
- Providing artists with funding and artist residencies.
- Curating exhibitions and promoting excellence in the field of visual arts.
- Providing educational venues and programs related to visual arts.
- Empowering artists with knowledge and resources to help navigate the art world.  
Advocating for artists' needs.

### Project Summary: *The Vault Gallery Exhibition Series*

The grant will fund 9 exhibitions in the Vault Gallery. Artists will apply for 3 weeks of exhibition space, with enough pre- and post- exhibition time to accommodate installation art in this unique venue.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>VESELKA UKRANIAN DANCE ASSOCIATION</b>	Saanich	OT	2,500	0

**Funding History:** 2012 AprPG: \$5000; 2016 JanPG: \$0; 2019 AprPG: \$1300;  
2020 AprPG: \$2600; 2022 AprPG: \$5500; 2023 AprPG: \$2000;  
2025 AprPG: \$2700

### Mandate

The purpose of Veselka dance is to:

- a) Encourage the quality instruction, practice, and advancement of the art of Ukrainian dance;
- b) Promote, protect, and preserve Ukrainian culture, customs, and traditions.

### Project Summary: *Ukrainian Christmas Express*

A Christmas production that takes the audience on a tour through the Ukraine by displaying a variety of dance styles from different regions, as well as showcasing traditional Ukrainian carols.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application ranked in the lower third of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the approach to artist payment, anticipated attendance, and accessibility. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have been improved by more detail and rationale in several questions that had responses with limited information.

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>VICTORIA PHILHARMONIC CHOIR SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	SS	12,000	8,000

**Funding History:** 2012 JanPG: \$7000; 2013 JanPG: \$6000; 2014 JanPG: \$4000; 2015 JanPG: \$6500; 2016 JanPG: \$5000; 2017 AprPG: \$1500; 2018 AprPG: \$3000; 2019 AprPG: \$4000; 2020 AprPG: \$5000; 2022 AprPG: \$4125; 2023 AprPG: \$8000; 2024 AprPG: \$9000; 2025 AprPG: \$0

### Mandate

The Victoria Philharmonic Choir's (VPC) mandate is to: provide Victoria and the capital region with live performances of choral music of the highest attainable standard; support the choral needs of our musical community and mount independent choral productions; develop and educate future generations of choral singers and choral audiences; nurture a life-long relationship with the rewards of musical arts and raise the public's knowledge and appreciation of choral arts; attract serious amateur singers who are eager to continually develop their vocal talent with a commitment to choral excellence; provide meaningful employment to young and established professional musicians through VPC projects; create fulfilling concert seasons and summer festivals; coordinate and deliver educational programs, workshops and seminars on vocal technique and choral music; and, collaborate with other arts organizations in Victoria to mutually beneficial ends.

### Project Summary: *Series – VPC 2026/27 5 Concerts*

1. Handel's Dettingen Te Deum paired with J.S. Bach's Lutheran Mass (BWV 234), performed with professional orchestra and soloists.
2. Handel's Messiah, bringing a large-scale choral performance to a Southern Gulf Islands community within the Capital Regional District. VPC will explore opportunities to include musicians from the Gulf Islands, where feasible.
3. The annual Christmas Singalong, a participatory concert designed to be welcoming and accessible to audiences of all ages. This year's event will include invited participation from a local Ukrainian choir, broadening cultural representation.
4. A performance of Cherubini's Requiem, paired with Beethoven's Mass in C major.
5. Haydn's The Seasons Reimagined, a newly commissioned work by Canadian composer Tobin Stokes. The commission will be completed by January 2027 and incorporated into the performance.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>VICTORIA POETRY PROJECT SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	EXT	10,000	9,000

**Funding History:** 2016 JanPG: \$1500; 2017 JanPG: \$2500; 2018 JanPG: \$3000; 2019 AprPG: \$3500; 2020 AprPG: \$2545; 2022 AprPG: \$3500; 2023 AprPG: \$7500; 2024 AprPG: \$8500; 2025 AprPG: \$8500

### Mandate

The purpose of the society is to advance education in all forms of poetry through sponsoring readings, competitions, festivals and school & community outreach programs.

### Project Summary: *Spoken Word Programming 2026/27*

Our programming for 2026-2027 includes a series of 35 free events, including Victorious Voices (a three-day youth spoken word festival), Tongues of Fire (bi-weekly community open mic and showcase series), Slam Competitions (monthly spoken word poetry competitions), Trans Pride Poetry Showcase, Rising Rooted (a new four-session workshop series in collaboration with The Nova Arts Hub) and Famous Last Words Showcase.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Project	2026	2026
VICTORIA STORYTELLERS' GUILD		Category	Request	Recommendation
	Victoria	OT	1,000	0

**Funding History:** N/A

### Mandate

The purposes of the Society are:

- To promote and further develop storytelling as an art form by providing services to storytellers and to the general public in the Greater Victoria area.
- To provide a pathway to financial assistance for storytelling projects and productions.
- To facilitate communication among local storytellers.
- To encourage the participation of all the peoples the of Greater Victoria area by promoting storytelling as a common root of our differing cultures.

### Project Summary: *The Kalevala Epic Story*

A nine-hour epic storytelling event combining story and music with refreshments and a light supper. Storytellers from across BC, and possibly elsewhere, will come together to tell The Kalevala. The Kalevala is the national epic of Finland and neighbouring Karelia that tells mythical stories of ancient heroes and heroines.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application ranked in the lower third of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the approach to anticipated audience, accessibility, and benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have been improved by more detail and rationale in several questions that had responses with limited or no information.

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>WILLIAM HEAD ON STAGE THEATRE</b>	Metchosin	OT	23,000	9,550

**Funding History:** 2013 AprPG: \$8000; 2014 AprPG: \$8000; 2015 AprPG: \$10000; 2016 AprPG: \$15500; 2017 AprPG: \$5000; 2018 AprPG: \$12000; 2019 AprPG: \$13000; 2020 AprPG: \$13000; 2021 AprPG: \$16810; 2022 AprPG: \$11250; 2023 AprPG: \$12000; 2024 AprPG: \$16250; 2025 AprPG: \$12000

### Mandate

- To operate a not-for-profit theatre company at William Head Institution.
- To provide education and training to William Head residents in all aspects of theatre arts programming;
- To produce captivating performances for the enjoyment of William Head residents and the surrounding municipal communities;
- To organize annual theatre productions mentored by theatre professionals from the community that have artistic, educational, and therapeutic benefits for all involved.

### Project Summary: *Looking Back Looking Forward (45 Years of William Head on Stage)*

William Head on Stage (WHoS) will create a new original theatre work to mark the company's 45th anniversary. The work will be created by incarcerated participants in collaboration with an outside team of professional artists led by director Kate Rubin and playwright Rick Waines. Using research, storytelling, improvisation, music, movement, and devised theatre, the ensemble will draw on the history of WHoS to create a satirical comedy that reflects on selected productions, stories, and themes from the company's 45-year history. The piece will combine humour and reflection to explore legacy, community, consequence, resilience, and change.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2026 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2026 Request	2026 Recommendation
<b>XCHANGES ARTISTS GALLERY &amp; STUDIOS</b>	Victoria	EXT	10,000	8,000

**Funding History:** 2016 OP-A: \$11000; 2017 OP-A: \$10000; 2018 OP-A: \$8500; 2019 OP-A: \$9000; 2020 OP-A: \$8500; 2021 OP-A: \$8500; 2022 AprPG: \$7500; 2023 AprPG: \$10000; 2024 AprPG: \$10000; 2025 AprPG: \$7400

### Mandate

To operate, maintain, and manage a cooperatively maintained artist-run centre for the following purposes:

- 1) To promote and support the endeavors of the local artistic community for the benefit of the public at large, within the resources available to the Society;
- 2) To provide a public gallery for local and regional artists for solo, group, and curated exhibitions and other art-related programming opportunities;
- 3) To provide studios to practicing visual artists at affordable rents

### Project Summary: *Xchanges Gallery Programming*

Xchanges is requesting support for two artistic programs that take place in our gallery space:

- 1) Annual Gallery Exhibition Program – 9 exhibitions selected through open call and determined by a jury of peers outside the organization, runs Sept – June. The exhibitions program showcases artists who represent diverse communities and media and allows for public interaction directly with artists through their exhibiting period.
- 2) Community Life Drawing Program – beginner friendly, all ages, year-round programming.

### Comments on Recommendation

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



Making a difference...together

## REPORT TO ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING OF TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026

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**SUBJECT**     Project-Based Grant Programs Review

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

The implementation of the strategic plan for the Capital Regional District (CRD) Arts Development Service includes a review of the project-based grant programs – which are Equity, IDEA, and Projects Grants – in the first half of 2026. This review builds on the community feedback received during the extensive consultations in 2023 that informed the goals and actions of the 2024-27 Strategic Plan and the success of certain changes made to Operating Grants last year.

### **BACKGROUND**

Three grant programs – Equity, IDEA, and Projects – support non-profit organizations to produce and present arts programming in distinct ways. The purpose of Equity Grants is to fund arts programming by and for communities that face significant collective barriers to accessing funding. The purpose of IDEA Grants (Innovate, Develop, Experiment, Access) is to fund arts programming by not-for-profit organizations the non-arts mandates (social, environment, health, etc.) and arts service or training organizations. The purpose of Projects Grants is to fund arts programming by not-for-profit organizations with an arts mandate to produce and present one-time projects, a short series of events, or extended programming within a year.

In 2023, the arts community participated in several consultation activities as part of the strategic planning process and provided input on multiple topics, including identified challenges and opportunities in Equity, IDEA, and Projects grant programs.

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the Arts Advisory Council (AAC) reviewed a discussion paper on the project-based grant programs that support arts programming. This review contextualized interest holder feedback in terms of their interests, referenced previous AAC discussions and recent program changes, and added an administrative lens that evaluated the feasibility of initiatives within current staffing capacity. The AAC conducted extensive deliberation and analysis of each proposed improvement within the discussion paper and provided feedback to staff on how the improvements and any associated financial implications should be modified to best align to community needs.

The results of this process are a program evaluation with proposed modifications to the project-based grant programs (Appendix A). The specific effects of these changes are shown in the red-lined versions of the guidelines document for Equity Grants (Appendix B), IDEA Grants (Appendix C), and Projects Grants (Appendix D).

### **ALTERNATIVES**

#### *Alternative 1*

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

That the modifications to the Equity, IDEA, and Projects grant programs be approved as presented.

*Alternative 2*

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

**IMPLICATIONS**

*Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies*

The implementation timeline complements the newly approved 2024-27 Strategic Plan for the Arts Development Service by sequencing the advancement of its 10 goals and 17 initiatives (Appendix E). Specifically, as part of strategic goal #6 “Align funding programs to respond to community needs,” the action is to “Review parameters of project-based grants (Project, IDEA, and Equity Grants).” The review also focused on advancing goal #8 “Reduce barriers to increase access to funding” and one of its actions “Enhance support for arts programming by and for youth.”

*Financial Implications*

As part of the recommended improvements to the project-based grant programs, the Arts Advisory Council examined statistics for Equity, IDEA, and Projects grant programs, including the recent history (2022-26) of applicant success rates, median award amounts, and budget levels. These statistics were augmented by the AAC’s evaluation of recent adjudications, the number of unfunded projects with merit, and the feedback from arts organizations that higher funding levels in both operating and projects are necessary to offset inflationary pressures. The AAC is recommending a modest increase to the grants budget of \$62,000 (See Table 1).

Table 1. Proposed Increase to Grants Budget for Budget 2027

Grant Program	Budget 2026	Budget 2027	Increase
Equity	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$10,000
IDEA	\$33,000	\$45,000	\$12,000
Projects	\$280,000	\$300,000	\$20,000
Grow Forward	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0
Operating-annual	\$929,690	\$949,690	\$20,000
Operating-multi <sup>1</sup>	\$1,502,880	\$1,502,880	\$0
Total	\$2,876,570	\$2,938,570	\$62,000

This recommendation should be balanced with the focus by the CRD Board on cost containment of the CRD budget. The proposed increase of \$62,000 amounts to a 2.16% change, which is near the core inflationary adjustment of 2.1% in the CRD financial planning guidelines for 2027.

If the recommended motion is approved, staff would take these recommendations into account when conducting financial planning for Budget 2027 for the Arts Development Service, along with multiple other factors, including the possible phase out of the operating reserve fund (which increases cost pressure and requisition) as well as corporate priorities and unavoidable increases in certain administrative costs (e.g. wage increases resulting from new collective agreement).

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<sup>1</sup> Multi-year operating grant clients are only eligible for increases in “intake years”, which occur every three years. The next intake year will have applications due in fall 2027 as part of Budget 2028.

*Service Delivery Implications*

The first intake of the 2027 projects-based programs is Projects Grants, which will be launched in November 2026. For these improvements to be implemented in the 2027 intakes, they would need to be approved by the Arts Commission before October 2026.

**CONCLUSION**

The Arts Commission continues to implement the actions and initiatives of the 2024-27 Strategic Plan for the Arts Development Service. The next part of this implementation is a full review of the project-based grant programs. The Arts Advisory Council has considered several additional modifications and proposed changes that will enhance the effectiveness of these programs and their capability to activate high-quality arts experiences across the region.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:  
That the modifications to the Equity, IDEA, and Projects grant programs be approved as presented.

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

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Appendix A: Project-Based Grant Programs: Evaluation and Recommended Improvements
- Appendix B: Equity Grants Program Guidelines (redlined version)
- Appendix C: IDEA Grants Program Guidelines (redlined version)
- Appendix D: Projects Grants Program Guidelines (redlined version)
- Appendix E: 2024-27 Strategic Plan Implementation Timeline

# Project-Based Grant Programs: Evaluation and Recommended Improvements

## Service Area: Arts & Culture

Capital Regional District | June 2026

### Executive Summary

The Arts Commission will receive a report detailing a full review of the Projects, Equity, and IDEA grant programs in the first half of 2026, as per the approved implementation plan.

Overall, the major changes related to equity, diversity, and inclusion made in 2023 have been well-received. The current programs are achieving their purpose. The goal of this review should be optimization, not overhaul.

In 2023, the arts community participated in several consultation activities as part of the strategic planning process and provided input on changes they would like to see to the grant programs. Staff have analyzed this input, contextualizing interest holder feedback, and adding an administrative lens that evaluates the feasibility of initiatives within current staffing capacity.

Equity Grants and Projects Grants had substantial lifts to their budgets in 2023, but demand in all three project-based grant programs (including IDEA Grants) have outpaced these lifts. Success rates have fallen sharply in the past three years. This necessitates some review of budget levels moving forward. While all three programs would benefit from a modest budget lift, it should be noted that an increase to the IDEA Grants budget would be the most effective and cost-efficient way to activate more arts experiences across the region.

With input from the Arts Advisory Council (AAC), staff have produced a report with recommended grant program modifications to be advanced to the Arts Commission for final review. This staff report includes redlined versions of the applications and program guidelines that clearly show where and how revisions are being made.

### Summary of Current Service

#### **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Lens Resulted in Major Changes Implemented in 2023 Intake**

In 2021-22, after an extensive consultation process, Projects, Equity and IDEA grant programs had an equity lens applied to them. Overall, these changes have been well received by the arts community who have completed the revised application forms for the past three years. In fact, there has been almost zero negative feedback on the revamped application forms and guidelines. This indicates that the next set of changes to Projects, Equity, and IDEA grant programs should be on the level of refinement rather than overhaul.

## Feedback from Strategic Planning Sessions with the Arts Community

In 2023, CRD Arts & Culture undertook an extensive public engagement process to solicit community input to the 2024-27 strategic plan. This included multiple focus groups with arts leaders, the 2023 Arts Champions Summit, an online survey, and a dedicated online engagement platform. Key feedback related to project-based grant programs included:

- The financial requirements should be more like BC Arts Council and Canada Council, which is based on previous grant amount not budget size.
- Board members should be permitted to be reimbursed for board expenses, to allow for participation on boards by a broader demographic (change already implemented in Operating Grants).
- Organizations that support opportunities for emerging artists are essential in the development of the local arts sector.
- The Grant process is relatively user-friendly and staff are approachable.

## Feedback from Final Report Forms

The data and feedback from 100 final reports from 2023-25 was compiled and analyzed by staff. Final report feedback show that recipients find the grant guidelines easy to understand (99%) and the application process Easy, Somewhat Easy, or Straightforward (98%). Staff will continue to look at ways to improve final report forms to collect more data on social and economic benefits resulting from funded arts activities.

The great majority of applicants also found the application forms to be easy to understand (82%,) although there were some who had technical problems. Staff have addressed this issue already by replacing the word document version of Part A with a fillable pdf.

Key takeaways:

- CRD grant process is easy to engage with, especially compared to other granting programs.
- Changes to these granting programs should be incremental refinements, not overhaul.
- Ineligibility of travel expenses is a major issue for many applicants, especially those located on the Southern Gulf Islands. This should be changed to an eligible expense.

## Recent Arts Commission Decisions

On November 22, 2023, the Arts Commission approved the implementation plan to accompany the 2024-27 Arts Service Strategic Plan. This scheduled the review of Equity/IDEA/Projects grant programs by the Arts Advisory Council and Arts Commission in H1 2026, including any financial planning implications to be discussed and determined by September 2026 (when budget recommendations are made to the CRD Board), and with implementation starting in November 2026 with for the January Projects Grants program (see Next Steps section before for detailed timeline).

In September 2023, the Arts Commission clarified a policy for Projects Grants that allowed applicants who are unsuccessful at the January intake to reapply at the April intake with either the same or a new project.

In September 2024, the Arts Commission approved the replacement of Incubator Grants with Grow Forward Grants, an expanded capacity-building program. This also included a change to Projects Grants that changed the eligibility criteria so that applicants no longer had to be a registered non-profit organization for at least 6 months.

## Recommended Modifications to Project-Based Grants

**Table. 1 Projects & Equity & IDEA Grants**

	Current	Proposed	Rationale
Eligibility: board remuneration	Board members cannot receive remuneration of any kind	Board members can receive compensation for expenses related to board duties (e.g. travel, childcare) but not honoraria or fees for services.	Aligns to Operating Grants. Creates more supports for board membership to be more inclusive of diverse backgrounds.
Eligibility: Non-profit status	No requirements around length of non-profit status, recent track record of arts programming or type of financial statement	Non-profits must be in good standing with BC Societies for at least 12 months and have produced arts events in the past 2 years & financial statements for a 12-month period	Risk mitigation measure that greatly ensure that organizations have some established track record of arts programming and financial accountability.
Eligibility: Multiple applications	Organizations can only receive one project-based grant, but may apply wherever they are eligible	Non-profits can only apply to one granting program with the exception of PG where unsuccessful Jan PG applicants can apply again in April PG	Reduces administrative burden on applicants, admin, and AAC from processing multiple applications for the same project. Encourages applicants to apply where they are most suited, not a scattershot approach to every program.
Eligible Activities: Projects must have a presentation / community sharing component	No guidance on importance of presentation aspect	Add language to “Ineligible Activities” section that specifies projects must have a strong focus on presentation to an audience/community.	Provides more transparency on the importance of community benefits not being restricted to participants (clubs/therapy). Emphasizes the focus of the project must be development and dissemination of arts programming.

Application process: financial requirements	CRD specific based on budget size	Same as Operating Grants (and Canada Council) based on size of past grants	Financial requirements should align to grant award. Standardizes the requirements across CRD grant programs.
Assessment: Score 3 assessment categories	Score each question	Group questions into categories: Artistic Merit / Community engagement / Feasibility	Aligns to the successful change in Operating Grants. Allows assessors more flexibility. Applications not sunk by one poor answer.
Final Reporting: Additional input	Mainly focused on application project and process	Add some questions linked to outcomes prioritized in strategic plan	Provides more useful data on not just process and outputs, but also impact and outcomes

**Table 2. IDEA and Projects Grants only**

	Current	Proposed	Rationale
Eligible activities/expenses: allow travel and accommodation expenses	Ineligible activities/expenses include: "food, beverages, hospitality, or travel expenses"	Allow this by removing it from the Ineligible Activities list	Aligns to Equity Grants. Feedback from many arts groups is that travel and accommodation fees are essential to activate their shows. Equity consideration for SGI groups who need this due to their geographic isolation.
Assessment of community benefits re: EDI: Youth inclusion	Equity-seeking groups, rural areas, or underrepresented art forms	Add "arts experiences by and for youth artists and audiences (defined as 13-29 years old)"	Prioritizes arts projects that provide opportunities for young artists or youth audiences. Alignment to Strategic Plan action Goal 8a "Enhance support for arts programming by and for youth"

**Table 3. IDEA & Equity Grants only**

	Current	Proposed	Rationale
Application Process: Add Part B tab for list of activities	No list of activities tab in Part B of the application form	Add list of activities tab to Part B	Aligns to Projects Grants. Creates more clarity when multiple events are involved in an IDEA or Equity grant proposal about when & where

## Evaluation of Current Budget Levels and Financial Implications

The budgets for project-based grants have grown in recent years, especially for Equity Grants (doubled in 2023) and Project Grants (increased by \$20,000 per intake in 2023) but demand for these programs has grown faster.

**Table 4. IDEA Grants**

Year	# applications	# awards	Success %	Total Request	Total Awarded	Median Request	Median Award
2022	17	16	94%	\$50,480	\$32,050	\$3,000	\$2,000
2023	13	11	85%	\$36,560	\$31,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
2024	20	15	75%	\$52,600	\$38,350	\$3,000	\$2,500
2025	29	16	55%	\$82,950	\$33,000	\$3,000	\$2,000
2026	28	14	50%	\$80,150	\$33,000	\$3,000	\$2,250
<b>Average</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>\$60,548</b>	<b>\$33,480</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$2,350</b>

**Table 5. Project Grants**

Year	# applications	# awards	Success %	Total Request	Total Awarded	Median Request	Median Award
2022	27	18	67%	\$259,732	\$120,000	\$10,000	\$6,600
2022	36	22	61%	\$285,212	\$120,000	\$7,807	\$5,000
2023	28	20	71%	\$231,335	\$140,000	\$8,150	\$6,513
2023	21	20	95%	\$196,552	\$142,400	\$9,300	\$8,000
2024	35	23	66%	\$317,211	\$140,000	\$9,000	\$6,000
2024	20	16	80%	\$203,838	\$140,000	\$10,000	\$9,450
2025	34	17	50%	\$316,020	\$140,000	\$10,000	\$7,000
2025	32	19	59%	\$321,530	\$140,000	\$9,650	\$7,500
2026	36	20	56%	\$337,979	\$140,000	\$9,203	\$6,965
<b>Average</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>\$274,379</b>	<b>\$135,822</b>	<b>\$9,234</b>	<b>\$7,009</b>

**Table 6. Equity Grants**

Year	# applications	# awards	Success %	Total Request	Total Awarded	Median Request	Median Award
2022	8	8	100%	\$39,700	\$37,950	\$5,000	\$5,000
2023*	14	8	57%	\$131,668	\$55,000	\$10,000	\$8,000
2024	15	10	67%	\$128,507	\$51,250	\$10,000	\$5,000
2025	19	7	37%	\$170,014	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$8,000
2026	21	8	38%	\$200,499	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$6,000
<b>Average</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>\$134,078</b>	<b>\$48,840</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>	<b>\$6,400</b>

\*in 2023, the maximum request amount was doubled from \$5,000 to \$10,000

If the number of participating jurisdictions remains the same, the overall granting budget has tended to grow approximately 2-3%/year. Working within these budget projections is the most prudent course of action in the current fiscal environment where local governments are becoming increasingly concerned with tax efficiency

and other strategic priorities. The request amount has grown at the fastest rate, without a significant increase in budget, in the IDEA Grant program.

### Next Steps / Timeline:

- January-February 2026: Policy design, budget planning
- May 2026: Arts Advisory Council provides feedback on policy design
- H1 2026: Arts Advisory Council and Arts Commission reviews staff report with recommended modifications to Projects, Equity, and IDEA grant programs
- September 2026: Approve Arts Service budget for 2027
- November 2026-April 2027: Promote project-based grant programs with highlighted revisions

**EQUITY GRANT****Guidelines 2027****Statement of Purpose**

~~The purpose of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Arts & Culture Support Service is to provide assistance that will result in a benefit to the residents of the region.~~ The **Equity Grant** program supports arts initiatives by applicant groups from communities that are at risk of exclusion or that have difficulty accessing funding support for systemic reasons. Supported activities include but are not limited to, support of artistic growth, development, production and dissemination.

Applicant groups establish eligibility through self-identification of their community and/or art form on the supplied self-identification form. The applicant group must be a registered society or be an established collective<sup>1</sup> working with a Sponsor Society (see below for details on eligibility).

Examples of eligible communities include, but are not limited to:

- Indigenous
- Racialized persons or people of colour
- Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- LGBTQ2+
- Those living with the challenges related to a physical disability
- Those living with the challenges related to mental illness
- Other (you tell us, on the self-identification form)

Examples of eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- visual arts
- dance/improvisation
- storytelling/spoken word
- artistic craft/printmaking/fibre arts/etc.
- theatre/performance
- film/media arts
- music
- arts festivals/arts programming
- Other (you tell us, on the application form)

Equity Grant assistance acknowledges that, in order for the arts to remain accessible to the region's audiences and participants, they require an investment of public sector funds. Through an investment in our arts organizations and institutions, the CRD is contributing to the development of a healthy, diverse and vibrant community.

Equity Grants support arts activities that provide benefits or create impacts within one or more of the municipalities or electoral areas that contribute to the CRD Arts & Culture Support Service. The CRD Arts & Culture Support Development Service is funded by the following jurisdictions: Saanich, Victoria, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, View Royal, Highlands, Metchosin, Sooke and the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area.

**Eligibility**

Legislation governing the CRD only permits the Arts & Culture Support Development Service to fund registered not-for-profit societies. Because of this, an applicant must be either:

<sup>1</sup> A Collective is an unincorporated group of three or more individual professional artists that have the creation and/or presentation of artistic projects as their primary activity; have a demonstrated history of creating or presenting work as a collective; and have a clear commitment to continue working together on future projects.

- a) a not-for-profit society from a self-identified community, registered in BC, OR,
- b) an established artist collective from a self-identified community who is not a not-for-profit society but who are leading a project and has found a not-for-profit society willing to act as, what we call, a Sponsor Society.

Whether a collective or non-profit, the applicant organization must have produced arts events in the past two years.

Whether the collective is a society themselves or working with a Sponsor Society, the society making the application must:

- be a not-for-profit society in good standing, registered in British Columbia for at least 12 months, with financial statements for a 12 month period.
- have an active Board of Directors. Voting members of the Board may receive compensation for expenses directly related to Board duties (travel, childcare, etc) but not honoraria for participation or fees for services.
- be based in one of the jurisdictions that contributes to the Arts & Culture Support Service, as indicated by the organization's registered, physical address on its BC NFP Society registration document.<sup>2</sup>
- present their project in a jurisdiction that contributes to the Arts & Culture Support Service.
- be able to provide financial statements and other society information to establish accountability for the project.

### **Who can be a Sponsor Society?**

Potential Sponsor Societies include:

- Non-arts mandated societies
- Arts-mandated societies, including those meeting the eligibility for other CRD arts granting programs; such organizations may apply as a Sponsor Society to the Equity Grant program AND to other CRD arts granting programs.

Organizations in arrears with any local authority, are bankrupt, seeking creditor protection, are insolvent, or under court supervision of any kind are also ineligible.

When the collective is not a society but working with a Sponsor Society for the purposes of making an application, the collective and the Sponsor Society should take care to ensure they agree on the administrative responsibilities related to managing the project from application to final reporting. A Sponsor Society may provide in-kind administrative and promotional support, but complete creative control must be maintained by the collective, who must receive 100% of any CRD Equity Grant funding. The Sponsor Society should not benefit in any way from the project. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) must be included, detailing the payment schedule of grant funds to the collective.

### **Ineligible Activities**

The following are generally considered ineligible activities for support under this program:

- Projects that do not have a strong focus on presentation to an audience/community
- Equipment purchases or other major capital expenditures
- Fundraising activities, contests, or competitions
- Scholarships
- Expenses for activities that have already taken place (activities cannot be funded retroactively)

### **General**

- Guidelines and samples of the application are available online. Contact the Arts & Culture

<sup>2</sup> Organizations and arts activities located in non-participating jurisdictions (Central Saanich, Colwood, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, Langford, North Saanich, Salt Spring Island Electoral Area, and Sidney) are not eligible for support through this program.

- Support/Development Service to confirm eligibility and to request a full application package.
- Organizations can only apply to one granting program per year, with the exception of Project Grants where unsuccessful January applicants can reapply in April.
- Organizations may only receive one grant in a calendar year for arts programming (organizations may also apply as a Sponsor Society for another group).
- Start your application process early. To assist in the success of your application, please feel free to contact us at any time during the application process.
- The maximum grant available through the Equity Grant program is \$10,000.
- Be brief, concise and use plain language. Write as if you are describing your organization and project to someone who doesn't know anything about you. Do not use additional attachments.
- Ensure your project starts no earlier than June 2026-2027 and ends no later than June 2027-2028.
- Ensure the cash budget and the in-kind budget\* each balance to zero, resulting in an overall balanced budget where "Surplus or Deficit" is zero.

**\*Note:** In-kind contributions are goods and services that would otherwise be purchased with cash but have been donated to the project. Record the values of such donations under in-kind revenue. These donation values must also be recorded under in-kind expenses. The value of your in-kind revenues should equal your in-kind expenses.

**Evaluation**

Consideration will be given to how your project:

- provides access and support to communities or audiences at risk of exclusion.
- contributes to and benefits the arts in the self-identified community.
- contributes to and benefits the arts in the Capital Region.
- creates partnerships and collaborations.
- provides new programs and events for CRD audiences.
- expands the view of the arts and its role in various cultures and communities.
- uses the skills of participants to achieve the artistic and other goals of the proposal.

**Financial Statements required from the not-for-profit Society making the application:**

<p><u>Annual Budget</u> <u>Where the previous year's grant from the CRD Arts Development Service was:</u></p>	<p><b>Submit the following type of Financial Statements for the most recently completed financial year:</b></p>
<p>&gt;<del>\$750</del>250,000</p>	<p>Audited</p>
<p><del>\$300,000</del> <del>\$750,000</del>50,000 - <u>\$249,999</u></p>	<p>Review Engagement</p>

<p><del>\$150,000– \$300,000</del> \$50,000 or less</p>	<p>Compilation Statements with a Notice to Reader <u>or Internally Prepared Financial Statements</u></p> <p>Compilation <u>or Internally Prepared</u> Financial Statements may be prepared by any qualified person either internal or external to the organization, such as an accountant, a bookkeeper, Board Treasurer, etc. The Statements must include a balance sheet, statement of revenues and expenses, notes relating to the financial statements where appropriate, and show comparative columns for the most recently completed year and previous year, on the same page.</p> <p>The NTR that accompanies the financial statements states the nature of the assignment, the scope and limitations, a caution to readers, who prepared the report, and the date of preparation.</p>
<p><del>&lt;\$150,000</del></p>	<p><del>Self-generated Financial Statements—must include a balance sheet, and a statement of revenues and expenses, presenting comparative years side by side, in two columns.</del></p>

The applicant group is responsible for ensuring that the appropriate financial statements are submitted. Applications without appropriate financial statements may be considered incomplete. Contact Arts & Culture Support Service staff if you have questions.

### Assessment

- Applications are assessed on three equally weighted categories: Artistic Contribution and Significance (33%), Community Impact and Involvement (33%), and Feasibility (33%).
- Applications are assessed by the CRD Arts Advisory Council. Their recommendations are subject to approval by the CRD Arts Commission.
- The CRD Arts ~~and Culture Support~~ Development Service is committed to ensuring that the choice of assessors reflects both the diversity of the region and grant applicants and will compensate external assessors who are not part of the Arts Advisory Council, at established assessor compensation rates, to ensure a diversity of viewpoints on each assessment panel.
- Notification of awards may at least 10 weeks following submission.
- Applicant groups are notified of the results of their application after the CRD Arts Commission has reviewed recommendations.
- **Funding cannot support activities that have started or that have been completed before the approval of funds.** Please contact staff if in doubt.
- Eligibility and acceptance of your application does not guarantee funding just as a successful application does not guarantee future support.

### Commitment to Equity

The CRD Arts ~~and Culture Support~~ Development Service is committed to supporting the development of equity in the region’s arts sector. We are taking action to embed values of equity, diversity, inclusion, access, and cultural self-determination into our processes and policies, understanding that these concepts are not a static set of goals, but rather an evolving journey.

The aim of our commitment and these actions is to support the full diversity of artistic and cultural expression in the region. Recognizing that persistent and systemic discrimination has prevented equity-

seeking groups from accessing resources, we are making changes to expand access and remove barriers to our funding. Equity-seeking groups include, but are not limited to, First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, those who are racialized, Deaf people, LGBTQ2+ people, and those with disabilities.

### Process Support

Applicants who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or have a disability and who need support to complete their grant applications can apply for funds to cover the costs of assistance from Service Providers. Up to \$500 is available for each eligible applicant in a calendar year.

Grant recipients who need to develop their Final Report verbally or in Sign language or need other supports can request this through CRD Arts & Culture. The requirement for this support must be directly related to being Deaf or having a disability. This support is a contribution towards the costs of transcription services or Sign language interpretation to enable the recipients to submit their report in written English.

Requests for process support, for either grant applications or final reports, require approval from CRD Arts and Culture. Please contact CRD Arts and Culture at least three weeks before the deadline to determine eligibility, request support funding, and to review the process for payment to be made to your Service Provider.

### Conditions of Funding

- Acknowledge support of the CRD Arts & Culture Support Development Service by including the CRD logo on print and digital promotional material related to the activity, tag @crdartsculture on Facebook, Instagram and Threads, and, whenever possible, acknowledge CRD Arts & Culture verbally. Further guidance for how to acknowledge funding is on our website under “Application Information” at [Apply for an Equity Grant | Capital Regional District](#) or call our office 250.360.3007.
- An Equity Grant must be used for the project for which it was intended.
- Projects must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding.
- ~~Submission of a~~ An Equity Grant final report must be submitted using the provided form within two months of project completion, and prior to submitting a new application to Equity Grants. Contact Arts staff if you wish to submit your report by video or phone call. ~~using the CRD report form or by arranging a phone call or video call to submit a verbal report.~~

In the event the project is not completed, or a final report not submitted, we may request the return of the grant and/or refuse to accept future applications for Equity Grants.

### Inappropriate Behaviour

In order to foster constructive communication and maintain a physically and psychologically safe workplace environment, inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. Specifically, CRD Arts and Culture does not tolerate any form of physical, verbal, or non-verbal abuse, harassment or intimidation of its staff, the Arts Advisory Council, or anyone working or volunteering with its department in any capacity. This includes all communication verbal and non-verbal by phone, by written word (including in grant applications), in person or online, of an abusive nature, including:

- Using language or a tone that is aggressive, antagonistic, and/or vulgar;
- Making direct or indirect threats;
- Making comments of a defamatory or derogatory nature; and
- Communicating with unreasonable or excessive frequency and/or at inappropriate times.

While rare, abusive, aggressive, threatening or vexatious conduct is unacceptable. In those instances, CRD staff may end or alter communication with any applicant.

Inappropriate behaviour could compromise the relationship of the applicant with CRD Arts & Culture and the chances of obtaining its support in the future

### **Deadline**

There is one annual deadline for Equity Grant applications. Please check the website for current information.

### **Submitting an Application**

Provide a digital copy of the complete application by 4:30 pm on the deadline. You will receive confirmation of receipt of your application within two business days. If you will have difficulty meeting this requirement, please contact us at 250.360.3215.

### **Application Checklist**

#### **What to submit:**

- completed self-identification form - pdf
- completed and signed Part A (applicant info & answers to questions) - pdf
- completed Part B (project budget) - excel
- a list of current Board of Directors with full names, residential addresses and Board positions
- Financial Statements (see Financial Statement requirements)
- a copy of your BC not-for-profit Society registration certificate (if not previously submitted)
- for Sponsor Society applicants, an MOU of the payment schedule to the collective, and a list of members of the collective

#### **How to submit:**

1. **Complete** the documents listed in the checklist.
2. **Save** a copy of all documents for your own records.
3. **Email** all documents to: [ApplytoArts@crd.bc.ca](mailto:ApplytoArts@crd.bc.ca)

If you have questions about the application or eligibility of your project, contact CRD Arts & Culture:

Telephone  
250.360.3215

Email  
[artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca](mailto:artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca)

Website  
[Arts Funding | Capital Regional District](#)



## IDEA GRANT Guidelines 2027

### Statement of Purpose

**IDEA** (Innovate, Develop, Experiment, Access) **Grants** is a program of the CRD Arts ~~& Culture Support~~ Development Service. It is a flexible, small-awards program designed to respond to one-time opportunities and to encourage new, innovative, or developmental arts projects and events. IDEA Grants are intended to encourage and support arts participation by organizations that are not eligible for other CRD Arts & Culture Support Service programs.

IDEA Grants support organizations for new projects, opportunities or events that offer a potential arts impact within the capital region. Recurring activities will be considered if they address the main goals of the program which are to be innovative, developmental, experimental, and/or to provide access.

The CRD Arts ~~& Culture Support~~ Development Service is funded by the following jurisdictions: Saanich, Victoria, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, View Royal, Highlands, Metchosin, Sooke, and Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area.

### Eligibility

Applicant organizations must:

1. be a not-for-profit society registered in British Columbia, and in good standing with BC Societies for at least 12 months, with financial statements for a 12-month period.
2. have an active Board of Directors. Voting members of the Board may receive compensation for expenses directly related to Board duties (travel, childcare, etc) but not honoraria for participation or fees for services.
3. be based in one of the jurisdictions that contributes to the Arts & Culture Support Service, as indicated by the organization's registered, physical office address on its BC NFP Society registration document.<sup>1</sup>
4. present their project in a jurisdiction that contributes to the Arts & Culture Support Service.
5. offer a potential arts impact within the Capital Region.

Organizations in arrears with any local authority, are bankrupt, seeking creditor protection, are insolvent, or under court supervision of any kind are ineligible.

### Ineligible Activities

- ~~food, beverages, hospitality, or travel expenses~~
- Projects that do not have a strong focus on presentation to an audience/community
- Equipment purchases or other capital expenditures
- Religious services or fundraising activities
- Scholarships, bursaries, or subsidies for tuition
- Expenses for activities that have already taken place (activities cannot be funded retroactively)

### General

- Guidelines and samples of the application are available online. Contact the Arts ~~& Culture Support~~ Development Service to confirm eligibility and to request a full application package.
- Organizations may only receive one grant in a calendar year for their own purposes (organizations may also apply as a Sponsor Society in Equity Grants).
- Start your application process early. To assist in the success of your application please feel free to contact us at any time during the application process.

<sup>1</sup> Organizations and arts activities located in non-participating jurisdictions (Central Saanich, Colwood, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, Langford, North Saanich, Salt Spring Island Electoral Area, and Sidney) are not eligible for support through this program.

- The maximum grant available through the IDEA Grant program is \$3,000.
- Be brief, concise and use plain language. Write as if you are describing your organization and project to someone who doesn't know anything about you. Do not use additional attachments.
- Ensure your project starts no earlier than June ~~2026~~2027, and ends no later than June ~~2027~~2028.
- Ensure the cash budget and the in-kind budget\* each balance to zero, resulting in an overall balanced budget where "Surplus or Deficit" is zero.

**\*Note:** In-kind contributions are goods and services that would otherwise be purchased with cash but have been donated to the project. Record the values of such donations under in-kind revenue. These donation values must also be recorded under in-kind expenses. The value of your in-kind revenues should equal your in-kind expenses.

**A complete application consists of one copy of each:**

- A completed application form, signed by the person authorizing the application.
- A set of financial statements as per information below.
- A list of your current Board of Directors with addresses, contact information and Board positions.
- A copy of your BC non-profit society registration certificate (if not previously submitted).

**Financial Statements required from the not-for-profit Society making the application:**

<u>Annual Budget Where the previous year's grant from the CRD Arts Development Service was:</u>	Submit the following type of Financial Statements for the most recently completed* financial year:
>\$ <del>750</del> <u>250</u> ,000	Audited
<del>\$300,000</del> <u>50,001</u> - <del>\$750,000</del> <u>249,999</u>	Review Engagement
< \$300,000 <del>\$50,000</del> or less	<p>Compilation Statements with a Notice to Reader (NTR) <u>or Internally Prepared Financial Statements</u></p> <p>Compilation <u>or Internally Prepared</u> Financial Statements may be prepared by any qualified person either internal or external to the organization, such as an accountant, a bookkeeper, Board Treasurer, etc. The Statements must include a balance sheet, statement of revenues and expenses, notes relating to the financial statements where appropriate, and show comparative columns for the most recently completed year and previous year, on the same page.</p> <p>The NTR that accompanies the financial statements states the nature of the assignment, the scope and limitations, a caution to readers, who prepared the report, and the date of preparation.</p>
<\$150,000	<del>Self-generated Financial Statements—must include a balance sheet, and a statement of revenues and expenses, presenting comparative years side by side, in two columns.</del>

~~You are~~The applicant group is responsible for ensuring that the appropriate financial statements are submitted. Applications without appropriate financial statements may be considered incomplete. Contact Arts ~~& Culture Support Service~~s Staff if you have questions.

**Assessment**

- Applications are assessed on three equally weighted categories: Artistic Contribution and

### Significance (33%), Community Impact and Involvement (33%), and Feasibility (33%).

- Applications are assessed by the CRD Arts Advisory Council whose recommendations are subject to approval by the CRD Arts Commission.
- The CRD Arts ~~and Culture Support~~Development Service is committed to ensuring that the choice of assessors reflects both the diversity of the region and grant applicants and will compensate external assessors who are not part of the Arts Advisory Council, at established assessor compensation rates, to ensure a diversity of viewpoints on each assessment panel.
- Notification of awards will take at least 10 weeks following submission. Please plan accordingly.
- Applicants are notified of the results of their application by email after the CRD Arts Commission has reviewed recommendations.
- **Funding cannot support activities that have started or that have been completed before the approval of funds.** Please contact staff if in doubt.
- Eligibility and acceptance of your application does not guarantee funding just as receipt of funding does not guarantee future support.

### **Commitment to Equity**

The CRD Arts ~~and Culture Support~~Development Service is committed to supporting the development of equity in the region's arts sector. We are taking action to embed values of equity, diversity, inclusion, access, and cultural self-determination into our processes and policies, understanding that these concepts are not a static set of goals, but rather an evolving journey.

The aim of our commitment and these actions is to support the full diversity of artistic and cultural expression in the region. Recognizing that persistent and systemic discrimination has prevented equity-seeking groups from accessing resources, we are making changes to expand access and remove barriers to our funding. Equity-seeking groups include, but are not limited to, First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, those who are racialized, Deaf people, LGBTQ2+ people, and those with disabilities.

### **Process Support**

Applicants who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or have a disability and who need support to complete their grant applications can apply for funds to cover the costs of assistance from Service Providers. Up to \$500 is available for each eligible applicant in a calendar year.

Grant recipients who need to develop their Final Report verbally or in Sign language or need other supports can request this through CRD Arts & Culture. The requirement for this support must be directly related to being Deaf or having a disability. This support is a contribution towards the costs of transcription services or Sign language interpretation to enable the recipients to submit their report in written English.

Requests for process support, for either grant applications or final reports, require approval from CRD Arts and Culture. Please contact CRD Arts and Culture at least three weeks before the deadline to determine eligibility, request support funding, and to review the process for payment to be made to your Service Provider.

### **Conditions of Funding**

- Acknowledge support of the CRD Arts ~~& Culture Support~~Development Service by including the CRD logo on print and digital promotional material related to the activity, tag @crdartsculture on Facebook, Instagram and Threads, and, whenever possible, acknowledge CRD Arts & Culture verbally. Further guidance for how to acknowledge funding is on our website under "Application Information" at [Apply for an IDEA Grant | Capital Regional District](#) or contact our office 250.360.3007.
- An IDEA Grant must be used for the activity for which it was requested.
- Activities must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding.
- An IDEA Grant Final Report must be submitted using the provided form within two months of activity completion, and prior to submitting a new application to IDEA Grants.

In the event the activity is not completed, or a final report not submitted, the CRD may request the return of the grant and/or refuse to accept future applications for IDEA Grants.

### **Inappropriate Behaviour**

In order to foster constructive communication and maintain a physically and psychologically safe workplace environment, inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. Specifically, CRD Arts and Culture does not tolerate any form of physical, verbal, or non-verbal abuse, harassment or intimidation of its staff, the Arts Advisory Council, or anyone working or volunteering with its department in any capacity. This includes all communication verbal and non-verbal by phone, by written word (including in grant applications), in person or online, of an abusive nature, including:

- Using language or a tone that is aggressive, antagonistic, and/or vulgar;
- Making direct or indirect threats;
- Making comments of a defamatory or derogatory nature; and
- Communicating with unreasonable or excessive frequency and/or at inappropriate times.

While rare, abusive, aggressive, threatening or vexatious conduct is unacceptable. In those instances, CRD staff may end or alter communication with any applicant.

Inappropriate behaviour could compromise the relationship of the applicant with CRD Arts & Culture and the chances of obtaining its support in the future

### **Deadline**

There is one deadline annually for IDEA Grant applications. Please check the website for current information.

### **Submitting an Application**

A digital copy of the completed application must be received by 4:30 pm on the published deadline. You will receive confirmation of receipt of your application within two business days. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

### **Application Checklist**

#### **What to submit:**

- Completed and signed Part A (applicant info & answers to questions) in pdf format
- completed Part B (budget) in excel format
- List of current Board of Directors with full names, residential addresses and Board positions
- Financial Statements (see Financial Statement requirements)
- Copy of your BC not-for-profit Society registration certificate (if not previously submitted)

#### **How to submit:**

1. **Complete** the documents listed in 'What to Submit'
2. **Save** a copy of all documents to your computer
3. **Email** 'What to Submit' documents to: [ApplytoArts@crd.bc.ca](mailto:ApplytoArts@crd.bc.ca)

If you have questions about the application or eligibility of your project, contact CRD Arts & Culture:

Telephone  
250.360.3215

Email  
[artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca](mailto:artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca)

Website  
[Arts Funding | Capital Regional District](#)



Making a difference...together

Capital Regional District Arts ~~& Culture Support~~Development Service  
**PROJECTS, SERIES & EXTENDED PROGRAMMING GRANT**  
**Guidelines 2027**

### Statement of Purpose

**Projects, Series & Extended Programming Grants** (Project Grants) provide support for emerging or established arts organizations to produce or present one-time projects, a short series of events, or extended programming, taking place over a period of time leading up to the next year's project grant deadlines. Project Grants are not available to organizations receiving assistance through the CRD Operating Grant program.

Project Grant assistance acknowledges that, in order for the arts to remain accessible to the region's audiences and participants, they require an investment of public sector funds. Through an investment in our arts organizations and institutions, the CRD is contributing to the development of a healthy, diverse and vibrant community.

Project Grants provide support to arts organizations of regional significance whose primary mandate is public programming in the arts. The CRD Arts ~~& Culture Support~~Development Service is funded by the following jurisdictions: Saanich, Victoria, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, View Royal, Highlands, Metchosin, Sooke, Southern Gulf Islands.

### Eligibility

Applicants that have not previously received a Project Grant should contact the Arts & Culture Support Service office prior to application to confirm eligibility and discuss their proposal.

Applicant organizations must:

1. be a not-for-profit society registered in British Columbia, and in good standing with BC Societies for at least 12 months, have produced arts events in the past 2 years, and have financial statements for a 12-month period.
2. have programming in the arts as their primary mandate and purpose.
3. have an active Board of Directors; Voting members of the Board may receive compensation for expenses directly related to Board duties (travel, childcare, etc) but not honoraria for participation or fees for services; ~~not receive remuneration of any kind from the applicant organization.~~
4. not have an outstanding final report due from a previously received Project Grant.
5. be based in one of the jurisdictions that contributes to the Arts & Culture Support Service, as indicated by the organization's registered physical office address on its BC NFP Society registration document.<sup>1</sup>
6. have a project that takes place within the contributing jurisdictions.

### Ineligible Organizations

Some organizations or activities are beyond the scope of this grant program, regardless of their merit. Project Grants are not available for individual artists, for programs of civic departments or branches (e.g. libraries or community centres), nor are they intended for the activities of clubs or for organizations whose primary mandate involves social service, religious, sports or educational activities.

Organizations in arrears with any local authority, are bankrupt, seeking creditor protection, are insolvent, or under court supervision of any kind are also ineligible.

Organizations may only apply to receive one CRD granting program arts project-related CRD grant each year (ie Projects, Equity, or IDEA Grant), with the exception that o- Organizations that apply to CRD Projects Grants at the January deadline and are not successful may apply again at the April deadline.

<sup>1</sup> Organizations and arts activities located in non-participating jurisdictions (Central Saanich, Colwood, Juan de Fuca Electoral Area, Langford, North Saanich, Salt Spring Island Electoral Area, and Sidney) are not eligible for support through this program.

Organizations applying for a Project Grant may also apply to the Grow Forward program for support for mentoring, planning, and capacity building.

**Ineligible Activities**

- Projects that do not have a strong focus on presentation to an audience/community
- Scholarships, contests and competitions
- Conferences, workshops and other forms of training
- Equipment purchases or other major capital expenditures
- ~~Food, beverages and other hospitality costs~~ Touring, ~~travel expenses~~, or tourism promotion
- Elimination or reduction of accumulated deficits
- Expenses for events or activities that have already taken place

**General**

- Guidelines and samples of the application are available online. Contact the Arts ~~& Culture~~ Support/Development Service to confirm eligibility and to request a full application package.
- Organizations that receive a Projects or Equity grant in the current year may also receive a Grow Forward grant. ~~Operating Grant clients may not apply to Grow Forward in this pilot year.~~ All non-profit organizations may also apply as a Sponsor Society in Equity Grants.
- Start your application process early. To assist in the success of your application please feel free to contact us at any time during the application process.
- Be brief, concise and use plain language. Write as if you are describing your organization and project to someone who doesn't know anything about you. Do not use additional attachments.
- Ensure your project starts no earlier than April ~~2026~~ 2027 and ends no later than April ~~2027~~ 2028.
- Ensure the cash budget and the in-kind budget\* each balance to zero, resulting in an overall balanced budget where "Surplus or Deficit" is zero.

**\*Note:** In-kind contributions are goods and services that would otherwise be purchased with cash but have been donated to the project. Record the values of such donations under in-kind revenue. These donation values must also be recorded under in-kind expenses. The value of your in-kind revenues should equal your in-kind expenses.

**Financial Statements required from the not-for-profit society making the application:**

<p><b><u>Annual-Budget</u></b>  <b><u>Where the previous year's grant form the CRD Arts Development Service was:</u></b></p>	<p><b>Submit one of the following type of Financial Statements for the most recently completed financial year:</b></p>
<p>&gt;<del>\$750</del> <u>250,000</u></p>	<p>Audited</p>
<p><del>\$300,000</del> <u>50,001 - \$249,999</u> - <del>\$750,000</del></p>	<p>Review Engagement</p>

<p><del>\$150,000— \$300,000</del> <u>50,000 or less</u></p>	<p>Compilation Statements with a Notice to Reader <u>or Internally Prepared Financial Statements</u> Compilation <u>or Internally Prepared</u> Financial Statements may be prepared by any qualified person either internal or external to the organization, such as an accountant, a bookkeeper, Board Treasurer, etc. The Statements must include a balance sheet, statement of revenues and expenses, notes relating to the financial statements, and show comparative columns for the most recently completed year and previous year, on the same page.</p> <p>The NTR that accompanies the financial statements states the nature of the assignment, the scope and limitations, a caution to readers, who prepared the report, and the date of preparation.</p>
<p><del>&lt;\$150,000</del></p>	<p><del><b>Self-generated Financial Statements</b>— must include a balance sheet, and a statement of revenues and expenses, presenting comparative years side by side, in two columns.</del></p>

The applicant group is responsible for ensuring that the appropriate financial statements are submitted. Applications without appropriate financial statements may be considered incomplete. Contact Arts Staff if you have questions.

Organizations having outstanding or incomplete CRD Project Grants may be eligible to apply at the discretion of the Manager of the Arts ~~& Culture Support~~Development Service. Payment of any additional Project Grant awards will be conditional upon receipt of a satisfactory Final Report on the outstanding project.

### Evaluation

Consideration will be given to:

- a demonstrated ability to carry out the project.
- the capacity of participants to achieve the artistic goals of the project.
- the appropriateness of the project budget. Applicants are encouraged to develop diverse sources of revenue such as ticket sales, donations, support from foundations, other levels of government, etc.
- the impact on the development of the arts in the capital region.
- the contribution to the artistic development of artists, the art form and to the organization itself.
- the needs of other applications received at the same deadline.

### Assessment

- Applications are assessed on three equally weighted categories: Artistic Contribution and Significance (33%), Community Impact and Involvement (33%), and Feasibility (33%).
- Applications are assessed by the CRD Arts Advisory Council whose recommendations are subject to ratification by the CRD Arts Commission.
- The CRD Arts ~~and Culture Support~~Development Service is committed to ensuring that the choice of assessors reflects both the diversity of the region and grant applicants and will compensate external assessors who are not part of the Arts Advisory Council, at established assessor compensation rates, to ensure a diversity of viewpoints on each assessment panel.
- Applicants are notified of the results of their applications by email following approval by the CRD Arts Commission.
- Notification can take at least ten weeks following the deadline. **Funding cannot support activities that have started or that have been completed before the approval of funds.** Please contact staff if in doubt.
- Eligibility and acceptance of your application or receipt of previous grants does not guarantee future or ongoing funding.

## Commitment to Equity

The CRD Arts and Culture Support Service is committed to supporting the development of equity in the region's arts sector. We are taking action to embed values of equity, diversity, inclusion, access, and cultural self-determination into our processes and policies, understanding that these concepts are not a static set of goals, but rather an evolving journey.

The aim of our commitment and these actions is to support the full diversity of artistic and cultural expression in the region. Recognizing that persistent and systemic discrimination has prevented equity-seeking groups from accessing resources, we are making changes to expand access and remove barriers to our funding. Equity-seeking groups include, but are not limited to, First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, those who are racialized, Deaf people, LGBTQ2+ people, and those with disabilities.

## Process Support

Applicants who are Deaf, hard of hearing or have a disability and need support to complete their grant applications can apply for funds to cover the costs of assistance from Service Providers. Up to \$500 is available for each eligible applicant in a calendar year.

Grant recipients who need to develop their Final Report verbally or in Sign language or need other supports can request this through CRD Arts & Culture. The requirement for this support must be directly related to being Deaf or having a disability. This support is a contribution towards the costs of transcription services or Sign language interpretation to enable the recipients to submit their report in written English.

Requests for process support, for either grant applications or final reports, require approval from CRD Arts and Culture. Please contact CRD Arts and Culture at least three weeks before the deadline to determine eligibility, request support funding, and to review the process for payment to be made to your Service Provider.

## Conditions of Funding

- Acknowledge support of the CRD Arts ~~& Culture Support~~Development Service by including the CRD logo on print and digital promotional material related to the activity, tag @crdartsculture on Facebook, Instagram and Threads, and, whenever possible, acknowledge CRD Arts & Culture verbally. Further guidance for how to acknowledge funding is on our website under "Application Information" at [Apply for a Project Grant | Capital Regional District](#) or contact our office 250.360.3007.
- Project Grants must be used for the project for which they were requested.
- Projects must be completed within 12 months of receipt of funding.
- A Project Grant Final Report must be submitted using the provided form within two months of completion of the project, and prior to submitting a new application to Project Grants. Contact the office to request updated report forms.
- Grant recipients may submit one or more high-quality digital photos of the event to [artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca](mailto:artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca). Images **may** be included in the CRD website, social media, presentations, and other promotional materials to represent arts activity in the CRD; provide photo credit if required.

Organizations should notify Arts ~~& Culture Support~~Development Service staff if there are significant changes to the timing or nature of a funded project. In the event the project is not completed and/or a final report not submitted, the CRD may request the return of the grant and/or consider future applications to be ineligible.

## Inappropriate Behaviour

In order to foster constructive communication and maintain a physically and psychologically safe workplace environment, inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. Specifically, CRD Arts and Culture does not tolerate any form of physical, verbal, or non-verbal abuse, harassment or intimidation of its staff, the Arts

Advisory Council, or anyone working or volunteering with its department in any capacity. This includes all communication verbal and non-verbal by phone, by written word (including in grant applications), in person or online, of an abusive nature, including:

- Using language or a tone that is aggressive, antagonistic, and/or vulgar;
- Making direct or indirect threats;
- Making comments of a defamatory or derogatory nature; and
- Communicating with unreasonable or excessive frequency and/or at inappropriate times.

While rare, abusive, aggressive, threatening or vexatious conduct is unacceptable. In those instances, CRD staff may end or alter communication with any applicant.

Inappropriate behaviour could compromise the relationship of the applicant with CRD Arts & Culture and the chances of obtaining its support in the future

### **Deadlines**

There are two application intakes each year. Please check the website for current information.

### **Submitting an Application**

A digital copy of the completed application must be received by 4:30 pm on the published deadline.

You will receive confirmation of receipt of your application within two business days.

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

### **Application Checklist**

#### **What to submit:**

- completed and signed Part A (applicant info & answers to questions) in pdf format
- completed Part B (budget pages) in excel format
- a list of current Board of Directors with full names, residential addresses, Board positions
- a copy of annual Financial Statements per the Project Grant Guidelines (see p.2)
- a copy of the organization's BC non-profit Society registration certificate (if not previously submitted)

#### **How to submit:**

**1. Complete** all materials listed in 'What to Submit'

**2. Save** a copy of Parts A & B to your computer

**3. Email** 'What to Submit' documents to: [Applytoarts@crd.bc.ca](mailto:Applytoarts@crd.bc.ca)

If you have questions about the application or eligibility of your project, contact CRD Arts & Culture staff:

Telephone  
250.360.3215

Email  
[artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca](mailto:artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca)

Website  
[Arts Funding | Capital Regional District](#)

# 2024–2027 Strategic Plan Implementation Timeline

CRD Arts & Culture Support Service | Updated June 2026

PRIORITY:	GOAL:	ACTION:	IMPLEMENTATION:															
			2024				2025				2026				2027			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
CHAMPION	Goal 1: Scale up participation	Action A: Advocate for regional approach	Ongoing															
		Action B: Recruit new participants	Ongoing															
	Goal 2: Value of arts awareness	Action A: Collaborate w/ arts orgs	Research & Planning (Q1-Q2 2024) → AAC & AC Review (Q3-Q4 2024) → Implementation (Q1-Q4 2025-2027)															
		Action B: Share research on arts impact	Research & Planning (Q1-Q2 2024) → AAC & AC Review (Q3-Q4 2024) → Implementation (Q1-Q4 2025-2027)															
CONNECT	Goal 3: Boost org development	Action A: Support mentoring	Research & Planning (Q1-Q2 2024) → AAC & AC Review (Q3-Q4 2024) → Implementation (Q1-Q4 2025-2027)															
		Action B: Enhance networking & convening	Research & Planning (Q1-Q2 2024) → AAC & AC Review (Q3-Q4 2024) → Implementation (Q1-Q4 2025-2027)															
	Goal 4: Connect arts organizations to funding	Action A: Roadmap for infrastructure grants	Research & Planning (Q1-Q2 2026) → AAC & AC Review (Q3-Q4 2026) → Implementation (Q1-Q4 2027)															
CULTIVATE	Goal 5: Support sustainable growth	Action A: Funding for planning and capacity	Research & Planning (Q1-Q2 2024) → AAC & AC Review (Q3-Q4 2024) → Implementation (Q1-Q4 2025-2027)															
		Action B: Review of Incubator Grants	Research & Planning (Q1-Q2 2024) → AAC & AC Review (Q3-Q4 2024) → Implementation (Q1-Q4 2025)															
		Action C: Emphasis on regional distribution	Crosscutting Lens – applied to all initiatives															
	Goal 6: Align funding to community needs	Action A: Review of Equity/IDEA/Projects	Research & Planning (Q1-Q2 2026) → AAC & AC Review (Q3-Q4 2026) → Implementation (Q1-Q4 2027)															
EXTEND	Goal 7: Invest in underserved communities	Action A: Build on EDI momentum	Crosscutting Lens – applied to all initiatives															
	Goal 8: Reduce barriers to access	Action A: Support for youth arts	Research & Planning (Q1-Q2 2026) → AAC & AC Review (Q3-Q4 2026) → Implementation (Q1-Q4 2027)															
		Action B: Review of Operating Grants	Research & Planning (Q1-Q2 2024) → AAC & AC Review (Q3-Q4 2024) → Implementation (Q1-Q4 2025-2027)															
ENGAGE	Goal 9: Resources for grant applicants	Action A: Design Comms & Outreach Plan	Research & Planning (Q1-Q2 2024) → AAC & AC Review (Q3-Q4 2024) → Implementation (Q1-Q4 2025)															
		Action B: Grant-writing workshops	Research & Planning (Q1-Q2 2024) → AAC & AC Review (Q3-Q4 2024) → Implementation (Q1-Q4 2025-2027)															
	Goal 10: Enhance branding of Arts Service	Action A: Review of name and brand	Research & Planning (Q1-Q2 2025) → AAC & AC Review (Q3-Q4 2025) → Implementation (Q1-Q4 2026-2027)															
PROCESS FOR NEXT STRATEGIC PLAN			Research & Planning (Q1-Q2 2027)															

● Ongoing    
 ● Research & Planning    
 ● AAC & AC Review    
 ● Implementation    
     Crosscutting Lens – applied to all initiatives



Making a difference...together

## REPORT TO ARTS COMMISSION MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026

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**SUBJECT**     **CRD Arts Development: 2025 Impact Report**

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

The *CRD Arts Development: 2025 Impact Report* has been completed and is ready for review by the CRD Arts Commission before being forwarded to the CRD Board for information, distributed to councils, and made available to the public.

### **BACKGROUND**

Produced annually, the *CRD Arts Development Impact Report* provides a glimpse into the social, economic, and artistic impact of the CRD Arts Development Service. From 2018 to 2021, this report was called a Progress Report. In 2022, after an organization-wide review, it was renamed to “Impact Report,” which more accurately reflects its purpose as an outreach initiative to show the impact of CRD arts funding. The 2025 Impact Report will be distributed widely, leveraging CRD digital platforms, including mailing lists, e-newsletters, and social media.

By advancing the annual Impact Report and recipient list to the CRD Board, the Arts Commission fulfills its statutory requirement to provide information on which organizations have received grants and the amounts of those awards, as well as raising awareness about the positive impact the CRD arts funding is having across the region.

The 2025 Impact Report presents information through infographics, statistics, images, quotes, and stories around two broad themes: 1) the economic impact of the CRD Arts Development Service’s investment in arts organizations and activities, and 2) the qualitative impact of funding, including a section of the report that highlights how funding has activated Indigenous arts projects and community collaborations that empowered cultural self-determination across the region.

The 2025 Impact Report also highlights the first-ever national Arts Vibrancy Index. This index, produced by the business data lab of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, compared 22 census metropolitan areas (CMA) across Canada according to nine socio-economic factors, related to the arts. The Greater Victoria CMA, which includes all municipalities in the CRD, ranked #1 in the country, indicating the remarkable economic and social vibrancy of the region’s arts eco-system.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

#### *Alternative 1*

The Arts Commission recommends to the CRD Board that staff distribute the *CRD Arts Development: 2025 Impact Report* to all councils and electoral area directors to raise awareness about the positive impact of the Arts Development Service throughout the capital region.

#### *Alternative 2*

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

**IMPLICATIONS**

The 2025 Impact Report will be distributed to councils of participating and non-participating jurisdictions, as well as the directors of the CRD Board. The report will be distributed to the regional arts community and broader public through links in the CRD Arts e-newsletter (which has over 800 subscribers), social media, and the CRD website.

To limit the environmental impact of printing, grant recipients are provided with a link to the Impact Report as a digital asset with the option to request a physical copy if they require it.

**CONCLUSION**

The 2025 Impact Report provides a glimpse into the crucial impact of CRD Arts Development grant funding and outreach activities. Once reviewed by the CRD Arts Commission and CRD Board, the report will be distributed to all jurisdictions and published on the CRD website.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Arts Commission recommends to the CRD Board that staff distribute the *CRD Arts Development: 2025 Impact Report* to all councils and electoral area directors to raise awareness about the positive impact of the Arts Development Service throughout the capital region.

Submitted by:	Chris Gilpin, MPA, Manager, Arts & Culture
Concurrence:	Varinia Somosan, CPA, CGA, Acting Chief Financial Officer and Acting General Manager, Finance & Technology
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Appendix A: CRD Arts Development: 2025 Impact Report
- Appendix B: List of 2025 Grant Recipients
- Presentation: CRD Arts Development: 2025 Impact Report

# 2025 Impact Report



Arts Development



## TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The CRD conducts its business within the Territories of many First Nations, including but not limited to BOKÉCEN (Pauquachin), MÁLEXEĒ (Malahat), paaʔčiidʔatx (Pacheedaht), Spuneʼluxutth (Penelakut), Scʼianew (Beecher Bay), Songhees, STÁUTW (Tsawout), TʼSou-ke, WJOĒĒĒP (Tsartlip), WSIKEM (Tseycum), and xʷsepsum (Kosapsum) Nations, all of whom have a long-standing relationship with the land and waters from time immemorial that continues to this day.

We are committed to respectfully and appropriately engaging these First Nations in regional arts and culture strategies, decision-making and shared interests, recognizing that the attitudes, policies and institutions of colonization have changed Indigenous peoples' longstanding relationships with their artistic and cultural practices.



# Organizational Overview

**The Capital Regional District** (CRD) delivers regional, sub-regional and local services to 13 municipalities and three electoral areas on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Governed by a 24-member Board of Directors, the CRD works collaboratively with First Nations and all levels of government to enable sustainable growth, foster community well-being, and develop cost-effective infrastructure, while continuing to provide core services to residents throughout the region.

**The CRD Arts Development Service** (the Arts Service) is a sub-regional service supported by nine jurisdictions providing grants to non-profit organizations for the development of local arts programming, creating artistic, social and economic benefits for the region.

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All photos within this report are provided (with our thanks) courtesy of grant recipients.  
Cover: Poet Hari Alluri reading for Galiano Literary festival at the Yellowhouse Arts Centre. Photo: Kelsey Maclean.

## Message from the Arts Advisory Council Chair

As we look back at 2025, I reflect with gratitude on the opportunity to serve on the Arts Advisory Council both as a long-standing member and as Chair. It has been a privilege to work alongside the thoughtful, committed individuals who bring diverse perspectives and experiences, and a shared belief in the importance of the arts.

Last year, the Arts Advisory Council once again undertook the work of grant adjudication, reviewing an increasing volume of applications. The broad range of artistic practices, communities served, and creative approaches not only demonstrates the resilience of the local arts sector, but also its continued ambition, relevance and necessity.

We were proud to support so many innovative projects with a record level of arts funding. We attended many of the arts events funded by these grants and this experience reinforced our conviction of how impressive and diverse the arts scene in the region has become.

A key component of this cultural diversity are the many varieties of traditional, contemporary, and hybrid Indigenous arts practices. In this Impact Report, we're highlighting a few of the many significant projects funded by these grant



programs that empower Indigenous voices and support cultural self-determination. Support for Indigenous arts is a major component of the Arts Service's commitment to equity and continues to be a key consideration in our policy discussions and grant adjudication deliberations.

We are also acutely aware of the broader context in which our work takes place. Economic pressures continue to shape the conditions under which artists and arts organizations operate. The Arts Advisory Council is committed to remaining responsive, attentive, and open to learning, ensuring that our advice and advocacy remain grounded in the experiences of the arts community.

Sarah **REID**  
Chair, CRD Arts Advisory Council

## Message from the Arts Commission Chair

As we move through 2026, the Arts Development Service continues to build momentum around the implementation of its 2024–2027 Strategic Plan. Years of planning, consultation, and collaboration have translated into clear direction, guiding how we support artists and arts organizations across the region. It has been rewarding to see this shared vision actively shaping priorities, strengthening partnerships, and informing meaningful progress.

A central focus of this work has been the ongoing evolution of our funding programs. Informed by community feedback and program review, the CRD has expanded its support to better reflect the realities facing the arts sector. The new Grow Forward Grant Program adds crucial funding for capacity-building, and the new Performing Arts Facilities Service – a separate initiative from the Arts Development Service but also delivered by the CRD – achieves the long-standing goal of regional support for regional theatres. These innovative programs represent a shift toward a more holistic approach for the challenges facing the local arts ecosystem that better supports its long-term sustainability.

The commission was also gratified to see our region ranked first overall in the new nation-wide Arts Vibrancy index pro-



duced by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. This significant achievement did not occur by accident. It is the result of decades of strategic investment in local creative talent by programs like the Arts Development Service as well as a sustained commitment by the CRD to the essential role the arts play in enriching our lives and fostering connection, belonging, and resilience in our communities.

Looking ahead, the Arts Commission remains committed to cultivating a cultural landscape that is inclusive, sustainable, and responsive. By continuing to listen, adapt, and advocate, we aim to ensure the arts remain a vital source of creativity, reflection, and connection in our communities.

Marianne **ALTO**  
Chair, CRD Arts Commission

# Supporting The Region's Arts

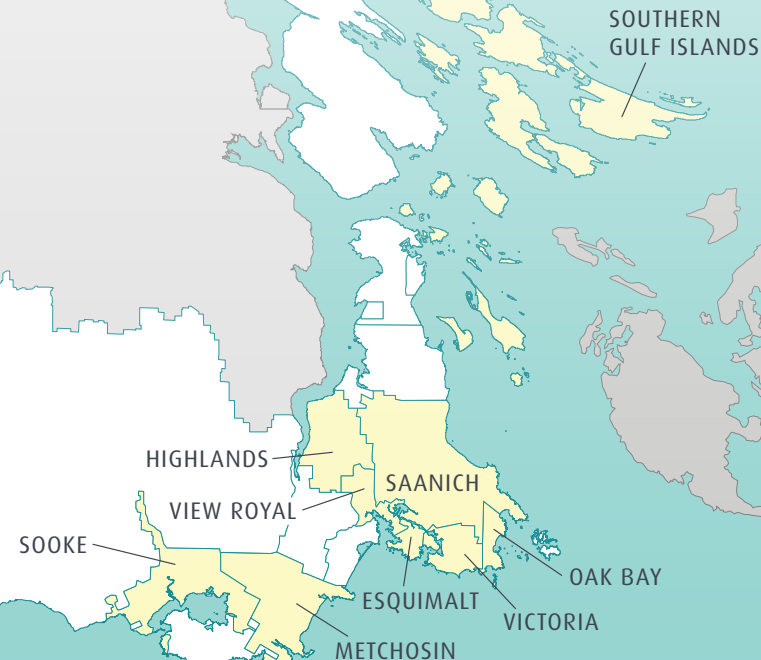
CRD Arts Development Service is a sub-regional service that distributes grants to non-profit organizations to develop local arts programming. Supported by nine jurisdictions, funding creates artistic, social and economic benefits for the region. Through outreach, the Arts Service fosters collaboration between arts organizations, funders and audiences.

**Our mission:** To support, champion & develop the arts.

**Our vision:** The arts are key drivers of community vitality, economic sustainability, and quality of life across the region, and artists and arts organizations are thriving, resilient, and well-supported.

Nearly **70%** of the region's population lives within one of the nine participating jurisdictions:

- Participating jurisdictions
- Non-Participating jurisdictions



## State of the Arts

### OUR REGION RANKS #1 IN THE COUNTRY FOR ARTS VIBRANCY

The Arts Vibrancy Index is a new tool used to track the impact of Canadian arts communities on local economic activity. Most closely representing our region, the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area ranked #1 in the country, indicating both a thriving local arts community and broader economic activity.<sup>1</sup> Find the full report online: [www.businessandarts.org/art-vibrancy-index/](http://www.businessandarts.org/art-vibrancy-index/). Key takeaways include:



**Creative intensity drives arts vibrancy, not population size**

Communities with high arts participation, strong presence in the business ecosystem, and ripe economic conditions rank higher in the index<sup>1</sup>



**Arts and culture are central to higher quality of life**

They help participants to foster connections, gain new perspectives, and build a sense of belonging in their communities<sup>1</sup>



**Arts improve other aspects of economy and society**

Including social cohesion, wellbeing, talent attraction, urban development, innovation, creative economy stimulation, and more<sup>1</sup>



**Arts and culture drive talent retention outcomes in cities**

Cities that create engaging cultural experiences, nurture local identity, and foster urban vibrancy are more likely to retain people<sup>1</sup>



~\$9 in GDP generated by the cultural sector for every dollar invested by governments<sup>2</sup>



63% increase in arts, culture, heritage, and sport workers in Victoria CMA\* since 2013<sup>3</sup>



Concentration of artists and cultural workers in the CRD within 10 highest in Canada<sup>4</sup>



75% of Canadians believe that attending arts events positively impacts their sense of belonging<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Business / Arts, Arts Vibrancy Index, 2026.

<sup>2</sup> Hill Strategies, Government investment in culture: Comparisons with other indicators, 2025.

<sup>3</sup> Hill Strategies, Smaller metropolitan areas had the highest cultural workforce increase over the past dozen years, 2026.

<sup>4</sup> Hill Strategies, Many parts of B.C.'s Capital Regional District have very high concentrations of artists and other cultural workers, 2025.



Amanda Lisman as The Moon in Puente Theatre's *Blood Wedding: The Forest Remembers*. Photo: Helene Cyr.

Operating Grant | Victoria

# Strategic Plan Progress Highlights

Approved in the fall of 2023 after extensive community consultation, the Arts Service's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan plan included five strategic priorities. In 2025, we've made significant progress on the each of the supporting goals and actions below. Find the full plan on our website at [www.crd.ca/arts](http://www.crd.ca/arts).

## CHAMPION – ADVOCATING FOR THE ARTS



- › Continued to highlight benefits of the Arts Service across the region through communications
- › Supported sectoral promotion and recognition through the Greater Victoria Regional Arts awards
- › Implemented Impact Stories series to demonstrate value of the arts with qualitative data

## CONNECT – ENHANCING COLLABORATION



- › Implemented new Grow Forward Grant program to support sectoral collaboration
- › Hosted networking and convening event: 2025 Arts Champions Summit

## CULTIVATE – DEVELOPING THE ARTS ECOSYSTEM



- › Retired the Incubator grant program
- › Implemented the new Grow Forward Grant program to support planning and capacity-building
- › Received record-high number of applications
- › Awarded record-high funding amount (\$2.8 million)



## EXTEND – BROADENING THE SCOPE OF IMPACT

- › Continued training to provide more accessible service and resources to grant applicants
- › Developed arts career pathways resources to support youth in the arts sector
- › Completed program review of Operating Grant program



## ENGAGE – SHARING OUR STORY AND LEARNING

- › Implemented new Communications & Outreach plan for the Arts Service
- › Conducted information sessions for over 100 prospective grant applicants

# 2025 Funding Impact

**\$2.81 M**

invested in the arts (record high!)

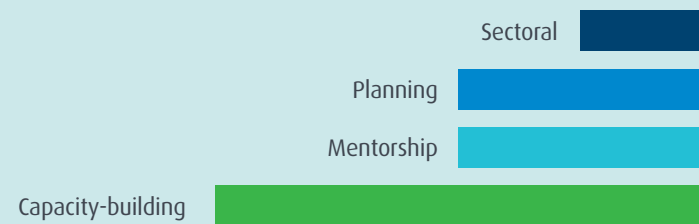
**15,850+**

arts events and performances activated by our grant recipients across the region



## 9 Grow Forward Grant Projects (new!)

Creating forward-facing, lasting impact to help the arts sector to grow



The Grow Forward Grant Program provides funding to arts organizations for capacity-building, planning, mentorships, sectoral initiatives, and the process of investigating, identifying, planning and executing significant and strategic adaptations in their operations.



Number of grants distributed:

**100**

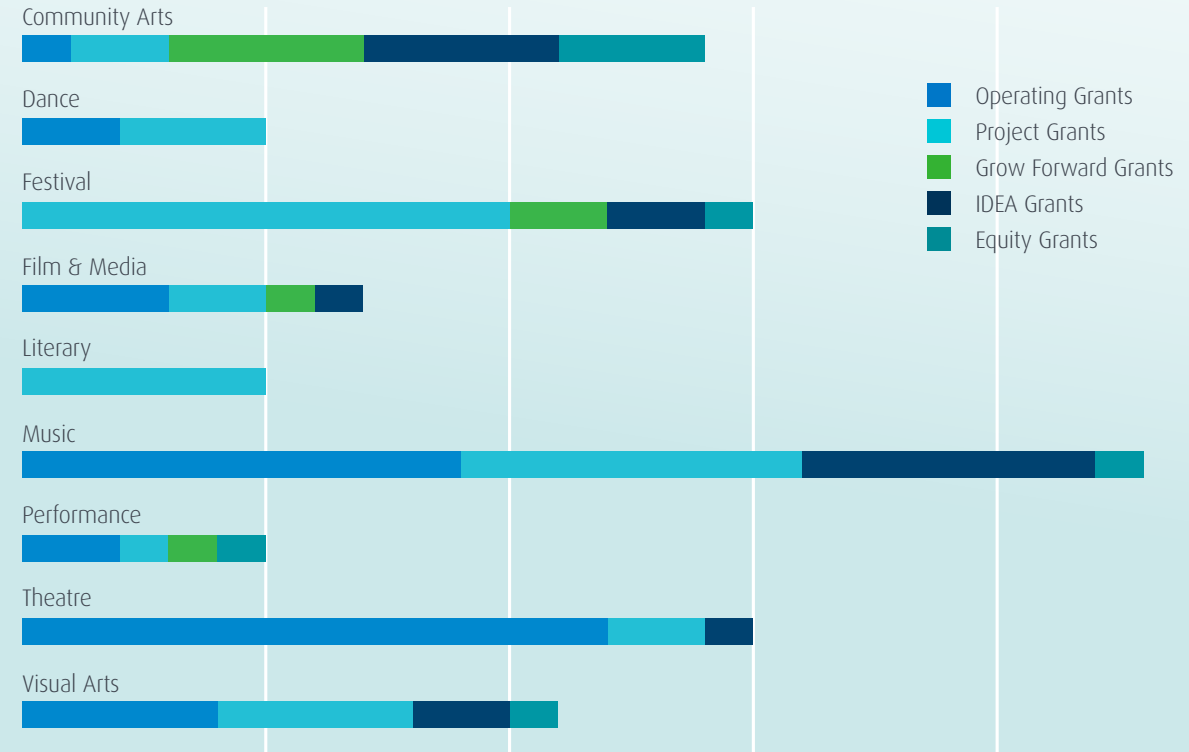


## Outreach Milestones

168 grant applicants  
125 workshop registrants  
2840+ social media followers

7+ local news article features  
1446 e-newsletter subscribers  
4th biennial Arts Champions Summit

## Distribution of grants by discipline and program:



**95**

organizations supported



**12**

new grant recipients



**60%**

applicant success rate

# Impact Stories: Celebrating Indigenous Arts

The qualitative impact of funding is often most effectively conveyed through storytelling. This year, we are highlighting programming that celebrated indigenous arts and self-determination across the region.



Tah'lum Indigenous Artists Collective Showcase

## TAH'LUM COLLECTIVE SHOWCASE

Tah'lum Indigenous Artists Collective | Equity Grant

The Tah'lum Indigenous Artists Collective is a provincial non-profit organization based in traditional lək̓ʷəŋən territories dedicated to fostering connection, mutual support, and artistic growth among members. The Collective builds on the strength, passion and resourcefulness of Indigenous artists, allies and institutional partners.

The mandate of the collective is three-fold: to nurture the artistic practices of Indigenous artists; to build a sustainable infrastructure for the creation, production, presentation and documentation of Indigenous arts; and to cultivate relationships with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to develop critical discourses on contemporary art.

This was the collective's second exhibition showcasing the works created during their time together. The artists challenged themselves by producing new and experimental works, exploring hide tanning, backstrap sinew production, porcupine quill harvesting, Coast Salish formline tutorials, and natural dye workshops.

The exhibition was a small sample of what can happen when a community of Indigenous artists show up for each other and have space to learn, grow, & create together, fostering conversations with Elders and facilitating connections with other Indigenous artists.



Atheana Picha, J'SINTEN and W̱SÁNEĆ relatives at Atheana's exhibition opening

## XWII XWA ATHEANA PICHA ART EXHIBIT

Campbell Bay Music Festival | Project Grant

Atheana Picha is an interdisciplinary Salish artist from the Kwantlen First Nation whose practice is grounded in learning more about Salish design through studying the old pieces, observing nature, and learning from her elders and teachers. Campbell Bay Music Festival's third annual Salish art exhibit, XWII XWA highlighted Atheana's work in serigraph, intaglio print, digital drawing, weaving, and painting on hide and on wood.

At the opening of her exhibit at the Mayne Island Library, Atheana was able to establish new connections with her W̱SÁNEĆ relatives, including Elder J'SINTEN, who delivered opening remarks. The exhibition helped increase the visibility of her work both within and beyond the community. On the final day of Atheana's six-week exhibition at the Library, CBC broadcast an interview between the Atheana and *North by Northwest's* Margaret Gallagher. This media exposure led to a listener traveling to visit the exhibit and purchasing one of Atheana's triptychs.



J'SINTEN and Atheana Picha talking about her work

## AN EVENING FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION: MUSIC, ART, AND DIALOGUE

Victoria Conservatory of Music | Operating Grant

“This year marks ten years since the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action. It is more important than ever to keep the dialogue alive and thriving in our community,” says Ry Moran. “Music and the arts are so important in helping continue this journey.”

The Victoria Conservatory of Music’s *Evening for Truth and Reconciliation* event featured performances, conversation, and collaborative artmaking co-hosted by Hip hop artist and filmmaker Nikky Ermineskin (Nikky E) and Ry Moran, guest faculty in Music and Reconciliation at the Conservatory.

Musical performers included Cedar Lopateck, flutist Tyler Evans-Knott, singer-songwriter Colleen Eccleston, and Good Medicine, a group of Indigenous youth sharing their culture through drumming, dancing, and song. Visual artists Bradley Dick (Yuxwelupton Qwal’ qaxala), Francis Dick and Jesse Campbell also contributed their work.

“Reconciliation lives in action. By uplifting Indigenous youth,” says Nikky Ermineskin, “we are not only empowering the present — we are sustaining the culture, language, art and music that have carried us through generations. This is how we honour Truth and Reconciliation in a living, breathing way.”

Flutist Tyler Evans-Knott performing at Alix Goolden Performance Hall. Photo: Kyran Basu.



## ETUAPTMUMK / TWO-EYED SEEING

Yellowhouse Arts Centre | Project Grant

*Etuaptmumk* or *Two-Eyed Seeing* is a concept created by leading environmental voice and Mi’kmaq Elder Advisor Albert Marshall. He describes the concept as “learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledge and ways of knowing and learning to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all.”

Led by Coast Salish/Sahtu Dene artist Rosemary Georgeson and her creative collaborator, theatre artist Lara Aysal, the exhibition fostered dialogue between Indigenous knowledge holders and youth on the climate crisis. The multi-media Installation highlighted the transfer of knowledge through film, photo journals, interactive displays, storytelling, elements of Mother Earth, and facilitated workshops.

## LƏLÉ?NƏŃ LISTENING-WITH

Open Space Arts Society | Operating Grant

Open Space’s *Lələ?nəŃ Listening-With* was a six-week series of events that gave space and time for asking how our personal, ancestral, and professional experiences and realities affect how we listen, and how we sound, specifically within the territories of the ɫəkʷəŋəŋ peoples.

The series created imaginative settings to engage in local First Nations knowledge, including workshops focusing on traditional storytelling and reflection, open conversations led by artists, audio works, and offerings from local Indigenous community members. This series stepped outside conventional music and sound programming, asking what unique ways do the land and waters of this place resonate, vibrate, and sound? How might they influence us?



Galiano School visit to the *Etuaptmumk* exhibition



*Sonic Offerings for Here* outdoor installation for *Listening-With*



Cedar hat weaving workshop participants at the AGGV

### TRADITIONAL CEDAR WEAVING WORKSHOP

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria | Operating Grant

This workshop offered a meaningful opportunity to listen to the teachings of Jessica Sault, Nuu-chah-nulth from the Tseshaht First Nation, and Cheyanne Tinoco from the Cowichan Nation, whose knowledge is deeply rooted in the cultural practice of cedar weaving.

Participants also reflected on the works of Ursula Johnson, a Mi'kmaq artist whose practice emphasizes the power of intergenerational learning and cultural continuum, enriching our understanding of Indigenous ways of being, seeing, and walking. This workshop is just one example of the AGGV's commitment to centering indigenous voices and perspectives.

### F1RST: A CELEBRATION OF INDIGENOUS FILMS

Victoria Film Festival | Operating Grant

During June 2025, the Victoria Film Festival (VFF) presented its 2nd annual *F1RST: A Celebration of Indigenous Film*. Purposefully ambitious in both scope and vision, the program featured twelve screenings of feature films by Indigenous filmmakers working in Canada which were presented along with six workshops for youth and emerging Indigenous artists.

*F1RST* is a major cultural event dedicated to showcasing the incredible depth, diversity, and impact of filmmaking by Indigenous artists, storytellers, and creators from around the world. It serves as an essential platform that elevates Indigenous voices, allowing them to tell their own stories, in their own words, and through their own unique lenses. Outreach and marketing efforts were done with the goal of forming meaningful connections with Indigenous communities across South Vancouver Island.



Talkback with *Sweet Summer Pow Wow* filmmakers

### DANCERS OF DAMELAHAMID

Dance Victoria | Operating Grant

In January 2025, Dance Victoria presented a sold-out performance of *Dancers of Damelahamid*, a BC Indigenous dance company founded upon over five decades of extensive work in song and dance revitalization. Co-commissioned by Dance Victoria, *Raven Mother* is a newly choreographed dance work in honour of late Elder Margaret Harris (1931–2020), who had a significant impact on the revitalization of Indigenous dance along the Northwest Coast.

The work illuminates the integral role of women in holding cultural knowledge. In *Raven Mother*, striking handcrafted traditional masks, movement, song, regalia, sculpture, and design are all interwoven with the embodied narrative. It is the company's most ambitious production to date and will be the culmination of generations of artistic and cultural work.

"A visually striking performance that blends customary Indigenous dance forms with modern media" said reviewer Istvan Dugalin, "The overall effect is stunning."

Beyond the company's performance, Artistic Director Margaret Grenier led an Indigenous movement workshop for 25 students at a local elementary school. A post-show chat with the company, moderated by University of Victoria Assistant Professor of Indigenous Arts, Dr. Mique'l Dangeli, further deepened audience engagement and understanding and was attended by approximately 200 people.

Promotional photo of Dancers of Damelahamid in *Raven Mother*. Photo: Chris Randle.



# 2025 Grant Recipients

**EQ** EQUITY GRANT  
**GF** GROW FORWARD GRANT

**ID** IDEA GRANT  
**OG** OPERATING GRANT

**PG** PROJECT GRANT  
**\*** NEW RECIPIENT



Active/Passive Performance Society **PG**



Belfry Theatre **OG**



Blue Bridge Theatre Society **PG**



Campbell Bay Music Festival Society **PG**



Caravan World Rhythms Society **PG**



Afro Latin Cultural Exchange **PG, GF**



Amber Academy Youth Fine Arts **ID**



Art Gallery of Greater Victoria **OG**



ArtisTREE Festival Society **PG**



CineVic **OG**



Creative Momenta Society **GF**



Dance Victoria **OG**



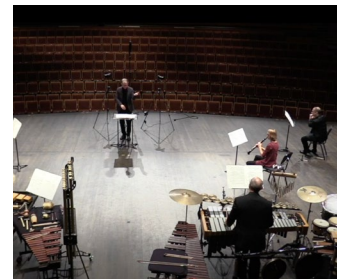
Deluge Contemporary Art **OG**



Arts and Community Infrastructure Fdn. **GF**



Atomic Vaudeville **OG**



Aventa New Music Society **OG**



AVI Health and Community Services **EQ**



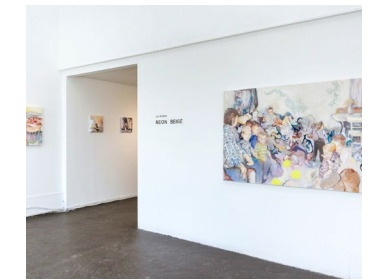
Early Music Society **OG**



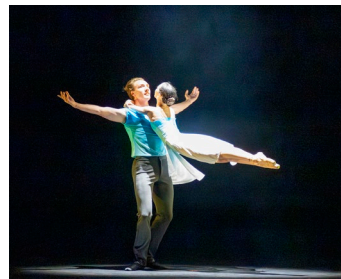
Embrace Arts Foundation **PG**



Ethno Collective **PG**



Fifty Fifty Arts Collective **PG**



Ballet Victoria Society **OG**



Bayanihan Cultural and Housing Soc. **GF**



BC Black History Awareness Society **EQ**



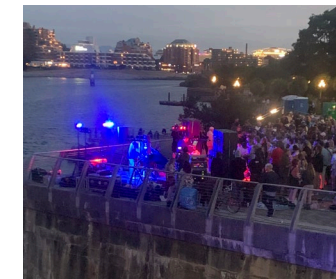
BC Museums Association **ID**



Flamenco de la Isla Society **PG**



Galiano Island Literary Festival **PG**



Garden City Electronic Music Society **PG**



Gay4Nature Collective | Victoria Baroque **EQ**



Greater Victoria Social Gathering Place **ID**



Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra **OG**



Harmony Project Sooke **ID**



Highland Heritage Park Society **ID**



Newcombe Singers Association **PG**



Noble Riot Dance Theatre Society **PG**



Oak Bay Volunteer Services Society **ID**



Open Space Arts Society **OG**



Hispanic Film Society of Victoria **GF, PG**



Impulse Theatre Society **OG**



Inter-Cultural Assn of Greater Victoria **EQ**



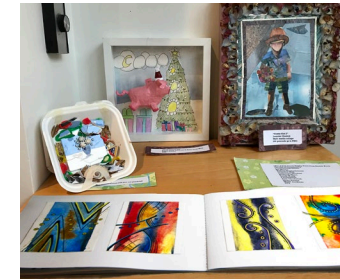
Intrepid Theatre **OG**



Our Place Society **ID**



Pacific Opera Victoria **OG**



Pandora Arts Collective Society **ID**



Pender Island Pride Society **ID**



Island Chamber Winds Society **PG**



Island Sexual Health Society **ID**



Jewish Community Centre of Victoria **ID**



Kaleidoscope Theatre **OG**



Planet Earth Poetry Reading Series **PG**



Ptarmigan Arts Society **OG**



Puente Theatre **OG**



SNAFU Dance Theatre Society **OG**



La Societe Francophone de Victoria **PG**



MediaNet **OG**



Ministry of Casual Living **PG**



Moms Against Racism (Canada) **ID**



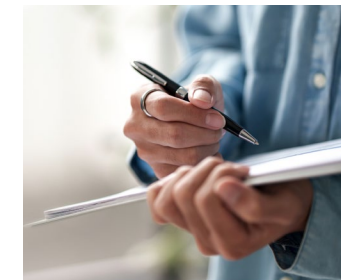
Sooke Festival Society **PG**



Sooke Radio Society **PG**



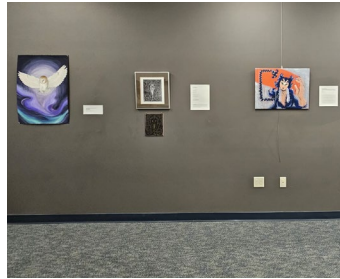
Sooke Region Historical Society **ID**



Story Studio Writing Society **PG**



Story Theatre Productions Society **OG**



Tah'lum Indigenous Artists Collective **EQ**



Theatre Inconnu **OG**



Theatre SKAM **OG**



Victoria Festival of Authors **PG**



Victoria Film Festival **OG**



Victoria Guitar Society **PG**



Victoria Hospice Society **ID**



Three on the Tree Productions **PG**



Township Community Arts Council **GF, PG**



Vancouver Island Caribbean Hub **GF, PG**



Vancouver Island Visual Arts **PG**



Victoria Jazz Society **OG**



Victoria On Stage **OG**



Victoria Poetry Project Society **PG**



Victoria Pride Society **EQ**



Veselka Ukrainian Dance **PG**



Victoria Arts Council **OG**



Victoria Baroque Players **OG**



Victoria BC Ska and Reggae Society **OG**



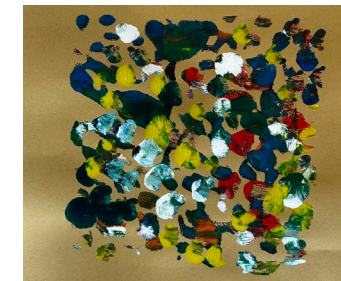
Victoria Shakespeare Society **OG**



Victoria Summer Music Festival **PG**



Victoria Symphony **OG**



Victoria Women's Transition House **EQ**



Victoria Children's Choir **OG**



Victoria Choral Society **PG**



Victoria Conservatory of Music **OG**



Victoria Downtown Residents Assn. **ID**



View Royal Community Association **ID**



Vox Humana Chamber Choir **PG**



William Head on Stage **PG**



Wonderheads **OG**



Xchanges Gallery and Studios PG



Yellowhouse Art Centre GF, PG

# Credits & Attributions

**Active/Passive Performance** | Sidi Blue Moon performs at Active /Passive Vol. 7. Photo: Dayna Szyndrowski.

**Afro Latin Cultural Exchange** | Ritmo Latino performing in Centennial Square. Photo: Amadou Kane.

**Amber Academy Youth Fine Arts** Musical theatre production rehearsal. Photo: Keli Dunn.

**Art Gallery of Greater Victoria** | Cedar hat weaving workshop with Jessica Sault and Cheyanne Tinoco.

**ArtisTREE Festival** | Festival performer. Photo: Stasia Garraway.

**Arts and Community Infrastructure Foundation.** | Arts Spaces Forum panel.

**Atomic Vaudeville** | Jack Widow prepares in dressing room. Photo: Helene Cyr.

**Aventa New Music** | Screenshot of video recording *Aventa presents the music of Gilles Tremblay* (2021).

**AVI Health and Community Services** *i am beauty* - one act verbatim opera workshop participants.

**Ballet Victoria** | Pater Nicholas-Taylor and Isabelle Jutras in *Belgian Songs*. Photo: Wendi Donaldson-Laird.

**Bayanihan Cultural and Housing Soc.** Tech work on *Sabay Sakay sa Alon* (Riding the Waves Together). Photo: Laila Pires.

**BC Black History Awareness Soc.** | Board and members at black history month launch event. Photo: Joshua Telfer.

**BC Museums Assn.** | Stock image. Photo: SeventyFour.

**Belfry Theatre** | *Behind the Moon* by Anosh Irani. Photo: Peter Pokorny.

**Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre Soc.** *Around the World in 80 Days* (2023). Photo: Jam Hamidi.

**Campbell Bay Music Festival** | *Live at the Lighthouse* audience. Photo: Sandra Henderson.

**Caravan World Rhythms Soc.** | Zakir Hussain Trio (2024). Photo: Sunny Gill.

**CineVic** | Member Meetup. Photo: Paula Raimondi.

**Creative Momenta Soc.** | Stock image. Photo: Science Photo Library.

**Dance Victoria** | Dancers of Damelahamid in *Raven Mother*. Photo: Chris Randle.

**Deluge Contemporary Art** | Sonja Ahlers *Make Art Like Me* zine workshop.

**Early Music Society** | Quicksilver baroque ensemble concert. Photo: William Jamieson.

**Embrace Arts Fdn.** | Performance in residence at Dance Victoria Studios. Photo: Dayna Szyndrowski.

**Ethno Collective** | Screenshot from @ethnofashiongala Instagram post.

**Fifty Fifty Arts Collective** | Laura Rosengren exhibition (2022).

**Flamenco de la Isla Society** | Flamenco pop-up event. Photo: Stan Boychuk.

**Galiano Island Literary Festival** | Poet Hari Alluri reading at Yellowhouse Art Centre. Photo: Kelsey Maclean.

**Garden City Electronic Music Soc.** *Wonderment 2025* in Songhees Park Plaza. Photo: Michael Benneyworth.

**Gay4Nature Collective** | Victoria Baroque | Group cast photo in green room. Photo: Anna Bigland-Pritchard.

**Greater Victoria Social Gathering Place** Creativity and mental health workshop.

**Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra** GVOY violins rehearsal. Photo: Ron Dick.

**Harmony Project Sooke** | Beginner Strings program. Photo: Sheila Wincup.

**Highland Heritage Park Soc.** | Mufaro Marimba. Photo: Zhinoos Armstrong.

**Hispanic Film Society of Victoria** Volunteers at 15th annual Latin American and Spanish Film Week Festival. Photo: Dan Russek.

**Impulse Theatre Soc.** | *the soft spaces*. Photo: Amber Downie-Back.

**Inter-Cultural Assn. of Greater Victoria** Workshop participants creating tapestry weavings. Photo: Isabel Gonzales Quiroz.

**Intrepid Theatre** | Vivian Vanderpuss in *Mouthfull*. Photo: Courtney Z.

**Island Chamber Winds Society** | Pender Island concert. Photo: Rachel Lenkowski.

**Island Sexual Health Soc.** | Stock image. Photo: Karola G.

**Jewish Community Centre of Victoria** The Elliot Freedman Group performing at the Victoria International Jewish Film Festival. Photo: Deborah Bricks.

**Kaleidoscope Theatre** | Children's program at Kaleidoscope Performing Arts Studio. Photo: Veronica Bonderud.

**La Societe Francophone de Victoria** Noel Franco holiday market.

**MediaNet** | Collage workshop with Kemi Craig for *seeing ourselves*.

**Ministry of Casual Living** | *of body* exhibition visitors (2024). Photo: Sean Patrick Brennan.

**Moms Against Racism (Canada)** Cohort participant collage.

**Newcombe Singers Assn.** | Emily Carr String Quartet joins the Newcombe Singers *Ocean* concert. Photo: David Randall.

**Noble Riot Dance Theatre Soc.** | *The Cledon*. Photo: Dayna Szyndrowski.

**Oak Bay Volunteer Services Soc.** Stock image. Photo: Travelarium.

**Open Space Arts Soc.** | *Contemplating Change* installation. Photo: Kyra Kordoski.

**Our Place Soc.** | Women's Therapeutic Recovery Community Manger, Lee Sundquist with Music Therapist, Supriya Crocker.

**Pacific Opera Victoria** | The cast of *The Little Prince* by Rachel Portman.

**Pandora Arts Collective** | Artworks from the Collective group show.

**Pender Island Pride Soc.** | Pride parade on Pender island. Photo: Kenta Kikuchi.

**Planet Earth Poetry** | Poetry reading series. Photo: Sandy O'Reilly.

**Ptarmigan Arts Soc.** | Young violins at Mosaic Festival. Photo: Kenta Kikuchi.

**Puente Theatre** | Blood Wedding: The Forest Remembers. Photo: Helene Cyr.

**SNAFU Dance Theatre Soc.** | Michelle Naidu as The Butterfly in *New Earth Bandits 2*. Photo: Colin Smith.

**Sooke Festival Soc.** | Gord Phillips and Friends (2024). Photo: Lindsay Neilson.

**Sooke Radio Society** | Edward Milne Community School Recording Studio. Photo: Ashley Green.

**Sooke Region Historical Society** | RDC company performs zombie thriller dance at Sooke Region Museum.

**Story Studio Writing Soc.** | Stock image. Photo: Mojo\_cp.

**Story Theatre Productions Soc.** | Favour Onwuka and Tenyah Indra in *Dreamweavers* by Adonis Critter King. Photo: Maad Studios.

**Tah'lum Indigenous Artists Collective** Gallery wall of collective's work. Photo: Teresa Vandermeer-Chasé.

**Theatre Inconnu** | Performance of Queen Maeve. Photo: Clayton Jevne.

**Theatre SKAM** | Zella Bones in *The Strange Hour: A Brunch Variety Show*. Photo: Sam Johnson.

**Three on the Tree Productions** | Magic Lake Lantern Festival dancer Erin Hinton. Photo: Kenta Kikuchi.

**Township Community Arts Council** Esquimalt Lantern Festival-goers. Photo: TCAC volunteer photographer.

**Vancouver Island Caribbean Hub** Grand Parade. Photo: Avinash Productions.

**Vancouver Island Visual Arts** | *The Weight of Absence* exhibition by Parvin Hasani. Photo: Logan Ford.

**Veselka Ukrainian Dance** | Dancer in Transcarpathian costume. Photo: Meghan Nicklin.

**Victoria Arts Council** | Poet Laureate Marie Metaphor performing at VAC fundraiser. Photo: VAC staff.

**Victoria Baroque Players** | Youth Orchestra Christmas concert. Photo: Eve Daniell.

**Victoria BC Ska and Reggae Soc.** Crowd at Ship Point for The Pharcyde and Sister Nancy. Photo: Colin Smith.

**Victoria Children's Choir** | Prelude Choir at the June Signature Concert. Photo: Carla Unger Photography.

**Victoria Choral Soc.** | Stock image. Photo: thirdman.

**Victoria Conservatory of Music** | Isidora Uhlman in The Spark to Flame concert. Photo: Megan Rose Wilson.

**Victoria Downtown Residents Assn.** Elise LeBlanc performing at Notes of Pride. Photo: Jade Chicorelli.

**Victoria Festival of Authors** | Shauntelle Dick-Charleson performing at spoken word concert. Photo: John Harley.

**Victoria Film Festival** | World premiere of Barbara Hager's *Forbidden Music*.

**Victoria Guitar Soc.** | Emma Rush in concert. Photo: Troy Serson.

**Victoria Hospice Soc.** | Music Therapist session. Photo: Liz Rubincam.

**Victoria Jazz Soc.** | Makaya McCraven at Wicket Hall. Photo: Vale Fortin.

**Victoria On Stage** | Legally Blonde Cast. Photo: Gord Ruff.

**Victoria Poetry Project Soc.** | Victorious Voices. Photo: Natasha Jade.

**Victoria Pride Soc.** | Audience and Dancers at Victoria Pride Festival in the Park. Photo: Colin Smith.

**Victoria Shakespeare Soc.** | Queer rendition of Romeo and Juliet. Photo: Courtney Zbitnev.

**Victoria Summer Music Festival** | Dover Quartet concert. Photo: David Zussman.

**Victoria Symphony** | Principal Flute Arin Sarkissian in performance at the Royal Theatre. Photo: Takumi Hayashi.

**Victoria Women's Transition House** Healing Through the Arts program participant artwork. Photo: Lina Losier.

**View Royal Community Assn.** | Stock Image. Photo: Seventyfour.

**Vox Humana Chamber Choir** | Choir in the Plaskett Telescope Observatory. Photo: Roman Kovalenko.

**William Head on Stage** | Zane's dance in *Baile de la Familia*. Photo: Helene Cyr.

**Wonderheads** | *The Storytelling Body* intensive. Photo: Kate Braidwood.

**Xchanges Gallery** | Nature printing workshop (2024). Photo: Jillan Valpy.

**Yellowhouse Art Centre** | *Sonic Youth* Workshop. Photo: Roksan Parfitt.

## ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL 2025

Arms-length volunteer group, responsible for adjudicating grants and providing advice to the Arts Commission

Mandart Chan	Jedidjah Noomen
Rachel Ditor	Angelica Reid
Sue Donaldson - <i>Funding Chair</i>	Sarah Reid - <i>Chair</i>
Richard Gale	Jill Smillie
Christina Haska	Paballo Tsolo
Eli Mushumanski	Joanna Verano

## ARTS COMMISSION 2025-2026

Elected representatives from participating jurisdictions, responsible for support and development of regional arts

ESQUIMALT	Andrea Boardman / Meagan Brame
HIGHLANDS	Karel Roessingh
METCHOSIN	Sharie Epp / Steve Gray
OAK BAY	Carrie Smart
SAANICH	Colin Plant
SOOKE	Jeff Bateman
S. GULF ISLANDS	Paul Brent / Rob Fawcett
VICTORIA	Marianne Alto - <i>Chair</i>
VIEW ROYAL	Gery Lemon

## CRD ARTS STAFF

Responsible for administering programs & providing support for regional arts decision-making

Abby Gibbs	Community Outreach Coordinator
Chris Gilpin	Arts Manager
Erin Sterling	Administrative Assistant



Three on the Tree Productions Society's Magic Lake Lantern Festival. Photo: Kenta Kikuchi.  
Project Grant | Southern Gulf Islands



**Capital Regional District**

625 Fisgard Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6  
250.360.3215

[www.crd.ca/arts](http://www.crd.ca/arts)  
[@crdartsdevelopment](https://twitter.com/crdartsdevelopment)

# 2025 Arts Development Service Grants

## Appendix B

### OPERATING GRANT RECIPIENTS

\* first time recipient

ANNUAL	
Atomic Vaudeville	\$25,000
Aventa Ensemble	\$22,930
CineVic	\$25,000
Deluge Contemporary Art	\$30,600
Early Music Society	\$12,000
Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra	\$8,000
Impulse Theatre	\$16,000
Kaleidoscope Theatre	\$59,500
MediaNet / FLUX gallery	\$19,000
Open Space	\$87,930
Ptarmigan Arts	\$19,400
Puente Theatre	\$36,000
SNAFU Dance Theatre Society	\$15,950
Story Theatre	\$40,000
Theatre Inconnu	\$27,500
Theatre SKAM	\$40,800
Victoria Arts Council	\$37,600
Victoria Baroque Players	\$9,550
Victoria BC Ska & Reggae	\$25,000
Victoria Childrens Choir	\$13,930
Victoria On Stage	\$17,200
Victoria Shakespeare Society	\$20,000
Wonderheads	\$25,300
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$634,190</b>

MULTIYEAR	
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria	\$448,000
Ballet Victoria	\$47,700
Belfry Theatre	\$229,000
Dance Victoria	\$73,000
Intrepid Theatre	\$135,000
Pacific Opera Victoria	\$259,150
Victoria Conservatory of Music	\$55,000
Victoria Film Festival	\$47,170
Victoria Jazz Society	\$66,800
Victoria Symphony	\$426,060
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,786,880</b>

**OPERATING GRANT TOTAL:  
\$2,421,070**

# 2025 Arts Development Service Grants

## PROJECT GRANT RECIPIENTS

\* first time recipient

JANUARY	
Active / Passive Performance Society	\$12,700
Afro Latin Cultural Exchange	\$7,000
Blue Bridge Theatre Society	\$7,000
Campbell Bay Music Festival Society	\$8,000
Embrace Arts Foundation	\$7,000
Flamenco de la Isla Society	\$7,000
Garden City Electronic Music Society	\$15,000
Hispanic Film Society of Victoria	\$3,600
Newcombe Singers Association	\$4,000
Noble Riot Dance Theatre Society	\$9,600
Societe Francophone de Victoria, La	\$15,000
Vancouver Island Caribbean Hub	\$8,000
Victoria Festival of Authors Society	\$12,000
Victoria Guitar Society	\$5,300
Victoria Summer Music Festival Society	\$3,200
Vox Humana Chamber Choir Society	\$6,000
Yellowhouse Art Centre Society	\$9,600
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>

APRIL	
ArtisTREE Festival Society *	\$6,675
Caravan World Rhythms Society	\$10,000
Ethno Collective *	\$7,500
Fifty Fifty Arts Collective, The	\$7,000
Galiano Literary Festival Society	\$6,675
Island Chamber Winds Society	\$8,550
Ministry of Casual Living Association, The	\$7,500
Planet Earth Poety Reading Series Society	\$9,000
Sooke Festival Society	\$5,000
Sooke Radio Society *	\$7,500
Story Studio Writing Society	\$5,000
Three on the Tree Productions Society	\$4,000
Township Community Arts Council	\$10,000
Vancouver Island Visual Arts Society	\$7,500
Veselka Ukrainian Dance Association	\$2,700
Victoria Choral Society	\$7,500
Victoria Poetry Project Society	\$8,500
William Head on Stage Theatre Society	\$12,000
Xchanges Artists Gallery and Studios	\$7,400
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>

**PROJECT GRANT TOTAL:  
\$280,000**

# 2025 Arts Development Service Grants

## EQUITY, INCUBATOR & IDEA GRANT RECIPIENTS

\* first time recipient

EQUITY	
AVI Health and Community Services Soc. *	\$5,800
BC Black History Awareness Society	\$8,000
Inter-Cultural Assn   Isabel Gonzalez Quiroz	\$6,800
Tah'lum Indigenous Artists Collective	\$8,400
Victoria Baroque   Gay4Nature Collective *	\$8,000
Victoria Pride Society	\$5,000
Victoria Women's Transition House	\$8,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

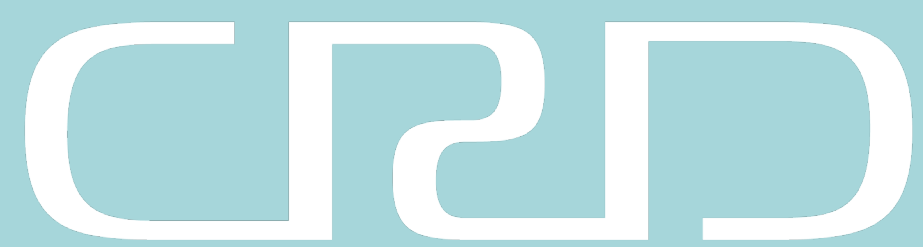
GROW FORWARD (NEW PROGRAM)	
Afro Latin Cultural Exchange Society	\$5,000
Arts and Community Infrastructure Fdn.	\$4,000
Bayanihan Cultural and Housing Society	\$3,750
Creative Momenta Society	\$5,000
Hispanic Film Society of Victoria	\$2,250
Township Community Arts Council	\$1,500
Vancouver Island Caribbean Hub	\$5,000
Yellowhouse Art Centre Society	\$3,500
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

IDEA	
Amber Academy Youth Fine Arts Society	\$2,500
BC Museums Association *	\$2,000
Greater Victoria Social Gathering Place	\$1,750
Harmony Project Society of BC (Sooke)	\$2,500
Highland Heritage Park Society *	\$1,600
Island Sexual Health Society *	\$2,250
Jewish Community Centre of Victoria	\$2,500
Moms Against Racism (Canada) *	\$2,100
Oak Bay Volunteer Services Society *	\$2,000
Our Place Society	\$2,000
Pandora Arts Collective Society	\$2,100
Pender Island Pride Society *	\$2,100
Sooke Region Historical Society	\$1,600
Victoria Downtown Residents Assn	\$2,000
Victoria Hospice Society	\$2,000
View Royal Community Association *	\$2,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$33,000</b>

**EQUITY, IDEA & GROW FORWARD TOTAL: \$113,000**

**2025 ARTS SERVICE GRANTS TOTAL: \$2,814,070**

2025 Impact Report



Arts Development



# Supporting the Region's Arts

CRD Arts Development Service is a sub-regional service that distributes grants to non-profit organizations to develop local arts programming. Supported by nine jurisdictions, funding creates artistic, social and economic benefits for the region.

Nearly **70%**  
of the region's population lives within  
one of the nine participating jurisdictions:

-  Participating jurisdictions
-  Non-Participating jurisdictions



# State of the Arts

## OUR REGION RANKS #1 IN THE COUNTRY FOR ARTS VIBRANCY

The Arts Vibrancy Index is a new tool used to track the impact of Canadian arts communities on local economic activity. Most closely representing our region, the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area ranked #1 in the country, indicating both a thriving local arts community and broader economic activity.



Creative intensity drives arts vibrancy, not population size



Arts and culture are central to higher quality of life



Arts improve other aspects of economy and society



Arts and culture drive talent retention outcomes in cities



~\$9 in GDP generated by the cultural sector for every dollar invested by governments



63% increase in arts, culture, heritage, and sport workers in Victoria CMA since 2013



Concentration of artists and cultural workers in the CRD within 10 highest in Canada



75% of Canadians believe that attending arts events positively impacts their sense of belonging

# Strategic Plan Progress Highlights



## CHAMPION – ADVOCATING FOR THE ARTS

- › Continued to highlight benefits of the Arts Service through communications
- › Supported sectoral promotion and recognition through the GVRA awards
- › Implemented Impact Stories series to demonstrate value of the arts with qualitative data



## CONNECT – ENHANCING COLLABORATION

- › Implemented new Grow Forward Grant program to support sectoral collaboration
- › Hosted networking and convening event: 2025 Arts Champions Summit



## CULTIVATE – DEVELOPING THE ARTS ECOSYSTEM

- › Retired the Incubator grant program
- › Implemented the Grow Forward Grant program to support planning and capacity-building
- › Received record-high number of applications
- › Awarded record-high funding amount (\$2.8 million)



## EXTEND – BROADENING THE SCOPE OF IMPACT

- › Continued training to provide more accessible service and resources to grant applicants
- › Developed arts career pathways resources to support youth in the arts sector
- › Completed program review of Operating Grant program



## ENGAGE – SHARING OUR STORY AND LEARNING

- › Implemented new Communications & Outreach plan for the Arts Service
- › Conducted information sessions for over 100 prospective grant applicants

Amanda Lisman as The Moon in Puente Theatre's *Blood Wedding: The Forest Remembers*. Photo: Helene Cyr.  
Operating Grant | Victoria

# 2025 Funding Impact

**\$2.81 M**

invested in the arts (record high!)

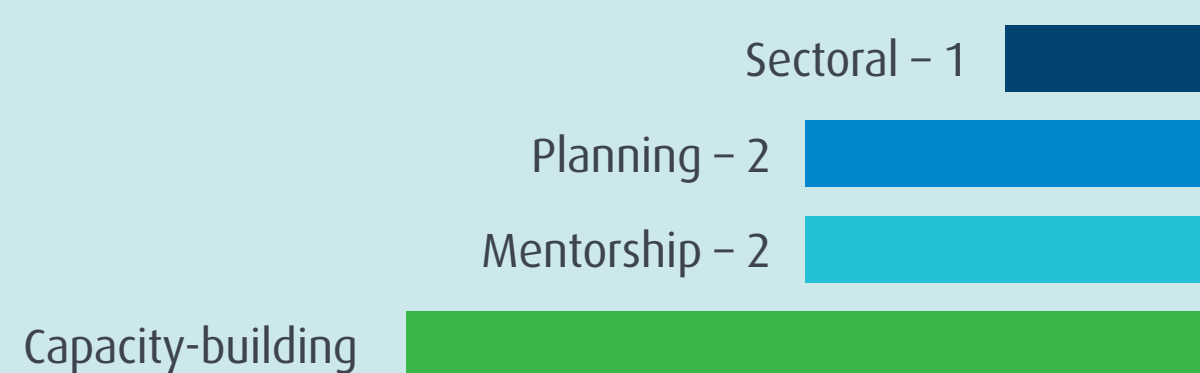
**15,850+**

arts events and performances activated by our grant recipients across the region

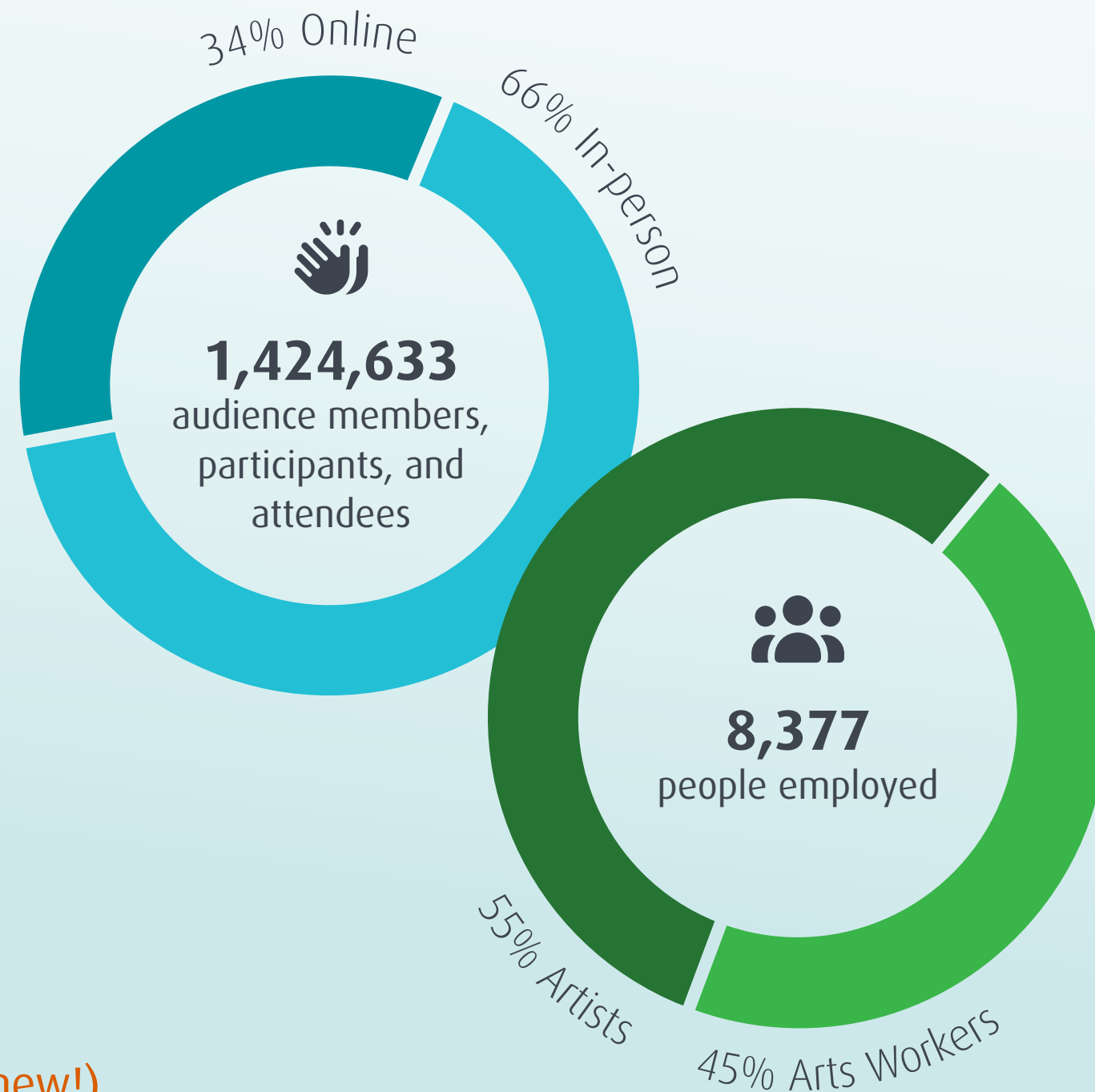


## 9 Grow Forward Grant Projects (new!)

Creating forward-facing, lasting impact to help the arts sector to grow



The Grow Forward Grant Program provides funding to arts organizations for capacity-building, planning, mentorships, sectoral initiatives, and the process of investigating, identifying, planning and executing significant and strategic adaptations in their operations.



Number of grants distributed:

**100**

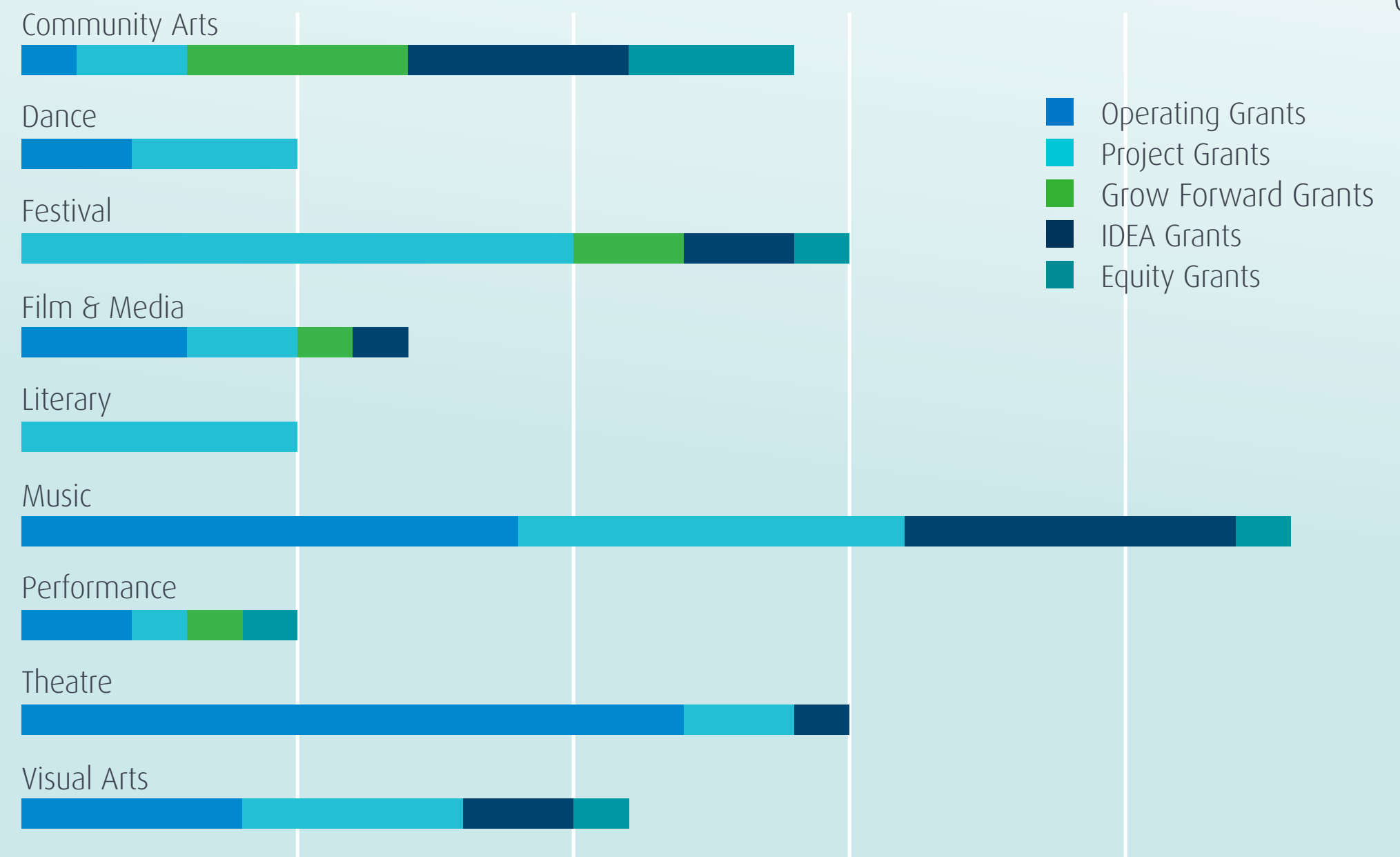


## Outreach Milestones

168 grant applicants  
125 workshop registrants  
2840+ social media followers

7+ local news article features  
1446 e-newsletter subscribers  
4th biennial Arts Champions Summit

## Distribution of grants by discipline and program:



**95** organizations supported

**12** new grant recipients

**60%** applicant success rate



*First Talkback with Sweet Summer Pow Wow filmmakers.  
Operating Grant | Victoria*

# Impact Stories: Celebrating Indigenous Arts

## **TAH'LUM COLLECTIVE SHOWCASE**

Fostering conversations and creating space for Indigenous artists to learn, grow, create together.

## **XWII XWA ATHEANA PICHA ART EXHIBIT**

Uplifting emerging indigenous youth artists and establishing new connections.

## **AN EVENING FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION: MUSIC, ART, AND DIALOGUE**

Honouring truth and reconciliation in a living, breathing way.

## **ETUAPTMUMK / TWO-EYED SEEING**

Fostering dialogue between indigenous knowledge holders and youth on the climate crisis.

## **LƏLÉ?NƏŃ LISTENING-WITH**

Asking how our experiences affect how we listen and sound within the territories of the lək'wəŋən peoples.

## **TRADITIONAL CEDAR WEAVING WORKSHOP**

Centering indigenous voices and enriching understandings of indigenous artistic practices.

## **F1RST: A CELEBRATION OF INDIGENOUS FILMS**

Showcasing the incredible depth, diversity, and impact of filmmaking by Indigenous artists.

## **DANCERS OF DAMELAHAMID**

Illuminating the integral role of women in holding cultural knowledge through dance.



Three on the Tree Productions Society's Magic Lake Lantern Festival. Photo: Kenta Kikuchi.

Project Grant | Southern Gulf Islands

**Thank you!**