

Cultural Grant Reconsideration Requests 2002

Applicant Letters and Staff Evaluations

**Office of Cultural Affairs
City of Vancouver**

Original Request: \$ 6,000 (Project Grant)

Original recommendation: \$ 0 (Project Grant)

Original staff comment:

“While recognizing the value of the GVPTA’S current and proposed initiatives, the staff committee does not recommend a grant to this service organization, given other priorities for the limited funds available”.

Applicant’s basis for reconsideration request:

That eligibility criteria have not been properly applied. *See applicant’s letter following.*

Results of staff reconsideration:

Staff reviewed the original application, considered all subsequent correspondence regarding reconsideration, and discussed the basis of the appeal with the Society’s President.

Eligibility was not a factor in the original staff review of this application. The Society has been eligible for funding since at least 1987, receiving thirteen civic grants between then and 1998.

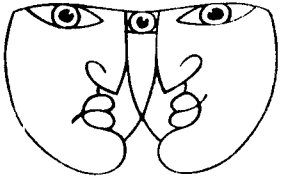
Staff note that this request comes after two years of not applying for civic grants during which the GVPTA set out to reposition its activities. Staff will advise the GVPTA of any opportunities to further its work and will evaluate the results of the activities proposed in the application. However, in this instance the Society is seeking re-evaluation of its request rather than addressing the grounds for reconsideration and therefore staff do not propose changing the original recommendation.

Some components of the proposed activities may be eligible for support through the Organizational Development grant category.

Final recommendation:

No change. \$ 0

20 Letters of support are on file with the City Clerk.



GREATER VANCOUVER PROFESSIONAL THEATRE ALLIANCE

March 11, 2002

Ms. Alice Niwinski,
Cultural Planner,
Office of Cultural Affairs,
City of Vancouver,
453 West 12th Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C.
V5Y 1V4
Fax to: 604-871-6048

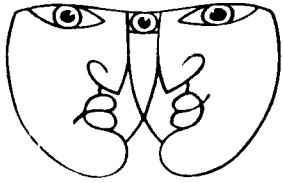
Dear Ms. Niwinski:

Please accept this letter as notification that the Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance wishes to have its grant request reconsidered under the Eligibility Criteria component. We have reviewed the eligibility criteria for Service Organizations and believe the GVPTA does meet these requirements as do other service organizations such as the Vancouver Dance Centre, a discipline specific service organization and the Alliance for Arts and Cultural. Both the Dance Centre and the Alliance for Arts and Cultural do receive very deserving support from the City of Vancouver as they have successfully implemented programs that assist certain sectors of the arts community. The Greater Vancouver Theatre Alliance has, also, undertaken several successful programs which are of similarly valued assistance to the professional theatre community and to Vancouver theatre-going audiences as the Dance Centre's are to the dance community and Alliance for Arts and Culture programs are to certain segments of the overall arts community. Further, we believe our work is a priority during these very difficult economic times and will assist in ensuring the success of our member companies and in the continued artistic vibrancy of Vancouver. It is for these reasons we must assume that the Eligibility Criteria was not properly applied leading to the decision to decline project assistance to our organization.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me, should you wish to discuss our request for reconsideration.

Yours sincerely,

Donna M. Spencer,
President



GREATER VANCOUVER PROFESSIONAL THEATRE ALLIANCE

Mr. Burke Taylor,
Office of Cultural Affairs,
City of Vancouver,
Suite 100 - 515 West 10th Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C.

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPT	
Ref'd To: <i>B. Taylor</i>	By: _____
RECEIVED	
MAY 1 2002	
File No. _____	_____

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Re: Request for Re-consideration of the Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance Society Project Application

The members of the Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance recognize the challenges the City of Vancouver must meet in setting priorities and allocating limited resources in support of a very active Vancouver arts and cultural scene. However, we believe the Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance should be one of those priorities.

The G.V.P.T.A. is the only service organization responding specifically to the needs of Vancouver's professional theatre community. Its membership reflects both the large and the small professional theatre companies, the mainstream, alternative, Theatre for Young audiences companies, as well as theatre educators and individual theatre artists. Our members employ over four hundred full-time and part-time theatre workers annually and perform for audiences in the hundreds of thousands in parks, in schools and in a wide variety of theatrical venues around the city and have an incredible impact on the city's artistic vitality.

While the Alliance may not have a high public profile, it has with very limited resources established a number of programs which benefit both the general public and its member organizations. The Theatre Guide has become a valuable tool for the tourism industry while the annual Theatre Conference's professional development component and networking opportunities have had a very beneficial effect on both emerging and established theatre artists and companies. Our membership recognizes our organization has a very important role to play in encouraging tourism to the City; in supporting and ensuring the professional development of emerging theatre artists and companies; and in responding to our members needs for collective marketing and audience development initiatives. The volunteer board believe we have made great strides over the past few years and are poised to become a strong contributor to Vancouver's cultural community and overall economy. This will not be possible without solid, professional administrative leadership. We believe the City of Vancouver has a role to play in this future through showing their support of our proposed project grant initiatives and thus indicating their understanding and believe in the importance of a healthy professional theatre community.

Thank you for your re-consideration and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Donna M. Spencer,
President

1405 Anderson Street, 2nd floor • Vancouver BC V6H 3R5 • ☎ 604.608.6799 Fax 604.608.6923 • ✉ gvpta@axionet.com www.audience.com/theatre

Act • City Theatre • Arts Vancouver • Bard on the Beach • Incessant Theatre • Dance Arts Vancouver • Evergreen Cultural Centre • Fei • Gunga Theatre Productions • Fend Players Society • Greenleaf Arts Centre • The Gateway Theatre • Green Theatre • Headlines Theatre • Hoarse Raven Theatre • Hoodlum • Theatre for Children • IT Productions • 1125 • Theatre • Pacific Theatre • Pink Ink (By) Theatre • Playwrights Theatre Centre • Presentation House • RFS Productions • Ruby, Suzanne Productions • Rumble Productions • Sea Theatre • Senseless Pleas • Productions • Theatre Ragged Art • Théâtre La Scène • Theatre Terrific • Touchstone Theatre • Vancouver City • Theatres • Vancouver East Cultural Centre • Vancouver Musical Theatre • The Vancouver Playhouse • Vancouver Theatre Sports Leagues • Zetign Theatre • Western Theatre Company • Yorick Theatre



2002 Project Grants

Office of Cultural Affairs, City of Vancouver

Deadlines:
December 7, 2001
and June 3, 2002

1. Applicant

Organization name and, if different, name of registered non-profit society applying for/sponsoring grant

Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance

Mailing address

2nd Floor, 1405 Anderson St., Vancouver

Telephone

608-6799

Fax

608-6923

E-mail address of contact person

vpta@axionet.com

Website address

www.audience.com

Contact person and title

Donna Spencer - President

Society no.

S-22563

Participating group(s) if different from above

2A. Activity Summary

In the space provided below, briefly describe your organization and list your current and proposed projects to the end of 2002 (including timelines and locations). Please indicate the project(s) for which you are requesting a grant.

The Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance is an alliance of professional theatre producing and presenting organizations in the Greater Vancouver area. After functioning for fifteen years as a loosely based alliance, the organization incorporated in 1987 as a non-profit society with the purposes of promoting and encouraging professional theatre and professional theatre artists. The Society established the Jessie Richardson Professional Theatre Awards in 1982 and facilitated in the establishment of the annual Theatre for Young Audiences Spring Break Festival through its Theatre for Young Audiences caucus.

Its current programs include: the production and distribution of three theatre guides per annum with a distribution of 45000 through Tourism outlets, theatres, mailings, community centres, colleges and universities, hotels, libraries, etc.; the annual MAKING A SCENE CONFERENCE - British Columbia's Professional Theatre conference, which features workshops, panel discussions and guest speakers with the goal of strengthening the production, presentation, administration and promotion of professional theatre in the Province of B.C.; the FREQUENT BUYER PROGRAM, which encourages patrons to see theatre in numerous venues; Professional Development workshops; a Website which highlights theatre activity in the region; Newsletters and Broadcast Fax services to media as well as being often the first point of contact for those interested in Vancouver's vibrant professional theatre community.

The Society is requesting support in order to implement the position of an Executive Director, whose role will be to act as a liaison with the tourism and business community, to continue to develop the annual conference while implementing a number of new initiatives including the publication of a self-help manual for individuals and small, emerging theatre companies, interested in producing theatre and the creation of a promotional video that will highlight professional theatre in Vancouver and will be distributed to consulates, tourism outlets and used as a tool to raise the profile of Vancouver as a city with "artistic spirit and creative flair".

2B. Financial Summary

Fiscal year [mm/dd]

Sept. 1

to

[mm/dd]

August 31

Last actual annual budget

\$109777

Current annual budget

\$ 113205

Project budget

\$

Project grant request

\$ 6000

Civic cultural grant history	1998	1999	2000	2001
Operating	2,500			

Comments & Recommendation

While recognizing the value of the GVPTA's current and proposed initiatives, the staff committee does not recommend a grant to this service organization, given other priorities for the limited funds available.

Cultural Planner	Grant Recommended	Approved by Council
AN	\$0 Project	\$

Original Request: \$ 5,000 (Project Grant)

Original recommendation: \$ 0 (Project Grant)

Original staff comment:

“In the context of limited grant funds, the staff committee does not recommend a grant for the remounting of *Woman Idiot Lunatic Criminal* as a priority for funding.”

Applicant’s basis for reconsideration request:

That eligibility criteria have not been properly applied and that financial information from the applicant has not been accurately assessed. *See applicant’s letter following.*

Results of staff reconsideration:

Although the Society has not received funding before, eligibility was not an issue in the original review of the application. The Society met the eligibility criteria; their application was therefore accepted in the grant review process and staff met with the applicant for the regular review of their proposal.

The applicant also feels that financial information may not have been accurately assessed as their financial statement and revised budget were not available until after the Society’s AGM on February 12, 2002. Staff note that all documentation was in hand and reviewed prior to the grant decision being taken on Feb. 21, 2002.

As part of the reconsideration process, staff met with the applicant to clarify the eligibility criteria, the evaluation process, and the policies for reconsideration. Staff and the applicant agreed that the more accurate description of the proposed activity is an “adaptation” rather than a “remount”. Staff do recognize the hurdles faced by new applicants, but note that six new groups were added this year, three of them first-time applicants.

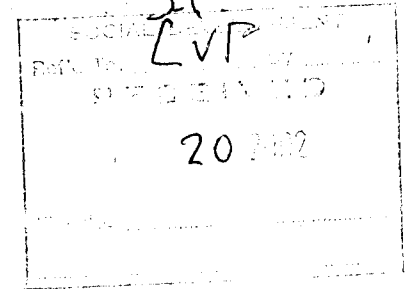
Based on the review of the application, the stated reasons for reconsideration, and the discussion with the applicants, staff do not propose changing the original recommendation.

Final recommendation:

No change. \$ 0

shameless hussy productions

"telling provocative stories about women to inspire the hand that rocks the cradle to rock the world"



March 19th, '02

Lorenz vonFersen
City of Vancouver /Office of Cultural Services
Suite 100 -515 West 10th Avenue
Vancouver, BC Canada V5Y 1V4

Dear Lorenz,

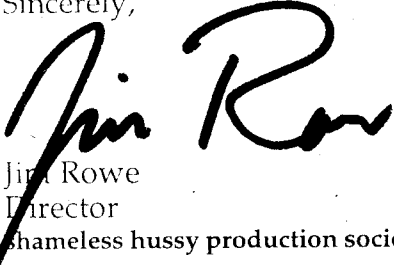
Re: project grant application to adapt the play *Woman Idiot Lunatic Criminal* for touring to young audiences filed December 7th, 2002.

We received Alice Niwinski's letter, dated February 26th, 2002 recommending to Council that no grant be approved for our organization and are requesting reconsideration. Our grounds for reconsideration are based on the premise that the eligibility criteria have not been properly applied and the financial information provided has not been accurately assessed. In addition we have addressed the other factors Alice mentioned (in her phone call with resident artistic collaborator, Deb Pickman) that led to the dismissal of our grant proposal.

Our project is of great value to the City of Vancouver both artistically and educationally. Attached is a written account of the reasons for seeking this reconsideration. We are certain that a more detailed overview of our application with this support information will clear up the misunderstandings and lead to an amendment of the original recommendation.

Please instruct us as to how we may personally address Council regarding our request. We appreciate your ongoing assistance.

Sincerely,



Jim Rowe
Director
shameless hussy production society

Our grounds for reconsideration are based on the premise that:

a) The eligibility criteria have not been properly applied:

With reference to your letter of Feb. 26th '02, our proposed project does not constitute a "remount." The project is to adapt a script to accommodate a new audience and venue requirements - secondary schools. We have been granted permission by the writers to create this new school show. The purpose of this adaptation is educational and a study guide will be created as part of the project. The subsequent touring performances of our adaptation in the spring of 2003 (not included in our proposal) will educate students in theatre practice and in the history of voting.

Who should support our project? We applied to the BCAC for a different project in this granting period, therefore we are not eligible to receive any support from them at this time. It is unlikely that we will be able to secure Provincial support for our work without first receiving a demonstration of support of the City of Vancouver. Education is a provincial mandate and to a lesser extent a city mandate however, our project is of both artistic and educational value.

Our project's potential benefit to Vancouver: At present we have established working relationships with teachers in 9 of Vancouver schools and have been booked by only one school district outside of the GVRD. Since 1995 we have presented two of our previous productions to Vancouver schools and have delivered numerous workshops. Therefore, we anticipate that the local bookings of our play will precede provincial touring by at least one year.

In addition, because our artists live in Vancouver, Vancouver schools will book the new adaptation of the show and our workshops at a significantly reduced rate. Also, local presenters will be able to book our show on a much more flexible schedule. This project will result in a permanent addition to our touring repertoire which will be available to Vancouver Educators many times over the years to come. We have already demonstrated a high level of commitment to Vancouver schools. For the past 6 years our resident artistic associates have provided 2 to 3 month workshops (which culminate in public performances) to teens at Templeton High School. We have received 6 citations from the city of Vancouver School Board's Career Preparation Programs for this work with east side teenagers. Our company has worked very hard to contribute to Vancouver schools for many years without outside funding. We can no longer sustain this without financial help. Please honour this long term contribution with your support.

b) The financial information provided has not been accurately assessed.

We feel information may not have been included in the staff assessment of our grant application. We see the funding from the City of Vancouver as a priority for this project. The future of this important piece will be in jeopardy without your support.

Our year end falls on November 25th and we had our AGM on February 12, 2002. Our Board approved our financial statement for 2001 and our 2002 budget at this AGM and we forwarded these financial papers, along with the revised budget, to the City of Vancouver as was required. There were many revisions in our project budget including confirmation of 3/4 's of the requested funding from Canada Council and elimination of grants that we did not receive. As well, we stated in a letter and reflected in our budget that we were granted a showcase at Pacific Contact. We were honored to be chosen as one of the selected groups for showcase, however, it does provide an additional financial burden on the company. Because these financial papers came after our application, we feel they may not have been included in the staff assessment.

We would like to make a request for the clarification of eligibility criteria and the procedure for reconsideration:

We understand that budget constraints have made the duties of the OCA very difficult. Possibly there are some changes that could be made to the eligibility criteria or mail outs that could alleviate some awkwardness for both the artists and administrators.

1. For the past two years we have been told that until the OCA receives a budget increase from council it will only recommend artists who have previously received grants. If this policy is to continue it should be made clear in the eligibility requirements. We believe projects should be assessed on individual merit and, as a second time applicant with a very long production history, we find this policy disheartening. It might be less frustrating to refuse new applications until the situation changes.
2. It is counterproductive to mail out instructions on how to request reconsideration and to tell clients that it is pointless to do so.



2002 Project Grants

Office of Cultural Affairs, City of Vancouver

Deadlines:
December 7, 2001
and June 3, 2002

1. Applicant

SHAMELESS HUSSY PRODUCTION SOCIETY

Organization name and, if different, name of registered non-profit society applying for/sponsoring grant

411 West 18th Avenue

Mailing address

hussy@istar.ca

E-mail address of contact person

Deb Pickman or Renee Jaci resident artistic collaborators

Contact person and title

604-874-0721

Telephone

www.shamelessshusy.com

Website address

S-39106

Society no.

604-874-7657

Fax

Participating group(s) if different from above

2A. Activity Summary

In the space provided below, briefly describe your organization and list your current and proposed projects to the end of 2002 (including timelines and locations). Please indicate the project(s) for which you are requesting a grant.

Established in 1991 and incorporated in 1998, shameless hussy productions is an evolving collective of rebellious theatre, music, film and visual artists. shameless hussy's purpose is: "telling provocative stories about women" and our mission is: "to inspire the hand that rocks the cradle to rock the world." We are members of the Alliance for Arts and Culture, the BC, Alberta and Washington State Touring Councils and are in our third term of office on the board of the Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance.

Project for which we are requesting a grant
Woman Idiot Lunatic Criminal – secondary school show:
 Our proposal is to workshop and adapt this new script into a format suitable for touring to high schools throughout the Lower Mainland and BC. This workshop phase of creation is scheduled to take place over 12 days from April to June 2002.

Additional Projects to the end of 2002
Study Guide for Woman Idiot Lunatic Criminal: In February we are creating a study guide for teachers and students.

Tour Planning: We are registered to attend both Pacific Contact and ArtScan during April in order to market our secondary school tour of *Woman Idiot Lunatic Criminal* to school presenters. At this time we will present a showcase of our play and accept bookings for spring 2003. We will attend either the Saskatchewan or the Washington touring conference in late November.

The Edmonton Fringe Theatre Festival:
 We will be entering this popular theatre festival during August with the western Canadian premiere of Steven Berkoff's new play, *Ophelia's Lost Love Letters*.

My Left Breast Pacific Northwest Tour: We will continue to follow up with presenters we received interest from during the Tacoma conference we attended in 2001. In October/November 2002 we will tour our award winning production of Susan Miller's moving and provocative play about breast cancer *My Left Breast* to the Pacific Northwest.

Theatre Under the Gun: We will participate in this 5th annual 48 hr theatre writing and production festival in November.

SEE Seven: We will continue to serve on various committees to support the goals of SEE Seven.

2B. Financial Summary

Fiscal year [mm/dd]	November 26th	to	[mm/dd]	November 25th
Last actual annual budget	\$ 91,266		Current annual budget	\$ 75,230
Project budget	\$ 30,300		Project grant request	\$ 5,000

Civic cultural grant history	1998	1999	2000	2001

Comments & Recommendation

In the context of limited grants funds, the staff committee does not recommend a grant for the remounting of *Woman Idiot! Lunatic Criminal* as a priority for funding.

Cultural Planner	Grant Recommended	Approved by Council
AN	\$0 Project	\$

Request for Reconsideration Process for City of Vancouver Cultural Operating and Project Grants

City Council has adopted the following "reconsideration process" for grant applicants wishing to contest Operating and Project grant recommendations submitted to Council by staff.

Grounds for Reconsideration

Council established that grant recommendations will be reconsidered *only* if the request is based on one or both of the following premises:

A. Eligibility criteria have not been properly applied.

"Eligibility" refers to the type of organization and activities that qualify for cultural grants. In brief, applicants must be registered non-profit cultural organizations, based and active in Vancouver, and meet a number of other requirements listed in the *Instructions for Applicants* sheet attached to your application form.

Council's policy is *not* to consider reconsideration requests based on questions of evaluation (e.g., quality of programs, organizational competence, community relevance, and other criteria listed in *Instructions for Applicants*).

B. Financial information from the applicant has not been accurately assessed.

This relates to staff assessment of financial information supplied by the applicant during (not after) the application review.

Reconsideration Process

The process adopted by Council involves the following steps:

- Applicants are notified in writing of staff's recommendations. Those who wish to dispute a recommendation must notify the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) in writing by **March 11, 2002**. Support information is due on **March 19, 2002**. *Please see the reverse page for details on the Request for Reconsideration process.*
- After written notice and support information have been received by the OCA, a staff committee will review the applicant's request, as well as the information provided in the original application and during discussions with the applicant. Applicants will be contacted if there are questions, and every effort will be made to clarify misunderstandings.

- Staff prepare a written summary of their findings, including a proposal to either amend the original recommendation or to let it stand. This summary, together with the applicant's rationale for requesting reconsideration, is presented in a report to Council. Relevant sections of this report are also forwarded to the applicant.
- Council is expected to consider requests for reconsideration in late April or early May 2002. Any applicants wishing to address Council about their request may do so at that time, and instructions on this process will be provided in advance.

How to Request Reconsideration

Reconsideration requests have two parts: (1) the request itself, and (2) support information.

The Request - Deadline March 11, 2002

Mail or fax a brief letter to the Office of Cultural Affairs signed by a Board member of your society. In the letter, clearly state that you are requesting reconsideration and indicate which of the grounds for reconsideration apply in your case (see the reverse of this sheet).

Support Information - Deadline March 19, 2002

In addition to the request itself, you must submit a written account of the reasons for seeking reconsideration. This should specifically relate to the grounds for your request and *should not exceed two typewritten pages.*

Deadlines

- Your **request for reconsideration notice** must be received in the Office of Cultural Affairs *no later than 4:30 pm on March 11, 2002.* Requests received after the deadline cannot be considered. **Support information** must be provided by *March 19, 2002.*
- Mail, fax, or deliver your request for reconsideration and support information to:

Courier (site) address:
 Office of Cultural Affairs
 City of Vancouver
 Suite 100 - 515 West 10th Avenue
 Vancouver, BC V5Z 4A8

Mailing address:
 Office of Cultural Affairs
 City of Vancouver
 453 West 12th Avenue
 Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Telephone: 604.873.7487

Fax: 604.871.6048