



CITY OF VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY SERVICES
Office of Cultural Affairs

MEMORANDUM

February 7, 2003

TO: Mayor and Council

COPY TO: City Manager
General Manager Community Services

FROM: Director, Office of Cultural Affairs and City Clerk

SUBJECT: Enquiry re Cultural Presentations at Council meetings (File 1253)

A preliminary review suggests that the proposal is feasible, though not as simple as we might wish, given considerations of equality of opportunity, necessary standards, and practical operating considerations.

1. Selection of Artists

A) Criteria.

For these presentations to be successful, a shared understanding of the presentation's purpose, and clear guidelines for artist selection, are required. Criteria must be clearly stated in the Call for Interest.

B) Process.

While we assume an open and inclusive approach, some judgement of artistic quality and suitability to venue will be involved in the selection process. Advertising the Artists Call and auditioning those who respond, will require staff time and as well as community participation. The process may need to be conducted bi-annually to ensure a full schedule.

Staff recommend a clear separation between City staff involved in grant decisions and the selection of artists to perform in Chambers. Knowledgeable people from the community are recommended for this task. An independent non-profit cultural organization might serve to handle the selection process, and could possibly manage scheduling and payments. There will be a cost associated with this.

2. Performance Rights

This proposal will be subject to conditions of performer's unions and right organizations, and to resolution of broadcast rights questions.

3. Technical

The appropriate location of the performance, access to power, an appropriate "feed" for Shaw Cable, and other related technical questions will need to be resolved. While we do not recommend accepting performances that require a demanding set-up, special equipment, or the moving of furniture or fixtures, some staff time will be required to handle artists questions, see to technical needs and logistics in Chambers, ensure sound checks are done, and oversee other details. In short, the technical aspects required for a performer cannot disrupt the business of the Council meeting.

4. Payment

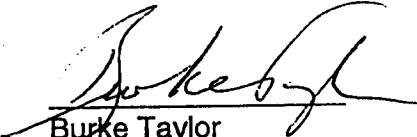
As a matter of principle, the City would respect the artists' need to earn a living from their work. We assume an honourarium or fee would be offered to cover performance, preparation time, and equipment or travel costs. (Staff estimate \$100 per person or \$250 per group of three or more - average \$200 for each of 23 meetings)

5. Broadcast


To extend the showcase beyond Chambers requires Shaw to include the performance in their broadcast. This means scheduling the performer at 6:30 rather than 4 PM. It may also open questions of broadcast rights and some additional cost.

6. Budget Estimate

Without benefit of more detailed investigation staff can only estimate the cost of the proposed program. This is projected to be \$15,000 to \$18,000.



Burke Taylor
Director,
Office of Cultural Affairs



Syd Baxter
City Clerk