



CITY OF VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY SERVICES GROUP
Cultural Services

MEMORANDUM

April 25, 2005

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: City Manager
City Clerk
General Manager, Community Services

FROM: Sue Harvey, Managing Director, Cultural Services

SUBJECT: 2005 Celebration Grant Recommendations, Spring Deadline

Recommendations for allocations for the 2005 Celebration Grants are outlined in a report which will be considered at the City Council's Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets, April 28th. Since submitting the report, we have learned that one of the events recommended for funding - *City Fest*, has been cancelled.

The Vancouver Community Festival Society which produces *City Fest* issued a press release on April 19th cancelling their June 11 & 12th event which was to be held at Hastings Park (see attached).

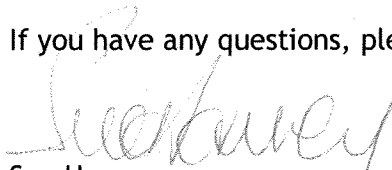
The Celebration Grants are reviewed by an Advisory Committee, comprised of community representatives. The Advisory Committee had recommended a grant to Vancouver Community Festival Society for *City Fest 2005*, in the amount of \$6,000.

Due to this cancellation, we are proposing to amend the Recommendation contained in the report and instead provide the alternate:

That Council approve a total of \$102,500 in Celebration Grants to the 27 organizations (from 28) listed in Tables 1 & 2; thereby not approving a grant to the Vancouver Community Festival Society in the amount of \$6,000 in light of cancellation of the 2005 event. Source of funds to be the 2005 Celebration Grants program.

Approval of this amendment will leave an unallocated balance of \$84,520 remaining in the cash grant component of the program for allocation through the 2nd deadline for this grant program.

If you have any questions, please call me at 871-6001.


Sue Harvey
Managing Director, Cultural Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 19, 2005
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CITYFEST ORGANIZERS PUT 2005 FEST ON HOLD

(VANCOUVER) - Organizers of Vancouver's CityFest - a free celebration of culturally diverse talent, cuisine and arts - have made the difficult decision that the popular multicultural festival will not happen this year.

"We're really disappointed that it has come to this," said Debra Robson, co-chair of the Vancouver Community Festival Society, the registered non-profit society that produces CityFest. "This is not the decision we were hoping to make, but in light of our situation it was the most responsible choice. Simply put, our fundraising efforts did not translate into the kind of money needed to produce the large-scale event this has grown into."

Since 1992 the charitable VCFS, has produced CityFest - a multicultural arts festival - the focus being on inclusion, community building and teaching acceptance in a fun way through the performing and visual arts. It ran until 2000 at the Vancouver Community College King Edward Campus.

Organizer's considered last year's revival of the fest a huge success, which saw approximately 8,000 attendees come through the Hastings Park gates and featured a kaleidoscope of 100 per cent local performances on six stages. Volunteer support was in the hundreds. The festival also hosted a craft fair, an interactive dance workshop, children's activities, art displays, story telling, poetry readings, an open air beer garden and food from around the world.

"Going into debt was not a viable option," adds co-chair Gudrun Langolf. "We are now concentrating much of our energy into increasing our membership and fundraising. We will continue to work with the multicultural arts community to be ready for 2006 and many years to come."