



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: June 30, 2005
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Meeting Date: July 19, 2005

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Managing Director, Cultural Services
SUBJECT: 2005 Diversity Initiatives Grants: First Deadline

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve six Diversity Initiatives grants totaling \$50,000, SUBJECT to the conditions contained in Appendix A of this report; source of funds to be the 2005 Cultural Grants budget.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services recommends approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

Council approved the establishment of the Diversity Initiatives program in 1998, following a review of the Cross Cultural Initiatives program which had been established by Council in 1990.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE

This report presents recommendations of an independent Advisory Committee for nine Diversity Initiatives grant requests.

BACKGROUND

Ten applications were received for the May 16, 2005 deadline of the Diversity Initiatives program, which supports artistic development in culturally diverse communities. The program includes grants for the following types of activities:

- Artistic Leadership Training – assists with the costs of experiential training (internships, mentorships or apprenticeships) for artists from distinct communities in the areas of curation, artistic direction and artistic production.
- Artistic Development Projects – for projects contributing to the artistic development of a professionally led arts group from one or more distinct communities. Projects must include new creation or interpretation. While organizations can receive up to three grants in this category, requests in the second or third year must include a long-term development plan.
- Cross-Cultural Artistic Residencies – for artists from distinct communities, hosted by a not-for-profit society from a mainstream or other distinct community, and including a community outreach component.

Complete program guidelines are attached in Appendix B.

DISCUSSION

The 2005 budget for the Diversity Initiatives program is \$51,000. There are two annual deadlines; May and October. Ten applications were received, but one applicant withdrew before the adjudication and therefore was not assessed. The 9 requests to this deadline totaled \$90,492.

An Advisory Committee comprised of artists and arts professionals from various disciplines and distinct cultural backgrounds was established to assess applications and to provide comments on the program. Each member pre-read the applications and then met to discuss them and to make recommendations. The three members of the Advisory Committee were: Robert Benaroya (Director, Caravan World Rhythms); Sherazad Jamal (Artist; visual arts, creative writing, design); and Adrienne Wong (Actor).

The applications included five artistic residencies, one artistic leadership training initiative, and three artistic development projects. Grant requests and recommendations of the Advisory Committee are listed in Table 1, and discussed in more detail in Appendix A.

Table 1
Recommendations
2005 Diversity Initiatives Grants: 1st Deadline

| Organization | Activity | Requested | Recommended |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Firehall Theatre Society | Artistic residency | \$10,000 | \$9,000 |
| Full Circle Performance Society | Artistic development project | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| grunt gallery* | Artistic leadership training | \$10,000 | \$6,500 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Jewish Community Centre | Artistic residency | \$9,492 | \$7,500 |
| Norman Rothstein Theatre | Artistic residency | \$10,000 | 0 |
| Public Dreams Society | Artistic residency | \$18,000 | \$9,000 |
| Theatre Terrific Society | Artistic development project | \$8,000 | 0 |
| Vancouver Asian Cdn Theatre | Artistic development project | \$7,000 | 0 |
| Urban Ink Production Society* | Artistic residency | \$8,000 | \$8,000 |
| TOTAL | | \$90,492 | \$50,000 |

* Subject to the conditions contained within this report

Advisory Committee comments

At the end of the meetings, members of the Committee provided input into the overall program and offered their perspectives on challenges facing artists from distinct backgrounds. This information was gathered to inform future directions of the program to be reviewed in the context of the City Creative Task Force strategic plan. It is provided here as a record of their comments and for Council's information.

- It was noted that some mainstream organizations have been providing residencies or mentorships for several years but without any systemic change to their organization. The committee would like to see the program effect change from one-time opportunities (such as residencies) to more permanent work for artists within those organizations.
- The program tends to provide opportunities for artists from distinct communities to partner with mainstream "allies". An emphasis on resourcing those artists with the means to fulfill their own artistic goals would be more beneficial.
- The program should emphasize partnerships as an objective and ask applicants to demonstrate how each party would be involved in planning and participation of the initiative proposed.
- Organizations need to be encouraged to investigate new ways of working that are more informed by other cultures.
- Consider whether mainstream organizations should be able to continue to access the program; the program should focus on diverse cultural groups who need the support.
- Consider partnerships between arts organizations and schools to foster diverse artistic programming for young audiences where students could be encouraged to express themselves within their own language and culture.
- It is difficult for arts professionals from distinct backgrounds to assume any leadership role within organizations because many established arts organizations in Vancouver retain long-standing employees in leadership positions.
- If the Diversity Initiatives program continues to use an advisory committee adjudication process, it was suggested that an honorarium would be appropriate for artists and arts professionals who are providing specific expertise.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council approved a budget of \$51,000 for the Diversity Initiatives category of the 2005 Cultural Grants budget. Approval of the six grants totaling \$50,000 as recommended in this report will leave an unallocated balance of \$1,000 for the program's second deadline in October 2005. The report for the allocation of the \$1M increase to the Cultural Grants budget, being brought forward under separate report, proposes to increase the Diversity Initiatives program budget by \$50,000 which could provide additional resources for the second deadline.

CONCLUSION

The recommendations of this report relate to applications made to the first of two annual deadlines for the Diversity Initiatives program. The six projects recommended for support represent those which best met the program goals and criteria in a competitive round.

2005 DIVERSITY INITIATIVES GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS: 1ST DEADLINE**Firehall Theatre Society**

A grant of \$8,000 is recommended to support Filipino-Canadian playwright C. E. Gatchalian, as playwright in residence at the Firehall Arts Centre, from August 2005 to June 2006. While in residence he will be developing a new play as well as establishing a Playwright's Unit at the Firehall which would provide writers from diverse cultural backgrounds a context and peer group to develop their own work. The Advisory Committee recognized the benefits for C.E. Gatchalian and other playwrights of distinct backgrounds, through this residency.

Full Circle First Nations Performance Society

The Advisory Committee recommends an artistic development grant of \$10,000 to Full Circle for the final rehearsal and production phase of *The Rez Show* scheduled for summer 2006, noting the project's high artistic merit and effective fusion of cultural perspectives and artistic disciplines. *The Rez Show* is a culmination of an ambitious three-year project involving extensive community outreach, training and workshops incorporating stories, dance, song and images from the Aboriginal community. *The Rez Show* was supported through Diversity Initiatives grants during its earlier two phases.

grunt gallery

An artistic leadership training grant of \$6,500 is recommended for Peter Morin, an artist and member of the Tahltan Nation, to work with the grunt gallery artist-run centre, over a 12 month period starting this summer. During this time he will be receiving training in the areas of website design, editing, writing, marketing and educational research. He will help expand their current gallery publication, enhance the website, and research potential educational programs for the gallery. The grant is SUBJECT to other confirmed funding sources.

Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver

A grant of \$7,500 is recommended to support a cross-cultural artistic residency, hosted by the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver. The Centre will commission professional fabric artist Sima Elizabeth Shefrin to create quilted fabric artworks reflecting the cultural diversity of ten participating community groups. *The Art of Living Together* will involve different cultural groups and faith-based communities in Vancouver working with the artist in a series of creative workshops in locations across the City. The residency will culminate with a public celebratory exhibition of the quilted artworks at the Jewish Community Centre, followed by a tour to the partnering community organizations.

Norman Rothstein Theatre

The Norman Rothstein Theatre society is producing a dance/percussive/vocal project to be premiered at the 2006 Chutzpah! Festival involving musician Boris Sichon, a new Canadian Russian Jewish immigrant, and local dancer Emily Molnar and other dancers. They requested cross cultural artistic residency assistance to support the first phase of the project where Boris Sichon would develop the project within their facilities between September 2005 to March 2006. While the Advisory Committee considered this to be an interesting collaboration, they could not distinguish the residency component from the artistic development project.

The Committee noted that the Norman Rothstein Theatre already receives funding from the City for artistic development projects. No grant is recommended.

Public Dreams Society

A grant of \$9,000 is recommended to Public Dreams for a cross-cultural artistic residency to support carnival artist Vanessa Richards during the development of *The Trickster's Carnival*, a multi-disciplinary, cross-cultural and community art event scheduled for February 2006. Public Dreams will benefit from Ms. Richards' expertise and experiences of working with new media, live art, music and contemporary Carnival practice of the Caribbean Diaspora. In turn, Ms. Richards will benefit from building new partnerships, audiences and opportunities for her work as an artistic director, writer and performer.

Theatre Terrific Society

Theatre Terrific applied for artistic development assistance for the development of a professional theatrical troupe of disabled performers. Because the application lacked sufficient detail regarding the proposed program of professional development and the intended theatrical work to be produced, as well as a clear articulation of the project's relationship to the company's artistic development and the broader disability arts community, the Advisory Committee did not recommend a grant.

Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre

The Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre requested artistic development support for a third episode of a series titled *Sex in Vancouver*; an episodic romantic comedy, adapted from an American script which has been previously produced in Seattle. Applicants who have been funded through this stream before and are returning to the program for further assistance, must indicate a long-term development plan. The advisory committee considered this project to be a continuation of a previous project, and that it did not demonstrate development for the company. Therefore, no grant is recommended. They encouraged the organization to work towards a more collaborative approach with compatible theatre professionals in the community, towards the development of original Asian Canadian theatre.

Urban Ink Production Society

A cross-cultural artistic residency grant of \$8,000 is recommended to Urban Ink in support of theatre artist J. Patricia Collins for the research and development of a new interdisciplinary work, entitled *Gravity*. This innovative work will explore Ms. Collins' complex cultural history of her family as Chinese in the ex-British colony of Guyana in South America, and now living in Canada. This recommendation is SUBJECT to confirmation of Vancouver-based community outreach activities.

Program Information

Deadlines 16 May 2005
3 October 2005

DIVERSITY INITIATIVES GRANTS



Office of Cultural Affairs
City of Vancouver

Objectives

This program is designed to support artistic development in distinct communities* through experiential training and developmental projects. Its objectives are to:

- assist with the professional development of emerging artists and arts groups from distinct communities
- support new creations and innovative interpretations of art works reflecting the cultural diversity of Vancouver
- encourage artistic collaborations that respect the diversity of cultures and promote intercultural understanding

Program Components

Grants are available for the following activities in the performing and visual arts:

- Artistic Leadership Training
- Artistic Development Projects
- Cross-Cultural Artistic Projects
- Cross-Cultural Artistic Residencies

General Eligibility

- The program applies to activity in the performing arts (dance, music, theatre, and interdisciplinary work) or the visual arts.
- Applicants must be based in Vancouver and activities must take place within the city of Vancouver. (This means that activities in other Lower Mainland municipalities and the University Endowment Lands are excluded.)
- Applications may be submitted by a cultural organization registered as a not-for-profit society in British Columbia, or by an unincorporated arts group applying under the auspices of a not-for-profit cultural society). Please note that the City of Vancouver Charter does not allow for grants to individuals.
- Activities cannot be funded retroactively.

Please note: These criteria apply to the Diversity Initiatives program as a whole. For specific eligibility criteria, please read program details.

* Distinct Community is a group defined by race, ethnicity or disability, for the purposes of these grant programs.

Program Details

1. Artistic Leadership Training

To assist with the costs of experiential training for artists from distinct communities in the areas of curation, artistic direction, and artistic production. The training, detailed in a plan, should take the form of an internship or mentorship with a cultural organization that received a City grant in the past year. For the training organization this should represent a new activity or the expansion of an existing program.

Eligibility

- Applications may be made by the organization offering the professional development training, or by a not-for-profit society that wants to sponsor professional development for a staff member from a distinct community. An organization may apply on behalf of more than one artist.

2. Artistic Development Projects

To assist with projects that clearly contribute to the artistic development of a professionally* led arts group from one or more distinct communities, as articulated in a plan. Projects must involve new creation or interpretation, and may include development, production, or presentation and/or exhibition.

Eligibility

- Projects that have previously received funding through other City grant programs do not qualify.
- Requests in this category may be made for up to three times, subject to the successful completion of previously funded activity. Requests in the second or third year must include a long-term development plan. After three years, applications should be made to the Project grant category.
- A group cannot receive an Artistic Development and a Project grant in the same calendar year (except in the case of a society acting as auspices).

3. Cross-Cultural Artistic Projects

To assist with artistic collaborations between two or more arts organizations, at least one of which must be from a distinct community. Projects can be at the development or implementation stage and must involve new creation or interpretation. Partners must clearly state their objectives for the collaboration, and propose a plan to achieve them.

Eligibility

- A joint application must be submitted by at least two organizational partners, one of which should be an arts group from a distinct community.
- Projects that have previously received funding through other City grant programs do not qualify.

* Professional artist is defined by the following criteria: specialized training in the field (not necessarily in academic institutions); recognition by one's peers (artists who work in the same artistic tradition); and a history of public presentation/exhibition.

4. Cross-Cultural Artistic Residencies

To assist with residencies for artists from distinct communities lasting one to 12 months.

A residency must be hosted by a not-for-profit cultural organization from another community (distinct or mainstream), and must have clear artistic development objectives for the host organization and the artist-in-residence. The residency should provide opportunities for creation and/or presentation of the artist's work, additional to the regular activities of the host organization, and should include a community involvement component.

Eligibility

- The artist-in-residence should be a professional from a distinct community. While the initiative may come from the artist, the hosting not-for-profit cultural organization should submit the application, including a letter of intent from the artist.

Process

A committee of staff and advisors reviews the applications and reports its recommendations to Vancouver City Council. There is no set maximum for the amount requested, but grant recommendations are expected to range from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

Applicants are notified of the committee's recommendations in writing prior to the Council meeting at which the grants are considered. Council usually makes decisions about applications received for the May deadline in late July, and those received for the October deadline in November. Grant payments are usually made within three weeks of Council's approval of the grants.

Other Support Programs

Diversity Initiatives is one of several City grant programs available to not-for-profit arts organizations based in Vancouver. For a description of the City's Project, Operating and other grant categories, please consult our website at www.vancouver.ca/culture.

How to Apply

Contact Klodyne Rodney, Krizstina Kassay, Doug Durand or Cheryl Masters at the Office of Cultural Affairs for more information and an application form. Before submitting a request, all applicants are advised to read the program guidelines carefully and should discuss their proposal with OCA staff.

Deadlines

The completed application form (not a fax or diskette) and support documentation must be received in the Office of Cultural Affairs by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 16, 2005 or Monday, October 3, 2005.

Contact Information

Office of Cultural Affairs
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**Ce dépliant décrit des programmes de subvention organisés
par la Ville de Vancouver pour les compagnies artistiques.**

**Este folleto describe los programas de becas financieras
de la Municipalidad de Vancouver para organizaciones
artísticas.**

**Tài liệu này trình bày rõ những chương trình tài trợ của
Thành Phố Vancouver dành cho các nhóm nghệ thuật.**

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ਸਮੇਤ ਦੇ ਕਾਰਜ ਸੁਝਾਵਾਂ ਦਾ ਵਰਣਨ ਹੈ।**