



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

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Report Date: October 14, 2005
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Meeting Date: November 1, 2005

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

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve eight Diversity Initiatives grants totalling \$51,000; 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 thirteen Diversity Initiatives grant requests.

BACKGROUND

The Diversity Initiatives program 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.

The original budget for the Diversity Initiatives category of the 2005 Cultural Grant budget was \$51,000. On July 19, 2005, Council approved funding allocations for the \$1 million increase to the Cultural Grants program budget which included an increase of up to \$50,000 to the Diversity Initiatives grants program. Other allocations included: \$825,000 to be allocated as supplemental grants to rebalance funding levels to the 2005 Operating Grants recipients (detailed in report RTS 5392); up to \$75,000 to be allocated as supplemental grants to rebalance funding levels to the 2005 Project Grants recipients (detailed in report RTS 5392) and new projects (detailed in report RTS 5393). The remaining \$50,000 was allocated towards the costs of administration of the advisory committee process and outreach initiatives.

Complete program guidelines are attached in Appendix B.

DISCUSSION

There are two annual grant deadlines for the Diversity Initiatives program; the first in May and the second in September. The recommendations in this report are from the second program deadline. Thirteen grant applications were received with requests totalling \$115,700.

An independent Advisory Committee comprised of artists and arts professionals from various disciplines and from distinct cultural backgrounds was established to assess applications and to provide comments on the program. Each member pre-read the applications, then met to discuss them and to make recommendations. The three members of the Advisory Committee were:

- Robert Benaroya (Artistic Managing Director, Caravan World Rhythms);
- Doreen Jensen (visual artist, carver, painter, designer, curator); and
- Lee Su-Feh (choreographer and dancer, Co-Artistic Director, Battery Opera)

To increase community awareness and facilitate access to the Diversity Initiatives grants program as well as all other Cultural Services programs, an Outreach Coordinator was retained on contract.

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: 2nd Deadline

Organization	Activity	Requested	Recommended
Company Erasga Dance Society	Artistic Development Project	\$7,500	0
Gibran Theatre Group Society	Artistic Development Project	\$11,000	0
Meta.for Theatre Society	Artistic Development Project	\$10,000	\$5,500
Powell Street Festival Society	Cross Cultural Artistic Project	\$8,000	\$8,000
Rungh Cultural Society	Artistic Development Project	\$10,000	\$6,000
Van. Adapted Music Society	Artistic Development Project	\$10,000	0
Vancouver Art Gallery	Cross Cultural Artistic Project	\$10,000	\$7,000
Van. Centre for Contemporary Asian Art (Centre A)	Artistic Leadership Training	\$9,600	\$7,000
Vancouver Chamber Choir	Cross Cultural Artistic Project	\$5,000	0
Vancouver Dance Centre Society	Artistic Leadership Training	\$10,000	0
Vancouver Opera Association	Artistic Leadership Training	\$10,000	\$5,500
Van. Playhouse Theatre Company	Cross Cultural Artistic Residency	\$9,600	\$8,000
Zibota African Moonlight Theatre (African Stages Association)	Artistic Development Project	<u>\$5,000</u>	<u>\$4,000</u>
TOTAL		\$115,700	\$51,000

Advisory Committee Comments

At the end of all grant evaluation meetings, members of the Advisory Committee are asked for their perspectives on the Diversity Initiatives program. This information was gathered for ongoing service improvements as well as to inform future directions of the program to be reviewed in the context of the City Creative Task Force and any resulting reviews of grants programs. It is provided here as a record of their comments and for Council's information.

- The program guidelines and eligibility criteria should provide a clearer distinction between projects that are best suited for the Diversity Initiatives program and those which would be more suitable for regular project grant funding.
- The program might benefit from a re-evaluation of its priorities to reach either emerging or established artists.

- Consider the inclusion of more questions in the application that lead the applicant to discuss their understanding of diversity and how the project addresses this.
- The application form could be more inclusive around its use of language and utilizing plain English.
- The term “Diversity” implies an “otherness” which can perpetrate marginalization and stereotypes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council approved a budget of \$51,000 for the Diversity Initiatives category of the 2005 Cultural Grants budget. In July 2005, Council approved six grants totalling \$50,000 as recommended by the Advisory Committee, leaving an unallocated balance of \$1,000 for the program's second deadline. Also in July, Council approved a recommendation to increase the Diversity Initiatives program budget by \$50,000, as part of the allocation of the \$1M increase to the Cultural Grants budget. This increase provided additional resources for the program's second deadline, bringing the total amount available for the second grant deadline to \$51,000. If approved, recommendations made in this report will leave no unallocated funds for the 2005 Diversity Initiatives grants program.

CONCLUSION

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

The Managing Director of Cultural Services notes the value and importance of the independent Advisory Committee's expertise, insight, and carefully balanced recommendations and recommends their approval.

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2005 DIVERSITY INITIATIVES GRANTS: 2ND DEADLINE

RECOMMENDED:

Meta.for Theatre

An artistic development grant of \$5,500 is recommended to Meta.for Theatre Society who will sponsor the production and presentation of a play by a newly-formed theatre company called the Broken Whisper Collective. Entitled *Broken*, the play is a collection of five one-acts by Filipino Canadian playwright C.E. Gatchalian and will be produced at the Firehall Arts Centre in March 2006. Through this play and future commissions, the Broken Whisper Collective seeks to question and deconstruct the underlying assumptions of mainstream thinking about racial, sexual and cultural issues. The Advisory Committee noted that the production of this play will contribute to the artistic development of an emerging theatre company.

Powell Street Festival Society

A grant of \$8,000 is recommended for *Lost and Found*, a cross-cultural artistic project between the Powell Street Festival Society and Access Artist Run Centre. *Lost and Found* will bring together three artists, Wayde Compton, Haruko Okano and Judy Chartrand, to create an artistic collaboration focusing on historical and contemporary stories, as well as cultural and social issues of the Black, Japanese and First Nations communities in the downtown eastside. The completed work(s) will be presented during a five-week exhibition at Access Gallery and the 30th annual Powell Street Festival in 2006, with documentation to be later incorporated into an educational web-based archive.

Rungh Cultural Society

An artistic development grant of \$6,000 is recommended to the Rungh Cultural Society. In phase one of a two-phase project, the organization will curate a web-based presentation of Rungh's archives (including recordings, press releases and other documents, as well as *Rungh Magazine*). The Advisory Committee considered this project to be a catalyst to the renewal of the society as it works towards a previous level of activity in presenting and developing work by South Asian professional artists.

Noting that the City's cultural grant programs do not fund print or virtual publishing, funds are targeted toward the creation of a platform that will establish a virtual exhibition space and place for cultural exchange and networking.

Vancouver Art Gallery

A cross-cultural artistic project grant of \$7,000 is recommended for a collaboration between the Vancouver Art Gallery (VAG) and Redwire Native Youth Media. Inspired by the VAG's forthcoming exhibit "Raven Travelling - Two Centuries of Haida Art" in the summer of 2006, this project will facilitate significant opportunities for the creative interpretation of the exhibit and provide a space to showcase their dances and songs. Working with an independent curator, four young First Nations artists, the VAG and Redwire will develop community outreach programming for the VAG's Super Sundays and FUSE Fridays. An additional four young writers will reflect and write on the process, as well as the content of the exhibit and public events for Redwire Magazine.

Vancouver Centre for Contemporary Asian Art (Centre A)

An artistic leadership training grant of \$7,000 is recommended to support Joni Low, a writer and historian with a specialized interest in contemporary Asian art, during a 10-month internship with Centre A gallery. The Advisory Committee members noted the comprehensive, project-oriented structure of the internship in the context of developing the gallery's Library Resource Centre. Reporting directly to curator Dr. Alice Ming Wai Jim, under the leadership of Executive Director Hank Bull, Ms. Low will receive training in the areas of curation, gallery administration, educational outreach, and will also utilize and build on her career interests and academic research training to conceptualize an archival exhibition which will launch the library as a community resource centre at the completion of the internship.

Vancouver Opera Association

The Advisory Committee recommends an artistic leadership training grant of \$5,500 to the Vancouver Opera Association as a contribution towards the costs of artistic internships for five First Nations artists in the areas of costume and scenic design, producing and directing. The Advisory Committee noted the high caliber of the candidate interns, who as members of the production team developing a First Nations adaptation of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* in January, 2007, will be offered the chance to add their expertise to the artistic mix, while extending their artistic practice and gaining experience of working on a large-scale theatrical project.

Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company

A grant of \$8,000 is recommended for a 12-month cross-cultural artistic residency at the Playhouse Theatre Company for First Nations actor and playwright Kevin Loring. While in residence, he will re-write and lead developmental workshops of his full-length play, *The Ballad of Floyd*. In addition, he will play a key role with the company's artistic management team in the development of a large-scale new work, *Ninstints*. The Advisory Committee recognized the benefits of the creative exchange between the company and artist that will outlast the length of the residency. The Playhouse Theatre Company will benefit from Mr. Loring's artistic insight and community outreach as a member of the Niakap'mux Nation. In turn, Mr. Loring will expand on a wide-range of leadership skills—artistic, developmental and managerial needed for his role as Artistic Director of an emerging company, The Savage Society.

Zibota African Moonlight Theatre (African Stages Association)

An artistic development grant of \$4,000 is recommended to Zibota African Moonlight Theatre (African Stages Association) for the creative development of *Tohio! African Hut Tales - Storytelling Macbeth*. Led by the company's artistic director, playwright and storyteller Comfort Adesuwa Ero, and involving company artists and community workshop participants, this project will use the traditions of storytelling, dance and music to draw connections between the universal themes found in a classic piece of western theatre and African myths and folktales. The Advisory Committee considered that this project will further this organization's mission to serve the professional artistic needs of the African diaspora in Vancouver.

NOT RECOMMENDED:

Company Erasga Dance Society

Company Erasga Dance Society requested artistic development support for the first phase of a multi-year collaborative project between choreographers Alvin Tolentino and Peter Chin, and glass artist Jeina Morosoff. While the Advisory Committee considered this to be an interesting project, they noted that the proposal lacked an in-depth artistic rationale for the collaboration and did not adequately demonstrate how this project fits into the organization's long-term artistic development goals. The Advisory Committee did not recommend a grant, in the context of a competitive round.

Gibran Theatre Group

The Gibran Theatre Group applied for artistic development assistance for the development and production of *The Hanging Gardens*, a play by Toronto-based writer Abdul Amir Shamkhi to be translated into English from the original Arabic and performed by the group's core ensemble. The Advisory Committee considered that the play would fill a niche in the local theatre ecology. However, the Committee noted the lack of a confirmed venue for the project, clear evidence of wider community support, other confirmed revenue sources, as well as organizational issues. Therefore, in the context of a competitive round, the Advisory Committee did not recommend a grant.

Vancouver Adapted Music Society

The Vancouver Adapted Music Society (VAMS) applied for support of an artistic development project for VAMSFest, a concert scheduled for September 2006. While members of the Advisory Committee recognized the merits in this project, they noted high budget costs for some items, and in the proposal, limited outreach beyond the society's membership for an audience, lack of a clearly articulated artistic vision, and discussion of the ongoing artistic development benefits to the artists. As such, no grant was recommended in the context of a competitive round.

Vancouver Chamber Choir

The Vancouver Chamber Choir and the Egret Singers proposed a cross-cultural artistic project to collaboratively create, produce and present a concert at Christ Church Cathedral during Asian Heritage Month (May, 2006). While the Advisory Committee recognized the audience development potential in this initiative, they noted that the artistic process and repertoire information lacked detail. In the context of a competitive round, no grant was recommended.

Vancouver Dance Centre Society

The Vancouver Dance Centre Society applied for an artistic leadership training grant for Denise Lonewalker, a First Nations dance artist. The Advisory Committee members noted that the program was ambitious given the short time-frame. Further, the specifics around the mentorship project were not clearly articulated and it was difficult to determine whether the available resources of the mentoring organization were adequate to carry out the mentorship. In light of a competitive round, no grant was recommended.

DIVERSITY INITIATIVES GRANTS - FALL 2005

Program Information

NEW DEADLINE!
7 September 2005
(Note: revised from October 3, 2005)



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. 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.

3. 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).

* 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 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.

Process

A committee of staff and advisors reviews the applications and reports its recommendations to Vancouver City Council. Grant recommendations can be 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 September deadline in early 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 and cultural organizations based in Vancouver. For a description of the City's Project, Operating and other grant categories, please consult our website at: vancouver.ca/culture, or call us at (604) 871-6000 and speak with a Cultural Planner.

How to Apply

Contact the Office of Cultural Affairs at (604) 871-6000 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 Wednesday, September 7, 2005.

Contact Information

Office of Cultural Affairs
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 Vancouver, BC

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Ce dépliant décrit des programmes de subvention organisé 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 nhéng chương trình tài trợ của Thành Phố Vancouver dành cho các nhóm nghệ thuật.

這份刊物描述溫哥華市政府一個為藝術團體而設的補助金計劃。

ਇਸ ਕਿਤਾਬਚ ਵਿਚ ਆਰਟ ਗਰੁੱਪਾਂ ਲਈ ਵੈਨਕੂਵਰ ਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਦੇ ਗਰਾਂਟ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮਾਂ ਦਾ ਵਰਣਨ ਹੈ।