



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 16, 2005
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Meeting Date: December 13, 2005

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Managing Director, Cultural Services
SUBJECT: 2005 Theatre Rental Grants Projects

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve two Theatre Rental Project grants totalling \$12,260 for uses of the Civic Theatres in early 2006; source of funds to be the 2005 Theatre Rental Grants budget.
- B. THAT Council approve one Theatre Rental Operating grant totalling \$962 for a rehearsal use of the Civic Theatres in early 2006; source of funds to be the 2005 Theatre Rental Grants budget
- C. THAT Council approve the reallocation of \$62,740 from the 2005 Theatre Rental Project Grants budget to the 2005 Theatre Rental Grants Operating budget and direct staff to carry forward the unallocated balance of \$78,653 from the 2005 Theatre Rental Grants Operating budget into the 2006 Theatre Rental Grants Operating budget to meet an anticipated shortfall for Spring 2006.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

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

COUNCIL POLICY

In 1979 and again in 1983, City Council affirmed the principle that Grants Equal to Theatre Rental are available to arts and cultural organizations that use the Civic Theatres annually and have been assigned annual “base level” uses of the Civic Theatres by Council.

On July 19, 2005, Council approved the re-allocation of funds from the unallocated 2005 Theatre Rental Grants budget to support a new theatre rental program for occasional, new and diverse non-profit arts and cultural organizations wanting access to Vancouver’s Civic Theatres.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE

This report presents staff recommendations for two Theatre Rental Project grant requests received in response to the October 28th deadline, a further Theatre Rental Operating grant to a previously awarded applicant to correct an administrative error, and a recommendation to carry forward the unallocated balance from the 2005 Theatre Rental Grants Project budget to the 2006 Theatre Rental Grants Operating budget.

BACKGROUND

City Council has long provided assistance to Vancouver’s non-profit arts and cultural organizations to access to the Vancouver Civic Theatres. Regular users have been eligible for support through the Theatre Rental Operating grants program. Until 2005, occasional users were able to apply to the Baxter Grant program. In spring of 2005 the Baxter Grant fund, established through the Vancouver Foundation and administered by the City through the Office of Cultural Affairs was wound up and all funds dispersed.

Through the June 2005 City Creative Task Force public consultation process regarding an increase to the 2005 Cultural Grants budget, the community identified the need to address access to affordable venues for all art forms and the Task Force Subcommittee, in the Council report of July 2005 recommended that as a first step, Council approve up to \$75,000 for a pilot Theatre Rental Projects grant program to be administered generally in the same manner as the former Baxter Grant program with a focus on occasional, new and diverse users of the Vancouver Civic Theatres.

DISCUSSION

The recommendations in this report are from the October 28th grant deadline for the new Theatre Rental Projects grant program. Prior to the deadline, Office of Cultural Affairs staff and outreach consultant sought to communicate this opportunity widely among cultural organizations in Vancouver. The timing of the program’s implementation in July, relatively late in the planning cycles of many groups, meant that there was limited availability in the Civic Theatre venues, especially the Vancouver Playhouse. Further, many arts organizations had already made their seasonal plans and venue commitments, and were not able to take

advantage of this opportunity. The outreach however has revealed a great interest in seeking ways to increase increased access to affordable venues in the City for all organizations, and in particular for new, emerging and diverse users.

Eligible events must take place before March 31, 2006. Three grant applications were received with requests totalling \$26,810. One application was determined to be ineligible. Grant requests and recommendations are listed in **Table 1**, and discussed in more detail in **Appendix A**. Complete program guidelines are attached in **Appendix B**.

Table 1
Recommendations
2005 Theatre Rental (Projects) Grants

Organization	Activity	Requested	Recommended
BC Chamber Orchestra Society	Concert at Vancouver Playhouse	\$2,560	\$2,560
Caravan World Rhythms Society	Concert at Queen Elizabeth Theatre	\$9,700	\$9,700
New Tang Dynasty TV	Concert at Queen Elizabeth Theatre	\$14,550	0
TOTAL		\$26,810	\$12,260

One additional grant is recommended to correct an administrative error made in evaluating the 2005 Theatre Rental Operating grant to the Vancouver Chamber Choir. One rehearsal use of the Orpheum Theatre was omitted from the earlier staff recommendation leaving an unfunded use shortfall of \$962.

Table 2
Recommendations
2005 Theatre Rental (Operating) Grants

Organization	Activity	Requested	Recommended
Vancouver Chamber Choir	Rehearsal at Orpheum Theatre	\$962	\$962
TOTAL		\$962	\$962

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The approved Theatre Rental Grants Operating Budget for 2005 is \$1,892,000 out of which \$100,000 was allocated to the VSO office rent. To date, \$903,910 has been allocated for spring 2005 uses, and a further \$796,215 for fall 2005 uses leaving an unallocated balance of \$91,875.

In July 2005, Council approved the re-allocation of \$75,000 from the unallocated 2005 Theatre Rental Grants Operating budget to fund a pilot Theatre Rental Grants Projects program which is the subject of this report. Subject to Council approval of Recommendation A and B, an unallocated balance of \$15,913 remains within the Theatre Rental Grants Operating Budget and \$62,740 remains within the 2005 Theatre Rental Grants Project budget.

The Theatre Rental Grants Projects pilot program and budget was created specifically in response to the priorities arising from of the City Creative Task Force for 2005 as a first step towards creating access to affordable venues for emerging performing arts groups. While this pilot has concluded, the need remains and theatre rental access will be reviewed in the context of the City Creative Task Force and the 2006 Operating Budget. As such, staff recommend that Council approve the re-allocation of the unallocated balance within the 2005 Theatre Rental Grants Project budget into the 2005 Theatre Rental Grants Operating budget and the unallocated balance be carried forward into the 2006 Theatre Rental Grants Operating budget, to help offset an anticipated shortfall in the 2006 Theatre Rental Grants Operating budget, arising from a reallocation of uses from 2005 to 2006, and the recent 7% Theatre Rental rate increase.

CONCLUSION

The recommendations in this report relate to applications made for the October 28, 2005 deadline for the Theatre Rental Projects grants program. The two projects recommended for support represent those which best met the program goals and criteria. Additional recommendations refer to an adjustment to a previously awarded 2005 Theatre Rental Operating Grant, and a proposal to carry forward unallocated funds from the 2005 Theatre Rental Grants Project budget to the 2006 Theatre Rental Grants Operating budget.

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2005 Theatre Rental (Projects) Grants

Recommended:

BC Chamber Orchestra Society

A grant of \$2,560 is recommended to the BC Chamber Orchestra Society for an evening concert at the Vancouver Playhouse on March 12, 2006. Established in 1997, the orchestra has grown from 19 to more than 50 professional and semi-professional musicians comprising a rich mix of culturally diverse backgrounds. The concerts are characteristically bi-cultural, presenting both Chinese and Western classical repertoire, and featuring emerging guest soloists under the musical direction of conductor, Thomas Wang.

Caravan World Rhythms Society

A grant of \$9,700 is recommended to the Caravan World Rhythms Society for an evening presentation of Nuevo Ballet Espanol at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre on February 11, 2006. Founded in 2000, Caravan World Rhythms Society presents music and dance of cultures from around the World. Vancouver audiences will benefit from the opportunity to see this internationally acclaimed Spanish Flamenco dance company. Support through this program will enable Caravan World Rhythms to increase its public profile and audience base.

Not Recommended:

New Tang Dynasty TV (NTDTV) Vancouver

No grant is recommended to this organization as it was determined to be ineligible. The organization is currently not registered as a non-profit society in British Columbia, which is a pre-requisite for civic funding .

2005 Theatre Rental (Projects) Grants

Office of Cultural Affairs, City of Vancouver

INFORMATION SHEET

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The 2005 Theatre Rental (Projects) Grants program has been established to offer financial assistance to non-profit arts and cultural organizations that occasionally present events in one of the Civic Theatres (the Orpheum, Vancouver Playhouse, or Queen Elizabeth Theatre). The recent completion of the Donald Alexander Baxter Fund has left groups who use these venues from time to time with no program of support. The desire for such a program was identified through a community consultation process.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The program is intended to ensure accessibility to the Civic Theatres for new and emerging arts and cultural organizations. It seeks to support groups that have the capacity to attract large audiences and can benefit from the experience of performing in a centrally located and well-equipped theatre by contributing to their artistic development, increasing their profile, and helping them expand their audiences.

ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Theatre Rental (Projects) grants can be used to cover some or all of a recipient's Civic Theatre rental and rehearsal expenses only. They do NOT fund any additional costs, for example:

- Administrative Charges (GST, insurance, licenses, etc.)
- Technical Services Charges (the operation of amplified sound, stage crew wages, dance floor installation, use of video for projection or recording, piano tuning, etc.)
- Audience Services Charges (labour for pre and/or post show events and receptions, merchandising licensing and commission, additional security, etc.)

For a detailed list of cost related to these items and others, please refer to the Vancouver Civic Theatre's website at: www.vancouver.ca/theatres

We also strongly recommend that you call the Civic Theatres to discuss your proposed event and related charges.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for a grant, an applicant must be:

- a registered non-profit society with a mandate to present cultural events
- based and active in the city of Vancouver
- actively promoting its event to a city-wide audience
- presenting an event before March 31, 2006

The following are ineligible for Theatre Rental (Projects) Grants:

- non-profit arts organizations that are currently receiving an annual civic Theatre Rental Grant (Operating)
- competitions; and
- events whose prime purpose is fundraising for the applicant or a third party

Please note that applicants meeting the eligibility requirements will not automatically receive a grant.

HOW TO APPLY

Please follow these steps if you are interested in applying for a Theatre Rental (Projects) Grant.

1. Call 604-871-6000 to discuss your plans with Office of Cultural Affairs staff, to confirm your eligibility.
2. Reserve a date at the Civic Theatres by calling the Booking Coordinator at 604-665-3028. If you have never held an event at the Civic Theatres, we recommend that you arrange to meet with Civic Theatres staff to discuss your plans and determine all expenses.
3. Once you have a confirmed date with the Civic Theatres, contact the Office of Cultural Affairs to obtain an application form.
4. Complete and return three (3) copies of the application form, together with the required documents to:

Office of Cultural Affairs City of Vancouver

Site (courier) address:
Suite 310, 555 West 12th Avenue
East Tower, City Square Mall
Vancouver, BC

Mailing address:
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

DEADLINE

Applications for the Theatre Rental (Projects) Grants program are being accepted now and until October 28, 2005. You should apply **after** you have confirmed a booking with the Civic Theatres office. In all cases, the deadline for application is October 28, 2005 for events proposed up to March 31, 2006.

Revised August 4, 2005