



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: April 18, 2006
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Meeting Date: May 4, 2006

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Managing Director of Cultural Services
SUBJECT: 2006 Celebration Grants Recommendations, Spring Deadline

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve a total of \$107,500 in Celebration Grants to 29 organizations listed in Tables 1 and 2. Source of funds to be the 2006 "Other Grants" budget.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services recommends APPROVAL.

COUNCIL POLICY

Council approved creation of the Celebration Grants program in October 2002 for cash grants to community-based festivals, celebrations and large scale parades.

In July 2003, Council approved the establishment of a new service grant component of the program, which may provide an offset of up to 50% to the cost of city services (police and engineering) incurred by major parades to a maximum sum of \$10,000.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE

This report recommends grants to 29 organizations, outlines selection processes, discusses the applications in more detail (**Appendix A**), appends the evaluation criteria in the Program Information Guide (**Appendix B**), and includes front pages of the applications (**Appendix C**).

BACKGROUND

In October 2002, Council established the Celebration Grants program as a means of encouraging and assisting community-based cultural festivals, celebrations and major parades. Through their provision of cultural interaction and entertainment, these events contribute to building a greater sense of community in Vancouver.

In advance of the March 1, 2006 spring deadline, advertisements were placed in community newspapers inviting the public to an information session and directing readers to the web site for program details. The program continues to attract new interest. In spring 2006, five requests were from first-time applicants and three groups returned to the program after a one-year absence with proposals for new and continuing festivals or major anniversary celebrations. Also, one long-standing organization was referred to the program from the Operating Grants program as the festival programming was deemed to be better matched to Celebration Grants.

There were 34 applications received, totalling a combined cash and city services request of \$287,520. Among the 34 total applicant organizations, one also requested \$15,000 in funding from the city service component of Celebration Grants.

Applicants were first screened for eligibility and then, as available, interviewed by OCA staff. A further technical review for operational issues and permit or site requirements was then conducted by representatives from Cultural Affairs, Park Board and Engineering. Some operational and risk management issues were identified during this process that required revisions to the proposals and one organization was recommended to meet with FEST Committee partners.

Applications were then evaluated by an independent three-member Assessment Committee with support from OCA staff. The Assessment Committee consisted of community members with a broad range of experience and expertise with both professional and community-based cultural events. They were asked to assess the submissions against the Celebration Grants program goals and criteria. This report reflects the consensus recommendations of the Assessment Committee members who included:

Stewart Anderson	Manager, Aboriginal Banking, Vancity Board Member, Secret Lantern Society and Kiwassa Neighbourhood House
Sepideh Saii	Interdisciplinary Artist & Instructor, Simon Fraser University Board Member, Arts Network for Children and Youth and North Vancouver Community Arts Council
Charlie Wu	Executive Director, Taiwanese Cultural Festival

DISCUSSION

Celebration Cash Grants:

The Assessment Committee recommended funding in this category to 29 applicants as per Table 1, reflecting those projects which best met the evaluation criteria as outlined in Appendix B: Celebration Grants Program Information Guidelines.

TABLE 1: CASH GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Organization Name	Requested	Recommended
Arts in Action Society	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,650
Association Of United Ukrainian Canadians/Heart of the City Festival	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000
Avalon Dairy Heritage Society	\$ 5,000	\$ 0
Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,500
Collingwood Neighbourhood House	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500
East Vancouver Celebration Society	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,500
Crab - Water for Life Society	\$ 1,850	\$ 1,850
Downtown Eastside Safety Society	\$ 8,000	\$ 4,000
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society of Vancouver	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,500
Dragon Boat Festival Society	\$ 25,000	\$ 0
Dunbar Residents' Association	\$ 1,175	\$ 1,000
False Creek Watershed Society	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,000
Fiji Indian Association of BC	\$ 5,000	\$ 0
Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,000
Hellenic Canadian Congress of BC	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000
Hungarian Cultural Society of Greater Vancouver	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,000
Hungarian Reformed Church of Vancouver	\$ 6,700	\$ 0
Latinos in Action Vancouver Foundation	\$ 10,000	\$ 6,000
Little Mountain Neighbourhood House Society	\$ 3,275	\$ 2,000
Main Art Drift Society	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,500
Pandora's Collective Outreach Society	\$ 5,970	\$ 2,000
Philippine Festival Association	\$ 10,000	\$ 0
South Asian Family Association	\$ 7,000	\$ 4,500
Stanley Park Bike Festival Society	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,000
Still Moon Arts Society	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,000
Turtle Island Professionals Society	\$ 50,000	\$ 0
South Vancouver Neighbourhood House/Vancouver Celebrates Diwali	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,000
Vancouver Dyke March and Festival Society	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,000

Vancouver Métis Association	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Vancouver Multicultural Society	\$ 10,000	\$ 0
Vancouver Wooden Boat Society	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,000
Vancouver Pride Society	\$ 15,000	\$ 7,500
West End Senior's Network Society	\$ 2,550	\$ 1,500
Total	\$ 272,520	\$ 100,000

Celebration Service Grants:

The service grants component is available to help offset up to 50% of the cost of city services incurred by major parades a maximum sum of \$10,000. The Assessment Committee recommended funding to one organization in this category as per Table 2.

TABLE 2: SERVICE GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Organization Name	Requested	Recommended
Vancouver Pride Society	\$ 15,000	\$ 7,500
Total	\$ 15,000	\$ 7,500

This summer, staff will conduct a full review of this grant program. This is part of a periodic review of programs and services to measure effectiveness, ensures that the program meets the needs in the community, is accessible and administratively efficient. Community members as well as past Assessment Committee members will be consulted for input. Staff will report back to City Council with any proposed changes to the program prior to the 2007 Celebration Grant deadline.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As approved by Council, the 2006 Celebration Grants program budget is \$196,250. If the recommendations for this spring round are approved, there would be an unallocated balance of \$67,250 remaining in the cash grant component of the program and an unallocated balance \$21,500 in the city service component of the program.

CONCLUSION

The Celebration Grants program provides support to community organizations holding festivals and celebrations throughout the year and throughout Vancouver's neighbourhoods. The program continues to strive to be flexible enough to allow access to new organizations and events while providing encouragement to more established organizations to build both stronger events and organizational capacity.

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

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2006 CELEBRATION GRANTS RECOMMENDATIONS: FIRST DEADLINE

Arts in Action Society

A grant of \$1,650 is recommended in support of artist fees for the In the House Festival, which brings artists and community together in non-traditional venues in the Victoria Drive area.

Association of United Ukrainian Canadians/Heart of the City Festival

A grant of \$10,000 is recommended for the multi-disciplinary Heart of the City Festival. Co-produced with multiple community partners, including Vancouver Moving Theatre, it which mobilizes the diverse community of Downtown Eastside residents, artists and organizations during a 12-day celebration in October.

Avalon Dairy Heritage Society

The proposed September County Fair was seen as a strong community outreach tool to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the commercial dairy, but in a competitive round, no grant is recommended.

Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House

A grant of \$4,500 is recommended for programming, event and publicity expenses for the annual Mother's Day Traditional Pow Wow at Trout Lake Community Centre.

Collingwood Neighbourhood House

A grant of \$2,500 in support of artist fees is recommended for the 2nd annual Collingwood Days on May 27th.

CRAB - Water for Life Society

A grant of \$1,850 is recommended for artist fees and event costs for this July 1st celebration in CRAB Park at Portside, which provides a unique focal point for the neighbourhood on Canada Day.

Downtown Eastside Safety Society

A grant of \$4,000 is recommended for Sizzling Saturday, a July 22nd celebration which brings together multiple community partners in Strathcona Park.

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society of Vancouver

A grant of \$3,500 is recommended for programming and publicity expenses for the annual Chinatown Arts and Cultural Festival in July.

Dragon Boat Festival Society

A request for funding for the 18th annual Dragon Boat Festival was referred to this program from the Operating Grants program. The Assessment Committee thoroughly evaluated the racing and cultural components of this festival and noted its value in the paddling community. However, the Committee expressed concern that the World Beat Stage was not meeting its potential as the main cultural component of a long-standing festival. In the context of a competitive round, no grant is recommended.

Dunbar Residents' Association

A grant of \$1,000 is recommended toward the production of the Salmonberry Days calendar, the major promotional tool of the 9th annual community celebration, to be held throughout May.

East Vancouver Celebration Society

A grant of \$4,500 for performer fees and event costs is recommended for the June 18th Commercial Drive Community Festival, which celebrates the neighbourhood's diversity, and its pedestrian and family-friendly character.

False Creek Watershed Society

A grant of \$1,000 is recommended to this new society toward publicity fees and event costs for the 3rd annual Salmon Celebration held in the South East corner of False Creek on September 24th.

Fiji Indian Association of BC

While the impact of the annual Fiji Festival in the Fijian Indian community was recognized, the Assessment Committee had outstanding questions about the clarity of the organization's financial management and liability insurance coverage for the proposed event. No grant is recommended.

Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House

A grant of \$3,000 for event costs is recommended for the October 28th Pumpkin Patch in the City celebration, a multi-faceted family celebration serving newcomer residents from surrounding neighbourhood houses and the immediate area.

Hellenic Canadian Congress of BC

A grant of \$5,000 is recommended for performer fees and event costs for Greek Day, a free community celebration on June 25th.

Hungarian Cultural Society of Greater Vancouver

A grant of \$2,000 is recommended for production and publicity expenses for the society's commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution on October 21-22 at the Hungarian Cultural Centre.

Hungarian Reformed Church of Vancouver

The Assessment Committee evaluated a proposal to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution as well as the 10th anniversary of the organization. As the Committee reviewed two proposals to commemorate a significant anniversary in the Hungarian community and with this request having a more religious focus (religious ceremonies are not eligible), in the context of available funds, no grant is recommended.

Latinos in Action Vancouver Foundation

A grant of \$6,000 is recommended towards publicity fees and event costs for this free event on August 20th, which celebrates the diversity of Latin culture through arts, music and food.

Little Mountain Neighbourhood House Society

A grant of \$2,000 is recommended for Many Faces: One Community, a multicultural and youth-focused celebration, on June 11th at the Riley Park Community Centre.

Main Art Drift Society

A grant of \$2,500 is recommended for the marketing and publicity of The Drift, an annual open studio tour and celebration in Mount Pleasant's Artist Live/Work neighbourhood that showcases artist's work in over 80 local studios and businesses during the first weekend in October.

Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society

A grant of \$1,500 towards performer fees and event costs is recommended for the one-time 30th anniversary celebration of Mount Pleasant Family Centre on July 27th at Robson Park.

Pandora's Collective Outreach Society

A grant of \$2,000 is recommended towards publicity fees and event costs for the 3rd annual Summer Dream Reading Festival on July 22nd, which showcases grassroots spoken word, poetry, storytelling and musical performances at Robson Square.

Philippine Festival Association

While the impact of the festival in the Philippine community was recognized, the Assessment Committee noted the balance between cultural and political activities did not best meet the program objectives. The organization is encouraged to further develop its outreach and programming to reach out to a wide general public. In the context of a competitive round, no grant is recommended.

South Asian Family Association

A grant of \$4,500 is recommended for artist fees and event costs for the annual South Asian Sawan Mela celebration on June 25th at the Plaza of Nations.

South Vancouver Neighbourhood House/Vancouver Celebrates Diwali

A grant of \$7,000 is recommended for programming and administrative costs of Vancouver Celebrates Diwali, a multi-faceted celebration of the South Asian festival of light held in October at various community venues.

Stanley Park Bike Festival Society

A grant of \$2,000 is recommended for participatory workshops and cultural programming expenses of the Stanley Park Bike Festival on June 17th including children's entertainment, musical and theatrical groups that incorporate cycling into their work.

Still Moon Arts Society

A grant of \$7,000 is recommended for programming costs and publicity fees for the October 7th Renfrew Ravine Moon Festival, which combines a neighbourhood harvest fair with community and professional arts performances and lantern installations in Renfrew Park.

Turtle Island Professionals Society

While acknowledging the significant potential of the proposed event, the Assessment Committee noted the lack of confirmed partnerships, logistical planning and revenue sources to effectively coordinate and support this event within the short timelines proposed. No grant is recommended.

Vancouver Dyke March and Festival Society

A grant of \$4,000 is recommended for publicity and programming costs of the August 5th Dyke March and Festival, which culminates in an all-ages afternoon music festival for queer women, their families and supporters at Grandview Park during Pride weekend.

Vancouver Métis Community Association

A grant of \$4,000 for production costs is recommended for the August 12th Celebration Métis, an outdoor celebration of Métis culture and heritage held in the downtown core.

Vancouver Multicultural Society

The Assessment Committee noted the society's significant achievement in establishing the inaugural pilot festival with very short timelines and considerable expense. While acknowledging that the proposed Diversity Festival could provide a platform for the society to enact its mandate to promote cross-cultural understanding, the Assessment Committee expressed concerns around festival's sustainability due to the high fees charged to the organizers by commercial production companies to deliver the event. In the context of available funds, no grant is recommended.

Vancouver Pride Society

The Assessment Committee recommended a cash grant of \$7,500 towards the annual Pride parade and festival. A service grant to cover up to 50% of police and engineering costs for the parade is also recommended (up to a maximum of \$7,500).

Vancouver Wooden Boat Society

A grant of \$4,000 is recommended for artist fees and publicity costs for the 19th annual festival on Granville Island August 24-27th.

West End Senior's Network Society

A grant of \$1,500 is recommended for artists fees and production costs for the June 24th Strawberry Festival.