



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: June 21, 2006
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RTS No.: 05936
VanRIMS No.: 05-5000-10
Meeting Date: July 18, 2006

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Assistant Director, Office of Cultural Affairs
SUBJECT: 2006 Diversity Initiatives Grants: First Deadline

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve seven Diversity Initiatives grants totaling \$52,000; source of funds to be the 2006 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 Assessment Committee comprised of independent community members as well as Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) staff for nine 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.

Complete program guidelines are attached in **Appendix B**.

DISCUSSION

The 2006 budget for the Diversity Initiatives grants program is \$102,000. There are two annual grant deadlines for the program; the first in May and the second in October. The recommendations in this report are from the first intake of nine applications received, with requests totaling \$89,969.

Eligibility of applicants and projects to the program as well as a detailed evaluation of all requests is undertaken by OCA staff through contact and face-to-face meetings. The full application is then reviewed and recommendations are based on a thorough analysis of the grant applications using clearly articulated evaluation criteria by an Assessment Committee comprised of City staff and independent community members of artists and arts professionals from various disciplines and distinct cultural backgrounds. The three independent community members for this application deadline were:

- Bryon Chief Moon (multi-disciplinary artist and dancer);
- Emma Kivisild (Visual and performance artist, curator and writer); and
- Lee Su-Feh (choreographer and dancer, Co-Artistic Director, Battery Opera)

Grant requests and recommendations of the Assessment Committee are listed in **Table 1**, and discussed in more detail in **Appendix A**.

Table 1
Recommendations
2006 Diversity Initiatives Grants: 1st Deadline

Organization	Activity	Requested	Recommended
Atmasphere Art Soc.	Artistic Development Project	\$10,000	6,000
Theatre Terrific Soc.	Artistic Development Project	\$10,000	10,000
Electric Company Theatre Soc.	Artistic Leadership Training	\$8,000	8,000
Judith Marcuse Projects Soc.	Artistic Leadership Training	\$8,089	0
New Performance Works Soc.	Artistic Leadership Training	\$9,680	5,000
New Orchestra Workshop Soc.	Cross Cultural Artistic Project	\$10,000	6,000
Vancouver Dance Centre Soc.	Cross Cultural Artistic Project	\$10,000	9,000
Firehall Theatre Soc.	Cross Cultural Artistic Residency	\$12,000	0
Gallery Gachet Soc.	Cross Cultural Artistic Residency	\$12,200	8,000
TOTAL		\$89,969	\$52,000

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

- The program could further explore and promote deeper dialogue around the complex issues of diversity beyond race, ethnicity or ability, which recognize diversity of arts practice and encourage meaningful exchanges which are at the heart of the program.
- There is a danger that some groups might be encouraged to "exoticize" their work to meet criteria for funding through this program, further marginalizing them.
- Additional outreach can be done to inform additional arts and cultural groups from distinct communities on how to access the Diversity Initiatives program.
- The Diversity Initiatives program could do more to encourage "mainstream" arts groups to embrace diversity and integrate ideas of diversity into their organizations and practice.

Staff note that a complete review of all grant programs, including the Diversity Initiatives program has been recommended by the Creative City Task Force (see RTS 6025 July 13, 2006).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council approved a budget of \$102,000 for the Diversity Initiatives category of the 2006 Cultural Grants budget. Approval of the seven grants totaling \$52,000 as recommended in this report will leave an unallocated balance of \$50,000 for the program's second deadline in October 2006.

CONCLUSION

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

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2006 DIVERSITY INITIATIVES: 1st DEADLINE

RECOMMENDED

Atmasphere Art Society

An artistic development project grant of \$6,000 is recommended to support the production of ANU. This evening of improvised music, dance, spoken-word and visual art, which will be held in Nov. 2006, involves 18 artists from diverse backgrounds and artistic practices. The Assessment Committee noted the artistic vision for the project was clear and considered this event to be a progression towards establishing this emerging society within the community.

Electric Company Theatre Society

An artistic leadership training grant of \$8,000 is recommended for a 12-month mentorship to support James Sanders, a quadriplegic actor who became the Artistic Producer of Realwheels Society in 2004. Reporting directly to Cindy Reid of the Electric Company, coupled with ongoing consultancy sessions with Katrina Dunn of Touchstone Theatre and Norman Armour of the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, Mr. Sanders will receive training in the areas of producing, touring, board development, fundraising, marketing and general management. The Assessment Committee members noted that this comprehensive mentorship will provide Mr. Sanders with the necessary producing and administrative skills required to lead the Realwheels Society. The Committee also noted that the host organizations would gain insight from Mr. Sanders on how theatre organizations can transform their practices to be more inclusive of artists with disabilities.

Gallery Gachet

A grant of \$8,000 is recommended to support the cross cultural artistic residency of Tania Williard with Gallery Gachet. The residency will take place from Sept. 2006 through Mar. 2007. Tania will produce her own work and deliver print-making workshops to Aboriginal mental health consumers in the downtown eastside with a particular focus on youth. The Assessment Committee acknowledged the support from the Aboriginal communities and considered this to be an important collaboration between the Gallery, the artist and those communities.

New Orchestra Workshop Society (NOW)

A cross cultural artistic project grant of \$6,000 is recommended to support an artistic collaboration between NOW and the Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra (VICO). The production, scheduled for April 2007, involves ten musicians from the NOW Orchestra, six members of VICO performing new music commissions from six local composers. The Assessment Committee noted the high calibre of artists and opportunities for sharing of ideas and practice as well as connecting the improvisational sensibilities of NOW with the cross cultural approach of VICO.

New Performance Works Society

An Artistic Leadership Training grant of \$5,000 is recommended to support an artistic producer internship for artist/arts administrator Eury Chang with New Works. The internship will give him direct experience with a successful dance presentation and production organization that specializes in presenting dance from a variety of cultural traditions. The Assessment Committee noted the clear objectives of the proposal and benefits to both Mr. Chang and New Works through this mentorship.

Theatre Terrific Society

An artistic development grant of \$10,000 is recommended to Theatre Terrific Society for the development of a new play, scheduled for production in May 2007. Developed by a professional company of six to ten actors with diverse disability challenges, the creation process will be facilitated by Artistic Director and writer Susanna Uchatius with support by a full production team. The Assessment Committee considered that this project will further this organization's goal to strengthen its capacity and relevancy to both the theatre and disability communities in Vancouver.

Vancouver Dance Centre Society

A cross cultural artistic project grant of \$9,000 is recommended to The Dance Centre to work in partnership with Raven Spirit Dance Society to produce an Aboriginal Dance Laboratory in December 2006. The Assessment Committee noted benefits to the artistic development of Raven Spirit Dance, and the project's potential to increase the Aboriginal dance presence at the Dance Centre, promote more cross cultural activity and create dialogue within the larger dance community.

NOT RECOMMENDED

Firehall Theatre Society

The Firehall Theatre Society requested cross-cultural artistic residency support for Filipino Canadian playwright C.E. Gatchalian for a second artistic residency. The intent was for Mr. Gatchalian to develop his own work as a playwright and theatre professional, continue his facilitation of an existing Playwrights Unit of writers, and establish another play development forum. While the Assessment Committee considered Mr. Gatchalian's playwrighting, community building, and leadership skills to be of a very high calibre, they held concerns that the proposed residency did not provide for enough infrastructure to assure the work's continuation beyond these diversity initiatives support. No grant is recommended for this second residency in the context of a competitive round.

Judith Marcuse Projects

The request was for an artistic leadership training grant for Judith Marcuse Projects to provide mentorship for Adriana Contreras in conjunction with their next major initiative, AIR. While the Assessment Committee could identify potential benefits for both parties, the collaboration between the society and the artist, particularly as it related to the artistic development in a distinct community or how it promoted inter-cultural understanding, was not clearly articulated. In a competitive round, no grant is recommended.

DIVERSITY INITIATIVES GRANTS

Program Information
Deadline: May 26, 2006
before 4:30 p.m.



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:

1. Artistic Leadership Training
2. Artistic Development Projects
3. Cross-Cultural Artistic Projects
4. 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. In this case, both parties will be expected to sign a sponsorship agreement letter that outlines the terms of the arrangement. Please note that the City of Vancouver Charter does not allow for grants to individuals.
- Activities cannot be funded retroactively.
- Projects receiving assistance or that have received funding through other City grant programs do not qualify.
- Any previously supported projects through the Diversity Initiatives grants program must be completed before any new application is made.

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, for a period of one to 12 months. The training, detailed in a plan, should take the form of an internship or mentorship with a cultural organization that received a City cultural grant in the past year. For the training organization this should represent a new activity or the expansion of an existing program.

Eligibility

- Artist(s) should have experience and/or education that demonstrates a commitment to further development in their field. Full-time students are not eligible.
- For the training organization, the internship or mentorship should be a new program or the expansion of an existing program.
- Applications may be made by a not-for-profit organization that wishes to sponsor professional development for an artistic staff member from a distinct community, or by the organization offering the experiential training. A letter of intent from the trainee should be included in the application. This letter of intent should outline what the trainee hopes to achieve through the experience of working with the organization.
- 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

- Groups are eligible to apply for these grants for up to three times, subject to the successful completion of previously funded activity. Funding 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).
- Groups receiving assistance through the Operating grants program are not eligible for this component.

3. Cross-Cultural Artistic Projects

To assist with artistic collaborations between two or more arts groups, 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 must be an arts group from a distinct community.

* 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. The grant is applicable to artist fees and creation costs. The host organization is responsible for all other expenses associated with the residency, including exhibition, production, and presentation costs. The artist and the host organization will be expected to sign a letter of agreement outlining the terms of the artistic residency.

Eligibility

- The artist-in-residence must 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. This letter of intent should outline what the artist-in-residence hopes to achieve through the experience of working with the organization.

Process

An Assessment Committee of independent advisors reviews the applications and makes recommendations which are considered and approved by 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. 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 cultural 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, or call us at 604-871-6434 to speak with a Cultural Planner.

How to Apply

Contact the Office of Cultural Affairs at 604-871-6434 for more information and to request 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 Friday, May 26, 2006

Contact Information

Office of Cultural Affairs
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East Tower, City Square Mall
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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 nhng 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 ਆਠ ਗਰੁੱਪਾਂ ਲਈ ਵੈਨਕੂਵਰ ਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਦੇ ਸਰਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮਾਂ ਦਾ ਵਰਣਨ ਹੈ।