



## CITY OF VANCOUVER

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: September 25, 2006  
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VanRIMS No.: 05-5000-10  
Meeting Date: October 31, 2006

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: Assistant Director, Office of Cultural Affairs  
SUBJECT: 2006/07 Theatre Rental Projects Grants

#### RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve two Theatre Rental Project Grants of \$15,840 as outlined in Table 1 of this report for uses of the Civic Theatres within the coming 12 months; source of funds to be the 2006 Theatre Rental Projects Grant budget.

#### 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 13, 2006, Council approved funding allocations to a number of grant programs including up to \$20,000 to the Theatre Rental Projects Grant program for occasional, new and diverse non-profit arts and cultural organizations wanting access to Vancouver's Civic Theatres for events taking place through the spring of 2007, source of funds to be the Strategic Investment in Cultural Services of \$700,000 contained within the 2006 Operating Budget.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

## PURPOSE

This report presents recommendations made by a staff committee for support of two of the three Theatre Rental Projects Grant requests received in response to the September 18<sup>th</sup> deadline.

## BACKGROUND

City Council has long provided assistance to Vancouver's non-profit arts and cultural organizations to access 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 disbursed.

Through the June 2005 Creative City 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. In July 2006, Council approved a further \$20,000.

The Theatre Rental Projects Grant program facilitates access to Vancouver's Civic Theatres for new and emerging performing arts groups and/or programming.

## DISCUSSION

The recommendations in this report are from the September 18<sup>th</sup> grant deadline for the Theatre Rental Projects Grant program. Three grant applications were received with requests totalling \$39,040.

The applications were reviewed and assessed by a Staff Committee against program objectives and criteria. Grant requests and recommendations of the Staff Committee are listed in **Table 1**, and discussed in more detail in **Appendix A**.

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

**Table 1**  
**Recommendations**  
**2006 Theatre Rental Projects Grants**

Organization	Activity	Requested	Recommended
Eponymous Productions and Arts Society	Inaugural performances of dance series at Vancouver Playhouse	\$19,800	\$6,600
International Arts Initiative Association	International performance artist at Queen Elizabeth Theatre	\$10,000	0
United Players of Vancouver	Theatre performances at Vancouver Playhouse	\$9,240	\$9,240
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$39,040</b>	<b>\$15,840</b>

The timing of the program's implementation in July is challenging. Performing arts organizations plan on a September to June season which makes funding within the City's calendar year problematic. In recognition of this challenge, in the past Council has approved grants for uses which carry on beyond the City's fiscal year.

Two grant requests received are for performances in late 2006 and early 2007. A third is for a use in the fall of 2007. While the program was developed to support activities taking place within the fall of 2006 and spring of 2007, staff are recommending approval as it is a new initiative which will require extensive fund raising and partnership development and fills a gap in current mid-scale dance programming within Vancouver.

If approved, these grants will result in additional performances at our civic theatres with highly acclaimed theatre and dance performances by local performing arts groups and visiting artists. The opportunities to present work in a centrally located and well-equipped theatre will positively impact the creative development and capacity building of the applicants, contribute to increasing their community profile and expand their audiences.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

In July 2006, Council approved an allocation of up to \$20,000 to the 2006 Theatre Rental Projects Grant program which is the subject of this report; source of funds was the Strategic Investment in Cultural Services of \$700,000 contained within the 2006 Operating Budget.

Subject to Council approval, the recommendations made in this report will leave a balance of \$4,160 in this program.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The recommendations in this report relate to applications made for the September 18, 2006 deadline for the Theatre Rental Projects Grant program. The two projects recommended for support represent those which best met the program goals and criteria.

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## 2006 Theatre Rental Projects Grants

### Recommended:

#### **United Players of Vancouver Society**

A grant of \$9,240 is recommended to the United Players of Vancouver Society for three performances of Michael Frayn's play Democracy at the Vancouver Playhouse, February 8-10, 2007. This opportunity for United Players of Vancouver, a community-based theatre company, will enable it to remount a highly acclaimed and popular production from last season in the centrally located and well equipped Playhouse Theatre. This major undertaking will contribute to the company members' artistic development, increase the organization's public profile as well as attract new audiences to this and the company's other productions at the Jericho Arts Centre.

#### **Eponymous Productions and Arts Society**

A grant of \$6,600 is recommended to the Eponymous Productions and Arts Society for theatre rental expenses related to the Fall 2007 inaugural dance presentation at the Vancouver Playhouse as part of a large-scale dance series to be located at the theatre. The proponents of this series are addressing a lack of opportunities for international and national touring dance companies to be presented in Vancouver. This initiative is being developed in cooperation with other Vancouver dance presenters and festival organizers and has broad-based community support. The performances of these visiting companies and related outreach activities will have positive impacts on the local dance community's artistic and audience development.

### Not Recommended:

#### **International Arts Initiatives Association (IAIA)**

A grant request of \$10,000 was received by this non-profit society to present an international performance artist in concert at The Orpheum in December, 2006. Recently registered as a non-profit, IAIA has transitioned from a for-profit company, with 2006 being a transitional year for the two organizations. No grant is recommended for this organization, as the non-profit society has not yet established a sufficient track record of operations independent from the for-profit company.

# 2006 Theatre Rental (Projects) Grants

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Office of Cultural Affairs, City of Vancouver

## INFORMATION SHEET

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### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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The 2006 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).

### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

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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

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Theatre Rental (Projects) grants can be used to cover some or all of a recipient's Civic Theatre rental expenses only. They do NOT fund rehearsal expenses or 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](http://www.vancouver.ca/theatres)

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

## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

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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 between October 1, 2006 and March 31, 2007

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

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

1. Call 604-871-6434 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 the original with two (2) copies of the application form, together with one original and three copies of the 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

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## DEADLINE

Applications for the Theatre Rental (Projects) Grants program are being accepted now and until September 18, 2006 for events proposed between October 1, 2006 and March 31, 2007. You should apply **after** you have confirmed a booking with the Civic Theatres' office.