



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 1, 2006
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RTS No.: 06182
VanRIMS No.: 05-5000-10
Meeting Date: November 28, 2006

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

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve eight (8) Diversity Initiatives grants totaling \$50,000 as outlined in this report; source of funds to be the 2006 Cultural Grants budget.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services recommends approval.

COUNCIL POLICY

Council approved the establishment of the Diversity Initiatives grant program in 1998, following a review of the Cross Cultural Initiatives grant 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 (9)

Diversity Initiatives grant requests received in response to the October 2nd deadline, the second in 2006.

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 second intake of nine applications received in response to the October 2nd deadline. A total of nine (9) requests totaling \$75,400 were received.

Eligibility of applicants and projects to the program as well as a detailed evaluation of all requests is undertaken by OCA staff through telephone and face-to-face meetings. The full application is reviewed and recommendations are made 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:

- Byron Chief Moon (multi-disciplinary artist and dancer);
- Tricia Collins (actor, writer and multi-disciplinary artist); and
- Gu Xiong (multi-media visual artist and Assistant Professor, UBC)

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: 2nd Deadline

| Organization | Activity | Requested | Recommended |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Boca Del Lupo Theatre Society | Cross-Cultural Artistic Residency | \$15,400 | \$7,000 |
| Firehall Theatre Society | Artistic Leadership Training | \$4,000 | \$2,000 |
| Full Circle: First Nations Performance Society | Artistic Leadership Training | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| Newworld Theatre Society | Artistic Leadership Training | \$10,000 | \$8,000 |
| Ninawa Eastern Magic Society | Artistic Development Project | \$10,000 | 0 |
| Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre | Artistic Development Project | \$6,000 | \$6,000 |
| Vancouver Centre for Contemporary Asian Art (Centre A) | Artistic Leadership Training | \$10,000 | \$9,000 |
| Visceral Visions Society | Artistic Development Project | \$7,000 | \$5,000 |
| Yayoi Dance Company Society | Artistic Development Project | \$3,000 | \$3,000 |
| TOTAL | | \$75,400 | \$50,000 |

At the end of all grant evaluation meetings, community members from the Assessment Committee are also asked for their perspectives on the Diversity Initiatives grant 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 community outreach/involvement requirement for the program's Cross-Cultural Artistic Residencies was felt to be a valuable opportunity to bring community members into the creative process with tangible benefits to the artistic end-product.
- New and emerging arts groups could benefit from workshops designed to support a better understanding of the program's objectives and application requirements.
- Additional outreach can be done to inform additional arts and cultural groups from distinct communities on how to access the Diversity Initiatives program.
- Outreach could be directed to encourage more applicants from the visual arts community.

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. In July 2006, Council approved seven (7) grants totaling \$52,000 as

recommended by the Assessment Committee. If approved, recommendations made in this report will leave no unallocated funds for the 2006 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 (8) projects recommended for support from the nine (9) requests received represent those which best met the program goals and criteria in a competitive round.

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2006 DIVERSITY INITIATIVES: 2ND DEADLINE

RECOMMENDED

Boca del Lupo Theatre Society

A Cross-Cultural Artistic Residency grant of \$7,000 is recommended to support the artistic residency of Donna Soares, an emerging actor of Chinese and Portuguese descent, with the creation-based theatre company Boca del Lupo. The Assessment Committee noted the benefits to the artist and the company and recommended that the grant be targeted primarily towards the development of Donna's own independent work, and some participation in the development of new work in collaboration with the key members of the artistic team.

Firehall Theatre Society

An Artistic Leadership Training grant of \$2,000 is recommended for a four-month long, production-focused mentorship to support Joyce Lam, Artistic Director of Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre Society (VACT) in early 2007. Under the mentorship of Donna Spencer, Firehall's Artistic Producer, Ms. Lam will engage with and learn from a number of key production personnel to develop a deeper appreciation of the various needs and acquire practical skills to produce theatre in a professional context. The Assessment Committee noted this timely professional development opportunity for Ms. Lam and subsequent benefits to both the Firehall and VACT.

Full Circle: First Nations Performance Society

An Artistic Leadership Training grant of \$10,000 is recommended for a ten-month internship for Jerilynn Webster, an Aboriginal youth and multi-disciplinary artist. Under the guidance of Artistic Director Margo Kane and other Full Circle team members as appropriate, Ms. Webster will curate the youth programming of the 2007 Talking Stick Festival and assist with long-term planning to develop future youth programming for the festival and the company. Focusing on artistic production, Ms. Webster will build on her networking, community outreach and curatorial skills with practical experience in artistic management, media relations, strategic planning, administration and budgeting. The Assessment Committee noted the clear objectives of the proposal and benefits to both Ms. Webster and Full Circle through this internship.

Newworld Theatre Society

An Artistic Leadership Training grant of \$8,000 is recommended for a seven-month internship to support C.E. Gatchalian, a Filipino Canadian theatre artist who seeks the artistic production skills to lead his own artist-run, writer-centre company, Broken Whisper. Reporting to newworldtheatre Artistic Producing team of Adrienne Wong, Camyar Chai and Marcus Youssef, Mr. Gatchalian will receive training in the areas of producing, touring, board development, fundraising, grant writing, marketing and general management. The Assessment Committee considered this internship to bring clear benefits to Mr. Gatchalian and to newworldtheatre.

Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre Society

An Artistic Development Project grant of \$6,000 is recommended to support the development phase of an original musical titled "Red Letters", written and composed by Alan Bau. The assistance would support a workshopping process and staged readings of this work which deals

with the subject of the Chinese Head Tax and which would lead to a full production in 2008. The Assessment Committee noted the relevancy of the subject matter and that this project would provide the Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre Company with exposure to professional expertise which would move the company into a new direction. The grant is recommended SUBJECT TO the confirmation of the Director and confirmed funding from other sources.

Vancouver Centre for Contemporary Asian Art (Centre A)

An Artistic Leadership Training grant of \$9,000 is recommended to support Xiaoming Debra Zhou during a 10-month curatorial internship, starting in January, 2007. Reporting to Centre A's Curator, Makiko Hara and Executive Director, Hank Bull, Ms. Zhou will acquire a wide range of new skills and practical curatorial experience by assisting with exhibition planning and production. Further, the internship will offer opportunities to better understand and gain hands-on experience in the management and administration of a non-profit arts organization.

Visceral Visions Society

An Artistic Development Project grant of \$5,000 is recommended to support the workshop development and public presentation of a theatre/dance work entitled "Confessions of the Other Woman". Together with professional actors, playwright Valerie Sing Turner will explore text and movement in a multi-week workshop process under the mentorship of Dramaturge Rachel Ditor and Choreographer Tara Cheyenne Friedenbergl. The Assessment Committee noted the project's cross-disciplinary nature, long-term development timelines and the support of appropriate professionals who can help to bring the work forward towards a full-scale production.

Yayoi Dance Company Society

An Artistic Development Project grant of \$3,000 is recommended to support the creation and production of "Mothers" as part of the Vancouver International Dance Festival in March, 2007. Combining contemporary Western performance practices and Japanese theatrical traditions, including Japanese masks, this dance/theatre collaboration will present three stories based on Japanese, Jewish, and Coast Salish legends. The stories explore the common humanity of the most fundamental of all relationships, the connection between a mother and child. This grant is recommended SUBJECT TO the submission and approval of a revised project budget indicating confirmed revenues.

NOT RECOMMENDED

Ninawa Eastern Magic Society

Ninawa Eastern Magic Society requested an Artistic Development Project grant to support the creation of this emerging dance company's next production. While the Assessment Committee considered the company's unique style as contributing to Vancouver's dance ecology, Committee members noted a lack of detail in the project description and given the relatively large scale of this project in relation to previous productions, held concerns over its financial feasibility. No grant is recommended.

DIVERSITY INITIATIVES GRANTS

Program Information
Deadline: Monday, October 2, 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.
- Applicants who have received Diversity Initiatives grants in previous years are expected to submit a final report on their projects before any new application can be considered.

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, sexual orientation 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 and staff 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 October deadline in late 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 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 Monday, October 2, 2006

Contact Information

Office of Cultural Affairs
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East Tower, City Square Mall
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website: www.vancouver.ca/culture

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 những 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 ਫਿਲਾਫਰ ਵਿਚ ਆਰਟ ਗਰੁੱਪਾਂ ਲਈ ਫੈਨਡਿੰਗ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਦੇ ਗੈਰ-ਮੁਕਾਬਲਾਤੀ ਢੰਗ ਦਰਸਾਏ ਹਨ।