



## CITY OF VANCOUVER

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: March 20, 2007  
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Meeting Date: April 3, 2007

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: Assistant Director, Office of Cultural Affairs  
SUBJECT: 2007 Cultural Operating and Project Grant Allocations

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve 86 Operating grants for a total of \$2,219,300 and 31 Project grants for a total of \$213,500, as listed in Appendix A, for a total of \$2,432,800 including 1 conditional grant as noted. Source of funds to be the 2007 Cultural Grants Budget.

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

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

#### COUNCIL POLICY

City Council established the annual civic grant programs, including Cultural grants, in March 1978. The current Operating and Project grant categories were approved on December 14, 1989. A second deadline for Project grants was established in 1999.

On November 22, 1994, Council approved the two-step grant approval process for Operating and Project grants, whereby undisputed staff recommendations are approved first (and are the subject of this report), while applications eligible for reconsideration are given a second review and are presented to Council at a later date.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

## SUMMARY & PURPOSE

As listed in Appendix A, this report recommends approval of 117 Operating and Project grants for a total amount of \$2,432,800 which includes Operating applications for 2007 and Project grant applications for the first of two annual deadlines for this year. The recommendations include and are not in addition to any advance instalments already approved by Council on January 16, 2007.

Appendix B includes Operating and Project Grants guidelines.

## BACKGROUND

Operating grants are designed to assist organizations in achieving a level of stability required to provide ongoing quality programming or services. To be considered for an Operating grant, an organization must be a non-profit, professional arts organization with an artistic mandate. Organizations will have received civic Operating or Project grants for at least the past two consecutive years. They must also meet other criteria related to artistic merit, organizational competence and community impact. Project grants are designed to support emerging arts groups, groups undertaking one-time initiatives, or those who work on a project basis. These groups must also be professional, non-profit arts organizations.

Recommendations are based on a thorough analysis by an Assessment Committee comprised of City staff and independent community representatives using clearly articulated evaluation criteria for the two programs (see Appendix B), including:

- Artistic merit as demonstrated through previous activities, artistic niche, and proposed activities.
- Organizational competence evidenced through capable administration and governance, financial stability and accountability, planning and demonstrated need for public sector assistance.
- Community impact as demonstrated through accessibility of the work by the public (including Vancouver's diverse communities), public interest and community outreach.
- Evidence that the organization has the ability to achieve the proposed activities within its available resources.

### *Request for Reconsideration Process*

Applicants who meet specific criteria (see below) have the opportunity to formally request reconsideration. The Reconsideration process, approved by Council in 1994, ensures consistency in reconsidering grant recommendations and allows adequate time for organizations to present their case and for staff to provide Council with a written response.

Under current policy, grants referred to the process are assessed on the basis of two established grounds:

- 1) that eligibility criteria have not been properly applied and/or
- 2) that the financial situation of the applicant was not properly evaluated or understood at the time of the grant review.

Information on this policy and the process is provided to applicants at the time they receive written notice of staff recommendations going forward to Council.

The deadline for Request for Reconsideration is March 26<sup>th</sup>. Any requests for reconsideration will be considered by Council in a separate report and at a future date. Those groups which request reconsideration but do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be reconsidered but will be reported to Council along with the original Assessment Committee's recommendation at the same time as the eligible Requests for Reconsideration.

## DISCUSSION

### Assessment Committee Process

Based on input from the arts and cultural community, the Office of Cultural Affairs has continued to use an independent assessment process to review grant application requests. For this deadline, nominations for Assessment Committee members from the arts and cultural community were sought through an ongoing call for nominations. Ten members were selected to participate with staff to review grant applications and make recommendations.

The Committee represented a broad range of expertise in the disciplines of visual arts, theatre, dance, music, literary, festivals and multi-disciplinary art forms.

The independent Assessment Committee members for the 2007 Cultural Operating and Projects grants were:

Dance:	<b>Emily Molnar</b> ; dancer, choreographer, artist in residence Arts Umbrella <b>Santo Aloï</b> ; choreographer, performer, writer and educator
Festivals:	<b>Jeffrey Rotin</b> ; communications & arts consultant <b>Alma Lee</b> ; Managing Director of Alma Lee Management & Associates, former Artistic Producer of the Vancouver International Writer's Festival
Music:	<b>Leslie Uyeda</b> ; composer, conductor, pianist <b>Laurie Townsend</b> ; Concerts & Communications Manager, UBC School of Music
Theatre:	<b>Don Kugler</b> ; dramaturg, director, faculty - Theatre Dept. SFU <b>Sarah Graefe</b> ; playwright, screenwriter, adjunct professor UBC
Visual Arts	<b>Henry Tsang</b> ; artist, curator, faculty ECIAD <b>Jonathan Middleton</b> ; artist, independent curator, publisher, sessional faculty ECIAD, UCFV

All independent committee members are sent full application packages to review well in advance of the adjudication meeting dates. Members conduct an evaluation of the applications using the same criteria as staff. Members of the Assessment Committee (staff and independent members) meet over a period of one week at the end of February to discuss the grant application requests, and arrive at consensus over recommendations. Staff finalize recommendations which are forwarded to Council for consideration and approval.

Any applicant who requests reconsideration of their recommendation and who meets reconsideration criteria, are referred to a separate *Request for Reconsideration* process. These requests are forwarded to Council in a separate report at a later date.

This process augments staff's ongoing consultation with organizations throughout the year, their attendance at the organizations' events, as well as personal meetings with staff and board members of the organizations.

## Summary of Assessment Committee Recommendations

The recommendations proposed within this report reflect continued investment in established organizations while providing assistance for the development of new artistic initiatives.

As with previous review processes, not all requests can be supported. The Assessment Committee applied the evaluative criteria carefully; reviewing distinct artistic visions, history of artistic work in the community, organizational capacity and resources, and community impact, among other criteria. Not all organizations meet the criteria at the same level as their peers and therefore, in a competitive process, not all can be recommended for support.

Throughout the review process the impact of the City's strategic investment, which was initiated in 2005, was evident. The Assessment Committee noted some key trends in the behaviour of organizations which include improvements in organizational capacity, increased artistic quality and level of activity, and an increased ability to lever additional resources from private and public sector sources.

Several groups have used the increased assistance to invest in administrative resources which has led to the identification and garnering of new revenue streams, implementing new management systems, and engaging in further organizational development opportunities. Some organizations are planning for succession and building reserves to support leadership transition.

Some of the investment has enabled organizations to create new work, expand their season or programs, or significantly enhance work already in development. Others have invested in new equipment to enhance their productions or exhibitions which has increased the artistic quality experience of the presentations to the public.

For other groups it has leveraged additional resources and in particular funds for endowments. Several groups have put some of the increased award towards the creation of an endowment fund which has been matched by timely provincial and federal endowment programs. The creation of such funds can assist with long term sustainability.

As a result, there have been more opportunities for artists to create work or to create more ambitious work, and for the public to have more opportunities to engage in art or have a more meaningful experience of art.

Following an observation made last year by the assessment committee that several groups were facing organizational challenges (board development, administration, management issues), it is encouraging to report that many groups have engaged in or are undertaking planning initiatives to increase organizational capacity: working with peers and consultants to develop new funding streams, marketing initiatives, governance and so forth.

However, there still appears to be a gap with the small to mid-size organizations in their ability to access and establish proper management structures to adequately support the operations and allow sufficient focus on artistic development. While they have access to assistance for planning initiatives, they have very little ability to implement those plans. There also appears to be a limited number of qualified administrators in the City which further exacerbates management challenges.

As project organizations establish themselves and grow their infrastructure, they naturally request to be considered and funded through the Operating grants category. This year there were 7 project applicants who requested assistance from the Operating grants category. While several of the applicants were considered to be strong candidates for Operating assistance, the assessment committee was only able to recommend one organization to Operating due to available funds in the Operating budget. Conversely, one Operating organization is being recommended for funding from the Project grant category as they are shifting away from a regular season of activity to operating more on a project-basis.

All of these successes and challenges will be considered in the upcoming grants and support program review which will likely take place over the next few months. This external program review will evaluate the effectiveness and management of all City cultural grant and support programs (of which Operating and Projects are just two) and make recommendations on how to make the programs more effective in terms of responding to current needs and trends in the arts and cultural community, as well as effective administration of those programs. Staff will be submitting a report to Council next month for the approval of the award of contract.

A more detailed package which includes a profile of each organization and comments supporting each recommendation, was distributed to Mayor and Council in March and is also on file at the City Clerks' office.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As listed in Appendix A, the Assessment Committee is recommending support for 117 Operating and Project grants for a total amount of \$2,432,800. The total request amount and number of applicants and the total recommended amount and number of recipients are indicated in Table 1. Approval of these recommendations leaves an unallocated balance of \$194,500 in the Projects Grants budget, reserved for the second deadline in May 2007.

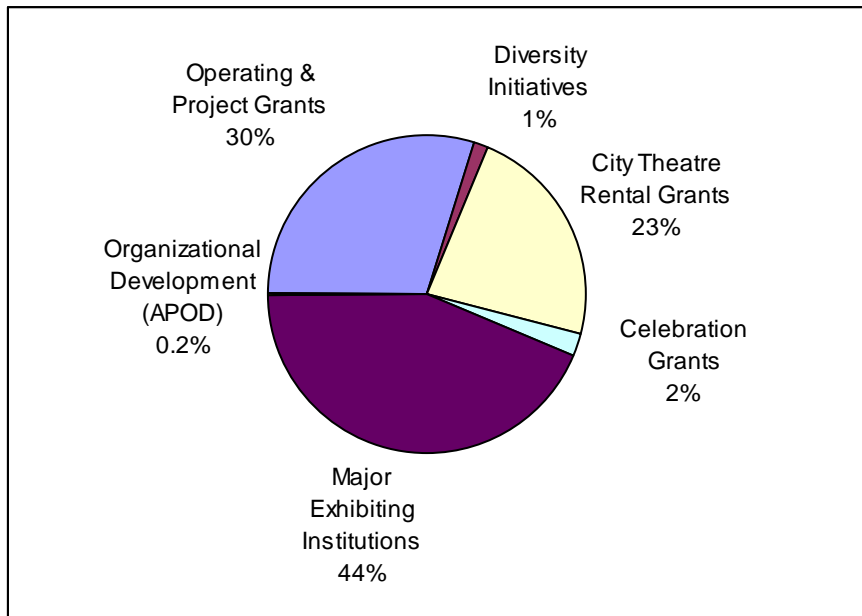
Table 1  
Recommendations for 2007 Operating and Project Grants

	Total Requested	#	Total Recommended	#	Total Budget	Unallocated Balance
Operating	\$2,835,000	87	\$2,219,300	86	\$2,219,300	\$0
Project	\$323,000	38	\$213,500	31	\$408,000	\$194,500
Total	\$3,158,000	125	\$2,432,800	117	\$2,627,300	*\$194,500

\*reserved for 2<sup>nd</sup> project deadline

The operating and project grants budget represents approximately one third of the City's cultural grants budget as indicated in the following chart.

## 2007 Cultural Grants Budget



## CONCLUSION

This report outlines the first and main report on 2007 Operating and Project Grants. Should there be any organizations requesting reconsideration of their grant recommendation, these will be submitted to City Council in a separate Request for Reconsideration report, at a later date. A report covering applications to the second Project Grant deadline will be presented to City Council in July.

The recommendations reflect a careful and considered process of the assessment committee members. Input from experts in the arts and cultural community continue to add value to the process and complement staff expertise.

\* \* \* \* \*

City of Vancouver Cultural Grants  
2007 Operating and Project Applications, Alphabetical List

Organization Name	Grant Type	2007 Recomm.	2007 Request	2006 Grant	2006 Supp. Grant
1 Aboriginal Art and Culture Celebration Soc.	OP	10,000	15,000	10,000	
2 Alliance for Arts & Culture Soc.	OP*	40,000	50,000	40,000	
3 Anatomica Dance Soc.	PR	4,500	7,000		
4 Arts Club of Vancouver Theatre Soc.	OP*	135,000	150,000	135,000	
5 Artspeak Gallery Soc.	OP*	24,000	24,000	24,000	
6 Axis Theatre Soc.	OP*	29,000	37,000	29,000	
7 B.C. Book Prizes (West Coast Book Prize Soc.)	PR	0	2,500	0	
8 Ballet B.C. (Pacific Ballet B.C. Soc.)	OP*	103,000	103,000	103,000	
9 Bard on the Beach Theatre Soc.	OP*	20,000	30,000	20,000	
10 Barking Sphinx Performance Soc.	PR	3,000	3,000	1,000	2,000
11 Battery Opera Performing Arts Soc.	OP	9,500	12,000	9,500	
12 Blackbird Theatre	PR	9,000	10,000	3,000	7,000
13 Boca Del Lupo Theatre Soc.	OP	20,000	30,000	20,000	
14 Canadian Music Centre - B.C.	OP*	16,500	17,000	16,000	
15 Carousel Theatre Soc.	OP*	25,000	37,000	25,000	
16 Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver	OP*	15,000	25,000	15,000	
17 Children's Arts Umbrella Assn.	OP*	12,500	27,500	12,500	
18 Chor Leoni Men's Choir	OP*	15,500	20,000	15,000	
19 Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Soc.	OP*	30,000	35,000	30,000	
20 CirKids School of Circus Arts	PR	0	10,000		
21 Co. Erasga Dance Soc.	PR	6,000	15,000		
22 Coastal Jazz and Blues Soc.	OP*	62,000	80,000	57,500	
23 Contemporary Art Gallery Soc.	OP*	65,000	75,000	65,000	
24 Coyote Arts Percussive Performance Assn. (CAPPA)	PR	4,000	10,000		
25 Crafts Assn. of B.C.	PR	13,000	15,000	6,500	5,500
26 Dancing on the Edge Festival Soc.	OP*	20,000	22,000	20,000	
27 DOXA Documentary Film and Video Festival	PR	12,000	15,000	7,500	2,500
28 Early Music Vancouver (Van. Soc. for Early Music)	OP*	20,000	25,000	18,000	
29 EDAM Performing Arts Soc.	OP*	17,000	22,000	12,000	
30 Electric Company Theatre Soc.	OP*	29,000	40,000	30,000	
31 Elektra Women's Choir	OP*	15,000	15,000	15,000	
32 Felix Culpa (Grinning Dragon Theatre Soc.)	PR	9,000	9,000		
33 Firebelly Performance Soc.	PR	0	4,000		

Organization Name	Grant Type	2007 Recomm.	2007 Request	2006 Grant	2006 Supp. Grant
34 Firehall Theatre Soc.	OP*	60,000	80,000	60,000	
35 Flamenco Rosario (Rosario Ancer Flamenco Arts Soc.)	OP	6,000	9,000	6,000	
36 Full Circle: First Nations Performance Soc.	OP	9,500	17,000	10,000	
37 Full Figure Theatre Company Soc.	PR	0	8,500	0	
38 Greater Van. Professional Theatre Alliance	PR	6,500	10,000	5,000	1,500
39 Green Thumb Theatre for Young People (Green Thumb Players Soc.)	OP*	45,800	55,000	43,000	
40 grunt gallery (Visible Arts Soc.)	OP*	24,000	27,000	23,000	
41 Hard Rubber New Music Soc.	OP	5,500	12,000	5,500	
42 Headlines Theatre (Theatre for Living Soc.)	OP*	22,000	22,000	22,000	
43 Holy Body Tattoo Soc.	OP*	30,000	40,000	30,000	
44 Joe Ink Performance Soc.	OP*	15,000	20,000	15,000	
45 Judith Marcuse Projects Soc.	OP*	18,000	23,000	25,000	
46 Karen Jamieson Dance Soc.	OP	8,000	10,000	7,000	
47 Kidd Pivot Performing Arts Soc.	OP	15,000	25,000	15,000	
48 Kinesis Dance Soc.	PR	3,500	6,000	4,000	1,000
49 Kokoro Dance Theatre Soc.	OP*	16,000	25,000	16,000	
50 La Luna Productions (VIEW, The Performing Arts Soc.)	PR	0	5,000	3,000	0
51 Leaky Heaven Performance Soc.	PR	15,000	15,000	7,500	7,500
52 Lola MacLaughlin Dance Soc.	OP*	14,000	20,000	14,000	
53 MainDance Projects Soc.	OP**	4,500	10,000	7,500	
54 Malaspina Printmakers Soc.	OP	7,000	10,000	7,000	
55 Mandala Arts and Culture Soc.	PR	6,500	10,000	5,000	3,500
56 Mascal Dance Soc.	OP*	10,000	20,000	8,000	
57 Mortal Coil Performance Soc.	OP	7,000	10,000	7,000	
58 Movement Enterprises Soc.	PR	7,000	8,000	5,000	5,000
59 Music in the Morning Concert Soc.	OP*	11,000	15,000	10,000	
60 Musica Intima Soc.	OP*	16,500	30,000	15,000	
61 Native Daughters of B.C., Post No. 1	OP	3,500	6,000	3,500	
62 New Forms Media Soc.	PR	7,000	7,000	4,000	4,000
63 New Orchestra Workshop Soc.	OP*	10,500	16,000	10,000	
64 New Performance Works Soc.	OP	6,000	10,000	3,000	2,000
65 Newworld Theatre Soc.	OP*	25,000	30,000	25,000	
66 Norman Rothstein Theatre (Van. Westside Theatre Soc.)	OP	13,000	18,000	13,000	



Organization Name	Grant Type	2007 Recomm.	2007 Request	2006 Grant	2006 Supp. Grant
67 Opera Appassionata Soc.	PR	0	10,000		
68 Or Gallery Soc.	OP*	20,000	25,000	20,000	
69 Other Sights for Artists' Projects Assn.	PR	5,000	8,000		
70 Pacific Baroque Orchestra Soc.	OP*	19,500	20,000	18,000	
71 Pacific Cinémathèque Pacifique	OP*	41,000	41,000	41,000	
72 Pacific Theatre (First Pacific Theatre Soc.)	OP*	12,000	20,000	8,100	
73 Pink Ink Theatre Productions Assn.	OP*	20,000	32,000	22,000	
74 Pitt Gallery (Unit/Pitt Soc. For Arts and Critical Awareness)	OP*	13,700	18,000	12,500	
75 Playwrights Theatre Centre	OP*	30,000	40,000	30,000	
76 Powell St. Festival Soc.	OP*	12,000	15,000	10,000	
77 Proximity Arts Soc.	PR	4,000	4,000		
78 Public Dreams Soc.	OP*	15,000	30,000	15,000	
79 Radix Theatre Soc.	OP	8,500	12,000	8,500	
80 Reel to Real: Celebration of Moving Images Soc.	PR	7,000	10,000	3,000	3,000
81 Ruby Slippers Productions Soc.	OP*	14,000	30,000	14,000	
82 Rumble Productions Soc.	OP*	24,000	30,000	24,000	
83 Satellite Video Exchange Soc.	OP*	22,000	27,000	22,000	
84 Sista'hood (Working Arts Soc.)	PR	5,000	5,000	3,500	1,500
85 Solo Collective Theatre Soc.	PR	11,500	15,000	7,500	3,500
86 Standing Wave Soc.	PR	3,000	3,500	1,000	
87 Tara Cheyenne Performance (DanStaBat Performance Soc.)	PR	6,000	8,000		
88 Théâtre la Seizième	OP*	25,800	28,000	23,000	
89 Theatre Replacement Soc.	OP	14,000	21,000	9,000	
90 Touchstone Theatre Soc.	OP*	33,000	35,000	33,000	
91 Turning Point Ensemble	PR	12,000	15,000		
92 Up in The Air Theatre Soc.	PR	3,000	4,000	0	
93 Uzume Taiko Drum Group Soc.	OP	7,500	14,000	7,500	
94 Van. Access Artist Run Centre	OP*	9,500	12,000	9,000	
95 Van. Asian Heritage Month Soc.	OP	10,000	20,000	10,000	
96 Van. Ballet Soc.	PR	1,000	3,000		
97 Van. Cantata Soc.	OP*	15,000	17,000	15,000	
98 Van. Cantonese Opera	PR	6,000	7,500	4,000	2,500
99 Van. Centre for Contemporary Asian Art (Centre A)	OP*	30,000	32,000	29,000	
100 Van. Chamber Choir	PR	9,000	10,000	5,000	1,500
101 Van. Chinese Instrumental Music Soc.	OP	7,000	9,000	7,000	

Organization Name	Grant Type	2007 Recomm.	2007 Request	2006 Grant	2006 Supp. Grant
102 Van. Co-operative Radio (Community Radio Edn. Soc.)	OP*	18,000	22,000	18,000	
103 Van. Dance Centre Soc.	OP*	50,000	55,000	50,000	
104 Van. East Cultural Centre	OP*	95,000	100,000	92,000	
105 Van. Folk Music Festival Soc.	OP*	82,500	107,500	77,500	
106 Van. Fringe Festival (First Van. Theatrespace Soc.)	OP	32,000	50,000	32,000	
107 Van. Inter-Cultural Orchestra (VICO)	PR	2,000	2,000		
108 Van. International Children's Festival Soc.	OP*	126,500	151,500	121,500	
109 Van. Intl. Film Festival Soc.	OP*	25,000	25,000	25,000	
110 Van. Intl. Writers Festival Soc.	OP*	49,000	49,000	49,000	
111 Van. Jewish Film Festival	PR	7,000	10,000	2,500	4,500
112 Van. Moving Theatre Soc.	OP*	12,000	18,000	12,000	
113 Van. New Music Soc.	OP*	30,000	40,000	30,000	
114 Van. Opera Assn.	OP*	28,000	40,000	28,000	
115 Van. Out on Screen Film Festival Soc.	OP	15,000	16,000	12,000	
116 Van. Summer Festival Soc.	OP	20,000	30,000	20,000	
117 Van. Symphony Soc.	OP*	46,000	80,000	46,000	
118 Van. Tap Dance Soc.	PR	4,000	4,000	2,000	2,000
119 Van. Youth Theatre Soc.	OP	0	6,000	4,000	
120 Vetta Chamber Music and Recital Soc.	OP	7,000	10,000	7,000	
121 Wen Wei Dance Soc.	PR	12,000	20,000		
122 Western Front Soc.	OP*	34,000	42,000	32,000	
123 Western Theatre Conspiracy (Western Theatre Conspiracy Arts Soc.)	OP	10,000	13,500	10,000	
124 Women in Film and Video Vancouver Soc.	PR	0	2,000		
125 Word on the Street Festival (Van. Book & Magazine Fair Soc.)	PR	10,000	12,000	7,500	1,000
<b>Totals</b>		<b>2,432,800</b>	<b>3,158,000</b>	<b>2,263,100</b>	<b>61,000</b>

**\*\*Conditional grant:**

**MainDance Projects Soc.**

An Operating grant of \$4,500 is recommended to support the professional public presentations of students. Noting concerns with the administrative capacity of the society, the Assessment Committee is recommending a grant SUBJECT TO receipt of signed financial statements and confirmed public sector revenues.