



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: July 10, 2007
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Meeting Date: July 24, 2007

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Assistant Director, Office of Cultural Affairs
SUBJECT: 2007 Project Grants: Second Deadline

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve 22 Project Grants for a total of \$194,500, as listed in Appendix A, 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. Operating, Project, Organizational Development and Theatre Rental grant categories were approved on December 14, 1989. A second deadline for Project grants was established in 1999.

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

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE

As listed in **Appendix A**, this report presents recommendations of the Assessment Committee for Project grant requests received for the May 14, 2007 deadline.

BACKGROUND

Project grants are intended for new and developing organizations, for established organizations that work on a project basis, and for organizations undertaking a special, one-time initiative. To be considered for a project grant, the organization must be a non-profit, professional arts organization with an artistic mandate, among other criteria. An Assessment Committee comprised of independent members of the arts and cultural community and Staff, review applications based on criteria that include: artistic merit, organizational competence, and community impact. See **Appendix B** for program guidelines and criteria.

Requests for Reconsideration:

Applicants who meet specific criteria have the opportunity to formally request reconsideration. The Reconsideration process, approved by Council in 1994, ensures consistency in reconsidering grant recommendations. A request for reconsideration entails a written request by the applicant, a formal review by a Staff committee and a report to Council presenting the applicant's case and staff recommendations.

Grants referred to the process are assessed on the basis of two established grounds: a) that eligibility criteria have not been properly applied and/or b) that the financial situation of the applicant was not properly evaluated or understood at the time of the grant review.

Any requests for reconsideration will be considered by Council in a separate report at a future date.

DISCUSSION

For the second Project Grants deadline of May 14th, 26 applications were received for a total request amount of \$319,400 and with an available budget of \$194,500.

The applications were reviewed by an Assessment Committee comprised of Staff and four independent members from the arts and cultural community. The independent members are:

- Ian Forsyth, freelance actor, director, writer, Arts Services Manager, City of Burnaby
- Veda Hille, singer/songwriter, writer of musical theatre & film scores
- Laiwan, interdisciplinary artist, writer, community organizer
- Lisa Ravensburgen, performing artist (choreographer, dance, acting, clowning)

The recommendations reflect a careful assessment of each application in the area of artistic merit, organization capacity and community impact. Evaluation and eligibility criteria are detailed in the Program Information appended to this report. In this round, the proposals submitted reflected a great diversity in cultural interests and practices. Due to a competitive round and a limited budget, only those projects that best meet the evaluative criteria are

being recommended for support. As such, 22 of the 26 applications are being recommended for support.

Input from the independent assessment committee members was invaluable and they contributed a high level of artistic expertise and community knowledge, complementing the experience and knowledge of staff. Input regarding the program and process was sought from the assessment committee and suggestions for improvements in the assessment committee meeting process and application design were noted and will be taken into consideration in the context of the Grants and Support programs review currently underway.

The Grants and Support Program review is assessing 15 grants and support programs administered by the Office of Cultural Affairs and will produce recommendations suggesting improvements to programs in the context of community needs, best practices and available administrative resources. The review process will be complete in the Fall of 2007.

Recommendations of the Assessment Committee:

**Table 1
2007 Project Grants**

Project Grants	Requested		Recommended	
	# of Groups	\$ Amount	# of Groups	\$ Amount
2 nd deadline (May 14/07)	26	\$319,400	22	\$194,500
1 st deadline (Dec. 8/06) (approved Apr. 3/07)	38	\$323,000	31	\$213,500
Total	64	\$642,400	53	\$408,000

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

On April 3, 2007, Council approved the first intake of Project grants for a total of \$213,500, leaving a balance of \$194,500 in the budget for the second Project grants deadline. Approval of the recommendations for support of 22 projects totalling \$194,500, leaves no unallocated balance in the Project grants component of the Cultural Grants budget.

CONCLUSION

This report presents the second and final report on Project grants for 2007. Should any Requests for Reconsideration be submitted, a separate report will be presented to Council at a future date.

The Assistant Director of the Office of Cultural Affairs notes the importance of a carefully balanced review process which includes independent expertise along with staff knowledge and history, and recommends approval of these recommendations.

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City of Vancouver Cultural Grants 2007
Project Applications (spring deadline) Alphabetical List

	Organization Name	2007 Recomm	2007 Request	2006 Grant	2006 Supp. Grant
1	Aeriosa Dance Soc.	5,000	15,000		
2	Compaigni V'ni Dansi Soc.	2,000	4,000	2,500	1,000
3	Escape Artists Soc.	0	3,000		
4	Fugue Free Theatre Soc.	0	3,100	0	0
5	Gallery Gachet Soc.	14,000	14,000	5,000	2,900
6	Jewish Community Centre of Greater Van.	5,000	10,000	2,500	2,500
7	Jewish Museum and Archives of BC	2,500	10,000		
8	marta marta HoP Soc.	4,500	5,000	2,500	2,000
9	Meta.for Theatre Soc.	0	5,000		
10	Music on Main	12,000	25,000		
11	Pangaea Arts Soc.	10,000	10,000		
12	PuSH International Performing Arts Festival Soc.	60,000	100,000	28,300	61,700
13	Raven Spirit Dance Soc.	5,000	5,000	2,000	0
14	Realwheels Soc.	8,000	10,000	10,000	8,000
15	Redshift Music Soc.	5,000	5,000	4,000	
16	Science Friction Arts Soc.	3,000	5,000	0	
17	Shakti Dance Soc.	3,000	6,000	2,000	1,000
18	Soc. for Disability Arts and Culture	0	3,500		
19	Taiwanese Cultural Festival (TCCS Special Events Assn.)	7,000	20,000	8,000	1,900
20	The Only Animal Theatre Soc.	7,000	12,000	7,500	2,500
21	Urban Ink Productions Soc.	8,000	10,300	8,000	2,000
22	Van. Asian Film Festival Soc.	6,000	7,500	4,000	1,000
23	Van. Intl. Dance Festival Soc.	15,000	15,000	8,500	4,000
24	Van. Latin American Film Festival (First Latin American Film Festival of Vancouver)	5,000	5,000	2,000	1,000
25	Van. Soc. of Storytelling	5,000	6,000	2,500	0
26	Zibota African Moonlight Theatre (African Stages Assn.)	2,500	5,000		
	Total	194,500	319,400	99,300	91,500