



## CITY OF VANCOUVER

# A1

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Date: November 13, 2007  
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Meeting Date: December 11, 2007

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Co-Director, Office of Cultural Affairs (Grants, Awards and Support Programs)

SUBJECT: 2008 Advance Grant Instalments - Major Exhibiting Institutions

#### RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT monthly instalments, based on 2007 funding levels, be made to the following organizations beginning January 2008, in advance of consideration of these organizations' individual 2008 annual grant requests:

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| A.S.T.C. Science World Society    | \$7,592   |
| Vancouver Art Gallery Association | \$173,608 |

- B. THAT bi-weekly instalments, based on 2007 funding levels, be made to the following organizations beginning January 2008, in advance of consideration of these organizations' individual 2008 annual grant requests:

|                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| H.R. MacMillan Space Centre Society | \$19,385 |
| Vancouver Maritime Museum Society   | \$15,181 |
| Vancouver Museum Commission         | \$27,600 |

Source of funds for both A and B is the Cultural Grants budget.

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of A and B.

## **COUNCIL POLICY**

Council's policy is to provide instalments of operating grants to allow these organizations to meet their operating needs, in advance of consideration of their annual grant requests during the regular grant review process.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to maintain monthly or bi-weekly funding at 2007 funding levels for each of the five major exhibiting institutions in advance of their 2008 annual grant review.

## **BACKGROUND**

In past years, the City has disbursed operating grants to the Vancouver Art Gallery Association, A.S.T.C. Science World Society, Vancouver Museum Commission, Vancouver Maritime Museum Society and the H.R. Macmillan Space Centre Society in equal instalments throughout the year. Instalments to the Vancouver Art Gallery Association and A.S.T.C. Science World Society are paid monthly, while the three other organizations are paid bi-weekly. The instalments are timed to accommodate the operating cash flow requirements of these organizations.

## **DISCUSSION**

This report recommends that instalments be continued as in past years, with payments commencing in January 2008, in advance of Council's consideration of the 2008 operating grant requests. These instalments allow for the organizations to manage their cash flow more effectively, as many funding agencies do not issue 2008 grant funds until later in the year.

Staff conduct a review of each institution's annual operations in May/June of each year for report to Council in July. Once the amount of the 2008 operating grant to each organization is approved, an adjustment will be made to ensure that the correct grant amount is disbursed. In the case of the Vancouver Maritime Museum, the advance grant instalments will be directed towards the institution's transition planning and operations. Consistent with previous years, staff recommend that instalment levels for these organizations be based on 2007 actual funding levels, so that any adjustments that may need to be made in 2008 to accommodate for inflation or budget reductions are minimal.

A summary of 2008 instalments for these organizations is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Schedule of Instalments

| <u>Organization</u>                 | <u>2008 Instalments</u> | <u>Frequency</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| A.S.T.C. Science World Society      | \$7,592                 | Monthly          |
| Vancouver Art Gallery Association   | \$173,608               | Monthly          |
| Vancouver Maritime Museum Society   | \$15,181                | Bi-weekly        |
| Vancouver Museum Commission         | \$27,600                | Bi-weekly        |
| H.R. MacMillan Space Centre Society | \$19,385                | Bi-weekly        |

***Grant Program Review***

The Office of Cultural Affairs is in the midst of a review of all of its cultural grant programs, including the major exhibiting institutions annual operating grant program. The review does not examine individual grants but instead will make recommendations regarding the City's overall cultural grant programs and policies. As part of this program review, the community, including the major exhibiting institutions, will have an opportunity to provide input in the review process. Final recommendations regarding the entire complement of grants programs will be presented to Council for consideration in early 2008 along with an implementation plan and timeframe for any recommended changes to programs, procedures or processes. Staff do not anticipate that the implementation of any recommendations will impact the major institutions' 2008 advance grant instalments.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Staff make recommendations on the 2008 operating grant allocations for each of these organizations once the City's 2008 budget is approved and following a review by staff of each organization's 2007 operational and financial performance. Where applicable, the independent review of the department's cultural grant programs will also inform these recommendations. As the advance instalments are proposed at 2007 approved grant levels, staff note that there will be sufficient opportunity to make any adjustments that may be required at the time that Council considers the 2008 operating grants to these five organizations.

**CONCLUSION**

Staff recommend that A.S.T.C. Science World Society, H.R. Macmillan Space Centre Society, Vancouver Art Gallery Association, Vancouver Maritime Museum Society and the Vancouver Museum Commission continue to receive instalments as outlined in Table 1 commencing in January 2008 to assist these organizations in meeting their ongoing operational requirements.

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