



CITY OF VANCOUVER

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 9, 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: 2007 Diversity Initiatives Grants

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve thirteen (13) Diversity Initiatives grants totaling \$103,000 as outlined in Table 1 of this report; source of funds to be the 2007 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 seventeen (17) Diversity Initiatives grant requests received in response to the October 15th deadline.

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 Projects – assists artistic collaborations between arts groups, at least one of which must be from a distinct community, and involving new creation or interpretation.
- 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 2007 budget for the Diversity Initiatives grants program is \$103,000. In past years, there were two annual grant deadlines for the program; the first in May and a second deadline in October. Given the availability of OCA staff who were also involved in a number of additional cultural planning initiatives this year, a decision was made to have one deadline for this program in 2007. The recommendations in this report are from this intake of seventeen (17) applications totaling \$186,425 received in response to the October 15th deadline.

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:

- Vanessa Kwan (inter-disciplinary artist, curator, Director of Programming at the Vancouver Queer Film Festival);
- Rose Spahan (Coast Salish visual artist, curator, and educator); and
- Susanna Uchatius (dramaturge, director, Artistic Director of Theatre Terrific, a Vancouver-based mixed-ability theatre company)

Grant requests and recommendations of the Assessment Committee are listed in **Table 1**, and discussed in more detail in **Appendix A**.

Table 1
Recommendations
2007 Diversity Initiatives Grants: October 15th Deadline

Organization	Activity	Requested	Recommended
Atmasphere Arts Society	Artistic Development Project	\$8,000	\$8,000
Contemporary Art Gallery	Artistic Leadership Training	\$10,000	\$10,000
Dr. Sun Yat Sen Garden Society	Artistic Development Project	\$12,790	0
Grunt Gallery	Artistic Leadership Training	\$10,875	\$10,000
Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver	Cross-Cultural Artistic Project	\$10,000	0
Latinos in Action Vancouver Foundation	Cross-Cultural Artistic Project	\$7,000	\$2,500
Media Undefined Collective Society	Artistic Development Project	\$20,000	\$10,000
New Performance Works	Artistic Leadership Training	\$12,000	\$8,000
Newworld Theatre Society	Cross-Cultural Artistic Residency	\$10,000	\$10,000
Screaming Weenies Productions	Artistic Development Project	\$10,000	\$6,000
Theatre Replacement Society	Cross-Cultural Artistic Residency	\$15,000	\$10,000
Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre	Artistic Development Project	\$15,760	0
Vancouver Centre for Contemporary Asian Art (Centre A)	Artistic Leadership Training	\$10,000	0
Vancouver Dance Centre Society	Cross-Cultural Artistic Residency	\$10,000	\$10,000
Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company	Cross-Cultural Artistic Residency	\$10,000	\$7,500
Visceral Visions Society	Artistic Development Project	\$8,000	\$4,000
Yayoi Theatre Movement	Artistic Development Project	\$7,000	\$7,000
TOTAL		\$186,425	\$103,000

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 the grants program review. It is provided here as a record of their comments and for Council's information.

- Assessment Committee members found it helpful to have OCA staff involved in the evaluation process, given their familiarity with the applicant groups and having met with the groups, bringing new or updated information to the discussion
- Assessment Committee members found the "letter of intent" from the artists applying to be very useful and a valuable tool in evaluating the applications
- A standardized budget sheet would be helpful in reviewing an application's financial aspects

Staff note that OCA is currently in the midst of a complete review of all grant programs, including the Diversity Initiatives program as recommended by the Creative City Task Force, and will be reporting back to Council in the spring of 2008.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council approved a budget of \$103,000 for the Diversity Initiatives category of the 2007 Cultural Grants budget. If approved, recommendations made in this report will leave no unallocated funds for the 2007 Diversity Initiatives grants program.

CONCLUSION

The recommendations in this report relate to applications made to the October 15, 2007 deadline for Diversity Initiatives grants. The thirteen (13) projects recommended for support from the seventeen (17) requests received represent those which best met the program goals and criteria in a competitive round.

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2007 DIVERSITY INITIATIVES: October 15, 2007 Deadline

RECOMMENDED

Atmasphere Art Society

An Artistic Development Project grant of \$8,000 is recommended to support the 6th edition of *ANU* at the Roundhouse Community Centre in June 2008. This multi-media collaboration of structured improvisation in music, dance, spoken-word, performance and visual art involves 18 artists of diverse backgrounds and artistic practices. The Assessment Committee noted the project's development over the years, a commitment to developing emerging artists and the growing organizational capacity of this emerging society.

Contemporary Art Gallery Society of BC

An Artistic Leadership Training grant of \$10,000 is recommended for a six-month, curatorial and education-focused mentorship to support Aboriginal artist and emerging curator Daina Warren. Ms. Warren will work closely with the curator and education programmer on the CAG's exhibition program while still having time to focus on her own work—to develop a comprehensive exhibition proposal. The Assessment Committee noted the timeliness of the curatorial development opportunity and the subsequent benefits to both the CAG and Ms. Warren.

Grunt Gallery (Visible Arts Society)

An Artistic Leadership Training grant of \$10,000 is recommended for an eight-month curatorial, production and design internship for First Nations multidisciplinary artist Skeena Reece. During the internship, she will receive training in two primary areas: first, with mentor Dana Claxton, developing on-line curatorial skills as the new "Medicine" Project is developed; and second, with mentor Archer Pechawis, learning the necessary technical skills to develop a website. Further administrative skills—project management, budgeting, contract writing, etc. will be acquired as the residency culminates with the launch and marketing of a new website in spring 2008.

Latinos in Action Vancouver Foundation

A Cross-Cultural Artistic Project grant of \$2,500 is recommended to support the collaboration between Latinos in Action, the Latin Music School and Jarimba, a Vancouver-based world music ensemble. These three groups will jointly develop and produce a series of participatory workshops and lecture demonstrations in spring 2008. These interactive and experiential workshop presentations will focus on musical instruments such as the Marimba to showcase the talents of professional artists and educate audience participants on the contributing cultural influences, evolution of and diversity within Latin musical forms.

Media Undefined Collective Society

An Artistic Development Project grant of \$10,000 is recommended to support *Intersections*, a living history multi-media project that will engage youth, seniors and professional artists from the culturally diverse communities that intersect in East Vancouver's Strathcona neighbourhood. The Assessment Committee noted the integrity of this organization's previously successful community cultural development work and the respectful engagement of seniors and youth into this artist-led project.

New Performance Works Society

An Artistic Leadership Training grant of \$8,000 is recommended for a year-long artistic and management mentorship for emerging dancer/choreographer Amber Funk Barton. The mentorship will be led by Barbara Clausen, Executive Producer of New Performance Works and shared with Donna Spencer, Artistic Director of the Firehall Arts Centre. The Assessment Committee noted the many years of experience and rich expertise of the mentors, detailed objectives of the mentorship and balanced approach between artistic and administrative elements of this mentorship.

Newworld Theatre Society

A grant of \$10,000 is recommended to support a seven-month Cross-Cultural Artistic Residency for emerging theatre artist and community organizer Mia Amir. While in residence, she will develop her own solo interdisciplinary work inspired by a recent trip to her birthplace in Israel/Palestine. As well as collaborating with Newworld's Artistic Producing team to produce new work, Ms. Amir will also facilitate community outreach to local Jewish communities for Newworld's upcoming production of *My Name is Rachel Corrie*. The Assessment Committee noted the clearly articulated objectives of this proposal and the benefits to both Newworld and Ms. Amir of this residency.

Screaming Weenie Productions Society

An Artistic Development Project grant of \$6,000 is recommended to support a re-visioning and remount in March 2008 of *The Wizard of Glam*—a collective creation produced early in the company's history of producing queer and sex-positive performance. Combining live music, professional sound and lighting design and a mix of artists from the traditional theatre and Drag performance backgrounds, the play spoofs the *Wizard of Oz* while emphasizing strong themes of gay pride. The Assessment Committee noted that the company was going through a re-building process of its core ensemble and the value that remounting the play could contribute to the company's long-term development.

Theatre Replacement Society

A grant of \$10,000 is recommended to support a 12-month Cross-Cultural Artistic Residency in 2008 for Japanese-Canadian visual artist Cindy Mochizuki. While in residence, she will develop her own interdisciplinary work, *Shiro Yagi*, and engage in the collective creation process of two new works: *Train* and *Dress me up in your love*. The former will premiere at Alberta Theatre Projects' playRites Festival in February 2008 and the latter will be presented as a work in progress at the 2008 Powell Street Festival. Further focus in this residency includes producing and designing both print and on-line publications with the company's Co-Artistic Directors. The Assessment Committee noted the clearly articulated objectives of this proposal and the means by which both Theatre Replacement and Ms. Mochizuki can expand their artistic language and practice through this collaboration.

Vancouver Dance Centre Society

A Cross-Cultural Artistic Residency grant of \$10,000 is recommended to support a nine-month residency by emerging aboriginal choreographer/dancer Michelle Olson at the Dance Centre during 2008/09. The residency will include specific mentoring for Ms. Olson with well-respected aboriginal director/choreographer Alejandro Ronceria. The Assessment Committee noted the strong community outreach element of this residency proposal, the direct benefits to Ms. Olson's artistic research into creating aboriginal dance within the mainstream

contemporary dance milieu, and its impact on the Dance Centre's residency program objectives to focus on artistic career development and widen its reach to Aboriginal dance artists and community.

Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company

A grant of \$7,500 is recommended to support a 10-month cross-cultural artistic residency at the Playhouse for Filipino-Canadian playwright C.E. Gatchalian from January to October 2008. While in residence, he will develop, on-site, a new theatre piece entitled *The Laurette Play* and mentor 15 young playwrights from diverse backgrounds in a new initiative, the Playhouse's Young Playwrights Unit. The grant shall be payable in two equal instalments, the first released without conditions and the second released SUBJECT TO an interim report about the current status of the Young Playwrights Unit to the satisfaction of the Co-Director, Office of Cultural Affairs.

Visceral Visions Society

An Artistic Development Project grant of \$4,000 is recommended to support Asian-Canadian playwright, Valerie Sing Turner, through a two-week development workshop in fall 2008 followed by a public presentation of her theatre/dance piece entitled *Confessions of the Other Woman*. With the first, dance-focused, phase of development complete, the second phase will investigate script revisions that arose out of the 2007 workshop and then fully integrate production elements into the work. Director/Choreographer Gerry Trentham and Dramaturge Rachel Ditor will continue to round out the artistic creation team which aims towards mounting a full-scale production of the play in 2009.

Yayoi Theatre Movement Society

An Artistic Development Project grant of \$7,000 is recommended to support the creation and presentation of *Sonezaki-Shinju*, a Kabuki style dance production. This collaboration between Yayoi Theatre Movement's Artistic Director, Yayoi Hirano and independent actor and playwright, Manami Hara will be performed at Performance Works on Granville Island in the fall of 2008. The Assessment Committee noted the high artistic merit of this innovative project and its relevance to the company's artistic development goals.

NOT RECOMMENDED

Dr. Sun Yat Sen Garden Society

The Dr. Sun Yat Sen Garden Society applied on behalf of the Silk Road Music ensemble as the non-profit sponsoring organization. The request was for an Artistic Development Project grant to produce a day-long musical concert scheduled to take place at the Garden prior to and immediately following the Chinese New Year Parade in February, 2008. The Assessment Committee commends efforts to align the project with the New Year Parade and Cultural Olympiad leading up to the 2010 Winter Games, but noted that the proposal lacked details to support a strong artistic vision for the concert. In a competitive round, no grant is recommended.

Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver

This request for a Cross-Cultural Artistic Project grant from the Jewish Community Centre was to present a variety of performing artists from different cultural backgrounds in concert with the rotating exhibition schedule at the community centre's Zack Gallery. The Assessment

Committee noted some missing key information regarding the performing artists to be programmed and a weak artistic rationale for the collaboration between the society and collaborating partners, particularly as it related to the artistic development in a distinct community or how it promoted inter-cultural understanding. In a competitive round, no grant is recommended.

Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre Society

Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre requested artistic development support for a pre-audition workshop in anticipation of mounting a semi-professional production of the large-scale musical *Flower Drum Song*. The workshop proposed to place an open call to young and emerging performers of colour for an experiential workshop about auditioning, call-backs and rehearsals. The Assessment Committee recognized the value of the workshops as artistic capacity building to actors of colour, but noted that no key personnel—Director, Musical Director, Choreographer or Stage Manager—were confirmed to lead the workshop process. In the context of a competitive round, the Assessment Committee does not recommend a grant.

Vancouver Centre for Contemporary Asian Art (Centre A)

Centre A gallery applied under the Artistic Leadership component of Diversity Initiatives to support a 10-month curatorial residency for emerging artist, Susan Kang. While the proposal described clear benefits to the host organization in terms of broadening community outreach and increasing human resources, the Assessment Committee noted the lack of a convincing and well-articulated rationale as to how this residency would positively impact on Ms. Kang's personal career development. In the context of a competitive round, no grant is recommended.

DIVERSITY INITIATIVES GRANTS

NOTE: ONE DEADLINE ONLY IN 2007
Monday, October 15, 2007 before 4:30 p.m.

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 the deadline date.

NOTE: ONE DEADLINE ONLY IN 2007
Monday, October 15, 2007 before 4:30 p.m.

Contact Information

Office of Cultural Affairs
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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貼金計劃。

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