

CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT



CITY OF VANCOUVER

Report Date: December 17, 2007
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Meeting Date: January 29, 2008

TO: Vancouver City Council

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

SUBJECT: 2008 Theatre Rental Projects Grants: 1st Deadline

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve three (3) Theatre Rental Projects Grants totalling \$18,460 as outlined in Table 1 of this report for uses of the Civic Theatres within the first 6 months of 2008; source of funds to be the 2008 Theatre Rental Projects Grant budget.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

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

COUNCIL POLICY

In 1979 and again in 1983, City Council affirmed the principle that Grants Equal to Theatre Rental are available to arts and cultural organizations that use the Civic Theatres annually and have been assigned annual "base level" uses of the Civic Theatres by Council.

On July 13, 2006, Council approved funding allocations to a number of grant programs including up to \$20,000 to the Theatre Rental Projects Grant program, established to replace the Baxter Grant Program and designed to financially assist occasional, new and diverse non-profit arts and cultural organizations wanting access to Vancouver's Civic Theatres.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE

This report presents recommendations made by a Staff Committee for three (3) Theatre Rental Projects Grant requests received in response to the December 7, 2007 application deadline.

BACKGROUND

City Council has long provided assistance to Vancouver's non-profit arts and cultural organizations to access the Vancouver Civic Theatres. Regular users have been eligible for support through the Theatre Rental Operating Grants program. Until 2005, occasional users were able to apply to the Baxter Grant program. In spring of 2005 the Baxter Grant fund, established through the Vancouver Foundation and administered by the City through the Office of Cultural Affairs was wound up and all funds disbursed.

Through the June 2005 Creative City Task Force public consultation process regarding an increase to the 2005 Cultural Grants budget, the community identified the need to address access to affordable venues for all art forms and the Task Force subcommittee, in the Council report of July 2005 recommended that as a first step, Council approved up to \$75,000 for a pilot Theatre Rental Projects Grant program to be administered generally in the same manner as the former Baxter Grant program with a focus on occasional, new and diverse users of the Vancouver Civic Theatres.

A Theatre Rental Projects Grant pilot program was created in 2005 specifically in response to the loss of the Baxter Grant program and priorities identified by the Creative City Task Force as a first step towards facilitating greater access to Vancouver's Civic Theatres for new and emerging performing arts groups.

All of the cultural grants and support programs delivered through the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) are currently under review. This comprehensive review will assess the effectiveness of these programs and make recommendations for change based on current trends, needs, best practices in the arts and cultural community and in the context of available resources to deliver such programs. The results of this review will be reported to Council in the spring of 2008.

DISCUSSION

The recommendations in this report are from the December 7, 2007 application deadline for the Theatre Rental Projects Grant program. The grant requests received are for performances during the first half of the year. A second deadline, anticipated in May, 2008 will support performing arts organizations planning events during the late spring and into the fall of 2008.

Four grant applications were received. One application was withdrawn by the applicant during the assessment process, reducing the total requested amount to \$18,460. The applications were reviewed and assessed by a Staff Committee against program objectives and criteria. Grant requests and recommendations of the Staff Committee are listed in **Table 1**, and discussed in more detail in **Appendix A**. Complete program guidelines are attached in **Appendix B**.

Table 1
Recommendations
2008 Theatre Rental Projects Grants: 1st Deadline

Organization	Activity	Requested	Recommended
Caravan World Rhythms Society	Performance of Ava Persian Music Ensemble at the Orpheum	\$10,300	\$10,300
Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver	Music performance by Quebec's Les Trois Accords at Vancouver Playhouse	\$2,720	\$2,720
Dancing on the Edge Festival	Dance performances by Compagnie Marie Chouinard at Vancouver Playhouse	\$5,440	\$5,440
TOTAL		\$18,460	\$18,460

If approved, these grants will result in additional performances at our civic theatres with highly acclaimed music and dance performances by local performing arts groups and visiting artists. The opportunities to present work in a centrally located and well-equipped theatre will positively impact the creative development and capacity building of the applicants, as well as encouraging partnerships, contributing to increased community profile and expansion of their audiences.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2008 Cultural Grants budget includes an allocation of \$20,400 for the Theatre Rental Projects Grant category. The recommendation made in this report will leave a balance of \$1,940 in this program.

CONCLUSION

The recommendation in this report relates to applications made to the December 7, 2007 deadline for the Theatre Rental Projects Grant program. The three (3) projects recommended for support meet the program goals and criteria.

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2008 Theatre Rental Projects Grants: 1st Deadline

Recommended

Caravan World Rhythms Society

A grant of \$10,300 is recommended to support one performance of Ava Persian Music Ensemble at the Orpheum in May, 2008

Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver

A grant of \$2,720 is recommended to support one music performance by Quebec's Les Trois Accords, presented by the Centre culturel de francophone de Vancouver at the Vancouver Playhouse as part of the 2008 Cultural Olympiad.

Dancing on the Edge Festival Society

A grant of \$5,440 is recommended to support two performances by Compagnie Marie Chouinard at the Vancouver Playhouse in May, 2008.



2008 Theatre Rental (Projects) Grants

Office of Cultural Affairs, City of Vancouver

INFORMATION SHEET

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The 2008 Theatre Rental (Projects) Grants program has been established to offer financial assistance to non-profit arts and cultural organizations that occasionally present events in one of the Civic Theatres (the Orpheum, Vancouver Playhouse, or Queen Elizabeth Theatre).

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The program is intended to ensure accessibility to the Civic Theatres for new and emerging arts and cultural organizations. It seeks to support groups that have the capacity to attract large audiences and can benefit from the experience of performing in a centrally located and well-equipped theatre by contributing to their artistic development, increasing their profile, and helping them expand their audiences.

ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Theatre Rental (Projects) grants can be used to cover some or all of a recipient's Civic Theatre rental expenses only. They do NOT fund rehearsal expenses or any additional costs, for example:

- Administrative Charges (GST, insurance, licenses, etc.)
- Technical Services Charges (the operation of amplified sound, stage crew wages, dance floor installation, use of video for projection or recording, piano tuning, etc.)
- Audience Services Charges (labour for pre and/or post show events and receptions, merchandising licensing and commission, additional security, etc.)

For a detailed list of cost related to these items and others, please refer to the Vancouver Civic Theatre's website at: www.vancouver.ca/theatres

We also strongly recommend that you call the Civic Theatres to discuss your proposed event and related charges.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for a grant, an applicant must be:

- a registered non-profit society with a mandate to present cultural events
- based and active in the city of Vancouver
- actively promoting its event to a city-wide audience
- presenting an event before September 1, 2008

The following are ineligible for Theatre Rental (Projects) Grants:

- non-profit arts organizations that are currently receiving an annual civic Theatre Rental Grant (Operating)
- competitions; and
- events whose prime purpose is fundraising for the applicant or a third party

Please note that applicants meeting the eligibility requirements will not automatically receive a grant.

HOW TO APPLY

Please follow these steps if you are interested in applying for a Theatre Rental (Projects) Grant.

1. Call 604-871-6434 to discuss your plans with Office of Cultural Affairs staff, to confirm your eligibility.
2. Reserve a date at the Civic Theatres by calling the Booking Coordinator at 604-665-3028. If you have never held an event at the Civic Theatres, we recommend that you arrange to meet with Civic Theatres staff to discuss your plans and determine all expenses.
3. Once you have a confirmed date with the Civic Theatres, contact the Office of Cultural Affairs to obtain an application form.
4. Complete and return the original with two (2) copies of the application form, together with one original and three copies of the the required documents to:

Office of Cultural Affairs City of Vancouver

Site (courier) address:
Suite 310, 555 West 12th Avenue
East Tower, City Square Mall
Vancouver, BC

Mailing address:
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

DEADLINE

Applications for the Theatre Rental (Projects) Grants program are being accepted until December 7, 2007 for events proposed before September 1, 2008. You should apply **after** you have confirmed a booking with the Civic Theatres' office.