



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 4, 2008
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Meeting Date: December 16, 2008

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Director, Grants, Support and Awards Programs, Cultural Services
SUBJECT: Advance Grant Instalments-Major Exhibiting Institutions

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT monthly instalments, based on 2008 funding levels, be made to the following organizations beginning January 2009, in advance of consideration of these organizations' individual 2009 annual grant requests:

A.S.T.C. Science World Society	\$ 7,742
Vancouver Art Gallery Association	\$ 177,083

- B. THAT bi-weekly instalments, based on 2008 funding levels, be made to the following organizations beginning January 2009, in advance of consideration of these organizations' individual 2009 annual grant requests:

H.R. MacMillan Space Centre Society	\$ 19,773
Vancouver Maritime Museum Society	\$ 15,485
Vancouver Museum Society	\$ 28,150

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 payments at 2008 funding levels for each of the five major exhibiting institutions in advance of their 2009 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 Society, 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 2009, in advance of Council's consideration of the 2009 Operating grant requests. These instalments allow for the organizations to manage their cash flow more effectively, as many funding agencies do not issue 2009 grant funds until later in the year.

An Assessment Committee comprised of members from the community and Cultural Services staff will review of each institution's annual operations as part of the Operating grant program which will conclude assessment by March 2009. Once the amount of the 2009 Operating grant to each organization is approved by Council in April, an adjustment will be made to ensure that the correct grant amount is disbursed. Consistent with previous years, instalment levels for these organizations are based on 2008 actual funding levels, so that any adjustments that may need to be made in 2009 to accommodate for inflation or budget reductions should be minimal.

A summary of 2009 instalments for these organizations is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Schedule of Instalments

<u>Organization</u>	<u>2009 Instalments</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
A.S.T.C. Science World Society	\$ 7,742	Monthly
Vancouver Art Gallery Association	\$ 177,083	Monthly
Vancouver Maritime Museum Society	\$ 15,485	Bi-weekly
Vancouver Museum Society	\$ 28,150	Bi-weekly
H.R. MacMillan Space Centre Society	\$ 19,773	Bi-weekly

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Recommendations on the 2009 Operating grant allocations for each of these organizations will be made once the City's 2009 budget is approved and following a review of each organization's 2008 operational and financial performance. As the advance instalments are proposed at 2008 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 2009 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 Society continue to receive instalments as outlined in Table 1 commencing in January 2009 to assist these organizations in meeting their ongoing operational requirements.

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