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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: July 2, 2009
Contact: Cherryl Masters
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RTS No.: 07544
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: July 21, 2009

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Margeret Specht, Director of Grants, Awards & Support Programs, Cultural Services

SUBJECT: 2009 Theatre Rental Project Grant to Dancing on the Edge

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve the transfer of a returned Celebration grant of \$1,500 from the Vancouver Rhythm and Dance Society, to the Theatre Rental Project Grants budget.
- B. THAT Council approve a Theatre Rental Project grant of \$5,860 to the Dancing on the Edge Society for two uses in the Playhouse Theatre for the Dancing on the Edge Festival this July. Source of funds to be the 2009 Theatre Rental Project grants budget.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

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

COUNCIL POLICY

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to recommend a Theatre Rental Projects grant to Dancing on the Edge Festival Society for use of the Playhouse Theatre in July 2009.

BACKGROUND

In 1979, City Council approved the Theatre Rental Grants program which assigned annual "base level" uses to cultural organizations to access to the Civic Theatres annually. On September 12, 2000, Council approved the establishment of a "reserve pool" of theatre rental uses to assist established performing arts organizations that do not have designated "base level" uses of the Civic Theatres. On July 13, 2006, Council approved a budget of \$20,000 to establish a Theatre Rental "Projects" Grant program, 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. The Baxter Grant Fund was established through the Vancouver Foundation and administered by the City through Cultural Services and was wound up and all funds disbursed in 2005 as intended.

On June 26, 2008, Council approved the Culture Plan Implementation Phase 1 - Review of Grants Programs, which directed staff to streamline programs and administration to align with the City's new strategic cultural priorities and to increase efficiencies in program administration. A number of changes are being made to the program over the next 2 years: shifting from a seasonal allocation to a calendar year allocation; eliminating the base use level and reserve pool allocation to an annual 'lump sum' award based initially on past use trends and proposed use needs; and increasing the Project budget to provide access to occasional and new users as well as access to regular users for unforeseen increased activity.

A report on these changes and all of the changes to the Cultural Grants program will be submitted to Council later this year. In addition, a report on the allocation of the Theatre Rental Operating grants will be submitted to Council for approval in September 2009.

DISCUSSION

The Dancing on the Edge Society is an occasional user of the Playhouse Theatre for their annual Dancing on the Edge Festival which takes place during the month of July. In the past, they have received assistance through the 'reserve pool' which is allocated along with other Theatre Rental Operating grants. Due to the changes currently underway to the program (elimination of 'reserve' uses) and to the timing of their request (this July), they are being recommended for assistance under the Theatre Rental Project grants program. The society has requested two evening performances and one technical/rehearsal day. Organizations that access the civic theatres through either 'reserve uses' or project assistance, are granted performance uses only and not technical/rehearsal time. As such, the recommendation is to support two evening performances for a total of \$5,630.

Table 1
Recommendations
2009 Theatre Rental Projects Grants

Organization	Activity	Requested	Recommended
Dancing on the Edge	Wen Wei Dance performance July 10 & 11	\$7,040	\$5,630
Total			\$5,630

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Theatre Rentals Project grants budget for 2009 is \$20,800. A total of \$16,280 in Project grants have been approved and allocated for 2009 so far leaving a balance of \$4,520 in the budget. Further, a Celebration grant of \$1,500 was returned from the Vancouver Rhythm and Dance Society due to the event being cancelled. Staff are requesting that this \$1,500 be returned to the 2009 Celebration grants budget and transferred to the Theatre Rental Project grants budget, leaving an available balance of \$6,020. The approval of a grant of \$5,630 to Dancing on the Edge Festival leaves a balance of \$390 in the Theatre Rental Project grants budget.

Table 2
2009 Theatre Rental Project grants budget and allocations

2009 Theatre Rental Project grants budget		\$20,800
National Congress of Black Women	RTS 7282 July 08	(\$2,815)
Caravan World Rhythms	RTS 7865 Apr. 09	(\$10,650)
Vancouver Cantonese Opera	RTS 7865 Apr. 09	(\$2,815)
Balance of 2009 Theatre Rental Project grants budget		\$4,520
Transfer from Celebration grants budget (returned grant)		\$1,500
New balance		\$6,020
Dancing on the Edge Society		(\$5,630)
Balance of 2009 Theatre Rental Project grants budget		\$390

CONCLUSION

This is the final Theatre Rental Project grants allocation and report for 2009. Allocations for the Theatre Rental Operating grants will be reported to Council in September 2009.

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