



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: December 9, 2011
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Meeting Date: January 17, 2012

TO: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
FROM: Director, Grants, Awards and Support Programs, Cultural Services
SUBJECT: 2012 Theatre Rental Grant Allocations

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve \$2,583,300 in Theatre Rental Grants as listed in Table 1, source of funds to be the 2012 Theatre Rental Grants budget.

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend an allocation of \$2,583,300 to support productions and presentations of 21 organizations in the civic theatres in 2012.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

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

REPORT

Background/Context

In 1979, City Council approved the Theatre Rental Grants program which assigned annual "base level" uses to cultural organizations to access the Civic Theatres. In 1995,

Council approved the process for Theatre Rental Grants which provided for seasonally based grants allocated in July of each year for the coming "fall" (the second half of a given year) and "spring" (the first half of the following year). Recommendations for the spring of the following year were approved in principle, in advance of the Operating Budget Review for that year.

In 2000, a 'reserve pool' was created to accommodate established arts organizations who did not have designated 'base level' uses. In 2006, a Project budget of \$20,000 was established to assist occasional, new and diverse non-profit arts and cultural organizations access to the civic theatres.

In 2008, Council approved recommendations arising from the Cultural Grants Program review, which streamlined programs to align with the City's strategic cultural priorities and culture plan and increase efficiencies in program administration. As a result, the Theatre Rental Grants Program shifted from a seasonal allocation to a calendar year allocation, and moved from a 'base use' level and 'reserve pool' allocation towards an annual 'lump sum' award based on past use trends and proposed use needs. A portion of the budget continues to be allocated to occasional, new and diverse organizations.

In 2010, Council approved a total of \$2,733,710 in Theatre Rental grants due to a significant increase in performances and productions in the civic theatres cultural Olympiad. The additional resources were drawn from the Cultural Tourism Grant Program to support groups in this one-time opportunity to present to a significant local and international visiting audience.

In 2011, a wide range of classical and contemporary performances in dance, theatre, and music, featuring professional artists and professionally trained students, was supported through the Theatre Rental Grants Program at Vancouver's civic theatres. Several first time users applied for assistance and three new groups were recommended and approved for a grant. However, due to finite funds not all the new requests could be recommended.

Strategic Analysis

For 2012, Cultural Services received 21 applications to the Theatre Rental Grant Program deadline of November 18, 2011. Together, these applications had a total request value of \$3,066,790.

In 1989 Council approved the lease of the Orpheum basement to the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (VSO) for offices. The annual rent was set at \$100,000, to be offset by a City grant in the same amount. The lease has been renewed annually, subject to approval of the grant from the City. In November of 2011, the VSO moved from the Orpheum building to new offices in the VSO music school. Consequently, the \$100,000 office rental offset is no longer required by the VSO, and that amount has been re-allocated to the theatre rental component of the Theatre Rental Grants budget.

The Theatre Rental Grant Program will be considered and evaluated in the context of the Strategic planning process for the civic theatres, currently underway.

The recommendations, totalling \$2,583,300 for Theatre Rental Grants are summarized in Table 1.

TABLE 1 - 2012 Theatre Rental Grant Recommendations

Organization	2012 Request	2012 Recomm.	2011 Grant
Ballet British Columbia	\$179,280	\$162,000	\$138,600
Caravan World Rhythms	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$3,050
Children's Arts Umbrella	\$11,890	\$6,340	\$6,100
Chinese Cultural Centre	—	—	\$3,050
Coastal Jazz and Blues	\$48,000	\$24,000	\$23,100
DanceHouse (Seismic Shift)	\$36,075	\$25,360	\$18,300
Dancing on the Edge Festival	\$11,095	\$6,340	—
Electric Theatre Company	\$36,000	\$24,000	—
Flamenco Rosario	\$3,170	\$3,170	\$3,050
Friends of Chamber Music	\$32,500	\$32,500	\$28,220
Goh Ballet Vancouver Society	—	—	\$3,050
Music in the Morning	\$6,960	\$6,000	—
Realwheels	\$2,000	\$1,000	—
Van. Academy of Music	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$43,310
Van. Bach Choir	\$86,400	\$72,000	\$62,345
Van. Chamber Choir	\$58,800	\$50,400	\$50,800
Vancouver Chinese Singers	—	—	\$3,050
Vancouver Int'l. Bhangra Celebration	—	—	\$11,550
Van. Opera Assn.	\$477,600	\$410,400	\$398,470
Van. Playhouse Theatre Co.	\$657,920	\$500,000	\$501,080
Van. Recital Society	\$9,520	\$9,520	\$34,550
Van. Symphony Society*	\$1,334,240	\$1,174,930	\$1,125,475
Van. Summer Festival	\$17,170	\$17,170	\$11,550
Van. Chopin Society	\$3,170	\$3,170	\$3,050
Van. Int. Song Institute	\$1,000	\$1,000	—
West Coast Harp Society	—	—	\$11,550
Sub-Total Theatre Rental Grants	\$3,066,790	\$2,583,300	\$2,483,300
*VSO Office Rent Grant (not applied for in 2012)	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Total Theatre Rent Grants	\$3,066,790	\$2,583,300	\$2,583,300

*Implications/Related Issues/Risk**Financial*

A total of \$2,583,300 is recommended to support productions and presentations of 21 organizations in the civic theatres. Source of funds is the 2012 Theatre Rental Grants budget.

These recommendations are being made pending finalization of the 2012 Operating Budget. Adjustments to the balance of grant allocations may be made pending approval of the 2012 Operating Budget.

CONCLUSION

Approval of these recommendations will assist several organizations in producing and presenting a diversity of work by Vancouver-based, national and international artists to Vancouver audiences at the civic theatres throughout 2012.

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