



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: December 7, 2012  
Contact: Richard Newirth  
Contact No.: 604.871.6455  
RTS No.: 09888  
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20  
Meeting Date: January 30, 2013

TO: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services  
FROM: Director, Grants, Awards and Support Programs  
SUBJECT: 2013 Theatre Rental Grant Allocations: First Deadline

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council approve \$2,368,455 in Theatre Rental Grants as listed in Table 1, source of funds to be the 2013 Theatre Rental Grants budget.

**REPORT SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to recommend an allocation of \$2,368,455 to support productions and presentations of 38 organizations in the civic theatres during 2013.

**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 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. A portion of the budget continues to be allocated to occasional, new and diverse organizations. For this round of recommendations, the percentage is 10.1% and the dollar amount is \$239,515.

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.

Led by cultural grants planners from Cultural Services in collaboration with staff from Civic Theatres, applications are evaluated against published criteria. The review considers each proposal's relative impacts that presenting in one of the civic theatre venues would have on the organization's artistic development, and capacity to produce the event, as well as community impact and engagement.

### ***Strategic Analysis***

Cultural Services received 38 applications to the Theatre Rental Grant Program deadline of November 16, 2012. Together, these applications had a total request value of \$2,413,745 of eligible requests.

The loss of the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company as a major tenant of the Vancouver Playhouse, provided challenges to the City to rent the venue, but also created opportunities for Vancouver's non-profit performing arts community. As a means to re-introduce the venue as a viable option for the community, Civic Theatre and Cultural Services staff jointly coordinated a public information session in October on the Theatre Rental Grant program at the Orpheum Annex. This generated a great deal of interest in the facility and subsequently contributed to increasing the overall rental bookings and grant applications by 85% over the previous year. There were 19 successfully recommended first-time applicants to the Theatre Rental Grant program.

The City is currently undertaking a strategic business review of the Vancouver Civic Theatres operation. Objectives of this work include the research of best practices in the context of an evaluation of the current state of the theatre rental operations. Further, the Theatre Rental Grant Program will be considered in the context of other forms of support to the performing arts sector provided by the City, which include cash grants, transit shelter and billboard advertising space in-kind contributions, rehearsal, office and storage space in-kind contributions.

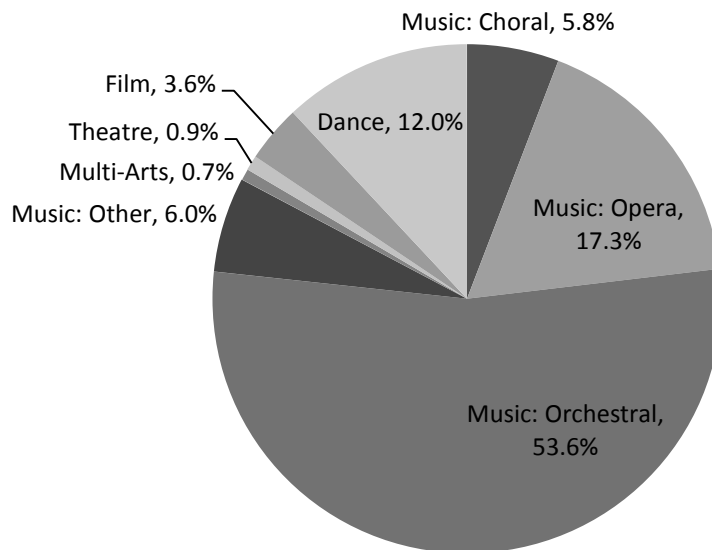
The recommendations, totalling \$2,368,455 for Theatre Rental Grants are summarized in Table 1.

**TABLE 1 - 2013 Theatre Rental Grant Recommendations (First Deadline)**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>2013 Request</b>	<b>2013 Recomm.</b>	<b>2012 Grant</b>
Ballet British Columbia	\$177,000	\$177,000	\$162,000
Big World Band Society	\$1,000	\$1,000	—
Caravan World Rhythms	\$3,230	\$3,230	\$12,000
Children's Arts Umbrella	\$18,580	\$18,580	\$6,340
Coastal Jazz and Blues	\$24,480	\$24,480	\$24,000
DanceHouse (Seismic Shift)	\$39,310	\$39,310	\$25,360
Dancing on the Edge Festival	\$6,460	\$6,460	\$6,340
DOXA Documentary Film Festival	\$6,460	\$6,460	
Erato Ensemble	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Flamenco Rosario	\$6,460	\$6,460	\$3,170
Friends of Chamber Music	\$28,300	\$28,300	\$32,500
Kababayang Pilipino of BC	\$6,460	\$6,460	—
Karen Flamenco Dance Company	\$17,780	\$8,890	—
Movement Dance Productions Society	\$6,460	\$6,460	—
Music in the Morning	—		\$6,000
Pangaea Arts Society	\$6,500	\$6,500	—
Railtown Cultural Enhancement Association	\$3,000	\$3,000	—
Realwheels	—		\$1,000
Redshift Music Society	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Sophisticated Laughter Theatrical Society	\$13,000	\$13,000	—
Vancouver Academy of Music	\$39,780	\$39,780	\$42,000
Vancouver Bach Choir	\$72,585	\$72,585	\$72,000
Vancouver Chamber Choir	\$62,430	\$62,430	\$50,400
Vancouver Chinese Instrumental Music Society	\$3,230	\$3,230	
Vancouver Chinese Singers	\$3,230	\$3,230	—
Vancouver Chopin Society	\$3,230	\$3,230	\$3,170
Vancouver International Children's Festival	\$16,965	\$16,965	—
Vancouver International Dance Festival	\$9,690	\$9,690	—
Vancouver International Film Festival	\$109,200	\$72,800	—
Vancouver International Song Institute	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000

Vancouver New Music	\$13,460	\$13,460	—
Vancouver Opera Association	\$398,955	\$398,955	\$410,400
Vancouver Out on Screen Film Society	\$6,460	\$6,460	—
Vancouver Piano Ensemble	\$2,430	\$2,430	—
Van. Playhouse Theatre Company	—	—	\$500,000
Vancouver Pro Musica Society	\$1,000	\$1,000	
Van. Recital Society	\$20,240	\$20,240	\$9,520
Van. Seniors' Singing Club Association	\$10,520	\$10,520	—
Vancouver Symphony Society	\$1,265,860	\$1,265,860	\$1,174,930
Yarilo Contemporary Music Society	\$1,000	\$1,000	—
Yayoi Theatre Movement Society	\$4,000	\$4,000	—
<b>Total Theatre Rent Grants</b>	<b>\$2,413,745</b>	<b>\$2,368,455</b>	<b>\$2,583,300</b>

### 2013 Theatre Rental Grants Distribution by Discipline



***Financial***

A total of \$2,368,455 is recommended to support productions and presentations of 38 organizations in the civic theatres. Source of funds is the 2013 Theatre Rental Grants budget.

Approval of these 38 recommendations at a total amount of \$2,368,455 will leave an unallocated balance of \$214,845 in the Theatre Rental Grants 2013 budget.

A second deadline in the spring of 2013 will make grant recommendations on the remaining 2013 funds and approval in principle from Council of grant recommendations for the first half of 2014, pending approval of the budget.

***CONCLUSION***

Based on the merits of the applications and the degree to which they met the evaluation criteria, as well as venue availability, not all requests could be recommended to the full amount.

Approval of these recommendations will support a wide range of classical and contemporary performance genres in dance, theatre, and music, featuring professional and community, artists and students, through the Theatre Rental Grants Program at Vancouver's civic theatres.

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