



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: December 11, 2014
Contact: Marg Specht
Contact No.: 604.871.6842
RTS No.: 10708
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: January 21, 2015

TO: Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment
FROM: General Manager of Community Services
SUBJECT: 2015 Advance Grant Installments to Cultural Operating Organizations

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve advance grant installments to 85 cultural operating organizations in the amount of \$1,140,000 in advance of their 2015 annual operating review as listed in Appendix A.
- B. THAT Council approve the first quarter grant installments in the amount of \$988,600 to the five major exhibiting institutions beginning January 2015, in advance of their 2015 annual operating review, as listed in Table 1.

Source of funds for both A and B is the 2015 Cultural Grants budget.

Approval of these recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Since February 5, 1998, City Council has awarded an advance installment of 40% of the previous-year grant to eligible not-for-profit Cultural Operating Grant recipients based on the following criteria:

- The recipient has received an Operating grant for at least three consecutive years.
- The recipient's Operating Grant in the previous year was over \$7,500.
- An initial review of an organization's current application indicates no critical concerns about the applicant's finances, organizational sustainability or overall performance in the past year.

In past years, the City has disbursed Operating grants to the five major exhibiting institutions in quarterly installments throughout the year. The installments are timed to accommodate the operating cash flow requirements of these organizations.

Last year in 2014, the City approved advance grant installments to 83 organizations in the amount of \$1,092,240 and quarterly grant installments to the five major exhibiting institutions in the amount of \$988,600.

On December 17, 2014 Council approved a new Annual Assistance Program to better serve thirty-two mid-sized cultural organizations formerly supported through Project Grants and Community and Neighbourhood Arts Development.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Vancouver City Council supports safe, liveable neighbourhoods and a healthy creative sector which contributes to both the green and knowledge-based economies. The advance grants policy is part of a larger strategy that supports the goals and objectives outlined in the 2013-2018 *Culture Plan: Strategic Directions* that was presented to Council on October 23, 2013. This plan incorporates strategies that will provide a more adaptive and flexible framework for the City to invest in arts and culture while at the same time enhancing the sustainability of arts organizations and growth in the arts sector as a whole.

The General Manager of Community Services recommends approval of A and B.

REPORT

Background/Context

The City of Vancouver provides over \$10 million in grants to local arts and culture not-for-profit organizations through six major grant streams: operating, project, annual assistance community and neighbourhood arts, theatre rentals and cultural infrastructure. The City also supports cultural spaces, commissions public art through civic and private sector programs, provides in-kind services such as outdoor advertising, operates four civic theatres (Orpheum, Queen Elisabeth, Playhouse and the Annex) and provides organizational development support and training.

As part of the Culture Plan: Strategic Directions a major focus in the next four years is to continue to:

- Streamline the granting process to provide a more holistic and flexible approach
- Work with the major cultural institutions in the City owned buildings in Vanier Park to develop long term strategies that will improve operations, share services and support their development as prime tourism destinations
- Support further capacity building and leadership in the arts and cultural sector
- Foster cultural inclusion, creativity and dialogue by increasing participation and engagement in arts and culture
- Enhance support to emerging artists and new innovative work and art practice
- Maximise the use and public benefits of civic theatres
- Further invest in our creative economy through partnerships

The advance grants policy was put into place to ease the cash flow requirements that many cultural organizations experience early in the calendar year. The following recommendations for advance installments have been reviewed by staff. This preliminary review is followed by an intensive staff and peer review to arrive at final informed, strategic grant recommendations to Council in early 2015. Approval of the advance grant installments to cultural operating organizations and major exhibiting institutions which meet the criteria for inclusion in this report will enhance the cash flow of these societies. In turn, they will be able to lever significant funds from public and private sector sources, as well as earned revenues to maintain healthy financial operations.

Strategic Analysis

This report recommends that Council approve advance grants for 85 Cultural Operating Grant organizations and first quarter installments to the five major exhibiting institutions, in advance of their annual 2015 operating review.

Following a preliminary staff review of the 2015 Operating Grant applications, advance installments are recommended to 85 organizations (based on 40% of the 2014 grant) and the first quarter installments are recommended for the five major exhibiting institutions (based on 2014 funding levels).

Subject to Council approval, applicants will be notified in writing that approval of an advance grant installment and payment does not represent a commitment for any additional funds. The determination of additional funds depends on the grant budget levels established by Council for 2015, the Assessment Committee review of the 2015 operating grant requests, and Council's final approval of the Committee's recommended allocations.

An Assessment Committee comprised of members from the arts and cultural community and Cultural Services staff will review the 2015 Operating grant applications. Once this process is concluded in early spring 2015 and Council approved the recommendations brought forward by the Assessment Committee, the balance of grant payments will be made and adjustments (as required) will be made for the major exhibiting institutions and disbursed in the next three quarterly installments.

Financial Implications

This report recommends approval of 85 advance Operating grant installments totalling \$1,140,000 and first quarter installments to five major exhibiting institutions totalling \$988,600.

A summary of 2015 first quarter installments for the five major exhibiting institutions is provided in Table 1, while the 85 advance Operating grant installments are listed in Appendix A.

Table 1: 2015 Proposed First Quarter Installments to the Major Exhibiting Institutions

Organization	2014 Grant	2014 Q1 Installment	2015 Q1 Installment
ASTC Science World Society	\$96,000	\$24,000	\$24,000
HR MacMillan Space Centre Society	\$519,400	\$129,850	\$129,850
Vancouver Art Gallery Association	\$2,181,000	\$545,250	\$545,250
Vancouver Maritime Museum Society	\$400,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Vancouver Museum Society	\$758,000	\$189,500	\$189,500
TOTAL	\$3,954,400	\$988,600	\$988,600

Final 2015 grant recommendations for the cultural operating organizations and major exhibiting institutions will be made following a review of each organization's operational and financial performance and submitted to Council for approval in spring 2015. Pending Council's approval of those recommendations, adjustments will be made to the balance of the Operating grants and quarterly installments to the five major exhibiting institutions.

Table 2: 2015 Advance Grant Installments

Cultural Grants Program	Advance Installment Amount
85 Cultural Operating Grant Organizations	\$1,140,000
5 Major Exhibiting Institutions	\$988,600
TOTAL	\$2,128,600

CONCLUSION

Vancouver's non-profit arts and cultural organizations consistently underline the value of the City's advance grant installments in managing their cash flow needs early in the year. These installments have been particularly crucial in recent years with economic and funding uncertainty, and particularly necessary to organizations that operate large institutions that are in City-owned buildings and manage important civic assets. The advance of 2015 grants is part of the wider cultural strategy that has been developed as part of the 2013 - 2018 Culture Plan to support and invest in a diverse and thriving cultural economy as part of a vibrant, safe and liveable city.

* * * * *

Advance Installments to 2015 Cultural Operating Grants

#	Organization	2014 Grant	2015 Advance
1	Access Gallery (Vancouver Access Artist Run Centre)	15,000	6,000
2	Alliance for Arts and Culture Soc.	45,000	18,000
3	Arts Club of Vancouver Theatre Soc.	160,000	64,000
4	Artspeak Gallery Soc.	29,000	11,600
5	Axis Theatre Soc.	34,000	13,600
6	Ballet B.C. (Pacific Ballet B.C. Soc.)	100,000	40,000
7	Bard on the Beach Theatre Soc.	27,500	11,000
8	Battery Opera Performing Arts Soc.	15,000	6,000
9	Boca Del Lupo Theatre Soc.	30,000	12,000
10	Canadian Music Centre - B.C.	26,500	10,600
11	Carousel Theatre Soc.	32,000	12,800
12	Centre A (Van. Intl. Centre for Contemporary Asian Art)	37,000	14,800
13	Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver	18,000	7,200
14	Chor Leoni Men's Choir	17,000	6,800
15	Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Soc.	36,000	14,400
16	Co. Erasga Dance Soc.	11,000	4,400
17	Coastal Jazz and Blues Soc.	85,000	34,000
18	Contemporary Art Gallery Soc.	67,000	26,800
19	Craft Council of B.C.	13,000	5,200
20	DanceHouse (Seismic Shift Arts Soc.)	21,000	8,400
21	Dancing on the Edge Festival Soc.	25,000	10,000
22	DOXA Documentary Film and Video Festival (The Documentary Media Soc.)	17,000	6,800
23	Early Music Vancouver (Van. Soc. for Early Music)	38,000	15,200
24	EDAM Performing Arts Soc.	20,000	8,000
25	Electric Company Theatre Soc.	35,000	14,000
26	Elektra Women's Choir	13,000	5,200
27	Firehall Theatre Soc.	75,000	30,000
28	Flamenco Rosario (Rosario Ancer Flamenco Arts Soc.)	10,000	4,000
29	Full Circle: First Nations Performance Soc.	15,000	6,000
30	Gallery Gachet Soc.	19,000	7,600
31	Greater Van. Professional Theatre Alliance	12,000	4,800

#	Organization	2014 Grant	2015 Advance
32	Green Thumb Theatre for Young People (Green Thumb Players Soc.)	58,000	23,200
33	grunt gallery (Visible Arts Soc.)	37,500	15,000
34	Health Arts Soc.	16,000	6,400
35	Joe Ink Performance Soc.	15,000	6,000
36	Karen Jamieson Dance Soc.	13,000	5,200
37	Kidd Pivot Performing Arts Soc.	28,000	11,200
38	Kokoro Dance Theatre Soc.	17,000	6,800
39	Malaspina Printmakers Soc.	16,000	6,400
40	Mascall Dance Soc.	9,000	3,600
41	Music in the Morning Concert Soc.	18,000	7,200
42	Music on Main	28,000	11,200
43	Musica Intima Soc.	21,000	8,400
44	New Performance Works Soc.	11,000	4,400
45	Newworld Theatre Soc.	33,000	13,200
46	Norman Rothstein Theatre (Van. Westside Theatre Soc.)	23,000	9,200
47	Or Gallery Soc.	29,000	11,600
48	Pacific Baroque Orchestra Soc.	17,000	6,800
49	Pacific Cinémathèque Pacifique	45,000	18,000
50	Pacific Theatre (First Pacific Theatre Soc.)	16,000	6,400
51	Pink Ink Theatre Productions Assn.	20,000	8,000
52	Playwrights Theatre Centre	40,000	16,000
53	Powell St. Festival Soc.	20,000	8,000
54	PuSH International Performing Arts Festival Soc.	80,000	32,000
55	Radix Theatre Soc.	11,000	4,400
56	Ruby Slippers Productions Soc.	14,000	5,600
57	Rumble Productions Soc.	30,000	12,000
58	The Only Animal Theatre Soc.	12,000	4,800
59	Theatre Conspiracy (Western Theatre Conspiracy Arts Soc.)	15,000	6,000
60	Theatre for Living Soc.	24,000	9,600
61	Théâtre la Seizième	27,500	11,000
62	Theatre Replacement Soc.	25,000	10,000
63	Touchstone Theatre Soc.	35,000	14,000
64	Turning Point Ensemble	29,000	11,600
65	Unit/Pitt Projects (Unit/Pitt Soc. For Arts and Critical Awareness)	16,000	6,400

#	Organization	2014 Grant	2015 Advance
66	Urban Ink Productions Soc.	15,000	6,000
67	Van. Cantata Soc.	16,500	6,600
68	Van. Chamber Choir	18,000	7,200
69	Van. Co-operative Radio (Community Radio Edn. Soc.)	25,000	10,000
70	Van. Dance Centre Soc.	78,000	31,200
71	Van. East Cultural Centre	115,000	46,000
72	Van. Folk Music Festival Soc.	80,000	32,000
73	Van. Fringe Festival (First Van. Theatrespace Soc.)	40,000	16,000
74	Van. Intl. Children's Festival Soc.	126,500	50,600
75	Van. Intl. Film Festival Soc.	60,000	24,000
76	Van. Intl. Writers Festival Soc.	62,000	24,800
77	Van. Latin American Film Festival (First Latin American Film Festival of Vancouver)	14,000	5,600
78	Van. Moving Theatre Soc.	25,000	10,000
79	Van. New Music Soc.	32,000	12,800
80	Van. Opera Assn.	30,000	12,000
81	Van. Out on Screen Film Festival Soc.	28,000	11,200
82	Van. Symphony Soc.	44,000	17,600
83	VIVO Media Arts Centre (Satellite Video Exchange Society)	26,000	10,400
84	Wen Wei Dance Soc.	22,000	8,800
85	Western Front Soc.	46,000	18,400
TOTAL		2,850,000	1,140,000