



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: August 21, 2018
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RTS No.: 12719
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: September 18, 2018

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager, Arts, Culture, and Community Services

SUBJECT: Theatre Rental Grants Supplemental Assistance for Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 and One-time Grant to Vancouver Symphony Orchestra to Support 100th Anniversary Programming

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve Theatre Rental Grants one-time supplemental assistance to seven organizations totalling \$22,458 as listed in Appendix A for use of the Civic Theatres from September 1-December 31, 2018 and hereby deems the organizations to be contributing to the culture of the City; source of funds is the Theatre Rental Grants portion of the 2018 Cultural Grants budget.
- B. THAT Council approve, in advance of the 2019 Operating Budget, 2019 Theatre Rental Grants one-time supplemental assistance to six organizations totalling \$31,249 as listed in Appendix B for use of the Civic Theatres from January 1-August 31, 2019 and hereby deems the organizations to be contributing to the culture of the City; source of funds is the Theatre Rental Grants portion of the 2019 Cultural Grants budget.
- C. THAT Council approve a one-time grant to the Vancouver Symphony Society totalling \$150,000 for use of the Civic Theatres to support the 100th Anniversary celebration programming; source of funding is the City's 2018 Council contingency budget.

Approval of grant recommendations requires two-thirds affirmative votes of all Council members.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report recommends grants to 13 organizations for a total allocation of \$53,707 for use of the Vancouver Civic Theatres (VCT) during the 2018/19 performing arts season that runs from September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019. This report further recommends a one-time grant of \$150,000 to the Vancouver Symphony Society in support of their 100th anniversary community celebrations and special events programming in 2018-19 at the Vancouver Civic Theatres.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

On May 2, 2017, council approved a motion for staff to develop a new, comprehensive Creative City Strategy which addresses current and emerging challenges and opportunities; reflects the culture and history of the city; and interfaces with other City policies and strategies.

On October 18, 2017 (RTS 12157), Council approved new rental rates for VCT that included both commercial and non-profit rates for Sept. 1, 2018 - Aug. 31, 2019.

On May 16, 2018 (RTS 12154), Council approved 82 Theatre Rental Grants (TRG) totalling \$2,796,330 for the period of September 1, 2018 - Aug. 31, 2019.

On May 16, 2018 (RTS 12154), Council approved a motion (recommendation D) to direct senior staff to meet with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (VSO) to discuss their 100th anniversary associated events, and to identify any future funding needs and report back to Council with any recommendations.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT

Background/Context

To respond to growth in the arts and culture sector, the 2018 cultural grants budget was increased and the City entered into a process to develop the Creative City Strategy (CCS) and reset priorities for future support of arts and culture. The Strategy aims to develop a comprehensive plan and vision for culture and creativity in Vancouver, informed by the community through consultation and engagement. The increase to the 2018 Cultural Grants budget will be allocated to support early findings expressed by the community through a pre-engagement phase of the strategy development process. The early finding themes are: Reconciliation; Equity and Access; Investment and Visibility; Capacity; and Collaboration. Further details on the Creative City Strategy process can be found on the City's website: <https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/creative-city-strategy.aspx>

The recommended allocation of additional funds from the 2018 Cultural Grants budget is as follows:

- Up to \$100,000 to support arts and culture groups in *Host Your Own Engagement* projects (RTS 12369, May 2018);
- Up to \$22,458 to support events in alignment with CCS early findings through TRG supplemental grants for activity in the period of Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2018 and,
- Approximately \$459,925 to support projects in alignment with CCS early findings through *Creative City Strategic* grants (one-time grants open to existing and new cultural grantees): recommendations to Council forthcoming in November, 2018.

Theatre Rental Grants were awarded in May, 2018 for performances in the 2018/2019 season as per the annual allocations for this program. These supplemental funds will support performances that align with early CCS findings: Reconciliation; Equity and Access; Investment and Visibility; Capacity; and Collaboration.

Theatre Rental Grants are off-set grants that support cultural non-profit producers and presenters to access the City's four civic theatre venues (Queen Elizabeth Theatre, the Orpheum, the Vancouver Playhouse and the Annex). This program provides rental subsidy, and assistance for certain civic theatre costs (including a portion of technical and front of house labour costs), from large-scale, year-round users through to small-sized, occasional users. The program aims to assist organizations with artistic development, increase profile, and expand audiences.

Strategic Analysis

Supplemental Theatre Rental Grants in support of Creative City Strategy early findings

Up to \$53,753 is available for one-time additional allocations in TRG grants (2 percent of the TRG portion of 2018/2019 Cultural grants budget). Looking to the early findings from input gathered through CCS focus groups and an external advisory committee, staff reviewed existing applications to the TRG program for 2018/2019 to make recommendations for additional support, and to align with the themes of Reconciliation and Equity and Access. The additional TRG grants will support communities under-represented in the Cultural grants programs including Indigenous, Japanese, Latin-American, Pilipino, Asian-Canadian, Chinese, Taiwanese, and youth. Some examples of events and programming include:

- Olivia C Davies, contemporary Indigenous dance artist and choreographer in partnership with New Performance Works, for an artistic residency at the Annex.
- Kababayang Pilipino of B.C. Soc. presenting Filipino Folk Heritage of Filipino Dance, Music, and Drama at the Playhouse.
- Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre presenting "Watercolours of Brazil" featuring Vancouver-based World Music Ensemble led by local musician, Sal Ferreras.
- Van. Seniors Singing Club Assn. presenting the Chinese Performing Arts Ensemble
- Asian-Canadian Special Events Association. presenting a *Taiwanfest* performance at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

See Appendix A and B for a complete list of TRG supplemental grants for the fall of 2018 and spring of 2019 respectively.

One-time grant to Vancouver Symphony Orchestra to support 100th Anniversary programming

The 2018/2019 Season will commemorate the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra’s (VSO) 100th anniversary, one of the first major Canadian orchestras to hit such a milestone. In celebration of this landmark achievement, the VSO have scheduled additional programming at the civic theatres. In addition to their standard subscription-based programming, this additional programming and associated VCT rental costs totals \$450,616. This one-time additional investment will provide the public access to a wide range of unique, new, rarely performed programming, by top-tier artistic talent. The 100th anniversary programming includes:

- Performances by world-renowned classical musicians Rene Fleming, Itzhak Perlman, and James Ehnes.
- Canadian Premieres of live performance movie soundtrack film screenings.
- The rarely performed complete version of Stravinsky’s Firebird.
- A combination of Circus and Symphony, with theatrical circus company, Troupe Vertigo.
- The return of Maestro Bramwell Tovey, conductor emeritus, to the Orpheum stage.
- A “Day of Music”, a 12 hour, multiple concert collaboration with other Vancouver-based performing arts organizations, at all four VCT venues. All events on this day will be free admission, and will also be simulcast to other public locations throughout the city.
- A celebration of International Women’s Day featuring Bernadette Peters.
- “Beethoven 9”, a democracy and freedom event, in recognition of the Berlin Philharmonic performance of the same work, which celebrated the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Financial

TRG supplemental grants

This report recommends seven TRG supplemental grants totalling \$22,458 for Sept. 1 - Dec. 31, 2018. Source of Funding is the Theatre Rental Grants portion of the 2018 Cultural Grants budget. This report also recommends, in advance of approval of the 2019 Operating Budget, six TRG supplemental grants totalling \$31,249 for Jan 1-Aug 31, 2019. Source of funding is the Theatre Rental Grants portion of the 2019 Cultural Grants budget.

The total available and recommended allocations for TRG supplemental grants are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Summary of 2018/2019 TRG Supplemental Grants Recommended

2018 TRG Supplemental grants recommended - Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	22,458
2019 TRG Supplemental grants recommended - Jan. 1 - Aug. 31	31,249
TOTAL TRG Supplemental Grants Recommended in this report	53,707

VSO 100th Anniversary Programming one-time grant

The total costs of programming related to the VSO 100th Anniversary programming at the civic theatres is \$450,616. Council has previously approved TRG grants of \$264,669 for technical,

rehearsal, and performance rental usage of the Orpheum for the 2018/2019 season. Approval of \$150,000 in supplemental assistance will contribute to a large portion of the balance remaining for additional anniversary programming taking place in the VCT venues. Table 2 summarizes the above. Source of funding is the City's 2018 Council contingency budget.

**Table 2
Summary of 2018/19 Supplemental Assistance VSO 100th Anniversary Programming**

Actual VCT Rental Usage Cost - VSO 100th Anniversary Programming	450,616.00
Previous TRG approved in support of 100th Anniversary Programming (RTS 11804 and 12154)	(264,669.05)
Balance of VCT Rental Usage Cost not granted via TRG - VSO 100 th Anniversary Programming	185,946.95
TOTAL Supplemental Assistance for VSO 100th Anniversary Programming	(150,000)
Balance of VCT Rental Usage invoiced to VSO for 100th Anniversary Programming	35,946.95

CONCLUSION

This report recommends TRG Supplemental grants of \$22,458 to seven organizations to support Fall 2018 events and \$31,249 to six organizations for Spring 2019. The grants support performances and organizations that align with early finding themes of the Creative City Strategy. Approval of these Supplemental TRG grant recommendations will support a wide spectrum of activities, featuring professional and community artists from diverse cultural and artistic communities, and will contribute to a thriving cultural ecology that enriches the lives of residents and visitors to Vancouver. This report also recommends a one-time grant of \$150,000 to the VSO to support their 100th public anniversary programming in the VCT venues to mark a key milestone in Vancouver's arts and culture sector.

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Recommendation A, Fall 2018

	Organization	Sept 1- Dec 31, 2018 Grants Allocated (RTS 12154)	Sept 1 - Dec 31, 2018 Supplemental Assistance TRG Recommendation
1	Children's Arts Umbrella Assn.	22,162	3,159
2	Flamenco Rosario (Rosario Ancer Flamenco Arts Soc.)	5,621	1,392
3	Kababayang Pilipino of B.C. Soc.	8,458	2,114
4	Karen Flamenco Dance Soc.	4,229	2,114
5	New Performance Works Soc.	4,176	2,088
6	Van. Intl. Film Festival Soc.	112,493	9,477
7	Van. Latin American Cultural Centre Soc.	8,458	2,114
	Total	165,597	22,458

Recommendation B, Spring 2019

	Organization	Jan 1- Aug 31, 2019 Grants Allocated (RTS 12154)	Supplemental Assistance TRG Recommendation. for Jan - Aug 31, 2019
1	Asian-Canadian Special Events Assn.	4,229	10,352
2	DOXA Documentary Film and Video Festival (Documentary Media Soc.)	10,546	2,088
3	Sound of Dragon Soc.	8,457	2,114
4	Van. Intl. Dance Festival Soc.	21,144	2,114
5	Van. Opera Assn.	290,669	10,352
6	Van. Seniors' Singing Club Assn.	17,740	4,229
	Total	352,785	31,249