



REPORT

Report Date: October 27, 2020
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Meeting Date: November 24, 2020
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council

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

SUBJECT: 2020 Cultural Grants - Cultural Impact Critical Assistance (CICA) COVID-19 Recovery Investment Grants

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve 84 one-time CICA grants, totaling \$1,459,078, to 84 organizations in support of COVID-19 recovery, in the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Grant Recomm." column in Appendix A. Source of funding is the 2020 Cultural Grants Operating Budget.
- B. THAT Council approve 17 grants totaling \$250,000 to organizations in the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Grant Recomm." column in Appendix A, to support equity-seeking organizations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 in support of recovery, and as part of an Equity Grants pilot program. Source of funding is the 2020 Cultural Grants Operating Budget.
- C. THAT Council approve a one-time grant of \$300,000, to Creative BC for renewal of the Vancouver Music Fund to support diverse individual artists in their COVID-19 recovery, working in the music sector as listed in Appendix A. Source of funding is the 2020 Cultural Grants Operating budget.
- D. THAT Council approve a one-time grant to the Vancity Community Foundation in the amount of \$50,000, to support BIPOC artists as part of a community-led initiative: Sector Equity for Anti-racism in the Arts (SEARA) in their COVID-19 recovery, as listed in Appendix A. Source of funding is the 2020 Cultural Grants Operating Budget.
- E. THAT, pursuant to Section 206 (1) (j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization listed in Appendix A that is not otherwise a charity registered with the Canada Revenue Agency to be contributing to the culture of Vancouver.

- F. THAT the General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services (GM of ACCS) (or their designate) is authorized to negotiate and execute agreements to disburse the grants described in this report on the terms and conditions generally set out below, and on such other terms and conditions as are satisfactory to the GM of ACCS and the City Solicitor.

- G. THAT no legal rights or obligations are created by the approval of Recommendations A to F above unless and until the applicable grant agreement or letter of agreement is approved by the City in accordance with Recommendation G above and executed and delivered by both the grant recipient and GM of ACCS (or their designate).

Recommendations A to D require two-thirds affirmative votes of all Council members per section 206 (1) of the Vancouver Charter.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report recommends a total of \$2,059,078 to 103 cultural organizations in support of COVID-19 recovery and key civic policy and strategic directions as follows:

- *Culture|Shift (C|S)*, the City’s 10-year culture plan, including the *Vancouver Music Strategy* and *Making Space for Arts and Culture*
- The City’s COVID-19 Economic and Business Recovery program to restart the economic, social, and cultural recovery of the city
- The City’s Equity Framework in development

Funding for these grants is available through the remaining balance of the 2020 Cultural Grants budget through returned grants (community arts), repurposed grants (arts capacity, Culture|Shift), and canceled events funded through Theatre Rental Grants, due to COVID-19.

Table 1 summarizes the grants recommended in this report.

TABLE 1 – Summary of Grant Recommendations

Rec.	Grant Program	# Grants	Total \$ Rec.
A	CICA (Equity, Live Music/Performing Arts/Spaces - cash)	84	\$1,459,078
B	Equity Seeking Pilot	17	\$250,000
C	Creative BC / Music Fund	1	\$300,000
D	Vancity Community Fdn. / BIPOC Artists Fund (SEARA)	1	\$50,000
	Total	103	\$2,059,078

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

On September 10, 2019 Council adopted Vancouver’s 10-year culture plan *Culture Shift: Blanketing the City in Arts and Culture including Making Space for Arts and Culture, and the Vancouver Music Strategy*.

On January 21, 2020 Council approved a total of \$2,562,120 Advance grants and first quarter instalments to 127 cultural organizations in support of key goals and directions of *Culture|Shift*, Making Space for Arts and Culture, and the Vancouver Music Strategy (RTS 13587).

On April 1, 2020 Council approved a total 208 grants totalling \$6,273,590 for the balance of quarterly instalments to major institutions, the balance of operating and annual assistance grants, and project grants in support of key directions in the City's culture plan – *Culture|Shift*, Making Space for Arts and Culture, and the Vancouver Music Strategy (RTS 13588).

On July 21, 2020 Council approved a total 153 grants totalling \$3,469,895 in support of COVID-19 Recovery and key directions of *Culture|Shift*, Making Space for Arts and Culture, and the Vancouver Music Strategy (RTS 13959).

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT

Background/Context

Each year, the City of Vancouver invests close to \$14M in grants to local arts and culture non-profit organizations through various grant streams to support operations, projects, major and small infrastructure projects, and capital planning. This investment is guided by key goals and directions of the City's 10-year Council approved arts and culture plan *Culture|Shift (C|S)* and contributes to civic life, the economic, community, and cultural health of the city by creating employment, creative activity, and providing access to our shared stories.

Since the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic on March 11, 2020, the cultural sector, among many other sectors, has been deeply impacted. Council has responded to support the sector by approving additional uses for grants that were approved in March to allow cultural nonprofits to adapt and continue to deliver critical programs and services for the community and artists. Council further approved the repurposing of grant programs in July after a process of rebalancing its 2020 operating budget, to continue to support the sector towards its recovery. In turn, funded organizations continue to help Vancouverites move from social isolation to social resilience, and continue to contribute heavily to rebuilding the social, cultural, and economic life of the city, as Vancouver emerge from the pandemic.

These grant recommendations build on previous support as part of the City's overall Economic and Business Recovery program to restart the economic and social recovery of the city and, once approved, expend the balance of the 2020 Cultural Grants operating budget. This recovery investment supports the operational capacity and financial viability of groups most impacted by the pandemic in order to maintain critical services during and post the COVID-19 crisis. It further supports artists who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 due to pre-existing conditions such as marginalization, low-income levels, and precarious working conditions.

This investment is vital to the city's health, identity, quality of life, economic prosperity, social cohesion and sense of belonging, and sustainability.

Strategic Analysis

This cultural recovery investment builds upon strategic directions of *C/S*, and was informed by local, provincial and national data, which identified the impact on the cultural non-profit sector. This data reveals that organizations who operate affordable and critical spaces for the arts sector, those who support the livelihood of music and the performing arts industry continue to be disproportionately impacted due to ongoing closures, capacity limits, and the resulting loss of earned revenue. Further, artists, who are already challenged by unaffordable living conditions, earning lower than average incomes levels, experiencing precarious working conditions, and particularly those who are racialized and Indigenous - are among the most impacted Vancouver residents.

Approving these grants will continue to support priority cultural organizations and artists in their recovery. The support will enable artists to continue to earn a living, and enable groups to continue to deliver vital service and resources including employment, access to affordable and safe cultural spaces, community connectivity and celebrations, and creative opportunities for artists under constrained conditions.

These staff recommendations are guided by key goals and directions of (*C/S*), *Making Space for Arts and Culture*, and the *Vancouver Music Strategy*. They are also informed by research from the sector, and the COVID-19 Economic and Business Recovery framework, and the evolving Equity framework.

Please see Appendix B for data related to COVID-19 Impact in the cultural sector.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Cultural Impact Critical Assistance (CICA) - 84 grants for a total of \$1,459,078

The CICA program was established to provide one-time funding in support of groups who have played and continue to play a critical role in the city's cultural and economic vitality, and who have been most impacted by COVID-19. These groups, through their mission, programs, services, operations, administration, leadership, and space, contribute to one or more of the following:

1. Livelihood of artists from equity-seeking communities;
2. Sustainability of a diverse and inclusive live music or performing arts sector*; or
3. Sustainability of affordable, accessible, and safe cultural spaces.

*This stream offers cash grants, and in-kind grants to access the civic theatres and ancillary spaces in new ways to comply with COVID-19 health and safety requirements.

Eligibility was open broadly to non-profit organizations contributing to the above sectors to ensure groups who have not been able to access resources through other means were eligible to apply. Groups were able to apply in multiple streams with each stream offering up to \$25,000, with a total request up to \$75,000 (although given the limited budget and demand, grants above \$25,000 are not common). Funding can support continuity or adaptation of operations, programs, services, and re-opening or restart planning and implementation. For cultural spaces, funding can support timely critical cultural space projects that address urgent life safety issues, equity, accessibility, restart and recovery, and sector resilience.

The program was launched in September and advertised widely through existing civic, departmental, and community partner communication platforms. By the November 4th deadline, 146 expressions of interest (EOIs) were received for a total amount of \$4.38M in requests.

Upon review of the EOIs, 84 groups were advanced to the second stage to make applications for support and are recommended in this report for funding through one or more streams.

CICA program information can be found at <https://vancouver.ca/doing-business/cultural-impact-critical-assistance-grants.aspx>

Equity-seeking (\$495,250)

The amounts recommended under this stream support groups that identify barriers to equal access, opportunities, and resources due to disadvantage and discrimination and actively seek social justice and reparation. The funding will support the continuity of critical programs and services to equity-seeking artists including online performance and publication opportunities, mentorships, workshops, and so forth.

Live music/Performing arts (\$655,000 cash and \$40,428 in-kind)

The amounts recommended under this stream will enable groups to continue to contribute to the cultural and economic vitality of the city's diverse live music and performing arts sectors on the road to recovery. The funding will support a range of festivals and celebrations, presenting and producing companies, service organizations, and cultural venues and facilities. The funding will contribute to additional costs for staffing, materials, equipment, and training, to adapt to COVID-19 health and safety measures, and allow groups to continue to produce, present and perform.

A portion of this funding is being recommend as in-kind grants to assist performing arts groups in continuing to support artists and bring content to the public in new ways at VCT facilities, through activating non-theatre space including lobbies and *šxwł exēn Xwtl'a7shn*, and supporting digital performance experiences from September 1 - December 31, 2020.

Cultural Spaces (\$268,400)

The amounts recommended under this stream will support groups in their continuation or adaptation of operating affordable, accessible, professional cultural space for artists, groups and the public. These include galleries, theatres, cultural centres to continue to deliver their own programs and continue to provide affordable access to the cultural community. Funding will support projects including expansion of space (indoor and outdoor), additional costs of staffing, equipment and materials, resources to adapt programs and services to digital platforms, to name a few.

Additional support for cultural spaces will be provided through the expanded Critical Assistance for Cultural Spaces grants that were approved by Council in July. This component of the CICA program supports timely critical cultural space projects that address urgent life safety issues, equity, accessibility, restart and recovery and sector resilience. Recommendations for capital funds for capital space projects (\$280,000), and operating funds for non-profit space operators who provide subsidized affordable space

for artists and cultural organizations (\$220,000) will be reported back in early 2021, as the review of EOIs requires an extended timeline.

B. Equity Grants Pilot Program – 17 grants for a total of \$250,000

Alongside the CICA process, in line with the COVID-19 recovery findings of disproportionately impacted communities, staff worked in partnership with a number of organizations to commence a pilot Equity Grants program. This process lower barriers to access by applying a non-competitive process through invitation to groups who are recognized by their peers as having high impact in the cultural community. Rather than an application-driven competitive process, staff reached out to leaders in the sector to identify groups who are providing critical programs and resources to equity seeking artists and communities. Staff held conversations with candidates, posing a set of questions to determine the role the organization plays in the community and impact, where they have come from, where they aspire to be, their financial position, and what is required to support the organization in its self-determined development.

Based on this review, staff recommends grants to 17 groups who are supporting equity seeking artists in ways that are embedded in their mission, operations, leadership, programs and services. Five are existing grantees who are recommended for increases to their base level operating grants and 12 are new recommended grantees. The intention is to provide multi-year support to the new grantees and for the recommended increase to form the new base level for the existing grantees. Any future amounts would be pending approval of City of Vancouver annual operating budget processes and subject to established annual grantee review processes.

This pilot is a key action of achieving cultural equity within the City's support for the sector by increasing the number of groups and funding to equity seeking artists and groups. The process also implements a key action item arising from the COVID-19 Economic and Business Recovery framework in lowering barriers to access for City support.

C. Vancouver Music Fund – Grant to Creative BC - \$300,000

The Vancouver Music Fund was established in 2019 to support the Vancouver Music Strategy as part of C|S and to address current gaps in the music ecosystem. Following the success of its first iteration, the City of Vancouver continues to partner with Creative BC - a non-profit organization that promotes the growth of BC's creative industries through vital programs and services - to deliver the Vancouver Music Fund. The Fund provides grants to underrepresented artists working in the music sector. This grant will renew the partnership to support the delivery of three programs:

- **Demo Program:** This program supports new and emerging artists from underrepresented groups to create demo recordings and engage in mentorship and skill development with a BC producer. Vancouver based artists can apply with a BC producer for a \$2,000 grant to cover 100% of recording expenses for one to two songs.
- **Music Video Program:** This program supports new and emerging artists from underrepresented groups to create a music video. Artists or groups can apply from \$1,000 to \$10,000 to cover 100% of the costs of creating a music video.
- **Industry Catalyst Program:** This program supports projects that develop Vancouver's music ecosystem and build the capacity of underrepresented groups. Individuals,

collectives, companies and organizations are eligible to apply for grants between \$2,000 - \$20,000, for up to 100% of project expenditures.

To date, the program has supported 59 projects and diverse groups in creating demos, producing their first music video, and accessing vital skills and information to support their professional development. Program information will be revised this year and details on the timeline and access to the funds will be published in early 2021.

The COVID-19 impact has been significant on musicians and those working in the music sector. Approving this grant will renew this fund using repurposed grants and will provide much needed recovery support for artists looking to advance their careers and build their capacity in the music industry.

Information Creative BC and their Music Programs can be found at <https://www.creativebc.com/programs/music-and-sound-recording>

D. BIPOC Artists Fund (SEARA) – Grant to Vancity Community Foundation - \$50,000

This fund - Sector Equity for Anti-Racism in the Arts (SEARA) - was created by BC arts service organizations and other sector leaders to provide COVID-19 support and address systemic gaps in arts-funding programs and models to support BIPOC artists currently facing financial hardship. This fundraising campaign and funding initiative will accept donations from the public to build a fund anywhere from \$500,000 to \$1M. The fund is administered by Vancity, with the application process and assessment being administered by the community – a steering committee made up of artists it is intended to support.

This fund is open to artists who are:

- Low-income;
- Two-spirit, gender-fluid, transgender, non-binary, intersex or gender non-conforming;
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual or otherwise non-heterosexual;
- experiencing food or housing insecurity heightened by COVID-19;
- disabled and/or immunocompromised;
- primary caretakers for someone who can be described as any of the above; or,
- facing systemic racism in arts organizations.

Approving this one-time grant to Vancity will enable the City to partner with this community driven initiative and implement one of the key goals of C|S. It will provide much needed support to address artists disproportionately impacted due to COVID-19 because of pre-existing conditions including low income levels, discrimination, and lack of secure employment.

Information on SEARA can be found at <https://searafund.ca/>

Financial

The recommendations in this report, and balance of the 2020 Cultural Grants budget, are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3 – 2020 Cultural Grants Budget (Operating)

Program Stream	2020 Budget	Previously Approved	Rec. in this Report	Balance
Projects	\$480,660	\$480,660		\$0
Community Arts	\$484,998	\$462,000	\$22,998	
Annual Assistance	\$1,522,500	\$1,522,500		\$0
Operating	\$2,821,550	\$2,821,550*		\$0
Major Institutions	\$3,948,400	\$3,948,400		\$0
Theatre Rental	\$2,894,608	\$1,255,489	\$1,629,988	\$9,131
Individual Artists Fund	\$60,000	\$60,000		\$0
Arts Capacity	\$200,000	\$52,500	\$147,500	
C S Unallocated	\$633,592			
Indigenous Grants		\$75,000		
Critical Assistance spaces		\$300,000		
Equity Grants (pilot)			\$258,592	
TOTAL – All Grants	\$13,046,308	\$10,978,099	\$2,059,078	\$9,131

*Previously-approved amounts as per RTS 12914 & 13278 have changed due to cancelled and modified events due to COVID-19

This report recommends approval of \$2,059,078 in grants to sustain critical recovery in the arts and culture sector as a result of the impacts of COVID-19. Approval of these grants leaves a balance of \$9,131 in the 2020 cultural grants budget.

CONCLUSION

COVID-19's unprecedented, uncertain, and complex nature has magnified underlying issues experienced by the cultural sector, including a lack of sustainable operating funding sources, significant inequities and challenges in the workforce, and space affordability and access challenges. Despite these challenges, the cultural sector has demonstrated an incredible ability to adapt by finding new ways to collaborate, pivot, and respond to immediate community needs, mobilizing resources, shifting approaches in service delivery, supporting equity within the context of racial justice, and promoting community connectedness. The recommendations in this report support critical recovery of the disproportionately impacted arts and culture sector, in line with the aims of *Culture|Shift, Making Space for Arts and Culture* and the *Vancouver Music Strategy*. Recommended organizations have led the move from social isolation to social resilience, and continue to contribute heavily to rebuilding the cultural and economic life of the city, as Vancouver emerges from the pandemic.

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Rec. A - CICA Grant Recommendations

		CICA Stream and total Grant Recommendation				
	Organization	Equity	LM/PA	LM/PA TRG Inkind	Restart	Grant Recomm
1	221A Artist Run Centre Society				20,000	20,000
2	Aeriosa Dance Society		10,000			10,000
3	African Descent Society British Columbia*	10,000	10,000			20,000
4	African Stages Association*	5,000	0			5,000
5	All Bodies Dance Society	10,000				10,000
6	Allegra Chamber Orchestra Society	3,000	7,000			10,000
7	Arts Umbrella Association	0	25,000			25,000
8	Bard on the Beach Theatre Society		25,000			25,000
9	Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art (Bill Reid Foundation)				25,000	25,000
10	Centre A (Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art)	10,000				10,000
11	Chor Leoni Men's Choir		4,000	6,000		10,000
12	Cinevolution Media Arts Society	15,000	0			15,000
13	Company 605 Dance Society	15,000				15,000
14	Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society of Vancouver				25,000	25,000
15	Dumb Instrument Dance Society	5,600		0	8,400	14,000
16	Eastside Culture Crawl Society				12,000	12,000
17	Great Lakes Networking Society of BC*	5,000			0	5,000
18	Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance Society		25,000			25,000
19	Health Arts Society		10,000			10,000
20	Indian Summer Arts Society	25,000	15,000			40,000
21	Judith Marcuse Projects Society*	10,000				10,000
22	Kababayang Pilipino of British Columbia		15,000			15,000
23	Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture	10,000				10,000
24	Kokoro Dance Theatre Society	12,500	7,500		5,000	25,000
25	Latincoover Cultural & Business Society*	0	15,000			15,000
26	Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver	7,500	7,500			15,000
27	Malaspina Printmakers Society	10,000				10,000

		CICA Stream and total Grant Recommendation				
	Organization	Equity	LM/PA	LM/PA TRG Inkind	Restart	Grant Recomm
28	The Metropolitan Co-operative Theatre Society		0		15,000	15,000
29	Miscellaneous Productions Society	5,500	9,500			15,000
30	New Orchestra Workshop Society				15,000	15,000
31	New Performance Works Society*	20,000				20,000
32	Newworld Theatre Society		25,000			25,000
33	Norman Rothstein Theatre (Vancouver West Side Theatre Society)		0		25,000	25,000
34	OURO Collective Society		10,000	0		10,000
35	Out Innerspace Dance Theatre and Film Society		0	1,078		1,078
36	re:Naissance Opera	10,000	10,000	0		20,000
37	Rice and Beans Theatre Society	15,000	15,000			30,000
38	Ruby Slippers Productions Society	15,000	0			15,000
39	Rumble Productions Society*	0	25,000			25,000
40	Rungh Cultural Society	5,000				5,000
41	Savage Production Society	25,000				25,000
42	Small Stage (Movement Enterprises Society)		0	25,000		25,000
43	Some Assembly Arts Society	12,500	12,500	0		25,000
44	Sound of Dragon Society	15,000	10,000	4,350		29,350
45	Star System Curation Society		10,000		10,000	20,000
46	110 Arts Cooperative				15,000	15,000
47	The Arts Club of Vancouver Theatre Society		25,000			25,000
48	The ArtStarts in Schools Society		25,000			25,000
49	The Firehall Theatre Society	0			10,000	10,000
50	The Only Animal Theatre Society		15,000			15,000
51	The Or Gallery Society	5,000			0	5,000
52	The Plastic Orchid Factory Society		5,000		8,000	13,000
53	The Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra Society	2,500	2,500			5,000
54	The Western Front Society		15,000			15,000
55	Theatre Conspiracy (Western Theatre Conspiracy Arts Society)*	10,000	0			10,000
56	Theatre Replacement Society	4,250	8,000			12,250
57	TTS Theatre Terrific Society	14,400	10,000	0		24,400
58	Unibrow Arts Society	2,500	2,500		0	5,000
59	Urban Ink Productions Society	25,000		1,500		26,500
60	Vancouver Asian Canadian	25,000				25,000

		CICA Stream and total Grant Recommendation				
	Organization	Equity	LM/PA	LM/PA TRG Inkind	Restart	Grant Recomm
	Theatre					
61	The Vancouver Bach Choir		15,000			15,000
62	Vancouver Cantonese Opera		9,000			9,000
63	Vancouver Comic Arts Association	10,000				10,000
64	Vancouver East Cultural Centre		25,000			25,000
65	Vancouver Fringe Festival (Vancouver Fringe Theatre Society)	15,000	0			15,000
66	Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration*	0	25,000			25,000
67	Vancouver International Burlesque Festival Society*		15,000			15,000
68	Vancouver International Dance Festival Society	10,000	15,000			25,000
69	Greater Vancouver International Film Festival Society				25,000	25,000
70	Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre Society	15,000	15,000			30,000
71	Vancouver Moving Theatre Society		10,000			10,000
72	Vancouver Opera Association		25,000	0		25,000
73	Vancouver Poetry House Society	5,000	10,000			15,000
74	Vancouver Tap Dance Society				25,000	25,000
75	Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir			1,000		1,000
76	Vancouver Youth Choir (Vancouver Choral Arts Society)		15,000			15,000
77	VDC Dance Centre Society		25,000			25,000
78	Vines Art Festival Society	20,000				20,000
79	Visceral Visions Society	15,000	0			15,000
80	V'ni Dansi (Compaigni V'ni Dansi Society)			1,500		1,500
81	WePress Community Arts Space Society	25,000				25,000
82	Western Gold Theatre Society		25,000			25,000
83	The Wise Social and Community Arts Club				25,000	25,000
84	ZeeZee Theatre Society	15,000	15,000			30,000
	Total	\$495,250	\$655,000	\$40,428	\$268,400	\$1,459,078

*Grant recommendation is subject to receipt of additional information

Rec. B - Equity Grant Pilot Recommendations

	Organization	Grant Recomm
1	Afro Van Connect Society	22,500
2	Chapel Sound Art Foundation	20,000
3	Dumb Instrument Dance Society	15,000
4	Full Circle: First Nations Performance Society	10,000
5	Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance Society	5,500
6	Hogan's Alley Society	20,000
7	O.Dela Arts Society	15,000
8	Punjabi Market Regeneration Collective Society	20,000
9	re:Naissance Opera	20,000
10	Realwheels Society	3,000
11	Recorded Movement Society	20,000
12	Skwachàys (Vancouver Native Housing Society)	20,000
13	Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre	5,000
14	Vancouver Asian Film Festival Society	15,000
15	Vashaan Music Society	15,000
16	Vines Art Festival Society	4,000
17	VocalEye Descriptive Arts Society (Canadian Council of the Blind – British Columbia - Yukon Division)	20,000
	Total Grants	250,000

Rec. C – Grant to Creative BC

Organization	Grant Recomm
Creative BC Society (Music Fund for equity seeking artists)	300,000

Rec. D – Grant to Vancity Community Foundation

Organization	Grant Recomm
Vancity Community Foundation (Fund for equity seeking artists)	50,000

Data sources in support of pre-existing and COVID-19 Impacts

The Vancouver Economic Commission (VEC) COVID-19 Economic Update report delivered to the City on June 5, 2020, indicates the extent of the revenue impact in the first quarter due to widespread closures and product cessation as follows:

Creative Sector

- Information and Cultural Industries revenues -22%
- Performing Arts and Spectator Sports revenues -42%

In 2018, live music and festivals generated nearly \$700 million in annual revenue and supported 15,000 jobs across all sectors. This year, the impacts of COVID-19 equate losses amounting in the hundreds of millions according to the **Pacific Office of the Ministry of Innovation, Science & Economic Development**.

Tourism and Retail sector

- Arts and Entertainment and Recreation revenues -42%, greater than the retail sector (-33%) and comparable to Accommodation and Food services (-46%)

Research conducted by **Hill Strategies** on culture's economic impact in Canada and BC reveals that cultural economic production outperforms many traditional industries. They contribute 2.7% to the GDP (\$7.9B), outperforming agriculture, fishing and forestry (\$5.8B) and utilities (\$6.3B), and create 4% employment.

The direct economic impact of the music industry alone is \$690M, creating 7,945 music jobs and 6,595 indirect jobs. Commercial and non-commercial arts and culture organizations both contribute to direct economic impact, and generate substantial jobs. The health of the commercial sector is inextricably linked with the strength and vitality of the broader cultural ecosystem of arts and culture nonprofit organizations, DIY (do-it-yourself) collectives, non-professional community arts groups, and individual practitioners.

An ongoing survey delivered to artists, cultural workers, and cultural organizations by the **Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance (GVPTA)** provides more specific impact data:

Arts and Cultural Organizations

- Report anticipated financial losses over \$90M with the largest loss through foregone ticket sales (\$26.5M) and pre-paid or committed expenses and additional COVID-19 costs (\$21.7M)
- Theatre, Music, and Festival groups report higher percentage of losses from ticket sales and reopening delays or restrictions on sales capacities and will disproportionately impact the sustainability of these organizations

Facility-based Organizations

- Are disproportionately impacted by the loss of income from ticket sales and rentals (45%), compared to organizations without a facility (24%)
- Report more than twice the average loss in total (\$232K/org), compared to organizations without a facility (\$113K/org) and extended closures and capacity restrictions will disproportionately affect arts and culture facilities across BC
- On average, report 56% higher monthly expenses than those without a facility

- As facility closures are extended or have limited capacity due to physical distancing, restricted revenue opportunities impact an organization's ability to survive as indicated by 13% of organizations with a facility surviving more than 9 months, compared to 38% without a facility

Artists and cultural workers

- Report more than \$7M in confirmed or projected lost income (69% of which was from artistic work)
- 27% report they were projecting their annual income under \$20K, while 36% originally projected \$20K to \$40K
- 43% are concerned they will lose more than 75% of their projected income in 2020
- 96% report higher stress and anxiety which has had a negative impact (86%) on their mental health and wellbeing
- 8,800 artists live in Vancouver contributing to the cultural vitality of the city

According to **Statistics Canada and 2016 census** data, the medium income of an artist in Vancouver is \$22,116, 44% less than all Vancouver workers at \$41,900.

A further survey of the NPO sector conducted by **Vantage Point** reported 78% of NPOs are experiencing a disruption of services, 22% are concerned about retaining their facilities, and 21% of full-time equivalent employees are potentially at risk.

Data in support of individual artists and equity-seeking artists

Individuals who identify as independent Artists (43% or 2,253 respondents) are less likely than other cultural workers to have applied for, or intend to apply for the CERB. (Forum Research. Canada Council for the Arts, 2020, *National Survey on Federal Emergency Aid Measures and the Arts Sector in Canada*, canadacouncil.ca/research/april-2020-covid19-client-survey.)

Artists' median income is 44% lower than all Canadian workers. (Hill, Kelly. Hill Strategies, 2019, *A Statistical Profile of Artists in Canada in 2016*)

Between 2013-2015, only 11% of Artists with solo exhibitions at major Canadian art institutions were non-white. (Cooley, Alison, et al. "Canada's Galleries Fall Short: The Not-So Great White North." *Canadian Art*, 21 Apr. 2015).

Cheung, Belle Chi-Tung. "Just Add Colour' : Unintended Whiteness in Vancouver Theatre and Arts and Culture Policies in Canada." T. University of British Columbia, 2018. Web. 24 July 2020.

Based on 2016 census data, Indigenous artists were paid 68¢ to the dollar of non-Indigenous artists in 2015; Racialized artists were paid just slightly more, at 72¢ to the dollar of non-Racialized artists. (Hill, Kelly. Hill Strategies, 2020, *Demographic Diversity of Artists in Canada in 2016*).

According to a 2017 Canadian Art survey, just less than 4% of surveyed arts professionals were Indigenous and just more than 4% were visible minorities. (Maranda, Michael. "Hard Numbers: A Study on Diversity in Canada's Galleries." *Canadian Art*, 5 Apr. 2017).

O'Neill, Sean. "A Crisis of Whiteness in Canada's Art Museums." *Canadian Art*, 23 June 2020.