



## REPORT

Report Date: December 22, 2020  
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Meeting Date: January 19, 2020  
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TO: Vancouver City Council

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

SUBJECT: 2021 Cultural Grants (Operating, Annual Assistance, Arts Capacity, Indigenous)

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- A. THAT Council approve five (5) grants totaling \$3,948,400 from the 2021 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the five major institutions listed in Section A of Appendix A of this report in the amounts set out beside their names.
- B. THAT Council approve 59 operating grants totaling \$2,896,550 from the 2021 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 59 cultural organizations listed in Section B of Appendix A of this report in the amounts set out beside their names.
- C. THAT Council approve 78 annual assistance grants totaling \$1,531,200 from the 2021 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 78 cultural organizations listed in Section C of Appendix A of this report in the amounts set out beside their names.
- D. THAT Council approve a grant of \$10,000 from the 2021 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to Vantage Point Strategies Society (Vantage Point) to support the costs and delivery of leadership development training for the City's cultural grantees listed in Appendix A of this report.
- E. THAT Council approve a grant of \$20,000 from the 2021 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the Carnegie Community Centre Society to support its Elder in Residence Program.
- F. THAT, pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization listed in Appendix A of this report that is not otherwise a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency to be contributing to the culture of Vancouver.

- G. THAT the General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services (GM of ACCS) (or their designate) be 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.
- H. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by the approval of Recommendations A to E 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 E require two-thirds affirmative votes of all Council members under section 206 (1) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report recommends a total of \$8,406,150 grants to 144 cultural organizations to enable the sector to provide critical programs and services to artists, the cultural community and the public.

These recommendations support 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 Reconciliation Framework
- The City's Equity Framework (in development)

### **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 in First Quarter Instalments and Advance grants to 127 cultural organizations in support of key goals and directions of *Culture|Shift* (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).

On November 24, 2020 Council approved a total of \$2,059,078 in repurposed grants to 103 cultural organizations in support of COVID-19 recovery and key directions of *Culture|Shift (C|S)*,

as part of the City's COVID-19 Economic and Business Recovery program to restart the economic, social, and cultural recovery of the city (RTS 14100).

### **CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The Acting City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

### **REPORT**

#### **Background/Context**

Each year, the City of Vancouver invests approximately \$13M in operating grants to local arts and culture non-profit organizations through various grant streams to support operations, projects, access to the civic theatres, and capacity building initiatives. This investment is guided by key goals and directions of the City's 10-year Council 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. Table 1 shows a brief history of cultural operating grants with additional investments approved by Council to implement *C/S* goals.

**Table 1 - Cultural Grants Budget (operating) with *Culture|Shift* Investments**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Base*	\$12,074,020	\$12,315,500	\$12,561,810	\$13,297,545
C/S		\$300,000**	\$475,000	\$275,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,074,020</b>	<b>\$12,615,500</b>	<b>\$13,036,810</b>	<b>\$13,572,545</b>

\*Includes 2% annual inflationary increases

\*\*One-time funds for Vancouver Music Fund

The arts and culture sector, like many other sectors, has been deeply impacted by COVID-19 since the declaration of the pandemic on March 11, 2020. In 2020, Council responded to support the sector by approving additional uses for grants that had been approved early in the year, approving the repurposing of grants, as well as approving specific COVID-19 recovery grants to allow cultural non-profits to adapt and continue to deliver critical programs and services for the community and artists. The recovery investments focused on artists and groups disproportionately impacted by the pandemic: Indigenous, Black and racialized artists, groups contributing to the diverse livelihood of the live music and performing arts sector, and those providing critical accessible space to the cultural community.

#### **Strategic Analysis**

These recommendations implement key directions of *Culture|Shift*, and 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. These recommendations are the first of the cultural grants portfolio. The balance of program recommendations (spaces, projects, theatre rental, arts capacity, and strategic investments) will be brought forward to Council for consideration later in the year.

### Core grants (majors, operating, and annual assistance)

These grants support the *Culture/Shift* goal of arts and culture at the centre of city-building in elevating the role of arts and culture and increasing investment in the sector. This investment supports Vancouver-based, professional non-profit arts and cultural organizations to develop, create, produce, and present artistic work or provide professional services or space for the benefit of the local arts and culture sector, in any artistic discipline.

The City has implemented and approved advance grants to operating and annual assistance groups and first quarter instalments to majors institutions since 1998. Under normal circumstances, 40% of the previous year's grant, and the first quarterly instalments for major institutions, are approved and awarded in advance of peer assessment review meetings with the balance to follow after the assessment. The purpose is to accommodate operating cash flow needs of cultural grantees at a time when other core public sector funding is not yet awarded (i.e. Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, the BC Arts Council).

As many cultural groups continue to cope with the impacts of the pandemic, and in keeping with other cultural public sector funders, staff implemented a short-form, staff-driven application process for 2021 core grants. This was to reduce applicant administration time and expedite the recommendation process with the goal of approving and awarding 100% of funding early in 2021, provided there are no concerns.

These grant recommendations have been made upon a staff review of grant applications based on the following criteria:

- Evidence of continued organizational activity in 2020 and projected in to 2021
- Evidence of financial viability in 2020 and projected into 2021
- No evidence of concerns: inability to manage poor financial health; significant pattern of decline in participation; inability to carry out programs and services; non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations in carrying out its activities, non-compliance with minimum terms of the Cultural Grant Agreement)

Based on the review, the cultural non-profit sector continues to adapt and demonstrate incredible resilience in delivering ongoing activity in addition to innovating program and service delivery in response to arising needs due to the pandemic.

- Major Institutions (large scale established groups with other City support and budgets over \$1M) - 5 Grants totaling \$3,948,400
- Operating Organizations (established groups with budgets generally between \$300K - \$1M) - 59 Grants totaling \$2,896,550
- Annual Assistance Organizations (emerging and established groups with budgets generally under \$300K) - 78 Grants totaling \$1,531,200

### Arts Capacity Grants

These grants support the *Culture/Shift* goal of collaboration and capacity and strengthen sector resilience through expanding collaborative capacity programs to increase and share knowledge and resources across the cultural sector. These grants are either partnership grants with organizations delivering learning opportunities of interest to the sector or direct grants to eligible organizations proposing more customized opportunities to meet specific leadership needs (conferences, workshops, gatherings, mentorships, etc.).

### Vantage Point – Grant of \$10,000

Vantage Point is a local non-profit society and has partnered with the City to support non-profit cultural leadership development through various learning opportunities. Each year hundreds of individuals from cultural grantees attend their workshops (i.e., Board Diversity & Inclusion, Fund Development, Societies Act, Executive Director 101, and more) to learn from experts, peers, and build relationships with other not-for-profit leaders. This investment provides free access to leadership skills development and networking opportunities to arts and cultural groups in the sector.

### Indigenous Grants

This grant supports the *Culture|Shift* goal of reconciliation and decolonization with a focus on urban Indigenous artists.

#### Carnegie Community Centre Association - \$20,000 for Elder in Residence

Launched in 2016, support of this program allows urban Indigenous community members living in the Downtown Eastside to connect with the Elder and important cultural knowledge in a safe environment. The program offers informal and formal learning opportunities through workshops, ceremonies, and celebrations and provides the Elder opportunities to deepen networks in the local community and with members of the local Nations through knowledge sharing and ceremony.

A list of all grants is provided in Appendix A.

### **Financial**

Source of funding is the 2021 Cultural Grants Operating Budget. Table 2 summarizes the 2021 Approved budget and the amounts allocated in this report.

**Table 2 – 2021 Cultural Grants Budget (operating)**

<b>Program Stream</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>	<b>Previously Approved</b>	<b>Rec. in this Report</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Projects (creative, community, capacity, C S strategic)	\$1,400,787		\$10,000	\$1,390,787
Annual Assistance	\$1,531,200		\$1,531,200	\$0
Operating	\$2,896,550		\$2,896,550	\$0
Major Institutions	\$3,948,400		\$3,948,400	\$0
Theatre Rental	\$2,829,608			\$2,829,608
Individual Artists Fund	\$60,000			\$60,000
Indigenous Grants	\$175,000		\$20,000	\$155,000
Critical Assistance Spaces	\$306,000			306,000
Equity & Accessibility	\$425,000			\$425,000
<b>TOTAL – All Grants</b>	<b>\$13,572,545</b>		<b>\$8,406,150</b>	<b>\$5,166,395</b>

**CONCLUSION**

This investment advances the City's goals in contributing to a diverse and vibrant community that amplifies the voices of creative people and allows the public to see themselves reflected in the stories of these lands. Delivering core funding in a more expedient fashion is a key recovery action that the City can take to support the cultural non-profit sector as it continues to recover. Despite the significant impacts the pandemic has had on the sector, groups are demonstrating innovation, collaboration and resilience. This investment provides hundreds of groups essential resources for them to provide critical programs and services in support of the economic and cultural growth and recovery of the city.

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<b>A</b>	<b>Major Institutions</b>	<b>2021 Grant</b>
1	H.R. MacMillan Space Centre Society	519,400
2	Museum of Vancouver (Vancouver Museum Society)*	758,000
3	Science World (A.S.T.C. Science World Society)	105,000
4	The Vancouver Art Gallery Association*	2,166,000
5	The Vancouver Maritime Museum Society*	400,000
	<i>*To be paid in quarterly instalments</i>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,948,400</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Grants – Operating Organizations</b>	<b>2021 Grant</b>
1	Axis Theatre Society	32,500
2	Ballet BC (Pacific Ballet British Columbia Society)	100,000
3	Bard on the Beach Theatre Society	60,000
4	Boca Del Lupo Theatre	42,000
5	British Columbia Alliance for Arts and Culture Society	45,000
6	Canadian Music Centre/Centre de musique canadienne	31,500
7	Carousel Theatre Society	32,000
8	Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver	20,000
9	Chor Leoni Men's Choir	20,000
10	Cinémathèque (Pacific Cinémathèque Pacifique)	45,000
11	Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Society	36,000
12	Contemporary Art Gallery (The Contemporary Art Society of Vancouver)	75,000
13	DanceHouse (Seismic Shift Arts Society)	21,000
14	DOXA Documentary Film Festival (The Documentary Media Society)	28,000
15	Early Music Vancouver (Vancouver Society for Early Music)	52,250
16	Electric Company Theatre Society	35,000
17	Flamenco Rosario (Rosario Ancer Flamenco Arts Society)	22,000
18	Full Circle: First Nations Performance Society	100,000
19	Greater Vancouver International Film Festival Society	69,800
20	Green Thumb Theatre (Green Thumb Players Society)	60,000
21	grunt gallery (Visible Arts Society)	50,000
22	Health Arts Society	25,000
23	Kidd Pivot Performing Arts Society*	28,000
24	Kokoro Dance Theatre Society	50,000
25	Malaspina Printmakers Society	25,000
26	Music in the Morning Concert Society	19,000
27	Music on Main Society	44,000
28	Newworld Theatre Society	34,500
29	Norman Rothstein Theatre (Vancouver West Side Theatre Society)	30,000
30	Pacific Theatre (First Pacific Theatre Society)	21,000

31	PI Theatre (Pink Ink Theatre Productions Association)	20,000
32	PTC Playwrights Theatre Centre	45,000
33	PuSH International Performing Arts Festival Society	80,000
34	Rumble Productions Society	30,000
35	The Arts Club of Vancouver Theatre Society	152,000
36	The Coastal Jazz and Blues Society	90,000
37	The Firehall Theatre Society	75,000
38	The I.E. Artspeak Gallery Society	29,000
39	The Or Gallery Society	34,000
40	The Vancouver East Cultural Centre	150,000
41	The Vancouver Folk Music Festival Society*	80,000
42	The Vancouver International Writers Festival Society	65,000
43	The Vancouver Out on Screen Film and Video Society	50,000
44	The Western Front Society	46,000
45	Théâtre la Seizième	35,000
46	Theatre Replacement Society	25,000
47	Touchstone Theatre Society	35,000
48	Turning Point Ensemble Society	31,000
49	Vancouver Chamber Choir	20,000
50	Vancouver Co-operative Radio (Community Radio Education Society)	32,500
51	Vancouver Fringe Festival (Vancouver Fringe Theatre Society)*	40,000
52	Vancouver International Children's Festival Society	134,000
53	Vancouver International Dance Festival Society	35,000
54	Vancouver Moving Theatre Society	30,000
55	Vancouver New Music Society	32,000
56	Vancouver Opera Association	55,000
57	Vancouver Symphony Society	65,000
58	VDC Dance Centre Society	90,000
59	VIVO Media Arts Centre (Satellite Video Exchange Society)	37,500
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,896,550</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Grants - Annual Assistance Organizations</b>	<b>2021 Grants</b>
1	221A Artist Run Centre Society	25,000
2	Access Gallery (Vancouver Access Artist Run Centre)	25,000
3	Aeriosa Dance Society	19,000
4	Battery Opera Performing Arts Society	21,000
5	Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art (Bill Reid Foundation)	37,500
6	Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists – British Columbia Chapters	15,000
7	Capilano Review Contemporary Arts Society	20,000
8	Caravan World Rhythms Society	17,000
9	Centre A (Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art)	37,000



10	City Opera of Vancouver Society	15,000
11	Company 605 Dance Society	17,000
12	Company Erasga Society	20,000
13	Craft Council of British Columbia	15,000
14	Eastside Culture Crawl Society	13,000
15	EDAM Performing Arts Society	25,000
16	Elektra Women's Choir	20,000
17	Fight With a Stick Hybrid Performance Society	11,500
18	Fillip (Projectile Publishing Society)	11,000
19	Gallery Gachet Society	24,000
20	Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance Society	20,000
21	Hard Rubber New Music Society	15,000
22	Indian Summer Arts Society	35,000
23	ITSAZOO Productions	13,000
24	Joe Ink Performance Society*	12,000
25	Karen Jamieson Dance Society	15,000
26	Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture*	17,500
27	Kwi Awt Stelmexw (KAS Cultural Society)	17,500
28	Latincoover Cultural and Business Society	15,000
29	Live Biennial of Performance Art Society*	20,000
30	Miscellaneous Productions Society	27,000
31	Musica Intima Society	21,000
32	New Forms Media Society*	10,000
33	New Orchestra Workshop Society	22,000
34	New Performance Works Society	20,000
35	Out Innerspace Dance Theatre and Film Society	17,000
36	Pacific Legal Education and Outreach Society (PLEO)	15,000
37	Powell Street Festival Society	42,000
38	Pride in Art Society	40,000
39	Radix Theatre Society	7,500
40	Raven Spirit Dance Society	25,000
41	Realwheels Society	20,000
42	Redshift Music Society	17,000
43	Reel to Real: Celebration of Moving Images for Youth Society	18,000
44	Rice and Beans Theatre Society	15,500
45	Room Magazine Festival (West Coast Feminist Literary Magazine Society)	20,000
46	Ruby Slippers Productions Society	15,000
47	Savage Production Society	25,000
48	Secret Lantern Society	13,200
49	Small Stage (Movement Enterprises Society)	12,250

50	Still Moon Arts Society	15,000
51	Sub-TERRAIN Literary Collective Society	12,000
52	Tara Cheyenne Performance (DanStaBat Performance Society)	18,000
53	The Art Starts in Schools Society	27,000
54	The Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia	23,000
55	The Chop Theatre Society	12,000
56	The Community Arts Council of Vancouver	15,000
57	The Dancing on the Edge Festival Society	26,500
58	The Frank Theatre (Screaming Weenie Productions)	25,000
59	The Geist Foundation	13,500
60	The Mascall Dance Society	15,000
61	The Only Animal Theatre Society	14,250
62	The Vancouver Cantata Society	16,500
63	The Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra Society (VICO)	25,000
64	Theatre Conspiracy (Western Theatre Conspiracy Arts Society)	19,000
65	TTS Theatre Terrific Society	15,000
66	Unit/Pitt Projects (Unit/Pitt: Society For Art and Critical Awareness)	16,000
67	Up in The Air Theatre Society	15,000
68	Urban Ink Production Society	55,000
69	Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre	25,000
70	Vancouver Jewish Film Centre Society	10,000
71	Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre Society	15,000
72	Vancouver Latin American Film Festival	18,000
73	Vines Art Festival Society	25,000
74	Visceral Visions Society	15,000
75	Wen Wei Dance Society	20,000
76	We Press Community Arts Space Society	22,500
77	Word Vancouver Festival (Vancouver Book and Magazine Fair)	15,000
78	Zeezee Theatre Society	17,500
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,531,200</b>
	<b>Total Major, Operating, Annual Assistance Organizations (142)</b>	<b>\$8,376,150</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Vantage Point Strategies Society</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Carnegie Community Centre Society</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
	<b>Total All Grants for this Report (144)</b>	<b>\$8,406,150</b>

\*Grant recommendation is subject to the receipt of additional information.