



## REPORT

Report Date: April 19, 2022  
Contact: Branislav Henselmann  
Natalie Lue  
Contact No.: 604.871.6455/604.665.3020  
RTS No.: 14874  
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20  
Meeting Date: May 17, 2022  
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TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services  
SUBJECT: Theatre Rental Grant Allocations – Fall 2022 and Spring 2023

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- A. THAT Council approve Theatre Rental Grants to 42 organizations totalling \$1,190,865 for use of the Civic Theatres from September 1 - December 31, 2022 in the amounts recommended for each organization in the “2022 Recomm.” column in Appendix A. Source of funding is the 2022 Cultural Grants Operating budget (Theatre Rental Grants).
- B. THAT Council approve, in advance of the 2023 operating budget, Theatre Rental Grants to 57 organizations for use of the Civic Theatres from January 1 - August 31, 2023 totalling \$1,830,685 recommended for each organization in the “2023 Recomm.” column in Appendix B. Source of funding is to be the 2023 Cultural Grants Operating budget (Theatre Rental Grants).
- C. THAT, pursuant to Section 206 (1) (j) of the Vancouver Charter, Council deems any organization listed in Appendix A and Appendix B that is not a charity registered with the Canada Revenue Agency to be contributing to the culture of Vancouver.
- D. 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 Director of Legal Services.
- E. THAT no legal rights or obligations are created by the approval of Recommendation A and B above unless and until the applicable theatre license

agreement is complete and approved by the City in accordance with Recommendation D above and executed and delivered by both the grant recipient and GM of ACCS (or their designate).

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

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report recommends grants to 42 cultural organizations for a total of \$1,190,865 for use of the Vancouver Civic Theatres (VCT) during the Fall 2022 performing arts season that runs from September 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

This report recommends grants to 57 cultural organizations for a total of \$1,830,685 for use of the Vancouver Civic Theatres (VCT) during the Spring 2023 performing arts season that runs from January 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023.

The recommendations have been made by a staff assessment process - a process that is rooted in the key directions of *Culture|Shift (C|S)*, COVID-19 recovery, VCT Restart Plans, and the City's COVID-19 Economic and Business Recovery program to restart the economic, social, and cultural recovery of the city.

### **COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

On July 11, 2017 (RTS 11804), Council approved that the General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services can approve the re-allocation of funds from any underused or cancelled Theatre Rental Grants to a maximum of \$200,000 per annum.

On July 9, 2019 (RTS 12991) Council approved new rental rates for VCT that included both commercial and not-for-profit rental rates for three consecutive seasons from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2023.

On May 18, 2021 (RTS 14383), Council approved 41 Theatre Rental Grants (TRG) totalling \$1,599,569 for the period of September 1 – December 31, 2021 and 49 TRG totalling \$1,820,205 for the period on January 1 – August 31, 2022 for use of the Civic Theatres in support of COVID-19 recovery and key directions of *Culture|Shift (C|S)*.

On November 16, 2021 (RTS 14658) Council approved a total of \$405,353 in Theatre Rental Grants repurposed for COVID-19 recovery (\$42,271 in-kind and \$363,082 cash) to 42 organizations for use of the Civic Theatres.

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

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

## **REPORT**

### About Theatre Rental Grants

Theatre Rental Grants (TRG) are one of the few non-cash grants that support eligible cultural not-for-profit producers and presenters to access the City's professionally-equipped, downtown civic theatre venues and associated spaces: the Queen Elizabeth Theatre (QET), the Orpheum, the Vancouver Playhouse, the Annex, and ɬxʷł̓ exən Xwtl'a7shn (formerly known as the QET Plaza). Grants to these organizations animate the City's theatres and present a range of culturally diverse performances for public enjoyment. This program is one of many programs, awards, and services that the City offers to support a diverse and thriving cultural ecology.

The TRG program is designed to support Vancouver-based, professional not-for-profit arts and cultural organizations that have a mission to develop, create, produce, present, and disseminate artistic work for the benefit of the public and the arts sector, in any artistic discipline (e.g. Indigenous arts, community arts, dance, interdisciplinary, literary, media, multidisciplinary, music, theatre, visual arts).

This in-kind grant program provides rental subsidy and assistance for certain VCT costs (including a portion of event staff labour costs and in-house technical equipment) and serves a range of organizations, from large-scale year-round users through to small-sized occasional users. The program objectives are to assist organizations with artistic development, to increase their profile, and expand their audiences.

As a non-cash, in-kind grant program, it is a direct internal transfer from the Cultural Services Grants budget to the VCT Operating Budget. Council approved TRG are disbursed as a credit equal to the appropriate, approved, eligible event cost and is applied as rental revenue to the VCT Operating Budget.

### 2022/2023 Performing Arts Season

The arts and culture sector, like many other sectors, continues to be deeply impacted by COVID-19. Last year, Council supported the sector through approving additional uses for grants, including the re-purposing of TRG funding, as well as specific COVID-19 recovery grants to allow artists and cultural groups to adapt and continue to deliver critical programs and services for the community.

The TRG annual public call for applications was issued in February 2022 for VCT uses for the 2022/23 (Sept. 1, 2022-Aug. 31, 2023) performing arts season. Applications were received via an online submission process from 74 organizations for performances during this 12-month time frame.

### **Strategic Analysis**

In accordance with current Provincial Health Order responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, Vancouver Civic Theatres (VCT) are now in Phase IV of their Restart Plan which includes the lifting of all restrictions. While the majority of organizations have been building their 2022/2023 Season based on pre-pandemic programming, some organizations have elected to still maintain some levels of health and safety based programming (various access to VCT facilities, reduced capacity events, activating non-theatre space including lobbies and ɬxʷł̓ exən Xwtl'a7shn, and

digital performance experiences) as they build audience and artistic confidence to an eventual return to pre-pandemic performance based programming.

The 2022/2023 TRG season at VCT features a wide range of classical and contemporary performances in dance, theatre, and music. The work reflects the diversity of Vancouver’s cultural communities, which include Indigenous, East and South Asia, Africa, Latin America, and LGBTQ2+. Some examples of the recommended TRG include Full Circle First Nations Performance, All My Relations Indigenous Society, Raven Spirt Dance, Vancouver out on Screen Film Festival Society, Vancouver Cantonese Opera, and others.

### TRG Review Process

The applications were evaluated by a staff team from VCT and Cultural Services using the published criteria and cross-checking applicants’ bookings and theatre availability. The review considers the organization’s capacity to produce the event as proposed, and the community impact of the presentation. Grants are being recommended to applicants as listed in Appendix A (Sept. 1-Dec. 31, 2022) and Appendix B (Jan. 1-Aug 31, 2023).

Any grants not fully used or that are canceled will be repurposed to consider initiatives coming from the community to support groups’ creation and development.

### Recommendations

For the 2022/23 performing arts season, \$4,380,465 in rental support was requested and a total of \$3,021,550 is recommended in this report, a difference of \$1,358,915 as outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1 – Summary of 2022/2023 Theatre Rental Grants Requests & Recommendations**

2022 Theatre Rental Grant Requests (Sept. – Dec.)	1,697,760
2023 Theatre Rental Grant Requests (Jan. – Aug.)	2,682,705
<b>TOTAL Theatre Rental Grant Requests for 2022/23 Season</b>	<b>4,380,465</b>
2022 Theatre Rental Grant Recommendations (Sept. - Dec. Appendix 1)	1,190,865
2023 Theatre Rental Grant Recommendations (Jan. - Aug. Appendix 2)	1,830,685
<b>TOTAL 2022/23 Theatre Rental Grant Recommendations in this report</b>	<b>3,021,550</b>
<b>Difference between 2022/2023 Recommendations and Requests</b>	<b>(1,358,915)</b>

There is growing pressure on the TRG program as a result of increasing growth in the creative community. As existing groups expand their level of activity along with new groups requesting support, and with efforts to increase access to the program, requests for grants have been increasing and – like with other grants programs – requests exceed available funding. As a result, the TRG process is competitive and not all requests meet the evaluation criteria to the same degree as other applicants and, therefore, not every organization can be recommended for funding or to the level of their request.

For organizations that did not receive the full TRG request, it is still possible to rent the venue for their events by requesting a not-for-profit rate directly from VCT, subject to the applicant’s own financial resources. The not-for-profit rate will also be available to those groups that did not apply to TRG that missed the annual deadline, or are yet to book dates for future productions

that fall within the 2022/2023 season. Staff will also work closely with organizations to provide recommendations on how to efficiently utilize VCT venues and will also inform organizations of other funding opportunities that may arise within the 2022/2023 Season.

### **Financial**

The 2022 TRG budget is \$2,846,586. In May 2021 (RTS 14383), Council approved in advance of the 2022 budget, grants totalling \$1,820,205 for Spring 2022 events at VCT venues. This Council approval now leaves \$1,026,381 to be allocated in the 2022 TRG budget. As of the April 19, 2022, 7 granted organizations have cancelled or will underuse their Spring 2022 approved bookings, thereby making \$181,218 available for reallocation. This will leave a forecasted total of \$16,734 of TRG to be allocated at the end of 2022, as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Summary of 2022 Theatre Rental Grants funding**

2022 Theatre Rental Grants Budget	2,846,586
2022 Theatre Rental Grants (Jan. – Aug.) allocated May 2021 (RTS 14383)	(1,820,205)
2022 Theatre Rental Grants Spring 2022 cancellations or underuses (forecast as of April 19, 2022)	181,218
<b>TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION</b>	<b>1,207,599</b>
2022 Theatre Rental Grants recommended in this report – Sept. – Dec.	(1,190,865)
<b>2022 FORECASTED THEATRE RENTAL GRANTS BALANCE</b>	<b>16,734</b>

Staff are therefore recommending 42 grants totalling \$1,190,865 for Sept. 1 - Dec. 31, 2022. The source of funds is the 2022 TRG budget. In the event that there is a TRG balance for the period of April - Dec. 2022, staff will present recommendations to the General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services for re-allocation towards priority, eligible uses as published in the TRG guidelines, up to a maximum of \$200,000.

This report also requests approval of grants to 57 organizations for VCT uses from Jan 1-Aug 31, 2023 totalling 1,830,685 in advance of Council's confirmation of the 2023 operating budget. The source of funds is to be the 2023 Cultural Grants Operating budget. These grants are summarized in Table 3 and listed in Appendix B. Should the 2023 TRG budget remain the same as 2022 at \$2,846,586, a balance of \$1,015,901 in TRG funds will be allocated for the rest of the year.

**Table 3 – Summary of 2023 Theatre Rental Grants projected funding**

2023 Theatre Rental Grants Budget (projected to be the same as 2022)	2,846,586
2023 Theatre Rental Grant Recommendations in this report (Jan. – Aug.)	(1,830,685)
<b>2023 TOTAL THEATRE RENTAL GRANTS BUDGET AVAILABLE TO ALLOCATE FOR Sept. 1 - Dec. 31, 2023</b>	<b>1,015,901</b>

**CONCLUSION**

Investment in these projects and organizations supports a diverse and thriving cultural ecology which supports the breadth of creativity - from Indigenous fashion art, energy awareness performance art, contemporary dance, Cantonese opera, to classical orchestral music and opera.

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**Recommendation A – Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2022 Theatre Rental Grant Recommendations**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Sept 1 - Dec 31, 2022 Requested</b>	<b>Sept 1 - Dec 31, 2022 Recommendation</b>
All My Relations Indigenous Society	67,840	44,910
Arts Umbrella Association	36,630	22,900
Asian-Canadian Special Events Association	19,620	4,530
Ballet B.C. (Pacific Ballet British Columbia Society)	157,990	128,005
Canada International Arts & Music Society	3,425	3,425
Caravan World Rhythms Society	15,090	11,205
Circus 3 Arts Society (Sophisticated Laughter Theatrical Society)	32,805	11,205
City Opera of Vancouver Society	45,850	29,785
Compaigni V'ni Dansi Society	3,020	1,510
DanceHouse (Seismic Shift Arts Society)	13,750	9,160
Erato Ensemble Society	1,510	1,510
Friends of Chamber Music*	21,745	12,585
Greater Vancouver International Film Festival Society	165,750	120,140
Karen Flamenco Dance Society	6,875	0

Latincouver Cultural & Business Society	<b>4,580</b>	<b>4,580</b>
Music in the Morning Concert Society	<b>1,510</b>	<b>1,510</b>
Music on Main Society	<b>6,040</b>	<b>3,020</b>
Nahualli Folklore Society	<b>1,510</b>	<b>1,510</b>
RE:Naissance Opera	<b>25,660</b>	<b>17,245</b>
Red Chamber Cultural Society	<b>1,510</b>	<b>1,510</b>
Sound of Dragon Society	<b>10,570</b>	<b>3,020</b>
The Community Arts Council of Vancouver	<b>1,510</b>	<b>1,510</b>
The Society of We Are Canadians Too	<b>31,850</b>	<b>9,160</b>
The Vancouver Bach Choir	<b>41,255</b>	<b>26,295</b>
The Vancouver Chopin Society	<b>11,430</b>	<b>4,580</b>
The Vancouver East Cultural Centre	<b>27,510</b>	<b>20,615</b>
The Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra Society	<b>3,775</b>	<b>1,510</b>
The Vancouver International Writers Festival Society	<b>20,365</b>	<b>4,580</b>
The Vancouver Men's Chorus	<b>20,615</b>	<b>13,740</b>
Turning Point Ensemble	<b>4,530</b>	<b>1,510</b>



Universal Gospel Choir	<b>11,205</b>	<b>11,205</b>
Urban Ink Production Society	<b>5,285</b>	<b>3,775</b>
Vancouver Academy of Music	<b>22,410</b>	<b>22,410</b>
Vancouver Cantonese Opera	<b>3,020</b>	<b>1,510</b>
Vancouver Chamber Choir	<b>18,685</b>	<b>18,685</b>
Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre Society	<b>11,455</b>	<b>4,580</b>
Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra	<b>11,205</b>	<b>0</b>
Vancouver New Music Society	<b>8,305</b>	<b>4,530</b>
Vancouver Opera Association	<b>127,335</b>	<b>93,875</b>
Vancouver Recital Society	<b>29,485</b>	<b>14,855</b>
Vancouver Seniors Singing Club Association	<b>3,020</b>	<b>1,510</b>
Vancouver Symphony Society	<b>634,140</b>	<b>491,075</b>
VSO School of Music Society	<b>4,580</b>	<b>4,580</b>
Yarilo Contemporary Music Society	<b>1,510</b>	<b>1,510</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,697,760</b>	<b>1,190,865</b>

\*SUBJECT TO CONDITION

**Recommendation B – Jan. 1 – Aug. 31, 2023 Theatre Rental Grant Recommendations**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Jan 1 - Aug 31, 2023 Requested</b>	<b>Jan 1 - Aug 31, 2023 Recommendation</b>
Arts Umbrella Association	50,400	32,060
Asian-Canadian Special Events Association	60,945	4,530
Astrolabe Musik Theatre Society	13,750	11,455
Ballet B.C. (Pacific Ballet British Columbia Society)	135,420	127,940
BC Chinese Music Association	1,510	1,510
Blackout Art Society	9,060	4,530
Blueridge Chamber Music Society	6,040	3,020
Caravan World Rhythms Society	24,250	15,785
Chor Leoni Men's choir	755	755
Circus 3 Arts Society (Sophisticated Laughter Theatrical Society)	32,500	11,455
DanceHouse (Seismic Shift Arts Society)	70,460	52,695
eatART Foundation	13,750	11,455
Erato Ensemble Society	3,020	1,510
Flamenco Rosario (Rosario Ancer Flamenco Arts Society)	2,265	1,510

Friends of Chamber Music*	<b>26,325</b>	<b>21,745</b>
Full Circle: First Nations Performance Society	<b>15,140</b>	<b>12,845</b>
Heroic Opera Society	<b>6,040</b>	<b>3,020</b>
Indian Summer Arts Society	<b>13,750</b>	<b>13,750</b>
Karen Flamenco Dance Society	<b>11,455</b>	<b>11,455</b>
Latincouver Cultural & Business Society	<b>4,580</b>	<b>4,580</b>
Mexican Dance Vancouver Society	<b>4,580</b>	<b>4,580</b>
Movement Dance Productions Society	<b>16,035</b>	<b>11,455</b>
Music On Main Society	<b>7,550</b>	<b>6,040</b>
Muzewest Concerts Society	<b>3,020</b>	<b>3,020</b>
Persian Culture and Art Institute Association (PERCAI)	<b>15,090</b>	<b>11,205</b>
Promethean Theatre Company	<b>24,915</b>	<b>9,060</b>
PuSH International Performing Arts Festival Society	<b>59,420</b>	<b>31,215</b>
Raven Spirit Dance Society	<b>6,795</b>	<b>6,040</b>
Sound of Dragon Society	<b>6,795</b>	<b>5,285</b>
Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Society	<b>11,405</b>	<b>4,580</b>

The Coastal Jazz and Blues Society*	<b>198,050</b>	<b>60,360</b>
The Community Arts Council of Vancouver	<b>3,020</b>	<b>1,510</b>
The Frank Theatre (Screaming Weenie Productions)	<b>9,060</b>	<b>7,550</b>
The Standing Wave Society	<b>4,530</b>	<b>3,020</b>
The Vancouver Bach Choir	<b>30,955</b>	<b>27,150</b>
The Vancouver Cantata Society	<b>2,265</b>	<b>1,510</b>
The Vancouver Chinese Singers Society	<b>4,580</b>	<b>4,580</b>
The Vancouver Chopin Society	<b>10,275</b>	<b>6,850</b>
The Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra Society	<b>3,775</b>	<b>1,510</b>
The Vancouver International Writers Festival Society	<b>4,580</b>	<b>4,580</b>
The Vancouver Out On Screen Film and Video Society	<b>16,495</b>	<b>13,740</b>
Turning Point Ensemble	<b>4,530</b>	<b>1,510</b>
Vancouver International Burlesque Festival Association	<b>9,160</b>	<b>9,160</b>
Vancouver Academy of Music	<b>35,910</b>	<b>22,410</b>
Vancouver Asian Film Festival Society	<b>6,865</b>	<b>4,580</b>
Vancouver Chamber Choir	<b>21,320</b>	<b>18,685</b>

Vancouver Independent Music Centre Society	<b>1,510</b>	<b>1,510</b>
Vancouver International Dance Festival Society	<b>49,495</b>	<b>27,380</b>
Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra	<b>11,205</b>	<b>11,205</b>
Vancouver New Music Society	<b>6,040</b>	<b>3,020</b>
Vancouver Opera Association	<b>246,405</b>	<b>246,405</b>
Vancouver Pro Musica (Pro Musica Society of Vancouver)	<b>1,510</b>	<b>1,510</b>
Vancouver Recital Society	<b>62,695</b>	<b>58,810</b>
Vancouver Seniors Singing Club Association	<b>27,215</b>	<b>4,580</b>
Vancouver Symphony Society	<b>1,235,970</b>	<b>835,295</b>
Vancouver Tap Dance Society	<b>4,530</b>	<b>3,020</b>
VSO School of Music Society	<b>13,740</b>	<b>9,160</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,682,705</b>	<b>1,830,685</b>

\*SUBJECT TO CONDITION