



## COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: March 15, 2024  
Contact: Navida Nuraney  
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RTS No.: 16101  
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20  
Meeting Date: April 9, 2024  
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services  
SUBJECT: 2024 Cultural Grants (Balance of Operating, Capacity)

### Recommendations

- A. THAT Council approve Cultural Operating Funding - Institutions (COFI) grants totaling \$2,872,060 from the 2024 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the five (5) organizations listed in Section A of Appendix A of this report for the amounts recommended for each organization in the “2024 Grant Recomm” column, which will bring the total 2024 operating grants for those 5 organizations to \$3,842,080.
- B. THAT Council approve Cultural Operating Funding – Annual (COFA) grants totaling \$1,273,235 from the 2024 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the sixty-eight (68) organizations listed in Section B of Appendix A of this report for the amounts recommended for each organization in the “2024 Grant Recomm.” column, which will bring the total 2024 operating grants for those 68 organizations to \$2,071,725.
- C. THAT Council approve Cultural Learning and Sharing (CLS) grants of \$99,500 to the seven (7) cultural organizations listed in Section C of Appendix A for the amounts recommended for each organization in the “Recomm.” Column.
- D. THAT Council delegate its authority to execute grant agreements that include terms and conditions that are consistent with this report, that satisfy the City’s Director of Legal Services, and that disburse the grants described in this report to the City’s General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services (or their designate).
- E. 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.

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

No legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of these Recommendations unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.

### **Purpose and Executive Summary**

This report recommends a total of \$4,244,795 in grants to 75 cultural organizations to enable the sector to provide critical programs and services to artists, the cultural community, and the public.

The recommendations support the following key civic policy and strategic directions:

- *Culture|Shift*, the City's 10-year culture plan, including the *Vancouver Music Strategy* and *Making Space for Arts and Culture*
- The City's Reconciliation Framework, and UNDRIP Strategy
- The City's Equity Framework, and Accessibility Strategy

### **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*. [Minutes - Regular Council meeting: 2019 Sep 10 \(vancouver.ca\)](#)

On January 23, 2024 (RTS 16097), Council approved \$3,350,710 in grants to 157 cultural organizations which included project grants, 'advance' payments on operating grants, and multiyear grants to advance goals of *Culture|Shift*.

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20240123/documents/regu20240123min.pdf>

On July 25, 2023 (RTS 15658), Council approved the 2024 Arts and Culture Grants Program Framework outlining policy alignment, programs, adjudication process, budget, and accountability requirements for Arts and Culture granting.

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20230725/documents/regu20230725mins.pdf>

### **City Manager's Comments**

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

### **Context and Background**

The City of Vancouver supports the local arts and culture sector through operating and capital grants to local arts and culture non-profit groups through various grant streams for operations, projects, capital projects and planning, access to the civic theatres, and capacity building initiatives. This support for the sector is guided by key Council-approved goals outlined in the

City's 10-year arts and culture plan *Culture/Shift*, and more recent Council directions as captured in the 2024 Cultural Grants Framework. This investment acknowledges the significance of the creativity and resilience that artists, cultural workers, and organizations contribute to a culturally vibrant community and local economy.

## **Discussion**

Recommendations in this report are for two core operating programs, Cultural Operating Funding – Institutions and Annual (COFI and COFA), that are assessed on an annual basis by a community peer assessment committee. These are the final recommendations for the 2024 grants program and are the balance of the total grant for each organization, following the advance grants which were approved in January. The report also includes the first cohort of grants for a capacity building program – Cultural Learning and Sharing (CLS) – that staff have assessed against specific program criteria.

The recommendations reflect a thoughtful analysis of a resilient arts and culture sector withstanding continual change, and a shifting of resources to best support the sector through these changes. This analysis, as well as feedback on the City's programs and processes, is valuable as the City reviews its own granting models and considers the best ways it can support and highlight the value of a diverse and thriving cultural sector. Staff will report back on early findings of the Municipal Comparative Research with the ACCS Social Policy Department in July 2024.

## Recommendations

### **Recommendation A & B: Cultural Operating Funding - Institutions (COFI) and Cultural Operating Funding - Annual COFA - \$4,145,295 to 68 organizations**

#### *Operating Grant Program Description and Goals*

This program provides core funding to Vancouver-based, professional non-profit arts, cultural and creative organizations that have a mission to develop, create, produce, present, and disseminate artistic work or provide professional services or space for the benefit of the local arts and culture sector and community, in any artistic discipline.

The program aims to leverage the collective community efforts of the arts and culture sector to:

- Provide opportunities to artists and cultural workers to have the freedom, agency and space to create and share their stories
- Ensure meaningful and broad public participation and access to a range of programs and services for the greater understanding of Vancouver's dynamic cultural landscape
- Provide consistent support for the impactful delivery of professional programming, space, services and activities that advance creative disciplines and services, and contribute to the visibility of the cultural diversity of Vancouver
- Support the livelihood of local artists and cultural workers
- Support healthy leadership practices and ensure leadership pathways into the sector
- Create a more equitable, vibrant, collaborative and sustainable arts and culture sector

#### *Eligibility*

To be eligible for this program, organizations need to align with the program goals and objectives and meet a set of criteria. Organizations need to have an existing funding relationship with the City and have been consistently well-assessed by peer assessment committees in ideally two recent and consecutive reviews which endorse: consistency in the delivery of quality programs or services with positive impact in the community, and demonstrated commitments to equity in purpose, programs, and practice. Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis in conversation with staff. Budget constraints also have an impact on the ability to invite new groups into the program.

Program Guide: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/cultural-operating-funding-annual-info-guide.pdf>

### *Peer Assessment Process*

To guide these grant recommendations, the City relies on the model of peer assessment – a pillar practice used by all public sector arts funding agencies across Canada. Members of the arts and culture community nominate themselves or their peers and contribute to the process through their artistic and administrative expertise and various disciplinary skills and lived experience. To ensure there is equity in the assessment process, the composition of assessment committees exceeds 50% representation of priority groups. For this round, eight members formed four committees and applied artistic and administrative expertise from visual and media arts, theatre, dance, music, literary, and festival organizations, representing all artistic disciplines, and providing racialized and LGBTQ2+ lenses. The members are as follows:

Parmela Attariwala	Aryo Khakpour	Nya Lewis	Victor Tran
Amber Barton	Lisa Cay Miller	Christine Quintana	Brandon Yan

Staff would like to thank these individuals for their time, generosity, and thoughtful comments that formed the expert recommendations in this report, as well as feedback for future considerations (captured in Appendix B). More information on Peer Assessment for Arts and Cultural Grants and Awards can be found here: <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/grant-application-and-assessment-process.aspx>

### *Assessment Criteria*

The committee reviewed applications and made recommendations based on the following criteria:

- Artistic Purpose (clearly defined and responds to current needs in the arts and culture community, clear commitments to equity in the mission, vision, and values)
- Artistic Contributors and Programs (artists have appropriate experience, knowledge, and permission and are provided meaningful opportunities to develop their practice, respectful practices are in place when working with Indigenous artists, the work advances a particular practice, there is access for diverse community participation)
- Participation, Access and Impact (audiences and participants reflect the diversity of the city, accessibility plans and practices are in place, there is demand for the programs)

- Leadership and Administration (leaders bring appropriate experience and knowledge to advance the mission and work, healthy workplace practices are in place, appropriate human resources are in place, equity policies and plans are being integrated into practice, the board is advancing the mission and work)
- Financial Management (healthy position with diversified revenues, realistic and balanced budget projections, demonstrated need for public sector assistance)

### *Summary of Recommendations*

The following is a summary of the assessment committee recommendations:

- 68 applications were reviewed for a total request of \$6,665,255 with a budget of \$5,913,805.
- Demand for funding outweighed available resources by \$751,450 with \$20,000 in additional funding for this year.
- 18 groups are recommended for an increase, 10 groups are recommended for a decrease, and 40 groups are recommended for a grant at the same level as 2023.
- There are larger investments to fewer groups (rather than smaller amounts to more) for greater benefits to artists and the community.
- There are increases that are timely to support a pivotal development moment.
- There are larger shifts of funds from groups where the core purpose is outside of the program goals and the City's priorities for arts and culture, to groups who are advancing these goals and priorities well.
- There are shifts in funds from groups who have benefited from civic cultural funding for many years and are not responding to evolving needs of the cultural community, to less established groups who are.
- Many organizations are deserving of increases; with finite resources, recommendations for reduced grants are necessary to make room to increase grants to other groups who are advancing program goals well.
- The recommendations and shift in funds ensure that the City's limited resources are directed to organizations who have been assessed as having the greatest impact in the community. This is common with each annual assessment process.

### *Comments and Reconsideration*

Staff conduct pre-reviews of all applications to check for completion. This process includes a review of the financial statements and data, programming, signed agreements by authorized personnel, and so forth. If anything is missing or is not clear, staff will request the information prior to it going to the assessment committee. Staff make themselves available to applicants to answer questions of the committee's recommendation when they are notified of the recommendation. In some cases, applicants may wish to contest the recommendation and there is a process for groups who meet specific eligibility to request reconsideration (where either the financial situation at the grant submission deadline or eligibility status was misunderstood by the peer assessment committee). For eligible formal requests, the recommendation is withdrawn from the report to Council and is reviewed by the Deputy General Manager Arts, Culture, and Tourism who makes a final recommendation and submission to City Council for their

consideration at a later date. Specific details on the Request for Reconsideration policy and process: <http://vancouver.ca/people-programs/request-for-reconsideration>.

Recommendations are listed in Appendix A.

Grant metrics are presented in Appendix B.

Rationale for Recommendations and Assessment Committee feedback details are captured in Appendix C.

## **Recommendation C: Cultural Learning and Sharing**

### *Program Description and Goals*

This program provides up to \$20,000 to non-profit arts and cultural organizations to access or deliver learning opportunities that will build and strengthen skills, knowledge, relationships, and experience to enhance organizational, sectoral or individual arts and leadership practices. The program prioritizes artists and cultural leaders who identify as Indigenous, Black or of African descent, People of Colour, Deaf/deaf, Hard of Hearing, living with a disability/disabled people, LGBTQ2+ and gender diverse or artist and cultural organizations and leaders that wish to build better pathways to becoming more equitable.

### *Criteria*

- The opportunity is led by individuals who have the relevant lived experience, permission, skills, knowledge and expertise to deliver the material
- The opportunity is timely with a strong need for support
- The opportunity will greatly benefit the individual, organization, or broader cultural sector
- The opportunity strongly aligns with *Culture|Shift* actions and guiding principles
- The opportunity offers meaningful opportunities to underrepresented artists, cultural leaders, or advances equity in the sector
- The proposed budget and project plan is feasible

Program Information: <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/learning-and-sharing-grant-program.aspx>

The organizations in this report were submitted for review at the first cut-off date for CLS on February 28, 2024. Additional grants will be reviewed and recommended in a forthcoming reports following the next CLS submissions cut-off date on April 3, 2024.

### *Summary of Recommendations*

- 7 of 15 applications are recommended for funding; the requests are \$262,810 and recommended grants are \$99,500.
- 1 recommendation will support an eight-month economic redress and consultation process between Tsleil-Waututh Nation and a cohort of music organizations that are working to develop educational materials.

- 3 recommendations will help to further the artistic practice of three groups of equity-deserving artists: emerging Black filmmakers, curators of Latin-American descent, and dance artists who live with disabilities.
- 2 recommendations will support the skill development of cultural workers to create safe spaces for artists, themselves, participants, and audiences in vulnerable communities.
- 1 recommendation will position one of the City's first equity-mandated/equity-led dance organizations to undertake a healthy and successful leadership transition.

Recommendations are listed in Appendix A.

### Financial Implications

The source of funding for these recommendations are the 2024 Cultural Grants Operating Budget as summarized in Table 1.

*Table 1 – 2024 Cultural Grants Budget (Operating)*

Rec	Program Grants Stream	2023 Budget	Previously Approved	Rec. in this Report	Balance
	Projects (CASC)	\$1,020,000	\$500,000		\$520,000
C	Cultural Learning/Sharing	\$200,420		\$99,500	\$100,920
A	Operating – Institutions	\$3,842,080	\$970,020	\$2,872,060	\$0
B	Operating – Annual	\$2,071,725	\$798,490	\$1,273,235	\$0
	Operating – Multiyear (cohort 1)	\$1,670,700	\$1,670,700		\$0
	Operating – Multiyear (cohort 2)	\$1,082,200	\$1,082,200		\$0
	Theatre Rental	\$2,953,731	\$1,830,195		\$1,123,536
	Individual Artists Fund	\$60,000			\$60,000
	Indigenous	\$280,000			\$280,000
	Equity & Accessibility	\$340,264			\$340,264
	Affordable Spaces	\$314,116			\$314,116
	Destination/Special Events Fund (NEW)	\$150,000			\$150,000
	<b>Total Operating Grants</b>	<b>\$13,985,236</b>	<b>\$6,851,605</b>	<b>\$4,244,795</b>	<b>\$2,888,836</b>

An increase was approved by Council for the 2024 Cultural Grants budget and these additional resources are being set aside to advance Council priorities for the 2024 Cultural Grants Framework. This includes \$150,000 for the development of a new Special Events and Destination Fund, and \$58,000 to offset rental rate increases for Theatre Rental Grants program. The remaining balance is spread across several priority programs including Affordable Spaces (\$6,000), Projects/CASC (\$20,000), Equity and Accessibility (\$24,000), and Operating – Institutions and Annual (\$20,000).

### Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with the report's recommendations.

**APPENDIX A**  
**GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS**

<b>A Cultural Operating - Institutions Grant (COFI)</b>					
	<b>Major Institutions</b>	<b>2024 Grant Request</b>	<b>2024 Q1 Approved</b>	<b>2024 Q2-4 Recomm</b>	<b>2024 Grant Recomm</b>
1	A.S.T.C. Science World Society	150,000	26,250	68,250	94,500
2	H.R. MacMillan Space Centre Society	494,400	123,600	343,300	466,900
3	The Vancouver Art Gallery Association	2,122,680	530,670	1,592,010	2,122,680
4	The Vancouver Maritime Museum Society	400,000	100,000	300,000	400,000
5	Vancouver Museum Society	758,000	189,500	568,500	758,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,925,080</b>	<b>970,020</b>	<b>2,872,060</b>	<b>3,842,080</b>

<b>B Cultural Operating - Annual Grant (COFA)</b>					
	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>2024 Grant Request</b>	<b>2024 Q1 Approved</b>	<b>2024 Q2 Recomm</b>	<b>2024 Grant Recomm</b>
1	221A Artist Run Centre Society	100,000	13,000	37,000	50,000
2	Axis Theatre Society	50,000	13,000	19,500	32,500
3	Bard on the Beach Theatre Society	100,000	24,000	36,000	60,000
4	Boca Del Lupo Theatre	42,000	16,800	25,200	42,000
5	British Columbia Alliance for Arts and Culture Society	45,000	16,400	24,600	41,000
6	Carousel Theatre Society	40,000	12,800	19,200	32,000
7	City Opera of Vancouver Society	20,000	6,000	9,000	15,000
8	Craft Council of British Columbia	25,000	5,400	6,750	12,150
9	Eastside Arts Society	30,000	5,200	7,800	13,000
10	EDAM Performing Arts Society	25,000	10,000	15,000	25,000
11	Electric Company Theatre Society	35,000	14,000	21,000	35,000
12	Fight With a Stick Hybrid Performance Society	11,000	4,400	6,600	11,000
13	Hard Rubber New Music Society	15,000	6,000	9,000	15,000
14	Joe Ink Performance Society	15,000	4,320	7,480	11,800
15	Karen Jamieson Dance Society	17,000	6,000	10,000	16,000
16	Kidd Pivot Performing Arts Society	28,980	10,080	15,120	25,200
17	Live Biennial of Performance Art Society	20,000	7,200	10,800	18,000
18	Malaspina Printmakers Society	50,000	10,000	27,500	37,500
19	Movement Enterprises Society dba Small Stage*	15,000	4,410	5,515	9,925
20	Music in the Morning Concert Society	20,000	6,840	9,260	16,100
21	New Forms Media Society	10,000	4,000	6,000	10,000



<b>B Cultural Operating - Annual Grant (COFA)</b>					
	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>2024 Grant Request</b>	<b>2024 Q1 Approved</b>	<b>2024 Q2 Recomm</b>	<b>2024 Grant Recomm</b>
22	New Performance Works Society	30,000	8,000	12,000	20,000
23	Pacific Ballet British Columbia Society	175,000	40,000	60,000	100,000
24	Projectile Publishing Society dba Fillip	20,000	5,200	6,500	11,700
25	PuSH International Performing Arts Festival Society	100,000	32,000	48,000	80,000
26	Radix Theatre Society	10,000	3,000	7,000	10,000
27	Realwheels Society	30,000	10,000	20,000	30,000
28	Redshift Music Society	15,300	6,120	9,180	15,300
29	Reel to Real: A Celebration of Moving Images For Youth Society	20,000	7,200	12,800	20,000
30	Secret Lantern Society	35,000	5,280	9,920	15,200
31	Seismic Shift Arts Society dba DanceHouse Productions	24,150	8,400	12,600	21,000
32	Snichim Foundation Society*	17,500	7,000	10,500	17,500
33	Still Moon Arts Society	25,000	6,000	14,000	20,000
34	Sub-Terrain Literary Collective Society	12,000	4,320	5,480	9,800
35	The Arts Club of Vancouver Theatre Society	200,000	60,800	83,700	144,500
36	The Art Starts in Schools Society	52,775	11,400	17,100	28,500
37	The Chop Theatre Society	16,000	4,800	9,200	14,000
38	The Coastal Jazz and Blues Society	92,000	36,800	55,200	92,000
39	The Dancing on the Edge Festival Society*	25,000	10,000	15,000	25,000
40	The Firehall Theatre Society	80,000	30,000	45,000	75,000
41	The Geist Foundation*	15,000	5,400	8,100	13,500
42	The Green Thumb Players Society	75,000	24,000	36,000	60,000
43	The Mascall Dance Society	25,000	6,000	9,000	15,000
44	The Only Animal Theatre Society	17,100	5,700	11,300	17,000
45	The Or Gallery Society*	40,000	13,600	23,400	37,000
46	The Vancouver Book and Magazine Fair dba as WORD Vancouver Festival	30,000	6,000	12,000	18,000
47	The Vancouver Cantata Society	25,000	6,600	8,700	15,300
48	The Vancouver Folk Music Festival Society	100,000	24,000	36,000	60,000
49	Theatre Replacement Society	45,000	12,000	28,000	40,000
50	Touchstone Theatre Society	40,000	12,600	18,900	31,500
51	UNIT/PITT: Society for Art and Critical Awareness	40,000	6,800	23,200	30,000
52	Vancouver Access Artist Run Centre dba Access Gallery	30,000	9,400	14,100	23,500
53	Vancouver Chamber Choir	25,000	8,000	12,000	20,000

<b>B Cultural Operating - Annual Grant (COFA)</b>					
	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>2024 Grant Request</b>	<b>2024 Q1 Approved</b>	<b>2024 Q2 Recomm</b>	<b>2024 Grant Recomm</b>
54	Vancouver Choral Arts Society	40,000	9,400	18,100	27,500
55	Vancouver Fringe Theatre Society	75,000	16,000	24,000	40,000
56	Vancouver Independent Music Centre Society	20,000	6,800	10,200	17,000
57	Vancouver Jewish Film Centre Society	9,000	3,600	5,400	9,000
58	Vancouver New Music Society	33,120	11,520	20,030	31,550
59	Vancouver Opera Association	100,000	22,000	33,000	55,000
60	Vancouver Society for Early Music	52,250	20,900	31,350	52,250
61	Vancouver Symphony Society	60,000	24,000	34,000	58,000
62	Vancouver West Side Theatre	40,000	12,000	20,950	32,950
63	VDC Dance Centre Society	110,000	36,000	54,000	90,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,740,175</b>	<b>798,490</b>	<b>1,273,235</b>	<b>2,071,725</b>

*\*Denotes conditions on grant*

<b>C Cultural Learning and Sharing (CLS)</b>				
	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>2024 Project Title</b>	<b>2024 Grant Request</b>	<b>2024 Grant Recomm</b>
1	All Bodies Dance Society	DancingWITH Teacher Exchange	20,000	10,000
2	Artemis Musicians' Society	Tsleil-Waututh Nation Economic Redress and Consultation Process	15,600	15,000
3	Blackout Art Society	STAND OUT	20,000	0
4	Compaigni V'ni Dansi Society	Louis Riel Métis dance training - 2024/25 Season	10,000	0
5	Foolish Operations Society	Creating a multi-site accessibility assessment tool	16,710	0
6	Kokoro Dance Theatre Society	Kokoro Dance Theatre Society Elder Executive Transition to Artistic Director	20,000	17,500
7	Malaspina Printmakers Society	Embedding Equitable Learning Opportunities: Post-Equity-Audit Indicators	20,000	0
8	Newworld Theatre Society	A mutually beneficial residency at Newworld Theatre for Joy Russell	8,500	0
9	Powell Street Festival Society	Cultural Workers Training	20,000	16,000
10	Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre	Springboard professional development series for BIPOC arts professionals	20,000	0
11	The Vancouver Fringe Theatre Society	Vancouver Fringe Accessibility Review	12,000	0

<b>C Cultural Learning and Sharing (CLS)</b>				
	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>2024 Project Title</b>	<b>2024 Grant Request</b>	<b>2024 Grant Recomm</b>
12	Vancouver Black Film Festival Society*	Being Black In Vancouver Black Filmmaker Incubation Program	20,000	10000
13	Vancouver Latin American Film Festival	Mentorship Program for Emerging Latin/e/x Film Programmers at VLAFF	20,000	16,000
14	Vines Art Festival Society	Supporting Community in Altered States	20,000	15,000
15	Wongs' Benevolent Association	Mon Keang Saturday School in Vancouver Chinatown	20,000	0
	<b>Total</b>		<b>262,810</b>	<b>99,500</b>

\*Denotes conditions on grant

**APPENDIX B**  
**GRANT METRICS AND IMPACTS**

**Key Metrics for this Report: Requests vs Recommended**

<b>Cultural Operating Funding</b>	<b>Requested #</b>	<b>Recomm. \$</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Requested \$</b>	<b>Recomm. \$</b>	<b>%</b>
Institutions (COFI)	5	5	100	\$3,925,080	\$3,852,080	98
Annual (COFA)	63	63	100	\$2,740,175	\$2,071,725	76
Cultural Learning and Sharing (CLS)	15	7	47	\$135,600	\$99,500	73
<b>Totals</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>\$6,800,855</b>	<b>\$6,023,305</b>	<b>89</b>

**Key Metrics to Date: Requests vs Recommended**

<b>Grant Program</b>	<b>Requested #</b>	<b>Requested \$</b>	<b>Recomm. #</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Requested \$ (for recomm.)</b>	<b>Recomm. \$</b>	<b>%</b>
CASC 1 <sup>st</sup> intake	107	\$1,375,039	63	59	\$824,321	\$500,000	61
Cultural Operating Funding – Institutions (COFI)	5	\$3,925,080	5	100	\$3,925,080	\$3,852,080	98
Cultural Operating Funding - Annual (COFA)	63	\$2,740,175	63	100	\$2,740,175	\$2,071,725	76
Cultural Operating Funding – Multiyear (COFM) 2 <sup>nd</sup> cohort	26	\$1,082,200	26	100	\$1,082,200	\$1,082,200	100
Cultural Operating Funding – Multiyear (COFM) 1 <sup>st</sup> cohort	55	\$1,670,700	55	100	\$1,670,700	\$1,670,700	100
Cultural Learning and Sharing (CLS) 1 <sup>st</sup> cohort	15	\$262,810	7	47	\$135,600	\$99,500	73
<b>Totals</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>\$11,056,004</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>\$10,378,076</b>	<b>\$9,276,205</b>	<b>89</b>

**Key Impacts for Cultural Operating Groups –2019 to 2022**

<b>Key Metric</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Total Number of Public Activities	27,540	20,592	19,493	22,777
Total Attendance/ Participants	7,507,255	3,872,885	2,072,310	3,069,659

Total Number of Artists	13,001	9,899	9,267	12,444
Total Full-Time Equivalent Staff	1,237	1,137	845	1,216
Total Number of Volunteers	16,268	10,084	7,249	11,775

*\*CADAC statistical data for core operating grantees*

The investment in core operating funds generate significant impacts in the city. This table captures pre- and post-pandemic levels of activity noting that the entire ecology is still in recovery mode. The level of activity has not returned to 2019 levels with the most significant change occurring with attendance, volunteers, and number of public activities.

## APPENDIX B

### RATIONALE FOR RANKING AS PER ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Characteristics of groups that meet the criteria to a high degree:

- They have a clear purpose that responds to needs in the cultural community and have explicit statements and actions to advance equity.
- They are creating high quality work demonstrated through consistent demand, positive feedback from artists and people who participate in the programs/services.
- They are providing secure employment for artists and workers especially those who may experience barriers and are able to ensure safe working conditions.
- They are providing access to a diverse public through efforts to address physical, cognitive, cultural, and financial barriers.
- They have leadership that brings strong skills and expertise to the organization, while also being recognized as leaders in supporting the interests of the broader arts sector.
- There is good financial management in place and a demonstrated need for funding.

Characteristics of groups that meet the criteria to a low degree:

- The purpose is not clear, and the work is not responding to evolving needs in the cultural community, and there is little action to advance equity.
- The quality of work is not evident, through a decline in demand, little to no feedback from program participants, limited information provided on programs and services or who and how program decisions are being made.
- There are few opportunities for artist involvement and little to no fees paid or lack of clarity around fees and salaries; artists may not be centred or core to the programs.
- There is difficulty in attracting and retaining experienced staff, high turn-over in staff and board, limited evidence of healthy workplace practices.
- There is evidence of poor financial management as demonstrated through lack of clarity in financial reporting, deficit trends, patterns of un-met or unrealistic budget projections.
- There is not as much financial need demonstrated, through access to high unrestricted reserves, greater capacity to generate revenues and secure donations/sponsorship, access to other ongoing revenue streams, the grant level is no longer in alignment with level of activity and impact.

### ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

Each time staff meet with members of the cultural community it is an opportunity to gain valuable feedback on trends and opportunities in the sector and on the City's programs and processes. Overall, committee members valued the process and felt trust with staff and safe in bringing their opinions forward. They also appreciated being able to connect with their peers in and learn share information on their practices. The following are some key points that were discussed over the course of the meetings:

- Some organizations are rebounding from the pandemic while others are still recovering.

- Most groups are feeling the impact of significant increases in costs of producing, presenting, paying living wages, paying unaffordable rent, experiencing lower admission revenues to due audience hesitation. They are also seeing reductions in corporate support, the end of public sector recovery funding, and public sector funding remaining stable at best.
- There have been significant impacts on touring/presenting, and artist mobility. Touring costs have soared so demand for touring dollars is high, impacting the budgets of grantees who rely on this major revenue source.
- The future (financially) is unclear making it harder to forecast and budget as per past trends and practices.
- Arts funders are experiencing a high demand because of the economic conditions but funding resources are not increasing as many funders recover from the pandemic and shift to more conservative spending.
- With the loss of corporate support in the sector there is a reflection on the collective role for funders to play in amplifying the importance of investing in the sector.
- Levels of activity are being scaled back as the only immediate option available to balance budgets (e.g., some Artist-run centres reduced exhibitions per year, major theatre companies cancelling a mainstage production, some festivals reducing their activity by a third). This is impacting the livelihood of artists and provides less opportunities for audiences.
- There is a need to invest in local events and their potential so that the City can support building and programming for local audiences and create/sustain local signature events that consistently contribute to the cultural and economic vitality of the City.
- There are notable shifts in timing of events due to climate change (warmer months), changes with national partnering events, other events happening at the same time.
- Some established societies need to look at their present-day role and impact and reflect on questions around why they need to continue to exist. If the purpose is not evolving with the needs of the cultural community, resources should be directed to those who are.
- BIPOC artists are stepping up and into leadership roles but without the resources shifting to support them in ways that they need to be despite funders stating these are their goals.
- There is a higher risk of losing artists who have immigrated here or who are trying to make Vancouver their home. They lack strong networks, family connections, and generational wealth to support them.
- Artists cannot sustain themselves in Vancouver's economy. Vancouver is losing and at risk of losing many artists and leaders, especially racialized artists and leaders, who cannot sustain themselves, don't see viable opportunities for them in here, or find it isolating on the west coast.
- The City is in year five of C|S and some feel the 'shift' isn't happening fast enough. Consider ways to shift resources more quickly. The City has asked for equity plans and practices but what is the next step to ensure the funded landscape looks more equitable.
- There is a high demand for artists wanting access to studios and residencies –a space to work and create more so than presentation opportunities. There is a need for more access to these types of spaces and time to create (a creation fund such as the National Arts Centre was considered a good suggestion).

- There is a need to relax regulations so that more activity can take place outside traditional spaces that are difficult to access (unaffordable, unavailable) so that more experimental performances can take place and be more accessible to the general public.
- NPOs are not a natural way for artists to organize so more consideration needs to be taken to support ad hoc collectives or individuals to create rather than operate a structure that is outside their expertise. Vancouver is a DIY type of city and that should be noted when wanting to invest in the breadth of activity taking place in the city.
- It is critical to be thinking of supporting new and non-traditional hubs where artists can explore/think/work with others - these types of spaces and labs are happening outside of major institutions and outside of traditional venues.
- There is a trend for larger institutions to hire from outside of Canada where leaders may be less inclined to develop relationships with local and defer to their networks outside of the region.
- As a local funder, should there be requirements for funded groups to hire local talent to increase opportunities and economic conditions for Vancouver artists?
- There is a need to support the sector in changing the culture of low pay and volunteerism and adhering to minimum standards and to be transparent about it. Consider collecting a breakdown of fees and salaries in coordinated way and share this information back with the sector.
- Younger audience participation patterns are shifting the way work is being consumed; there is an abundance of free content, access to so much content, last minute attendees due to an abundance of activities, a desire for shorter lengths of work, marketing through social media (TikTok, Instagram), the need to experience art in different ways and in safe spaces.
- There is a perception that Vancouver does not have the same commitment to artists and the arts. There is a lack of investment in local talent, lack of pride in what is here, a discomfort in being creative and lack of value placed on the arts as compared to other cities such as Montreal.
- Investing in building relationships with artists and partners is critical to genuine collaboration. Some groups may be doing damage by not creating good conditions to engage Indigenous artists in ways that invite them to co-create, rather than extract their input. Reconsider questions and support for groups engaging artists they may not be in relationship with.
- To get a better sense of who an organization is and their contribution to the sector consider asking “what are the guiding principles for programming at your organization?”
- To get a better sense of how groups are contributing to a more equitable community, consider asking “what structures and systems are you currently divesting from to be more equitable?”
- It is anticipated that there could be a turn-over of senior leadership soon and it is not clear what the plans or pathways for the next generation of leaders are.
- Consider accessing data that is not coming from the organization itself to ensure objectivity (artist surveys for example).
- Groups may have strong equity statements, but actions are not operationalized.



- How can Vancouver establish performing arts spaces as ‘third’ spaces – places where people want to gather to socialize and connect but not necessarily to attend the performances or exhibitions.
- Arts schools are training far more artists than Vancouver has placements or opportunities for (this was evident in Dance and Visual Arts).