

NOTES OF THE SPECIAL GRANT MEETING OF THE CULTURAL COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX CONFERENCE ROOM
ON THURSDAY, 2008-DEC-11 COMMENCING AT 4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioner S. Lance, Chair

Members:

Commissioner L. Fraser
Commissioner L. Avis
Ms. E. O'Rourke
Ms. M. Pettitt
Ms. J. Husband
Ms. J. McGladrey
Mr. M. Harmes

Staff:	B. Kuhn	H. Richardson (Recording)
	S. Samborski	

ABSENT: Commissioner D. Johnstone

1. CALL THE SPECIAL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Grant Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

3. STAFF REPORTS:

(a) Cultural Operating Grants. 20 Cultural Operating Grant applications were reviewed by Staff. This resulted in 11 organizations being invited for an interview by the Cultural Committee. Three of the 11 Cultural Operating Grant applicants were interviewed at today's meeting:

(i) Vancouver Island Symphony ("VIS"). VIS is applying for \$60,000 in operating funds. 2008 was a 'watershed year' for the VIS as their Artistic Director resigned, and their President passed away. There was a very substantial cost in finding a new Artistic Director. 410 seasons tickets have been sold for 2009, up from 340 in 2008. Concert tickets are selling very well. The VIS would like to hold a piano festival in 2009, which would feature one or two pianists and a soloist. The VIS budget is conservative for 2009 and relies on 70% attendance. Two concerts have already sold out.

(ii) Western Edge Theatre Society. In 2008 Western Edge voted to dissolve because there was no venue for their plays, however, 25

Victoria Road opened and Western Edge did not disband. They have not performed at the Victoria Road location but have been using the Caprice Theatre. Mr. Frank Moher, the Artistic Director, has been paid \$2,500 which was owed to him for loans. The Board has increased from five to eight members. The Committee reminded Mr. Moher that according to Article 5 of the BC Societies Act, he cannot be on the Board of Directors and be paid a salary. Mr. Moher will remove himself from the Board if need be. Any funding considered by the Cultural Committee will be contingent on Mr. Moher stepping down from the Board.

- (iii) Vancouver Island Arts Festival Society (Children's Festival). It is anticipated that 2,000 children will attend the Children's Festival, which will be restructured in 2009 and will only be held in Nanaimo. Penticton and Vancouver are partnering with Nanaimo to assist with the Festival. An Executive Director is being sought. Local artists will be utilized for the two-day event and the Port Theatre has been booked as the mainstage. Accountants are working on the financial statements for the VI Arts Festival Society, which will be ready in the New Year. The Board will consist of five members, with the hope of one member being a chartered accountant.

Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission not approve Cultural Operating Grant funding for the Pacific Coast Stage Company because it was felt that their plans were too ambitious and that their budget was unrealistic. The Recommendation carried unanimously.

Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that TheatreOne receive three-year Cultural Operating Grant funding beginning in 2009 in the amount \$28,000. Funding for 2010 and 2011 will be subject to change after an annual review of 2009 and 2010 financial statements.

Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve Cultural Operating Grant funding for the Vancouver Island Arts Festival Society (Children's Festival) in the amount of \$8,500 pending receipt of 2008 Financial Statements and Form 11 by 2009-JAN-30.

Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve Cultural Operating Grant funding for Western Edge Theatre Society in the amount of \$4,500 pending receipt of 2008 Financial Statements and Form 11 showing that Mr. Frank Moher has been removed as a member of the Board of Directors, by 2009-JAN-30.

Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend the following Cultural Operating Grants to Council:

	2006 Approved	2007 Approved	2008 Approved	2009 Requested	2009 Recommended
Arts Alive	1,200	1,300	1,400	2,000	1,600
Arts Council	8,500	8,750	8,350	15,000	9,700
BelCanto Singers	500	500	500	1,000	600
Blues Festival Society	5,000	7,250	8,050	14,000	8,700
BC Drama Association / Theatre BC	n/a	n/a	n/a	12,500	5,500
Centre for the Arts	5,000	4,300	4,800	7,500	5,500
Chamber Orchestra	2,000	2,400	2,300	8,000	2,400
Children's Festival	11,000	11,200	11,200	12,000	8,500
Crimson Coast Dance	14,000	14,000	14,000	18,000	14,400
Francophone Association	7,000	7,200	7,000	7,000	6,000
Malaspina Choir	n/a	2,200	2,350	3,500	2,600
Nanaimo Blues Underground Society	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,000	200
Pacific Coast Stage Company	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,000	0
Pacific Institute of Bagpiping	n/a	n/a	1,250	3,000	1,400
Snuneymuxw First Nation	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,632	400
TheatreOne	37,500	33,000	33,600	33,300	28,000
Tidesmen Barbershop Chorus	750	650	750	2,000	800
Tozan	-	5,300	6,150	13,550	9,000
VI Symphony	57,000	57,200	57,200	60,000	59,300
Western Edge Theatre	1,000	2,250	n/a	14,500	4,500
				\$224,482	\$169,100

2009 Cultural Operating Grant Funds Available: \$172,565
Grants Recommended: \$169,100
Total Operating Grant Funds Remaining: \$ 3,465

- (b) Arts and Cultural Events Grants. 13 Arts and Cultural Event Grant applications were reviewed by Staff at previous meetings, with the following recommendations being made:

Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission not approve Arts and Cultural Event Grant funding for the Aboriginal Students Council as it did not meet the funding criteria.

Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission not approve Arts and Cultural Event Grant funding for the African Heritage Society as the application was received after the deadline.

Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission not approve Arts and Cultural Event Grant funding for the Emerald Sea Cosmos as it did not meet the funding criteria.

Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission not approve Arts and Cultural Event Grant funding for the Morrell Sanctuary Society as it did not meet the funding criteria.

Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend the following Arts and Cultural Event Grants to Council:

	2006 Approved	2007 Approved	2008 Approved	2009 Requested	2009 Recommended
Aboriginal Students Council	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,000	0
African Heritage Society	0	700	0	3,500	0
BC Drama Association/TheatreBC	1,980	2,000	3,170	5,000	1,900
Crimson Coast Dance Fest	2,360	4,000	3,100	3,500	3,200
Emerald Sea Cosmos	n/a	n/a	n/a	12,000	0
Francophone Association	n/a	n/a	n/a	7,000	5,000
Friends of Nanaimo Jazz Society	0	2,600	2,530	5,000	3,500
Harbour City Jazz Society	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,500	1,600
Highland Dance Association	0	0	1,000	2,500	1,200
Morrell Sanctuary Society	0	0	0	400	0
Nanaimo Arts Council	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,500	2,000
Nanaimo Musicians Association	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,000	1,200
V.I. Symphony in the Harbour	6,600	6,700	6,200	6,700	6,400

Total 2009 Grants Requested: \$59,600 \$26,000

2009 Arts and Cultural Event Funds Available: \$26,010

Grants Recommended: \$26,000

Funds Remaining: \$ 10

It was moved and seconded that the Staff Reports be received. The motion carried unanimously.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 7:00 p.m. that the meeting adjourn, with the next Meeting of the Cultural Committee to be held on Wednesday, 2009-MAR-04, at 4:00 p.m. at Bowen Park.

The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



S. Lance, Chair
Cultural Committee



R. Harding, Director
Parks, Recreation and Culture