

NOTES OF THE SPECIAL GRANT MEETING OF THE CULTURAL COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX CONFERENCE ROOM
ON THURSDAY, 2008-DEC-04 COMMENCING AT 4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioner L. Fraser, Acting Chair

Members:

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

Staff:

B. Kuhn
S. Samborski

H. Richardson (Recording)

ABSENT: Commissioner S. Lance, Chair
Commissioner D. Johnstone

1. CALL THE GRANT 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, which resulted in 11 organizations being invited for an interview by the Cultural Committee. Six Cultural Operating Grant applicants were interviewed at today's meeting:

- (i) Nanaimo Arts Council. The Arts Council is requesting \$15,000. Their annual general meeting was held in September with eight new board members being elected. There are eight programs in progress, including seasonal gallery shows, bursary/achievement awards, literary arts, VI Short Film Festival, performing arts events and integrated arts, arts and culture workshops, Art in the Park and Arts-Based Community Development. A membership drive is being held and the Arts Council is working to establish a downtown presence. The Gallery is presently located at the Nanaimo North Town Centre Mall on a month-to-month basis, but would like to relocate downtown where there is more traffic.

- (ii) Nanaimo Blues Underground Society. The Blues Underground Society is requesting \$2,000. They are in the process of getting a society number. Although a Board of Directors has not yet been voted on, seven people have volunteered. The Cultural Committee stressed that when a Treasurer is appointed, the accounting will need to be beyond reproach. Acoustic and electric jams, private lessons, the Sidewalk All-stars Youth Group, and a youth jam on the last Friday night of every month are all held at this society's venue, located under the China Steps. Any profits the Blues Underground Society incurs are put into Sky High Productions, which is a company of Tom Dodge, who is the Director of the Blues Underground Society, which compensates Mr. Dodge for personal funds he has put into the Society.
- (iii) Pacific Coach Stage Company. \$2,000 has been requested. This organization was created to build a regional company in Nanaimo. The first board meeting was held Wednesday, 2008-DEC-18. Fundraising goals are extremely high. It was felt that their plans were too ambitious and that their budget was unrealistic. The initial year will be done frugally and within budget, and will be presented in a growing sequence, which will include an apprentice program, stage programs without décor, and a small-scale musical which singer/actress Joelle Rabu has committed to. A live performance theatre-in-the-round will set them apart from other theatre companies. They would like to hold their shows at Nanaimo Centre Stage.
- (iv) Snuneymeux First Nations (SFN). A request for funding of \$2,632 was submitted. This operating money would be used to put art and life into the community via garbage cans painted by the residents of the SFN community. This project was initiated by the South End Community Association and they have encouraged the SFN to participate. The SFN is considered a society under the Indian Act. They have received \$1,200 from the Snuneymeux First Nations towards the project. Some Committee members questioned whether this was an operating fund request, or whether it should be going to the Social Planning Committee.
- (v) TheatreOne. TheatreOne is asking for three-year funding, with \$36,000 being requested for 2009/2010. This group has a very strong Board, who would like their budget to run with a surplus to take care of any shortfalls. The budget includes a part-time Artistic Director. Some projects include Fringe Flicks, The Bite of Nanaimo Gourmet Food Fair, and a membership program which is designed to expand its support base, publicize TheatreOne offerings, and generate revenue. Plays will be directed by guest directors. 30% for ticket sales, and only five line items are yet to be met. Bingo funding of \$75,000 a year has been received. Canada Council and BC Arts Council applications for funding were not submitted by the previous Board.
- (vi) Tozan Cultural Society. This Society is asking for \$13,550 in funding. Great progress was made this year on the kiln. It is 95% complete with 40,000 bricks being laid in the summer. Some site work still remains to be done. Membership fees have been raised to \$100, and \$50 for associate memberships. Numerous firing requests have been received from out of the City. The first official firing will be the first week of March, 2009, with the opening on 2009-JUN-15. Fees for use of the kiln will be \$250, \$250 for a

supervisor, the cost of wood for burning, and a charge for each cubic foot of kiln space used. Operating funds were provided in 2008 for the move of the kiln.

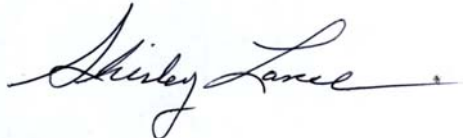
Allocation of the Cultural Operating Fund will take place when the interview process for all Cultural Grants is complete.

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

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 7:00 p.m. that the meeting terminate, with the next Special Meeting of the Cultural Committee to be held on Thursday, 2008-DEC-11, at 4:00 p.m. at Bowen Park.

The motion carried unanimously.



S. Lance, Chair
Cultural Committee

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



R. Harding, Director
Parks, Recreation and Culture