



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: October 7, 2008
Contact: Karen Hasselfelt
Contact No.: 604.871.6045
RTS No.: 07474
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: October 28, 2008

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Director, Cultural Services, Grants, Awards and Support Programs
SUBJECT: 2008 Diversity Initiatives Grants

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. THAT Council approve thirteen (13) Diversity Initiatives grants totaling \$105,100 as outlined in Table 1 of this report; source of funds to be the 2008 Cultural Grants budget;
- B. THAT Council approve Diversity Initiatives grants to the Playwrights Theatre Centre and the Vancouver Centre for Contemporary Asian Art (Centre A) as outlined in Table 2 of this report; source of funds to be the re-allocation of \$3,500 from the Celebration Grants category to the Diversity Initiatives Grants category of the 2008 Cultural Grants budget, and \$10,000 in returned 2007 Diversity Initiatives and Celebration grant funds.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services recommends APPROVAL of A and B.

COUNCIL POLICY

Council approved the establishment of the Diversity Initiatives grant program in 1998, following a review of the Cross Cultural Initiatives grant program which had been established by Council in 1990.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE

This report presents recommendations of an Assessment Committee, comprised of independent community members and Cultural Services staff for seventeen (17) Diversity Initiatives grant requests received in response to the September 8th deadline.

BACKGROUND

The Diversity Initiatives program supports artistic development in culturally diverse communities. The program includes grants for the following types of activities:

- Artistic Leadership Training – assists with the costs of experiential training (internships, mentorships or apprenticeships) for artists from distinct communities in the areas of curation, artistic direction and artistic production.
- Artistic Development Projects – for projects contributing to the artistic development of a professionally led arts group from one or more distinct communities. Projects must include new creation or interpretation. While organizations can receive up to three grants in this category, requests in the second or third year must include a long-term development plan.
- Cross-Cultural Artistic Projects – assist artistic collaborations between arts groups, at least one of which must be from a distinct community, and involving new creation or interpretation.
- Cross-Cultural Artistic Residencies – for artists from distinct communities, hosted by a not-for-profit society from a mainstream or other distinct community, and including a community outreach component.

Complete program guidelines are attached in **Appendix B**.

DISCUSSION

In past years, there were two annual grant deadlines for the program; the first in May and a second deadline in October. Given the availability of City staff who were also involved in a number of additional cultural planning initiatives this year, a decision was made to have one deadline for this program in 2008. The recommendations in this report are from this intake of seventeen (17) applications received in response to the September 8th deadline with requests totaling \$179,100.

The 2008 budget for the Diversity Initiatives grants program is \$105,100. Due to the cancellation of the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre's *Celebrating our Journeys* event that was to be funded through the 2008 Celebration grants category, \$3,500 in this category remains undisbursed. In addition, \$10,000 from two previously approved 2007 grants has been returned to the City for programs that did not take place (the remount of Screaming Weenie's production *The Wizard of Glam*, for which a Diversity Initiatives grant of \$6,000 had been awarded, and the Light Water Drums Festival, for which a Celebration grant of \$4,000 had

been awarded). Staff recommend the redisbursement of these returned 2007 funds, together with a reallocation of the \$3,500 in 2008 Celebration grant funds, to 2008 Diversity Initiatives projects. Subject to Council approval, the Assessment Committee recommends that these additional funds of \$13,500 be awarded to Playwrights Theatre Centre and the Vancouver Centre for Contemporary Asian Art (Centre A) as outlined in **Table 2** and **Appendix A**.

Eligibility of applicants and projects to the program, as well as a detailed evaluation of all requests, is undertaken by Cultural Services staff through telephone and face-to-face meetings. Each application is reviewed and recommendations are made based on a thorough analysis of the information submitted using clearly articulated evaluation criteria by an Assessment Committee. This Committee is comprised of City staff and independent community members of artists and arts professionals from various disciplines and distinct cultural backgrounds. The three independent community members for this application deadline were:

- **Vanessa Richards**, an artist and facilitator with a background in theatre, writing, performance, music and collaborations
- **Candice Hopkins**, an artist and the Director/Curator of Exhibitions at Western Front, who has worked for aboriginal organizations nationally and internationally; and
- **Geoff McMurchy**, an artist and the Artistic Director of Society for Disability Arts and Culture, which also produces the kicksART Festival.

Grant requests and recommendations of the Assessment Committee are listed in **Table 1**, and discussed in more detail in **Appendix A**.

Table 1
Recommendation A
2008 Diversity Initiatives Grants

Organ	Activity	Request	Recomm.
Buss Up Shut Productions (Urban Ink Productions)	Artistic Development Project	6,000	6,000
Dimasalang III Intl. Artist Group	Artistic Development Project	10,000	0
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Soc. of Van.	Artistic Development Project	11,000	8,500
exit.left productions	Artistic Development Project	4,000	4,000
Firehall Theatre Soc.	Artistic Leadership Training	10,000	10,000
Full Circle: First Nations Performance Soc.	Cross-Cultural Artistic Project	10,000	10,000
Iraqi Centre for Art and Culture Soc.	Artistic Development Project	6,000	6,000
Live Biennale of Performance Art Soc.	Artistic Leadership Training	7,200	7,200
Newworld Theatre Soc.	Artistic Leadership Training	10,000	10,000
Palme's Performing Soc.	Artistic Development Project	6,900	5,400
Playwrights Theatre Centre	Cross-Cultural Artistic Project	10,000	0

Touchstone Theatre Soc.	Artistic Leadership Training	8,000	8,000
Urban Crawl Performance Soc.	Cross-Cultural Artistic Project	10,000	10,000
Urban Ink Productions Soc.	Cross-Cultural Artistic Residency	15,000	10,000
Van. Asian Canadian Theatre	Artistic Development Project	10,000	10,000
Van. Centre for Contemporary Asian Art (Centre A)	Artistic Leadership Training	7,000	0
Van. Pan African Film and Arts Festival	Artistic Development Project	38,000	0
TOTAL		\$179,100	\$105,100

Table 2
Recommendation B
2008 Diversity Initiatives Grants

Organ	Activity	Recomm.
Playwrights Theatre Centre	Cross-Cultural Artistic Project	7,500
Van. Centre for Contemporary Asian Art (Centre A)	Artistic Leadership Training	6,000
TOTAL		\$13,500

Staff note that Cultural Services is currently in the midst of implementing changes to the Cultural Grant programs, including the Diversity Initiatives program, as approved by Council in June 2008 (RTS# 07236). It is anticipated that a more streamlined program structure which aligns with the City's Culture Plan values and strategic directions will incorporate principles of diversity and replace the current Diversity Initiatives program. The Assessment Committee's comments regarding access are an important consideration in the development of the new structure, and the Committee members have been invited to participate in planned future workshops to discuss ideas around diversity and considerations when developing the framework for these new programs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council approved a budget of \$105,100 for the Diversity Initiatives category of the 2008 Cultural Grants budget. Subject to Council approval, additional funds of \$13,500 are available for disbursement due to the cancellation of an event that was to be funded through the 2008 Celebration grants category, and the return of funds from two 2007 grants for programs that did not take place.

Recommendations made in this report will leave no unallocated funds in the 2008 Diversity Initiatives grants category, as this is the only intake for Diversity Initiatives applications for 2008.

CONCLUSION

The Assessment Committee noted the number of worthy projects and diverse communities represented in this round of applications. The investment by Council and approval of increases to the Diversity Initiatives budget over the last three years has enabled the Committee to recommend support to fifteen (15) projects of the seventeen (17) requests received, and includes several new organizations that are first-time applicants to the City.

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2008 DIVERSITY INITIATIVES GRANTS

RECOMMENDED

Buss Up Shut Productions (under the auspices of Urban Ink)

An Artistic Development Project grant of \$6,000 is recommended to support the first phase development of an innovative new work by Chinese/Guyanese-Canadian theatre artist Tricia Collins entitled *The Douglas Chronicles*. The play will examine the life of Sir James Douglas highlighting his African-Caribbean heritage and relationship with First Nations, Métis and African-American peoples in the early stages of the development of British Columbia. The Assessment Committee regarded the project as an important milestone for Ms. Collins in her development as a playwright and noted the benefit that the Diversity Initiatives program provided to the development of her recently produced play and tour of *Gravity*.

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society

An Artistic Development Project grant of \$8,500 is recommended in support of a day-long event of cross-cultural performances featuring music and stories developed by Silk Road on the theme of *The Great Race*, a Chinese folk tale about how animals were selected for the twelve signs of the zodiac. Through storytelling, original music, dance and costumes, this celebration is scheduled to take place in the Garden prior to and immediately following the Chinese New Year Parade in February 2009. The creation of these stories will be a 'teaser' for the full performance of *The Great Race* planned in February 2010. The Assessment Committee noted the project's appropriateness to the organization's mandate and venue, as well as the Garden's efforts to align the project with the New Year's Parade and Cultural Olympiad leading up to the 2010 Winter Games.

exit.left productions

An Artistic Development Project grant of \$4,000 is recommended to support the development of *sistershow* into a full-length production. Originally a ten-minute work, this autobiographical show will be expanded into a 60-minute production that explores the dynamics between two sisters, one with cerebral palsy. Funding will allow the hiring of a facilitator to assist the disabled sister in writing her side of the story, enabling her to give voice to her experiences, develop as a writer, and collaborate fully in the development of the work. The Assessment Committee noted the clearly articulated objectives of this emerging society's proposal and the means by which both sisters can expand their artistic expression and practice through this collaboration.

Firehall Theatre

An Artistic Leadership Training grant of \$10,000 is recommended to support a ten-month mentorship for actor Parnelli Parnes starting in November 2008. The mentorship will be led by Donna Spencer, Artistic Director of the Firehall Arts Centre in collaboration with other Firehall staff. This opportunity to provide artistic leadership training will contribute to developing the expertise of artistic directors from distinct communities and expanding representation from distinct communities in the profession. The Assessment Committee noted the appropriateness of the Firehall's mandate to lead this training, the readiness of the mentee, and the balanced approach between the artistic and administrative responsibilities of this mentorship.

Full Circle: First Nations Performance Society

A Cross-Cultural Artistic Project grant of \$10,000 is recommended to support this unique collaboration between Full Circle and Mortal Coil to develop a project that tells the *Creation Story of the Two Sisters*, a story about the mountains known as "The Lions". It is anticipated that some of the artists will be graduates of Full Circle's Ensemble Training Program and that the story will reflect traditional aboriginal stories from a contemporary perspective. The Assessment Committee noted the integrity of this organization's previous community-based projects, the importance of having this story told and the respectful engagement of aboriginal and non-aboriginal artists to tell this story.

Iraqi Centre for Arts and Culture

An Artistic Development Project grant of \$6,000 is recommended to support the development and public presentation of a theatre/dance work entitled *The Luggage* which will be produced at the Roundhouse Performance Centre in June 2009. Iraqi-Canadian director Majad Darandash will lead actors and dancers in the development of a full-length dance/theatre work which will explore travel, migration and the associated issues which resonate with multicultural communities. The Assessment Committee noted that the project could help build recognition for the newly-formed society and encouraged further organizational capacity building by the group.

LIVE Biennale of Performance Art Society

An Artistic Leadership Training grant of \$7,200 is recommended in support of a four-month internship for Ikbal Singh starting in July 2009 for the 2009 LIVE Biennale. A recent graduate of the Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design, Ms. Singh curated a show of new performance art by Emily Carr students and *Public Displays of Affection* for LIVE 2007. This internship with Executive Director Randy Gledhill will provide training in organizing and producing a contemporary arts festival, as well as an opportunity to develop programming featuring emerging artists from distinct communities. The Assessment Committee noted the importance of this internationally-recognized arts festival and its mandate to engage communities of emerging and culturally diverse artists locally and internationally.

Newworld Theatre Society

An Artistic Leadership Training grant of \$10,000 is recommended for a seven-month internship from January to July 2009 to support Queer theatre artist and producer Seán Cummings, who seeks the artistic production skills to assist in his recent appointment as Artistic Director of Screaming Weenie Productions, a local theatre company dedicated to the production of queer and sex positive performance. Reporting to Newworld's Artistic Producing team of Adrienne Wong, Marcus Youssef, and Kirsty Munro, Mr. Cummings will receive training in the areas of producing, board development, fundraising, grant writing, marketing and general management. The Assessment Committee considered this internship to bring clear benefits to Mr. Cummings and to Newworld as the company actualizes its desire to invest in the emerging generation of theatre artists and producers.

Palme's Performing Society

An Artistic Development Project grant of \$5,400 is recommended to support the development and public presentation of a new theatrical work entitled *The Dead Souls* which will be produced, in Russian with simultaneous English translation, at the Russian Community Centre in November/December 2009. Ukrainian artists and studio co-directors Oleg Palme and Lilia Akhatchinskaia will adapt and explore concepts and characters from Nikolai Gogol's novel *The*

Dead Souls and lead Slavic youth, many of them first-generation immigrants, in the development of a full-length play. The Assessment Committee noted that the project could assist the organization in its desire to reach out more to a mainstream theatre community.

Playwrights Theatre Centre

A grant of \$7,500 is recommended for the script development and public workshop of *Bollywood Wedding*, a cross-cultural artistic project between Playwrights Theatre Centre and South Asian Arts Society. The development of *Bollywood Wedding* will bring together writer Raahki Sinha and dramaturg Camyar Chai to create a participatory, large-scale South Asian dance/musical. The Assessment Committee noted the project's multi-disciplinary nature and the support of appropriate professionals who can help to bring the ambitious work forward towards a full-scale production.

Touchstone Theatre

An Artistic Leadership Training grant of \$8,000 is recommended for a six-month internship from January to June 2009 to support Ismaili-Canadian theatre artist Almeera Jiwa, who seeks the artistic foundation to advance her career as a future leader in both the theatre and Ismaili communities. Reporting to Touchstone's Artistic Director, Katrina Dunn, Ms. Jiwa will receive training in the areas of programming, dramaturgically-based new play development, artistic administration, fundraising, and the creative and technical processes of the director. The Assessment Committee noted the clear objectives of the proposal and benefits to both Ms. Jiwa and Touchstone, during one of its busiest production seasons, through this internship.

Urban Crawl Performance Society

A grant of \$10,000 is recommended for the community outreach, rehearsal, production and dissemination of research findings of *Nanay: a Testimonial Play*, a cross-cultural artistic project between Urban Crawl Performance Society and The Philippine Women Centre of British Columbia (PCW). *Nanay*, which will be produced in February 2009, is a full-length verbatim theatre play that draws upon 13 years of research collaboration between PWC and UBC Professor Geraldine Pratt and investigates the complexities of Canada's Live-in-Caregiver Program. The Assessment Committee noted the significant time and resource investment already brought to the project by the partnering organizations and the clear benefits to both PWC and Urban Crawl.

Urban Ink Production Society

A grant of \$10,000 is recommended for a 12-month, cross-cultural artistic residency—beginning in November 2008—at Urban Ink for Caribbean-Canadian actor, playwright and hip hop artist Omari Newton. While in residence, he will develop his one-man show entitled *The Lamentable Tragedy of Sal Capone*. In addition, he will conduct Vancouver-based outreach for Urban Ink including research, community-based workshops and youth empowerment, including work on a new phase of the company's artist and student initiative, From Where We Speak. The Assessment Committee noted that the residency would gather a strong creative team with appropriate expertise to support Mr. Newton's artistic work and community outreach.

Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre

An Artistic Development Project grant of \$10,000 is recommended to support the development and public presentation of a *Flower Drum Song*, which will be produced at the Waterfront Theatre in May/June 2009. This large-scale Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, featuring an all-Asian Canadian cast, represents a significant increase in production values, risk, and outreach for the organization and builds upon the success of their production of Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* which featured an Asian-Canadian cast.

Vancouver Centre for Contemporary Asian Art (Centre A)

An Artistic Leadership Training grant of \$6,000 is recommended in support a six-month residency for emerging artist, Roy Caussy starting in March 2009. During his residency, Mr. Caussy will be mentored by Hank Bull, Executive Director of Centre A, in producing a new body of work inspired by research abroad to India and his homeland of Mauritius. As well as being an artist-in-residence, Mr. Caussy will work with Centre A to engage more local South Asian communities in Centre A's programming and have the opportunity to develop his own practice in the context of a multi-faceted, public art centre. The Assessment Committee noted the benefits of this residency to both Mr. Caussy and Centre A, as the organization implements its revised mandate to become more than an exhibition space with its expanded residency program.

NOT RECOMMENDED

Dimasalang III International Artists Group

This Filipino artists group applied for assistance in presenting an art exhibition of its membership at the Roundhouse November 24 -25, 2008. The Assessment Committee commends efforts of the group to highlight the work of Filipino artists now residing in Vancouver, but noted that the proposal did not articulate a strong artistic vision for the exhibition, that significant resources were being requested for a two-day event, and that the exhibition was drawn solely from the organization's limited membership. In a competitive round, no grant is recommended.

Vancouver Pan-African Film & Arts Festival

This emerging film and arts festival has requested assistance for cultural events planned for Black History month in February 2009. The proposal lacked coherency and specifics on programming and participating artists. The Assessment Committee noted the importance of supporting events during Black History Month and encourages the organization to develop a more clearly articulated proposal for a less complex project that demonstrates a focus on Vancouver artists. In a competitive round, no grant is recommended.

DIVERSITY INITIATIVES GRANTS

NOTE: ONE DEADLINE ONLY IN 2008
Monday, September 8, 2008 before 4:30 p.m.

Objectives

This program is designed to support artistic development in distinct communities* through experiential training and developmental projects. Its objectives are to:

- assist with the professional development of emerging artists and arts groups from distinct communities;
- support new creations and innovative interpretations of art works reflecting the cultural diversity of Vancouver;
- encourage artistic collaborations that respect the diversity of cultures and promote intercultural understanding.

Program Components

Grants are available for the following activities in the performing and visual arts:

1. Artistic Leadership Training
2. Artistic Development Projects
3. Cross-Cultural Artistic Projects
4. Cross-Cultural Artistic Residencies

General Eligibility

- The program applies to activity in the performing arts (dance, music, theatre, and interdisciplinary work) or the visual arts.
- Applicants must be based in Vancouver and activities must take place within the city of Vancouver. (This means that activities in other Lower Mainland municipalities and the University Endowment Lands are excluded.)
- Applications may be submitted by a cultural organization registered as a not-for-profit society in British Columbia, or by an unincorporated arts group applying under the auspices of a not-for-profit cultural society. In this case, both parties will be expected to sign a sponsorship agreement letter that outlines the terms of the arrangement. Please note that the City of Vancouver Charter does not allow for grants to individuals.
- Activities cannot be funded retroactively.
- Projects receiving assistance or that have received funding through other City grant programs do not qualify.
- Applicants who have received Diversity Initiatives grants in previous years are expected to submit a final report on their projects before any new application can be considered.

Please note: These criteria apply to the Diversity Initiatives program as a whole. For specific eligibility criteria, please read program details.

* Distinct Community is a group defined by race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability, for the purposes of these grant programs.

Program Details

1. Artistic Leadership Training

To assist with the costs of experiential training for artists from distinct communities in the areas of curation, artistic direction, and artistic production, for a period of one to 12 months. The training, detailed in a plan, should take the form of an internship or mentorship with a cultural organization that received a City cultural grant in the past year. For the training organization this should represent a new activity or the expansion of an existing program.

Eligibility

- Artist(s) should have experience and/or education that demonstrates a commitment to further development in their field. Full-time students are not eligible.
- For the training organization, the internship or mentorship should be a new program or the expansion of an existing program.
- Applications may be made by a not-for-profit organization that wishes to sponsor professional development for an artistic staff member from a distinct community, or by the organization offering the experiential training.
- A letter of intent from the trainee should be included in the application. This letter of intent should outline what the trainee hopes to achieve through the experience of working with the organization.
- An organization may apply on behalf of more than one artist.

2. Artistic Development Projects

To assist with projects that clearly contribute to the artistic development of a professionally* led arts group from one or more distinct communities, as articulated in a plan. Projects must involve new creation or interpretation, and may include development, production, or presentation and/or exhibition.

Eligibility

- Groups are eligible to apply for these grants for up to three times, subject to the successful completion of previously funded activity. Funding requests in the second or third year must include a long-term development plan. After three years, applications should be made to the Project grant category.
- A group cannot receive an Artistic Development and a Project grant in the same calendar year (except in the case of a society acting as auspices).
- Groups receiving assistance through the Operating grants program are not eligible for this component.

3. Cross-Cultural Artistic Projects

To assist with artistic collaborations between two or more arts groups, at least one of which must be from a distinct community. Projects can be at the development or implementation stage and must involve new creation or interpretation. Partners must clearly state their objectives for the collaboration, and propose a plan to achieve them.

Eligibility

- A joint application must be submitted by at least two organizational partners, one of which must be an arts group from a distinct community.

* Professional artist is defined by the following criteria: specialized training in the field (not necessarily in academic institutions); recognition by one's peers (artists who work in the same artistic tradition); and a history of public presentation/exhibition.

4. Cross-Cultural Artistic Residencies

To assist with residencies for artists from distinct communities lasting one to 12 months. A residency must be hosted by a not-for-profit cultural organization from another community (distinct or mainstream), and must have clear artistic development objectives for the host organization and the artist-in-residence. The residency should provide opportunities for creation and/or presentation of the artist's work, additional to the regular activities of the host organization, and should include a community involvement component. The grant is applicable to artist fees and creation costs. The host organization is responsible for all other expenses associated with the residency, including exhibition, production, and presentation costs. The artist and the host organization will be expected to sign a letter of agreement outlining the terms of the artistic residency.

Eligibility

- The artist-in-residence must be a professional from a distinct community. While the initiative may come from the artist, the hosting not-for-profit cultural organization should submit the application, including a letter of intent from the artist. This letter of intent should outline what the artist-in-residence hopes to achieve through the experience of working with the organization.

Process

An Assessment Committee of independent advisors and staff reviews the applications and makes recommendations which are considered and approved by Vancouver City Council. There is no set maximum for the amount requested, but grant recommendations are expected to range from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

Applicants are notified of the Committee's recommendations in writing prior to the Council meeting at which the grants are considered. Council usually makes decisions about applications received for the September deadline in late October. Grant payments are usually made within three weeks of Council's approval of the grants.

Other Support Programs

Diversity Initiatives is one of several City cultural grant programs available to not-for-profit arts organizations based in Vancouver. For a description of the City's Project, Operating and other grant categories, please consult our website at www.vancouver.ca/culture, or call us at 604-871-6434 to speak with a Cultural Planner.

How to Apply

Contact the Office of Cultural Affairs at 604-871-6434 for more information and to request an application form. Before submitting a request, all applicants are advised to read the program guidelines carefully and should discuss their proposal with OCA staff.

Deadlines

The completed application form (not a fax or diskette) and support documentation must be received in the Office of Cultural Affairs by 4:30 p.m. on the deadline date.

NOTE: ONE DEADLINE ONLY IN 2008
Monday, September 8, 2008 before 4:30 p.m.

Contact Information

Office of Cultural Affairs
City of Vancouver
Suite 310, 555 West 12th Avenue,
East Tower, City Square Mall
Vancouver, BC

mail: 453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1V4
phone: 604.871.6434
fax: 604.871.6005
email: oca@vancouver.ca
website: www.vancouver.ca/culture

Ce dépliant décrit des programmes de subvention organisés par la Ville de Vancouver pour les compagnies artistiques.

Este folleto describe los programas de becas financieras de la Municipalidad de Vancouver para organizaciones artísticas.

Tài liệu này trình bày rõ những chương trình tài trợ của Thành Phố Vancouver dành cho các nhóm nghệ thuật.

這份刊物描述溫哥華市政府一個為藝術團體而設的補獎金計劃。

ਇਸ ਫਿਲਾਫਚ ਵਿਚ ਅਕਰਦ ਗਰੁੱਪਾਂ ਲਈ ਵੈਰਕੂਲਰ ਸਹਾਇ ਦੇ ਕਾਰਜ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮਾਂ ਦਾ ਵਰਣਨ ਹੈ।