



## VANCOUVER CIVIC THEATRES BOARD

### MINUTES

OCTOBER 25, 2012

A meeting of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board was held on October 25, 2012, at 12:06 pm, in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre Salon.

**PRESENT:** Rob Haynes, Chair  
Charles Arrata  
Michael Noon  
David Secunda  
Karole Sutherland  
Karen Wilson  
Iris Woo

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Elizabeth Ball  
Todd Ayotte, Interim Director of Civic Theatres  
Richard Newirth, Managing Director, Cultural Services

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Charlene Imai, Meeting Coordinator

#### Leave of Absence Requests

There were no Leaves of Absence requested.

#### Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Michael Noon  
SECONDED by David Secunda

THAT the Minutes of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board meeting held on September 27, 2012, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### 1. Resident Companies - Guest: Vancouver Recital Society

Karen Wilson introduced and welcomed Leila Getz, Artistic Director, and Paul Gravett, Executive Director, Vancouver Recital Society.

Paul Gravett provided an update on the status of the Vancouver Recital Society and noted ticket sales are up this year. Mr. Gravett advised that in the last few months, they have been looking at restructuring the Society.

Mr. Gravett informed the Board the Vancouver Recital Society, along with other tenants, are required to move from their current location, effective March 1, 2013. Therefore, they will be looking for new office space. To this end, Mr. Gravett has been in discussions with Theatres staff as to whether they would consider leasing Civic Theatres space to the Society.

Leila Getz advised the Society is proposing for next season a smaller series of concerts in the Playhouse in the evenings. Ms. Getz noted the Society is attracting more 18-35 year-old audiences who are not interested in Sunday Matinees but who will attend the evening shows.

Discussion ensued regarding sponsor signage in the lobby, Vancouver Civic Theatres' long-standing policy re ancillary charges and the use of the TV monitors in the lobby to promote sponsors.

Ms. Getz and Mr. Gravett commended front-of-line staff for their efforts in accommodating the Society.

Todd Ayotte, Interim Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres, addressed some of the concerns raised by Mr. Gravett and Ms. Getz.

Rob Haynes, Board Chair, then thanked Ms. Getz and Mr. Gravett for their presentation, and they left the meeting.

## **2. Financial Update**

Todd Ayotte advised the quarterly report showing actuals to the end of September needs to be submitted by the end of the week.

Mr. Ayotte will email the details to Board members.

## **3. Vancouver Civic Theatres Board Feedback**

Iris Woo provided comments regarding maintenance issues in the Orpheum, including missing pictures from the walls, leakage and paint touch-ups, as well as missing tiles in the Playhouse. Mr. Ayotte advised the pictures are currently being remediated for deficiencies and, upon completion of the repairs, will be re-mounted on the walls. He will follow up with staff regarding possible leaks and other maintenance issues, and noted staff routinely check the theatres for any possible maintenance requirements.

Board members expressed concern regarding the issue of promoters selling tickets for seats in the orchestra pit where, for some shows, is uncomfortable for the patron. It was suggested staff should contact the promoter and advise them of the areas where there are obstructed views - poor sightlines - and the promoter perhaps would not sell tickets for those particular seats.

#### 4. Licensee Relations

Karen Wilson commented that at a recent concert in the Playhouse, the bass from the concert next door could be heard. Board members suggested a door in the Playhouse could have been left open. Staff will be reminded to check the Playhouse doors to avoid future disturbances like this.

Ms. Wilson was informed by Vancouver Opera that the musicians were unable to park in the parkade when they arrived for their technical rehearsal recently. Mr. Ayotte agreed to look into this matter.

Ms. Wilson received the Board's approval to book Eric Wilson, Friends of Chamber Music, to present at the next Board meeting in November.

#### 5. Website Discussion and Update

Charles Arrata provided comparisons between the Vancouver Civic Theatres website and other theatres outside BC, particularly, the Jubilee Auditorium in both Calgary and Edmonton, whose website has easy access to the calendar of events, seating plans, technical information, including drawings and specs. Mr. Arrata commented the VCT website lacked documentation and photographs.

Mr. Ayotte responded staff are experiencing challenges with the website but that the Vancouver Civic Theatres website has been prioritized to be "fixed" first. He advised the theatres' technical specs are on the website; however, drawings have not been posted to the website at this time but it will be done.

#### 6. Orpheum 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert

Rob Haynes advised the VSO will be doing a concert with two silent films to promote the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Orpheum.

#### 7. Director's Report

Todd Ayotte provided an update on the Orpheum blade sign replacement project, restaurant space, new bulbs for the marquee, business review, and sculptures on the plaza, noting the QET plaza was voted the best spot for public art.

Mr. Ayotte then responded to questions.

#### 8. New Business

- (a) Karole Sutherland enquired about the budget cycle and Mr. Ayotte responded that staff are working out the details for 2013. Pursuant to the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board By-law, the Board will have the opportunity to review the budget report prior to submission to City Council.

- (b) There was discussion regarding the use and marketing of Vancouver Civic Theatres, particularly the Orpheum Annex, as its availability is not widely known.
- (c) Rob Haynes circulated a "Thank You" card from Rae Ackerman, retired Director of Civic Theatres. In part, the card read:

"I want to thank you all for being the great Board you are. And further, I would like in your name, to thank all the past Board members for their support of VCT over the years. It might not have always been obvious but the VCT Board serves several useful and important roles. My life as Director would have been both harder and less fun without you and your predecessors. Rae Ackerman "

### **Adjournment**

MOVED by David Secunda  
SECONDED by Karole Sutherland

THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board adjourned at 1:32 pm.

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### **Next Meeting**

DATE: November 22, 2012  
TIME: 12:00 noon  
PLACE: Queen Elizabeth Theatre Salon