



## VANCOUVER CIVIC THEATRES BOARD

### MINUTES

**JULY 16, 2020**

A meeting of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board was held on July 16, 2020, at 12:06 pm, via teleconference.

**PRESENT:** Christopher Ball, Chair  
Diane Brown  
Ann-Marie Copping  
Anna Hagan  
Wendy Soobis, Vice-Chair  
Mike Vulgaris  
Donna Wong-Juliani  
Janice Wu\*

**ABSENT:** Adrian Fischer (Leave of Absence)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Branislav Henselmann, Managing Director of Cultural Services  
Natalie Lue, Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres  
(*Staff Liaison*)  
Guy Leroux, Associate Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

\* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

### WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tseil-Waututh Nations.

### Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Wendy Soobis  
SECONDED by Diane Brown

THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board approve a leave of absence for Adrian Fischer for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Janice Wu absent for the vote)

## **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Donna Wong-Juliani  
SECONDED by Anna Hagan

THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board approve the Minutes from the meeting of June 18, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Janice Wu absent for the vote)

### **1. Chair's Comments**

The Chair's comments included the following:

- in recognition of the hardships facing the arts and culture community, it is important that the Board listen to as many members of the community as possible;
- was unsuccessful in securing guests for today's meeting; and
- the Federal wage subsidy has been extended.

### **2. Council Liaison's Comments**

Councillor Dominato was unable to attend the meeting.

### **3. Cultural Services Grant Report**

The Managing Director of Cultural Services provided an update on the 2020 Cultural Grants report scheduled for the Council meeting on July 21, 2020, and responded to questions.

### **4. Arts & Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC) Report**

The Vice-Chair provided a brief update on the ACAC working session held July 7, 2020, as follows:

- representatives from the Urban Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee were invited to provide an update on a recent letter they sent to the media regarding the need for more meaningful action on anti-racism and reconciliation;
- ACAC members along with UIAC guests discussed ways that advisory committees could work together to take more meaningful action and affect change;
- it was noted many of the issues impacting the City also affect the arts and cultural communities; and
- ACAC members discussed the impact of the pandemic on future funding for arts and culture.

## **5. Motion Regarding VCT Commercial Tenant**

Further to the June 18, 2020, meeting where the Board discussed ways to support VCT tenants who are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of the pandemic, the Chair introduced a proposed motion for the Board's consideration and, along with the Director of Vancouver Civic Theatres, responded to questions.

MOVED by Diane Brown  
SECONDED by Anna Hagan

WHEREAS the Vancouver Civic Theatres (VCT) venues have been closed since the middle of March 2020 and the lone commercial tenant of the VCT at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre is a restaurant which has been closed for most of the period from March until now.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board recommends that Council direct staff to provide rent relief equivalent to the Federal Government's Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program, a 75% rent reduction for the months of April, May, June and July 2020, to the Vancouver Civic Theatres lone commercial tenant, the restaurant at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **6. Discussion Regarding VSO and/or Vancouver Opera as guests at September/October Board Meetings**

The Chair sought the Board's input on inviting representatives from the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and the Vancouver Opera to the September and October meetings.

In discussion, the Board agreed to invite the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in September and the Vancouver Opera in October. The Board also agreed to invite DanceHouse in November.

## **7. Director's Report (*note: includes Financials*)**

The Director of Vancouver Civic Theatres reviewed the report and responded to questions related to the capital plan.

The Associate Director of Vancouver Civic Theatres reviewed the June 2020 financials, provided an update on the 2021 Budget and, along with the Managing Director of Cultural Services, responded to questions.

## **8. New Business**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Donna Wong-Juliani  
SECONDED by Anna Hagan

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Next Meeting:**

DATE: Thursday, September 10, 2020  
TIME: 12 pm  
PLACE: Webex invite

The Board adjourned at 1:11 pm.

\* \* \* \* \*