



VANCOUVER CIVIC THEATRES BOARD

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 19, 2020

A meeting of the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board was held on Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 12:10 pm, via electronic means.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Lisa Dominato, Council Liaison
Branislav Henselmann, Managing Director of Cultural Services
Natalie Lue, Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres
(*Staff Liaison*)
Guy Leroux, Associate Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres
Krista Edwardson, Senior Manager of Sales, 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 Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

Leave of Absence Requests

None

Approval of Minutes – October 22, 2020

MOVED by Donna Wong-Juliani
SECONDED by Adrian Fischer

THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board approve the Minutes from the meeting of Thursday, October 22, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Chair's Comments

The Chair's comments included the following:

- COVID-19 second wave underway; members were reminded to follow current provincial health recommendations;
- Acknowledgement of VCT marketing and communications staff for their diligence in keeping the VCT website up to date on facility closures as well as venue availability for COVID-approved projects and events;
- Good news on recent COVID Recovery Grants to arts and culture communities; and
- Motion will be proposed later on the agenda re: creating a temporary policy to support increasing potential usage of all VCT venues for the next nine months.

2. Cultural Services Update

Branislav Henselmann, Managing Director of Cultural Services, provided updates on the following:

- upcoming COVID-19 recovery grant reports for Council consideration: Cultural Impact Critical Assistance (CICA) COVID-19 Recovery Investment Grants and Theatre Rental Grant Allocations – Spring 2021;
- 2021 Budget considerations in December; could impact future arts and culture operating grants; and
- in response to COVID-19 safety measures, the Public Art Program launched 'Platforms 2020: Public Works' in July; received close to 150 applications for two dimensional works.

The Managing Director of Cultural Services, along with Natalie Lue, Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres, responded to questions.

3. Arts & Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC) Report

The Vice-Chair provided a brief update on the ACAC meeting of November 10, 2020, as follows:

- In response to the upcoming 2021 Civic Budget, ACAC is working on a proposed motion, 'Call for a Just Recovery from COVID-19 for Artists and Cultural Workers', to make recommendations to support continued funding for Culture I Shift and all arts and culture programs; and
- Provided an update to ACAC members on the Vancouver Civic Theatres (VCT) Restart Plan and activities at the Orpheum and Annex; responded to ACAC members' questions about whether they could support the VCT in any way.

4. Motion regarding proposed temporary flexible services/rental rates

The Chair introduced a motion to recommend that Council consider a temporary policy to provide more flexibility to staff to work with producers and organizers on events and projects in different ways to support increased operations and VCT facility users over the next nine months.

In discussion, staff explained the implications of renting VCT facilities to 'for profit' users and responded to questions.

MOVED by Diane Brown
SECONDED by Adrian Fischer

WHEREAS

The COVID-19 crisis has had a significant impact to the operation of the Vancouver Civic Theatres (VCT) and current Provincial Health Orders have a major effect on the types of activities that can take place in VCT facilities. The Vancouver Civic Theatres Board would like to provide VCT management the flexibility to work with producers and organizers to use the facilities for events and projects that may be different in type, size, scope and/or duration than projects usually taking place at the VCT venues.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Civic Theatres Board, in its capacity as advisors to Council and as representatives of the arts and culture community, recommend that Council direct City staff to implement the following new temporary policy:

"At the discretion of the Vancouver Civic Theatres (VCT) Director, VCT staff may be flexible with rental rates, service rates, and staffing levels that differ from the current Council-approved VCT rental rates and provisions for the temporary nine-month period commencing December 1, 2020, through September 1, 2021, for any event, film shoot, or project taking place at any of the VCT venues. These special arrangements must include at a minimum, complete cost recovery for related event/project specific costs and staff, and must be for events and projects that have significant positive impact for Vancouver's cultural community, the local neighbourhoods surrounding the VCT facilities, and/or Vancouver's film and television industry."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Finance Report

Guy Leroux, Associate Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres, reviewed the October financials and responded to questions.

6. Director's Report

Natalie Lue, Director, Vancouver Civic Theatres, reviewed the report and responded to questions.

7. Council Liaison's Comments

Councillor Dominato commented on COVID-19 recovery grants to arts and culture organizations and the 2021 Budget.

8. New Business

a) Setting the Stage for Recovery

Krista Edwardson, Senior Manager of Sales, Vancouver Civic Theatres, provided an update on business development during Phases 1 and 2 of the VCT Restart Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Adrian Fischer
SECONDED by Ann-Marie Copping

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Wendy Soobis absent for the vote)

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, December 10, 2020
TIME: 12 pm
PLACE: Webex Online

The Board adjourned at 2:19 pm.

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