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**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>  
**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL" <CMCG@vancouver.ca>  
"Chungath, Gracen" <Gracen.Chungath@vancouver.ca>  
"Henselmann, Branislav" <Branislav.Henselmann@vancouver.ca>  
"Gajic, Sandra" <Sandra.Gajic@vancouver.ca>  
"Masters, Cheryl" <cheryl.masters@vancouver.ca>  
**Date:** 3/12/2018 10:40:58 AM  
**Subject:** Memo - The Nutcracker Performances at QE Theatre  
**Attachments:** Letter to Chan Hon Goh and Kevin B. Leslie - Nutcracker - 2018.03.09 - signed by SJ.pdf  
Memo to Mayor and Council re Dec 2018 Nutcracker Performances - March 12 2018.pdf

Greetings Mayor and Council,

The attached documents will provide you with an update regarding the two consecutive performances of the Nutcracker in December 2018. A short summary is as follows:

- After discussions with both Ballet BC and Goh Ballet, the City has made the decision to honour both bookings which will proceed at planned;
- The City has committed to examining ways to help promote both performances;
- The City does not have a policy addressing bookings of similar shows at Vancouver Civic Theatres;
- We encourage Ballet BC and Goh Ballet to work together to capitalize on the multiple performances of the Nutcracker.

Should you have any questions please contact Gracen Chungath, Acting General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services at 604.673.8405 / [Gracen.Chungath@vancouver.ca](mailto:Gracen.Chungath@vancouver.ca).

Best,  
Sadhu

**Sadhu Aufochs Johnston** | City Manager  
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March 12, 2018

Chan Hon Goh  
Director, Goh Ballet  
2345 Main Street  
Vancouver, BC V5T 3C9  
Email: [chgoh@chanhongoh.com](mailto:chgoh@chanhongoh.com)

Kevin B. Leslie, President and Chair  
Ballet BC  
601 Smithe Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 5G1  
Email: [kevinbleslie@telus.net](mailto:kevinbleslie@telus.net)

Dear Chan and Kevin,

**RE: The Nutcracker Production**

Thank you very much for your recent letters sharing your concerns and thoughts with us and for meeting with our team last week.

The City of Vancouver is committed to supporting the many forms of arts and culture that take place in our city and make it a vibrant place to live, work and play. Performances, such as the Nutcracker, play an important role in providing opportunities to engage Vancouverites in the arts.

Ballet BC, you have raised concerns about having a second performance of the Nutcracker at the QE Theater in December. Given that Goh Ballet's performance of the Nutcracker has been displaced from their regular venue, we feel it is important to support the company in staging their performance. Many Vancouver children, their families and supporters would be disappointed if we weren't able to enable the show to go on.

The City has made the decision to allow both productions to move forward. We believe there is space for both productions to proceed successfully this winter and we strongly encourage you to work together to capitalize on the multiple performances of the Nutcracker. It is our understanding that there are other performances of the Nutcracker in the city this winter as well that could also be a part of this Nutcracker celebration. We encourage you to explore opportunities to capitalize on these other performances through innovative approaches such as

co-promotion, discounted ticket sales for people that purchase tickets to multiple shows, and even staging a Nutcracker festival.

We, as a City believe it's important to demonstrate our support for the opportunities that both of these productions provide to both professional artists, and young and emerging artists, as well as the larger Vancouver community. Should you choose to move forward with a joint celebration of the productions, the City would be open to helping promote both organizations' work.

Thank you both for the important value your organizations add to our community, we look forward to continuing our strong relationships with both of you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sadhu A. Johnston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Sadhu A. Johnston  
City Manager

604.873.7627 | [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)

CC: Gracen Chungath, Acting General Manager of Arts, Culture & Community Services  
Branislav Henselmann, Managing Director of Cultural Services  
Sandra Gajic, Director of Civic Theatres  
Cherryl Masters, Social Planner III of Cultural Services

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**MEMORANDUM**

March 12, 2018

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Gracen Chungath, Acting General Manager

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk  
Lynda Graves, Manager, Administration Services, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Communications  
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Naveen Girn, Director of Community Relations, Mayor's Office  
Sandra Singh, Chief Librarian  
Branislav Henselmann, Managing Director Cultural Services  
Sandra Gajic, Director, Vancouver Civic Theatre  
Cherryl Masters, Head, Grants and Awards, Cultural Services

SUBJECT: Two Consecutive Bookings - Nutcracker Performances in December 2018 at Vancouver Civic Theatres (Queen Elizabeth Theatre, 649 Cambie Street)

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The purpose of this memo is to update Mayor and Council regarding two consecutive bookings of Nutcracker performances, presented by Ballet BC and Goh Ballet at Queen Elizabeth Theatre (QET) in December 2018. This matter was brought to the attention of the General Manager's Office in February 2018.

Ballet BC has been the "resident" dance company at the QET for decades, and has voiced concern that having the same production at the same venue in the same month could negatively impact their revenues. Goh Ballet was recently displaced from their regular venue, The Centre, due to ownership changes, and has stated that apart from QET, there is no other venue of appropriate size for the presentation of their production.

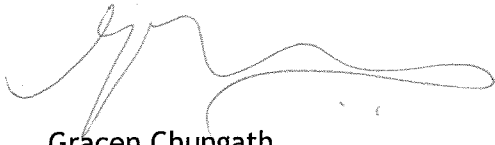
Following multiple conversations with the two organizations, as well as a joint meeting with both groups, to address the concerns and hear their thoughts, the City has made the decision to allow both productions to go ahead. Please see attached letter addressed to Ballet BC and Goh Ballet informing them of the way forward. The City does not have a policy addressing bookings of similar shows at the Vancouver Civic Theatres. To ensure that both productions can proceed successfully this winter, the City has encouraged Ballet BC

and Goh Ballet to work together to capitalize on the multiple performances of the Nutcracker.

The City continues to support the many forms of arts and culture that take place in our city and make it a vibrant place to live, work and play. Performances, such as the Nutcracker, play an important role in providing opportunities to engage Vancouverites in the arts, demonstrating the importance of our support for the opportunities that both of these productions provide to professional artists, young and emerging artists, as well as the Vancouver community at large.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, if you have any further questions or concerns.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gracen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Gracen Chungath.**  
**Acting General Manager**

*tel: 604-673-8405*  
*gracen.chungath@vancouver.ca*

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