

**From:** "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>  
**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
**Date:** 5/28/2023 6:54:47 PM  
**Subject:** Questions - 2023 Cultural Grants (RTS 15454)

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Hello Mayor and Council,

We are writing in follow up to a number of questions pertaining to the above-referenced report.

We appreciate that members of Council may get approached directly by grantees wanting to know more about the recommendations. If that happens, please feel free to direct grantees to the Cultural Services staff leads of the program (contact info below) who can discuss details of the process, provide feedback from the assessment committee and answer any questions they may have.

**CASC Program Contact Leads:**

Aliyah Amarshi, 604-829-9876, [aliyah.amarshi@vancouver.ca](mailto:aliyah.amarshi@vancouver.ca)

Joyce Rosario, 604-707-5483, [joyce.rosario@vancouver.ca](mailto:joyce.rosario@vancouver.ca)

We also appreciate that members of Council may have an interest in these same questions and key messages as to why a project may not be supported to the full request. As background, we can share the following statistics for this round of the Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (CASC) project grants:

- This intake was the highest one to date with a record number of applications (110) making it highly competitive
- Each intake, approximately 30% of applications are not recommended for funding
- Demand always exceeds available funds so the committee has to make hard decisions and looks to the criteria carefully to guide decisions
- Common reasons for a lower ranking are:
  - o Groups have healthy unrestricted reserves or more capacity to raise funds compared to other groups, and do not demonstrate as high a financial need as others
  - o Some groups don't align with the program goals and criteria as highly as others even though their project is eligible
  - o Details are lacking in the proposal making it difficult to assess the feasibility of it happening
- Of the recommended grants, the average is \$6,800
- The most common grant recommended for this round is \$5,000
- 9 grants recommended over \$10,000

The following information is provide in response to the specific questions received:

- *Downtown Van BIA*: the project is recognized for activating the downtown core and providing access to a large number of people to free entertainment over a summer weekend. Projects that are artist-led, or where artists have significant leadership roles in curating, creating, leading as well as performing are more competitive as they align better with the goals of the CASC program. The DV BIA has high capacity to undertake the project without grant funding and receives additional support from other City sources compared to other applicants, therefore demonstration of financial need is not as high as other applicants.
- *Asian-Canadian Special Events Assoc (2023 TAIWANFest Vancouver)*: The 2023 grant is consistent with the average amount of cultural project grant support this organization has received in past years. The same level of support

cannot be guaranteed each year as amounts recommended depend on the competition and other applications in the pool which differs each time. The organization has a demonstrated high capacity of successful fundraising from private and corporate sources, and demonstration of financial need is not as high as other applicants. The 2022 edition of TAIWANFest was awarded \$10,000, and the festival has been supported by cultural grant funding since 2006 in amounts ranging from \$4,500 to \$10,000. Organization has also received CASC funding for the last two editions of LunarFest, and has received substantial support from other City sources such as TRG, for up to \$35,000, and various additional in kind supports.

- *The Society of We Are Canadians Too (2023 Jade Music Festival)*: The inaugural 2022 edition of the festival was highly assessed and was awarded \$12,500. The 2023 edition was recognized for its vision to profile and elevate Chinese-language music and bridge the gap between cultural practice and commercial industry. The financial analysis showed that this organization has high capacity to undertake the project without grant funding, has high capacity for and track record of successful fundraising from private and corporate donors; therefore, demonstration of financial need is not as high as other applicants. The organization also receives additional support from other City sources compared to other applicants.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Sandra Singh for any follow-up.

Best,  
Paul

**Paul Mochrie** (he/him)  
City Manager  
City of Vancouver  
[paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](mailto:paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca)



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Snw̓x̌w̓ú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.