

From: **"Singh, Sandra"**
To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**
Date: 1/22/2024 3:30:52 PM
Subject: RTS 16097: 2024 Cultural Grants (Projects, Advance, Multiyear)

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

Further to email communication you have received from several Black-led organizations whose arts and culture grant applications were not recommended to Council in tomorrow's Cultural Services grants report, Cultural Services staff wanted to assure Council that - as always - staff work with organizations to assist with their understanding of the grant process that lead to recommendations, learn more about the organization and their project, and understand what support they may need to deliver a successful project or event in future.

Specifically, as soon as the grants report went public last week, staff met with a number of organizations as follow up (including Festival African Heritage Music and Dance Society, Go SuperNova, Kitsilano Showboat, Beaumont Studios, and others). Staff are also meeting with a few more organizations today (including Canadian Haitian Cultural Association of BC, and Great Lakes Networking Society of BC), and will continue to meet with others over the next few weeks.

It can take some time to work with an organization and build a relationship and understand their purpose, their capacity, and their needs as they relate to delivery of arts and cultural programming. This is an ongoing long-term process and staff are monitoring the changing needs in community along with evolving priorities that City is investing in areas that advance Council and community goals.

Staff also wanted to provide a short history of support to Black-led arts and culture groups since the adoption of Culture|Shift:

- 4 Black-lead arts and culture groups have been supported with ongoing funding through the Cultural Equity Grants program;
- 19 Black-lead arts and culture groups been supported through CASC since 2022; and
- 16 applications were received from Black-lead arts and culture groups for the last intake of CASC, and 14 groups were recommended for support for the second intake in 2023.

Should Council have any further questions, please feel free to be in touch with me and/or Deputy General Manager, ACT Branislav Henselmann and Branislav will work to ensure responses before tomorrow morning.

Thank you,

Sandra

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges the unceded homelands of the xʷməθkʷəṽəm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.