

From: **"Singh, Sandra"**

To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**

Date: 2024-05-28 9:52:10 AM

Subject: Questions re: May 29 Council report: 2024 Cultural Grants (CASC, Capacity, Cultural Spaces (RTS 16100))

Good morning Mayor and Council,

ACCS staff have received several questions related to specific grant recommendations in the 2024 Cultural Grants report that will be before Council on Wednesday May 29. Additional background on these grant recommendations is provided below.

West End Business Improvement Association on behalf of Lumiere

Staff have met with the organization to discuss the grant recommendation.

- Staff is aware of the precarity across the sector with organizations and events such as Lumiere that are experiencing lagging/declining levels of sponsorship as well as the impact of limited provincial funding through the BCFE grant program.
- The Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (CASC) program has limited capacity to address these shortfalls due to high demand and finite funds.
- Lumiere could be directed to the new Cultural Tourism Events fund which could be a possibility for future funding of this larger scale event if they meet program eligibility and criteria.

City of Vancouver Cultural Grant history overview:

- Most recent 3 applications in VanApply grants management system:
 - 2022 - 2nd intake - requested \$20,000, awarded \$4,000
 - 2023 - 2nd intake - requested \$20,000, awarded \$2,500
 - 2024 - 2nd intake - requested \$15,000, no grant recommended

- Lumiere has applied for project grant funding consistently since 2015 with mixed success – this is the nature of project grant funding programs. They consistently ask for the maximum amount and recommendations over the years have ranged from \$0 (no grant recommended) to \$4,000 at the highest level awarded
- An exception is that in 2016, Lumiere was awarded an Innovation grant (\$45,000) for a series of artist lighting projects in Jim Deva Plaza, with funding matched by West End BIA

Rationale for recommendation of no grant:

- CASC assessment is a competitive process & other projects ranked higher; organization does not demonstrate high need for additional public sector support compared to other groups
- Past applications from Lumiere have shown strong capacity for private sector fundraising. Larger scale organizations, who have both human and budget resources to fundraise, are more likely to receive a "no" grant recommendation than small and mid-size arts and culture organization with one or two staff people and less organizational capacity to fundraise.
- Some large-scale street festivals and free/by-donation presentation series, such as Lumiere, have a lower-than-average success rate with funding. They demonstrate high attendance figures but are not making a strong case in alignment with CASC objectives and criteria (i.e. equity and accessibility and/or artist-led and artist-centred activity).

Canada International Arts & Music Society for the Vancouver International Music Festival 2024

Staff will reach out to this first-time cultural grant applicant about the funding recommendation, to discuss eligibility for CASC grants, to share additional committee feedback, to delineate the different eligibility criteria for Theatre Rental grants and CASC grants, and to offer areas for strengthening the future requests for support.

City of Vancouver Cultural Grant history overview:

- Grants history in VanApply grants management system:

- 2022 – Theatre Rental Grant awarded \$3,425
- 2025 Spring – Theatre Rental Grant recommended \$4,880

The organization is being recommended for a Theatre Rental Grant of \$4,880 on May 29, 2024 for CIAMS's Aug 2025 Vancouver International Music Festival (VIMF) (RTS 16264 – Theatre Rental Grants Allocations Fall 2024 and Spring 2024). Theatre Rental Grants do not have restrictions on supporting competitions, whereas CASC grants do not support competitions.

Rationale for recommendation of no CASC grant:

- While the Assessment Committee commended the organization for its vision to launch an inaugural international festival of classical music in Vancouver in August 2024, the application lacked key information (e.g. confirmed venue(s), confirmed headliner artists, pre-event production & planning milestones, support letters from named potential community partners, etc.), to understand the project purpose, plan, and feasibility as a curated music festival.
- The grant narrative indicated that the festival was something different than the previously held Vancouver International Music Competition, which is a youth-focused music competition and a type of activity that is not eligible for CASC grants, when it is predominantly a music competition.
- Online promotion for the Vancouver International Music Festival (launched April 15, 2024) provides more information than was in the application, notably a call for paid registration for candidates in a music competition. [Register – Vancouver International Music Festival \(vancouvercompetition.com\)](https://vancouvercompetition.com).
- CASC grants ineligible activities include: a) core artistic training and in-class activity; and b) contests or competitions.

Background on Recommended CIG to support a Filipino Cultural Centre

- In 2022, Council approved a \$20,000 planning grant to the National Filipino Canadian Cultural Centre (NPC3) to do planning and research on space needs to inform a future Filipino arts and cultural space/centre. Staff believe that research has been completed, however they are waiting on final report.
- In the Culture Grants report going to Council this Wednesday, staff are recommending \$50,000 grant to Mabuhay House to support a feasibility study and further planning. Mabuhay House received a provincial grant of \$250,000 to support the visioning and development of Filipino Cultural Centre. **Province supports public engagement for Filipino cultural centre | BC Gov News**
- Staff's understanding is NPC3 and Mabuhay House are working together. In case the question arises, staff are not aware of Filipino BC contacting the Cultural Services team and they did not apply for a cultural spaces grant.

Should you require additional information before the Council meeting, please reach out to Margaret Wittgens at Margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca and she will ensure questions are addressed in a timely manner.

Thank you,

Sandra

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