

# Report to Council



**Date:** February 5, 2018  
**File:** 0710-20  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Christine McWillis, Cultural Services Manager  
**Subject:** 2018 Cultural General Operating and Project Grants

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## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the list of 2018 recipients for Cultural General Operating and Project Grants as outlined in the report from the Cultural Services Manager dated February 5, 2018.

## **Purpose:**

To provide Council an update regarding recipients of 2018 Cultural General Operating and Project grants, background information about the grant programs and review process, and highlights from final reports provided by 2017 grant recipients.

## **Background:**

The Active Living & Culture Division manages a number of grant programs providing funding to community organizations.

In 2018, Cultural General Operating and Project grants totaling \$163,265 will be distributed to local non-profit organizations providing arts, culture and heritage programs, services and events. \$113,500 in Operating Grants and \$49,765 for Project Grants.

The list of 2018 General Operating Grant recipients is attached in Appendix A.

2018 Project Grant recipients are listed in Appendix B.

Guidelines and the arms-length evaluation process for both of these programs, including the minor housekeeping changes made for the 2018 grant cycle, were approved by Council on October 2, 2017 with direction to staff to provide this information report about 2018 recipients and an overview of the benefits achieved from the 2017 grants.

Appendix C summarizes the evaluation process and the respective roles of City staff, the Central Okanagan Foundation and the grant panelists.

Appendix D provides highlights from Final Reports provided by 2017 recipients of General Operating and Project Grants and demonstrate the benefit and impact of these grants in the community.

Appendix E is an overview of activity in these programs for the last eight years, comparing the number and value of applications and the number and value of grants awarded.

**Internal Circulation:**

Director, Active Living & Culture Division  
Communications Advisor  
Financial Services – Payroll & Internal Control Services

**Existing Policy:**

This report is submitted pursuant to Council Policy 274 (Cultural Policy).

**Financial/Budgetary Considerations:**

The total funding available for the Cultural General Operating and Project Grant program in 2018 is \$164,300; \$109,300 for the Operating Grant and \$55,000 for the Project Grants. Through the evaluation and review process \$113,500 (+ \$4,200) was approved for the Operating Grant and \$49,765 (- \$5,235) for the Project Grant, with \$1,035 remaining as unused grant funds. While the overall funding outcome stayed within the program budget, an increase of \$4,200 was made to the Operating Grant based on submissions received, evaluation of requests and applicant's alignment with the program goals and objectives.

As staff review the program for the 2019 intake, a closer look at program funding levels will be considered that allows for a more flexible response to community requests.

**External Agency/Public Comments:**

This report has been prepared in consultation with the Central Okanagan Foundation in their role as contracted facilitator of the grant panel process for these grants.

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

Legal/Statutory Authority  
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements  
Financial/Budgetary Considerations  
Personnel Implications  
Communications Comments  
Alternate Recommendation

**Submitted by:**

C. McWillis, Cultural Services Manager

**Approved for inclusion:**

J. Gabriel, Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture

**Attachments:**

Appendix A – 2018 General Operating Grant Recipients

Appendix B – 2018 Project Grant Recipients

Appendix C – Grant Evaluation Process

Appendix D – Summary of Grant Activity 2011-2018

Cc: Director, Active Living & Culture Division  
Communications Supervisor  
Director of Grants & Community Initiatives, Central Okanagan Foundation

Appendix A – 2018 General Operating Grant Recipients  
Report from Cultural Services Manager, February 5, 2018

	<b>ORGANIZATION (* denotes new recipient)</b>	<b>2018 OPERATING GRANT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
1	Arts Council of the Central Okanagan	\$2,000	Promotes and facilitates awareness and appreciation of the arts in the Central Okanagan. Provides Professional Development Workshops series.
2	BC Old Time Fiddlers	\$4,000	Promotes, encourages and fosters connections among the fiddling community and encourages youth to take up fiddling and violin playing.
3	Central Okanagan Heritage Society	\$8,000	Owns, operates and maintains several heritage buildings and delivers a range of heritage programs and services.
4	Centre Culturel Francophone de L'Okanagan	\$9,000	Owns and operates the French Cultural Centre and provides programs which share and celebrate French culture in Canada.
5	Chamber Music Kelowna	\$10,000	Annual performance series which brings acclaimed classical performers to Kelowna. Outreach to youth through classes, workshops and school performances.
6	Cool Arts Society	\$14,000	Provides arts experiences for adults and teens with 'diversabilities' through workshops, projects and exhibitions.
7*	Creative Okanagan Artist and Event Development Society	\$2,000	Produces and develops events which support, promote and showcase emerging and established artists from various creative disciplines.
8	Dolyna Ukrainian Cultural Society	\$2,000	Provides programs which celebrate Ukrainian culture in Canada, including dance, language, food, traditions and special events.
9	Kelowna City Concert Band Society	\$5,000	50 musicians of all ages, both amateur and professional, perform at a variety of events such as Canada Day and Remembrance Day.
10	New Vintage Theatre Society	\$13,000	Professional theatre offering stage productions, career development for actors and playwrights and special events.
11	Okanagan Chinese Canadian Association	\$5,000	Builds public appreciation of Chinese culture through classes, events and welcome of newcomers.
12	Okanagan Festival Singers	\$7,000	Produces and performs large-scale choral works, often in collaboration with other groups and the Symphony.

13	Opera Kelowna Society	\$26,000	Professional regional opera company and training centre for young and promising artists. 2018 season will include Opera in the Park and a full production of French composer Georges Bizet's opera Carmen.
14	Ponderosa Spinners, Weavers & Fibre Artist Guild	\$1,000	Fosters fibre arts through public demonstrations, classes and hands-on educational program for SD23 Grade 3 classes.
15	Society of Friends of the Early Music Studio	\$1,000	Specializes in public performance of early music on rare period instruments, both restored and built to historic specifications. Students and researchers gain access to unique repertoire and instruments.
16	Theatre Kelowna Society	\$4,000	Community theatre is made by and intended for members of the community. Theatre Kelowna productions provide interested community participants the opportunity for theatrical education and experience.
	<b>TOTAL AWARDED</b>	<b>\$113,500</b>	
	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>	<b>\$109,300</b>	
	<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>(\$4,200)</b>	

Appendix B – 2018 Project Grant Recipients  
Report from Cultural Services Manager, February 5, 2018

	<b>ORGANIZATION &amp; PROJECT (*denotes new project)</b>	<b>2018 PROJECT GRANT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
1*	Cool Arts Society – Cool Cats – March to October, 2018 – Rotary Centre for the Arts, UBCO and Marmalade Cat Cafe	\$2,265	Working in partnership with the Okanagan Cat Coalition and using cats as a theme, Cool Arts artists will create art in various mediums to be shown in 3 public exhibits. The exhibit at the Rotary Centre for the Arts will also include a cat adoption event.
2	Inner Fish Theatre Society – Living Things: a festival of puppets, masks and performing objects – January & February, 2019 – Rotary Centre for the Arts, UBCO, Black Box Theatre	\$7,000	The Living Things festival offers professional theatre performances, complemented by dance, music and animated films. The professional performances are presented in collaboration with the PuSH festival in Vancouver and the High Performance Rodeo in Calgary. The 2018 Living Things was held Jan. 5 – Feb. 4. Funding is for the third festival in 2019.
3*	Kelowna Visual and Performing Arts Society – 2018 Culture Days – Sept. 28, 29 & 30 – Rotary Centre for the Arts	\$10,000	Culture Days is a 3-day long annual event held to raise awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement of Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities. The Rotary Centre for the Arts will serve as a hub for creative, innovative activities and collaborations for 2018 Culture Days in Kelowna.
4	Kiwanis Music Festival Society – Kiwanis Music Festival – Feb. 26 to April 27, 2018 – Rotary Centre for the Arts, Black Box Theatre, Creekside Theatre Gala Concert on May 18, 2018 – Mary Irwin Theatre, Rotary Centre for the Arts	\$10,000	This festival has a 92-year history in the Okanagan and remains dedicated to providing an annual multi-disciplinary event where amateur artists can perform, learn and grow their skills in speech, dance and music. 12 events are hosted during the 2-month long festival culminating in a Gala performance.
5*	New Vintage Theatre Society – Secret Theatre – July 21-23, Oct. 15-20 & Dec. 1-3, 2018 – Bertram Creek, Arts Common, Kelowna Museums and Kelowna Library Branch	\$5,500	New theatre experiences presented in unexpected locations. Using the chosen locations as their sets, artists interact with audience members in improvised and imaginative ways.
6*	Okanagan Caribbean Festival Society – 2018 Okanagan Caribbean Festival – July 21, 2018 – City Park, Jubilee Bowl	\$5,000	A free family event filled with live music, dancing, activities for all ages. An opportunity to enjoy the tastes and smells of the Caribbean Islands.

7*	Theatre Kelowna Society – 2018 Kelowna Fringe Festival – Sept. 20- 22, 2018 – Rotary Centre for the Arts, Black Box Theatre and Kelowna Library Branch	\$10,000	Fringe Festival performances are presented by local, national and international theatre companies. Shows tend to be shorter, one-act performances allowing audience members to attend more than one show in an evening. Ticket prices are kept low and 100% of the box office revenue is returned to the performers.
	<b>TOTAL AWARDED</b>	<b>\$49,765</b>	
	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	
	<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$5,235</b>	

Appendix C – Grant Evaluation Process  
Report from Cultural Services Manager, February 5, 2018

The Central Okanagan Foundation has worked with Cultural Services since 2010 to administer an arms-length, independent evaluation process for both Operating and Project grants. This relationship is governed by an annual Memorandum of Agreement.

**Highlights from the agreement:**

Again in 2018, the Foundation's role was primarily to facilitate grant panel roundtable discussions where grant recommendations are formulated. The Foundation prepares minutes of the roundtable meetings, has them approved by panel members and forwards grant recommendations to City staff.

The fee for the Foundation's services in 2018 was \$4,700, which remained consistent with 2017's fee.

Cultural Services staff are responsible for the grant program guidelines, application forms, information workshops, recruitment and orientation of grant panel members and distribution of funds.

**Arms-length review and the role of independent review panels:**

External, independent, arms-length review of grant applications is a principle enshrined in most public sector arts funding programs. It assures funders, applicants and the public that the review process is fair, transparent and independent.

Pursuant to the guidelines for 2018, four applications in the General Operating program were submitted in condensed form and diverted into a streamlined review process by City staff.

**Composition of the grant panels:**

12 panelists were selected from a public call for the 2017 grant panels (six for the General Operating panel and six for the Project panel). As set out in the Terms of Reference, panelists were encouraged to serve for 2 consecutive years, and therefore a new call was not issued for 2018. In total, 10 panelists returned for the 2018 panel. No new panelists were added to the process this year. Panelists received orientation from Central Okanagan Foundation and Cultural Services staff in mid-December, 2017 and signed the Terms of Reference documents.

Panelists were compensated through a per application reading fee, and a per diem for the roundtable meetings. Total compensation paid to 10 panelists in 2018 is \$3,975. The lower compensation was attributable to 2 less panelists and less overall applications to be reviewed in the Project Grant program.

**The review process:**

Panelists completed independent review and scoring of applications in December 2017 and met in roundtable meetings on January 9 and 10, 2018. Roundtable meetings were chaired by the Foundation's Director of Grants and Community Initiatives, and minutes were recorded by Foundation staff. Conflicts of interest, if present, were managed by the Chair in accordance with the Terms of Reference. Cultural Services staff were present as observers and to provide information support, but they did not participate in voting or scoring for funding decisions. Grant awards were developed by consensus of the panel members, based on the program criteria, information in the applications, assessment scores and discussion.



Appendix D – Highlights from 2017 Final Reports  
Report from Cultural Services Manager, February 5, 2018

Recipients of Operating and Project Grants must provide a Final Report as a condition of City support. Information from the Reports is helpful to Cultural Services in documenting successes, levels of participation and community impact. Highlights from 2017 Final Reports appear below. Not all recipients are included; each category samples a range of reported accomplishments.

<b>2017 OPERATING GRANTS</b>	
Recipient & Amount	Report Highlights
Dolyna Ukrainian Cultural Society - \$1,500	In addition to its successful ongoing programs and events the Dolyna Ukrainian Cultural Society had great success with the production of "This New Land" at the Rotary Centre for the Arts in May. The commemoration piece celebrated Canada's 150 <sup>th</sup> and the 125 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada. The project reflected in higher registration to the society for the year. Within the leadership of the organization, the group is invigorated to connect and create in order to reach new levels in the coming year.
New Vintage Theatre Society - \$10,000	New Vintage Theatres' presentation of Rock of Ages set a record for highest ticket sales at the RCA. All but one show sold out entirely! In addition, the company produced Yeti, A 1970's Cinderella, Fairy Tale High, Hauntings and A Kelowna Christmas Carol. The group also saw an increase in summer camps and theatre class enrollments this year. In total, 9455 people attending New Vintage Theatre shows, 706 artists/ performers were involved and 349 volunteers assisted with the productions.
Opera Kelowna Society - \$26,000	Opera Kelowna continues to make major strides in developing their organization. This year an "Opera in the Park" in West Kelowna was added to the summer concert series providing another opportunity for the local community to experience Opera in a relaxed outdoor setting. Opera Kelowna received the "ARTSCO Innovation Award" for the second year. Collaborating with local artists and different expressions of art to present a unique produce continue to be an important mandate of the Society.
<b>2017 PROJECT GRANTS</b>	
Orchard Valley Quilters Guild – Binding Canada Together: One Quilt at a Time - \$4,800	Over 756 paid attendees visited the quilt and fibre art show in September 2017. This is representative of a 66% increase since the last show. The event welcomed a group from the Chilliwack Quilt Guild that drove to Kelowna specifically for the event. The two-day event featured the talents of over 90 guild members and three students from the high school outreach program. Of note were exhibits on Canada's nature and resources, a quilt devoted to famous Canadian women, a display of hand sewn maple leafs and an architectural display of quilt panels representing all the provinces and territories.
Kelowna Kiwanis Festival Society – Kelowna Kiwanis Festival- \$7,000	The Kelowna Kiwanis Festival is an annual festival celebrating the achievement of aspiring performers in speech, dance and music. In 2017, many events were over-subscribed and overall there was 270 hours of actual festival performances. Entries increased from 1129 to 1255 performances. The festival entertained over 5000 audience members, over 3000 individuals performed and there was more than 1000 volunteer hours. A highlight of the festival was the performance gala held on May 7 where over \$10,000 in scholarships were handed out.

<p>Central Okanagan Heritage Society- Benvoulin Heritage Festival and 1892 Salon Concert \$3,800</p>	<p>The Central Okanagan Heritage Society presented two events September 30<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Benvoulin Heritage Church, a historic building and park. The festival and concert were based on the theme of 1892, a significant year of our community's history. The Benvoulin Heritage Festival, a family-oriented, free event, took place with exhibits, booths, artwork, children's activities, traveling minstrels, an old fashioned dress-up booth, historic vignettes, and Who were you in '92? with characters, in costume telling their stories.</p>
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Appendix E – Summary of Grant Activity 2011-2018  
Report from Cultural Services Manager, February 5, 2018

YEAR	DETAILS	OPERATING	PROJECT
2011	\$ available	\$110,000	\$70,000
	# of applications	21	22
	\$ requested	\$177,700	\$134,825
	# of grant awards	16	12
	\$ total awards	\$95,200	\$70,000
2012	\$ available	\$110,000	\$70,000
	# of applications	20	24
	\$ requested	\$186,370	\$141,488
	# of grant awards	18	17
	\$ total awards	\$110,000	\$70,000
2013	\$ available	\$111,500	\$65,000
	# of applications	22	17
	\$ requested	\$190,900	\$100,457
	# of grant awards	17	13
	\$ total awards	\$111,235	\$65,000
2014	\$ available	\$110,000	\$65,000
	# of applications	17	16
	\$ requested	\$133,800	\$107,407
	# of grant awards	15	10
	\$ total awards	\$102,300	\$51,550
2015	\$ available	\$109,300	\$70,000
	# of applications	19	18
	\$ requested	\$160,500	\$119,210
	# of grant awards	15	15
	\$ total awards	\$109,300	\$70,000
2016	\$ available	\$109,300	\$55,000
	# of applications	15	12
	\$ requested	\$132,250	\$80,713
	# of grant awards	15	10
	\$ total awards	\$104,300	\$47,888
2017	\$ available	\$114,300 (note 1)	\$65,000 (note 2)
	# of applications	17	17
	\$ requested	\$167,000	\$141,086
	# of grant awards	17	13
	\$ total awards	\$114,300	\$65,000
2018	\$ available	\$109,300	\$55,000
	# of applications	17	9
	\$ requested	\$163,300	\$69,485
	# of grant awards	16	7
	\$ total awards	\$113,500 (note 3)	\$49,765

Note 1: includes a carryover of \$5,000 from 2016

Note 2: Includes \$10,000 in incentive grants for projects reflecting C150 themes

Note 3: The over-commitment in General Operating funding is covered by the surplus in Project funding for 2018