

Report to Council



Date: February 4, 2019
File: 0710-20
To: City Manager
From: Christine McWillis, Cultural Services Manager
Subject: 2019 Cultural Grants – Professional Operating

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report dated February 4, 2019 from the Cultural Services Manager regarding the 2019 Cultural Grants – Professional Operating;

AND THAT Council approves the distribution of \$145,0000 in grant funding for the 2019 Cultural Grants - Professional Operating as recommended in the report dated February 4, 2019 from the Cultural Services Manager.

Purpose:

To seek Council's approval of the annual grants-in-aid to professional arts organizations.

Background:

The purpose of professional operating grants is to provide consistent and reliable annual support to professional, established non-profit arts and cultural organizations which provide impactful, quality programs and services, demonstrate sustainable operations and contribute to the realization of the City's cultural vision, principals and goals as outlined in the Cultural Plan.

New guidelines for this program were introduced in 2016 and have remained relatively unchanged. Again, for the 2019 grant cycle there were only minor housekeeping changes and the reformatting of the guidelines and application form. The program objectives and criteria remained the same.

Eligible organizations in this program are active for at least five years with professional artistic and administrative staff leadership, a proven record of delivering quality artistic programs in the community, an annual cash budget of at least \$200,000, and an active Board of Directors with a clear governance role. Finally, professional artistic contributors must be compensated at standard rates.

In 2018, three organizations participated in this program, at the following funding levels:

- Okanagan Symphony - \$62,000
- Ballet Kelowna - \$36,000
- Okanagan Artists Alternative Association - \$26,000

For 2019, there are no changes to funding for the Okanagan Symphony, Ballet Kelowna or Alternator Centre for Contemporary Art. Based on the program's goals and objectives, program criteria and the organizations application, it is recommended that Opera Kelowna be funded through this program for the first time at \$21,000.

Evaluation process:

Pursuant to the program guidelines, the evaluation process began with staff review of materials provided by organizations and a meeting with organization representatives to discuss findings.

In preparation of the recommendations in this report, staff have considered the following factors:

- The organization's previous funding history with the City of Kelowna, including how it has responded to previous feedback or suggestions for improvement
- The review findings and subsequent interview
- The assessment criteria published in the program guidelines

Background information to support the funding recommendation for each organization is contained in Schedules A through D. The following is an overview.

Okanagan Symphony Orchestra – recommended funding of \$62,000:

- The Okanagan Symphony Orchestra will be celebrating its 60th anniversary season in 2019-2020. Partnerships with other arts organizations are in progress and details of the celebration season will be announced in late Spring.
- Moving forward the orchestra seeks to be at the vanguard of change among orchestras, reflecting more cultural diversity through their art form. Mainstage programming will continue to feature works of contemporary composers including the promotion of and collaboration with Indigenous artists. The orchestra endeavours to be a meaningful part of reconciliation in our community through inclusive and collaborative arts practices.
- In 2018, the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra created a "Heartstrings" program which allows for private and corporate patrons to donate funds utilized to purchase tickets for those who aren't able to afford a ticket. The tickets are distributed through community agencies such as KCR, Karis Support Society, Boys and Girls Club and the Ki Low Na Friendship Centre Society.

Ballet Kelowna – recommended funding of \$36,000:

- Ballet Kelowna continues to encourage, promote, teach and develop Canadian dancers and choreographers by providing a nurturing and creative environment in which they can learn and refine their skills.
- A new three-year strategic plan will be announced at the end of January 2019. In addition to regional touring engagements, Ballet Kelowna will seek national and international opportunities. For 2019, the Board of Directors is focused on financial sustainability and is developing new communications, marketing and sponsorship opportunities.
- In September 2018, the Company made its international debut at the China International Performing Arts Expo in Beijing, China, followed by its Eastern Canadian debut at Toronto's Fall for Dance North festival.

Alternator Centre – recommended funding of \$26,000:

- 2019 marks the 30th Anniversary of the Okanagan Artists Alternative Association (OAAA)
- With recently awarded funding from the Central Okanagan Foundation, OAAA will be creating an artist vending machine project. This project expands the reach of OAAA into the community including opportunities in the tourism sector and fosters collaboration with other arts organizations for the presentation of local talent.
- 27,874 attendees have participated in Alternator Centre programs, special events or exhibitions in 2018. This is almost double that of 2017 and primarily a result of a partnership for an off-site exhibition at Kettle River Brewing Co. and a partnership with Lake Country Public Art Committee for the presentation of David Jacob Harder's 'Ponderosa Sphere'. The attendance is anticipated to remain high through 2019 as a result of new outreach activities launching soon

Opera Kelowna – recommended funding of \$21,000:

- Opera Kelowna was established in 2013, making 2018 their 5th year of operation. Opera Kelowna has an established reputation of artistic excellence and continues to leverage this in the community.
- Overall the organization is in a growth stage of development. This means that while programs and services are excelling (artistic excellence) a need for strengthening the organization's systems and practices is evident.
- In a typical year, residents can expect to enjoy a range of events such as:
 - Annual Christmas Concert
 - Fundraising Gala
 - Opera Under the Stars
 - Opera in the Park
 - Mainstage Event
 - Summer Intensive Training Program

Upon approval of the funding recommendation by Council, staff will provide each organization with a funding confirmation letter which sets out the conditions for the release of funding and may contain feedback or suggestions for improvement from the funder's perspective.

Internal Circulation:

Division Director, Active Living & Culture

Communications Supervisor
Financial Services – Payroll & Internal Controls Manager

Existing Policy:

Council Policy 274 – Cultural Policy

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

The total funding available in budget for the Professional Operating Grant program in 2019 is \$140,000.

Funding recommendations for 2019 Professional Operating Grants total \$145,000. The additional \$5,000 required will be reallocated from the Cultural Grants - Project Program. The overall amount required for all Cultural Grants is fully funded from existing budget.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements

Personnel Implications:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments:

Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by: C. McWillis, Cultural Services Manager

Approved for inclusion: J. Gabriel, Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture

Cc: Communications Supervisor
Business Manager, Okanagan Symphony Society
Artistic Director & CEO Ballet Kelowna
Artistic and Administrative Director, Alternator Centre for Contemporary Art
Artistic Director, Opera Kelowna