

Report to Council



Date: February 6, 2017
File: 0710-20
To: City Manager
From: Sandra Kochan, Cultural Services Manager
Subject: 2017 Cultural General Operating and Project Grants

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the list of 2017 recipients for cultural General Operating and Project Grants as outlined in the report from the Cultural Services Manager dated February 6, 2017.

Purpose:

The report provides an update regarding recipients of 2017 cultural General Operating and Project grants, background information about the grant programs and review process, and includes highlights from final reports provided by 2016 grant recipients.

Background:

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

In 2017, cultural Operating and Project grants totaling \$179,300 will be distributed to local non-profit organizations providing arts, culture and heritage programs, services and events. This amount includes \$10,000 in incentive grants for Canada 150 initiatives in the Project program.

The list of 2017 General Operating Grant recipients is attached in Appendix A.

2017 Project Grant recipients are listed in Appendix B.

Guidelines and the arms-length evaluation process for both of these programs, including changes made for the 2017 grant cycle, were approved by Council on September 19, 2016 with direction to staff to provide this information report about 2017 recipients and an overview of the benefits achieved from the 2016 grants.

Appendix C summarizes the evaluation process and the respective roles of City staff, the Central Okanagan Foundation and the grant panels selected through a public call for applications in fall, 2016.

Appendix D provides highlights from Final Reports provided by 2016 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 seven years, comparing the number and value of applications and the number and value of grants awarded.

Internal Circulation:

Director, Active Living & Culture Division
Communications Supervisor

Existing Policy:

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

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:

S. Kochan, Cultural Services Manager

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

Attachments:

Appendix A: 2017 General Operating Grant Recipients
Appendix B: 2017 Project Grant Recipients
Appendix C: Grant Evaluation Process
Appendix D: Highlights from 2016 Final Reports
Appendix E: Summary of Grant Activity 2011-2017

cc:

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

Appendix A – 2017 General Operating Grant Recipients
Report from Cultural Services Manager, February 6, 2017

	ORGANIZATION (* denotes new recipient)	2017 OPERATING GRANT	DESCRIPTION
1*	Arts Council of the Central Okanagan	\$3,000	Promotes and facilitates awareness and appreciation of the arts in the Central Okanagan. Coordinates the annual Okanagan Arts Awards.
2	BC Old Time Fiddlers	\$3,500	Promotes, encourages and fosters connections among the fiddling community and encourages youth to take up fiddling and violin playing.
3	Central Okanagan Heritage Society	\$5,000	Owns, operates and maintains several heritage buildings and delivers a range of heritage programs and services.
4	Centre Culturel Francophone de L'Okanagan	\$11,000	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	\$12,000	Provides arts experiences for adults and teens with 'diversabilities' through workshops, projects and exhibitions.
7	Dolyna Ukrainian Cultural Society	\$1,500	Provides programs which celebrate Ukrainian culture in Canada, including dance, language, food, traditions and special events.
8	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.
9	Kelowna Community Music School Society	\$5,500	Over 550 students benefit from private and group lessons, with many opportunities to perform in the community.
10	New Vintage Theatre Society	\$10,000	Professional theatre offering stage productions, career development for actors and playwrights and special events.
11	Okanagan Chinese Canadian Association	\$6,800	Builds public appreciation of Chinese culture through classes, events and welcome of new arrivals.
12	Okanagan Festival Singers	\$6,500	Produces and performs large-scale choral works, often in collaboration with other groups and the Symphony.
13	Okanagan Historical Society	\$2,500	Operates and maintains the Father Pandosy Mission site and provides services which share the story of the site with visitors.
14*	Okanagan Society of Independent Filmmaking (previously funded in 2013)	\$3,000	Artist-run cooperative offers artistic development, screenings, workshops, equipment and on-set experience in film and video.
15	Opera Kelowna Society	\$26,000	Professional regional opera company and training centre for young and promising artists.

16	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.
17	Society of Friends of the Early Music Studio	\$2,000	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.
	TOTAL AWARDED	\$114,300	
	TOTAL AVAILABLE	\$114,300	
	BALANCE	\$0	

Appendix B – 2017 Project Grant Recipients
Report from Cultural Services Manager, February 6, 2017

	ORGANIZATION & PROJECT (* new)	2017 PROJECT GRANT	C150 INCENTIVE GRANT	DESCRIPTION
1*	Arts Council of the Central Okanagan – Professional Development Programming – March to November, 2017	\$4,000	\$900	A suite of workshops and presentations led by professionals to help local visual artists develop skills and tools to build a sustainable practice. Initial focus will be on applying best business practices and professional standards, image marketing, as well as a look back at the history of Art in the Okanagan over the past 150 years.
2*	Central Okanagan Heritage Society – Kelowna Heritage Festival – Sept. 29 to 30, 2017	\$3,700		In recognition of the 125 th anniversary of Benvoulin Church and the 35 th anniversary of the Society, a Heritage festival is planned based on the year 1892 (when both the Kelowna and Mission townsites were mapped out and when the Benvoulin Church was built).
3	Centre Culturel Francophone de L'Okanagan – Nuit Blanche - during Culture Days Sept. 29 to Oct. 1, 2017	\$6,000		Nuit Blanche is a late-night event of multidisciplinary arts and culture installations and performances in several locations in the Cultural District and downtown Kelowna. Outdoor light projections will again be on display in a number of prominent locations and will this year feature images and video in celebration of Canada's 150 th anniversary.
4*	Dolyna Ukrainian Cultural Society – Ukrainian's Journey into Canada – May 13, 2017 - Mary Irwin Theatre, Rotary Centre for the Arts	\$3,400	\$1,600	A Folk Ballet theatre performance that will combine dance with traditional music, costumes, staging and script to tell the story of the first immigration of Ukrainians to Canada 125 years ago and to celebrate Canada's Sesquicentennial.
5*	Inner Fish Theatre Society – Living Things: a festival of puppets, masks and performing objects – Jan. 20 – Feb. 4, 2018 – Rotary Centre for the Arts	\$8,000		The Living Things festival offers professional theatre performances, complemented by visual art and other work by local artists. The professional performances are presented in collaboration with the PuSH festival in Vancouver and the High Performance Rodeo in Calgary. The 2017 premiere of Living Things was held Jan. 27 – Feb. 5. Funding is for the second festival in 2018.
6*	Kelowna Community Concerts Association – Free Community Concert – Aug, 23, 2017 – Island Stage Waterfront Park	\$4,000	\$1,000	The organization will be presenting a free performance of an iconic Canadian ensemble, in partnership with Festivals Kelowna's Parks Alive! program. Further details will be announced in the coming months.
7*	Kelowna Kasugai Sister City Association – Sushi and Sake – May 28, 2017 – Laurel Packinghouse	\$2,100		Held during Asian Heritage Month, "Sushi and Sake" is a celebration of Japanese culture with a specific appeal to a young professional demographic (19+). The event will feature a combination of culinary arts, cultural performances and visual art.

8*	Kelowna Pipe Band Society – Spring Fling 2017 – April 29, 2017 – Waterfront Park	\$3,000		Every year, pipe bands from throughout BC Interior come together to compete, perform, socialize and share the power and majesty of the pipes in a public setting. Kelowna last hosted this event in 2010.
9*	Kelowna Visual and Performing Arts Society – All Bodies Dance Project – June 12-16, 2017 – Rotary Centre for the Arts	\$3,000		A workshop series and performance that brings together dancers with and without disabilities to explore movement as creative expression. All Bodies offers accessible and inclusive dance and demonstrates that artists come in all shapes, sizes and abilities.
10*	Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society – Joining “The Winds of Change” – July 1, 2017 – City Park	\$2,000	\$3,500	A participatory “Blanket Exercise” and talking circle explores the relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples, how the relationship was damaged and how people can work towards reconciliation. Education workshops will follow for community organizations participating in the Canada Day event.
11	Kiwanis Music Festival Society – Kiwanis Music Festival - March to May, 2017 – Creekside Theatre and Rotary Centre for the Arts Gala Concert on May 7, 2017 – Mary Irwin Theatre, Rotary Centre for the Arts	\$7,000	\$2,000	An annual festival offering competition in 12 separate disciplines in dance, speech and music, and over 150 different classes, culminating in a public Gala concert. Special classes and awards are being made available for participants performing music from Canadian composers, dancing to Canadian music and reciting Canadian poetry and prose in celebration of Canada’s 150th anniversary.
12	New Vintage Theatre Society – Kelowna Fan Xpo (KFX) – March 24-26, 2017 – Kelowna Community Theatre and other Cultural District venues	\$5,000		An all-inclusive, family friendly event which celebrates animation, cosplay and pop culture described as ‘Fringe Festival meets Comic Con.’ Unique features for 2017 include a One Man Star Wars Trilogy endorsed by George Lucas and written by Vancouver actor Charles Ross, and a movie premiere of The Recall starring Wesley Snipes, filmed in the Okanagan, with post-screening talkback with actors, director and producer.
13	Orchard Valley Quilters Guild – Quilt Show (previously funded in 2012) – “Binding Canada Together: One Quilt at a Time” – Sept. 23-24, 2017 – Okanagan Mission Hall	\$3,800	\$1,000	Quilt and fibre art show to celebrate Canada 150 and the Guild’s 35th anniversary. Exhibits will showcase the talents of over 90 guild members around the theme of the beauty of Canada and what Canada means to its people.
	TOTAL AWARDED	\$55,000	\$10,000	
	TOTAL AVAILABLE	\$55,000	\$10,000	
	BALANCE	\$0	\$0	

Appendix C – Grant Evaluation Process
Report from Cultural Services Manager, February 6, 2017

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:

For 2017, 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 2017 was \$4,700, reduced from \$10,000 in previous years.

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 revised guidelines for 2017, three 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:

Through a public call, Cultural Services received 16 applications for participation in the 2017 grant panels. Based on the criteria and their experience and skills, 12 panelists were selected (six for the General Operating panel and six for the Project panel). Panelists received orientation from Central Okanagan Foundation and Cultural Services staff in mid-December, 2016 and signed Terms of Reference. This recruitment process was very successful in bringing new people and skills to the panels; staff will continue to recruit panelists as needed in future years.

Panelists were compensated through a per application reading fee, and a per diem for the roundtable meetings.

Total compensation paid to 12 panelists in 2017 is \$6,300.

The review process:

Panelists completed independent review and scoring of applications in December 2016 and met in roundtable meetings on January 9 and 10, 2017. 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 2016 Final Reports
Report from Cultural Services Manager, February 6, 2017

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 2016 Final Reports appear below. Not all recipients are included; each category samples a range of reported accomplishments.

2016 OPERATING GRANTS	
Recipient & Amount	Report Highlights
Chamber Music Society - \$9,000	In addition to their annual performance series, Chamber Music Kelowna offered free open rehearsals and arranged for visiting artists to perform and provide master classes at local schools. They worked in partnership with the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra to add two more school performances by local artists that make up the Okanagan Symphony Brass Trio.
New Vintage Theatre Society - \$7,000	New Vintage Theatre presented four main stage productions for a total audience of over 6,000 people and in partnership with Festivals Kelowna also presented two free outdoor productions of Grease to an audience of over 2,500. They toured six local schools with their show RESPECT, with support from Kelowna Community Resources and continued their live improvised parody soap opera 'As The Sun Burns', Saturday Popcorn Playhouse, Sunday Cookie Cabaret and weekly Improv Film Nights.
Opera Kelowna Society - \$15,000	Opera Kelowna presented its second fully staged opera, The Magic Flute, at the Rotary Centre for the Arts on August 12-16, 2016 to an audience of over 940 people. They also partnered with UBCO and Festivals Kelowna to again present free outdoor concerts in August 2016 to audiences of over 1,000 people and provided seven other free opportunities for over 750 people to listen to and learn about Opera.
2016 PROJECT GRANTS	
Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians – To See Or Not To See - \$1,500	Premiere production of the play 'To See or Not to See' was performed at the Mary Irwin Theater. The play was written by Ruth Bieber, a visually impaired local artist. The project focused on inclusion both on and off stage and engaged local deaf, blind, senior and mental health communities. The play was presented with both sign language interpretation and descriptive audio for audience members.
BC Old Time Fiddlers – Provincial Fiddle Contest - \$4,000	Over 350 competitors and audience members attended the 2016 BC Old Time Fiddlers Provincial Championship. Competitors ranged in age from six to 80 years and participated in a range of workshops and performances. Special guest artists included award winning fiddlers and musicians Calvin Vollrath, Mark Sullivan and Daniel Lapp. Winning contestants went on to represent BC at the Canadian Grand Masters Contest in August 2016 in Manotik, Ontario.
Cool Arts Society - We Are Citizens - \$4,306	An invitational juried art exhibition with the theme of citizenship, featuring artwork by artists with diversabilities from five established disability art centres in British Columbia and Alberta. The theme of 'Citizenship' included the concepts of love, freedom, money, home, help, life and purpose and was the framework for preceding workshops and the exhibition itself. 25 works of art were selected from 125 submissions. Relationships created with the five other disability art centres have created networking and professional development opportunities for the Cool Arts Society and its members.

Appendix E – Summary of Grant Activity 2011-2017
Report from Cultural Services Manager, February 6, 2017

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

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

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