



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Information Item No. 2
Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee
September 19, 2024

TO: Chair and Members of Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee

FROM: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: July 17, 2024

SUBJECT: 2024-2025 Grants to Professional Arts Organization, CAO Approved

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

2024-2025 applications received pursuant to *Administrative Order Number 2014-007-ADM: Respecting Grants to Professional Arts Organizations*.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the 2024/2025 Grants to Professional Arts Organizations awards.

BACKGROUND

Halifax Regional Municipality administers an annual funding program in support of professional arts organizations as governed by *Administrative Order Number 2014-007-ADM Respecting Grants to Professional Arts Organizations* (Administrative Order). The 2024-2025 approved funding envelope is \$810,000.

The Grants to Professional Arts Organization Program awards funding to registered non-profit professional arts organizations located within the geographic boundary of the municipality and in accordance with the definitions outlined in the Administrative Order. Applications are assessed by peer jury review and awarded by the CAO, as set out in the Administrative Order.

The program is divided into two funding categories:

1. Operating Assistance to Professional Arts Organizations, which supports the regular operations of those organizations; and
2. Project Assistance to Professional Arts Organizations, which allocates funding to stand-alone, non-recurrent arts initiatives.

On December 12, 2023 Regional Council approved an amendment to *Administrative Order Number 2024-007-ADM: Respecting Grants to Professional Arts Organizations* allowing Halifax Regional Municipality to provide up to a three-year funding commitment subject to annual budgetary approval. The peer jury considered this option when developing their recommendations.

DISCUSSION

On April 23, 2024, the funding envelope for 2024-2025 Grants to Professional Arts Organizations was increased by \$125,000 and now totals \$810,000, with awards recommended and approved at this total amount. The awards reflect 75% toward Operating Assistance, and 25% toward Project Assistance. This allocation is in line with historic allocations and represents feedback from arts groups who have confirmed that Operating Assistance should be weighed heavier than Project Assistance support when additional funding is available.

In total, 82 applications were received for the 2024-2025 Program: 49 under Operating Assistance; and 33 under Project Assistance with a cumulative funding request of \$1,829,179.

Operating Assistance

On May 17, 2024 the peer jury was convened. Operating funding recommendations are listed in Table 2. A total of forty-nine applications were received: 2 anchor applications and 41 non-anchor applications were recommended for funding and 6 were not recommended or deemed ineligible. The increase of funds in 2024-2025 allowed capacity to fund 7 new groups as well as increases for most existing Operating clients.

Project Assistance

On May 23, 2024, the peer jury was convened. Project funding recommendations are listed in Table 3. The peer jury aimed to recommend funds at a higher percentage of their request (based on feedback from arts groups) supporting projects more holistically whenever possible. Of the 33 applications received, 14 were recommended for funding.

The CAO accepted the recommendations of the peer jury and the recommended grants have been awarded.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommended Professional Arts Grant awards for 2024-2025 in the total amount of \$810,000 are accommodated in the approved 2024-2025 Parks & Recreation operating budget (Cost centre W707 GL: 8004) as shown in Attachment 1.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Grants to Professional Arts Organizations program uses a peer jury to assess and score the applications against the criteria. The peer jury is established achieving a balance of artistic discipline or area of professional expertise, regional perspective, age, and cultural and gender diversity while also considering potential conflicts of interest. This process supports public access to professional arts activities, diversifies and grows the local arts sector providing meaningful opportunities for artists and arts administrators and ultimately supports engagement, participation, and appreciation of the arts.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, S.N.S. 2008, c. 39 as amended

79A (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), the Municipality may only spend money for municipal purposes if

- a) the expenditure is included in the Municipality's operating budget or capital budget or is otherwise authorized by the Municipality;
- b) the expenditure is in respect of an emergency under the Emergency Management Act; or

- c) the expenditure is legally required to be paid.

Administrative Order Number 2014-007-ADM: *Respecting Grants to Professional Arts Organizations*

Section 16A. (1) Council hereby delegates to the CAO the authority to approve grants under this Administrative Order, and to determine the amount of such grants.

Section 21A. Parks & Recreation staff will provide an information report annually to the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee on the peer jury process and the grants approved by the CAO.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1 - Funding Tables

Report Prepared by: Lindsay Cory, Community Developer – Public Art of Culture & Community, 902.456.8384

Category	Application Type	Number of Applications (2023-2024)	Total Funding Request (2023-2024)	Number of Applications (2024-2025)	Total Funding Request (2024-2025)
Operating Grants	Anchor Organizations	2	\$200,000	2	\$200,000
	Non-Anchor Organizations - Eligible	34	\$702,998	41	\$1,028,159
	Non-Anchor Organizations - Not recommended for funding	3	\$44,347	6	\$73,161
Project Grants		31	\$512,863.25	33	\$527,859
TOTAL		70	\$1,460,208.25	82	\$1,829,179

Anchor Organizations		2023-2024 Grant	2024-2025 Request	2024-2025 Recommendation
1	Neptune Theatre Foundation*	\$42,500	\$100,000	\$42,500
2	Symphony Nova Scotia Society*	\$45,000	\$100,000	\$45,000
Non-Anchor Organizations		2023-2024 Grant	2024-2025 Request	2024-2025 Recommendation
1	2b Theatre Society*	\$36,000	\$50,000	\$38,000
2	African Nova Scotia Music Association*	\$8,000	\$50,000	\$10,000
3	AfterWords Literary Festival*	\$6,500	\$30,000	\$10,000
4	Anna Leonowens Gallery*	\$10,000	\$50,000	\$12,000
5	Atlantic Filmmakers Cooperative*	\$22,500	\$30,000	\$22,500
6	Bus Stop Theatre Cooperative*	\$23,500	\$24,999	\$24,950
7	Capella Regalis Men & Boys Choir	NR	\$18,000	\$5,000
8	Carbon Arc Cinema Co-op*	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
9	Cecilia Concerts Society*	\$7,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
10	Choirs for Change	DNA	\$6,200	\$5,000
11	Craft Nova Scotia*	\$14,000	\$50,000	\$15,000
12	Dalhousie Art Gallery*	\$12,000	\$23,000	\$15,000
13	Debut Atlantic Society*	\$9,000	\$15,000	\$10,000
14	Eastern Front Theatre Society*	\$15,000	\$25,000	\$17,500
15	Everyseeker*	\$9,500	\$18,000	\$13,000
16	Eyelevel Gallery Society*	\$12,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
17	Halifax Camerata Singers*	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
18	Halifax Theatre for Young People*	\$11,500	\$18,500	\$13,000
19	HEIST Society*	\$5,000	\$37,660	\$7,500
20	Khyber Arts Society*	\$16,000	\$30,000	\$18,000
21	Kinetic Studio Society*	\$7,000	\$18,000	\$10,000
22	Live Art Dance Productions*	\$16,000	\$21,000	\$18,000
23	Matchstick Theatre Company Society	DNA	\$20,000	\$5,000
24	Mocean Dance*	\$23,000	\$40,000	\$24,000
25	MSVU Art Gallery*	DNA	\$18,000	\$8,000

26	Music Nova Scotia*	\$11,500	\$25,000	\$16,500
27	Nocturne: Art at Night Society*	\$13,000	\$18,000	\$15,000
28	Phin Performing Arts	DNA	\$25,000	\$5,000
29	Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre	DNA	\$35,000	\$5,000
30	Prismatic Arts Society	DNA	\$50,000	\$8,000
31	RadStorm Art, Music & Community Space Society	DNA	\$16,800	\$5,000
32	Scotia Chamber Players	\$9,000	\$12,000	\$10,000
33	Shakespeare By the Sea Theatre Society*	\$15,000	\$50,000	\$16,000
34	Society For Art Presentation (CFAT)*	\$15,000	\$23,000	\$18,000
35	suddenlyLISTEN Music Society*	\$5,500	\$10,000	\$6,500
36	Upstream Music Association*	\$4,500	\$10,000	\$5,500
37	Villains Theatre*	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$7,000
38	Visual Arts Nova Scotia	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000
39	Wonder'neath Art Society	\$15,500	\$15,500	\$15,500
40	Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia*	\$10,500	\$16,000	\$12,500
41	Zuppa Theatre*	\$21,000	\$50,000	\$22,000
TOTAL RECOMMENDED OPERATING GRANTS (2024-2025)				\$609,950

DNA = Did Not Apply; NA = New Applicant; NR = Not Recommended; *recommended for three-year funding

Organization		2024-2025 Request	2024-2025 Recommendation
1	Craft Nova Scotia	\$22,000	\$15,500
2	Dalhousie Art Gallery	\$25,000	\$20,000
3	Eastern Front Theatre Society	\$15,000	\$9,500
4	Everyseeker	\$25,000	\$17,500
5	JRG Society for the Arts	\$25,000	\$15,500
6	Khyber Arts Society	\$17,000	\$13,000
7	Kinetic Studio Society	\$16,000	\$13,000
8	Matchstick Theatre Company	\$20,000	\$13,000
9	Mocean Dance	\$18,000	\$12,500
10	MSVU Art Gallery	\$18,000	\$14,500
11	Nocturne Art at Night Society	\$20,000	\$15,000
12	Society for Art Presentation (CFAT)	\$18,550	\$12,550
13	Wonder'neath Art Society	\$13,285	\$11,000
14	Zuppa Circus Theatre Society	\$25,000	\$17,500
TOTAL RECOMMENDED PROJECT GRANTS (2024-2025)			\$200,050