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SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

Board and Information Services
Tel. 604 432-6250 Email: BIS-Secretariat@metrovancouver.org

Rise and Report (Items Released from Closed Meeting)

On July 25, 2025, the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Board of Directors authorized the following information to be released to the public:

Report dated June 24, 2025, titled "Metro Vancouver 2025 Regional Cultural Project Grants", including attachments 1 to 5

See attached.

Released: August 20, 2025

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SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

CLOSED MEETING

To: Finance Committee

From: Lucy Duso, Division Manager Collaboration and Engagement, External Relations
Sarah Faucher, External Outreach Coordinator, External Relations

Date: June 24, 2025 Meeting Date: July 10, 2025

Subject: **Metro Vancouver 2025 Regional Cultural Project Grants**

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board:

a) approve the allocation of the 2025 Metro Vancouver regional cultural project grants as follows:

Organization	Grant
DANCE	
All Bodies Dance Society	$5,000
Compaigni V'ni Dansi Society	$3,000
Dancers of Damelahamid	$7,000
Danstabat Performance Society (Tara Cheyenne Performance)	$3,000
Foolish Operations Society	$3,000
Kinesis Dance Society (Soma anima arts)	$3,000
Lamondance Arts Society	$3,000
Ne. Sans Opera and Dance association	$5,000
Ouro Collective Society	$10,000
Plastic Orchid Factory Society	$3,000
Seismic Shift Arts Society (DanceHouse)	$10,000
VocalEye Descriptive Arts Society	$7,000
FESTIVALS AND EVENTS	
Arts Council of New Westminster	$5,000
Conseil culturel et artistique francophone de Colombie-Britannique	$3,000
Coquitlam Place des Arts Society	$3,000
Evergreen Cultural Centre Society	$5,000
Folk Star Arts Academy Society	$5,000
Langley Arts Council	$7,000
Latincouver Cultural & Business Society	$10,000
MENA Film Festival Society	$7,000
Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre	$10,000
North Vancouver Community Arts Council (North Van Arts)	$7,000
PuSh International Performing Arts Festival Society	$10,000
Recorded Movement Society	$10,000
Sanjh Foundation	$10,000
STAND Festival Foundation	$5,000

United Scottish Cultural Society (ScotFestBC)	$7,000
Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival Society	$5,000
Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre Society	$10,000
Vancouver Latin American Film Festival	$5,000
VDC Dance Centre Society	$10,000
VISAFF South Asian Film Festival Society	$10,000
MUSIC	
Kay Meek Arts Society	$5,000
Music on Main Society	$3,000
Phoenix Vocal and Performing Society (Phoenix Chamber Choir)	$5,000
Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra Society	$7,000
Vancouver Cantonese Opera	$3,000
Vancouver Iranian Choir Society	$7,000
Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra Society	$10,000
Vancouver New Music Society	$5,000
THEATRE	
PTC Playwrights Theatre Centre	$3,000
Raven Theatre Performance Society	$5,000
rice and beans theatre society	$3,000
Savage Production Society	$5,000
Screaming Weenie Productions (The frank theatre company)	$3,000
Théâtre la Seizième	$5,000
Theatre Replacement Society	$5,000
VISUAL ARTS	
Bill Reid Gallery	$5,000
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society of Vancouver	$5,000
Vancouver Art Gallery Association	$10,000
Total 2025 Regional Cultural Project Grants	**$300,000**

b) authorize the Corporate Officer to release to the public the report dated June 24, 2025, titled "Metro Vancouver 2025 Regional Cultural Project Grants" including attachments 1 to 5; and
c) authorize staff to release the names of the successful organizations and the amount of the grant awards.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the recommended projects for Metro Vancouver's 2025 annual regional cultural grants, which support arts and culture organizations delivering cultural projects throughout the region. For 2025, Metro Vancouver received 132 applications requesting a total of $1,135,345, and are recommending 50 of these receive funding to the total available of $300,000. Staff screened all applications for eligibility and assessed proposals against set criteria (Attachment 1), including: the regional impact of each proposed project, merit, budget, delivery plans, and each applicant's demonstrated success and resilience. Grants are for proposed projects, not ongoing

operational/general expenses. Many grant recipients tour around the region or draw audiences from across municipalities.

Funded by the Grants Reserve Fund, the approved 2025 Budget is $300,000. Each project can receive up to $10,000. The funds are provided through interest earned on the reserve fund, and do not draw from annual tax revenues. MVRD Board authorization is required to distribute funds from the Grants Reserve Fund as external contributions. If approved by the MVRD Board on July 25, 2025, grants will be distributed in August.

PURPOSE
To recommend an allocation of the Metro Vancouver 2025 regional cultural project grants in accordance with the cultural grant guidelines.

This matter is being presented at a closed meeting pursuant to section 226 (1) (a) of the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* provisions as follows:

> 90 (1) A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:
> (b) personal information about an identifiable individual who is being considered for a municipal award or honour, or who has offered to provide a gift to the municipality on condition of anonymity; and
> (j) information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.*

BACKGROUND
Each year Metro Vancouver administers a process to determine the disbursement of regional cultural project grants to successful applicants. The project grants support creation, production, dissemination, audience development, research, project staff, and/or administrative capacity building. Project grants are awarded to a maximum of $10,000 each. Grants are for proposed projects, not ongoing operational/general expenses. Many grant recipients tour outside of the municipality where their organization is based or draw audiences from across municipalities.

In addition to a strong proposal submission, applicants must be in good standing with respect to any previous grants received through this program. Recipients are required to complete a project report (Attachment 2). Receipt of progress updates and/or a final report is a pre-condition for consideration of an organization's future grant applications.

2025 Updated Grant Criteria
Staff adjusted the 2025 application criteria to improve efficiency for applicants and tighten the grant criteria in order to reduce the disappointment of applicants spending time and resources on unsuccessful submissions. Some criteria that were previously considered as advantageous became mandatory. The now-mandatory criteria reflected areas where past applications fell short compared to others.

Adjustments to application criteria for 2025 included:

- More firm budget criteria:
  - Metro Vancouver's grant will be capped at no more than 30% of a total proposed project budget (In previous years this was considered advantageous)
  - The application must identify at least two other sources of project funding, including one that is confirmed (In previous years this was considered advantageous)
- Applicants must demonstrate stability and resiliency, including operating with an annual budget exceeding $75,000 and with paid staff (In previous years this was considered advantageous)
- Applications require a letter of support, preferably from a project collaborator or funding source (In previous years support letters were optional and considered advantageous)

In addition to these criteria, staff updated the 2025 application form to assist applicants and streamline the review process. The updated application form included:

- Prompts for details on paid staff and estimated audience/patronage
- Multiple choice tick boxes to identify common programming or audience traits
- Text boxes to highlight genres, themes, or intentional elements to support diversity, equity, and inclusion

In previous years, staff scanned applications for the above content. These updates to the application form support applicants by emphasizing content that raises their profile.

With tightened criteria, staff anticipated a reduction in applications and the potential to more closely align the total requested funds with the annual budget. There was some change, but demand remains high for arts and culture funding. The quantity of applications and total requests for funding over the past 10 years are shown in the table below. The intake for 2025 received 132 submissions with a total request of $1,135,345.

	Applications	Requested	Grants Recommended by Staff	Budgeted Distribution
2025	132	$1,135,345	50	$300,000
2024	162	$1,306,833	57	$300,000
2023	106	$908,650	63	$300,000
2022	106	$640,614	55	$300,000
2021	106	$758,011	54	$300,000
2020	54	$377,230	29	$140,000
2019	59	$381,900	29	$130,000
2018	74	$489,779	30	$120,000
2017	73	$520,440	31	$110,000
2016	57	$443,480	24	$100,000

Intake of Applications
The 2025 application intake was announced on March 12, starting with a media release (Attachment 3). The grants were promoted through social media, the *Metro Vancouver Update*, and a program mailing list of interested parties (Attachment 4).

Staff hosted an information session on April 3 to provide an overview of the application and adjudication process, offer guidance and tips for submitting a stronger application, review common errors seen in the past, and answer questions from interested applicants. Approximately 44 arts and culture organizations participated in the webinar. The video of the session was posted to the webpage to help others through the remainder of the application intake. The webpage also provided guidance for applicants, and an offer for staff to discuss proposal ideas directly or answer further questions about the grant program.

The deadline for submissions was 4:00 pm on Monday, April 28, 2025. All applications were submitted electronically.

Review of Project Proposals
Staff reviewed all submissions, screened them for eligibility, then reviewed eligible applications against the established criteria. Staff assessed applications based on the scoring guidelines of the regional cultural project grant program (Attachment 5). The selection criteria assessed timing, organizational stability, and resilience. Staff also considered reporting history from previous grants where applicable.

A total of 132 applications were received. Of the 132 applications, 17 were from new applicants. Submissions were disqualified if they were received late (eliminating five), were incomplete (eliminating 26), or did not meet the established grant criteria (eliminating 12). Organizations that had previously received a Metro Vancouver regional cultural project grant were only considered for a 2025 grant if their reporting history was in good standing. Staff eliminated submissions that were missing key information, such as other confirmed funding sources, and any project plans outlining timing that misaligned with our grant distribution. One application was withdrawn. Using the established 2025 guidelines and score sheet, staff narrowed the eligible projects down to 50 applications recommended to receive a grant for 2025 (Attachment 6).

The grant projects recommended by staff were of good caliber overall, representing a range of arts and culture disciplines from across the region. Of these applications, 10 are new applicants and seven are from previous applicants that have not received a Metro Vancouver regional cultural project grant in the past. To provide additional context, staff provided the grant history for organizations that have applied over the last three years.

Announcement of Successful Applicants
Following approval by the MVRD Board of 2025 regional cultural project grants, the names of the successful organizations and the amount of the grant awards will be announced to the public via media release and other communications. Notification letters will be sent to all applicants, including an offer for staff to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the MVRD Board:
   a) approve the allocation of the 2025 Metro Vancouver regional cultural project grants as follows:

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Bill Reid Gallery	$5,000
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society of Vancouver	$5,000
Vancouver Art Gallery Association	$10,000
Total 2025 Regional Cultural Project Grants	**$300,000**

b) authorize the Corporate Officer to release to the public the report dated June 24, 2025, titled "Metro Vancouver 2025 Regional Cultural Project Grants" including attachments 1 to 5; and
c) authorize staff to release the names of the successful organizations and the amount of the grant awards.

2. That the MVRD Board:
   a) approve the allocation of the 2025 Metro Vancouver regional cultural project grants as recommended in the report dated June 24, 2025, titled "Metro Vancouver 2025 Regional Cultural Project Grants", with the following changes: _____.
   b) authorize the Corporate Officer to release to the public the report dated June 24, 2025, titled "Metro Vancouver 2025 Regional Cultural Project Grants" including attachments 1 to 5; and
   c) authorize staff to release the names of the successful organizations and the amount of the grant awards.

3. That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated June 24, 2025, titled "Metro Vancouver 2025 Regional Cultural Project Grants".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The MVRD cultural grants are funded by the interest earned from a Cultural Grant Reserve Fund established in 1991. The 2025 allocation for cultural grants from the Grants Reserve Fund is $300,000. As such, the grants do not draw from annual tax revenues and do not impact the tax requisition.

CONCLUSION

The MVRD Board awards regional cultural project grants annually to region-serving arts and cultural organizations. Applications seeking 2025 grants have been reviewed based on established criteria including regional impact, merit, and budget, as well as consideration for organizational resilience and previous funding. For 2025, 50 regional cultural projects are recommended to receive a grant, with grant distribution capped at $10,000 for each project and to a total of $300,000 for all grants. The funds are provided through interest earned on the Grants Reserve Fund, do not draw from annual tax revenues, and require MVRD Board approval as external contributions. Following final approval by the MVRD Board on July 25, grants will be distributed in August to fund programming beginning in September 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Eligibility Criteria – Metro Vancouver 2025 Regional Cultural Project Grants.
2. 2024 Regional Cultural Project Grant Reporting and Evaluation Form.
3. Media Release: “Apply Now for Regional Cultural Grants up to $10,000”, issued March 12, 2025.
4. Sample Mailing List Notice – Deadline Reminder, dated April 22, 2025.
5. Score Sheet for Eligible Applications – Metro Vancouver 2025 Regional Cultural Project Grants.
6. 2025 Regional Cultural Project Grants – Projects Recommended by Staff.
7. 2025 Regional Cultural Project Grants – Grant Application Submissions.
8. Presentation re: Metro Vancouver 2025 Regional Cultural Project Grants.

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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
2025 Regional Cultural Project Grants

The regional cultural project grants support arts and culture organizations with creation, production, dissemination, audience development, research, project staff, and/or administrative capacity building. Project grants are awarded to a maximum of $10,000 each.

To qualify for a 2025 grant, the applicant must:

- Promote arts and culture as its primary purpose, (as opposed to an organization whose function or purpose extends beyond an arts and culture mandate)
- Produce and present arts and culture on a regular basis within the Metro Vancouver region;
- Be a non-profit society registered under the *BC Societies Act* or a non-profit community service cooperative registered under the *Community Service Co-operatives* section of the *BC Cooperatives Act* for at least two fiscal years
- Demonstrate stability and resiliency, operating with an annual budget exceeding $75,000 and paid staff
- Be requesting funding for a project where programming will be touring or attracting audiences from across multiple Metro Vancouver member jurisdictions
- Provide a letter of support for the project
- Obtain project funding from diverse sources, whereby:
    - no more than 30% of the total project budget is proposed to come from Metro Vancouver; and
    - at least two other sources of project funding have been identified, including one that is confirmed.

Project marketing timelines and project delivery must occur between September 1, 2025 and August 31, 2026. Pre-production planning and work may take place before September 2025.

Grants are intended to support regional arts and culture projects, not ongoing operational/general expenses.

Organizations may only apply for one grant per year.

Late and incomplete applications will be disqualified. Applications will only be considered if all required materials are received and time-stamped in Metro Vancouver's system before the application deadline.

CONDITIONS

Grant recipients must adhere to the following:

- Acknowledge the support of Metro Vancouver on all promotional materials related to the funded project.
- Organizations making significant changes to the information provided in their application must discuss such changes with Metro Vancouver staff prior to implementation.

- Grant recipients are required to complete a follow-up report for Metro Vancouver. Receipt of this report will be a precondition for consideration of the organization's future applications.
- Information provided in this regional cultural project grant application may be subject to disclosure under the *BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

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2024 Regional Cultural Project Grant

REPORTING AND EVALUATION

All regional cultural project grant recipients are required to complete a project report to Metro Vancouver. Receipt of a project report is a precondition for consideration of the organization's future grant applications. Reporting history may impact how your future applications are evaluated. Please aim to submit a final report within approximately 8 weeks following project completion. A call for project reports, including a report deadline, will be issued to outstanding grant recipients in early 2025. If the project has not yet been completed by this deadline, an interim project report still must be provided outlining progress and status to date. You may use your own format(s) to prepare your project report package covering the content outlined, and must include the signed declaration page when submitting your package to Metro Vancouver.

Email project report packages to CulturalGrants@metrovancouver.org
including the components listed below.
If you have any questions, please email this mailbox or call Sarah Faucher at 604-456-8828.

☑ **Project report.** Answer the following questions in your project report, referring to your original grant application in your responses. For projects still underway, interim reports should include a progress update based on the work completed to date and the current status of the project, with the rest of the detail to be provided later in your final report. Aim for a maximum 500-word count for each response.

1. ***Briefly describe the completed project or progress to date, noting any adjustments made (if any) from the original proposal with reasons.***

2. ***Highlight the project's successes and achievements. Include metrics such as performance dates, number or list of shows, venues or locations, estimated attendance or viewership, and other measurements of reach and impact as applicable and possible for your type of project.***

3. ***What was Metro Vancouver's cultural grant money specifically used for? For projects still underway, how is the grant intended to be applied in the budget. Explain any significant changes from what was proposed in your application.***

4. ***Did the project achieve its overall objectives? If yes, what factors do you feel contributed to the success? If no, what prevented a more successful project?***

☑ **Comparative revenue and expense statement** showing the project's original proposed budget versus actuals. This may be provided in your own format.

☑ **Samples of marketing and promotion materials, website screenshots, and/or programmes** demonstrating the required use of Metro Vancouver's logo to acknowledge the funding received.

☑ **(Optional) Photos and/or video footage** from regional cultural grant projects are always appreciated. If you are able to provide these for potential use in promoting Metro Vancouver's cultural grants program in the future, this is helpful.

☑ **Signed declaration form** provided below.

2024 METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL CULTURAL PROJECT GRANT REPORT

The report date for the purpose of Metro Vancouver's project report tracking will be based on the date and time your report package is received via email to the CulturalGrants@metrovancouver.org mailbox.

REPORT TYPE

☐ **Interim Report** – *This is a progress update as the project is still underway. We will send another report later.*
☐ **Final Report** – *Our grant project is now complete.*

Organization

Project title

$	%
Grant amount received	Percentage of project budget

Report author	Contact information *(phone or email)*

Project completion date or anticipated project completion date

DECLARATION

By signing this form, we solemnly declare that, to the best of our knowledge, the information provided in this project report package is complete, honest, and accurate.

Submitted by *(full name)*	On behalf of *(organization)*

X	
Signature of report author	Date

X	
Signature of Chair/President of the Board of Directors	Date

Sarah Faucher

From: Metro Vancouver <MetroVancouver_Media@metrovancouver.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 1:08 PM
To: Sarah Faucher
Subject: Media Release - Apply Now for Regional Cultural Grants up to $10,000

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SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

MEDIA RELEASE

March 12, 2025

Apply Now for Regional Cultural Grants up to $10,000

Metro Vancouver's 2025 regional cultural grant application intake for local arts and cultural organizations is now open.

Funding up to $10,000 per project is available to help organizations deliver arts and culture projects within the region.

"We're pleased to continue our support for the creative community whose work brings so much life, joy, and value to our region," said Mike Hurley, Chair of the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors. "Since 1988, this program has helped cultural organizations grow and showcase their talents beyond their home municipalities, enhancing tourism and job creation."

The grants support programs delivered throughout region, and in many cases allow organizations to expand their arts and culture programs to reach audiences outside their home municipality.

The grants provide support for expenses related to project creation, production, dissemination, audience development, research, project staff, and administrative capacity building.

Completed applications must be received **by 4:00 pm on Monday, April 28, 2025.**

The application form, eligibility and selection criteria, and information about an online information session can be found at metrovancouver.org/cultural-grants.

Media contact:
Metro Vancouver Media Relations

Metro Vancouver is a diverse organization that plans for and delivers regional utility services, including water, sewers and wastewater treatment, and solid waste management. It also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, provides affordable housing, and serves as a regional federation. The organization is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation located in the region of the same name. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from each member jurisdiction.

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Sarah Faucher

From: Metro Vancouver <CulturalGrants@metrovancouver.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 9:32 AM
To: Sarah Faucher
Subject: Final Week to Apply for a Metro Vancouver 2025 Regional Cultural Project Grant

Final Week to Apply!

Deadline Monday, April 28 at 4:00 pm

Metro Vancouver is now accepting applications for the annual regional cultural project grants.

Funding is available to help arts and culture organizations deliver their projects throughout the region. The grants provide support for expenses related to project creation, production, dissemination, audience development, research, project staff, and administrative capacity building. A maximum of $10,000 will be awarded per project.

Completed applications must be received by 4:00 pm on Monday, April 28, 2025.

The application form, eligibility and selection criteria, and information about an online information session can be found on the Regional Cultural Project Grants webpage.

Questions may be emailed to the program coordinator, Sarah Faucher, at culturalgrants@metrovancouver.org or by calling 604-456-8828.

Metro Vancouver is a diverse organization that plans for and delivers regional utility services, including water, sewers and wastewater treatment, and solid waste management. It also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, provides affordable housing, and serves as a regional federation. The organization is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation located in the region of the same name. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from each member jurisdiction.

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SCORE SHEET FOR ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS
2025 Regional Cultural Project Grants

Organization	**Project Title**

Regional Impact (20%) • Significance of the project in serving and attracting audiences from across the Metro Vancouver region • Significance of the project in its unique offering to the region's arts and culture **Comments:**	***/ 20***
Merit (50%) • Merit of the project, based on past excellence and proven ability of the applicant • Clearly communicated project goals and relevance to arts and culture in the region • Demonstrated support of project (i.e. partnerships, collaborations, sponsorships or in-kind support, staff and volunteers, etc.) • Marketing, promotion and/or outreach plan to encourage regional participation, awareness and engagement • Project delivery with resilience to reasonably adjust as necessary **Comments:**	***/50***
Budget Plan (30%) • Clear and concise budget plan for reasonable use of grant funding • Other sources of realistic funding support identified and/or in place • Requested funds are specific to the proposed project, and are not intended for ongoing operational/general funding **Comments:**	***/30***
General Comments:	**TOTAL SCORE** **/ 100**

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Rise and Report (Items Released from Closed Meeting)

On July 25, 2025, the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Board of Directors authorized the following information to be released to the public:

Removal of Park Dedication for Parts of Deas Island Regional Park
That the MVRD Board direct staff to bring forward a bylaw for consideration of park dedication removal from parts of Deas Island Regional Park, specially described as part of PID: 013-086-316, District Lot 704 Group 2 NWD Except: Part on SRW Plan 21733 and part of PID: 013-087-401, District Lot 781 Group 2 NWD, comprising approximately 44,637 square metres with the intent that these lands will be subsequently sold or leased to the Ministry of Transportation and Transit in connection with the replacement of the George Massey Tunnel.

Released: September 9, 2025