

SNAPSHOT: Arts Funding Programs

Creative City Network of Canada – Intermunicipal Comparative Framework Project

While municipal cultural grant programs are usually created and managed by municipal staff, some funding may be allocated or awarded to an independent non-profit organization in the community (e.g., a local arts council), which adjudicates and disburses the funds to local arts groups. Delegating the administration of program funds to these organizations has sometimes been a developmental stage for smaller communities, leading to a more formalized structure of local government arts programming supported by municipal staff. There are also examples of developing or using a sophisticated arm's-length agency when funding major professional organizations in large urban centres.

Types of funding programs

Twenty-two local governments fund non-profit arts groups through a **general grants program**, but only four municipalities use this mechanism exclusively and in place of an arts-specific program. More commonly, a general grants program, usually open to non-profit groups of various sectors, is just one of a number of municipal programs or mechanisms through which arts organizations are supported.

Twenty-seven municipalities have **funding programs designed specifically for non-profit arts groups** (see Table 1). Twenty-three municipalities offer arts project funding and 22 offer annual operating grants.

Five municipalities in BC either already support or are planning to support **organizational development or training** through grant programs.

Seven municipalities report **fee-for-service programs**. Eight municipalities support the work of individual artists.

In seven municipalities, a portion of the municipal arts funding is allocated to an arm's-length non-profit organization to administer, adjudicate, and dispense as grants. Five of the seven examples of arm's-length funding cited are in large urban centres.

Local governments also provide **non-grant support programs** (varying from informal assistance to formalized programs). These support services range from the provision of office or performance space (for free or reduced cost), to promotional assistance, to event set-up support, partnerships, and tax relief.

38 municipalities responded to the Public Art section of the survey.

Data years reflected in this report: 2003–2005

SNAPSHOT: Arts Funding Programs

For example:

- Provision of facility use for offices at no rent
- Use of City facilities
- Community Access Program to local theatre
- Promotional support: assistance with joint promotions and marketing
- Coordinated promotional initiatives
- Access to city promotions: website, calendars of events, media lists, and free editorial space in Leisure Guide
- Assistance with distribution of promotional materials
- Transit Shelter Advertising Program and outdoor Video Screen Program
- Partnerships for special events
- Tax free status or tax relief program

TABLE 1			
Types of arts funding programs			
Types of programs	Yes	Program in devmt.	Total
Support to not-for-profit organizations			
Through a general grants program	21	1	22
<i>Grant programs designed specifically for non-profit groups:</i>			
Funds delegated to community organization (e.g., local arts council) for disbursement	7	1	8
Annual operating grants	22	0	22
Multi-year operating grants	6	2	8
Project grants	23	2	25
Theatre rental assistance grants	4	0	4
Organizational development grants	4	1	5
Other *	14	1	15
Fee-for-service or purchase of services program	7	1	8
Other non-grant support programs	14	0	14
Support to individual artists			
Funding support directly provided to individual artists	8	1	9
<p>* Other responses: <i>Events/festivals-related:</i> Celebration Grants, Event/Festival Grants, Festival Funding, Downtown Event Grants <i>Services:</i> City Services donated <i>Other programs:</i> Equipment Grants, Training Grants, Opportunity Grants, Contributions Program <i>Heritage grant/loan programs:</i> Heritage grant program (Planning Division), Community Heritage Fund (loans), Market Square Heritage District Fund <i>Capital grants programs:</i> Capital, Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Tax exemption Partnership Program Funds Purchase of Service agreements</p>			
Overall, 33 respondents indicated they funded the arts through one of these options.			

SNAPSHOT: Arts Funding Programs

Types of organizations or activities funded

Professional arts organizations are supported by a range of municipalities, including mid-sized communities and cities with populations under 50,000 (e.g., West Vancouver and Fredericton).

All 27 of the municipalities responding to this survey section support community and/or non-professional arts organizations and 22 support professional arts organizations (see Table 2).

Twenty-two also support arts service or representative organizations. Only 11 municipalities support artists' collectives or the equivalent, for which society status is not required. Eleven municipalities also support non-arts organizations with arts-designated funds in various ways. Seven municipalities support non-arts organizations where the funds are specified to provide artist fees for creation and presentation of their work. Seven provide incentive grants for artistic development in distinct communities as defined by race, ethnicity, or disability.

DEFINITIONS

Professional arts organizations:

Strive for excellence, and support, present, produce, distribute, and/or assist in the creation of the work of professional artists and professional arts educators.

Amateur arts:

Provides opportunities for local community members to participate in the arts. Amateur arts organizations are community-oriented, and generally exist for the enjoyment and self-actualization of their members.

Artists' collective:

A collaborative enterprise in which a minimum of three artists share equal responsibility in the creation and presentation of their work.

Arts service/representative organizations:

Organizations founded and directed by their members, who are creators, interpreters, producers, distributors/disseminators, and or conservers in the arts sector, to serve the collective interests of the membership, the constituency, and the public. They may be discipline-specific or multidisciplinary.

TABLE 2
Types of arts organizations and activities funded by arts grants programs

	Yes
<i>Arts organizations:</i>	
Community and/or non-professional arts organizations	27
Professional arts organizations	22
Arts service/representative organizations	22
Artist collectives (society status not required; as defined by Canada Council)	11
<i>Non-arts organizations where the funds are specified for:</i>	
Artist fees for creation and/or presentation of their work	7
Artistic development in distinct communities as defined by race, ethnicity, or disability	7
Leadership development and/or capacity building initiatives with an arts component	6
Arts programs for children or youth	11
<i>Support to individual artists:</i>	
Development or Creation Grants	6
Scholarship or Study Grants	2
Artist-in-Residence Programs	4
Travel Grants	3
Other *	3
* Other responses: Artistic merit award, through Arts Development Program	
Overall, 27 respondents indicated one of these options.	

SNAPSHOT: Arts Funding Programs

Six support leadership development and/or capacity building initiatives with an arts component. Six municipalities offer development or creation grants to individual artists; two offer scholarship or study grants. Four mid-sized communities sponsor artist-in-residence programs and three municipalities offer travel grants.

TABLE 3 Decision-making and adjudication processes for municipal arts funding programs	
Decision-making process	Process used
Staff assessment, approved by Council	12
Jury or Advisory Committee process which includes community non-arts representatives and artist representatives. Recommendations to Council or Council Committee for approval	10
Direct submission by arts groups to Council, and decision by Council	5
Peer assessment/jury process by arts discipline (peer review). Recommendations to Council or Council Committee for approval	3
Advisory Committee (community based, no designated arts representative), recommendations to Council or Council Committee for approval	5
Peer assessment/jury process by arts discipline (peer review). Recommendations to arm's-length agency for decision/final approval	5
Other *	7
<i>In the adjudication of arts grants:</i>	
All decisions are subject to approval by Council	23
Jury and/or peer assessment process is arm's-length, binding, and not subject to Council approval	4
<p>* <i>Other</i> responses: Formula funding for major institutions, including festivals Only one group (operating major civic facility) is handled with direct submission to Council Jury process by community granting agency with input from cultural staff and final approval by Community Services Directorate. Council pre-approves a specific amount during budget process As part of revised Investment Program it is being recommended that a system of staff and advisory committee assessment with recommendation to Council be adopted Comment: Recommendations do not go to Council for approval Peer assessment/jury process by arts discipline (peer review). Does not require Council approval</p> <p>Overall, 21 respondents indicated they funded the arts through one of these options.</p>	

Adjudication of arts funding

Generally, funding for the arts is ultimately a decision of Council. Twelve municipalities rely on staff assessments that are approved by Council (see Table 3). Nearly as many municipalities (10) have a jury or advisory committee process, which includes community non-arts representatives as well as artist representatives. In general, staff supports these committees, and recommendations are sent to Council for approval.

SNAPSHOT: Arts Funding Programs

In a limited number of municipalities, grant applications are adjudicated through a discipline-specific jury process and Council approval is not required, as a global budget for the responsible arm's-length agency in each case has already been approved.

Assistance to Major Institutions

Local government may contribute to major exhibition, heritage, museum, performing arts, or training institutions directly and/or indirectly, with support administered outside of the general adjudication process for cultural grants. For example, this may include facilities that are a line item within local government and part of the ongoing municipal budget process. Support may include annual operating, building maintenance, and/or other services. Examples of major institutions treated in this way include the Vancouver Art Gallery, Toronto Symphony, Victoria Maritime Museum, National Ballet School, and the London Regional Art and Historical Museum. However, as one respondent commented, a community's major institutions may be considerably smaller than these examples.

Overall, 36 respondents indicated they offered assistance to major institutions in at least one of the categories indicated. 24 municipalities indicate support to major institutions through the use of City-owned buildings, 19 report the use of City-owned land, and 24 report building maintenance and other services as support outside of the general adjudication process (see Table 4). Other support provided ranges from consultative services on topics such as board development, business planning, grant funding, and financial accounting; to support for utilities, security, and grounds maintenance; to use of City-owned lands for cultural activities; to promotional support. Property tax exemptions and lease subsidies were also mentioned.

TABLE 4
Special initiatives for cultural organizations

	Yes	In development	Total
Deficit reduction program	2	0	2
Stabilization or sustainability program	4	2	6
Other special initiatives	19	2	21
Total municipalities responding			21

Overall, 16 respondents indicated at least one of the three choices:
 Two indicated all three categories
 Four indicated "stabilization" and other
 Fifteen indicated only "other ..."

Respondents: Banff, AB; Brantford, ON; Camrose, AB; City of Kitchener, ON; City of Windsor, ON; County of Oxford, ON; District of Saanich, BC; Edmonton, BC; Fredericton, NB; Grand Prairie, AB; Halifax Regional Municipality, NS; Hamilton, ON; Highlands, BC; Kelowna, BC; Kingston, ON; Mississauga, ON; Moncton, NB; Nanaimo, BC; New Westminster, BC; North Vancouver (City & District), BC; Ottawa, ON; Port Coquitlam, BC; Port Hope, ON; Port Moody, BC; Portage la Prairie, MB; Prince George, BC; Red Deer, AB; Regina, SK; Richmond, BC; Saskatoon, SK; Sooke, BC; St. Catharines, ON; St. John's, NL; Strathcona County, AB; Toronto, ON; Township of Esquimalt, BC; Vancouver, BC; West Vancouver, BC.

Published by Creative City Network of Canada

#408 – 402 West Pender Street
 Vancouver BC V6B 1T6 Canada
 604-688-2489

Project contact: Nancy Duxbury, PhD – nancy@creativecity.ca
 Data Analysis: Sonja Bichsel, M.A.

© March 2007 Creative City Network of Canada

The Intermunicipal Comparative Framework is a project of the Creative City Network of Canada, supported through a contribution from the Department of Canadian Heritage and with the collaboration of municipal staff from across Canada.

Snapshot: Public Art has been updated from the Creative City Network of Canada's *Intermunicipal Comparative Framework Project (Phase One Pilot)* to incorporate additional responses that followed the pilot group of respondents.

The full Phase One Pilot Report is available at www.creativecity.ca/framework



Patrimoine
canadien

Canadian
Heritage

creativecity.ca