



Council Member Motion

For the Committee Of The Whole Meeting of January 23rd, 2025

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** January 23, 2025
From: Councillor Matt Dell
Subject: Proposed \$125,000 grant to the Other Guise Theatre to help acquire 716 Johnson Street

BACKGROUND

The Other Guise Theatre Company is a local arts organization that has recently acquired a new arts space at 716 Johnson Street. The Other Guise Theatre Company requires community support to help pay off some of the mortgages on the building, to ensure its long-term viability as an arts hub.

The proposed arts hub has received widespread support from the arts community, as it will provide badly needed space to many smaller arts organizations in the City. As the building is designed to have three separate venues, it will be a positive economic contributor to downtown Victoria.

The City of Victoria's founding policy documents make it clear that the City needs to support arts spaces to have a vibrant cultural community. The City's "Create Victoria – Arts and Culture Masterplan" #1 action is to "Connect People and Spaces - Everyone feels welcome and able to access affordable spaces for creative participation, production and enjoyment."

RECOMMENDATION

- That Council direct staff to provide the Other Guise Theatre Company with a \$125,000 grant, to be paid from the Major Community Events and Initiatives Grant, on the condition that:
 - The City's funding is matched by community donations or private donors, to be confirmed by city staff.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Dell", written over a horizontal line.

Councillor. Matt Dell

