



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of August 2, 2018

Date: July 26, 2018

From: Councillors Alto & Loveday

Subject: Funding for the Vancouver Island South Film & Media Commission

Background:

The Vancouver Island South Film & Media Commission brings millions of dollars a year into our local economy. The Commission markets Victoria to producers worldwide, provides continuous consulting and production services, script breakdowns, location scouting and packaging, recommends accommodations and local suppliers, helps obtain city permits, and hosts networking events, professional development, educational workshops and fundraising events, among other economic development activities. It also contributes to City of Victoria revenue through parking fees and other revenue streams.

Our local film industry employs hundreds of people in well-paid family supporting jobs, many of whom live and work in the City of Victoria. Stable funding from the City of Victoria, as part of a broader funding strategy that includes Creative BC and other municipalities, has allowed the Commission to successfully market our City as a destination for film production, and is a significant economic driver for our community. In 2015, the Commission estimates over \$18 million were invested in the region by film productions.

For many years, the City of Victoria granted the Commission annual funding of \$45,000, paid as a fee for service grant. In 2016, the City of Victoria moved away from the fee for service grant model and incorporated those grant recipients into the Strategic Plan Grant pool. In 2018, The Commission was awarded \$20,000. In comparison, in 2018 the Commission received \$25,000 from Saanich and \$10,000 from Oak Bay.

The Commission works with a modest budget of just over \$200,000. Funding cuts from the City over the past years have limited the Commission's capacity to market the City, continue to create good local jobs, and grow our local film industry.

To reverse this decline in capacity and its subsequent diminishment of local film production and the benefits derived therefrom, it is recommended that the City of Victoria restore 2018 funding for the Commission to its previous level (\$45,000) and examine options for future funding in the City's 2019 budget process.

Motion:

That Council direct staff to award an additional \$25,000, from the City's 2018 corporate contingency funds, to the Vancouver Island South Film and Media Commission.

That Council direct staff to consider alternative future funding options during the 2019 City budget process.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Alto', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Councillor Alto

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Loveday', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Councillor Loveday