

Cultural Infrastructure Grant Program 2021 Report & Funding Request

October 7, 2021



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Purpose



Provide an update on the 2021 Cultural Infrastructure Grant Program recipients and projects.

Request \$250,000 in annual funding for the Cultural Infrastructure Grant Program to continue supporting cultural infrastructure and arts facilities.

Recommend guideline updates to the Cultural Infrastructure Grant program based on 2021 evaluation.



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Background



January & March 2021 Council approved \$125,000 in one-time funding to the Cultural Infrastructure Grant Program to support not-for-profit arts and culture organizations.

On March 18, 2021 Council approved the Program Guidelines which outlined eligibility criteria, application review process and funding limits.



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Program Results



2021 Program highlights:

25 applications with **\$401,813** in funding requested

15 applicants funded representing a **60%** success rate

1:4 return on \$125,000 in City grant funding

Projects include accessibility upgrades, new specialized equipment, infrastructure upgrades and feasibility studies.



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Program Results



Victoria Arts Council: New Gallery Lighting
Photo credit: Victoria Arts Council + Samantha Dickie

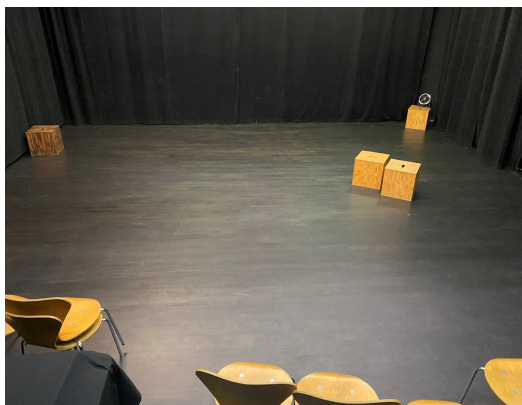


Dance Victoria: Black box theatre space - New track lighting & curtains
Photo credit: Dance Victoria

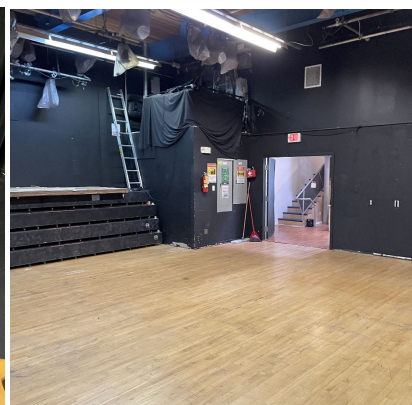


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Program Results



Intrepid Theatre: Refinished stage floor
Photo credit: Intrepid Theatre



Intrepid Theatre: Floor & Infrastructure Upgrades – In process
Photo credit: Intrepid Theatre



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Program Results



Quadra Village Arts Hub: New arts space and tool library
Photo credit: Alter Arts Society



Quadra Village Arts Hub: Renovation in progress
Photo credit: Alter Arts Society



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Issues: Affordability, Accessibility and Suitability



The *Space for Community* report, released by SPRE in April 2021, highlighted findings from 632 facilities including arts and culture organizations and individual artists across 6 municipalities in B.C.

53% of Victoria respondents reported lack of funding for renovations and redevelopment as a key challenge.

62% of Victoria respondents cited lack of affordable space as their primary challenge.

Victoria respondents reported the highest average Gross Lease Rates of \$28 per sq. ft.

Average market rate rents in Victoria reported in this study are \$31 per sq. ft., the second highest only behind Vancouver.



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Applicant Eligibility Criteria



- Not-for-profit, charitable, co-operative and First Nations Councils eligible for funding;
- Have a clear arts and culture focus as part of the organization's vision and mandate;
- Infrastructure must be located and operating within the City of Victoria;
- Have operated as a registered organization for one fiscal year prior to application;
- Collaborations between not-for-profit and private venues encouraged with supporting evidence clearly outlining community benefits.



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Program Guidelines



- Applicants can apply for **one stream** of funding per year up to a maximum of:
 - \$100,000 for acquisition of property or redevelopment of facilities that creates additional space.
 - \$50,000 for physical infrastructure and accessibility upgrades.
 - \$25,000 for specialized equipment
 - \$15,000 for planning and feasibility studies
- Facilities used for multiple types of activities must demonstrate 50% or greater arts and culture use to qualify for infrastructure funding.
- Applicants required to submit quotes for proposed expenses.
- For infrastructure funding applicants require minimum tenancy of 24 months.



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Application Evaluation



- Community and peer-based review process with representation from equity seeking individuals with lived experiences facing barriers.
- Peer-review funding recommendations presented to Council for approval.
- Revised scoring matrix with a new category for Equity, Diversity, Reconciliation and Accessibility.



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Recommendations



That Council:

1. Receive this staff report for information with details of grant recipients and program evaluation for the 2021 Cultural Infrastructure Grant Program.
2. Consider approving ongoing funding to the Cultural Infrastructure Grant Program for \$250,000 annually from new assessed revenue as part of the 2022 Financial Planning process.
3. Approve the revised Cultural Infrastructure Grant Program guidelines.



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Questions

