



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 11.4.1
Halifax Regional Council
February 24, 2015

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council
Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: *for* _____
Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Chair, Grants Committee

DATE: February 9, 2015

SUBJECT: Interim Professional Arts Organizations Grant Program – 2014/15
Recommended Awards

ORIGIN

Grants Committee February 9, 2015 meeting.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

- *HRM Charter* Section 70 (1) (av) respecting grants and contributions
- Administrative Order 20014-007-ADM respecting Grants to Professional Arts Organizations

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council approve:

1. 17 awards for operating assistance at a combined value of \$249,500.00 as detailed in Attachment 2 of the staff report dated January 30, 2015 from operating account C764-8004 – Interim Professional Arts Organization Grant Program; and
2. 10 awards for project assistance at a combined value of \$48,500.00 as detailed in Attachment 2 of the staff report dated January 30, 2015 from operating account C764-8004 – Interim Professional Arts Organization Grant Program.

BACKGROUND

The Grants Committee received a staff report dated January 30, 2015 at their February 9, 2015 meeting outlining the 2014-15 recommended awards for the *Interim Professional Arts Organizations Grant Program*. The program is divided into two (2) funding categories:

1. Operating Assistance to Professional Arts Organizations which supports the regular operations of those organizations; and
2. Project Assistance to Professional Arts Organizations which allocates funding to stand-alone, non-recurrent arts individuals.

Additional information can be reviewed in the staff report dated January 30, 2015 attached to this report.

DISCUSSION

The Grants Committee considered and put forward a recommendation to Regional Council to approve the 2014-15 recommended awards to the *Interim Professional Arts Organizations Grant Program*, as outlined in the staff report dated January 30, 2015.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The budget implications are outlined in the staff report dated January 30, 2015 as attached to this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Grants Committee is comprised of a voting membership of one elected member of Regional Council from each Community Council, the Chair appointed from the membership of the Audit & Finance Standing Committee (also an elected member of Regional Council), and six (6) citizens-at-large from the community. Grant Committee meetings are open to the public, unless otherwise indicated. Agendas, minutes and reports are available on the HRM website.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

No alternatives were provided by the Grants Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

Staff report dated January 30, 2015

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk, 902.490.6519

P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 7.1.1
Grants Committee
February 9, 2015

TO: Chair and Members of Grants Committee
Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: Brad Anguish, Director, Parks and Recreation

DATE: January 30, 2015

SUBJECT: Interim Professional Arts Organizations Grant Program - 2014/15 Recommended Awards

ORIGIN

April 29, 2014 Regional Council Motion:

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Mason
Whereas \$300,000 has been included in the 2014/15 Operating Budget approved on April 1, 2014 by Regional Council to implement the Interim Grants to Professional Arts Organization Program as outlined in Attachment 4 of the staff report dated March 6, 2014, it is recommended that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to draft an Administrative Order for Regional Council's consideration to implement the Interim Professional Arts Organization Grant Program outlined in Attachment 4 of the staff report dated March 6, 2014.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

- *HRM Charter* Section 70 (1) (av) respecting grants and contributions
- Administrative Order 2014-007-ADM respecting Grants to Professional Arts Organizations

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Grants Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve:

1. 17 awards for operating assistance at a combined value of \$249,500.00 as detailed in Attachment 2 from operating account C764-8004 – Interim Professional Arts Organization Grant Program; and
2. 10 awards for project assistance at a combined value of \$48,500.00 as detailed in Attachment 2 from operating account C764-8004 – Interim Professional Arts Organization Grant Program.

BACKGROUND

In 2014, Regional Council approved a budget allocation of \$300,000 for the development of a new professional arts grants program that would directly support the work of HRM-based professional arts organizations. Council approved an interim process for the grant program in April 2014 and formally adopted Administrative Order 2014-007-ADM on August 22, 2014.

The *Interim Professional Arts Organization Grant Program* awards grants to registered non-profit organizations located within the geographic boundary of the Municipality and in accordance with the definitions outlined in the Administrative Order. The focus of these grants is in the form of financial support to professional arts and cultural organizations in the production and presentation of professional work. The program is divided into two (2) funding categories:

1. Operating Assistance to Professional Arts Organizations which supports the regular operations of those organizations, and
2. Project Assistance to Professional Arts Organizations which allocates funding to stand-alone, non-recurrent arts initiatives.

The application intake for the 2014/15 Interim Professional Arts Organization Grant Program opened on September 12, 2014 and closed on October 31, 2014.

DISCUSSION

Interim Professional Arts Grants Funding

This interim program of 2014/15 received a total of 57 applications; 36 under Operating Assistance and 21 under Project Assistance with a combined value of \$697,379 in funding requests.

Category	Type of Grant	Number of Requests	Value of Requests	Number of Recommended Awards	Value of Recommended Awards
Operating Grants	Tier 1: Anchor Organizations	2	\$100,000	2	\$75,000
	Tier 2: Operating Assistance	34	\$444,174	15	\$174,500
Project Grants	Project-Specific Grants	21	\$153,205	10	\$48,500
TOTAL		57	\$697,379	27	\$298,000

The administrative guidelines for the *Interim Professional Arts Organization Grant Program* are outlined under Administrative Order 2014-007-ADM (AO). A summary of the methodology undertaken for the review of applications pursuant to the AO is outlined in Attachment 1. As a result of the review, the recommended grant awards for both operating assistance and project funding are outlined in Attachment 2 with those applications not recommended for awards in Attachment 3.

Community Grant Program and Events Grants Program

HRM administers other grant programs that fund cultural organizations including the Community Grants Program and the Events Grants Program. The intake periods for those processes have run between

January and March annually. Funding for those programs has been allocated and, in several circumstances, funding has been allocated to organizations that have also submitted applications to the *Interim Professional Arts Organization Grant Program*.

The Administrative Order governing this grant program does not preclude an organization from applying to or receiving an award from this grant program if in receipt of funding through another program. However, it does outline that Regional Council can decline or reduce funding awards as a result of funding provided by other programs. As a result, applicants receiving funding from HRM through either of those two (2) programs were permitted to apply to the *Interim Professional Arts Organization Grant Program* for additional funding, should they be eligible, while disclosing any additional municipal funds received during that fiscal year.

In certain instances receipt of other municipal funding was considered in the recommendations and funding allocations (e.g. in evaluating two or more applicants of comparable merit). In this context, while also maintaining merit-based evaluation, a grant in a prior year, even for a different project, can be taken into consideration.

Amendments to Recommendations

As outlined in Administrative Order 2014-007-ADM S. 17. "*Final approval of all applications for a grant, and the amount thereof, is a decision of Council in its sole discretion.*" At their discretion, the Grants Committee has the ability to make adjustments to the award recommendations contained in this report. Amendments to either (a) award recipients or (b) value of an award may be considered within the remaining funds not recommended for allocation, as outlined in the Financial Implications section. Given that operating funds cannot be carried forward or grants awarded retroactively from a prior fiscal year, any amendments and/or referrals must be concluded prior to March 31, 2015.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Regional Council approved funds in the amount of \$300,000.00 in the 2014/15 Operating Budget in cost centre M310, to implement the *Interim Professional Arts Organization Grant Program*.

The combined value of recommended awards relative to the 2014/15 *Interim Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program* budget of \$300,000:

2014/15 Program Budget (M310-8004)	\$300,000.00
<u>Less Recommended Awards (27)</u>	<u>(\$298,000.00)</u>
Balance	(\$2,000.00)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Information regarding program eligibility, application timelines, and applicant scoring are posted on the HRM web site. Additionally, an information session for members of the cultural sector was held at Halifax City Hall on September 26, 2014. Further, the Grants Committee includes members of the public.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

ALTERNATIVES

The Grants Committee could recommend that Regional Council overturn or amend any funding recommendation within the available balance of funds outlined in the 'Financial Implications' section of this report.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Review and Award Recommendation Methodology
- Attachment 2: List of Recommended Operating and Project Grants - 2014/15
- Attachment 3: Applications Not Recommended for Funding - 2014/2015

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Elizabeth Taylor, Manager, Events and Cultural Initiatives, 902-490-4387
Jamie MacLellan, Community Developer, 902-490-1039

Original Signed

Report Approved by: Denise Schofield, Manager, Regional Recreation & Culture, 902-490-6252

Original Signed

Financial Approval by: Greg Keefe, Director of Finance & ICT/CFO, 902-490-6308

Review and Award Recommendation Methodology

As per Administrative Order 2014-007-ADM Respecting Grants to Professional Arts Organizations, S. 2 (h) *"Professional Arts Organization" means a registered, non-profit professional arts and culture organization that supports, presents, or produces work by professional or established artists, and employs qualified paid staff to administer on-going arts and culture programs and services.*

To be eligible for funding under the *Interim Grants to Professional Arts Organizations Program*, submitting organizations must also operate programs on a year-round basis and have been operating for three (3) years prior to the date of application. Complete eligibility requirements are listed in Administrative Order 2014-007-ADM S. 12.

All applicants are expected to meet a minimum standard of 70 according to the criteria outlined in 2014-007-ADM S. 13(a) and S. 13(b). The value of recommended award is based on percentage of total *projected* costs, impact, economic development outcomes.

All applications for both operating assistance and project assistance were screened for eligibility and then scored according to stated criteria. The principles of the two (2) programs were similar in that both value organizational or project merit, community impact and public engagement, artistic merit, organizational governance and financial stewardship.

The Operating Assistance category has two sub-categories:

- 'Anchor Organizations' are defined as organizations with operating budgets in excess of \$2 million annually. These organizations have access to a maximum of \$50,000.00 in operating assistance through this program.
- All submitting organizations with operating budgets below \$2 million annually fall within the general 'non-anchor' category. These organizations have access to a maximum of 10% of their annual operating expenses with a ceiling of \$25,000.00. These represent the bulk of the applicants.
- The Project Assistance category has a maximum award limit of \$10,000.00.

Evaluation of financial stewardship applies to both categories though Project Assistance application review considers individual project budgets as well as the overall financial health of the submitting organization. The mandate in evaluating applications was to rank organizations in accordance with the evaluation criteria. Recommendations on award amounts are derived directly from strength of score.

Applicants have been screened for debt to the Municipality and receipt of municipal assistance such as but not limited to a cash grant, tax relief, rent discount, or less than market value property sale. In certain instances receipt of other municipal funding is considered in recommending award allocations. (e.g. in evaluating two or more applicants of comparable merit where insufficient funding for all exists). In this context, while also maintaining merit-based evaluation, a grant in a prior year, even for a different project, might also be taken into consideration.

**List of Recommended Operating Grants - 2014/15
Organized Alphabetically by Tier**

Name of Organization: Anchor	Request	Recommended Award
Neptune Theatre Foundation	\$50,000	\$40,000
Symphony Nova Scotia Society	\$50,000	\$35,000
2b Theatre Association*	\$25,000	\$20,000
Atlantic Filmmakers Co-operative Ltd	\$25,000	\$18,000
Bus Stop Theatre Co-operative Ltd*	\$5,425	\$4000
Carbon Arc Cinema Co-operative Ltd	\$3600	\$3000
Eastern Front Theatre Society	\$24,000	\$14,000
Eye Level Gallery Society	\$14,900	\$10,000
Kinetic Studio Society	\$7000	\$4500
Live Art Productions Society	\$25,000	\$16,000
Mocean Dance Society	\$24,000	\$15,000
Onelight Theatre Society	\$25,000	\$20,000
Scotia Chamber Players	\$21,000	\$10,000
Shakespeare by the Sea Theatre Society	\$25,000	\$10,000
Society for Art Presentation (Centre for Art Tapes)*	\$10,000	\$7000
Visual Arts Nova Scotia	\$12,000	\$7000
Zuppa Circus Theatre Society	\$21,177	\$16,000
Total Award	\$368,102	\$249,500

*denotes recommendation to receive project assistance as well

Operating Assistance Award Recommendations:

Anchor Organizations (Annual operating budgets over \$2 million annually)

Maximum award: \$50,000.00

Neptune Theatre Foundation

Request: \$50,000

Recommended Award: \$40,000

Organizational Merit: High

Value of Service: High

Financial Stewardship: High

Neptune Theatre exhibits strong sectoral and broader community impact. In addition to its role as a presenter, the theatre serves as a developmental partner with a range of smaller-scale, local theatre organizations every year and offers less-than-cost space access for rehearsal and production to community groups. The theatre is regional in scope and importance to the arts community. Its operational expenses are the highest of any applicant as a result of costs associated with the management of their large facility.

Symphony Nova Scotia

Request: \$50,000

Recommended Award: \$35,000

Organizational Merit: High

Value of Service: High

Financial Stewardship: High

Symphony Nova Scotia is Atlantic Canada's only fully professional orchestra hosting annual audiences of more than 50,000. The Symphony offers approximately 80 performances in HRM annually. The Symphony employs 37 full-time musicians in addition to its administrative staff. Their annual program includes an Alderney Landing Series, Baroque, Retro Pops, Maritime Fusion, Co-productions and partnerships as well as a focus on youth Education and Outreach. They employ a wide range of partnership with other local arts organizations.

Tier 2: Non-Anchor Organizations (operating budgets less than \$2 million annually)

Maximum award: Lesser of \$25,000.00 or 10% of organization's annual expenses.

2b Theatre Association

Request: \$25,000

Recommendation: \$20,000

Organizational Merit: High

Value of Service: High

Financial Stewardship: High

2b Theatre's programming shows impressive recognition by presenters and audiences nationally which compliments the group's strong record of programming and their general standing in the Municipality. Their programming is innovative both technically and creatively, and employs the use of technology and innovative strategies in their productions. They maintain a diverse sponsorship portfolio and partnerships, and strong validation from other governmental funders.

The Atlantic Filmmakers Cooperative Ltd (AFCOOP)

Request: \$25,000

Recommendation: \$18,000

Organizational Merit: High

Value of Service: High

Financial Stewardship: High

AFCOOP offers a range of technical services to the filmmaking public, maintains a strong HRM community presence while serving a regional demographic. AFCOOP offers technical resources, workshops, funded programming opportunities and a networking resource to its membership and the community at large. AFCOOP's direct programming includes support of the Halifax Independent Filmmakers Festival (HIFF), Film 5 professional development program, workshops and residencies, in addition to its equipment rental services to the community.

Bus Stop Theatre Co-operative Ltd.

Request: \$5425

Recommendation: \$4000

Organizational Merit: Good

Value of Service: High

Financial Stewardship: Good

Bus Stop Theatre is a grassroots theatre presenter/producer serving a diverse array of professional theatre and community/developmental interests. The Theatre exists on the basis of community involvement and investiture in the actual operations of the space. This aspect is unique to this program, and serves a need that is echoed through these applications in relation to access to space. The organization has reflected they have refined their administrative and governance model with the aim of creating a more sustainable model.

Carbon Arc Cinema Co-operative Ltd

Request: \$3600

Recommendation: \$3000

Organizational Merit: Good

Value of Service: High

Financial Stewardship: Good

The Carbon Arc Theatre Society administers a weekly repertory/independent cinema in the theatre space at the NS Museum of Natural History. Program planning is strong, as is their sustainability model/growth trajectory. It is a manageable model that exhibits organizational and community growth in a very methodical way, with solid sector partnerships.

Society for Art Presentation (The Centre for Art Tapes)

Request: \$10,000

Recommendation: \$7000

Organizational Merit: Good

Value of Service: High

Financial Stewardship: Good

Centre for the Art Tapes (CFAT) is an internationally recognized artist-run-center with strong board and strong record of community involvement. CFAT offers resources for artists working in the media arts, including space (studios) and equipment, as well as programs (residencies) and mentorship. Their application reflects signs of substantial organizational change as a result of a move to a new and purpose-built space. Funding through this program would assist with ongoing costs of relocation and the support for programming in their new venue.

Eastern Front Theatre Society (EFT)

Request: \$24,000

Recommendation: \$14,000

Organizational Merit: Good

Value of Service: Good

Financial Stewardship: Moderate

EFT is an established local theatre. They oversee the Stages Festival, annually, which has recently re-focused as Nova Scotia specific playwrights' platform, and remains of a national caliber. The organization has undergone financial difficulties but has exhibited resilience in attending to those issues. They have a strong record of partnership with other local (theatre and non-theatre) organizations and remain a solid local institution and sector-resource.

Eyelevel Gallery Society

Request: \$14,900

Recommendation: \$10,000

Organizational Merit: High

Value of Service: High

Financial Stewardship: High

Eyelevel gallery is a well-established artist-run-center that serves as a programming, networking and support resource for local emerging artists across disciplines with strong community partnerships. The organization has recently adopted an itinerant model (no fixed gallery space), operating out of an office for administration purposes but programming in spaces on an ad hoc, opportunity driven basis. They have positioned themselves as adaptable to the operational realities facing many organizations.

Kinetic Studio Society

Request: \$7000

Recommendation: \$4500

Organizational Merit: Good

Value of Service: Good

Financial Stewardship: Good

Incorporated in 2003, Kinetic Dance Studio is an organization supporting that supports contemporary dance practices and cross-disciplinary collaboration with a professional development focus, the focus of the organization is directed at supporting the practitioners of contemporary dance. A very active developmental and mentorship approach to programming and community engagement, the organization maintains a strong connection with Halifax Dance.

Live Art Productions Society

Request: \$25,000

Recommendation: \$16,000

Organizational Merit: Good

Value of Service: High

Financial Stewardship: High

Live Art Productions Society presents as a strong advocate and resource for the contemporary dance community locally. They are challenged by the lack of appropriate venues for the nature of their work, but have positioned themselves as an advocate for artist resources in that capacity. They present high-quality contemporary dance and place a strong focus on audience development on behalf of the sector. They have a long-track record of programming and a resilient organizational model.

Request: \$24,000

Recommendation: \$15,000

Organizational Merit: High

Value of Service: High

Financial Stewardship: High

Mocean Dance is the only contemporary dance company east of Montreal in receipt of annual operating funds from Canada Council and Arts Nova Scotia. As such they are an important resource to the local dance community. They are a key member of the arts and specifically the contemporary dance ecosystem in HRM. They exhibit an array of partnerships with local arts organizations as well as attention to growing both their audience and organizational capacity.

Onelight Theatre Society

Request: \$25,000

Recommendation: \$20,000

Organizational Merit: High

Value of Service: High

Financial Stewardship: High

Onelight Theatre is a culturally-diverse company operating as the company-in-residence at Alderney Landing Theatre. Their programming over the past two years exhibits strong growth. They promote the programming of under-represented demographics and in supporting a cultural presence in Dartmouth. Their access to funding has shown significant growth. They are well-respected in the local community, broadly, and nationally recognized for their programming and advocacy.

Scotia Chamber Players

Request: \$25,000

Recommendation: \$10,000

Organizational Merit: Good

Value of Service: Good

Financial Stewardship: High

The Scotia Chamber Players operate year round programming but the bulk of its offerings are linked to the Scotia Festival of Music for which it receives municipal support. The funding recommended here would be allocated toward its non-festival programming (Chamber Players Music Series) and the community-use management of the Peggy Corkum Music Room.

Shakespeare by the Sea Theatre Society

Request: \$25,000

Recommendation: \$10,000

Organizational Merit: Good

Value of Service: Good

Financial Stewardship: High

Shakespeare by the Sea Theatre Society is seasonal presenter with limited year-round programming, though have directed focus toward expanding off-season programming in recent years. Displays a strong record of presentation and is a valuable asset to the theatre landscape. The society also receives municipal support in the form of a below market value lease in a HRM owned building in Point Pleasant Park.

Visual Arts Nova Scotia (VANS)

Request: \$12,000

Recommendation: \$7000

Organizational Merit: High

Value of Service: High

Financial Stewardship: High

VANS is a service-based organization supporting visual artists in Nova Scotia. It is provincial in scope but the vast majority of its members are living and working in HRM. They offer direct support of programming in the form of residencies and other promotional support activities. They are an advocacy and networking resource for artists who generally work independently. Fostering urban-rural connections and the operational health of the visual arts in Nova Scotia is reflected as a priority of their programming and outreach.

Zuppa Circus Theatre Society

Request: \$21,177

Recommendation: \$16,000

Organizational Merit: High

Value of Service: High

Financial Stewardship: High

Zuppa Circus Theatre employs a creative and administrative model that supports of work and effectiveness of operation. The nature of their organization is flexible, and their programming exhibits a strong element of community-mindedness and integrative thinking. They are active educators and mentors within the community. They continue to receive positive recognition both locally and nationally.

**List of Recommended Project Grants - 2014/15
Organized Alphabetically**

Name of Organization	Request	Recommended Award
2b Theatre Association*	\$10,000	\$8000
Bus Stop Theatre Co-operative Ltd*	\$1500	\$1000
The Deanery Project Co-operative Ltd	\$10,000	\$8000
Luna/Sea Theatre Company Society	\$6800	\$5000
Obey Convention Music and Art Society	\$10,000	\$8000
Secret Theatre Society	\$3575	\$2000
The Society for Art Presentation (Centre for Art Tapes)*	\$5000	\$3000
Queer Acts Theatre Festival Society	\$2950	\$2500
Vocalypse Productions Society	\$5000	\$3000
Xara Choral Theatre Society	\$10,000	\$8,000
Total Award Recommendation	\$64,825	\$48,500

*Denotes recommendation to receive operating assistance as well

Project Assistance Award Recommendations

Projects were reviewed and recommended in relation to cumulative strength-of-score in the categories of:

- (1) Expertise of Applicant;
- (2) Project Merit;
- (3) Public Access and Engagement; and
- (4) Organizational Standing and budget

2b Theatre Association

Request: \$10,000

Recommendation: \$8000

Expertise of Applicant: High

Project Merit: High

Public Access and Engagement: Moderate

Organizational Standing and budget: High

Requested funding to support the development of technology associated with an upcoming production (Workshops: Ambition, Melancholia, etc). They receive additional project development support from the National Arts Centre and The Centre for Art Tapes. The total project budget is \$15,670.

Bus Stop Theatre Co-operative Ltd.

Request: \$1500

Recommendation: \$1000

Expertise of Applicant: Good

Project Merit: High

Public Access and Engagement: High

Organizational Standing and budget: Good

The Bus Stop Theatre is a community-operated black box theatre and community event space in Halifax. The organization supports community access to a small, technically outfitted theatre space. The requested project funds would be allocated toward dedicated training workshops (technical workshops) for members of the community to increase capacity to operate the necessary equipment. The project is intended to make access to the workshops widely affordable, as barrier-limited access to the space is a priority of the organization's operating model. The total project budget is \$3000

The Deanery Project Co-operative Ltd.

Request: \$10,000

Recommendation: \$8000

Expertise of Applicant: Good

Project Merit: High

Public Access and Engagement: High

Organizational Standing and budget: Good

The Deanery Project is a repurposed Anglican Church facility in Ship Harbour. The Deanery operates as a rural learning center that combines environmental awareness and approaches to sustainability with the arts. The

funding requested by HRM will support research and development, including dedicated community and sector stakeholder engagement, toward the development of a sustainable operating framework for an artist in residence program at the Centre. The total project budget for the program as proposed is \$12,800.

Luna/Sea Theatre Company Society

Request: \$6800

Recommendation: \$5000

Expertise of Applicant: High

Project Merit: Good

Public Access and Engagement: Good

Organizational Standing and budget: Good

Luna/Sea is a local theatre company focusing on stories/perspectives of women through theatrical production. Request is for \$6800 to fund a production entitled 'Leaving Wonderland'. The play has been developed by a local playwright and supported through workshops hosted by the Theatre and its members. The total project budget is \$68,500.

Obey Convention Music and Art Society

Request: \$10,000

Recommendation: \$8000

Expertise of Applicant: High

Project Merit: High

Public Access and Engagement: High

Organizational Standing and budget: Good

The requested funding is to support the 2015 music festival (Ideas in Music and Art), now in its seventh year. The Obey Convention hosted 20 professionally produced events in 2014. Its 2015 lineup is anticipated to feature over 40 acts with a focus upon the work of women and culturally diverse performers in the field. The Festival has doubled its operating budget and its audience from 2013-2014. The total project budget for the Festival is \$74,382.53.

Secret Theatre Society

Request: \$3575

Recommendation: \$2000

Expertise of Applicant: Good

Project Merit: High

Public Access and Engagement: Good

Organizational Standing and budget: Good

Secret Theatre Co is an independent, small-scale theatre company in Dartmouth with a focus on small scale, multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary (collaborative) performance. The project request is for a re-staging of a theatre performance. The project was funded in its developmental stages through HRM's public art program. The project would occupy an underutilized space in the urban core. The total project budget is \$10,775.

The Society for Art Presentation (The Centre for Art Tapes)

Request: \$5000

Recommendation: \$3000

Expertise of Applicant: Good

Project Merit: Good

Public Access and Engagement: High

Organizational Standing and budget: Good

The Centre for Art Tapes (CFAT) is a resource center for media arts practitioners in north-end Halifax. The organization supports artist-access to space and resources, as well as mentorship and technical assistance, for artists working in film, audio and new media technologies. The organization is requesting funding for the CFAT Video Academy Two (2) established filmmakers will run an educational camp for youth featuring exposure to broad range of filmmaking techniques and innovative practices. Based around CFAT's new location on Gottingen Street, the aspiration is to engage diverse youth demographics from the surrounding area and beyond. The total project budget is \$14,270.

Queer Acts Theatre Festival Society (QATF)

Request: \$2950

Recommendation: \$2500

Expertise of Applicant: Good

Project Merit: High

Public Access and Engagement: Good

Organizational Standing and budget: Moderate

QATF is a six year-old festival held in relation to the annual PRIDE festival. The mandate of QATF is to produce and present work of relevance to the LGBTQ community and of broad interest to the public at large. The festival stages four to six productions/year and includes a developmental mentorship component, workshops and talk-back sessions and a conference.

Their application was submitted through the Operating Assistance program but is being considered under Project Assistance category as it is a better fit. QATF has only recently achieved not-for-profit status and while it does program beyond the discrete timeline of the festival (July 16-19), 2014-15 will be its first year outside the umbrella of PRIDE as its own, freestanding organization. The total project cost is \$29,500.

Vocalypse Productions Society

Request: \$5000

Recommendation: \$3000

Expertise of Applicant: Good

Project Merit: Good

Public Access and Engagement: Good

Organizational Standing and budget: Good

Vocalypse has requested funding towards the production of *Ghost Tango*, a co-presentation with Brady Works. The production is a three -act original opera with a new libretto. The opera has been work-shopped heavily and involves extensive developmental co-funding by the Quebec Arts Council and pending funding from other levels of government. Total project budget is \$70,000.

Xara Choral Theatre Society

Request: \$10,000

Recommendation: \$8000

Expertise of Applicant: Good

Project Merit: High

Public Access and Engagement: High

Organizational Standing and budget: Good

Xara is a professional, youth-focused choral group that supports access to the arts through innovative performance and privileges interdisciplinary approach to storytelling. They have requested assistance towards the production of 'Fatty Legs'- a choral-theatrical adaptation of the book of the same name. The production includes the use of skype-based extended impact platform that will allow remote access to the program and the Q&A with some of the artists involved. Project will involve the participation (and mentorship) of aboriginal artists to work with Xara in the staging of a story based on the experience of Residential Schools in the North. The total project budget for the production is \$86,495.

Applications Not Recommended for Funding in 2014/15
OPERATING ASSISTANCE
Organized Alphabetically

Aeolian Singers

Requested \$2463

The Aeolian Singers is a choral group with origins in Dartmouth as a component of their Continuing Education Department. A founding member of the NS Choral Federation, they offer six events per year. A community choir model with modest annual operating budget. Not recommended on the basis of score.

Atlantic Book Awards Society

Requested \$5000

This request is associated with a festival model. The Atlantic Book Awards take place during in May at the Atlantic Book Awards Festival. As this is a regional event, it does not meet the criteria for year-round programming for funding under this program.

Atlantic Flamenco Productions

Requested: \$9000

Atlantic Flamenco Productions is a dance production company with annual programming that includes local mainstage productions, touring, training and workshops, as well as the Fall for Flamenco Festival. Active since 2004, the organization has developed a local audience and an appreciation for flamenco and Spanish culture. Not recommended on the basis of score.

Atlantic Publishers Marketing Association

Requested \$5000

The Atlantic Publishers Marketing Association offers a support platform for publishers in the Atlantic Region. Their budget shows no other funding at the municipal level, but good support from Canada Book Fund and the Canada Council. Support from Arts Nova Scotia. Large distribution and a well-integrated support for the publishing industry, but application didn't sufficiently establish the organization as a presenter or producer of original work.

Capella Regalis

Requested \$20,000

Capella Regalis is a choral organization with strong ties to the University of King's College. It began in 2010 with the current Board structure introduced in 2012. It is the only men and boys choir of its kind in Canada. The organization does not currently receive operating funding from any other funder, but rather operates predominantly through partnership and private donation. Not recommended for funding on the basis of score.

Debut Atlantic

Requested \$15,000

Debut Atlantic works with local presenters to deliver classical music offerings. The organization engages in local partnerships with schools in various settings in relation to supported-performances. It is a regional support organization and a connector/facilitator of musical presentation in the field. Program categories include touring support, education and engagement, awards for music excellence. Not recommended for funding on the basis of score.

The Doppler Effect Productions Society

Requested \$5500

Doppler Effect Productions Society is a young theatre company with three solo presentations and two co-presentations in 2014. Programming usually also includes workshop component and fundraising initiatives. Not recommended for funding on the basis of score.

The Halifax Camerata Singers

Requested: \$10,000

A respected chorale group, they are based in HRM and primarily perform in Halifax with some regional tours. They have partnership relationships with other organizations, principally Symphony NS. They are a developmental resource for local singers with a developed mentorship program. Not recommended on the basis of score.

Khyber Arts Society

Requested \$11,352.20

Khyber Arts Society is an artist-run-center operating as a tenant in HRM-owned building (1588 Barrington Street) until building condition issues required their relocation in early 2014. The change in venue and availability to space has affected their ability to generate revenue through expanded community events. Khyber Arts Society offers diverse programming options and a resource for emerging arts community locally. Application rated well, but not recommended for funding on the basis of previously committed municipal assistance directed toward the organization's operational capacity for a three year period.

Luna/Sea Theatre Company Society

Requested \$6800

Luna/Sea Theatre Company is a local theatre company founded in 2006. They offer thirteen full productions that prioritize under-told stories of women and narrative. The productions emphasize the use of unconventional venues. Not recommended for funding on the basis of score due to recommendation to fund their major annual production through a separate project assistance request.

The Music Industry Association of Nova Scotia

Requested: \$25,000

Music Industry Association of Nova Scotia is a service based organization operating provincially and providing a local resource for musicians and recording artists. They offer the Ardenne resource center, as well as a portion of their programming as a resource. 60% of their membership resides in HRM. The organization also administers local concert series and a Community Presenters Assistance Fund (CPAP). Not recommended on the basis of score.

Nova Scotia Kiwanis Music Festival Association

Requested \$10,000

Formed in 1935 as the Halifax Music Festival, the Kiwanis Music Festival is directed toward youth and developing artists with adjudication from those in the professional field. No indication in the application of year-round activities (Festival is April-May 2015). Not recommended for funding on the basis of score.

Old School Community Gathering Place Co-operative Ltd.

Requested \$5529

A repurposed former school in Musquodoboit Harbour, it serves as a multi-purpose community cultural center. The Centre programs thirty events per year. The Centre was realized as a result of a 2006 visioning process. Programming includes the management of a professional art gallery, an artist's open

studio program, a youth arts festival, art lessons and workshops. The Centre serves a broad geographic area, but increasing professional arts capacity is not a focus of the application. Not recommended on the basis of score.

Suddenly Listen Music Society

Requested: \$6500

Suddenly Listen is an organization supporting a local platform for new and experimental music. Their program offerings include presentation series of touring musicians from abroad and often involve collaboration with local musicians as well as workshops featuring the touring musicians. Twenty-seven events were supported in 2013-2014. Suddenly Listen supports access to innovative music and collaboration and is moving to a curatorial format for programming in 2014-2015. Not recommended on the basis of score.

Theatre Nova Scotia

Requested \$5000

Theatre Nova Scotia is a service organization operating for the professional and community theatre sectors in Nova Scotia. It is provincial in scope, but 78% of companies served and 86% of individual members are located in HRM. Programs are organized into categories of Foundation, Communication, Education and Innovation. It presents as an enabling organization for theatre companies and practitioners but the application does not focus upon capacity as direct programmer or presenter. Not recommended on the basis of score.

Upstream Music Association

Requested \$6000

The Association's mandate is to support innovative music composition, performance and improvisation. Programming includes a season-opening concert, artist residencies, the Open Waters Festival, and self-produced concerts. Open Waters Festival is roughly one-third of the organization's operating expenses. Not recommended for funding on the basis of score.

Women in Film & Television-Atlantic

Requested \$7375

Women in Film & Television-Atlantic is an advocacy and support organization for women working in the field of film and television and one of thirty-three worldwide. Programs are currently run by the Board and volunteers. Programming includes *Women Making Waves* conference, screenings, artist talks, awards. Most of the programming is associated with the conference or via partnerships (e.g. with Atlantic Film Festival). Not recommended for funding on the basis of score.

Word on the Street Festival

Requested \$7000

Primarily an annual festival occurring in September, it also includes some year-round activities including fundraisers and partnerships with other festivals, as well as opportunity-based (not currently ongoing) partnerships such as digital storytelling workshops and upcoming initiative with Pier 21. The application reflects a movement toward ongoing, year-round programming but emphasis remains on the Festival. Not recommended on the basis of score.

Applications Not Recommended for Funding in 2014
PROJECT ASSISTANCE
Organized Alphabetically

The Atlantic Filmmakers Cooperative Ltd.

Requested: \$8000

The Atlantic Filmmakers Cooperative requested funding toward a filmmaker-in-residence program. Their program had been supported previously through the HRM public art program artist-in-residence program. The current program as proposed is intended to be ongoing. Not recommended for funding on the basis of overlap with regular operating for which the organization is being recommended for funding.

Atlantic Publishers Marketing Association

Requested: \$10,000

The Atlantic Publishers Marketing Association is a support organization acting on behalf of the Atlantic Region's publishing community. The organization is based in Halifax and services the marketing needs of publishers. The request is for development of a web-based platform for Atlantic Books Today that would fund authors to produce content on an ongoing basis to promote connectivity between readers, authors and booksellers. The project is not recommended on the basis of score.

Carbon Arc Cinema Co-operative Ltd.

Requested: \$4000

Requested funding would support the administration of a curated program of short Canadian animation films. Films would be selected via a call for submissions process administered by Carbon Arc and screened during a May 1, 2015 event. Application is not recommended for funding on the basis of score.

Compania Azul- Flamenco Made in Atlantic Canada Society

Requested: \$10,000

Compania Azul is a flamenco company requesting funds to assist with their third self-produced performance at the Dunn Theatre. The company features a high caliber of local musicians and has gained recognition for their productions. The company is relatively young, having premiered at the Neptune Theatre in 2010, but established despite their short tenure. Project is not recommended on the basis of score.

The Doppler Effect Productions Society

Requested \$5330

Project request is for support for 2014-2015 theatrical production of *The Contribution* which was staged in December 2014. Organization is relatively new, but has undertaken eight productions over the past four years. Project is not recommended for funding on the basis of score and the fact that the project has already been completed.

Eyelevel Gallery Society

Requested \$10,000

The proposed research-oriented residency project would build upon the framework of a 2013 individual artist residency supported by HRM temporary public art program. A residency model would be delivered through an open call for artist projects with venues to be proposed by submitting artists. Eyelevel Gallery would provide administrative support and logistics help. Project not recommended for funding on the basis of score.

Live Art Productions Society

Requested \$10,000

The project proposed would develop the online and digital media presence of Live Art Dance. The proposal is primarily for content development for web-based and social media platform use. The proposal does not emphasize strategy for dissemination of content or social media strategy for targeting desired demographic groups. Not recommended for funding on the basis of score.

JazzEast Rising Association

Requested \$10,000

The project ('The Piano Pop Ups') requests funding associated with pop-up piano performances throughout HRM as a means of promoting Jazz Appreciation month (April). The cost of piano rental represents 50% of the anticipated project budget of \$12,180.00. Five selected performers would play two one-hour sets. Project not recommended for funding on the basis of score.

Scotia Chamber Players

Requested \$7000

The project proposed would invite ensemble 'Architek Percussion' to perform as component of the 2015 Scotia Festival of Music. The percussion ensemble would perform seven concerts and master class school concerts. Application not recommended for funding on the basis of Festival's current event grant funding.

Ville Passeist Theatre Society

Requested: \$2000

Ville Passeist Theatre is dedicated to staging non-Shakespearian Renaissance drama. It is a small organization with two–three core members. The request is to assist with costs associated with a developmental workshop for members of a cast involved with an upcoming production of the *Duchess of Malfi*. Project not recommended on the basis of score.

Youth Art Connection

Requested: \$10,000

The "Spot" is a free artistic space for youth and young adults operating out of the Pavilion on the Halifax Common. The program proposed offers 35 weeks of youth drop-in activities/programs; youth engagement and empowerment activities mediated through relationship to participatory and exploratory arts practices. Program co-facilitation will be held by youth workers and in addition to the practicing artists involved. Project not recommended on the basis of score.

Zuppa Circus Theatre Society

Requested \$5000

The project ('Blue Plate Special Series') is proposed as a series of 'house concert', or domestic-scale performances of a developing Production, 'Pop Up Love Party'. Project includes co-funding from Chapter Arts Centre in Wales and partnership with Secret Theatre for a performance which has taken place. Project not recommended for funding on the basis of perceived overlap with regular operating for which the organization is being recommended for award.