

November 7, 2012

Grants-in-aid for local community organizations announced for 2013

At its Nov. 6 meeting, City Council approved 16 grants valued at more than half a million dollars to support Campbell River not-for-profit organizations.

Council endorsed the Community Partnership Committee's recommendation to approve \$527,079 for 2013 grant funding, a three per cent increase over 2012.

"Council's support of the Community Partnership Grant program has helped develop a strong arts and cultural component in our community, which has in turn enhanced the quality of life for our citizens, and the demand for funding continues to grow," says Barry Watchorn, Chair of the Community Partnership Committee. *"This year the Community Partnership Committee received an unprecedented number of applications for grants-in-aid. Requests for 2013 grants-in-aid totaled \$785,700, exceeding the grants-in-aid budget cap by \$221,220. We spent two full days in meetings reviewing the applications and made our recommendations based on the requests that best met Council's policy."*

The Community Partnership Committee makes recommendations to Council on applications for grants-in-aid and permissive tax exemptions. Grants-in-aid applications are evaluated each fall so that applicants can establish their budgets for the following year. Organizations applying for a grant-in-aid are expected to have at least 50 per cent of their funding come from other sources. Council policy sets the total dollar cap for eligible grants-in-aid at 1.7 per cent of the previous year's general revenue operating budget.

"Again this year it was apparent during presentations that the biggest challenge facing our local organizations is uncertainty and in some cases cutbacks to provincial government funding. For this reason, the Community Partnership Committee continues to support the City's policy to provide multi-year contracts to some community organizations," Watchorn adds.

The committee recommended that Council approve grant requests at the current 2012 levels except for the following:

- A \$2000 increase for Greenways Land Trust to help fund a programmer position to support community outreach, stewardship resource centre and natural areas conservation program
- A \$500 increase to the River City Arts Festival to help the festival continue to grow
- One-time \$12,500 for Museum at Campbell River exhibit upgrades
- One-time \$10,000 to Rivercity Players Society for safety upgrades and wheelchair access

The committee also recommended that any unexpected grant requests to the Community Fund be funded from the associated reserve, which is expected to have a balance of \$25,000 at year end. Allocations were made to this reserve fund in 2006, 2007 2008 and 2009 until it reached a balance of approximately \$20,000. There were no allocations made to this fund in 2010 and 2011, and it is expected that \$6,000 will be contributed in 2012 to bring the reserve fund balance to \$25,000. The Committee recommended that Council not allocate to this fund in 2013.

The committee's report to Council with full details of its recommendations is available on the City's website (www.campbellriver.ca) under the *Agendas and Minutes* link on the homepage.

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Contact: Laura Ciarniello, General Manager Corporate Services

250-286-5759

Background

Grants-in-aid approved:

For 2013, 2014 and 2015:

Recreation & Culture Facility Rentals	\$ 10,000
Museum at Campbell River & Archives	\$170,479
Haig-Brown House (Museum)	\$ 43,200
Tidemark Theatre Society	\$160,000
Campbell River Arts Council	\$ 20,000
Campbell River Salmon Festival	\$ 20,000
Campbell River Search and Rescue Society	\$ 9,500
Campbell River Writer's Festival Society	\$ 2,000
Campbell River Citizens on Patrol	\$ 2,500
Greenways Land Trust	\$ 9,000

For 2013 and 2014:

Campbell River Art Gallery	\$ 49,500
Campbell River Shoreline Arts Society	\$ 5,000

For 2013:

River City Arts Festival	\$ 1,000
Campbell River Twinning Society	\$ 2,400
Museum & Archives (Exhibit Upgrade)	\$ 12,500 (Half only)
Rivercity Players Society (Safety Upgrades)	\$ 10,000 (Half only)

Total Grant in Aid Budget: **\$527,079**

Applications not recommended for approval:

Community Fund Allocation (for unexpected grants)	\$ 10,000
CR Museum & Archives (Increase for Operations)	\$ 24,521
Shoreline Arts Society (Increase for Operations)	\$ 5,000
Twining Society (Increase for Operations)	\$ 600
Tidemark Theatre Society's carpet replacement	\$ 22,000
CR Museum & Archives (half of Exhibit Request granted)	\$ 12,500
Campbell River Storm Hockey Society	\$ 12,000
Campbell River Homelessness Coalition	\$ 20,000
River City Arts Festival (Event) (half of Event Request granted)	\$ 1,000
Campbell River Head Injury Society	\$ 95,000
Rivercity Players Society (half of Request granted)	\$ 10,000
The Salvation Army Extreme Weather Shelter	\$ 45,000
Downtown Business Improvement Assoc. Christmas Lights	\$ 1,000

Total Declined: **\$258,621**
