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**CITY OF KELOWNA**

**MEMORANDUM**

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**Date:** December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006

**File No.** 0230-20

**To:** City Manager

**From:** Cultural Services Manager

**Subject:** Kelowna Arts Foundation changes in administration and funding for Professional Arts organizations.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council approves moving the administration and funding for professional arts organizations from the Kelowna Arts Foundation to the Cultural Services Department;

AND THAT Council approve the creation of a new peer review jury led by Cultural Services staff to adjudicate the 2007 professional arts organizations grant requests;

AND THAT the peer review jury will annually bring forward funding recommendations to City Council for approval.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the May 2006 Kelowna Arts Foundation presentation to City Council , Council expressed a desire to have staff return with a report to move funds allocated to professional arts organizations by the Kelowna Arts Foundation to a line item in the city budget as opposed to the current method of administration.

**DISCUSSION:**

Over the past year the Kelowna Arts Foundation have been reviewing their granting process and have made changes to the grant application as well as adding a new ranking system into their deliberation system. The KAF have also reviewed their liaison system where Kelowna Arts Foundation members monitor individual organizations over the course of the year. These changes will improve the review of amateur arts applications.

The Kelowna Arts Foundation also fund professional arts organizations who are described as follows:

*“Organizations that have ongoing paid professional artistic leadership and administration and that pay principle artistic contributors for their services in accordance with generally accepted professional standards. Eligible activities include creative collaboration between professional artists and community members.”*

In Kelowna the following groups that receive Kelowna Arts Foundation money are deemed to fall into the "professional category" and they are: Ballet Kelowna, Okanagan Symphony, Alternator Gallery and Sunshine Theatre Company. Professional arts organizations operate with full time professional administration and artistic staff coupled with much higher operating budgets.

Since April, Cultural Services staff have worked with a sub-committee of the Kelowna Arts Foundation to determine how best to review professional arts applications. In researching other municipalities in Canada with a longer granting history we found that most use a "peer review jury" process. The jury consists of volunteer members with specific financial management and artistic evaluation expertise in the area of discipline.

A report recommending a separate peer review jury was presented at the September 20<sup>th</sup> Kelowna Arts Foundation board meeting for discussion and approval of these changes were adopted at the November 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Cultural Services staff is recommending that in 2007 \$130,000.00, out of the \$210,000.00 currently allocated to the Kelowna Arts Foundation be transferred to the Cultural Services budget for distribution. The remaining \$80,000 in funding for amateur arts organizations will continue to be administered by the Kelowna Arts Foundation.

In 2007 a peer review jury consisting of City staff, the current Kelowna Arts Foundation liaison, a volunteer with expertise in the area of discipline and a volunteer chartered accountant will review the 2007 applications and make funding recommendations to Council.

Upon City Council's acceptance of this direction, Cultural Services staff will bring forward a budget transfer request within the 2007 budget.

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Lorna Gunn  
Cultural Services Manager

Cc: Director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Services