

**REPORT TO SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION
MEETING OF THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026**

SUBJECT Salt Spring Island Arts One-Time Funding Request

ISSUE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to review the request from Art Centre Society (ArtSpring) and the Gulf Island Community Arts Council (Arts Council) for a one-time funding increase in 2027.

BACKGROUND

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has delegated authority of the Salt Spring Island (SSI) Arts Service to the SSI Local Community Commission (LCC). The service provides annual funding through a contribution service to SSI Arts including ArtSpring and the Arts Council. The requisition funding is split between these two organizations with 70% allocated to the ArtSpring for operation of the ArtSpring community centre and ongoing repairs/maintenance and 30% to the Arts Council to support program delivery.

ArtSpring

In May 2026, ArtSpring identified a leak in the water main servicing its facility, with repair costs estimated at approximately \$56,000. To offset this unplanned expense, ArtSpring secured \$30,000 in external funding through the SSI Foundation's Emergent Needs Program and the YP Heung Foundation. As the project is not eligible for Community Works Funding because the CRD does not own the asset, ArtSpring has requested a one-time increase of \$26,000 to its 2027 contribution to fund the remaining project costs (Appendix A).

Arts Council

The Arts Council has identified significant seismic, safety, accessibility and building system deficiencies at Mahon Hall, a heritage building located in the Ganges Village core and leased from School District 64. To advance planning and fundraising for the proposed revitalization project, the Arts Council has requested LCC support a fundraising feasibility study. As a result, the Arts Council has requested a one-time increase of \$25,000 to its 2027 contribution to support programming to free up existing funds to support the feasibility study (Appendix B).

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission recommends that staff include one-time funding of \$37,150 in the 2027 1.299 Salt Spring Island Arts Service:

1. 70% for the Art Centre Society or \$26,000
2. 30% for the Gulf Island Community Arts Council or \$11,150.

Alternative 2

The Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission recommends that staff amend the Salt Spring Island Arts Service Establishment Bylaw to:

1. Increase the maximum requisition by 25%
2. Remove the 70/30 contribution funding split between the two organizations
3. Allow funding for the Gulf Island Community Arts Council to be used for building repairs

Alternative 3

The Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission refers the report back to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

In 2026, ArtSpring received \$103,161 and the Arts Council received \$44,212 requisitioning a total of \$154,361 to support the SSI Arts Service. The preliminary budget for 2027 includes a 5% increase in this requisition funding totalling \$162,373. The maximum requisition for this service is \$208,483 in 2026. Funding requests that exceed the maximum allowable requisition would require an increase to the maximum requisition prior to the funding request being approved.

ArtSpring has requested a one-time increase of \$26,000 for 2027 to offset the unforeseen cost of repairs to their water main line in 2026. A summary of the repair costs and proposed sources of funding are included in the table below:

Project	Cost	Funding Sourced By ArtSpring	Request From CRD
Water Main Repair	\$36,000	\$15,000 Salt Spring Foundation \$15,000 YP Heung Foundation	\$26,000
Repaving Parking Lot	\$20,000		
Total	\$56,000		

The Arts Council has requested a one-time increase of \$25,000 for 2027 to support existing programming and free up existing funds to support a fundraising feasibility assessment. A summary of the requested costs are included in the table below:

Project	Cost	Funding Sourced By Arts Council	Request From CRD
Feasibility Study	\$50,000	\$25,000 YP Heung Foundation	\$25,000
Total	\$50,000		

Total 2027 SSI Arts funding request = \$51,000

Under the current establishment bylaw for the SSI Arts, an additional \$46,110 could be requisitioned to support these funding requests however, that funding increase would need to be split between ArtSpring at 70% and the Arts Council at 30%.

To provide ArtSpring with a one-time funding increase of \$26,000 in 2027, the Arts Council would receive a corresponding one-time funding increase of \$11,150 to support programming costs,

thereby freeing existing resources to advance a feasibility assessment. As a result, the total SSI Arts Service requisition would need to increase by \$37,150. Consistent with the current funding allocation model, the additional requisition would be distributed as follows:

- ArtSpring \$26,000 (70%)
- Arts Council \$11,150 (30%)

CONCLUSION

Art Centre Society and the Gulf Island Community Arts Council have requested one-time funding increases in 2027 to address an unforeseen infrastructure repair, and to support planning and fundraising activities for the Mahon Hall revitalization project. Under the current Salt Spring Island Arts Service establishment bylaw, any additional requisition funding must be allocated according to the existing 70/30 funding split between the two organizations. A one-time requisition increase of \$37,150 would provide \$26,000 to Art Centre Society and \$11,150 to the Gulf Island Community Arts Council. Should the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission wish to provide funding beyond the current requisition limits or modify the allocation model, amendments to the service establishment bylaw would be required.

RECOMMENDATION

The Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission recommends that staff include one-time funding of \$37,150 in the 2027 1.299 Salt Spring Island Arts Service:

1. 70% for the Art Centre Society or \$26,000;
2. 30% for the Gulf Island Community Arts Council or \$11,150.

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: ArtSpring Funding Request Letter Dated August 13, 2026

Appendix B: Arts Council Funding Request Letter Dated July 31, 2026