

**REPORT TO the GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2019**

SUBJECT **Board Initiative 12a-1 “Facilitate a discussion of the region’s art facilities needs & explore partnerships to support 100% participation in the CRD arts function.”**

ISSUE

To provide greater clarity and work planning, the Governance & Finance Committee requested that Board Initiative 12a-1 be separated into two phases.

BACKGROUND

At their June 5, 2019, meeting the Governance & Finance Committee considered the terms of reference for a select committee to consider Board Initiative 12a-1. Following a discussion, the Committee determined that the priority contained activities requiring separate consideration in order to support them within existing CRD Service and funding structures.

The Committee referred the matter back to staff with direction to provide further information and clarity and to split priority 12a-1 into two phases:

1. Facilitate a discussion of the region’s arts facilities needs; and
2. Explore partnerships to support 100% participation in the CRD arts function

Table A. Board Initiative 12a-1 - CRD “arts functions”, current participation and oversight.					
	Authority	Activity	Oversight	Participating Jurisdictions	Other
1. Regional arts facilities discussion	Board Initiative 12a-1	Facilitated discussion on the region's arts facilities needs	None– (Board Select Committee proposed)	all	n/a
2.1 Arts Dev. Funding	Arts & Culture Support Service, Bylaw 2884	Provision of funding for the regional arts sector	Arts Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saanich • Victoria • Oak Bay • Esquimalt • View Royal • Metchosin • Highlands • Sooke • Southern Gulf Islands 	n/a
2.2 Royal Theatre funding	Royal Theatre Service, Bylaw 2587	Provision of operating and capital support	Royal and McPherson Theatres Services Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria • Saanich • Oak Bay 	CRD owns venue and contracts with the RMTS* for management services
2.3 McPherson Playhouse funding	McPherson Playhouse Service, Bylaw 2685	Provision of operating and capital support		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria 	Victoria owns venue, CRD contracts with the RMTS* for management services

*Royal & McPherson Theatres Society

1. Discussion on the Region’s Arts Facilities Needs

Board Initiative 12a-1 calls for a discussion of the region’s arts facilities needs. The creation of a Select Committee is recommended to deal with this initiative as there is no existing service with this mandate.

The first task of the Select Committee would be to ensure their Terms of Reference (Appendix A, draft version) fully defines the desired scope as it relates to local vs regional responsibility, planning, capital and operational support, etc.

Stakeholders include other CRD committees with oversight for arts functions, municipal councils, the general public, potential venue users/groups, existing arts facilities and potential partners. Depending on the terms of reference, staff would propose an external consultant be contracted to design and facilitate an engagement process to include research, gap analysis and to report on recommended actions.

Funding for costs associated with public engagement or service establishment would be through the Legislative and General Government Service, which is a Regional Service that includes all CRD Municipalities, Electoral Areas, and First Nations.

2. Exploration of Partnerships to Support 100% Participation in the CRD Arts Function

This section summarizes initiatives undertaken to increase participation in three sub-regional CRD services related to the arts.

The Arts Commission has oversight for the Arts & Culture Support Service that provides funding to arts organizations.

The Royal and McPherson Theatres Society Advisory Committee (Royal & McPherson Theatres Services Committee) has oversight for the McPherson Playhouse Service and The Royal Theatre Service. These Services are contribution agreements that provide grants to the Royal & McPherson Theatres Society for the support of operations and capital improvements for these two venues.

2.1 The Arts & Culture Support Service

The effort to increase participation in the Arts & Culture Support Service has been an ongoing activity since the creation of the Service in 2001. The Arts Commission made presentations to non-participating councils and electoral area directors for this purpose most recently in 2017. Since then Sooke and Southern Gulf Islands have joined the Service. Sidney withdrew in 2018 but has indicated an interest in rejoining.

The Arts Commission could reasonably be expected to advise on whether full support could be achieved at this time or as a foreseeable outcome of renewed outreach activities.

2.2 The McPherson Theatre Service

In 2017 Victoria Council convened a working group of two councilors and members of the RMTS Board and staff for the purpose of seeking additional municipal support for the McPherson Theatre. Initial presentations were made to 11 municipalities and three subsequent “conversations” were held with groups of councillors variously representing 9 to 10 municipalities.

A final report entitled “Future Governance Options for Victoria’s Historic Community Theatres” proposed several possible governance models but concluded only with a statement describing “an emerging consensus” on what could be considered in the future. It concluded with the following statement

This report will be shared with the CRD and its municipalities for their information and consideration. A further update may emerge should additional substantive input arise after this report is shared with participating municipalities.

The report was received for information by Victoria City Council on April 25, 2019, but did not outline next steps.

2.3 The Royal Theatre Service

There have been no recent efforts by the participants of this Service to encourage new partners.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That the Governance and Finance Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That a Select Committee be established to facilitate a discussion of the region’s art facilities needs; and
2. That the Arts Commission and the Royal & McPherson Theatres Services Committee report on the potential for full participation in their respective services.

Alternative 2

That the report be referred back to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Arts facilities that serve regional needs are significant expenditures, typically requiring long term planning and the support of all levels of government. A significant challenge for a Select Committee on Regional Arts Facilities will be to imagine and establish a structure through which regional decisions on arts facilities can be made.

Should public engagement be necessary, a consultant would be engaged to design and facilitate the process and report on outcomes. Costs for a limited region-wide public engagement process is estimated to be \$40,000.

CONCLUSION

The Arts Commission, overseeing the Arts & Culture Support Service, and the Royal & McPherson Theatres Services Committee, overseeing the Royal Theatre Service and the McPherson Playhouse Service, are existing CRD committees that could reasonably be expected to provide information on the prospects of full participation in their respective arts functions in the CRD.

No CRD service or committee currently exists through which to “facilitate a discussion of the region’s art facilities needs.” Staff recommends the establishment of a Select Committee to

address this issue. Discussion to clarify the relationship of the Select Committee to the Royal and McPherson Theatre Services would be required once established.

Both phases of Board Initiative 12a-1 imply an exploration of increased regional cooperation around arts facilities and support of arts organizations.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Governance and Finance Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That a Select Committee be formed to facilitate a discussion of the region’s art facilities needs; and
2. That the Arts Commission and the Royal & McPherson Theatres Services Committee report on the potential for full participation in their respective services.

Submitted by:	James Lam, Manager, Arts & Culture Support Service
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, CPA, CMA, Chief Financial Officer
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

JL:nm

Appendix A: Proposed Terms of Reference, The Regional Arts Facilities Select Committee