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## REPORT TO ARTS COMMISSION MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2021

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**SUBJECT** Outcomes of Board Initiative 12a-1 to Explore Partnerships to Support 100% Participation in the CRD Arts Function

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

The Arts Commission was directed by the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board to report on the potential for 100% participation in the CRD arts function. This report provides information on the outcomes of that initiative.

### **BACKGROUND**

At their meeting of October 9, 2019, the CRD Board directed the Arts Commission to report on the potential for 100% participation in the Arts & Culture Support Service (Arts Service). This initiative is related to Board Initiative 12a-1 in the 2019–2022 Corporate Plan. Nine jurisdictions currently participate in the Arts Service.

Following preliminary contact with mayors and individual councilors by the Chair of the Arts Commission, formal correspondence was sent to non-participating municipalities that included Central Saanich, Colwood, Langford, North Saanich and Sidney. The correspondence provided information on the benefits of joining the Arts Service and a request to present to council for the purpose of asking them to join. Electoral area directors for Juan de Fuca and Salt Spring Island were approached directly by the Chair.

As a result of this initial outreach, Sidney and Colwood councils requested a presentation. The Arts Commission Chair and Arts Service staff made presentations to councils on September 8 and October 26, 2020, respectively. North Saanich declined the offer of a presentation. Electoral area directors from Juan de Fuca and Salt Spring Island expressed their decision to not join the service directly to the Arts Commission Chair.

At their Committee of the Whole meeting of March 29, 2021, Colwood supported a motion that the Arts Service not be funded in 2021. Correspondence from Sidney staff of June 5, 2021, informed the Arts Service that Sidney Council did not support joining the Arts Service, deciding instead to provide a donation to the service in support of regional arts.

In May 2021, follow-up correspondence was sent to those jurisdictions that had yet to respond to the initial request. Langford Council considered this correspondence at their June 21, 2021, regular meeting but declined the request for a presentation. Central Saanich did not respond to either request.

Since the establishment of the Arts Service in 2001, efforts to recruit new participants have been repeated as councils have changed through election cycles. From its establishment, participation has increased from four to nine jurisdictions. This most recent effort was initiated by Board initiative 12a-1. While several of the seven non-participating jurisdictions gave due consideration, all have declined to join the service at this time.

**ALTERNATIVES**

*Alternative 1*

The Arts Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That the Outcomes of Board Initiative 12a-1 to Explore Partnerships to Support 100% Participation in the CRD Arts Function report be received for information.

*Alternative 2*

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

**IMPLICATIONS**

*Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities*

The Arts Commission’s exploration of partnerships to support 100% participation the CRD arts function was directed by the CRD Board as contained in initiative 12a-1.

*Financial Implications*

The nine current participants in the Arts Service contribute as either “Group 1” or “Group 2” with apportionment based on 50% population and 50% converted assessments. Group 2 participation is a lower level of contribution and is calculated as 30% of the Group 1 level for a given jurisdiction. Appendix A “Simulation for adding all regional members as participants to Group 1 Membership” shows the current cost sharing for the 2021 budget year and a hypothetical cost sharing arrangement if all CRD jurisdictions contributed at the Group 1 membership level.

**CONCLUSION**

The CRD Board charged the Arts Commission with the task of exploring partnerships to support 100% participation in the Arts & Culture Support Service. Although participation has grown from four to nine CRD jurisdictions since the inception of the service, this recent initiative to increase membership resulted in no new participation.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Arts Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That the Outcomes of Board Initiative 12a-1 to Explore Partnerships to Support 100% Participation in the CRD Arts Function report be received for information.

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

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Appendix A: Simulation for adding all regional members as participants to Group 1 Membership