

## Backgrounder

October 8, 2015



### Creation of a Regional Arts and Culture Service

The Cowichan Region is increasingly becoming known as a cultural hub with a varied number of arts and culture events, festivals, and live performances taking place in venues from Shawnigan Lake to Cowichan Lake to Ladysmith. From concerts in the park, to youth arts, theatre, music, dance, and the visual arts – arts and culture contributes to a community's sense of place and to a stronger economy by providing spin-off benefits for local businesses, hotels, and restaurants.



*Chemainus Music in the Park*



*Kaatza Lakeside Players*

The Cowichan Valley Regional District has provided regional grants-in-aid in the past to the Cowichan Valley Arts Council, the Ladysmith and District Arts Council, and the Chemainus Valley Cultural Arts Society for the provision of arts and culture services.

Rather than continuing with regional grants-in-aid, the CVRD Board considered establishing a service to provide long term regional funding for arts and culture.

The Board has given first three readings to Bylaw No. 3931 which, if adopted, would create an Arts and Culture service that would support arts and culture initiatives throughout the region. The service would have a maximum tax requisition of \$130,000 and would be funded regionally by all nine electoral areas and four municipalities.

Public approval for adoption of Bylaw No. 3931 is being obtained through an Alternative Approval Process (see last paragraph for more information).

### **Funding Arts and Culture Initiatives**

#### **Arts Councils**

Arts Councils have a mandate to support and promote arts, in all its forms. Five arts councils would be supported through this new service – three that currently exist (Ladysmith and District Arts Council, Chemainus Valley Cultural Arts Society, and the Cowichan Valley Arts Council), and two new arts councils that are proposed to be formed (South Cowichan, and Cowichan Lake). Under this new model, the Ladysmith and District Arts Council would serve Ladysmith, electoral areas G and H. The Chemainus Valley Cultural Arts Society would serve Chemainus, and the north end of North Cowichan. The Cowichan Valley Arts Council would serve the south end of North Cowichan, Duncan, and electoral areas D and E. The South Cowichan Arts Council would serve electoral areas A, B, and C. The Cowichan Lake Arts Council would serve the Town of Lake Cowichan, and electoral areas F and I.

\$50,000 of the \$130,000 in funding would be transferred to the arts councils annually, with arts councils receiving different amounts, based on the property assessment from their area. Ladysmith and District would receive \$8,500, Chemainus Valley would receive \$5,000, Cowichan Valley would receive \$19,000, South Cowichan would receive \$12,000, and Cowichan Lake would receive \$5,500.

#### **Arts and Culture Division of the CVRD**

There is a recognized need for regional coordination and promotion of arts and culture initiatives. It is proposed that the Arts and Culture Manager, with current primary responsibilities for managing the Cowichan Performing Arts Centre, be given this role 20% of the time. The effect would be \$26,049 for this coordination expense would be paid from this Arts and Culture service budget, with a corresponding decrease of \$26,049 in the Cowichan Performing Arts Centre budget. There would be new funds required though - \$12,704 for administration support, and \$10,555 for identified regional arts and culture initiative costs, and contingency for unidentified needs.

#### **Arts and Culture Grants-in-aid**

There are a number of arts and culture organizations across the region requiring financial support. This proposal would contribute 10% of the regional grant-in-aid amount specifically to arts and culture organizations, other than arts councils. This amount is currently \$30,692, to be paid through this service. The regional grant-in-aid budget would then be decreased a corresponding \$30,692.

## Financial Considerations and Tax Impact

The overall funding request for the establishment of a regional arts & culture service is \$130,000. Funded on a regional basis, this would result in a cost of \$0.86 per \$100,000 in assessed value. Of these funds \$73,259 (\$0.48 per \$100,000) would be considered “new” funding, while the remaining \$56,741 would come from reducing the requisition within other budgets to offset the increase in the new service. These changes / costs are summarized as follows:

<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Existing Funds</b>	<b>“New” Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
Ladysmith and District Arts Council		\$8,500	\$8,500
Chemainus Valley Cultural Arts Society		\$5,000	\$5,000
Cowichan Valley Arts Council		\$19,000	\$19,000
(Future) South Cowichan Arts Council		\$12,000	\$12,000
(Future) Cowichan Lake Arts Council		\$5,500	\$5,500
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>\$50,000</b>
Arts & Culture Division Manager	\$26,049		\$26,049
Arts & Culture Division Admin Support		\$12,704	\$12,704
Arts & Culture Regional Grants-in-aid	\$30,692		\$30,692
Regional Arts & Culture Initiatives		\$10,555	\$10,555
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$56,741</b>	<b>\$73,259</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>

If you have any questions regarding the proposed Arts and Culture Service, please contact John Elzinga by email at [jelzinga@cverd.bc.ca](mailto:jelzinga@cverd.bc.ca), or by phone at 250.746.3400.

## The Alternative Approval Process

If you are in favour of the Board adopting Bylaw No. 3931, you don’t have to do anything. The Alternative Approval Process is designed so that only those people OPPOSED to the adoption of Bylaw No. 3931 need to sign an Elector Response Form.

If you are opposed to the adoption of Bylaw No. 3931, you may indicate your opposition by signing an Elector Response Form. If more than 10% of eligible electors (6,038) from the Cowichan region submit an Elector Response Form, the Board of Directors cannot adopt the bylaw, unless a referendum is held. Elector Response Forms are available online [here](#), and at the CVRD Offices located at 175 Ingram St, Duncan, during regular office hours, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

If you have any questions regarding the Alternative Approval Process, please contact Corporate Secretary Joe Barry by email at [jbarry@cverd.bc.ca](mailto:jbarry@cverd.bc.ca) or by phone at 250.746.2506.