



REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: FN-RBAC-353

From: Financial Administration

Date: February 13, 2025

Subject: Grant Request - MacWood Film Arts Development Society

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee authorize a grant in the amount of \$10,000 payable from Electoral Area D Fair Share to be issued to MacWood Film Arts Development Society to support the cost of facilitating a 12-week 'Filmmaking Course for Adults' including instructor wages, marketing, equipment, and bursaries for qualifying students to reduce the enrolment fee.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

MacWood Film Arts Development Society (MWFADS) is requesting a \$10,000 grant to assist with the costs of their 12-week 'Filmmaking Course for Adults'. This intensive workshop will run from March 6 to May 29, 2025, in partnership with the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre (KPAC) in Dawson Creek. The course will provide hands-on training in all aspects of filmmaking, from pre-production to post-production, culminating in the creation of a festival-quality short film to be showcased at the red-carpet screening. The total project cost is \$26,000, and MWFADS is requesting funding to cover expenses, including marketing, instructor wages, equipment and, to ensure the course is accessible, a portion of the requested grant will fund bursaries, which will reduce the \$300 enrollment fee to a nominal \$30 for qualifying students.

The bursaries are intended to address financial barriers and allow broader participation. MWFADS has budgeted \$4,050 for bursaries, which will be distributed among qualifying students. With proper marketing, MWFADS anticipates enrolling a minimum of 15 students in the course.

This course is designed to fill a gap in filmmaking education within the region. Currently, there are no post-secondary filmmaking or photography programs available in the Peace Region, making this course a critical opportunity for aspiring filmmakers who would otherwise need to relocate to larger cities like Vancouver or Toronto for training. This course will provide accessible, high-quality education to residents across the region.

In 2023, MWFADS successfully delivered filmmaking courses in Dawson Creek, including a Youth Filmmaking Course, which was met with strong community interest and positive feedback. The success of the event has led the MWFADS to the creation of the Filmmaking Course for Adults. This course will allow participants to produce their own 5–10-minute short films using high-quality, cinema-grade equipment. Participants will develop essential transferable skills such as time management, organization, communication, leadership, and teamwork—skills that will be valuable not just in filmmaking but across various other fields. Upon completion, students will have a festival-quality film and will have gained practical filmmaking experience.

The long-term vision of MacWood Films is to foster a thriving film industry in our region by providing local job opportunities such as lighting technicians, sound engineers, set builders, and other essential film production roles. Additionally, the society aims to attract independent film productions to the Peace Region. While large studios such as Warner Brothers and Disney may not consider the area for filming, smaller independent productions with budgets of \$5-\$10 million are more likely to be drawn to the region due to its diverse filming locations, available tax credits, and a trained local workforce.

As a newly incorporated non-profit society, this will be MWFADS' first time offering the filmmaking course under its new structure. Since it is a new organization, no financial statements have been submitted.

This request meets the eligibility criteria as outlined in the attached Electoral Area Grant -in-Aid policy. For a detailed breakdown of sponsorship opportunities, please see the attachment for the full Sponsorship Proposal.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee authorize a funding commitment in the amount of \$5,000, payable from Function 120 – Electoral Area D Fair share fund, to be issued to the MacWood Film Arts Development Society to assist with the cost of facilitating a 12-week intensive film making course for adults.
2. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee respectfully deny the grant application from the MacWood Film Arts Development Society.
3. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Not Applicable to Strategic Plan

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

As of December 31,2024, the balance after remaining commitments Electoral Area D Fair Share was \$551,377.26.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

The applicant will be notified in writing of the Committee's decision and, if funding is approved, will be asked to recognize the Peace River Regional District contribution.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

Attachments:

1. Grant Request - MacWood Film Arts Development Society
2. 2025 Sponsor Proposal Package – The MacWood Filmmaking Course for Adults

External Links:

1. [Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid Policy #0340-69](#)