

BC Arts Council
Operating Assistance - Fair Notice Policy
(Updated February 2015)

Organizations funded through the Operating Assistance program are subject to the BC Arts Council's Fair Notice Policy. The Fair Notice Policy warns organizations that have been poorly assessed by BC Arts Council Advisory Committees of the possibility of a phased loss of all operating funding, unless significant improvements are achieved, through the designation and application of Concerned Status criteria.

When an Advisory Committee has concerns about the viability of an organization receiving support through the Operating Assistance program, the Advisory Committee is expected to share these concerns with BC Arts Council. If the organization in question demonstrates one or more of the following criteria, the Advisory Committee may recommend to the BC Arts Council that the organization be placed on Concerned Status:

- 1) a major deficit (15 percent or more of its annual operating budget), or other evidence of not being financially viable;
- 2) a significantly reduced audience, visitation, sales, or membership base (if this differs from its own stated intentions);
- 3) the inability to plan into the future;
- 4) the inability to address major programming concerns such as artistic, curatorial or editorial direction, declining quality of activity, or failure to achieve the activity plan submitted to BC Arts Council;
- 5) the inability to meet contractual obligations or minimum requirements outlined in the program guidelines;
- 6) management practices which do not conform to generally acceptable practices in the discipline.

When Concerned Status is recommended, the Advisory Committee will also provide BC Arts Council with recommended changes to be expected from the organization in order to be removed from Concerned Status.

The Advisory Committee may also recommend a reduction in the grant awarded, of no more than 20%, to reflect the Concerned Status.

In such cases where the Advisory Committee recommends an organization be placed or remain on, or be removed from, Concerned Status, the recommendation must be approved by BC Arts Council.

Organizations that are removed from the Operating Assistance program because they failed to resolve their Concerned Status designation must meet the eligibility guidelines for new applicants, including having received two Project Assistance grants in the required discipline or program, in order to re-apply to the Operating Assistance program.