



December 10th, 2022

CAO Redfearn & City Council,

We, at the GEM Theatre recently formed ***DownStage Centre Performing Arts Society***. We create this society with the plans to grow professional performance art in the Boundary Country for the education and entertainment of our community and surrounding area.

Mission: *To Produce and present multi-cultural performance art in the Boundary Country.*

Vision: *Providing opportunity to educate, enrich the minds and hearts of the community of Grand Forks and the Boundary Country through a variety of performing arts.*

The 125th Celebration was extremely well received and acted as a spark of rejuvenation of the Market District. The Boundary Country Regional Chamber of Commerce played a significant role in this past end of summer project, and we would like to continue that relationship moving forward in the planning of the next expression of entertainment.

The 125th overall cost was \$41,000. \$25,000 of this was from the Canada Heritage Grant that the Gem Theatre was a recipient of and chose to use those funds to boost the already planned 125th.

We are seeking a *Fee for Service* for the amount of \$15,000.

This request is based on the following costs:

SKAHA SOUND & ENGINEERING

- **\$4000---Sounds & Lighting**
- **\$3000---Stage Rental**
- **\$3000—Labour**
- **\$2000- Delivery/Set Up/Strike**

The request of \$15,000 includes the 12% tax charges to cover the total cost, leaving \$440 for any unforeseen costs or inflation in the next year.

If DownStage Centre are recipients of this grant, we will work with the BCRCC to create a new tradition in Grand Forks by utilizing the momentum from the 125th. We will be applying to other performance arts grants in the spring when applications are open. This would give us eight months to seek further grants for performance-based costs.

If you have any questions about our new organization, the board, or how it is broken down, I would be happy to explain anything to draw light to any concern.

Sincerely,

Shaun Aquiline

Executive Director
DownStage Centre Society

