



A non-profit organization

Merritt Dance Society

P.O.Box 525
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Canada

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Merritt, BC

Tel: 250 378-9898

April 5, 2019

City of Merritt
P.O. Box 189
Merritt, BC
V1K 1B8

Re: In-Kind Grant of \$2,600.00 - Report

Attention: Mayor Linda Brown and City Council

We would like to thank you again for your grant in kind of \$2,600.00 earlier this year which covered the cost of the facility rental for our June American Academy of Ballet Performance Exams (June 15th and 16th). As you know, last year our students did exceedingly well and the Judge from New York awarded six (6) of our students opportunities to study in New York. Three of these students raised funds to attend the 'Summer Intensive'. This experience involved daily classes of 6 hours for a week. Classes were presented by an international faculty of four dance instructors which was a wonderful growing experience for these three girls. The faculty consisted of a Russian, a French, a Belgium and a South African instructor.

This June a Judge from New Hampshire awarded four scholarships to study in New York as she felt the quality of dance was again of a very high standard. As funding is a challenge for these students, it remains to be seen if this privilege will be taken advantage of. We sincerely hope so and encourage any fund raising ideas they may have.

The City and Council have a big influence on the development of youth in the community by providing this Grant In Kind for these students to perform in front of an international judge. The Love to Dance project of the Merritt Dance Society taught the syllabus and created the event with this funding. Forty student participated in solo dances on the Civic Centre stage. The students were each awarded a certificate and a medal; gold, silver or bronze. Special needs children were involved and awarded medals as well.


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The development of these children goes beyond dance, as it teaches them much about accountability, care for their costumes, respect for their instructors and their peers, self-respect, practice, good grooming and many other traits that are important in good showmanship.

The City of Merritt provides this opportunity for the expansion of life skills for the youth in our community enabling them to become valuable adult members of our community and again perhaps contributing back that which they have received.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lizette Nel".

Lizette Nel, Head Dance Instructor
The Love to Dance Studio, a project of
The Merritt Dance Society

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