

9. The Centre for Performing Arts

At its meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2013, Vancouver City Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on Wednesday, May 29, 2013, in order to hear from speakers.

MOVER: Councillor Elizabeth Ball

SECONDER: Councillor Adriane Carr

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver acknowledges of the economic importance of culture and the arts in Vancouver;
2. The City of Vancouver has invested both time and funding to source and plan for more purpose built cultural facilities in the city;
3. Cultural spaces are vital to communities and neighborhoods, and are essential for thriving economic and social well-being, but facilities can become vulnerable in surging real estate markets;
4. The Centre for Performing Arts is located in the centre of Vancouver's Cultural District or precinct;
5. The Centre for Performing Arts has served for a number of years as a purpose built venue for Dance and Music;
6. The Centre has a proud history of presenting many works celebrating both diversity and acceptance;
7. There are media reports that The Centre is being sold to a non-entertainment organization;
8. Several respected arts organizations that had a season or event planned in The Centre have had their bookings abruptly cancelled. As performing arts organizations must make arrangements years in advance, this situation will cause major financial hardship;
9. Hundreds of entertainment related professionals will lose their jobs should The Centre be lost to the community;
10. The Centre is the only alternate mid-size theatre appropriate for dance, sound reinforced musical events and theatre that is available to rent in central Vancouver at 1800 seats;

11. The Vancouver Civic Theatres, the Queen Elizabeth with 2,800 seats, the Orpheum with 2,800 seats and the Playhouse with 650 seats, are not able to fill all the needs of commercial entertainment promoters and non-profit cultural organizations in the city;
12. Famed architect Moshe Safdie designed the theatre's marquee as an homage to music. The theatre has been recognized as an important part of our cultural heritage.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to examine any possibilities for City use of The Centre for Performing Arts which would enable the Centre to continue to support a vibrant cultural life in the city for years to come; and that staff report back to Council on the results of those explorations.
- B. THAT if The Centre for Performing Arts is sold to a non-cultural organization this year, Council directs staff to negotiate with the owners so that permission is given for previously booked tenants to perform up until December 31, 2013. Such permission will avert a serious destabilization of the economic realities of the local cultural community.

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