



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 15, 2017  
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Meeting Date: December 13, 2017

TO: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services  
FROM: General Manager of Community Services  
SUBJECT: Grant to Museum of Vancouver for *Haida Now* Exhibition and Programming

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve a grant of \$200,000 to the Museum of Vancouver (MOV) to research, develop, engage, and present *Haida Now* - a year-long exhibition and public program aligned with Reconciliation goals for the Museum and for the City. This grant is subject to the Museum of Vancouver securing matching funds as outlined in this report, to the satisfaction of the General Manager of Community Services; source of funds to be the 2017 Innovation Fund.

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

As a City of Reconciliation and as a City committed to supporting a diverse and thriving cultural ecology, this report outlines a proposal to bring a renowned and rarely exhibited civic collection of Haida art to the world stage. The exhibition will be interpreted through an Indigenous lens, co-developed and organized by the Museum of Vancouver, the Haida Gwaii Museum, with the local First Nations and key community partners including the Vancity Community Foundation.

This one-time funding of \$200,000 will support Haida artists and curators, and local First Nations artists in developing this key exhibition and program and establish ongoing partnerships with local Nations and the Haida community.

### **COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- RTS 11801 approval of the 2017 Operating grant to the Museum of Vancouver
- 2013 - 2018 Culture Plan Strategic Directions
- City of Reconciliation Goals
- Vancouver's Healthy City Strategy

Council approval of grants requires two-thirds majority of votes.

## **CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The General Manager of Community Services recommends approval of the foregoing.

### **REPORT**

#### **Background/Context**

The Museum of Vancouver (MOV) was established in 1894, and plays a significant role in presenting Vancouver in a cultural and historical context to citizens of, and visitors to, the city. It does so through permanent and temporarily exhibitions, educational programs, partnerships, outreach and other community initiatives. MOV holds civic collections of historical, ethnographic, archeological and natural history objects. Since its incorporation in 1972 as an independent non-profit and charitable organization, the City of Vancouver has supported the MOV with core annual cash support for operations, programming and collections management (\$825,560 in 2017), as well as in-kind support for the facility and services (approximate value of \$500,000).

Recently the MOV has been focusing on the civic collection as part of the Museum's overall sustainability plan to grow awareness of and loyalty to the Museum. Reconciliation is also a key pillar for the MOV that will inform decisions for collections, exhibitions, programming and education going forward and will include reconnecting Indigenous communities with their material culture.

#### **Haida Now - Exhibition and Public program**

*Haida Now* will run from March 2018 to February 2019, and will feature pieces from over 400 works that were created between 1890 and 1970 by Haida carvers, weavers, jewelry makers, and painters. Part of this civic collection has only been exhibited a few times but has never been displayed in its entirety. Notable pieces include an argillite casket (one of two only) by Charles Edenshaw produced for the Royal Family. The collection has been determined by BC institutions (Museum of Anthropology and the Royal BC Museum) and scholars, as the most significant un-displayed First Nations collection in Canada. Much of the collection was donated to the MOV in 1971 by reputable collectors, Edward and Mary Lipsett.

The main exhibition will be displayed in a 5,000 square foot exhibition space at the MOV with an additional satellite display at the Haida Gaia Museum in Skidegate and collaborative programming at the Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art in Vancouver.

*Haida Now* provides the first extensive public access to the civic collection and the first interpretation generated by a multitude of Haida perspectives. The public will experience remarkable works first-hand while gaining an understanding of Haida culture past and present. The programming will facilitate interaction and cross-cultural understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people living in Greater Vancouver.

Haida curators will develop themes exploring the urban nature of Haida identity, Haida's historical connections to Vancouver, contemporary expressions of traditional art forms and the role of museums in the reconciliation movement. Partnerships in the form of artifact loans and consultation work with the Haida Gwaii Museum in Skidegate will form the basis for a long-lasting working relationship.

Public programming will include:

- A local First Nations Welcome Ceremony
- Dialogue on the experiences and role of urban Aboriginal people in cultural innovation
- Events hosted by Haida culinary chefs and local First Nations artists and musicians
- Biking tours of Haida art in Vancouver lead by Haida youth
- Repatriation Monologues
- Curatorial Talk and Tours
- Haida music performances and film screenings

A detailed budget can be found in Appendix A. The *Haida Now* program can be found in Appendix C.

### ***Strategic Analysis***

This one-time funding will enable the Museum to place Indigeneity at the forefront of its programming and operations. It further brings the Museum in alignment with City of Vancouver and key partner, Vancity Community Foundation, around critical Reconciliation goals. The collaborative investment and efforts which result in the *Haida Now* will daylight a historically significant collection and re-tell the history of Vancouver (and BC) through the rightful Indigenous perspectives.

### **Indigeneity at the forefront of the Museum of Vancouver**

Museums have a key role to play in repairing and renewing relationships with Indigenous communities. The inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in key exhibitions means that local Indigenous knowledge and perspectives are integrated in the development and delivery of programs. All three local First Nation communities—Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh—are involved in fleshing out various exhibitions content, showing diverse ways of engaging with and relating to its nature. To achieve this, the Museum has created a new permanent position of Curator of Indigenous Collections (Dr. Sharon Fortney) to help forge relationships and facilitate participation and self-representation of the various local Indigenous communities.

*Haida Now* will discuss the Haida's long-standing and at times conflicted relationship with local Coast Salish communities. It will become a launch pad for discussing the experience of urban Indigenous communities and diversity within Indigenous cultures and across individual experiences. Multiple visits with Indigenous knowledge holders in the collection storage, arising from these collaborations, have encouraged MOV to start rehousing its substantial Northwest Coast First Nations collections in ways that are more culturally appropriate and accessible.

Nature of Indigenous Involvement:

- Partnership with the Haida Gwaii Museum
- Guest curator - Kwiaahwah Jones, Haida independent artist/cultural worker
- Consultant - Nika Collison, Haida Scholar and Curator, Haida Gwaii Museum
- Associate Curator and Coast Salish Reseracher - Dr. Sharon Fortney, MOV
- Over 30 visits with Haida knowledge holders to MOV collection storage
- Partnerships with Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh Nations to plan and present a welcome ceremony for the exhibition opening

- Artists and interview participants for the contemporary Haida art will be paid professional fees
- Discussions with the Haida Nation for repatriation of a mortuary totem pole and a few culturally sensitive artifacts

### Shared Reconciliation Goals and Impact

Under the leadership of the Haida Gwaii Museum, MOV is undertaking this initiative in partnership with the City of Vancouver and Vancity Community Foundation who share common goals of Reconciliation as follows:

- Enhancing awareness of local First Nations and Indigenous cultures and Reconciliation (collaborative awareness and promotional campaign).
- Strengthening relations with local First Nations and Indigenous communities (partnerships with local Nations, Haida Gwaii Museum, inclusion of guest Haida curators and Haida knowledge keepers).
- Incorporate local First Nations and urban Aboriginal perspectives for improved services (new and permanent employment of Indigenous curator at the MOV, ongoing display of civic Indigenous artifacts, Indigenous interpretation of exhibitions and programs).

Through collaborative investment the MOV, City of Vancouver and the Vancity Community Foundation will increase support to Haida curators and artists, and local First Nations artists, and help set institutional structure that creates greater access to and visibility of under-exposed historic and living Indigenous cultures. Through the combined internal contacts (staff, membership), the partners will collectively reach over 10,000 individuals. Through our collective external reach (citizens, clients, sponsors, partners, patrons, and visitors) with our communications efforts, we can increase awareness of Indigenous culture and Reconciliation to potentially hundreds of thousands of individuals.

### Innovation Fund Alignment

Table 1 below summarizes how this investment supports broader civic strategies and illustrates innovation and transformation:

TABLE 1 - Innovation Fund Alignment

City Priorities	Project Alignment	Outcomes
2013 - 2018 Culture Plan Strategic Directions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the breadth of diversity and artistic expression</li> <li>• Promote local arts and culture</li> <li>• Improve arts access for new and under-served communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Features renowned Haida artists and work</li> <li>• Local First Nations artists, curators, knowledge keepers are featured and involved</li> <li>• Ongoing access and connection to Indigenous culture for local First Nations and Indigenous peoples</li> </ul>

City of Reconciliation Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote Indigenous Peoples Arts, Culture, Awareness and Understanding</li> <li>Strengthen local First Nations and Urban Aboriginal Relations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides year-long and ongoing public education programming</li> <li>Collaborative promotional efforts with MOV, CoV and Vancity</li> <li>New and ongoing partnerships with Haida, local First Nations and Urban Aboriginal communities</li> </ul>
Vancouver's Healthy City Strategy (expressing ourselves)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing public participation and engagement in arts and culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engaging over 100,000 attendees in public programs and exhibition in 2018</li> </ul>
<b>Investment leverage</b>		
Minimum 1:1 3 <sup>rd</sup> party investment \$200,000		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foundations \$130,000</li> <li>Public Sector \$70,000</li> <li>Expertise from Haida and local First Nations artists and scholars</li> </ul>
<b>Innovative Opportunity</b>		
Transformation and innovation in meeting City goals (as above) and shines a spotlight on Vancouver		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets structure to indigenize Museum of Vancouver, a major civic institution</li> <li>Ongoing access and exposure to unparalleled Indigenous civic collection</li> </ul>

City of Vancouver Innovation Fund Guidelines can be found in Appendix B.

### ***Public/Civic Agency Input***

The Haida Now Exhibition and public program has been endorsed and supported by the Haida Nation through a signed MOU between the MOV and the Haida Gwaii Museum (HGM). The HGM is a non-profit organization with a twenty-member elected board representing each of the Haida Gwaii's 7 communities and appointed representatives from the Skidegate Band Council and the Skeen-Queen Charlotte Regional District.

Collaboration with the three Host nations follows protocols set out by each nation for consultation. The MOV is working with key individuals at Musqueam, referral specialists and Intergovernmental Relations at Tsleil-Waututh and with the Squamish Nation education department and their newly established Language and Culture team, as verbally directed by the co-chairs of Chief and Council at Skwxwu7mesh Nation.

### ***Financial***

The total budget for the *Haida Now* exhibition and programming is \$400,000. If approved, the City's contribution of \$200,000 will lever \$130,000 from various foundations and \$70,000 from other public sector funders. It will further lever the valuable expertise of Haida artists, curators and scholars as well as local First Nations artists and knowledge keepers. The grant will be subject to the MOV securing the balance of the matching funds to support the proposed project.

***CONCLUSION***

Support of this initiative will provide ongoing access and exposure to a rare civic Indigenous collection, re-tell an important part of Vancouver's history through an Indigenous frame, create new and permanent partnerships with local First Nations, the Haida Gwaii Museum and the Council of the Haida Nation, and promote Indigenous Canadian culture far and wide.

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MOV Haida Now Budget 2017 - 2018

<b>Revenues</b>	
Foundations	130,000
Public Sector Funds	70,000
City of Vancouver Innovation Fund	200,000
	<b>400,000</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
<i><b>Exhibition</b></i>	
Exhibition design	25,000
Graphic design	10,000
Lighting design	12,500
Mount-making	8,000
Guest curator	10,000
Haida scholar	6,000
Coast Salish researcher	15,000
Translation of exhibition texts English/Haida	4,000
Audio-visual integration	7,000
Videography	5,000
Text editing	2,000
Fabrication crew (auxiliaries)	30,000
Consultant fees (Haida historians and artists)	7,000
Refreshments during visits of Haida consultants	1,500
Travel of 5 Haida Gwaii consultants to Vancouver	7,500
Cost of Sales - Catalogue Production	30,000
Fabrication material	30,000
Plexi cases (top)	10,000
Outsourcing of high security cases (3)	22,000
Graphic production	15,000
Image permission and copyright	5,000
Laser projectors (4) touchscreen (3)+ mac minis (4)	15,000
LED lighting for small artefact cases and for large artefacts	20,000
	<b>297,500</b>

<i>Education</i>	
Consultant Fees	8,000
Programming Supplies and Materials	3,500
Engagement Auxiliary	6,500
Programming Honorarium	1,500
	<b>19,500</b>
<i>Public Programming</i>	
Programming Honorarium	4,000
Facilities Expenses	3,500
Programming Supplies and Materials	2,500
Consultant Fees	5,000
Engagement Auxiliary	3,000
	<b>18,000</b>
<i>Marketing</i>	<b>25,000</b>
<i>Retail</i>	<b>20,000</b>
<i>Development</i>	<b>15,000</b>
<i>Visitor Services</i>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>400,000</b>



## City of Vancouver Innovation Fund

Increasingly, more opportunities exist to work with other parties to leverage expertise, funding and access to various in kind resources in order to focus on strategic areas important to the city. This form of leverage allows the City to continue to advance its policy priorities at a lower cost to taxpayers.

The Innovation Fund is expected to build on the City's experience in leveraging funding and expertise with outside agencies, other levels of government, private sector, universities and not-for-profits to advance key City priorities through aggressive leveraging of external partners.

Some examples of these types of unique opportunities would include: enhancing the success of our urban aboriginal residents; enhancing our local economy with an emphasis on social enterprise particularly in the green sector; innovative child care programs for children at risk; cultural programs which enhance the community and create local jobs for artists; enhancing the involvement of our seniors in community; enhancing our sport strategy through partnerships o significant sporting initiatives; sport for youth at risk; and others.

### Guidelines for accessing City of Vancouver Innovation Fund:

With the establishment of an Innovation Fund, one time innovative projects can be funded to advance key agendas in the city. Accessing the City of Vancouver Innovation Fund is at Council's discretion; however, the following guidelines have been established to optimize the use of the fund:

- Aligns with Council Agenda (Housing, Public Safety, Economy, Environment)
- Demonstrates clear outcomes
- Matching requirements - target leverage of 3:1 (minimum 1:1) 3rd party investment (cash and in-kind) to City funding
- Size of CoV contribution should enable a broad range of programs to be supported by fund (Guideline - maximum project size of \$250,000 recommended)
- Projects which are one-time innovative opportunities; maximum commitment for expenditure of funds - up to 2 years
- Supports transformation and innovation in meeting City goals; shines a spotlight on Vancouver

A young girl with long brown hair, wearing a light-colored hoodie, is shown in profile, looking down at a large, dark, intricately carved Haida mask. She is holding the mask with both hands. The mask features a prominent eye and a beak-like structure. The background is a plain, light grey.

# Haida Now

***Haida Now*** engages a broad public with one of Canada's iconic art forms. It introduces people to a vibrant contemporary Indigenous artistic community's astonishing ability to adapt and innovate. The exhibition reconnects Haida curators and knowledge holders with their material culture, as it inspires Haida artists to explore the urban nature of their identity. Featuring 400 works, the project highlights Haida's historical connection to Vancouver through traditional and contemporary art. With major support from the City of Vancouver, the Museum of Vancouver's *Haida Now* exhibition joins in the Canada 150+ celebrations and embraces the reconciliation movement.

# ***Haida Now*** will immerse people in one of the most significant collections of Pacific Northwest art in the world, created by carvers, weavers, jewelry makers, and painters between 1890 and 1970.

Scholars consider the Museum of Vancouver's Haida holdings unique. The project will provide extensive public access to this unparalleled group of objects—illuminated, for the first time, by Haida and Coast Salish perspectives.

## **Scope**

A 5,000-square-foot exhibition at the Museum of Vancouver will be complemented by displays at the Haida Gwaii Museum in Skidegate and the Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art in Vancouver. We will explore the possibility of traveling the exhibition as we develop the project.

## **Duration**

Fall 2017 to January 2019 (13 months)



Nika Collison, curator at the Haida Gwaii Museum, holding a woven spruce root hat, with a frog design.

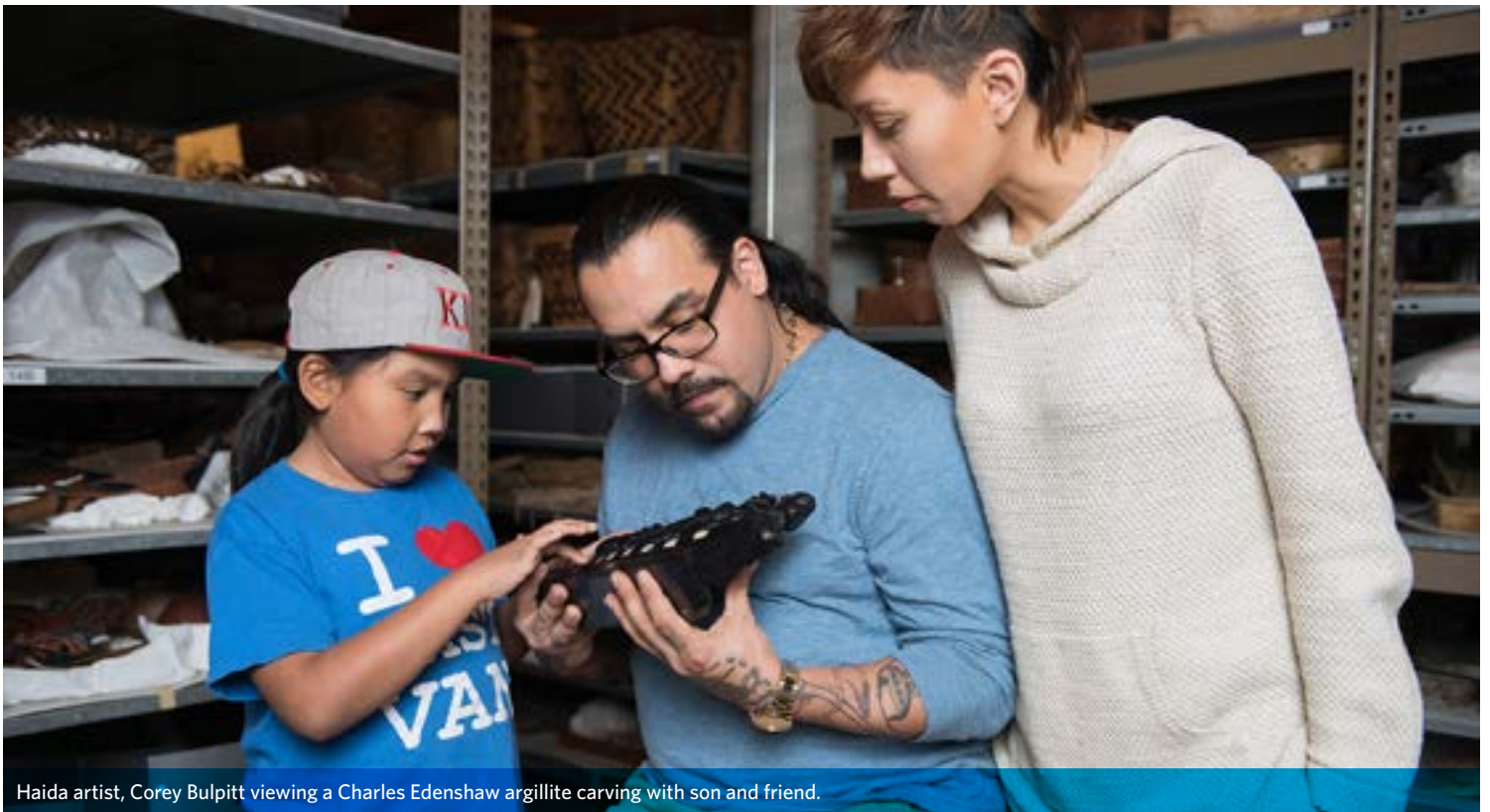
## **Project Objectives**

- **Showcase** one of Canada's most significant collections of Haida art and objects.
- **Research and reinterpret** the collection from an Indigenous perspective and ensure there is knowledge transfer.
- **Create a platform for exchange** among urban Indigenous artists, local First Nation communities, and non-Indigenous people.
- **Inspire the creation of art** by aboriginal artists, sparked by their interactions with the collection.
- **Improve cultural competency** amongst those who see the exhibition or participate in the programs.
- **Form long-term relationships** between the Museum of Vancouver and Indigenous communities; and the Haida Gwaii Museum in Skidegate.
- **Plan for a permanent exhibition** of Indigenous objects at the Museum of Vancouver, while supporting reconciliation and reconnection.

## **Public Programs**

Public programs will inspire diverse publics to deepen understanding of and engagement with Indigenous art and people. Activities will include explorations of the experiences and roles of urban Aboriginal communities in cultural innovation. These will include events hosted by Haida culinary chefs and Coast Salish artists and musicians; Haida-inspired DIY family workshops; and biking tours of Haida public art on the streets of Vancouver, led by Haida youth. Developed in partnership with the Bill Reid Gallery, *Haida Now* programs will encourage interaction and cross-cultural understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.





Haida artist, Corey Bulpitt viewing a Charles Edenshaw argillite carving with son and friend.

## Building Relationships with First Nations Communities

*Haida Now* is the result of the Museum of Vancouver's commitment to developing long-term relationships with First Nations communities. The museum uses its collections as a catalyst for discussion about colonial legacy, nurturing cross-cultural understanding, and establishing new terms of engagement and reconnection shaped by respect, a desire for social justice, and an appreciation of difference. MOV welcomes the participation of the Haida Gwaii Museum in creating a multidisciplinary exhibition and interpretive program of Haida classical art and material culture.

Through recent research and programming initiatives, the Museum of Vancouver is expanding its network of local First Nations communities. For instance, the award-winning exhibition *časnaʔəm: the city before the city*, which opened in 2015, presents an Indigenous perspective on place and cultural continuity that is unique in Canada.

## Project Team

**Viviane Gosselin**, Director of Collections and Exhibitions at the Museum of Vancouver, is responsible for project development and management, interpretive planning, and exhibition design and fabrication.

**Kwiaahwah Jones**, Guest Curator, is an independent curator of Haida descent with extensive experience in the development of collaborative exhibitions with Coast Salish communities and urban Aboriginal groups.

## Reconciliation and Reconnection of First Nations Art and Culture

The Museum of Vancouver aims to be a model of cross-cultural learning and social innovation in Canada and internationally. To accomplish its vision, the museum is making plans to share its First Nations collections in a permanent manner. As a leader in repatriation and the collaborative interpretation of Indigenous culture – and as an institution repeatedly recognized as an innovator – the museum considers *Haida Now* as a big step towards supporting and energizing the reconciliation process in Vancouver and Canada.

## *Haida Now* Audience

- **Haida community in Vancouver area and in Haida Gwaii**
- **All Vancouver-based First Nations**
- **Metro Vancouver residents**
- **Elementary school groups and post-secondary students**
- **Tourists**

**Nika Collison**, Curator at the Haida Gwaii Museum in Skidegate, will study the MOV's collection and consult with knowledge holders in Vancouver and Haida Gwaii.

**Sharon Fortney**, Associate Curator at the Museum of Vancouver and Coast Salish Researcher, will liaise and consult with local First Nations communities and artists.



**For more information, please contact:**

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The Museum of Vancouver stands on the unceded traditional territory of the Coast Salish, the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

Front: Haida youth embracing a raven bowl.  
Back: Haida artist, Corey Bulpitt with raven hat.  
Photos: Rebecca Blissett

**MOV**  
museum of vancouver

