

## MOTION ON NOTICE

### 1. **Establishing a “Materials for the Arts” Creative Reuse Program in the City of Vancouver**

MOVER: Councillor Ball

SECONDER: Councillor De Genova

#### WHEREAS

1. A vibrant arts and cultural scene is important to any truly liveable city;
2. Vancouver City Council and the City of Vancouver appreciate the value the arts bring to the lives of our citizens and to the life of our city;
3. The City of Vancouver has a Culture Plan with the core vision to develop, enliven, enhance, and promote arts, culture, and cultural diversity in Vancouver, including a Cultural Grants Program that supports a wide range of arts and cultural activity;
4. The City of Vancouver has a Creative City Strategy that aims to work with the arts, culture, and creative communities to identify priorities to guide Vancouver’s future efforts and investments, including a firm commitment to address equity, diversity, and inclusion, as well as to build a culture of reconciliation through close collaboration with the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations;
5. Vancouver City Council’s longstanding support for arts and culture has resulted in a city that is alive with creativity, whether it be amazing music, dance, new media, theatre, festivals, film, design, exhibitions, galleries, museums, or special arts and culture events;
6. Vancouver’s arts and cultural community is an ecosystem made up of many stakeholders, diverse media, infrastructure, and processes that intersect and work alongside each other in many different ways;
7. The Vancouver Charter requires Vancouver City Council to prepare and adopt a Regional Context Statement in support of the Regional Growth Strategy to show how Vancouver’s policies and plans work toward achieving the goals and strategies set out in the Regional Growth Strategy including fostering the creation of vibrant centres of culture and community activities, maintaining an attractive and diverse urban environment, building healthy, complete communities, and ensuring the basics of life – breathable air, potable water, and nutritious food;
8. Under the Greenest City Action Plan, the City of Vancouver has a strategy for staying on the leading edge of urban sustainability, and has established a target to reduce solid waste going to the landfill or an incinerator by 50% from 2008 levels, with a long-term strategic vision to achieve the goal of zero waste by 2040;

9. Many materials that might otherwise end up in the landfill, or go to an incinerator, have the potential for creative reuse by Vancouver’s diverse arts and culture community;
10. “Materials for the Arts” (MFTA) – founded in 1978 – is New York City’s largest creative reuse centre and is dedicated to supporting arts and cultural organizations;
11. Millions of students, choreographers, dancers, actors, set designers, art therapists, after school providers and senior citizens have been positively impacted by the work of MFTA over the years;
12. MFTA diverts over 1 million pounds of materials from the landfill each year by collecting reusable materials from businesses and individuals and making these donations available for free of charge to various arts, culture, non-profit, and educational organizations and individuals;
13. By diverting materials from New York’s waste stream, MFTA annually offsets 25 times the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the trees in New York’s Central Park;
14. MFTA’s 35,000-square-foot warehouse is operated by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, with additional support from the City’s Departments of Sanitation and of Education, and included an efficient online donations system as well as robust education and volunteer programs;
15. MFTA is supported in part by the “Friends of Materials for the Arts” as a non-profit partner with a mandate to support initiatives in the areas of education and community outreach to serve a broader audience.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to explore the creation of a “Materials for the Arts” program in the City of Vancouver, with the goal to support the city’s arts and culture community and educational institutions including the Vancouver School Board, while also providing a new mechanism for diverting usable materials from the City’s waste stream for creative reuse by the city’s arts and culture community, and for staff to report back to Council in early October 2018 with preliminary recommendations;

FURTHER THAT Vancouver City Council also direct staff to explore options and opportunities for a non-profit support entity similar to New York’s “Friends of Materials for the Arts”.

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