



REPORT

Report Date: May 19, 2020
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: May 26, 2020
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TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

SUBJECT: Public Art and Chinese Canadian Museum Grants 2020, Recommended Allocations

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve grant allocations totalling \$345,200 to support five projects, as listed in Table 1, source of funding is the 2020 Public Art Capital Budget.
- B. THAT Council approve \$173,511 be transferred to the Chinese Canadian Museum Society of British Columbia. Source of funds is a grant from the Province of BC's Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, to the City of Vancouver to support early implementation work for the Chinese Canadian Museum.
- C. THAT Council approve the repurposing of a grant to Vancity Community Foundation (grant balance is \$57,000) to allow for additional support for Vancouver artists to respond to loss of income due to COVID-19.
- D. THAT, pursuant to Section 206 (1) (j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems the Chinese Canadian Museum and any organization listed in Appendix A that is not otherwise a charity registered with the Canada Revenue Agency to be contributing to the culture of Vancouver.
- E. THAT the General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services (GM of ACCS) (or their designate) be authorized to negotiate and execute agreements to disburse the grants described in this report on the terms and conditions generally set out below, and on such other terms and conditions as are satisfactory to the GM of ACCS and the Director of Legal Services.

- F. THAT no legal rights or obligations are created by the approval of Recommendations A and B above unless and until the applicable grant agreement or letter agreement is approved by the City in accordance with Recommendation D above and executed and delivered by both the grant recipient and GM of ACCS (or their designate).
- G. Recommendations A, B and C require two-thirds affirmative votes of all Council members per section 206 (1) of the *Vancouver Charter*.
- H. THAT Council thank the seven community members who served on the assessment committee of the public art grant for their generous commitment of time, as well as personal lived experience and professional expertise that they contributed to the adjudication process.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report recommends grants to five not-for-profit arts organizations as summarized in **Table 1** below. All grant recommendations support the City’s arts and culture strategy *Culture|Shift* by supporting significant, artist-led, temporary public art projects by Vancouver artists, including artists from Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. The projects present a diverse range of perspectives from under-represented artists, and focus on neighbourhoods which currently have little art in the public realm.

This report further recommends that the remainder of funds \$173,511 granted to the City by the Province of British Columbia to support the creation of the Chinese Canadian Museum be granted to the newly established Chinese Canadian Museum Society of British Columbia. It further recommends that Council approve the repurposing of an earlier grant to the Vancity Community Foundation to support Vancouver artists in response to lost income due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Table 1: *Untitled*: Public Art Grants – Recommended Projects (2020-2021)

Organizations Recommended	Project Summary	Grant Amount
Create Vancouver Society	A three-Nation collaboration turning weavings into painted murals on six pillars in Cathedral Square Park	\$75,130
The Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society of Vancouver	A sound installation for Chinatown’s Opera Alley in homage to sounds fading from the community	\$86,825
The Or Gallery Society	A stained-glass artwork incorporating material found in the gallery’s Chinatown surroundings	\$90,000
Other Sights for Artists’ Projects Association	A public performance where musicians become an auditory guide to aid a visually impaired artist in a walk through a city park	\$43,245
Visible Art Society (grunt gallery)	A social-practice project centering on urban Indigenous peoples’ relationships to and knowledge of the historic and current Mount Pleasant landscape	\$50,000
Total Recommended		\$345,200

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

On June 2, 2016, following a Council Motion for a Public Art Boost, Council recommended funding of \$1,500,000 (RTS No. 11505) to augment Vancouver's public art activities and awareness through new events and projects, with an initial allocation of \$755,000. The motion called for more opportunities for local First Nations artwork in the public realm and directed staff to leverage community partners to enable significant new public art projects.

On March 29, 2017, Council approved Public Art Boost recommendations of \$490,000 for ten new partnership opportunities as well as allocations of \$148,000 for eleven community-led project grants (RTS No. 11571).

On January 31, 2018, Council approved allocations of \$152,000 for twelve additional community-led public art projects (RTS No. 12342).

On February 26, 2019, Council approved allocations of \$167,115 in grants from the Innovation Fund to support five partnership projects and the Creative City Strategy Symposium.

On September 10, 2019, Council adopted Vancouver's 10-year culture strategy *Culture|Shift: Blanketing the City in Arts and Culture*.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

This report builds on Council objectives to broaden participation in the public realm by artists, expanding partnerships with local arts non-profits, and increasing Indigenous visibility on the land, as expressed in the Motion for a Public Art Boost and *Culture|Shift*, through a new pilot grant program, *Untitled*. This program is designed to enable Vancouver arts organizations to commission artists to create unique new public artworks, implemented on a significant scale or duration, and offering a substantial opportunity for public engagement. This report describes how key directions of *Culture|Shift* are being met through projects increasing the representation of MST and Indigenous artists, and artists from communities often excluded in the public sphere. The projects will be delivered safely over the course of the next year and a half, and will bring new life and energy to the public realm of Vancouver.

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing recommendations.

REPORT

Recommendation A: Public Art Program for 2020

The City of Vancouver's Public Art Program manages civic funding to plan, program, commission, support, and maintain public art in the city. Significant works in a variety of scales, forms, and media contribute to the city's rich, diverse public realm. The Program also develops policy, and oversees and administers the public art process for major rezoning developments. Public Art is funded through annual capital budgets, drawing from dedicated reserves funded primarily through development contributions.

Background

The Public Art Program has been commissioning public art for more than 25 years and now manages a collection of over 300 permanent pieces of public art throughout the City. In 2019, the program completed fourteen temporary artworks and six permanent artworks, including six new temporary two-dimensional artworks by Indigenous artists, commissioned in partnership with Engineering Services' Mural Support Program.

The Public Art Program regularly commissions Artist-Initiated Projects, selected through an open call in which artists propose ideas and sites for artworks in public spaces. The 2019 Artist-Initiated call resulted in six new commissions to be developed over the next two to three years.

The program also recently has delivered two major permanent projects: Lead Pencil Studio's *Home and Away* at Hastings Park, now in fabrication, and *Drift*, a significant new artwork by Rebecca Belmore and Osvaldo Yero installed in November 2019 for the newly expanded upper floors at the central Vancouver Public Library.

Public Art staff works regularly with staff of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, Park Board, and Engineering to identify opportunities to transform public spaces through encounters with art. Public Art Plans have been completed for Northeast False Creek and the Arbutus Greenway Project through consultations with artists and curators, Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations, neighbouring communities, landscape architects and developers in order to respond to the many opportunities and demands for public art in these key areas.

As circumstances permit, this year the Public Art Program will continue planning for the first Signature Fund projects working with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

Public art staff recently worked with Engineering Services, Green Operations to identify the second artist in residence at Engineering Services, who will begin later this year. The current artist-in-residence, Germaine Koh, is working with City staff on temporary projects responsive to the COVID-19 Emergency as well as permanent public artworks developed in relation to Engineering projects.

Culture|Shift, the City's new 10-year culture plan, was adopted by Council in September 2019. The following key goals of the plan help to guide the City's investment in public art activity:

- Arts & Culture at the Centre of City Building
- Reconciliation and Decolonization
- Cultural Equity and Accessibility
- Affordable, Accessible, Secure Spaces
- Collaboration and Capacity

Public Art Boost

From 2016-19, responding to Council's motion for a Public Art Boost. Public Art staff worked to increase partnerships with non-profit organizations in delivering public artworks through direct support from the Innovation Fund and capital budgets, in-kind support, and reducing barriers for interested organizations. Significant projects realized through the Boost include start-up funding for the first three years of the Vancouver Mural Festival, a new public art infrastructure project developed with the Musqueam First Nation, and dozens of projects across the city delivered by

organizations like the Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver Pride Society, Collingwood Neighbourhood House, the Western Front, Il Centro Italian Cultural Centre, and Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Gardens.

Untitled: Public Art Grants for 2020

Untitled is a pilot program to fully fund new public art projects by arts organizations in Vancouver. The title for this grant is meant to suggest an open-ended framework to encourage a wide range of proposals for art in public space. The program's framework seeks to continue the successes of the Public Art Boost by opening a similar opportunity to all Vancouver arts-mandated non-profits and is rooted in the directions of the recently adopted *Culture|Shift* strategy. The following four key strategic directions guided the creation of *Untitled*:

- Arts and Culture at the Centre of City Building: Champion creators and elevate arts and culture by hardwiring art and culture into city strategy and investment;
- Reconciliation and Decolonization: Recognize and support Indigenous cultural knowledge and presence through decolonizing practices;
- Cultural Equity and Accessibility: Advance diverse and inclusive leadership and practices and promote intangible cultural heritage and redress by offering equitable and accessible support; and,
- *Collaboration and Capacity*: Strengthen sector resilience through facilitating partnerships and leveraging investment.

The broad intent for *Untitled* is to increase access to public art by building the capacity of Vancouver non-profit arts organizations and local First Nations Band Councils to commission artists to create significant public artworks for the public realm. The rationale for fully funding these projects stemmed from the desire to reduce economic and administrative constraints for organizations, and avoid conflicts with their existing fundraising needs. This is a strategy to expand the field of applicants and increase the possibility of hearing from a broader range of artistic voices.

While the program was created and launched before the full emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada, the adjudication, which was managed remotely, was done with an eye to the current conditions. The selected projects will contribute to the re-emergence of our city, part of the shift from social isolation to social resilience that has been discussed by representatives of the City and across our local communities.

In response to the request for proposals, twenty-one organizations submitted applications. These were reviewed by a six-person selection panel comprised of Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists, curators, and educators experienced in public art. The Indigenous panel members were xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Stó:lō. (The representative from səliłwətał (Tseil-waututh) had to remove themselves from the process due to caregiving responsibilities that arose because of the Covid-19 pandemic.)

Cultural Planners and staff from Engineering's Integrated Graffiti Management Program (for murals) and Parks Board (for projects proposed in parks) conducted technical feasibility reviews of the applications and provided their expertise to the panel for the adjudication.

The applications were reviewed and ranked by the panel on the degree to which they addressed some or all of the following criteria, many of which came from priorities delineated in *Culture|Shift*:

- Place artists and their cultural supports at the centre of the creation of the work
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to advancing artists' creative, critical investigation and experimentation.
- Are significant in terms of scale, the potential for public engagement, and/or conceptual innovation.
- Reflect the complexities of place and publics, engage cultural practices, and provoke critical dialogue.
- Increase voice and visibility of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-waututh) arts and culture on the land.
- Advance cultural equity and accessibility for underrepresented artists and communities including other Indigenous artists and cultural practitioners.

Other criteria for consideration included the demonstration of ability to carry out the program by both the organizations and the artists, the siting of the project on publicly accessible places, appropriate budgets and materials, and the ability of the project to be completed with available funds and before the end of 2021. Extensions can be reasonably granted to specific projects as demanded by the exigencies of the COVID-19 emergency.

The panel recommended five projects for funding. All are recommended for the full amount requested.

A number of factors influence why organizations were not recommended. Examples include:

- Failure to adequately address the program's criteria;
- Concerns over financial feasibility, organizational capacity or timeline to carry out the project;
- Weak artistic rationale of the proposal;
- Critical information missing from the application.

Feedback from Cultural Services staff is always available to all applicants.

Summaries of recommended projects and amounts for funding are included in Appendix A. Projects recommended for grants reflect the above outlined criteria in these ways:

- One of the projects is led by a xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) artist and involves the collaboration of the three local Nations.
- Two of the projects are Indigenous-led; both local Nation and Urban Indigenous.
- Two of the projects increase the voice and visibility of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-waututh) arts and culture on the land.
- Two of the projects are situated in Vancouver's Chinatown.
- Four of the projects are led by artists from under-represented cultural communities and the blind and partially-sighted communities.
- All are artist-led, artist-conceived and artist-centred projects.

These projects run the gamut from performance-based and social practice pieces through to temporary and permanent installations. They engage with critical dialogues in contemporary art

and all advance the individual artists' practices in relation to experimentation and conceptual innovation. The commissioning organizations all have strong records of artist support and will, through this program, be given new opportunities to connect with Vancouver publics.

Recommendation B: Chinese Canadian Museum

In August 2018, the City formed the joint ACCS-PDS Chinatown Transformation Team (CTT), dedicated to working with the community on the further development of Chinatown as a vibrant cultural and commercial district and exploring the feasibility of a UNESCO World Heritage Site application, including developing a Cultural Heritage Asset Management Plan for Chinatown. At approximately the same time, the Province committed to the establishment of a provincial museum to recognize and celebrate the historic and ongoing contributions of Chinese Canadians to the development and prosperity of British Columbia.

In September 2018, the City and the Province signed an MOU to work together on pursuing the UNESCO World Heritage Status designation and establishing a Provincial Chinese Canadian Museum ("CCM") in support of the designation. The CCM is intended to have a provincial hub located in Vancouver Chinatown, with spoke sites throughout the rest of the province to showcase the past and present experiences and contributions of the Chinese Canadian community.

City staff are currently supporting early implementation work on the establishment of the Chinese Canadian Museum in Vancouver Chinatown and the City received a \$1M grant from the Province in February 2019 to help support this work. This early implementation work is a close collaboration between the Province, guided by the Chinese Canadian Museum Working Group convened by the Province, utilizing ACCS staff and is supported by the broader Chinatown Transformation Team. The City of Vancouver's role has been to provide interim project support while governance and operating models for the Chinese Canadian Museum were being explored.

The Province's Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture has now incorporated the Chinese Canadian Museum Society of British Columbia (CCMSBC) to provide the necessary governance for the project and future museum. Given the close working relationship the City and Province have already successfully established to date, the General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services has been appointed to the new CCMSBC Board as a City representative.

As the CCMSBC has now been incorporated, the remaining unspent and unallocated project funds of \$173,511 from the February 2019 \$1M grant needs to be transferred to the CCMSBC who will now govern and manage the project moving forward. A detailed budget is included in Appendix B.

Recommendation C: Vancity Community Foundation

In 2013, Council approved a grant of \$62,200 to the Vancity Community Foundation, and an agreement was executed on July 3, 2013 to support arts and cultural organizations and artists with financial literacy. The scope of work is as follows:

- Financial Fitness workshops
- Customized workshops
- Consultation for financial planning & technical assistance
- Financial self-assessment tools (e.g. cashflow templates)

To date, two financial fitness workshops were delivered to cultural groups and staff. Funding was also available for groups to work with consultants for financial planning, financial assessment and for technical assistance but with limited interest.

The balance of funding remaining is approximately \$57,000. Given the financial crisis that so many artists find themselves in and the *Culture/Shift* priority to find ways to increase support for individual artists, staff propose a change of purpose for the funding. If approved by City Council, a new agreement will include the additional use of the funds to support individual artists to address loss of income due to COVID as follows:

Grants of up to \$1,000 for self-employed Vancouver artists to address loss of finances as a result of COVID-19 (cancelled programs, performances, teaching, presentations, workshops, recording, etc.).

Strategic Analysis

Guided by the Directions of *Culture/Shift*, the new public art grants pilot *Untitled* opens the city of Vancouver to a broader range of public art expression, through artist-led projects delivered by important local organizations. The recommended projects will bring new voices and strong artistic statements to Vancouver's public realm, deepening connections to the city's history, cultures, and art for residents and visitors alike. Focusing on artists from communities whose cultural practices have been historically suppressed and denied visibility in the public realm, *Untitled* supports decolonization and cultural redress through the voices of individual artists and cultural practitioners.

These grants, along with the grant to the Chinese Canadian Museum, provide significant support for important organizations in the city and allow them an opportunity to introduce themselves to a broader public.

The proposed change to the VanCity Community Foundation will enable critical support to Vancouver artists, who have been significantly impacted by the crisis.

As the City moves from social distancing to social resilience, each of these grants will play a small but important role in generating new economic and cultural activity, providing opportunities for us to come together again through art.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk

Financial

This report introduces a new pilot public art grant program, *Untitled*, and requests approval of allocations of \$345,200 in grants from 2020 Public Art Capital budget. Funding for the Chinese Canadian Museum Society of British Columbia comes from the remaining unspent and

unallocated project funds of \$173,511 from the February 2019 \$1M Provincial grant. The reframing of the grant to Vancity Community Foundation is for funds previously approved and disbursed to VCF and no new funds are requested at this time.

CONCLUSION

Building on the work of the Public Art Boost, *Untitled* Public Art Grants build capacity of local arts organizations to commission artists in creating significant new expressions in the public realm of Vancouver. The recommended projects, and support for the Chinese Canadian Museum, will advance City goals established in the *Culture|Shift* strategy: placing artists at the centre of city-building, increasing the visibility and voice of Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh on their unceded territories, promoting intangible cultural heritage and redress, and strengthening cultural resilience through facilitating partnerships and leveraging investment.

As the City works to weather the COVID-19 Pandemic, critical support to artists through the VanCity Community Foundation will help ensure the security of the artists living and working in Vancouver. As we reemerge and begin to rebuild our social and economic relationships, the artists commissioned through *Untitled* will contribute to the city's sense of what we value, what we support, and what we want to build anew.

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APPENDIX A

Summary of Recommended Projects 2020-2021

Untitled: Public Art Grant			
Organization	Project Description	Request	Recomm.
221A Artist Run Centre Society	A free, online multiplayer city-building game that simulates Vancouver's housing market and allows players to challenge the status quo of housing unaffordability in the city.	\$100,000	\$0
Canada Wild Arts Society	An immersive, multi-screen installation placing viewers into the annual Salish Sea herring spawn.	\$100,000	\$0
Capture Photography Festival Society	A large-scale, digital photograph affixed to the side of one of the buildings of the Vancouver Film Studios.	\$25,000	\$0
Cinevolution Media Arts Society	A mural, a series of video interviews, and an interactive website acknowledging women who have helped shape Vancouver's Chinatown.	\$60,000	\$0
Create Vancouver Society	A collaboration between Debra Sparrow, x ^w məθk ^w əy ^é m weaver, and weavers Chief Janice George (Skwxwú7mesh) and Angela George (səlilwətał) to create artworks on six concrete columns in Cathedral Square Park.	\$75,130	\$75,130
The Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society of Vancouver	A sound-walk installation by Paul Wong in Opera House Alley.	\$86,825	\$86,825
East Van Showcase Motion Picture Society	Five interactive pedestals arranged in a semi-circle host speakers and LEDs and invite the public to create music and accompanying light emitting from the pedestals.	\$54,002	\$0
eatART Foundation	A large-scale, three-legged interactive solar-powered LED rainbow that allows the public to control lighting effects.	\$100,000	\$0
Indian Summer Arts Society	A large-scale, painted "poem blanket" by Debra Sparrow and Ruby Singh covering the šx ^w łexən Xwtl'a7shn plaza outside the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.	\$88,485	\$0
Lumiere Festival Vancouver Society	An inflatable watchtower-like structure placed in a public square to encourage the examination of contemporary social structures and issues of authority, surveillance, and social norms.	\$60,000	\$0
Ocean Wise Conservation Association	A temporary mixed media installation at the Vancouver Aquarium.	\$100,000	\$0

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Untitled: Public Art Grant			
Organization	Project Description	Request	Recomm.
The Or Gallery Society	A stained glass artwork by Devon Knowles incorporating found objects from the neighbourhood for the exterior facade of 236 East Pender Street	\$90,000	\$90,000
Other Sights for Artists' Projects Association	A public performance at Kitsilano Park with artist Carmen Papalia and the Carnival Band along with an Accessibility Beyond Accommodation workshop and an accompanying short film about the project.	\$43,245	\$43,245
Radix Theatre Society	A large-scale lapse video of visual art being created by Downtown Eastside artists that is projected onto the side of the Arco Hotel at Pender and Abbott.	\$100,000	\$0
The Society Of Contemporary Works On Paper	Three dimensional crab sculpture adorned with illustrated etchings created on copper plates and shaped to fit the sculpture's armature.	\$100,000	\$0
Still Moon Arts Society	A community-engaged project to enact habitat restoration along Still Creek, to improve biodiversity and the creation of willow and turkey tail mycelium sculptures.	\$100,000	\$0
Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art	Sculptures installed on the rooftops of three Chinese association buildings and based on archival material from each association reflecting immediate histories intertwined with migration, resilience, and survival.	\$100,000	\$0
Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale/International de la Sculpture de Vancouver	An installation consisting of four large-scale ovoids by Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun in Harbour Green Park.	\$100,000	\$0
Vines Art Festival Society	Free-standing sculpture of an ovoid-eye crying tears showing the contents of the water tested at local sites with local Indigenous plants and live audio/video contributions.	\$95,000	\$0
Visible Art Society (grunt gallery)	A community-engaged project, in collaboration with Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House, working with Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants and centering on urban Indigenous peoples' relationships and knowledge of the historic/existing Mount Pleasant landscape.	\$50,000	\$50,000
VocalEye Descriptive Arts Society	A collaborative project between VocalEye and artist Myfanwy MacLeod to create and develop a series described public art tours and related workshops for the blind and partially sighted community.	\$69,000	\$0
TOTAL		\$1,696,687	\$345,200

APPENDIX B

**Chinese Canadian Museum Project
CoV/Province of BC Tourism, Arts and Culture**

Business Case	
Lord Cultural Resources	\$ 75,000.00
CCM Project Site Office	
Rent, utilities, cleaning (September 2019 to August 2020)	\$ 45,820.10
Office expenses (wifi, security, office supplies, etc)	\$ 2,400.00
Maintenance and repairs	\$ 4,303.75
Staffing (December 2019)	\$ 6,000.00
Staffing (March 2020 - August 2020)	\$ 13,278.72
Project Management	
Secondment (September 2019 to April 2020)	\$ 50,000.00
Event and Catering Costs	
Announcement Event (November 8, 2019)	\$ 1,457.14
Catering (Meetings)	\$ 229.10
A Seat at the Table Chinatown Exhibit	
Pocket gallery build and development of temporary exhibition	\$ 250,000.00
Hon Hsing - space upgrades and operating expenses	\$ 140,000.00
A Seat at the Table at the Museum of Vancouver	
Exhibition build, development, and support	\$ 200,000.00
Miscellaneous	
Royal BC Museum Gold Mountain Dreams Exhibit	\$ 8,000.00
Chinese Benevolent Association - Mountainview Cemetary Chinese Pavilion Support	\$ 30,000.00
TOTAL ALLOCATED	\$ 826,488.81
TOTAL UNSPENT	\$ 173,511.19
<i>*For transfer to Chinese Canadian Museum Society of BC</i>	