

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

4. Understanding COVID-19 Recovery Through Economic and Cultural Stimulus Projects

Submitted by: Councillor Kirby-Yung

WHEREAS

1. Economic decline in 2020 in BC real GDP growth was negative six percent (-6.0%);
2. COVID-19 has adversely impacted Vancouver's economy and dramatically increased local unemployment rates with an estimated 32,000 jobs lost since February 2020 – many of which are in the construction industry;
3. The unemployment rate in BC is forecast to remain high at 6.8% in BC in 2021 according to the Business Council of BC;
4. Employment and revenue has dropped notably in the arts and cultural sector which has been one of the hardest hit due to the closure of performance venues and COVID safety restrictions; specific segments of the retail trade have also suffered;
5. Vancouver's *Culture|Shift* plan and vision for arts, culture and creativity sets Vancouver's first arts and cultural space targets including a goal for 800,000 square feet of new, repurposed or expanded, affordable City-owned, non-profit and private space over the next ten years;
6. Vancouver City Council's COVID-19 Recovery Committee report identifies economic recovery as a priority recovery theme;
7. As is the case with accelerating affordable and rental housing construction, the construction of commercial and cultural revitalization projects, including expanded cultural space projects, could have an equally positive impact on Vancouver's COVID-19 recovery and would present similar opportunities to assist with the creation of a "new, better 'normal'" for our city;
8. Information relevant to the construction of new commercial projects and new or revitalized cultural projects, including expanded cultural space, has direct impact on the speed and strength of Vancouver's COVID-19 economic recovery;
9. Private and non-profit entities may have potentially submitted proposals that do not fall under established rezoning enabling policy that may help to meet unemployment challenges and contribute to the creation of a "new, better 'normal'" for our city;
10. Obtaining information with respect to new commercial and new or cultural revitalization projects, including new or expanded cultural space, is needed for council to properly assess opportunities for economic and cultural stimulus in our city and how these projects might positively impact Vancouver's COVID-19 recovery.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to report back with a memo (and attached Excel searchable and sortable pre-application list), prepared in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, identifying potential commercial projects and new cultural or cultural revitalization projects, including new or expanded cultural space, for all letters of enquiry, pre-enquiries and informal expressions of interest (excluding those projects for which established rezoning-enabling policy currently applies) by the end of Q1 2021 (or as soon as possible) and to be updated quarterly;

FURTHER THAT such information would include:

1. Project proponent
 2. Project address
 3. Pre-application enquiry type (i.e. LOE, pre-enquiry, informal EOI)
 4. Submission date
 5. Approximate number of buildings included in proposed project
 6. Proposed office, industrial or retail square footage
 7. Proposed rehearsal, production or performance/show space square footage
 8. Associated economic activity including project value, number of construction jobs, number office jobs, number cultural jobs, number industrial jobs, retail spend, cultural spend, etc. as applicable
 9. Paying-for-growth opportunities:
 - a. Fixed rate CAC (Yes/No/Don't Know)
 - b. Negotiated CAC (Yes/No/Don't Know)
 - c. DCLs and UDCLS (Yes/No/Don't Know)
 - d. In-Kind or other community benefits (Yes/No/Don't Know)
- B. THAT Council acknowledge that the above-referenced information is likely confidential and proprietary and therefore is likely to be provided only In Camera, and therefore not available for posting or communication to the public.
- C. THAT staff advise what data on an individual project basis or in aggregate may be made public from the provided information.

* * * * *