



## REPORT

Report Date: October 19, 2021  
Contact: Branislav Henselmann  
Contact No.: 604.871.6455  
RTS No.: 14658  
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20  
Meeting Date: November 16, 2021  
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services  
SUBJECT: 2021 Cultural Grants (Operating and Capital) and Artist Studio Awards

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- A. THAT Council approve total grants of \$1,060,911 to 48 organizations in support of *Culture/Shift* goals and ongoing COVID-19 recovery, in the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Grant Recomm." Column in Appendix A. Source of funding is the 2021 Cultural Grants operating budget.
- B. THAT Council approve a grant of \$300,000 to Creative BC Society for renewal and delivery of the Vancouver Music Fund to support diverse individual artists working in the music sector, as listed in Appendix A. Source of funding is the 2021 Cultural Grants operating budget.
- C. THAT Council approve a grant of \$60,000 to ArtStarts in Schools for renewal and delivery of Creative Spark Vancouver to support diverse artists working with youth, as listed in Appendix A. Source of funding is the 2021 Cultural Grants operating budget.
- D. THAT Council approve a total of \$405,353 in Theatre Rental Grants repurposed for COVID-19 recovery (\$42,271 in-kind and \$363,082 cash) to 42 organizations to access the civic theatres, in the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Grant Recomm." Column in Appendix A. Source of funding is the 2021 Cultural Grants operating budget.
- E. THAT Council authorize Vancouver Civic Theatres staff to allocate \$200,000 to organizations meeting the criteria of the VCT Grant Program to animate non-commercial VCT spaces in partnership with community. Source of funding is the 2021 Cultural Grants operating budget.

- F. THAT Council approve 14 Small Grants for Cultural Spaces totaling \$224,600, in the amounts recommended for each organization in the “2021 Recomm” column in Appendix B. Source of funding is the remaining 2021 Cultural Spaces Capital Budget and re-allocation from previous grants that were not needed.
- G. THAT Council authorize the Director of Real Estate Services to negotiate and execute lease or sublease agreements with the tenants (collectively, the “Tenants” and each, a “Tenant”) of the City-owned or City-leased artist studios (collectively, the “Premises” and each, a “Studio”) detailed in Appendix C under the Artist Studio Award program, with each such agreement in a form satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services in consultation with the Director of Real Estate Services and the Managing Director of Cultural Services.
- H. THAT Council approve the re-tenanting of any Studio that becomes vacant for an extended period during the occupancy term to another eligible artist as approved by the Managing Director of Cultural Services, on the same terms and conditions as approved for the original artist recommended as the Tenant of such Studio, as set out in Appendix C of this report.
- I. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council’s adoption of these Recommendations unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.
- J. THAT, pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization listed in Appendix A, B, and C of this report that is not otherwise a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency to be contributing to the culture of Vancouver.
- K. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by the approval of Recommendations A to G above unless and until the applicable grant agreement or letter of agreement is approved by the City in accordance with Recommendation I above.

Recommendations A – G require two-thirds affirmative votes of all Council members under section 206 (1) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

The rent under the Leases for the Artist Studio Award Program are below the applicable market rate and constitute grants valued at approximately \$187,040 per annum based on the first year of the term of the Leases and thus require not less than two-thirds of an affirmative vote of all Council members per Section 206 (1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

## **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report recommends a total of \$2,250,864 in grants (operating, capital, cash, and in-kind) to 106 organizations, and recommends 7 artists to be tenants in the Artist Studio Awards program. These recommendations advance key strategic directions articulated in *Culture|Shift, Making Space for Arts and Culture*, and the *Vancouver Music Strategy*, by increasing support and elevating the voices of Indigenous and Racialized artists. They also support key civic policy directions including the City’s COVID-19 Economic and Business Recovery program and, notably, the City’s Equity Framework.

## **COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

On November 28, 2017 Council approved nominal leases for seven artists for three year terms for the work and live/work spaces that are part of the City of Vancouver's Artist Studio Award Program ([RTS 11811](#)). In April 2020 Council approved extending the leases approved by one year to provide stability for the seven tenants and to manage limited staff resources during the COVID 19 pandemic ([RTS 13846](#)).

On September 10, 2019 Council adopted Vancouver's 10-year culture plan *Culture|Shift: Blanketing the City in Arts and Culture and Making Space for Arts and Culture*, and the *Vancouver Music Strategy*.

On July 9, 2019 (RTS 12915) Council approved Vancouver Civic Theatres (VCT) staff to maintain an annual grant program to animate non-commercial VCT spaces and enhance their profile, subject to a maximum expenditure of \$200,000 for 2020, 2021, and 2022 to be included in the annual VCT budget.

On November 24, 2020 Council approved a total of \$2,059,078 in grants to 103 cultural organizations in support of COVID-19 recovery and key civic policy and strategic directions (14100).

On January 19, 2021 Council approved a total of \$8,406,150 to 144 cultural organizations through a streamlined process to enable the sector to provide critical programs and service to artists, the cultural community, and the public, as they continue to manage the impacts of COVID-19 (RTS 14213).

On May 18, 2021 Council approved a total \$4,445,125 to 157 cultural organizations in support of key directions in the City's culture plan – *Culture|Shift, Making Space for Arts and Culture*, and the *Vancouver Music Strategy* (RTS 14337).

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

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

## **REPORT**

### ***Background/Context***

The City of Vancouver continues its crucial commitment to investing in the local arts and culture sector by targeted annual support of non-profit organizations' operations, projects, major and small capital projects, and capital planning. This investment is guided by key goals and directions of the City's 10-year culture plan *Culture|Shift, Making Space for Arts and Culture*, and the *Vancouver Music Strategy* and contributes to civic life, and the economic, community, and cultural vibrancy and overall health of the city.

## **Strategic Analysis**

The grant recommendations in this report advance key goals in *Culture|Shift* by increasing support to equity-denied and Indigenous artists and organizations, supporting individual artists working with youth, repurposing Theatre Rental grants, and other grants to allow groups to adapt their work and access additional support to comply with health and safety measures in the civic theatres, and to support priority groups who are last to open due to ongoing restrictions of COVID-19. They further advance goals in the *Vancouver Music Strategy* with the renewal of the Music Fund to support diverse artists working in the music sector, and *Making Space for Arts and Culture* through Small Grants for Cultural Spaces and the next cohort of artists to be tenanted in the Artist Studio Awards.

## **Culture|Shift and Cultural Impact Critical Assistance (CICA) Grants**

### Cultural Equity Grants - \$325,000 to 15 organizations

The Cultural Equity Grant (CEG) Program was launched in 2020 as a best practice and key action of *Culture|Shift* to achieve greater equity in the City's support of the arts and culture sector. The CEG lowers barriers to access to core operating support for equity-denied artists and groups through a relational approach, by building mutual trust and connection that honours and respects the deep knowledge held within the organization and its people, and endeavouring to maintain a joyful process of information exchange and support.

Selection is based on direct community input and collaboration with leaders in the sector to identify groups who are advancing equity in practice, through policy, programs and the people in decision-making roles. Common characteristics of groups in this program are:

- They support equity-denied artists and communities in ways that are embedded in their mission, leadership, operations, programs and services;
- Are recognized by their peers as having high impact and trust within the cultural community;
- They provide programs and resources to equity-denied artists and communities; and,
- Are challenging dominant operational models to build organizations in organic ways that reflect the community they serve.

Approving these grants will invite three new groups into the program including African Friendship Society, Open Access Foundation for Arts and Culture, and Coastal Wolf Pack (in mentorship with Mortal Coil Performance Society). It will also renew a multiyear commitment for the second year to 12 groups, including the Punjabi Market Regeneration Collective in support of their work to revitalize the Punjabi Market through ongoing arts and culture activations and community-building efforts; re:Naissance Opera in support of their work towards creating a radically inclusive operatic space; and the Artist-in-Residence program at Skwachàys Lodge that provides studio space, secure housing, showcase and commercial opportunities, and culturally-specific health and well-being supports for Indigenous artists.

These grants can be used for core operations, to build capacity within the organization, for artistic and cultural programming, or other needs the organization has to deliver on their mission.

Some of the groups leading the way in elevating the voices of and Racialized artists, cultural workers, and groups can be seen here: <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/arts-and-culture-grants.aspx>

#### Indigenous Grants - \$155,000 to 5 organizations

This program was launched in 2019 to implement reconciliation goals of *Culture/Shift* and increase investment and leadership opportunities for Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and Urban Indigenous artists. Grants are awarded to each Nation to seed the development of dedicated grant programs for artists and cultural projects that advance their cultural priorities and align with their current processes in a self-determined way. The funding also supports Indigenous-led organizations in the development and creation of artistic and cultural works, language projects, and professional development opportunities for artists.

Approval of this recommendation will renew grants to the three local Nations and provide grants to two new organizations to the program; All My Relations (Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week), and V'ni Dansi. These grants directly address the historically low level of cultural funding granted to Indigenous-led organizations, artists, and cultural workers.

#### Capacity Grants - \$87,500 to 10 organizations

A number of equity and Indigenous grantees are also being recommended for a one-time capacity grant to deliver various artist mentorship and skill-building projects. Recommendations include support for groups including AfroVan Connect to provide skills development workshops and a mentorship program for local Black artists, Dumb Instrument Dance as they take on longer-term operations of a performance and rehearsal space for racialized artists, and funds for organizations providing programs and services in support of disabled artists and communities including Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture, Realwheels, and Vocal Eye Descriptive Arts Society.

#### Cultural Impact Critical Assistance (CICA) 2021 – \$493,411 to 22 organizations

The pandemic continues to have a significant impact on the arts and cultural sector with some organizations only just being able to reopen more fully, however still under specific conditions and requirements. Following previous efforts the City made to support the sector since 2020 (i.e., streamlining application processes to expedite funds, repurposing grants to assist recovery, sharing information on COVID-related resources), this strategic investment focuses on groups who continue to be disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. As with last year, the balance of funds from several cultural grants programs are being repurposed for these critical grants.

2020 CICA grantee feedback indicates that the additional assistance was helpful and had a significantly positive impact on their ability to continue to deliver critical programs and services. From the final reports:

- 99% responded that they were able to continue to offer programs and services.
- 96% responded that the funding was very effective/effective in helping relieve the negative impacts of COVID-19, and helping continue to offer programs and services.
- 96% responded that the timing of the funding was very effective/effective.
- 87% responded that the funds were very effective/effective where other funding was not.

The funding helped organizations reconfigure or access additional space to offer safe distance and air quality control for artists and staff to continue to work and for the public to feel safe. It helped groups maintain their existing spaces when overhead costs were fixed, yet they lacked the ability to generate revenue through space rentals during the pandemic induced closures. It provided fees and income to artists and staff to continue to do their work and also adapt their programs to digital platforms or outdoor venues. It allowed space operators to offer further reduce rents to artists who had lost their income from canceled shows and performances.

In planning for future programming, groups have identified support for future hybrid programming as a priority, as they continue to offer online programs alongside in-person activities. This is both to increase access, and to respond to audience hesitation to return to indoor events. They also noted that budget forecasting will need to take into account additional costs of digital programming (i.e., dedicated video staff, specialized recording equipment, royalties and buy-outs for artists to have streaming rights) and lower revenue expectations as the true program cost cannot be recovered through an online ticket. Also, rebuilding staff teams as a result of permanent loss of longstanding employees who left the industry to obtain secure work was also reported as a major challenge. Corporate sponsorship will also continue to be compromised as companies, also hard hit, adapt to new consumer patterns. And, there will be an indefinite need for additional staff to comply with health and safety measures.

Based on a review of data provided by the recipients of the first CICA grants through their report backs, groups operating and programming affordable and critical space for artists and the community have a longer road to recovery and therefore are a focus for additional support. Priority groups requested additional assistance (up to \$25,000) through another iteration of CICA grant program and approving these grants will provide critical assistance for groups until they can resume full revenue-generating activity again.

#### Vancouver Music Fund Grant - \$300,000 to Creative BC Society

The Vancouver Music Fund was established in 2019 to implement the Vancouver Music Strategy and address current gaps in the music ecosystem. Following the success of its first iteration, the City continues to partner with Creative BC – a non-profit organization that promotes growth of BC's creative industries – to deliver the fund. As the first municipal fund of its kind in North America, the Fund provides grants to Indigenous and underrepresented artists working in the music sector.

The COVID-19 impact has been significant on musicians and those working in the music sector. Approving this grant will provide much needed recovery support for artists looking to advance their careers and build their capacity in the music industry and will renew the partnership to deliver these programs:

- Demo Program – for new and emerging artists to create demo recordings and engage in mentorship and skill development with a BC producer. Artists can apply with a BC producer for a \$2,000 grant to cover 100% of recording expenses for one to two songs.
- Music Video Program – for new and emerging artists to create a music video. Artists or groups can apply for \$1,000 - \$10,000 to cover 100% of costs of creating a music video.
- Industry Catalyst Program – supports projects that develop Vancouver's music ecosystem and build capacity of groups. Individuals, collectives, companies and organizations can apply for grants of \$2,000 - \$20,000, for up to 100% of project expenditures.

The last grant supported 62 projects: 37 Demos, 11 Music Videos, and 14 Industry Catalyst. A diverse range of artists was supported including: 71% who identified as People of Colour, 32% as LGBTQ2+, 24% as Indigenous, 19% as a Person with a Disability, 5% from the local First Nations, 6% as identifying in All Groups, and 15% as Other (noting that individuals identify with multiple groups). To date the program has supported 119 projects. An example of a funded project is a demo produced by Squamish hip-hop artist Lady Sinncere with local producer DJ Aslam for an original song "[Can't Kill Me](#)".

Information on Creative BC and their Music Programs can be found at <https://www.creativebc.com/programs/music-and-sound-recording>

#### Individual Artists Fund Grant – \$60,000 - to ArtStarts in Schools

In partnership with ArtStarts in Schools, the Creative Spark Vancouver program provides grants of up to \$5,000 to individual emerging artists working with youth. Since 2015, over 130 Vancouver artists have been supported to create impactful projects through this program. This is a low-barrier program that provides opportunities for emerging artists to secure their first grant, to gain practical experience and receive mentorship from ArtStarts staff, to engage directly with youth, and to work within the public education system. The program prioritizes emerging artists and cultural practitioners from the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and artists from equity-denied communities.

Approving this grant implements a key action of *Culture/Shift*, by increasing support to individual artists and implementing the following program goals:

- Increase support for individual emerging artists and projects that reflect the diversity of artistic and cultural forms in Vancouver;
- Build the capacity and confidence of emerging artists working with young people and art and culture-based learning;
- Provide young people opportunities to engage actively in art and culture, particularly artists and young people from equity-denied communities; and,
- Increase capacity of emerging artists with skill-building opportunities and access to ArtStarts' resources.

Recently funded projects include the "Dinner Table Project" by artist Aileen Bahmanipour that brought children ages 4-9 together around a virtual table to share food-stories through painting, assemblage, cookbook designs, and discussion around food as culture and a relationship with nature.

Information on this program can be found at <https://artstarts.com/creativesparkvancouver>

#### Theatre Rental Grants Repurposed for COVID-19 Recovery for Access to Vancouver Civic Theatres - \$405,353 to 42 organizations

Theatre Rental Grants (TRG) are in-kind grants that support eligible cultural non-profit producers and presenters to access the City's four professionally-equipped, downtown civic theatre venues – the Queen Elizabeth Theatre (QET), the Orpheum, the Vancouver Playhouse and the Annex and represent slightly less than 50% of the Vancouver Civic Theatres (VCT) Rental Revenue Budget.

Due to the ongoing restrictions, many grantees were unable to use the initially approved TRG funding, resulting in a number of unused theatre rental grants for 2021. Accordingly, TRGs have been repurposed to enable access to VCT in ways that support the adaptation of grantees' performances and offset additional costs due to health and safety measures. TRGs will support non-profit organizations as they continue to provide the community with arts and cultural performing arts events, while managing added costs and loss of full potential revenues due to ongoing restrictions. Grants recommended in this report will only be eligible for VCT venues 2021/2022 Season usage.

Since the start of the pandemic, VCT have worked with the community to adapt the use of space in innovative ways to allow the non-profit sector to comply with health and safety requirements, while continuing to support artists and bringing content to the public in new ways (i.e., activating non-theatre space including lobbies and *šxwλ exen Xwtl'a7shn*, and digital performance experiences). In time for the beginning of 2021/2022 Season - after 19 challenging months of limited programming due to the pandemic - VCT has finally started welcoming patrons and local, national, and international artists back into their venues.

Notwithstanding the gradual return to pre-pandemic performing arts practice, COVID-19 and associated Provincial Health Orders continue to challenge the non-profit sector. Recommended grants in this report will assist organizations with the costs of accessing larger venues to increase capacity, additional staff to manage Proof of Vaccination verification, and additional technical costs to provide remote access to the community. The grants will support a diverse range of classical and contemporary performances in dance, theatre, film, and music throughout the 2021/2022 season (September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022), including works by Indigenous, Western, East, and South Asia, Latin America, and LGBTQ2+ artists, presented by groups including Asian Canadian Special Events, Allegra Chamber Orchestra, Indian Summer Arts Society, Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre, Vancouver Out on Screen Film Festival, and Vancouver Inter-Cultural Society.

### \$200,000 for the VCT Grant Program

The VCT Grant program, formerly known as the VCT Activation of Underutilized Spaces Grant Program, is designed to support local arts organizations, non-profit local community driven groups, as well as community-based cultural festivals, events and celebrations. This in-kind support provides rental subsidy and assistance for certain VCT costs (including a portion of technical and front of house labour costs), with an overall goal of maintaining a strong utilization of VCT non-commercial public spaces. An additional goal of this program is to build community engagement and strategic partnerships with arts, culture, and socially focused groups, while assisting organizations with artistic development, to increase their profile, and expand their audiences. The program has showcased a wide range of performance and cultural events from Indigenous lectures and fashion, Japanese poetry, celebration of African culture, and more.

Staff are working with a number of organizations who will benefit from the program. They determine grants based on opportunities for broad and diverse community engagement, potential for reaching new audiences and generating revenue, and increasing profile. Approving this recommendation will re-establish the program and partnerships while allowing more community access and engagement in these spaces.

A list of recommended grants to organizations can be found in Appendix A.

## **Making Space for Arts and Culture Grants**

### Small Grants for Cultural Spaces - \$224,600 to 14 organizations

This program provides up to \$25,000 to non-profit organizations to support timely, space-related capital projects with special consideration to organizations, communities or areas of practice that are underrepresented or facing significant barriers in the existing support of cultural infrastructure.

This year there were two grant intakes with an opportunity to request support for planning, research, accessibility, capital upgrades, and/or peer-based mentorships that support space planning. Council previously approved thirteen grants totalling \$226,375 this spring (RTS #14337). With the fall intake, there were 17 submissions totalling \$331,350. Applications were reviewed by an assessment committee comprised of community representatives and staff with cultural spaces knowledge and experience. Based on the review, staff are recommending 14 grants totalling \$224,600 as detailed in Appendix B, including the following:

- African Friendship Society – an organization whose mandate is to educate, entertain, cultivate unity, promote well-being for all, nurture social inclusion and community engagement through African arts, and help build self-esteem and empowerment within the Black/African community, for their project to develop construction, interior design and usage plans for "Studio Ubuntu" inside Vancouver Opera shared facility at 1945 McLean Drive; and,
- Kokoro Dance Theatre Society – remediation of HVAC system at City-owned facility at Woodward's building, in order to increase opportunities for production and presentation in the KW Atrium Studio which they operate.

### Artist Studio Award Program

The Artist Studio Award Program awards seven studios at below-market rates to low income Vancouver-based artists working in any artistic discipline for terms of approximately three years. This program removes financial barriers for artists and supports the development of their cultural and art practice at a critical point in their career. (<https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/artist-studio-award-program.aspx>).

For this round of program all seven studios were dedicated to low-income Vancouver-based artists who are Indigenous and/or racialized with a first priority for eligible Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh artists. Fifty-five applications were received and assessed by Cultural Services staff for eligibility, cultural practice, peer recognition and impact, with an aim to support a diversity of disciplines, genders, sexualities, ages, religions, nations, physical and neurological identities, races and ethnicities represented in Vancouver's artistic communities. Based on the assessment, the following artists are being awarded for six of the studios:

#### ***Live/Work Studios***

Eric Cheung is a second-generation Chinese Canadian contemporary / street dance artist exploring different mediums to expand the boundaries of street dance in film, theatre, new media, fashion, and Virtual Reality (VR). Eric is most notably known for his film entitled "E\_GO", which reached international acclaim in film festivals, receiving a Vimeo Staff pick, Nowness and Booooooom feature. Eric is currently pursuing dance in VR in collaboration with the Museum of Other Realities (MoR) to form a new decolonize platform for dance creation.

Jonas Jones comes from the village of Átsnach (Tseil-Waututh) with strong bloodlines running from Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) as well. His kwshámin (ancestral name) TsuKwalton comes from the Squamish village of Ch'iyákmesh. He is learning and apprenticing under the guidance of Ses siyam (Ray Natraoro), and indulging within the Coast Salish laws of art, a system that is passed down from master carver to apprentice. He is honoured to be practicing this craft, as this foundation of art and way of life has been running through his blood for thousands of years.

Jaz Whitford is a Secwepemc two spirit interdisciplinary artist. Jaz works with a range of materials, forms and mediums to investigate and express their lived experience and understanding of spirituality, indigeneity and community care. They have worked under the mentorship of T'uy't'tanat Cease Wyss, gaining knowledge about ethnobotany and multi-media arts centred in Indigenous revitalization. They work care-taking at x̓aws shewá'y, an Indigenous rewilded plant space, as part of an ongoing project by T'uy't'tanat at gallery 221A. They are currently artist-in-residence at Vines Art Festival, an arts organization and festival that is responsive to and nurturing of artists who are working toward land, water, and relational justice.

A transgender Iraqi raised in the U.A.E. and different parts of “Canada,” Sally Zori (They/Them) is a session musician, percussionist, and content creator. They have played stages and theatres in North America, Europe, and Australia with different bands, orchestras, musicals, theatre shows, and once was the percussionist for Aretha Franklin. Today, they are a session musician, percussionist, and content creator, and is working on a project that will share the story of their experience as a third culture kid and finding Home, combining theatre with film and live musical underscoring.

### ***Work Studios***

Emad Armoush is a Syrian/Canadian multi-instrumentalist musician and singer, active in the Arabic, flamenco, world and creative music scene of Vancouver since 2000. Inspired to bring his roots from Arabic traditions into his current musical life and influences, and awarded grants from the BC and Canada Arts Councils, Emad released his debut album with the members of his group Rayhan, some of Canada's top world music improvisers. He is motivated and now busy composing and arranging new music for their planned sophomore album. Emad has performed in many music festivals across Canada and Europe in a multitude of collaborations.

Naomi Grace (she/they) is an interdisciplinary artist and medicine maker of Afro-Caribbean and European ancestry born and currently residing on the unceded ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh nations. With a professional creative practice spanning two decades, Naomi's work is centered around reclaiming sacred medicine in its many forms, which she expresses through painting, mixed media, music, text, culinary arts and sculpture. Naomi's work is a form of visual storytelling and reflects her identity as a woman of the African diaspora, exploring creativity as our birthright. Creativity is not exceptional; creativity is being.

In addition to these spaces, nine new studios will be added to the program once complete. In March 2021, Council approved the addition of nine live-work artist studios to the City's Artist Studio Award Program as part of a rezoning approval for 5910-5998 Cambie Street ([RTS 14275](#)). These will include two dedicated accessible units, 2 family units, and 1 unit with a larger studio to support performance based production and rehearsal space.

The City is supporting 221A Artist Housing Society in tenancing a new community amenity space that is the City's first artist housing project at 187 E 3rd with 30 non-market housing units for artists and their families, with an associated shared arts production studio. The space will be operated by 221A Artist Housing Society in collaboration with the Community Land Trust.

The Artist Studio Award program has now completed eight successful terms and the 2022 - 2025 program will enable seven low-income Vancouver-based artists who are Indigenous and/or racialized artists to explore and advance their practices within a context of having secure living and working spaces for a three-year term. The program furthers the City's objectives to address the need for affordable and sustainable cultural spaces while recognizing we are on the unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

More information on the City's cultural grant programs and the groups we support can be found here: <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/arts-and-culture-grants.aspx>

### ***Implications/Related Issues/Risk***

#### ***Financial***

The financial implications of the recommendations in this report are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1 - 2021 Cultural Grants Budget and Recommendations**

<b>Rec.</b>	<b>Program Stream</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Previously Approved</b>	<b>Rec. in this Report</b>	<b>Balance</b>
A, B	Projects (CASC, capacity, CICA, C S)	\$1,400,787	\$842,250	\$558,537	\$0
	Annual Assistance	\$1,531,200	\$1,531,200	-	\$0
	Operating	\$2,896,550	\$2,896,550	-	\$0
	Major Institutions	\$3,948,400	\$3,948,400	-	\$0
A, D, E	Theatre Rental	\$2,829,608	\$1,884,134	\$927,727	\$17,747
C	Individual Artists Fund	\$60,000		\$60,000	\$0
A	Indigenous Grants	\$175,000	\$20,000	\$155,000	\$0
A	Equity & Accessibility	\$425,000	\$100,000	\$325,000	\$0
	Affordable Spaces	\$306,000	\$306,000	-	\$0
	<b>Subtotal OPERATING</b>	<b>\$13,572,545</b>	<b>\$11,528,534</b>	<b>\$2,026,264</b>	<b>\$17,747</b>
F	Spaces (Cultural Infrastructure, Small and Making Space*)	\$3,366,475	\$3,141,875	\$224,600	\$0
	<b>Subtotal CAPITAL</b>	<b>\$3,366,475</b>	<b>\$3,141,875</b>	<b>\$224,600</b>	<b>\$0</b>
	<b>TOTAL – Cultural Grants</b>	<b>\$16,939,020</b>	<b>\$14,670,409</b>	<b>\$2,250,864</b>	<b>\$17,747</b>

\*Total budget includes \$1,541,875 of the 2021 Cultural Spaces Capital budget, \$1,600,000 from the Vancouver Cultural Spaces Fund and \$166,475 reallocated from previous unused grants.

### Artist Studio Award Program Leases

The Premises' below-market rental rates have been set on a cost-recovery basis, currently calculated to be \$4.89-\$4.95 per square foot per annum making the combined total annual rent for the Premises of \$26,460. The current comparable annual market rental value for all seven studios is estimated at \$206,950 per annum, plus estimated rent in-lieu of property taxes of \$6,550 for the work-only studios (Studios 6 & 7); leaving the in-kind value of the award for the Premises estimated at \$187,040 per annum.

#### **Facility Costs**

For the City-owned units, the City is responsible for either monthly strata fees or a proportionate share of common area maintenance (CAM) costs, as well as routine systems maintenance. For the City-leased strata unit, there are no applicable strata fees as per the head lease. There may also be minor costs associated with turnover of the units at the end of the extended term in preparation for the next round of artist tenants. Currently costs are funded by the combined total rents collected as well as funding from the existing Facility Reserves developed for this purpose (\$210,200 for Studios 4 and 5, and \$179,461 for Studios 6 and 7).

The Tenants are responsible for minor repairs and maintenance, liability and contents insurance, utilities, and janitorial costs for the Premises, as well as the operation, repair, maintenance and replacement for all specialized equipment and furnishings required for the Tenants' occupation and operation of the Premises.

#### **Capital costs**

Capital Maintenance and Life Cycle Replacement – The City and either the Strata Corporation or the Remainder Owner, as applicable, will be responsible for the capital/life cycle replacement costs associated with the Premises including major systems and maintenance of these systems. Funding requirements will be determined and prioritized as part of the Capital Planning and Budgeting processes. For the newer studios (4 to 7) the capital funding source would be the existing Facility Reserves.

Capital Maintenance Costs - For Studios 1, 2 and 3, should any funds for capital maintenance be required it will be requested through the Capital Planning and Budgeting process. In the past, the total costs for Studios 1, 2 and 3 did not exceed \$11,000 in a three-year term.

Studios 4, 5, 6, and 7 are newly built (2015 and 2013) and no capital maintenance costs are anticipated for these units over the three year period of the term. Should any capital costs arise for these units during this term, it will be funded by the two Facility Reserves dedicated to these units.

### **CONCLUSION**

Over the past two years, since the approval and adoption of *Culture|Shift, Making Space for Arts and Culture*, and the *Vancouver Music Strategy*, Cultural Services continues its firm commitment to Vancouver's many communities by delivering on explicit goals of Equity through dedicated programs, projects and practices, and by embedding priorities of Reconciliation, Cultural Equity and Accessibility in all of its grants and awards programs. Recommended grants

and leases to the studios in this report, highlight and affirm City of Vancouver's move towards celebrating the diversity, uniqueness, and creativity, while upholding, recognizing, and supporting the original stories and histories of these lands and the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Urban Indigenous artists and cultural workers.

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Recommendation A

Organization	Equity	Capacity	Indigenous	CICA	Total Recomm. Grants
110 Arts Cooperative (The Post at 750)				25,000	25,000
221A Artist Run Centre Society				25,000	25,000
African Friendship Society	15,000				15,000
Afro Van Connect Society	25,000	20,000			45,000
All My Indigenous Relations Society (Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week)		5,000	20,000		25,000
Bard on the Beach Theatre Society				20,000	20,000
B.C. Artscape Society				25,000	25,000
B.C. Chinese Music Association				15,411	15,411
Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art (Bill Reid Foundation)				25,000	25,000
Chapel Sound Art Foundation	20,000				20,000
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society of Vancouver				20,000	20,000
Dumb Instrument Dance Society	20,000	15,000			35,000
Duplex Artists' Society				19,000	19,000
Gallery Gachet*				25,000	25,000
Greater Vancouver International Film Festival Society				25,000	25,000
Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance Society				25,000	25,000
Hogan's Alley Society	20,000				20,000
Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture		7,500			7,500
Little Mountain Gallery (Little Mountain Gallery Community Arts Performance Association)				19,000	19,000
Mortal Coil Performance Society (Coastal Wolfpack)	20,000	5,000			25,000
Musqueam Indian Band			40,000		40,000
Norman Rothstein Theatre (Vancouver West Side Theatre Society)				20,000	20,000
O.Dela Arts Society	15,000	5,000			20,000
Open Access Foundation for Arts & Culture	25,000				25,000
Punjabi Market Regeneration Collective Society	20,000				20,000
re:Naissance Opera	30,000	5,000			35,000
Realwheels Society		10,000			10,000
Recorded Movement Society (F-O-R-M)	25,000				25,000

Organization	Equity	Capacity	Indigenous	CICA	Total Recomm. Grants
Skwachàys (Vancouver Native Housing Society)	25,000				25,000
SKwxwu7Mesh Uxxwumixw Squamish Nation			40,000		40,000
The Arts Club of Vancouver Theatre Society				20,000	20,000
The Beaumont Studios Artist Society				25,000	25,000
The Firehall Theatre Society				25,000	25,000
The WISE Social and Community Arts Club				20,000	20,000
Tsleil Waututh Nation			40,000		40,000
Vancouver Asian Film Festival Society	25,000				25,000
Vancouver Creative Space Society (C-Space)				25,000	25,000
VDC Dance Centre Society				15,000	15,000
Vancouver East Cultural Centre				25,000	25,000
Vancouver Opera Association				25,000	25,000
Vashaan Music Society*	15,000				15,000
V'ni Dansi (Compaigni V'ni Dansi Society)		10,000	15,000		25,000
Vocal Eye Descriptive Arts Society (Canadian Council of the Blind - British Columbia - Yukon Division)	25,000	5,000			30,000
We Press Community Arts Space Society				25,000	25,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>325,000</b>	<b>87,500</b>	<b>155,000</b>	<b>493,411</b>	<b>\$1,060,911</b>

\*Grant is conditional upon meeting specific conditions

**Recommendation B**

Creative BC Society	<b>\$300,000</b>
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**Recommendation C**

The ArtStarts in Schools Society	<b>\$60,000</b>
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**Recommendation D - Theatre Rental Grants Recommendations**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>In-Kind Grant Recommendation</b>	<b>Cash Grant Recommendation</b>
Aeriosa Dance Society		20,800
Allegra Chamber Orchestra Society		20,417
The Art Starts In School Society		9,153
Arts Umbrella Association	11,580	13,420
Asian-Canadian Special Events Association		10,010
Ballet B.C. (Pacific Ballet British Columbia Society)		2,610
B.C. Chinese Music Association		3,860
Blackout Art Society		4,520
Circus 3 (Sophisticated Laughter Theatrical Society)		18,130
City Opera of Vancouver Society		6,750
The Coastal Jazz and Blues Society		12,000
DanceHouse (Seismic Shift Arts Society)		9,150
Elektra Women's Choir		3,070
Erato Ensemble Society		1,480
Indian Summer Arts Society		16,220
Karen Flamenco Dance Society		11,230
Latincouver Cultural & Business Society		8,980
Nahualli Folklore Society		216
Sound of Dragon Society		5,180
Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Society		7,240
The Frank Theatre (Screaming Weenie Productions)		4,000
The Vancouver Chopin Society		3,355
The Vancouver Men's Chorus	630	
Turning Point Ensemble		4,480
Universal Gospel Choir	2,500	2,000
Urban Ink Production Society		9,120
Vancouver Academy of Music	2,000	8,600
Vancouver Asian Film Festival Society		2,640
The Vancouver Bach Choir	11,056	10,736

<b>Organization</b>	<b>In-Kind Grant Recommendation</b>	<b>Cash Grant Recommendation</b>
Vancouver Chamber Choir		1,700
The Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra Society		7,600
Vancouver International Dance Festival Society		23,000
Greater Vancouver International Film Festival Society		25,000
Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre Society	1,225	
Vancouver New Music Society		2,600
Vancouver Opera Association		25,000
The Vancouver Out on Screen Film and Video Society		2,410
Vancouver Pro Musica (Pro Musica Society of Vancouver)		740
Vancouver Recital Society	11,965	13,035
Vancouver Symphony Society		25,000
VDC Dance Centre Society		5,000
VSO School of Music Society	1,315	2,630
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,271</b>	<b>363,082</b>

**Recommendation F – Small Grants For Cultural Spaces**

Organization	Type	Project Description	Request	Recomm
221A Artist Run Centre Society *	Planning	Mentorship with EthosLab for best use of 3,200 s.f production centre in new City-owned artist housing project near Main and Second	25,000	25,000
African Friendship Society	Planning	Construction, interior design and usage plans for "Studio Ubuntu"	25,000	25,000
The Beaumont Studios Artist Society	Capital	Building improvements, including lighting upgrades	25,000	18,000
Gallery Gachet Society**	Planning	Needs assessment, research and planning process to secure a new multipurpose home.	8,900	8,900
Hard Rubber New Music Society*	Planning	Feasibility of a collectively based not-for-profit organization to operate the future City-owned music production space at 1616 W7th.	15,000	12,000
Helm Studios by Josh Eastman Production *	Planning	Study to determine feasibility of operating a larger studio space including the future City owned music production space at 1616 W7th..	12,000	12,000
KARAKATA AFROBEAT SOCIETY OF CANADA	Capital	Renovations and equipment to convert studio currently owned by Tap Dance Society.	25,000	0
Kokoro Dance Theatre Society*	Capital	Remediation of HVAC system at City-owned Woodward's production/presentation space.	18,750	15,000
Little Mountain Gallery Community Arts Performance Association	Capital	Renovations for new space	25,000	0
Malaspina Printmakers Society	Capital	Accessibility upgrades to Granville Island studio	20,000	20,000
Marpole Museum and Historical Society*	Capital	Replace interior storm windows at City-owned facility at 8743 Southwest Marine Drive	4,500	4,500
Music BC Industry Association*	Planning	Research and design plan to occupy City-owned music production space at 1616 W7th	25,000	17,000
Other Sights for Artists' Projects Association	Planning	Planning and research for phase 2 of FLEET mobile art studios project	25,000	0
Plastic orchid factory	Capital	Renovations to "Left of Main" space	15,200	15,200
Secret Lantern Society**	Capital	Renovations/upgrades to new multipurpose space	20,000	20,000
Société Maison de la francophonie de Vancouver	Planning	Engage theatre consultant on space design for Studio 16 theatre	17,000	17,000
Vancouver West Side Theatre Society	Capital	Improve safety and accessibility in the Norman & Annette Rothstein Theatre	25,000	15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>331,350</b>	<b>224,600</b>
<b>*Current or future City-owned/controlled facility **Grant is conditional upon specific conditions</b>				

### Artist Studio Award Lease and Sub-Lease Terms

**Term:** the lease and sublease term for each of the seven studios currently in the Artist Studio Award program (the “Leases”) will begin in the Spring of 2022 for a term of approximately three years with the exception of Studio 2 which also will start Spring 2022 but end after two years on December 31, 2023.

- i. Studio 1 - City-owned live-work unit, having a civic address of #303 - 272 East 4th Avenue, and a legal description of PID: 023-105-445; Strata Lot 17, District Lot 200A, Group 1 New Westminster District, Strata Plan LMS2013, 528 sq. ft, \$215 per month inclusive of payment in lieu of property taxes, payable in advance, plus applicable sales taxes if any;
- ii. Studio 2 - City-leased live-work unit, having a civic address of #367 - 485 West 8th Avenue, and a legal description of PID: 027-526-143; Strata Lot 67, District Lot 302, Group 1 New Westminster District, Strata Plan BCS2922, 911 sq. ft, \$375 per month inclusive of payment in lieu of property taxes, payable in advance, plus applicable sales taxes if any;
- iii. Studio 3 - City-owned live-work unit, having a civic address of 1202 East Pender Street, and a legal description of PID: 024-375-047; Strata Lot 6, District Lot 182, Group 1 New Westminster District, Strata Plan LMS3800, 1,075 sq.ft, \$440.00 per month inclusive of payment in lieu of property taxes, payable in advance, plus applicable sales taxes if any;
- iv. Studio 4 - City-owned live-work unit, having a civic address of #102 – 8031 Nunavut Lane, and a legal description of PID: 029-767-661; Air Space Parcel 2, District Lot 323, Group 1 New Westminster District, Air Space Plan EPP50837, 1,150 sq.ft, \$470.00 per month inclusive of payment in lieu of property taxes, payable in advance, plus applicable sales taxes if any;
- v. Studio 5 - City-owned live-work unit, having a civic address of #101 – 8031 Nunavut Lane, and a legal description of PID: 029-767-661; Air Space Parcel 2, District Lot 323, Group 1 New Westminster District, Air Space Plan EPP50837, 910 sq.ft, \$375.00 per month inclusive of payment in lieu of property taxes, payable in advance, plus applicable sales taxes if any;
- vi. Studio 6 - City-owned work-only studio, having a civic address of Lot 526, Group 1 New Westminster District, Air Space Plan EPP32021, 400 sq.ft, \$165.00 per month inclusive of payment in lieu of property taxes, payable in advance, plus applicable sales taxes if any;
- vii. Studio 7 - City-owned work-only studio, having a civic address of 1573 West 6th Avenue, and a legal description of PID: 029-153-522; Air Space Parcel 1, District Lot 526, Group 1 New Westminster District, Air Space Plan EPP32021, 400 sq.ft, \$165.00 per month inclusive of payment in lieu of property taxes, payable in advance, plus applicable sales taxes if any.

For the following Tenants:

- viii. Studio 1 awarded to: Jazzmin Whitford, multidisciplinary artist;
- ix. Studio 2 awarded to: to be determined (due to a last minute situation change the selected artist has declined the award. Staff will identify another artist to be awarded this studio);
- x. Studio 3 awarded to: Jonas Jones, carver, dancer, drummer, singer;

- xi. Studio 4 awarded to: Eric Cheung, dancer;
- xii. Studio 5 awarded to: Sally Jirjees, musician and content creator;
- xiii. Studio 6 awarded to: Naomi Gracechild, visual, multidisciplinary artist; and,
- xiv. Studio 7 awarded to: Emad Armoush, musician and sound artist.

## **SUMMARY OF LEASE, SUBLEASE TERMS**

- Comparable market rental value for live-work and work only studios in neighbourhoods outside of Downtown is on average \$38.51/sf/annum, inclusive of property tax.
- Tenant Improvements, Fixtures & Equipment - The Premises will be leased to the Tenants on an as-is basis, and any tenant improvements to be made (upon written consent of the City) will be at the expense of the Tenants. The Tenants will be responsible for the provision of all tenant equipment, machinery, appliances (if additional to those already included in any particular studio), trade fixtures, furnishings, chattels and the like.
- Maintenance and Repairs: the Tenants shall be responsible for all costs, obligations and expenses related to the minor repairs and maintenance of the Premises, as well as for major maintenance and repairs to either the Premises or to appliances which are required by reason of the act or omission of the Tenants or his or her invitees or fellow occupant. The City, the Strata Corporation, or the Remainder Owner, as applicable per unit, shall be responsible for major repairs and maintenance for the Premises, and for all structural and building envelope elements.
- Capital/Life Cycle Replacement Costs: the City and either the Strata Corporation or the Remainder Owner, as applicable, will maintain responsibility for the capital/life cycle replacement costs associated with the Premises including major systems and maintenance of these systems.
- Other Expenses/Utilities: all Tenants are responsible for any and all other expenses related to their occupancy which are directly billed to the Tenant including utilities, heat, hydro, gas, water, garbage and recycling collection, internet, cable, phone, security system monitoring, and any other user (artist) related costs, except where such costs are already included in either the monthly strata fees or CAM costs for any particular studio.
- “As Is”: while the City endeavors to provide the studios in as good a condition as possible, the studios are leased as is. Should the Tenants wish to make any changes, additions, renovations or improvements to the space, such work will be done at the Tenant’s expense. It is the responsibility of the Tenants to obtain all necessary approvals and permits for such work and the work is subject to the prior approval of the Director of Facilities Planning and Development and the Managing Director of Cultural Services, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld.
- Damage/Renovations: the Tenants shall pay the applicable security deposit to the unit owner (varies per unit). As per the “As Is” section above, any additions, renovations, alterations, painting, decoration, or redecoration including floor, wall and ceiling finishes shall not be carried out without the prior written consent of the City, and shall be wholly at the expense of the Tenants.

- **Use:** the Premises are designated as either live-work or work-only. Live-work studios must be used as both a residence and a work studio; use solely for one or the other is not permitted. Residence in the work-only studios is not permitted.
- **Property Taxes:** for the City-owned units, subject to Council approval the Tenants will not be required to pay real property taxes. For the City-leased unit, property taxes are not payable by either the City or the subtenant during the term of the City's lease with the landlord in accordance with the terms of the head lease.
- **Vacancies During Term:** while the City wishes to provide flexibility to artists within the Artist Studio Award program, all seven units should be fully utilized during the term of each Lease. As such, any artist who is planning to be absent from the studio is required to discuss the vacancy with the City to determine options for another artist (drawn from the prioritized ranking of short-listed artists) to sublet the studio or take an assignment of the lease during the vacancy period (subject to the terms of the head lease in the case of Studio 2).
- **Sub-Letting or Assignment:** except as provided under the "Vacancies During Term" section above, the Tenants may not assign the lease/sub-lease for the Premises, or provide any third party occupation other than one family member that may reside with a Tenant in a live/work studio, unless otherwise approved in Writing by Cultural Services. There may be no more than two people residing in the live-work studios.
- **Insurance:** the Tenants shall maintain insurance coverage, in the amounts and types of coverage to the Landlord's satisfaction, for: either Personal Liability (in the case of live/work units) or Commercial General Liability (in the case of work-only units), for a minimum limit of not less than \$2,000,000 per occurrence, and with a limit of deductibility not greater than \$2,000. The policy shall include All-Risk (Broad Form) Tenant's Legal Liability insurance equal to the full replacement cost of the Premises, as well as Tenant's Contents Insurance equal to 90% of replacement cost. The City and its personnel, as well as either the Strata Corporation and its personnel or the Remainder Owner and its personnel, as applicable per unit, shall be named as additional insureds.
- **Compliance With Laws:** the Tenants must abide by all of the strata corporation by-laws and any other laws, by-laws and lawful orders concerning the Premises.
- **Acknowledgement:** the Tenant gives permission to the City to use their name, their photograph, and photographs of their artistic work in publicizing the City of Vancouver Artist Studio Award program. The tenant will acknowledge the City's support through the Artist Studio Award program in all information materials, including online publications, programs and any other collateral produced by the artist during the tenancy period.
- **Additional Terms:** all other terms and conditions as required by the Director of Legal Services in consultation with the Managing Director of Cultural Services and the Director of Real Estate Services.