



REPORT

Report Date: October 18, 2022
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RTS No.: 14836
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: November 16, 2022
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities
FROM: The General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services
SUBJECT: 2022 Cultural Grants (Equity, Indigenous, Artists, Spaces)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. THAT Council, in support of its *Culture|Shift* goals, approve thirteen Cultural Equity grants totalling \$316,000 from the 2022 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the organizations listed in Appendix A and for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Recomm." Column in Appendix A.
- B. THAT Council, in support of its *Culture|Shift* goals and the City's UNDRIP Strategy, approve nine Cultural Indigenous grants totalling \$280,000 from the 2022 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the organizations listed in Appendix A and for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Recomm." Column in Appendix A.
- C. THAT Council approve a grant of \$60,000 from the 2022 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to The Art Starts in Schools Society for renewal and delivery of the Creative Spark Vancouver program, which supports diverse artists working with youth.
- D. THAT Council, in support of its *Culture|Shift* and *Making Space for Arts and Culture* goals, approve five Affordable Spaces grants totalling \$74,010 from the 2022 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the organizations listed in Appendix A and for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Recomm." Column in Appendix B.
- E. THAT Council, in support of its *Making Space for Arts and Culture* goals, approve eighteen Small Grants for Cultural Spaces totaling \$325,000 from the remaining 2022 Cultural Spaces Capital Budget and re-allocation from previous unused or

unallocated budget to the organizations listed in Appendix B and for the amounts recommended for each organization in the “Recomm” column in Appendix B.

- F. THAT Council delegate its authority to execute grant agreements that include terms and conditions that are consistent with this report, that satisfy the City’s Director of Legal Services, and that disburse the grants described in this report to the City’s General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services (or their designate).
- G. 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.
- H. THAT, pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization listed in Appendix A and Appendix B of this report that is not otherwise a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency to be contributing to the culture of Vancouver.

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

REPORT SUMMARY

This report recommends a total of \$1,055,010 grants to 46 cultural organizations to support the delivery of critical programs and services to artists, the cultural community, economic and business revitalization, and the public.

These recommendations support key civic policy and strategic directions as follows:

- *Culture/Shift*, the City’s 10-year culture plan, including the *Vancouver Music Strategy* and *Making Space for Arts and Culture*
- The City’s COVID-19 Economic and Business Recovery program to restart the economic, social, and cultural recovery of the city
- The City’s Reconciliation Framework, and UNDRIP Strategy
- The City’s Equity Framework, and Accessibility Strategy

Table 1 – Grants Metrics and *Culture/Shift* Alignment

Grant Program	# Grants Requested	# Grants Recomm.	\$ Grants Requested	\$ Grants Recomm.	%	<i>Culture/Shift</i> Direction
Cultural Equity	13	13	\$316,000	\$316,000	100	Cultural Equity & Accessibility
Cultural Indigenous	9	9	\$280,000	\$280,000	100	Reconciliation & Decolonization
Individual Artists	1	1	\$60,000	\$60,000	100	Arts & Culture at the Centre of City Building
Affordable Spaces	5	5	\$121,000	\$74,010	61	Making Space for Arts and Culture
Small	20	18	\$453,998	\$325,000	72	Making Space for

Grants Spaces						Arts and Culture
Totals	48	46	\$1,230,998	\$1,055,010	86	

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

On September 11, 2019 Council approved 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 January 25, 2022 (RTS 14814), Council approved \$3,352,100 cultural grants to 194 organizations which included project grants, advance payments on operating grants, and capacity grants to advance goals of *Culture|Shift* and enable the community to delivery critical cultural programs and services.

On April 12, 2022 (RTS 14847), Council approved \$6,104,505 cultural grants to 149 cultural organizations which included the balance of grants from the previously approved advance payments, and one-time grants to advance goals of *Culture|Shift* to sustain ongoing delivery of and access to, cultural programs for the community.

On May 17, 2022 (RTS 14867), Council approved \$2,644,236 to 129 cultural organizations which included cultural project and infrastructure grants to advance goals of *Culture|Shift* and *Making Space for Arts and Culture*.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT

Background/Context

The City of Vancouver invests approximately \$15M in critical operating and capital grants to local arts and culture non-profit organizations through various grant streams to support operations, projects, capital projects and planning, access to the civic theatres, and capacity building initiatives. This investment is guided by key goals and directions of the City's 10-year Council-approved arts and culture plan *Culture|Shift*, including *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. Table 2 shows a brief history of cultural operating grants with additional investments approved by Council to implement *Culture|Shift* goals.

Table 2 - Cultural Grants Budget (operating) with *Culture|Shift* Investments

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Base operating budget*	\$12,074,020	\$12,315,500	\$12,561,810	\$13,297,545	\$13,657,547

Culture Shift investments		\$300,000**	\$475,000	\$275,000	\$300,000***
Total	\$12,074,020	\$12,615,500	\$13,036,810	\$13,572,545	\$13,957,547

*Includes annual increases

**One-time funds for Vancouver Music Fund from the Innovation Fund

***One-time funds for *Culture|Shift* approved for 2022

Strategic Analysis

In the fall of 2019, Vancouver City Council unanimously approved *Culture|Shift: Blanketing the City in Arts and Culture*, a 10-year cultural plan that encapsulates the aspirations of thousands of people who lent their expertise to co-create an inclusive, ambitious vision for Vancouver's cultural fabric. The plan includes the *Making Space for Art & Culture* report and the *Vancouver Music Strategy*, which, together, equip City of Vancouver to better support a more dynamic cultural sector, cultural infrastructure, and music ecosystem.

At the time of its launch, *Culture|Shift* illuminated the cultural sector's pivotal role in Vancouver's economic vibrancy, tourism and prosperity, and reasserted the fact that creative industries and cultural sector have a critical impact on growth, attraction and retention of talent across sectors.

The process to develop the plan took new approaches to centering consultation with the x̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱ əm (Musqueam), S̱ḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and prioritizing traditionally underrepresented voices, including Indigenous people, Black people, and people of colour (IBPOC), and disabled, Deaf, low-income, and LGBTQ2+ communities in the 6000+ engagement touchpoints. Vancouver's many communities were centered in the development of the plan, and this report, through specific grant recommendations, continues to firmly center them in *Culture|Shift's* implementation.

Many thoughtful community member peer jury and expert staff deliberations leading to grant recommendations in this report also highlighted the need to, in this, third year of *Culture|Shift* implementation, take stock of, and reflect on the initial progress of *Culture|Shift* actions during the first two tumultuous years of 2020-2021. The rise of Covid-19, that upended the landscape for arts and culture, and profoundly changed almost everything about our daily lives and work, provides some of the backdrop to staff's significant efforts to pivot the service delivery in the ways that meaningfully supported communities, as the pandemic wreaked havoc on most of the cultural sector. 2020 saw the murder of George Floyd unleash a wave of grief, reflection, and grassroots action and brought calls for a global reckoning with systemic anti-Black racism. In 2021, evidence of unmarked mass graves of Indigenous children at the sites of former residential schools emerged across Canada, precipitating a wave of mourning for family members who never came home. Throughout it all, in the midst of these darkest moments of uncertainty, artists and cultural workers have given us space to grieve, rage, reflect, seek solace, renew, connect, reorient, and mobilize.

During the time of great need and turmoil, City of Vancouver Council made a crucial strategic decision to support critical increases to investments in the sector, appreciating the significance of the creativity and resilience that artists, cultural workers and organizations have contributed to the community and economic recovery. As evident from the beginnings of a vibrant return to pre-pandemic levels of activity, this approach was pivotal to City of Vancouver efforts to mitigate further and extensive negative community and economic loss. However, continued work and concerted efforts, including grant recommendations in this report, remain critical to ensure a full recovery as a foundation for more prosperous and equitable growth.

Grant Recommendations

Recommendation A: Cultural Equity Grants - \$316,000 to 13 organizations (Appendix A)

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 and cuts red tape to access core operating support for equity-deserving 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. These grants support core operations, and capacity building within the organization for artistic and cultural programming, and other needs advance their mission

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 funded through this program are:

- They support equity-deserving 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-deserving artists and communities; and,
- Are challenging dominant operational models to build organizations in organic ways that reflect the communities they serve.

Approving these grants will introduce one new group into the program, Black Arts Vancouver, to support their work to build a residency program for Black creatives and arts programming for Black youth. It will also renew a multiyear commitment to 12 organizations that support artists and participants in accessing programs and spaces that reflect their distinct communities, including Dumb Instrument Dance that provides low barrier creation space and residencies for BIPOC dance artists at their venue Morrow, and VocalEye that provides audio description of live theatre and visual arts and runs arts engagement activities for the blind and low vision community. A full list of recommended grantees is in Appendix A.

Examples of groups supported through this program who are elevating the voices of underrepresented and racialized artists and cultural workers can be seen here discussing the impact of City funding on artists and communities: <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/arts-and-culture-grants.aspx>

Recommendation B: Cultural Indigenous Grants - \$280,000 to 9 organizations (Appendix A)

This dedicated grant program was launched in 2019 to implement reconciliation and decolonization goals of *Culture|Shift* to increase investment and leadership opportunities for xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and Urban Indigenous artists. The program supports Indigenous arts, culture, and language programs including professional development and mentorship for Indigenous artists and organizations. It is a low barrier program that offers a more accessible process, and reflects Indigenous self-determined ways. It sets the applicants up for greater success and with potential pathways into mainstream core funding programs, if desired.

Specifically, this program provides annual funding to xʷməθkʷəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations for self-determined cultural projects, and to Indigenous-lead organizations with a mission to develop, create, and present Indigenous arts and culture. Selection for the program is by community referral for groups who are recognized as having high impact in uplifting the voices of Indigenous artists and advancing Indigenous arts, culture and heritage. A full list of recommended grantees is in Appendix A.

Approving these grants will renew funds to xʷməθkʷəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations and provide ongoing core funding to five Indigenous-led organizations. Funding will support many publicly accessible Indigenous-lead events including Indigenous Fashion Week, an Elder and Matriarch in Residence at Carnegie Community Centre, traditional and contemporary Métis jigging dance performances, Coast Salish traditional song and dance performances, and contemporary Indigenous dance.

Recommendation C: Grant – \$60,000 - to ArtStarts in Schools for Creative Spark Vancouver

The Creative Spark Vancouver program implements a key action of *Culture/Shift*, by increasing support to individual artists in partnership with ArtStarts in Schools. The program provides grants of up to \$5,000 to individual emerging artists working with youth. It 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 xʷməθkʷəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations, and artists from equity-deserving communities. The program has the following 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.

Since 2015, over 140 Vancouver artists have been supported to create impactful projects through this program. Recently funded projects include a series of zine-making workshops and mentorship for LGBTQ2S+ youth ages 13 to 18 on ways of making zines as a platform of expression for underrepresented voices, how to self-publish, and the history of queer zines in Vancouver.

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

Recommendation D: Affordable Spaces Grants - \$74,010 to 5 organizations (Appendix B)

Affordable Spaces Grants is an operational grant stream that was launched in 2021 to advance *Making Space for Arts and Culture* directions. The program funds up to \$50,000 towards facility operating costs to support non-profit space operators who provide affordable space for artists and cultural organizations. Specifically, this funding stream offers critical support for facility costs for non-profit cultural space providers and artists, including those who are at risk of losing their cultural space. Funds are prioritized to support retention of cultural spaces that provide space for multiple artists and/or organizations, space operators who are not typically funded through existing grant programs, and cultural communities who are most at risk of being displaced, including equity-seeking communities.

For the spring intake, staff reviewed 23 submissions for a total request of \$840,990, and Council approved 17 grants for a total of \$307,836 (RTS 14867). Due to a returned grant and a limited amount of remaining funds, staff reviewed requests and are recommending grants to five space operators in critical need of additional support to address significant rent increases, and ongoing impacts of COVID-19 related restrictions. Based on this review, staff are recommending 5 grants totalling \$74,010 as detailed in Appendix B, including the following:

- 901 Artists Co-op has operated 5,000 square feet of studio space in Grandview-Woodland for 13 years. A grant will allow them to continue to offer more affordable rent for marginalized populations while managing cost increases.

Recommendation E: Small Grants Cultural Spaces - \$325,000 to 18 organizations (Appendix B)

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. Funding can be used for planning, research, accessibility, capital upgrades, and/or peer-based mentorships that support space planning.

Council previously approved twenty-five grants totalling \$441,800 in the spring intake (RTS 14867). With the fall intake, 20 submissions totalling \$453,998 were reviewed by an assessment committee comprised of community members Marguerite Laquinte Francis and Brent Constantine and staff with cultural spaces knowledge and experience. Staff thank the community members for the expertise they contributed to the process.

Based on the review, staff are recommending 18 grants totalling \$325,000 as detailed in Appendix B, including the following:

- *Eastside Arts Society* – following up on the award winning report “A City without Art?” EAS proposes to develop a business plan to advance the Eastside Arts District (EAD) initiative which will make a case for the development of two potential spaces.
- *Create Vancouver Society* - planning and feasibility study for vacant Granville Island, Emily Carr North building into affordable artist-in residency and programming space.
- *Still Moon Arts Society* – To build a cob garden shed in the “Colour Me Local” dye garden that will enable safe storage of supplies and tools and enhance awareness of sustainability and natural building techniques and make the outdoor programming space more functional.
- *Normie Event Society* - planning on viability of a 250+ capacity venue, led by and prioritizing QTBIPOC members, performers and audiences.

Financial**TABLE 3 – 2022 Cultural Grants Budget (operating and capital)**

Rec.	Program Stream	Budget	Previously Approved	Rec. in this Report	Balance
	Projects (CASC, Capacity)	\$1,450,787	\$1,375,067*		\$75,720
	<i>Culture Shift</i> (one-time)	\$300,000	\$300,000		
	Operating – Institutions	\$3,948,400	\$3,905,080		\$43,320
	Operating – Annual	\$4,493,938	\$4,537,258		-\$43,320
	Theatre Rental	\$2,846,586	\$2,827,296*		\$19,290
C	Individual Artists Fund	\$60,000		\$60,000	\$0
B	Indigenous Grants	\$260,000		\$280,000	-\$20,000
A	Cultural Equity & Accessibility	\$290,000		\$316,000	-\$26,000
D	Affordable Spaces	\$307,836	\$282,836*	\$74,010	-\$49,010
	Subtotal OPERATING	\$13,957,547	\$13,227,537	\$730,010	\$0
E	Spaces (Infrastructure, Small Grants)	\$2,024,900**	\$1,699,900	\$325,000	\$0
	Subtotal CAPITAL	\$2,024,900	\$1,699,900	\$325,000	\$0
	TOTAL – Cultural Grants	\$15,982,447	\$14,927,437	\$1,055,010	\$0

*Previously approved totals include grants that were canceled, and grants that were paid in 2022 from 2021 funds.

**Total budget includes \$1,800,000 of the 2022 Cultural Spaces Capital budget and \$224,900 reallocated from previous years capital grants funds.

CONCLUSION

Since the approval and adoption of *Culture|Shift*, *Making Space for Arts and Culture*, and the *Vancouver Music Strategy*, Cultural Services has continued 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 highlight and affirm City of Vancouver's move towards investing in cultural and economic vibrancy, and celebrating the diversity, uniqueness, and creativity, while upholding, recognizing, and supporting the original stories and histories of these lands and the the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and urban Indigenous artists and cultural workers.

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GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS A, B and C

	Organization	Recomm.
A Cultural Equity & Accessibility Grants		
1	African Friendship Society	15,000
2	Afro Van Connect Society*	25,000
3	Chapel Sound Art Foundation	20,000
4	Dumb Instrument Dance Society	40,000
5	Hogan's Alley Society	20,000
6	Open Access Foundation for Arts & Culture	25,000
7	Punjabi Market Regeneration Collective Society	26,000
8	re:Naissance Opera	35,000
9	Recorded Movement Society	25,000
10	Vancouver Asian Film Festival Society	25,000
11	Vashaan Music Society	15,000
12	VocalEye Descriptive Arts Society	30,000
13	Black Arts Vancouver Society	15,000
		316,000
B Cultural Indigenous Grants		
1	Carnegie Community Centre Association	20,000
2	Musqueam Indian Band	40,000
3	SKwxwu7Mesh Uxxwumixw Squamish Nation	40,000
4	Tsleil Waututh Nation	40,000
5	Mortal Coil Performance Society (Coastal Wolf Pack)	25,000
6	Vancouver Native Housing Society dba Skwachàys	32,500
7	O.Dela Arts Society	25,000
8	All My Relations Indigenous Society	32,500
9	Compaigni V'ni Dansi Society dba V'ni Dansi	25,000
		280,000
C Individual Artists Fund		
1	The Art Starts in Schools Society	60,000
		60,000
	TOTAL	656,000

*denotes conditional grant

RECOMMENDATION D and E

D Affordable Spaces Grants				
	Applicant	Space Description	Request	Recomm.
1	901 Artists Cooperative	Artist-led initiative that operates 5,000 square feet of studio space, to provide access to affordable working space for visual artists in an inclusive, stable and sustainable environment.	10,000	8,000
2	Kokoro Dance Theatre Society ^	Operates the City-owned "KW Studios," including the 1,051 sq. ft. KW Atrium Studio and the 3,802 sq. ft. KW Production Studio space in the downtown eastside	25,000	10,500
3	110 Arts Cooperative (The Post at 750) ^ *	Support the retention of below-market rental rates for artistic and administrative spaces utilized by diverse artists and organizations	50,000	45,010
4	Vancouver Creative Space Society	"Progress Lab 1422" includes a large studio and a workshop studio for use by its 7 theatre and dance home companies, and the local performing arts community.	30,000	6,500
5	The Vancouver Life Drawing Society dba Basic Inquiry ^	Offers studio drawing facilities featuring professional life drawing models to practitioners of figurative arts, in a program of near-daily life drawing sessions open to the public.	6,000	4,000
		TOTAL	121,000	74,010
	^ denotes City-owned/controlled facility			
	* denotes conditional grant			

E Small Grant for Cultural Spaces				
	Applicant	Project Description	Request	Recomm.
1	221A Artist Run Centre Society	Planning for upgrades that improve fire and life safety conditions in a shared artist production space	25,000	19,000
2	Aeriosa Dance Society	To develop a design plan for renovations to the Aeriosa studio and production office	25,000	25,000
3	Arts Umbrella Association	Replace stage floor	19,290	15,000
4	Bard on the Beach Theatre Society ^	Purchase power distribution packages for site	23,000	0
5	BC Metis Federation Society	Support for financial and implementation aspects of a feasibility study for the BCMF cultural centre	25,000	20,000
6	Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Society ^	Accessible washroom renovation	14,000	14,000

E Small Grant for Cultural Spaces				
7	Create Vancouver Society	Planning and feasibility study for vacant Granville Island, Emily Carr North building into affordable artist-in residency and programming space	24,535	12,000
8	Eastside Arts Society	Eastside Arts District phase 3 - develop a business plan for the viability / sustainability of the Eastside Arts District including analysis of potential art production spaces.	25,000	25,000
9	Great Lakes Networking Society of BC	Implement a needs assessment for cultural production space	11,000	11,000
10	L'Alliance Française de Vancouver	Theatre design specialists to work with design build team for new 165-seat auditorium/theatre	25,000	24,000
11	Latincouver Cultural & Business Society	Conduct a needs assessment to determine what kind of space would serve the needs of Latincouver and its beneficiaries	24,973	12,500
12	National Pilipino Canadian Cultural Centre Society (NPC3)	Conduct an analysis of existing cultural spaces to inform future development of a Filipino arts and cultural space.	25,000	20,000
13	Normie Event Society	Planning on viability of a 250+ capacity venue, led by and prioritizing QTBIPOC members, performers and audiences.	24,300	15,000
14	Projectile Publishing Society	Upgrading bathrooms and other minor repairs.	20,000	0
15	Still Moon Arts Society	Building of a cob structure in the Colour Me Local dye garden to support safe storage of tools.	25,000	20,000
16	The Arts Club of Vancouver Theatre Society ^	Renovating work space to include fire separation and independent sprinkling as well as upgrades ventilation.	25,000	15,000
17	The Beaumont Studios Artist Society	Replacing/upgrading floors in the main hall.	25,000	20,000
18	The Coastal Jazz & Blues Society	Feasibility study on Coastal Jazz operating a new space	25,000	20,000
19	Unicorn Support Services Society	Facility upgrades to enhance accessibility, privacy and security	17,900	13,500
20	Wongs' Benevolent Association	Planning for critical upgrades for the Hon Hsing building that will address building code and safety issues, and will help ready the property for a cultural tenancy.	25,000	24,000
		TOTAL	453,998	325,000
^ denotes City-owned/controlled facility				