

BY-LAW NO. _____

**A By-law to amend the Building By-law No. 12511
to facilitate arts and culture events**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, in public meeting, enacts as follows:

1. This By-law amends the indicated provisions of Building By-law No. 12511.
2. In Book 1, Division A, Section 1.4.1.2 Council strikes the definition of “Arts and culture indoor event” and replaces it with:

“Arts and culture event means an event of an artistic or cultural nature, including but not limited to visual, performing, media, literary, craft or interdisciplinary arts, which occurs no more than six days per month in a *building* or part of a *building* not approved for *assembly occupancy*, or in a designated outdoor area.”.

3. In Book 1, Division B, Section 11.6.1.2, Council strikes 11.6.1.2.(3) and replaces it with:

“3) The alternative compliance measures provided in Article 11.6.2.1. apply to *existing buildings* used for *arts and culture events* and do not apply to new work, which must conform to the requirements for new *construction* in other Parts of this By-law.”.

4. In Book 1, Division B, Section 11.6.2.1, Council strikes 11.6.2.1. including Table 11.6.2.1 and replaces it with:

“11.6.2.1. Alternative Compliance Measures

- 1) Where the occupancy of an existing building or portion of an existing building is classified as Group D offices, Group E retail, Group F Division 2 production or rehearsal studio, wholesale, warehouse, or factory, or Group F Division 2 artist studio without living accommodations, the major occupancy may be classified as a temporary Group A Division 2 major occupancy for an arts and culture event where
 - a) the *arts and culture event* is located in the *first storey* or the *storey* below the *first storey*,
 - b) the *floor area* containing the *arts and culture event* complies with the fire and life safety requirements of Sentences (2) and (3), and
 - c) an *Occupant Load* plan acceptable to the *Fire Chief* is obtained where an *arts and culture event* has an *occupant load* of more than 60 persons or where alcohol is served in connection with a Special Occasion Liquor License issued by the Province, or
 - d) an approved Security Assessment by the Vancouver Police Department is obtained where an *Arts and culture event* is a public event with an *occupant load* of more than 60 persons or where alcohol is served in connection with a Special Occasion Liquor License issued by the Province.

- 2) Floor area** used for an *arts and culture event* shall
- a) be constructed of concrete supported by solid ground without suspended slab, or certified by a *registered professional*, to be suitable for *assembly occupancy* and designed to a minimum specified uniformly distributed *live load* of 4.8 kPa,
 - b) include at least one *accessible* entrance conforming with Subsection 11.3.7.1.(1)(d) or (e),
 - c) be sprinklered in a basement used for an *arts and culture event*,
 - d) except as required by Clause 11.6.2.1(4)(b), be provided with a fire alarm or at least one designated *supervisory staff* posted at each required egress door, but in no case shall there be fewer than two *supervisory staff* for an *arts and culture event*, and
 - e) include emergency lighting
 - i) inside washrooms or, in the case of a single toilet room, immediately outside the entrance door and visible under the closed toilet room door, and
 - ii) in locations leading from the *arts and culture event* to the *street* as described in Sentence 3.2.7.3.(1).
- 3) Means of egress** from *floor areas* used for an *arts and culture event* shall include
- a) *exits* in compliance with the requirements of Section 3.4. with respect to size, travel distance, and number, as applicable to a Group A, Division 2 *major occupancy*, except that not less than
 - i) one *exit* is permitted where the *occupant load* does not exceed 60 persons, or
 - ii) two *exits* are permitted where the *occupant load* does not exceed 250 persons, and
 - b) *exit* signs installed over or adjacent to exits and in common paths of travel where the *occupant load* exceeds 60 persons.
- 4) Floor area** used for an *arts and culture event* which occurs more than 3 days per month or occurs with any other arts and culture event more than 3 days per month, shall
- a) include a fire separation to adjacent occupancies or uses
 - b) be served by a permanent or temporary fire alarm system, and
 - c) except where the floor area is *sprinklered*, draperies, fabrics or combustible hangings shall be flame retardant and other combustible finishes shall be of *fire-retardant-treated wood* or have a Flame-spread rating of not more than 150 (see Note A-11.6.2.1.(4)).
- 5) An arts and culture event** shall include portable fire extinguishers installed in accordance with the Fire By-law, with
- a) at least one extinguisher at the main entrance and at each egress door leading from the *arts and culture event floor area*, and
 - b) the approved fire emergency procedures and security plan with approved maximum *occupant load* posted beside each portable extinguisher at the main entrance and at each egress door leading from the *arts and culture event*.

6) Cooking which generates grease-laden vapour is not permitted at an *arts and culture event*, unless commercial cooking and ventilation equipment, installed under *permit* and conforming with Article 6.3.1.7., is used.”.

5. Council adds the following notes to the end of Part 11:

“Notes to Part 11

A-11.6.2.1.(4) Combustible Finishes – Combustible finishes have been associated with the rapid propagation of fire within assembly occupancies. Such materials will often be affixed to wall and ceiling surface, or loose hanging materials will be provided so as to improve the appearance of a space or reduce hard surface that reflect sound.

Sentence 11.6.2.1.(4) is intended to limit the type of built-in combustible wall and ceiling finishes and hanging materials (such as draperies or fabrics) to reduce the risk to occupants where the space is not protected by fire sprinklers, which can respond to a fire before rapid fire propagation occurs.

Loose fabric materials should be flame retardant, which is commonly demonstrable through a product listing identifying that it meets the requirements of CAN/ULC-S109. Built-in combustible finishes must demonstrate a flame-spread rating of not more than 150 which is readily demonstrable by listings confirming the product meets the requirement of CAN/ULC-S102, or they may be constructed with fire retardant-treated wood.”.

6. A decision by a court that any part of this By-law is illegal, void, or unenforceable severs that part from this By-law, and is not to affect the balance of this By-law.

7. This By-law is to come into force and take effect on the date of its enactment.

ENACTED by Council this _____ day of _____, 2023

Mayor

City Clerk