

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

2. Report Back – Amping up the Arts Event License Policy to Support Arts & Culture in Vancouver

Summary: Amend the Zoning and Development By-law, License By-law, Building By-law (VBBL), and Fire By-law to:

- Double the maximum number of permissible days per month for Arts Events from three to six days, subject to additional requirements for smoke separations between spaces, combustibility, egress and other safety measures;
- Enable Arts Event organizers to acquire a Special Event plan check to increase the maximum occupancy load beyond 250 people, with the exact load to be determined by VFRS, but requiring full compliance with the Fire By-law regarding the number of exits, fire alarm system, supervisory staff and washrooms; and
- Allow Arts Events to use adjoining outdoor space (e.g. parking lot) on private property under the same licence.

Applicant: General Manager of Development, Buildings and Licensing in consultation with General Managers of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability; Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services; and Arts, Culture and Community Services.

Referral: This relates to the report entitled “Report Back – Amping up the Arts Event License Policy to Support Arts & Culture in Vancouver”, dated September 12, 2023, (“Report”), referred to Public Hearing at the Council Meeting of September 12, 2023.

Recommended Approval: By the General Manager of Development, Buildings and Licensing in consultation with General Managers of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability; Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services; and Arts, Culture and Community Services:

- A. THAT Council approve, in principle, the application to amend the Zoning and Development By-law to change the name and definition of Arts and Culture Indoor Event to increase the maximum frequency to six days per month, and update regulations to permit use of adjoining outdoor space on private property, generally in accordance with Appendix A of the Report.

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Zoning and Development By-law, generally in accordance with Appendix A of the Report.

- B. THAT Council approve, in principle, amendments to the License By-law to change the name and definition of Arts and Culture Indoor Event including increasing maximum frequency to six days per month, update regulations on the number of supervisory staff

at the event, and set licence fees for Arts and Culture Events, generally as presented in Appendix B of the Report.

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the License By-law, generally in accordance with Appendix B of the Report.

- C. THAT Council approve, in principle, amendments to the Building By-law to change the name and definition of Arts and Culture Indoor Event and create new alternative compliance measures for events that occur more than three days per month and/or have occupant loads exceeding 250, generally in accordance with Appendix C of the Report.

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Building By-law, generally in accordance with Appendix C of the Report.

- D. THAT Council approve, in principle, amendments to the Fire By-law to change the name and definition of Arts and Culture Indoor Event, enable events with occupant loads of more than 250 people with a Special Event plan check, with the concession fee of \$150 per hour plus GST for the Special Event plan check, generally in accordance with Appendix D of the Report.

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Fire By-law, generally in accordance with Appendix D of the Report.

- E. THAT Recommendations A through D be adopted on the following conditions:
- (i) THAT passage of the above resolutions creates no legal rights for any person, or obligation on the part of the City and any expenditure of funds or incurring of costs is at the risk of the person making the expenditure or incurring the cost;
 - (ii) THAT any approval that may be granted following the public hearing shall not obligate the City to enact any by-laws including zoning by-laws; and
 - (iii) THAT the City and all its officials shall not in any way be limited or directed in the exercise of their authority or discretion, regardless of when they are called upon to exercise such authority or discretion.

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