



## COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: October 18, 2023  
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Meeting Date: November 14, 2023  
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TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services  
SUBJECT: 2023 Cultural Grants (Equity, Indigenous, Artists)

### Recommendations

- A. THAT Council, approve thirteen Cultural Equity grants totalling \$316,000 from the 2023 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 approve eight Cultural Indigenous grants totalling \$355,000 (\$280,000 from the 2023 Cultural Grants Operating Budget and \$75,000 from the 2023 ACCS operating budget) to the organizations listed in Appendix A and for the amounts recommended for each organization in the “Grant Recommendation” Column in Appendix A.
- C. THAT Council approve a grant of \$60,000 from the 2023 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 approve a grant of \$132,000 to Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association (CSHBA) from the 2023 ACCS Operating Budget for a two-year pilot project, supporting four Chinese Society buildings in Chinatown to develop a long-term stewardship strategy of their historic buildings.
- E. THAT Council delegate its authority to the City’s General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services (or their designate) to execute grant agreements that include terms and conditions that are consistent with this report, that satisfy the City’s General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services

(or their designate) and the City’s Director of Legal Services, and that disburse the grants described in this report.

- F. 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.
- G. 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 to D require 2/3 affirmative votes of all Council members under section 206(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

**Purpose and Executive Summary**

This report recommends a total of \$863,000 in grants to 23 cultural organizations to support the delivery of critical programs and services by Vancouver artists, cultural organizations, and local First Nations band councils, for the benefit of the cultural community and the general 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*
- Chinatown Cultural Heritage Assets Management Plan (CHAMP)
- The City’s Reconciliation Framework, and UNDRIP Strategy
- The City’s Equity Framework, and Accessibility Strategy

Table 1 shows a brief history of the City’s arts and culture support through grants with additional investments approved by Council to implement *Culture|Shift* goals.

*Table 1 - Cultural Grants Budget (Operating) with Culture|Shift Investments*

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Base*	\$12,074,020	\$12,315,500	\$12,561,810	\$13,297,545	\$13,657,547	\$13,657,547
C S		\$300,000**	\$475,000	\$275,000	\$300,000**	

\*Includes annual increases (2% each year except 0.6% in 2022 and 0% in 2023)

\*\*One-time: for Vancouver Music Fund from Innovation Fund 2018; for general C|S from operating funds 2022

**Council Authority/Previous Decisions**

- September 11, 2019: Council approved *Culture|Shift: Blanketing the City in Arts and Culture* and *Making Space for Arts and Culture*, and the *Vancouver Music Strategy*.
- January 25, 2022: Council approved and authorized staff to allocate funds through the Cultural Learning and Sharing Grants program, to provide rapid response for capacity

needs and opportunities arising from actions of the City's COVID-19 Economic and Business Recovery program.

- June 8, 2022: Council adopted in principle the Chinatown Cultural Heritage Assets Management Plan (CHAMP) – Strategic Framework.
- July 25, 2023: Council approved the 2024 Arts and Culture Grants Program Framework which outlines the policy, programs, adjudication process, and accountability requirements to support ongoing and emerging needs in the local arts and culture sector.

### **City Manager's Comments**

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

### **Context and Background**

The City's 10-year cultural plan, *Culture|Shift: Blanketing the City in Arts and Culture*, captures the needs and aspirations of thousands of Vancouverites who lent their experience and expertise to co-create an inclusive, ambitious vision for Vancouver's cultural fabric. Council's unanimous approval of *Culture|Shift* led to a major update to the City's policy, planning and programming for investing in local arts and culture. The Plan centres the voices of underrepresented artists and organizations through two key directions – Reconciliation and Cultural Equity and Accessibility – by centering Indigenous, Black people and people of colour, disabled, Deaf, and LGBTQ2+ in programs to advance these directions.

In July 2023, Council approved the Cultural Grants Program Framework, with updates creating efficiencies and better aligning with Council direction, guiding the City's arts and culture investments and planning into 2024.

### **Discussion**

Recommendations in this report implement key directions of *Culture|Shift, Making Space for Arts and Culture* and the *Chinatown Cultural Heritage Assets Management Plan* (CHAMP), the latter provisionally approved by Council in June 2022. This report also presents a report back on Cultural Learning and Sharing Grants allocated in 2023 (Appendix C).

### **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 key action of *Culture|Shift* to achieve greater equity in the City's support of the increasingly diverse arts and culture sector. These grants support core operations, and capacity building within the organization for artistic and cultural programming, and other needs to advance their mission. This is a low-barrier program, offering access to core operating support for equity-deserving artists and groups through a relational approach that honours and respects the deep knowledge held within the

organization and its people, and endeavours 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 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;
- They 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 renew a multiyear commitment to 13 organizations that support artists and participants in accessing programs and spaces that reflect their distinct communities. The grantees include, among others, Recorded Movement Society that produces F-O-R-M (Festival of Recorded Movement), a youth-led festival that highlights the body in motion through film and video works now in its 8th edition, and Chapel Sound that is a music industry cultural connector, sharing resources for a new generation of leadership through feminist archival practice and annual symposium gatherings. A full list of recommended grantees is in Appendix A.

Groups supported through this program who are elevating the voices of underrepresented and racialized artists and cultural workers can be seen here, in a video 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 - \$355,000 to 8 organizations (Appendix A)*

A dedicated Indigenous grants program was launched in 2019 to advance Reconciliation goals of *Culture|Shift* to increase investment and leadership opportunities for xʷməθkʷəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish) and səilwətaʔ (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. The low barrier program offers a more accessible process and reflects Indigenous self-determined ways. It sets groups up for greater success and with potential for a pathway to mainstream core funding programs, if desired.

Specifically, this program provides annual funding to xʷməθkʷəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish) and səilwətaʔ (Tsleil-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.

Funding will support many publicly accessible Indigenous-led events including Indigenous Fashion Week, an Elder and Matriarch in Residence at Carnegie Community Centre, traditional and contemporary Métis jigging dance performances, and contemporary Indigenous dance. This funding also supports critical self-determined projects led by the local First Nations Band Councils that are creating access to history, language and places for their communities and the public. As an example, the Squamish Nation is using the funds to support critical projects that are documenting and recording Squamish Nation elders and knowledge holders to share Squamish history, language, culture, heritage, and legends. Currently they are undertaking a video project to capture oral histories and teachings of their lands from hereditary chiefs and knowledge holders. These recordings will be held in their archives for current and future generations to access the rich history and stories of the Squamish people.

Further to the funding recommended to support the activities described above, the recommended grants include work to continue to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages.

The United Nations declared 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages. In response, Vancouver City Council made a motion to officially recognize 2019 as the Year of Indigenous Languages and directed staff to produce recommendations for City programs and services to support, revitalize, and promote local Indigenous languages while also ensuring Indigenous partners are resourced to meaningfully and collaboratively provide input on these recommendations.

In 2022 the City's UNDRIP Strategy was approved by Council and includes actions directly related to language such as, "expand supports to return the original languages to the land, through naming, grants for cultural programming, and public education on hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh."

Staff engaged with the three local Nations in 2021 and 2022 to learn more about their language priorities, and explore the role the City can take to support Indigenous language revitalization related to naming, signage, and visibility. The City has worked on renaming projects including:

- šxw̓ʷə̓nəq Xwtl'e7énk Square (formerly the Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza);
- šxw̓ʷə̓xən Xwtl'a7shn (formerly Queen Elizabeth Plaza); and
- and sθəqəlxenəm ts'exwts'áxwi7 (Rainbow Park).

While renaming projects have demonstrated the value of creating meaningful opportunities for the Nations to write hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh back onto the land, the local Nations maintain that City support for their own language revitalization is critical to their ability to participate in such sharing of their language in self-determined ways.

Considering that the priority for the local Nations is to support more language speakers, staff recommend that funds earmarked for Indigenous language revitalization be granted to the three local Nations to support self-determined language priorities. Therefore, staff recommend that \$25,000 for Indigenous language revitalization be added to their \$40,000 annual cultural grant for a total of \$65,000 to each local Nation in 2023.

*Recommendation C: Grant – \$60,000 - to The 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 xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (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-deserving 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 acting workshops for LGBTQ2S+ youth, cultural workshops with Indigenous and Latinx youth, and Indonesian batik workshops.

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

*Recommendation D: Grant to Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association (CSHBA) - \$132,000*

The Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association (CSHBA) is comprised of 11 Chinese Societies that own 12 heritage buildings located in Chinatown. CSHBA's mandate is to encourage and promote the revitalization of Chinatown through heritage building asset renewal. CSHBA is proposing to undertake a two-year pilot project to support four Chinese Society buildings in the development of a long-term stewardship strategy of their historic buildings. The project focuses first and foremost on the income-generating assets in Chinese Society buildings, most notably the retail storefronts, so that the Societies can focus on their cultural mission and mandates. The project entails assessing the building assets, developing a long-term vision for the Societies, streamline maintenance planning, capital funding planning, and creating a five-year asset management plan.

To date, the City has supported some of this work in an ad-hoc fashion through DTES Matching Capital Grants and the pilot Special Enterprise Program. Staff recommend approving a grant from the ACCS Programming for Chinatown funding at \$132,000 to support this work in a more coordinated and sustainable way.

### Financial Implications

The sources of funding for these recommendations are the 2023 Cultural Grants Operating and Capital Budget and the 2023 ACCS Operating budget as summarized in Table 2.

*Table 2 – 2023 Cultural Grants Budget (Operating & Capital)*

Rec	Program Grants Stream	2023 Budget	Previously Approved	Rec. in this Report	Balance
	Projects (CASC)	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000		\$0
	Cultural Learning/Sharing	\$200,420	\$200,420 <sup>1</sup>		\$0
	Operating – Institutions	\$3,880,080	\$3,880,080		\$0
	Operating – Annual	\$3,095,925	\$3,095,925		\$0
	Operating – Multiyear	\$1,670,700	\$1,670,700		\$0
	Theatre Rental	\$2,846,586	\$2,846,586		\$0
C	Individual Artists Fund	\$60,000		\$60,000	\$0
B	Indigenous	\$280,000		\$280,000	\$0
A	Equity & Accessibility	\$316,000		\$316,000	\$0
	Affordable Spaces	\$307,836	\$307,836		\$0
	<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>\$13,657,547</b>	<b>\$13,001,547</b>	<b>\$656,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
	Cultural Spaces (Small Grants, Infrastructure and Critical Assistance)	\$1,647,469	\$1,647,469 <sup>2</sup>		\$0
	Chinatown Cultural Infrastructure Grants	\$750,000	\$750,000		\$0
	<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>\$2,397,469</b>	<b>\$2,397,469</b>		<b>\$0</b>
	Chinese Cdn Museum BC	\$334,500	\$334,500		\$0
D	Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Assn.	\$132,000		\$132,000	
B	Indigenous Languages Funds	\$75,000		\$75,000	
	<b>Total ACCS Operating</b>	<b>\$541,500</b>	<b>\$334,500</b>	<b>\$207,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
	<b>TOTAL – All Grants</b>	<b>\$16,596,516</b>	<b>\$15,733,516</b>	<b>\$863,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Delegated authority – disbursed throughout the year with a report-back after disbursement

<sup>2</sup> Delegated authority to disburse Critical Assistance throughout the year as needed. It is reported out after disbursement. A total of \$90,719 in Critical Assistance has been disbursed from the 2023 budget. An additional \$19,017 from the 2024 budget.

### Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with the report’s recommendations.

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**APPENDIX A  
GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS**

	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Grant Recommendation</b>
<b>Recommendation A: Cultural Equity and Accessibility Grants</b>		
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
		<b>316,000</b>
<b>Recommendation B: Cultural Indigenous Grants</b>		
1	Carnegie Community Centre Association	20,000
2	Musqueam Indian Band**	65,000
3	SKwxwu7Mesh Uxxwumixw Squamish Nation**	65,000
4	Tsleil Waututh Nation**	65,000
5	BC Indigenous Housing Society dba Skwachàys**	42,500
6	O.Dela Arts Society**	30,000
7	All My Relations Indigenous Society**	37,500
8	Compaigni V'ni Dansi Society dba V'ni Dansi**	30,000
		<b>355,000</b>
<b>Recommendation C: Individual Artists Fund</b>		
1	The Art Starts in Schools Society	60,000
		<b>60,000</b>
<b>Recommendation D: Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association</b>		
1	Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association	132,000
		<b>132,000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>863,000</b>

\*\*These grants include the base grant plus a one-time top up or additional grant for 2023



**APPENDIX B  
METRICS**

**Table 1 – Grants Metrics**

<b>Grant Program</b>	<b># Grants Requested</b>	<b># Grants Recomm.</b>	<b>\$ Grants Requested</b>	<b>\$ Grants Recomm.</b>	<b>%</b>
Cultural Equity	13	13	\$316,000	\$316,000	100
Cultural Indigenous	8	8	\$355,000	\$355,000	100
Individual Artists	1	1	\$60,000	\$60,000	100
Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association (CSHBA)	1	1	\$132,000	\$132,000	100
Subtotal (Rec's in this report)	23	23	\$863,000	\$863,000	100
<i>Report-Back</i>					
Cultural Learning and Sharing	22	16	\$257,219	\$200,420	78
Subtotal	22	13	\$257,219	\$200,420	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>\$1,120,219</b>	<b>\$1,063,420</b>	<b>94</b>

## APPENDIX C

### Report Back – Cultural Learning and Sharing Grants 2023

This grant program launched in 2019 to implement a key action in *Culture|Shift* - to increase knowledge and share resources across the cultural sector, to increase leadership opportunities for equity artists and cultural leaders, and to support non-equity mandated or lead organizations to embed equity more deeply into operations, programming and services. The program provides up to \$20,000 to artists and cultural leaders working with non-profits and cultural organizations to access or deliver learning opportunities that will build and strengthen skills, knowledge, relationships and experience in order to enhance individual, organizational or sectoral practices. The program can fund artistic residencies, mentorships, gatherings, workshops, courses, research, planning and other self-determined learning opportunities. Council approved delegated authority to staff to allocate grants as per specific criteria and guidelines. This lowers barriers to accesses support that addresses time sensitive professional development needs in the sector.

<https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/learning-and-sharing-grant-program.aspx>

	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grant</b>
1	Dance//Novella Arts Society	EDI workshops led by Lisa Cooke Ravensbergen	\$13,600
2	Future Arts Network	Arts Leaders Lab	\$20,000
3	Future Leisure Performance Society	Support/learning cohort of dancers living with chronic illness	\$20,000
4	Kinesis Dance Society	Indigenous-led, strategic and transition planning, Board Diversity and Inclusion trainings	\$2,500
5	Little Mountain Gallery Community Arts Performance Association	JEDI Training and Strategic Planning	\$4,000
6	Muzewest Concerts Society	Executive Director leadership training	\$904
7	New Performance Works Society	Strategic Management Training Initiative For Independent BIPOC Dance Artists	\$20,000
8	Open Access Foundation for Arts & Culture	Organizational Development	\$10,000
9	Racial Equity Screen Office	National convening of racialized screen industry creatives	\$10,000
10	The Biting School	Mentorship with elika mojtabaei	\$15,000
11	The Frank Theatre Company	Arts Management Mentorship with Ada Yim	\$13,116
12	Vancouver Moving Theatre Society	9th Symposium - Reconciliation & Redress in the Arts	\$18,000
13	Vancouver Pride Society	Decolonization Training for Board and Staff	\$9,800

	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grant</b>
14	Vantage Point Strategies Society	Leadership Development Bursary Program for City of Vancouver Cultural Grantees	\$10,000
15	Vines Art Festival Society	Development and delivery of Ecosystems - Strengthening Artist Relations	\$20,000
16	VocalEye Descriptive Arts Society	Artist Residency	\$13,500
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$200,420</b>