



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON CITY FINANCE AND SERVICES

MAY 29, 2024

A meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Finance and Services was held on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at 9:38 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall. This Council meeting was convened in person and via electronic means as authorized by the Part 14 of the *Procedure By-law*.

PRESENT: Councillor Rebecca Bligh, Chair* (Leave of Absence – Civic Business – 9:30 am to 11 am)
Mayor Ken Sim*
Councillor Christine Boyle
Councillor Adriane Carr
Councillor Lisa Dominato* (Leave of Absence – Civic Business – 10 am to 11 am)
Councillor Pete Fry
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
Councillor Mike Klassen
Councillor Peter Meiszner
Councillor Brian Montague*
Councillor Lenny Zhou, Vice-Chair

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Paul Mochrie, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Lesley Matthews, Acting Deputy City Clerk
Cassia Nasralla, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Vice-Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh People. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

The Vice-Chair also recognized the immense contributions of the City of Vancouver's team members who work hard every day to help make our city an incredible place to live, work, and play.

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

MOVED by Councillor Carr
SECONDED by Councillor Meiszner

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council adopt Reports 2 and 4 on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Bligh absent for the vote)

REPORTS

1. 2025-2029 Budget Outlook May 22, 2024

Staff from Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management provided a presentation and, along with staff from Engineering Services, Vancouver Fire Rescue Services, Civic Engagement and Communications, and the City Manager, responded to questions.

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During questions to staff, it was

*MOVED by Councillor Boyle
SECONDED by Councillor Carr*

THAT under section 5.4(d) of the Procedure By-law, the Committee ask a second round of questions to staff.

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillors Bligh and Dominato absent for the vote)*

Subsequently, it was

*MOVED by Councillor Boyle
SECONDED by Councillor Carr*

THAT, under section 5.5 of the Procedure By-law, the Committee suspend the rules of section 5.4 to permit a third round of questions to staff.

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY
(Councillors Bligh and Dominato absent for the vote)*

* * * * *

MOVED by Mayor Sim
SECONDED by Councillor Bligh

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council receive for information the 2025-2029 Budget Outlook which outlines the City's projected Operating and Capital financial outlook based on current state service levels;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to develop the draft 2025 Operating Budget targeting a property tax increase no higher than 5.5%.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Boyle
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT the following be added to the end of the motion:

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to bring back scenarios of how the property tax increase could be reduced, with information about what the impacts under each scenario would be, for Council to consider as part of the budget process.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09997)

The amendment having carried, the Committee agreed to separate the vote on the components of the amended motion.

The motion was put with the "THAT" and "AND FURTHER THAT" having CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09998), and the "FURTHER THAT" having CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09999), with Councillors Boyle and Carr abstaining from the vote.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

THAT Council receive for information the 2025-2029 Budget Outlook which outlines the City's projected Operating and Capital financial outlook based on current state service levels;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to develop the draft 2025 Operating Budget targeting a property tax increase no higher than 5.5%;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to bring back scenarios of how the property tax increase could be reduced, with information about what the impacts under each scenario would be, for Council to consider as part of the budget process.

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At this point in the proceedings, Councillor Bligh assumed the Chair.

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**2. Adaptable Housing Design in the Building By-law
May 14, 2024**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve in principle, the general adoption, with such amendments as necessary to consider the timely delivery of housing and advance the goals of equity and inclusion, of the adaptable housing design provisions of Subsection 3.8.5. of the new 2024 BC Building Code as part of the next edition of the Building By-law.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to defer the implementation of new adaptable housing design provisions in the Building By-law until at least May 28, 2026, to provide developers, owners, and constructors with additional time to update their building designs and facilitate the amendment of in-stream projects, and for City Staff to evaluate the impacts of the new adaptable housing design provisions on the delivery of housing.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 10004)
(Councillor Bligh absent for the vote)

**3. Enabling Third-Party Investment in EV Charging Infrastructure on City Streets
May 15, 2024**

Staff from Planning, Urban Development and Sustainability responded to questions.

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During discussion, Chair Bligh relinquished the Chair to Vice-Chair Zhou to participate and provide comments and resumed the role of Chair prior to calling the vote on this item.

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MOVED by Councillor Meiszner
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council authorize, pursuant to Council's authority under subsection 291(g)(ii) of the *Vancouver Charter*, the General Manager of Engineering Services and the Director of Legal Services to negotiate, enter into and execute licence agreements (each a "Licence Agreement") with third-party entities in

accordance with the terms of a new program summarized in the Report dated May 15, 2024, entitled “Enabling Third-Party Investment in EV Charging Infrastructure on City Streets” to allow such third-parties to install and operate public EV charging infrastructure on City streets.

- B. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created or arise by virtue of Council's approval of A above unless and until a Licence Agreement is executed and delivered by the General Manager of Engineering Services and the Director of Legal Services on behalf of the City.
- C. THAT staff update Council on progress in two years' time regarding the impacts, challenges and successes related to enabling third-party entities to install EV charging to expand the public charging network on City streets.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10000)

**4. Theatre Rental Grant Allocations – Fall 2024 and Spring 2025
April 30, 2024**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve Theatre Rental Grants totaling \$1,275,294 from the 2024 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 45 organizations listed in Table A of Appendix A of the Report dated April 30, 2024, entitled “Theatre Rental Grant Allocations – Fall 2024 and Spring 2025”, for the amounts recommended in the “Sept 1 – Dec 31, 2024 Recommendation” column to allow organizations to use the Civic Theatres for the September 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024 season.
- B. THAT Council approve, in advance of the 2025 operating budget, Theatre Rental Grants totaling \$1,866,975 from the 2025 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 66 organizations listed in Table B of Appendix A of the Report dated April 30, 2024, entitled “Theatre Rental Grant Allocations – Fall 2024 and Spring 2025”, for the amounts recommended in the “Jan 1- Aug 31, 2025, Recommendation” column to allow organizations to use the Civic Theatres for the January 1, 2025 - August 31, 2025, season.
- C. THAT Council delegate its authority to execute grant agreements that include terms and conditions that are consistent with the Report dated April 30, 2024, entitled “Theatre Rental Grant Allocations – Fall 2024 and Spring 2025”, that satisfy the City’s Director of Legal Services, and that disburse the grants described in the above-noted report to the City’s General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services (or their designate).
- D. THAT, pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization listed in Appendix A of the Report dated April 30, 2024, entitled “Theatre Rental Grant Allocations – Fall 2024 and Spring 2025”, that is not otherwise a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency to be contributing to the culture of Vancouver.

- E. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of A to D above unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT AND A AND B
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY (Vote No. 10005)
(Councillor Bligh absent for the vote)

**5. 2024 Cultural Grants (CASC, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)
April 30, 2024**

The Committee heard from three speakers who spoke in support of the report recommendations.

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At this point in the meeting, it was

*MOVED by Councillor Fry
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou*

THAT the Committee extend the meeting past noon in order to complete Report 5.

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY*

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*MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor Meiszner*

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (CASC) grants totalling \$520,000 from the 2024 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 72 organizations listed in Appendix A of the Report dated April 30, 2024, entitled "2024 Cultural Grants (CASC, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)", for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Recomm" column.
- B. THAT Council approve Cultural Learning and Sharing (CLS) grants totalling \$100,920 to the 14 cultural organizations listed in Appendix B of the Report dated April 30, 2024, entitled "2024 Cultural Grants (CASC, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)", for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Recomm" column.
- C. THAT Council approve 10 Cultural Infrastructure Grants and 27 Small Grants for Cultural Spaces totalling \$1,416,500 from the 2024 Cultural Spaces Capital Budget (\$1,146,500), the 2024 Chinatown Cultural Partnership Program Capital Budget (\$250,000), and the 2024 Capital Budget for New Public Art (\$20,000) to the organizations listed in the tables titled "Cultural Infrastructure Grant",

"Cultural Infrastructure Grant – Chinatown Cultural Partnerships", "Cultural Small Grant", and "Cultural Small Grant – Public Art" in Appendix C of the Report dated April 30, 2024, entitled "2024 Cultural Grants (CASC, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)" for the amounts in the "Recomm" column.

- D. THAT Council approve 18 Affordable Spaces Grants totalling \$305,000 from the 2024 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the cultural organizations listed in the table titled "Cultural Affordable Spaces Grant" in Appendix C of the Report dated April 30, 2024, entitled "2024 Cultural Grants (CASC, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)" for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Recomm" column.
- E. THAT Council approve a Making Space for Arts and Culture priority grant of \$1,500,000 from the Vancouver Cultural Spaces Fund to the Dance Foundation to procure the Vancouver Dance Centre site as described in the table titled "Cultural Infrastructure Grant – Making Space for Arts and Culture Priority" in Appendix C of the Report dated April 30, 2024, entitled "2024 Cultural Grants (CASC, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)".
- F. THAT Council approve an increase to the 2023-2026 Capital Plan and the Multi-Year Capital Project Budget for the Cultural Spaces Grants program by \$1,500,000, to be funded from the Vancouver Cultural Spaces Fund. 2024 Annual Capital Expenditures will be managed within the existing Citywide 2024 Annual Capital Expenditure Budget.
- G. THAT Council authorize the Director of Real Estate Services to negotiate and execute extension agreements for terms of up to three years for the six lease or sublease agreements (collectively, the "Leases") under the Artist Studio Award program with the tenants (collectively, the "Tenants", and each a "Tenant") of City-owned or City-leased artist studios (collectively, the "Premises", and each a "Studio") as detailed in Appendix D of the Report dated April 30, 2024, entitled "2024 Cultural Grants (CASC, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)", with each extension in a form satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services and in consultation with the Deputy General Manager of Arts, Culture and Tourism.
- 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 approved by the Deputy General Manager of Arts, Culture and Tourism on the same terms and conditions as the original artist Tenant of the Studio.
- I. THAT Council delegate its authority to execute grant agreements that include terms and conditions that are consistent with the Report dated April 30, 2024, entitled "2024 Cultural Grants (CASC, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)", that satisfy the City's Director of Legal Services, and that disburse the grants described in the above-noted report to the City's General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services (or their designate).
- J. THAT pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization that is to receive a grant pursuant to A to I above, and that is not otherwise a registered charity with the Canada Revenue Agency to be contributing to the culture of the city.

- K. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of A to J above unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND A TO E, AND G
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY (Vote No. 10001)

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The Committee recessed at 12:06 pm and reconvened at 1:02 pm.

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**6. Cultural Tourism Events Fund
May 6, 2024**

Staff from Arts, Culture and Community Services along with external partners from Destination Vancouver provided a presentation and responded to questions.

The Committee heard from one speaker who spoke to other matters of the report recommendations.

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council endorse the Cultural Tourism Event Fund Partnership, as outlined in Appendix A of the Report dated May 6, 2024, entitled "Cultural Tourism Events Fund", as a framework to inform the City's work with cultural destination event tourism partners and to support the City's priorities related to cultural destination events.
- B. THAT, subject to the terms of a grant agreement to be settled between the City and Destination Vancouver (the "Grant Agreement"), Council authorize the City to contribute to and join the Cultural Tourism Event Fund Partnership which currently includes the following partners: Destination Vancouver, the Vancouver Hotel Destination Association, B.C. Pavilion Corporation.
- C. THAT subject to the terms of the Grant Agreement to be settled in B above, Council approve a grant of \$150,000, payable to Destination Vancouver as the City's contribution to the Cultural Tourism Event Fund Partnership which aligns with the City's culture, special events, and cultural vibrancy priorities as further described in the Report dated May 6, 2024, entitled "Cultural Tourism Events Fund". Source of funding for the grant is the City's 2024 Cultural Grant Operating Budget.

- D. THAT Council delegates its authority to negotiate, settle and execute the Grant Agreement, described in B above, as well as any ancillary agreements that may be required for the City to join the Cultural Tourism Event Fund Partnership, to the Deputy General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services or their designate in consultation with the City Solicitor.
- E. THAT no legal rights or obligations are created by the approval of the A through C above unless and until the Grant Agreement and any ancillary agreements deemed necessary by the Deputy General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services or their designate and the City Solicitor, are executed and delivered by the City, Destination Vancouver and the other parties to those agreements.
- F. THAT, pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council is authorized to award the grant to Destination Vancouver, referenced in C above, because it deems Destination Vancouver to be an organization contributing to the culture, beautification, health, or welfare of the City.
- G. THAT Council direct staff to review the progress and outcomes of the City's grant referenced in C above, as well as the progress, outcomes and next steps of the Cultural Tourism Events Fund Partnership, and report back to Council in 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND A TO C
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY (Vote No. 10006)
(Mayor Sim and Councillor Montague absent for the vote)

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Requests for Leaves of Absence

MOVED by Councillor Klassen
SECONDED by Councillor Meiszner

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Mayor Sim be granted a Leave of Absence for civic business from meetings on June 4, 2024, from 6 pm onwards, and June 5, 2024, from 3 pm onwards;

FURTHER THAT Councillor Boyle be granted a Leave of Absence for civic business from meetings on June 13, 2024, from 6 pm onwards;

AND FURTHER THAT Councillor Dominato be granted a Leave of Absence for civic business from meetings on June 4, 2024, from 5:30 pm onwards, and June 26, 2024, from 5:30 pm onwards.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10014)
(Mayor Sim and Councillor Montague absent for the vote)

2. Taking Action to Protect and Expand Arts and Culture Spaces

The Committee heard from five speakers who spoke in support of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Boyle

SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Arts and culture are important to Vancouver's vibrancy, identity, quality of life, economic prosperity, social cohesion, and sustainability;
2. The most critical challenge facing arts and culture is affordability of, and access to, space. New developments and rapidly rising industrial and commercial land values, coupled with many arts and culture spaces currently existing in older buildings within these zonings, means Vancouver is facing an imminent loss of affordable places for artists to live, work, and share their work. Since 2010 more than 400 artist production spaces, music and performing arts venues, and art galleries in Vancouver have closed;
3. The affordability crisis coupled with a complex regulatory environment can push arts and cultural activities underground or can make permitting and development of arts and culture spaces seem insurmountable for artists and non-profit organizations;
4. Arts and culture spaces sometimes require specific technical requirements (i.e. high ceilings to hang lighting grids, sprung floors, accessible seating, adequate ventilation) that may make finding and modifying space more difficult for artists to navigate;
5. In 2019, Vancouver City Council unanimously approved Making Space for Arts and Culture: Vancouver Cultural Infrastructure Plan, which "examines in depth the current state of Vancouver's arts and cultural spaces and lays out the City's long-term vision and commitment to address our acute space challenges." However, Vancouver continues to lose arts and culture spaces, and arts and culture organizations and artists continue to struggle to stay in Vancouver;
6. Within Making Space for Arts and Culture, goal three is focused on removing regulatory barriers. It recommends that the city, "Explore ways to help artists, nonprofits and event producers to navigate regulatory requirements in partnership with the Commercial Renovation Center, including support for independent professional advice such as building code consultants;"
7. Other cities, including Seattle and Austin, have connected dedicated development and permitting staff directly to arts and culture projects in order to help artists and arts organizations navigate restrictive regulations and processes; and

8. Making Space for Arts and Culture also outlined the success of a Cultural Land Trust model in other cities including Oakland, San Francisco, and London, to support community-led projects to secure arts and cultural spaces in perpetuity. 221A, an artist-run centre and cultural space provider based in Chinatown, has been working with local community partners to study and inform development of a Vancouver-based Cultural Land Trust. More information is available at: <https://culturallandtrust.ca>.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to report back by Q4 2024 with recommendations for fulfilling the action items outlined in the September 2019 report Making Space for Arts and Culture: Vancouver Cultural Infrastructure Plan, including:
 - a. Removing regulatory barriers and providing regulatory support for arts and culture groups navigating permitting, renovations, and development of their spaces.
 - b. Consideration of creating or re-focusing specific City of Vancouver staff positions within Development, Buildings and Licensing, with the unique knowledge and skills needed to support arts and culture groups in navigating permitting, renovations and development.
 - c. Exploring community amenity or zoning reform tools in industrial and commercial zoning areas that would result in additional creation or retention of arts and culture spaces.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to form an interdepartmental working group and report back with recommendations for how the City of Vancouver can support the development of an independent, not for profit Cultural Land Trust, taking into consideration the learning from 221A and other community partners, to protect and expand affordable arts and culture spaces in Vancouver in a financially and operationally sustainable way over the long term.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Klassen
SECONDED by Councillor Meiszner

THAT the following be added as C:

THAT Council direct staff to report back regarding options to update change-of-use conditions to allow timely and cost-effective adaptation of existing and underused office and warehouse spaces for use by arts and culture organizations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10007)
(Councillor Montague absent for the vote)

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10008), with Councillor Montague absent for the vote.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS

1. Arts and culture are important to Vancouver's vibrancy, identity, quality of life, economic prosperity, social cohesion, and sustainability;
2. The most critical challenge facing arts and culture is affordability of, and access to, space. New developments and rapidly rising industrial and commercial land values, coupled with many arts and culture spaces currently existing in older buildings within these zonings,¹ means Vancouver is facing an imminent loss of affordable places for artists to live, work, and share their work. Since 2010 more than 400 artist production spaces, music and performing arts venues, and art galleries in Vancouver have closed;²
3. The affordability crisis coupled with a complex regulatory environment can push arts and cultural activities underground or can make permitting and development of arts and culture spaces seem insurmountable for artists and non-profit organizations;
4. Arts and culture spaces sometimes require specific technical requirements (i.e. high ceilings to hang lighting grids, sprung floors, accessible seating, adequate ventilation) that may make finding and modifying space more difficult for artists to navigate;³
5. In 2019, Vancouver City Council unanimously approved Making Space for Arts and Culture: Vancouver Cultural Infrastructure Plan, which "examines in depth the current state of Vancouver's arts and cultural spaces and lays out the City's long-term vision and commitment to address our acute space challenges."⁴ However, Vancouver continues to lose arts and culture spaces, and arts and culture organizations and artists continue to struggle to stay in Vancouver;
6. Within Making Space for Arts and Culture, goal three is focused on removing regulatory barriers. It recommends that the city, "Explore ways to help artists, nonprofits and event producers to navigate regulatory requirements in partnership with the Commercial Renovation Center, including support for independent professional advice such as building code consultants;"⁵
7. Other cities, including Seattle⁶ and Austin⁷, have connected dedicated development and permitting staff directly to arts and culture projects in order to

¹ City of Vancouver. Making Space for Arts and Culture. 2019. Page 25. <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/making-space-for-arts-and-culture.pdf>

² Eastside Culture Crawl, 2019. <https://culturecrawl.ca/citywithoutart>

³ City of Vancouver. Making Space for Arts and Culture. 2019. Page 25.

⁴ City of Vancouver. Making Space for Arts and Culture. 2019. Page 1.

⁵ City of Vancouver. Making Space for Arts and Culture. 26.

⁶ City of Seattle. Cultural Space Report. 2017. Page 10.

<https://www.seattle.gov/documents/departments/arts/downloads/space/cultural%20space%20report.pdf>

help artists and arts organizations navigate restrictive regulations and processes;
and

8. Making Space for Arts and Culture also outlined the success of a Cultural Land Trust model in other cities including Oakland, San Francisco, and London, to support community-led projects to secure arts and cultural spaces in perpetuity.⁸ 221A, an artist-run centre and cultural space provider based in Chinatown, has been working with local community partners to study and inform development of a Vancouver-based Cultural Land Trust.⁹ More information is available at: <https://culturallandtrust.ca>.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to report back by Q4 2024 with recommendations for fulfilling the action items outlined in the September 2019 report Making Space for Arts and Culture: Vancouver Cultural Infrastructure Plan, including:
 - a. Removing regulatory barriers and providing regulatory support for arts and culture groups navigating permitting, renovations, and development of their spaces.
 - b. Consideration of creating or re-focusing specific City of Vancouver staff positions within Development, Buildings and Licensing, with the unique knowledge and skills needed to support arts and culture groups in navigating permitting, renovations and development.
 - c. Exploring community amenity or zoning reform tools in industrial and commercial zoning areas that would result in additional creation or retention of arts and culture spaces.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to form an interdepartmental working group and report back with recommendations for how the City of Vancouver can support the development of an independent, not for profit Cultural Land Trust, taking into consideration the learning from 221A and other community partners, to protect and expand affordable arts and culture spaces in Vancouver in a financially and operationally sustainable way over the long term.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to report back regarding options to update change-of-use conditions to allow timely and cost-effective adaptation of existing and underused office and warehouse spaces for use by arts and culture organizations.

⁷ "Music and Entertainment Division," austin.texas.gov, City of Austin, accessed May 2024.

<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/music-entertainment-division>

⁸ City of Vancouver. Making Space for Arts and Culture. 33

⁹ "Cultural Land Trust," 221A, accessed May 2024. <https://culturallandtrust.ca/>

3. Piloting Pod Hotels in Vancouver

The Committee heard from one speaker who spoke in support of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver has a severe lack of hotel rooms as identified in the September 2023 motion Addressing the Hotel Supply Gap to Support the Tourism Economy and Reduce Pressure on Local Housing;
2. Vancouver will be host to a number of upcoming large events including the Invictus Games in 2025 and FIFA in 2026;
3. Council's direction to prioritize new hotels has helped enable a number of hotels proposals that are currently in various stages of the City's zoning and approvals processes, but they will require years to complete rezoning, development approvals, building permit approvals, and construction;
4. Smaller room hotel accommodation (for example, "pod hotels") can meet the near-term (as well as longer-term) demand for affordable, high-quality, and well managed overnight accommodation as part of Vancouver's hotel room mix, and reduce the immense pressure for short-term rentals on Vancouver's limited rental housing stock;
5. The recent construction and completion of ~3 million square feet of new office space in the Metro Core during last five years, combined with changing workplace attendance post-pandemic, has created significant office space vacancy in the city particularly in older office buildings and commercial heritage buildings; and
6. All other British Columbia municipalities administer the British Columbia Building Code (BCBC), which permits the change-of-use from existing office to hotel use with only project-based building structural upgrades for life safety and seismic hazard due to similar level of risk, while the Vancouver Building By-Law (VBBL) uniquely currently requires cost-prohibitive full-building upgrades for the same change-of-use application.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council acknowledges the hotel shortage in Vancouver, and the potential for Pod Hotels to help fill the gap, support innovation, and provide a more affordable visitor accommodation option, leading up to and in time for FIFA 2026 and beyond.

- B. THAT Council acknowledges there is opportunity to more fully explore Vancouver's specific developmental and building regulatory requirements as they apply to Pod Hotels integration into existing commercial office building stock, particularly with respect to the scope of structural upgrading, while duly considering safety and accessibility, and directs staff to review existing regulations and report back on the findings of the review as soon as possible;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to include in the report back, an assessment of how enabling ongoing temporary use and occupancy as Pod Hotels in existing commercial office space might afford the Chief Building Officer with greater authority to facilitate the administration of such projects under the current set of regulatory requirements (as well as the ability to require periodic review and improvement), vs enabling permanent use or a permanent use pilot program through changes that would align the Vancouver Building By-law with the BC Building Code for required building upgrades for the adaptive re-use of existing office space.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10009)

4. Allocating Additional Funds to Accelerate Pedestrian Safety Measures

The Committee heard from four speakers who spoke in support of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Dominato

SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver has a stated goal to have zero traffic related fatalities and serious injuries – even one fatality is too many;
2. Although progress has been made toward zero traffic related fatalities and serious injuries, more work needs to be done given the fact that fatalities and serious injuries still occur;
3. In recent years, steps taken to improve transportation safety include – but are not limited to – launching the school slow street initiative, the pilot program for two new neighbourhood traffic management plans, and the recently adopted motion to explore lowering residential street speed limits to 30km/hr;
4. In June 2022, Council directed staff “to explore opportunities to double the funding allocation for the Transportation Safety Program as an amendment to the 2023-2026 Capital Plan: Final Plan, specifically for traffic signals, flashing beacons, and zebra markings at crossings, as part of the Capital Plan Mid-term Update in 2024;

5. The current 2023-2026 Capital Plan includes \$13.4M allocated for installation of 16 signals and 100+ other safety improvements;
6. Flashing beacons and zebra crossings serve as vital tools that enhance driver awareness of pedestrian rights of way, thereby fostering a safer environment for both drivers and pedestrians by reducing the risk of collisions;
7. In addition to safety measures such as flashing beacons and zebra markings, Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPIs) at major pedestrian crossings have proven to be effective in Vancouver and elsewhere. According to City staff, these can reduce vehicle-pedestrian crashes by an estimated 60%. The cost to install an LPI is approximately \$2,000;
8. There are currently 57 LPIs across the city and the City of Vancouver's traffic safety plans for 2024 include the installation of 15 new LPIs at a total cost of \$30K, mainly in the Downtown;
9. Given the relatively low cost to install LPIs, and the moderate safety impacts identified in a study completed by UBC, the potential exists to double or even triple the number of new LPIs in the 2023-2026 Capital Plan;
10. The toolkit of traffic calming measures, strategies, and safety improvements that contribute to pedestrian safety also includes daylighting intersections to increase visibility (particularly near schools, parks, and community centres), road narrowing (ranging from flexiposts and striped paint that define spaces through to more permanent concrete infrastructure), raised zebras crossings, curb bulges, restricting right turns on red lights, accessible pedestrian signals, adjusted walk times, as well as other mechanisms that provide visual cues and signals for drivers to reduce speed at pedestrian-driver interface points;
11. The selection of LPI locations and locations for new and upgraded traffic signals, flashing beacons, and zebra markings etc. depends on many factors such as collision history, traffic volumes, pedestrian volumes, community amenities nearby, and crosswalk visibility issues, among other factors; and
12. It is imperative that Council continue to prioritize pedestrian safety wherever and whenever possible and ensure that an appropriate level of funds and operational capacity are allocated toward traffic safety measures that have a high impact such as LPIs and flashing pedestrian beacons.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to report back as part of the Mid-term Capital Update in June 2024 with an operational plan to identify and then allocate additional capital funds and capacity to accelerate the installation of pedestrian safety measures across the city, particularly around schools, community centres, and parks;

FURTHER THAT this operational plan and funding allocation include:

- a specific target to increase the number of pedestrian controlled traffic signals and rapid flashing beacons as part of the 2023-2026 Capital Plan;

- a specific target to double or triple the number of leading pedestrian interval (LPI) crossings in the city as part of the 2023-2026 Capital Plan, including exploration of restricting right turns on red lights at LPI-enabled intersections; and
- an increase and prioritization of zebra markings and other safety improvements such as those noted in clause 10 of the preamble above.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Zhou
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the following be added between the “THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT” and the “FURTHER THAT”:

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to seek opportunities to review the timing of pedestrian walk signals at all intersections within 250 meters of schools to accelerate the updating of these signals to comply with the Transportation Association of Canada guidelines (1.0 m/s walking speed).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10010)

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10011).

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver has a stated goal to have zero traffic related fatalities and serious injuries – even one fatality is too many;
2. Although progress has been made toward zero traffic related fatalities and serious injuries, more work needs to be done given the fact that fatalities and serious injuries still occur;
3. In recent years, steps taken to improve transportation safety include – but are not limited to – launching the school slow street initiative, the pilot program for two new neighbourhood traffic management plans, and the recently adopted motion to explore lowering residential street speed limits to 30km/hr;
4. In June 2022, Council directed staff “to explore opportunities to double the funding allocation for the Transportation Safety Program as an amendment to the 2023-2026 Capital Plan: Final Plan, specifically for traffic signals, flashing beacons, and zebra markings at crossings, as part of the Capital Plan Mid-term Update in 2024;
5. The current 2023-2026 Capital Plan includes \$13.4M allocated for installation of 16 signals and 100+ other safety improvements;

6. Flashing beacons and zebra crossings serve as vital tools that enhance driver awareness of pedestrian rights of way, thereby fostering a safer environment for both drivers and pedestrians by reducing the risk of collisions;
7. In addition to safety measures such as flashing beacons and zebra markings, Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPIs) at major pedestrian crossings have proven to be effective in Vancouver and elsewhere. According to City staff, these can reduce vehicle-pedestrian crashes by an estimated 60%. The cost to install an LPI is approximately \$2,000;
8. There are currently 57 LPIs across the city and the City of Vancouver's traffic safety plans for 2024 include the installation of 15 new LPIs at a total cost of \$30K, mainly in the Downtown;
9. Given the relatively low cost to install LPIs, and the moderate safety impacts identified in a study completed by UBC, the potential exists to double or even triple the number of new LPIs in the 2023-2026 Capital Plan;
10. The toolkit of traffic calming measures, strategies, and safety improvements that contribute to pedestrian safety also includes daylighting intersections to increase visibility (particularly near schools, parks, and community centres), road narrowing (ranging from flexiposts and striped paint that define spaces through to more permanent concrete infrastructure), raised zebras crossings, curb bulges, restricting right turns on red lights, accessible pedestrian signals, adjusted walk times, as well as other mechanisms that provide visual cues and signals for drivers to reduce speed at pedestrian-driver interface points;
11. The selection of LPI locations and locations for new and upgraded traffic signals, flashing beacons, and zebra markings etc. depends on many factors such as collision history, traffic volumes, pedestrian volumes, community amenities nearby, and crosswalk visibility issues, among other factors; and
12. It is imperative that Council continue to prioritize pedestrian safety wherever and whenever possible and ensure that an appropriate level of funds and operational capacity are allocated toward traffic safety measures that have a high impact such as LPIs and flashing pedestrian beacons.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to report back as part of the Mid-term Capital Update in June 2024 with an operational plan to identify and then allocate additional capital funds and capacity to accelerate the installation of pedestrian safety measures across the city, particularly around schools, community centres, and parks;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to seek opportunities to review the timing of pedestrian walk signals at all intersections within 250 meters of schools to accelerate the updating of these signals to comply with the Transportation Association of Canada guidelines (1.0 m/s walking speed);

AND FURTHER THAT this operational plan and funding allocation include:

- a specific target to increase the number of pedestrian controlled traffic signals and rapid flashing beacons as part of the 2023-2026 Capital Plan;
- a specific target to double or triple the number of leading pedestrian interval (LPI) crossings in the city as part of the 2023-2026 Capital Plan, including exploration of restricting right turns on red lights at LPI-enabled intersections; and
- an increase and prioritization of zebra markings and other safety improvements such as those noted in clause 10 of the preamble above.

The Committee adjourned at 2:47 pm.

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**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON
CITY FINANCE AND SERVICES**

MAY 29, 2024

A meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at 2:48 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT:

Mayor Ken Sim
Councillor Rebecca Bligh
Councillor Christine Boyle
Councillor Adriane Carr
Councillor Lisa Dominato
Councillor Pete Fry
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
Councillor Mike Klassen
Councillor Peter Meiszner
Councillor Brian Montague
Councillor Lenny Zhou

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Paul Mochrie, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Lesley Matthews, Acting Deputy City Clerk
Cassia Nasralla, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services. Its items of business included:

Reports:

1. 2025-2029 Budget Outlook
2. Adaptable Housing Design in the Building By-law
3. Enabling Third-Party Investment in EV Charging Infrastructure on City Streets
4. Theatre Rental Grant Allocations – Fall 2024 and Spring 2025
5. 2024 Cultural Grants (CASC, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)
6. Cultural Tourism Events Fund

Council Members' Motions:

1. Requests for Leaves of Absence
2. Taking Action to Protect and Expand Arts and Culture Spaces

3. Piloting Pod Hotels in Vancouver
4. Allocating Additional Funds to Accelerate Pedestrian Safety Measures

MOVED by Councillor Meiszner
SECONDED by Councillor Klassen

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services at its meeting of May 29, 2024, as contained in Reports 1 through 6 and Council Members' Motions 1 through 4, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council adjourned at 2:50 pm.

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