



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: April 30, 2024
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: May 29, 2024
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
FROM: General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services
SUBJECT: 2024 Cultural Grants (CASC, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)

Recommendations

- 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 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 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 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 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.

- F. THAT, subject to the approval of Recommendation E, 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, 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 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).
- J. THAT pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization that is to receive a grant pursuant to the above Recommendations 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 these Recommendations unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.

Recommendations A, B, C, D, E require two-thirds affirmative votes of all Council members under section 206 (1) of the Vancouver Charter.

As the rent under the Leases for the Premises will be below the applicable market rate and includes rent-in-lieu of property taxes, Recommendation G constitutes a grant valued at approximately \$185,000 per annum based on the first year of the term of the Leases, and requires not less than two-thirds of an affirmative vote of all Council members per Section 206 (1)(j) of the Vancouver Charter

Purpose and Executive Summary

This report recommends a total of \$3,842,420 to 142 arts and cultural organizations. It also provides a report back on a previously disbursed total of \$66,508 to seven (7) cultural spaces through critical assistance grants. Lastly, the report recommends that Council authorize lease extensions of up to three years for the remaining six Tenants in Vancouver’s Artist Studio Award Program spaces.

The recommendations support the following relevant civic policy and strategic directions:

- *Culture|Shift* and *Making Space for Arts and Culture*
- The City's Reconciliation Framework, and UNDRIP Strategy
- The City's Equity Framework, and Accessibility Strategy
- Chinatown Cultural Heritage Assets Management Plan (CHAMP) Strategic Framework

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

On September 10, 2019, Council adopted Vancouver's 10-year culture plan [Culture|Shift: Blanketing the City in Arts and Culture](#) including [Making Space for Arts and Culture](#), and the *Vancouver Music Strategy*.

On November 16, 2021, Council approved (RTS 14658) nominal leases for seven artists for three-year terms for the work and live/work spaces that are part of the City of Vancouver's Artist Studio Award Program.

On July 25, 2023 (RTS 15658), Council approved the [2024 Arts and Culture Grants Program Framework](#) outlining policy alignment, programs, adjudication process, budget, and accountability requirements for Arts and Culture granting.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

The City of Vancouver supports the arts and culture sector through operating and capital grants to local arts and culture non-profit groups through various grant streams, including operations, projects, capacity-building, cultural spaces, and access to the civic theatres. The City's continued investment acknowledges the significant contribution of the creativity and resilience of artists, cultural workers, and organizations to a culturally vibrant community and local economy.

Discussion

Recommendations in this report include project-based grant programs, and cultural spaces capital and operating grants that support the local arts and cultural community. In line with best practices applied by funders across Canada, grant applications are assessed on an annual basis by a community peer assessment committee. These grants provide vital support for the creation, development and production of artistic work, cultural infrastructure projects, and support critical programs and services to culturally-specific communities, artists, and the public. The recommendations also support affordable studio spaces for six local artists.

Grant Recommendations

Recommendation A: Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (CASC) Grants - \$520,000 to 72 organizations (Appendix A)

Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (CASC) is a key grant program for project-based funding in Vancouver's arts and culture sector. CASC is often the first opportunity for new groups to receive support; many recurring arts-based events and activities that comprise Vancouver's rich cultural fabric are regular funding recipients. Grants of up to \$15,000 are available and there are two intakes each year.

CASC is open to non-profit groups offering arts and culture programming and advances the goals of *Culture|Shift* by increasing the representation of equity-deserving applicants to Arts, Culture and Tourism (ACT) funding programs. The support of artist-centred and artist-led programs is a central value of the CASC program; individual equity-deserving artists and collectives are able to apply in partnership with non-profit organizations.

CASC is assessed by committees comprised of community and staff. Committee members bring a wide range of lived and professional experience in multiple disciplines and with various communities, and provide intersectional, artistic and administrative perspectives and expertise to the process. Committee members for this intake of CASC, the second of 2024, were Jules André-Brown, Kaya Kurz, Anjela Magpantay, Maurice Nahanee, Jarin Schexnider, and Sophia Wolfe. All committee members completed conflict of interest forms and removed themselves from discussion and decision-making if conflicts were declared. Staff sincerely thank all peer community members for their thoughtful consideration and generosity throughout the assessment process.

In this report, 72 of 109 applications are recommended for funding; the requests are \$1,392,425 and recommended grants are \$520,000. Approval of these grants will support hundreds of artists from equity-deserving communities and many creative projects, festivals and celebrations that make Vancouver a thriving, vibrant place to live. As requests typically exceed available funding, not all projects can be recommended. Program metrics are at the end of Appendix A. Detailed program information, including assessment criteria is at:

<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/casc-grant-information-guide.pdf>

Recommendation B: Cultural Learning and Sharing (CLS) Grants - \$100,920 to 14 organizations (Appendix B)

Cultural Learning and Sharing (CLS) grants provide up to \$20,000 to non-profit arts and cultural organizations to access or deliver learning opportunities that will build and strengthen skills, knowledge, relationships, and experience to enhance organizational, sectoral or individual arts and leadership practices. The program prioritizes artists and cultural leaders who identify as Indigenous, Black or of African descent, People of Colour, Deaf/deaf, Hard of Hearing, living with a disability/disabled people, LGBTQ2+ and gender diverse or artist and cultural organizations and leaders that wish to build pathways to becoming more equitable.

In this report, 14 of 23 CLS applications are recommended for funding; the requests are \$354,818 and recommended grants are \$100,920. The non-profit organizations in this report were submitted for review at the second of three intake dates for CLS in 2024. With a 171% rate of increase in applications in 2024 since 2022, the first two intakes were larger than prior years and the annual program funds have been depleted, and a third cut off date in September 2024

will not go forward. Summary of recommendations are at the end of Appendix B. Program Information: <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/learning-and-sharing-grant-program.aspx>

Recommendations C, D, E, G, Cultural Spaces (Appendix C)

Vancouver continues to experience significant loss of affordable places for artists to live, work, and share their work. Cultural Spaces Grants advance Council's ten-year cultural spaces plan, *Making Space for Arts and Culture* to support access to affordable cultural spaces and to strengthen:

- x^wməθk^{wə}y əm, Skwxwú7mesh, səliiwətał and urban Indigenous self-determined cultural spaces, cultural redress, equity, diversity and accessibility
- a robust and diverse ecology of cultural spaces; including increasing community owned and operated cultural spaces
- greening upgrades and sustainability

Capital grants, recommendations C and E, are reviewed by staff, professionals such as architects and community representatives (community representatives were Kristin Cheung, Jonathan Ryder, Lili Vieira de Carvalho, and David Scott). Affordable Spaces, as a relatively new program, is reviewed by staff with a focus on eligibility and need. For more program information see <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/cultural-spaces-grant-program.aspx>

Recommendation C Cultural Infrastructure Grants (capital) - \$749,500 to 8 Organizations
Up to \$250,000 for non-profit arts and cultural organizations to plan, research, buy, repair, renovate and improve Vancouver's cultural spaces with the goal of strengthening the arts and culture community's ability to develop, and sustainably operate, affordable space.

- 9 submissions requesting \$1,449,217
- Staff recommend 8 grants totalling \$749,500
- 33% of submissions from non-profits operating City-owned spaces; 67% from non-profits operating in private or community owned spaces

Recommendation C Small Grants for Cultural Spaces (capital) - \$417,000 to 27 Organizations
Up to \$25,000 to non-profit organizations to support timely space-related capital projects including planning, research, accessibility upgrades, and/or mentorships. Special consideration given to organizations, communities or areas of practice underrepresented in existing support or facing significant barriers.

- 36 submissions requesting \$753,233, 25% of submissions were first-time applicants
- Staff recommend 26 cultural spaces grants totalling \$397,000
- Staff recommend a public art grant of \$20,000 for a ceiling feature highlighting local First Nation's weaving design in two FLEET mobile artist studios
- 9 recommended projects for space planning; 1 space mentorship; 1 public art, and 16 for small capital improvements

Recommendation C: Chinatown Cultural Partnerships Grants – \$250,000 to two organizations
The Chinatown Cultural Partnership funding provides additional support to cultural spaces in Chinatown. Staff recommend:

- BCA Society - Upgrades to increase artist studios spaces at Sun Wah building

- Wongs' Benevolent Association - Improvements to vacant space in the Hon Hsing building, which supports activities such as the Lion and Dragon dance and Chinese classical music
- Staff will continue to support applicants not recommended in this report, in future funding opportunities

Recommendation D: Affordable Spaces Grants (operating) - \$305,000 to 18 Organizations

An operational grant stream providing up to \$40,000 towards facility operating costs to support non-profit space operators who provide subsidized affordable space for professional artists and cultural organizations. 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.

- 19 submissions received requesting \$574,000
- Staff recommend 18 grants totalling \$305,000
- Supporting 135,322 square feet of cultural space for over 1,183 artists

Recommendation E: Making Space for Arts and Culture Extraordinary Grant Requests

The Dance Foundation

The Dance Foundation is the owner of Scotiabank Dance Centre (the Dance Centre) at the corner of Davie and Granville Street. The Dance Centre, opened in 2001, is an important, unique and exceptional purpose-built, shared use dance hub on Granville Street. It is one of a few of non-profit owned and run cultural spaces in Vancouver. The 32,000 square foot, purpose-built dance centre, includes four rehearsal spaces, and a 200-seat black box theatre. The Dance Centre hosts rehearsals, residencies, classes, performances, and events, with 87,000 visits annually, and providing affordable rentals to over 250 artists.

The building is on land owned by Scotiabank, entrusted to the Foundation under a long-term lease expiring in 2029. The owner has indicated it will not extend the land lease and has provided to the Foundation an offer to purchase the land at a set price that expires in September this year. The Foundation is working to raise funds to procure the land through private and public fundraising. Ideally, the owner will consider the original intent of the project and contemplate a significant donation. Staff are concurrently working on the Granville Street Planning process and seeking ways to secure retention of critical cultural spaces such as the Dance Centre, as part of that plan.

Staff recommend an extraordinary grant of \$1.5M to support the Dance Foundation in securing and procuring the site, conditional on securing the required funding, review and confirmation of the sale (for example funds would be disbursed in trust as part of sale), and an addition of community use agreement on title ensuring the use of the site as a non-profit dance centre, providing affordable spaces for artists and production and administration space for local non-profit dance organizations for the benefit of the citizens of Vancouver in perpetuity. Should a donation be secured from the current landowner, the grant would not be disbursed and there would be no financial impact for the City. The Foundation will continue to operate and maintain the Dance Centre.

The Firehall Theatre

The Firehall Theatre Society submitted an extraordinary request for support for the critical renewal of the City-owned Firehall Theatre in the DTES. At the forefront of disability, equity and Indigenous programming since inception 40 years ago, the building has no physical accessibility in most of the building, does not meet basic Canadian Actor's Equity standards and has been in urgent need of renewal for over a decade. Given that the renewal of the building is a City responsibility, funding to complete the project is under review as part of the mid-term capital update. Staff are providing this request as information for Council only. The community reviewers were very supportive of the request (see Appendix E for more details).

2023/24 Critical Assistance for Cultural Spaces Report Out Only (Appendix C)

This capital grant stream provides up to \$25,000 towards repairs or upgrade costs to non-profit cultural spaces facing critical situations including facility life-safety issues to ensure access to safe, legal, and fully functioning cultural spaces. Staff review requests and are authorized by Council to allocate these grants throughout the year. In 2023/24 7 grants totalling \$66,508 have been disbursed under this authorization.

Recommendations G - 6 Artist Studio Award Program Leases (Appendix D)

Since 1995, the Artist Studio Award Program has awarded studios at below-market rates to professional Vancouver-based artists recognized by their peers and eligible for affordable housing, working in any artistic discipline for terms of approximately three years. This program aims to reduce financial barriers for artists and supports the development of their cultural and art practice at a critical point in their career.

In 2021, Council approved (RTS 14658) leases for the 2022 to 2025 term and the studios were dedicated to professional Vancouver-based artists who are Indigenous and/or racialized with a priority for eligible Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh artists. Staff are recommending extending the six leases (four live/work and two work only) up to three years for the current cohort, to provide time to review and improve the current program, to access and plan for any required renewal and improvements required for the studios (some of which are almost 30 years old), as well as to provide stability for the existing tenants. The value of the studio spaces and in-kind grant is estimated at \$185,000 per year.

Financial Implications

The sources of funding for these recommendations are the 2024 Cultural Grants Operating & Capital Budget as summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 – 2024 Cultural Grants Budget (Operating & Capital)

Rec	Program Grants Stream	2024 Budget	Previously Approved	Rec. in this Report	Balance
A	Projects (CASC)	\$1,020,000	\$500,000	\$520,000	\$0
B	Cultural Learning/Sharing	\$200,420	\$99,500	\$100,920	\$0
	Operating – Institutions	\$3,842,080	\$3,842,080		\$0
	Operating – Annual	\$2,071,725	\$2,071,725		\$0
	Operating – Multiyear	\$2,752,900	\$2,752,900		\$0
	Theatre Rental	\$2,953,731	\$1,830,195		\$1,123,536 ¹
	Individual Artists Fund	\$60,000			\$60,000
	Indigenous	\$280,000			\$280,000
	Equity & Accessibility	\$340,264			\$340,264
	Special Events Fund (NEW)	\$150,000			\$150,000
D	Affordable Spaces	\$329,116		\$305,000	\$24,116
	Total Operating	\$14,000,236	\$11,096,400	\$925,920	\$1,977,916
C	Cultural Infrastructure	\$749,500 ²		\$749,500	\$0
C	Small Cultural Spaces	\$400,500 ²		\$397,000	\$3,500
C	Chinatown Partnerships	\$250,000		\$250,000	\$0
C	Public Art	\$20,000		\$20,000	\$0
E	Making Space	\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000	\$0
N/A	Critical Assistance Report Out Only	\$66,508	\$66,508	\$0	\$0
	Total Capital	\$2,986,508		\$2,916,500	3,500
	TOTAL – All Grants	\$16,986,744	\$11,162,908	\$3,842,420	\$1,981,416

1 Allocation of balance of Theatre Rental funds to be recommended on May 29, 2024 in RTS 16264

2. Total 2024 Cultural Spaces Infrastructure Budget was \$1,150,000 and is used to fund Cultural Infrastructure (\$749,500), Small Cultural Spaces (\$397,000).

Legal Implications

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

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APPENDIX A

COMMUNITIES AND ARTISTS SHIFTING CULTURE (CASC) GRANTS

Communities and Artists Shifting Culture Grant				
	Applicant	Project Title	Request	Recomm
1	240 Northern Arts Society^	Day of Percussion 2024	4,500	0
2	African Descent Society British Columbia	African Descent Festival (2024)	15,000	0
3	AIRS Program Society	In/between: Who are we between the Sound and the Silence?	12,084	12,000
4	Amexem Roots Rock Reggae Culture Society	Vancity Roots & Culture Experience Festival & Concert Series	15,000	10,000
5	Aphotic Theatre Society	Another Birth	15,000	12,500
6	Arts Umbrella Association	Knowledge-Sharing: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	15,000	0
7	Asian Canadian Studies Society	Japanese Canadian Legacy Series Talk: Louise Noguchi	10,000	6,000
8	Asian Environmental Association^^	Activate Chinatown Together with Arts and Culture	15,000	7,500
9	Asian-Canadian Special Events Association	2024 TAIWANfest Vancouver	15,000	5,000
10	BECOMING-CHIMERA ARTS SOCIETY	Digital Strategy for Virtual Live Art	10,000	0
11	BLACK BLOCK ASSOCIATION	Black Block Party	15,000	10,000
12	Blackout Art Society	STAND Festival	15,000	7,000
13	Blueridge Chamber Music Society*	Blueridge Chamber Music Festival 2024	12,000	10,000
14	Bonus Stage Talent Guild^	Beeps 'n Bops Concert Series	10,964	0
15	Canada International Arts & Music Society^	Vancouver International Music Festival 2024	15,000	0
16	Centre d'Integration pour Immigrants Africains - Centre of Integration for African Immigrants	Black History Market & Cultural Showcase	12,000	2,500
17	Chinatown Celebration Society	Fire Dragon Festival	15,000	7,000
18	Chinese Canadian Museum Society of British Columbia	Chinese Canadian Museum (CCM) School Room - Video Podcast Project	15,000	6,000
19	Company 605 Dance Society^^	Here For Now vol. 4	9,000	5,000
20	Comunidad Mexicana en Vancouver Services Society^	Fiesta Mexicana 2024	15,000	0

Communities and Artists Shifting Culture Grant				
	Applicant	Project Title	Request	Recomm
21	Congregation Beth Israel^	BI Fall Fest Celebrating Community, Music, and Sustainability	12,000	0
22	Connec Tra Society^	ConnecTra Society Creative Arts Program	5,000	0
23	Creative Cultural Collaborations Society	Big Print Project - Paueru Gai Festival 2025	15,000	7,500
24	Currently Arts Society	COLLIDE Festival	15,000	12,500
25	Dance//Novella Arts Society	"STANCE" Development + Mentorship Project	7,000	0
26	Disability Signal Association	So, What Colour Do you Have?	15,000	5,000
27	Downtown South Gathering Place Community Centre Association	Festival of Hallows	15,000	10,000
28	Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret Society	Parade of Lost Souls 2024	15,000	7,000
29	East Vancouver Community Music School	Equal Measure	3,500	0
30	FESTIVAL AFRICAN HERITAGE MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY*	AHFOMAD Festival 2024	15,000	8,000
31	FOLK STAR ARTS ACADEMY SOCIETY	FolkLore Festival 2024	10,000	0
32	Future Arts Network Society	BIPOC Artist Residency Space & Group Exhibition at BCA.	15,000	5,000
33	Geniuettes Theatre Society^	The Guila Bustabo Project Development Workshop	11,400	0
34	GREAT LAKES NETWORKING SOCIETY OF BC	NYEGE NYEGE AFRO FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL (Formally, Harambeecover Festival)	15,000	6,000
35	Greater Vancouver Society to Bridge Arts and Community	Poems from the Kitchen: Community Building Through Food and Poetry	13,000	5,500
36	Historic Joy Kogawa House Society	Music, Dance, and Spoken-Word Performance of "Naomi's Tree"	10,000	4,000
37	Holy Crow Arts Society	Keepers of the Salish Sea	15,000	8,500
38	Hope in Shadows Society	"The Shift": Megaphone's Peer Newsroom and Community Writing Workshops	15,000	0
39	Indige-Girl Comedy Society^	IndigE-girl Comedy and Empowerment Training	10,000	5,000
40	Inter/Mediate Arts and Education Society	Inter/Mediate INTERFACE Media Arts Workshop Festival	12,000	5,000
41	Italian Cultural Centre Society	FIRE: A Celebration of Destruction & Creation with the SSBC	14,869	7,000

Communities and Artists Shifting Culture Grant				
	Applicant	Project Title	Request	Recomm
42	Italian Day Festival Society	Italian Day on The Drive	15,000	0
43	Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver	2025 JCC Jewish Book Festival	8,000	4,000
44	Kathara Pilipino Indigenous Arts Collective Society	Kapwa Arts	15,000	7,500
45	KCH Collective^	Kamayan Fest 2024	15,000	10,000
46	Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture^^*	'More Beat Drop than Burial Hymn': An Intergenerational Poetry Series	15,000	4,500
47	Kinesis Dance Society	Generations	9,500	0
48	Kitsilano Showboat Society	Kitsilano Showboat 2024	15,000	0
49	Kleine Compagnie Theatre Society^	Creation Residency for PETITE ONDINE: An Object Theatre Show.	7,000	0
50	Leaky Heaven Performance Society	Slip Slap Trip Whack	15,000	7,500
51	Leave Out Violence (LOVE) Society BC	Land-based Art LOVE Project	15,000	0
52	Love Intersections Society	Mimesis Medicines: Storytelling Through Food	15,000	6,000
53	Lumiere Festival Vancouver Society	Lumiere Festival 2024	15,000	0
54	Müzewest Concerts Society	Hindustani Music Workshop and Raagaverse performs live at Muzewest Concerts.	7,500	6,000
55	National Pilipino Canadian Cultural Centre Society (NPC3)	SAPIN-SAPIN: ARTS FESTIVAL OF FILIPINO DIASPORA'S LAYERED AFFECTIVE ARCHIVES	15,000	0
56	ODD MERIDIAN ARTS SOCIETY^^	aka's 2024–2025 season	13,200	13,000
57	Opera Lirica Society^	Concert Series - Heritage Salon Socials	8,000	6,000
58	Opera Unbound^	The Fox—A New Chamber Opera	15,000	0
59	Other Sights for Artists' Projects Association	FLEET Radio: Care/flow	10,500	0
60	Pandora's Collective Outreach Society	Free Verse	15,000	6,000
61	PERETZ CENTRE FOR SECULAR JEWISH CULTURE	Reimagining an Yiddish Theatre play: A Community Co-Creation Project	14,000	0
62	Posabilities Association of British Columbia	posAbilities' 20th Annual INCLUSION Art Show & Sale	13,500	0
63	Promethean Theatre Society	Presentation of Femme-Led Theatre Festival	15,000	5,000
64	PTC Playwrights Theatre Centre^^	God's A Drag - Fringe Presentation 2024	15,000	8,000

Communities and Artists Shifting Culture Grant				
	Applicant	Project Title	Request	Recomm
65	Publik Secrets Art Society	Collaborative performance with Gamelan Bike Bike and Srikandi Indonesia Dance	6,144	6,000
66	Radix Theatre Society^^	Monitor	15,000	5,000
67	Raven Theatre Performance Society	On Native Land - Workshop Production	15,000	8,000
68	Reel Causes Society	Art and Action Series	6,000	6,000
69	Rungh Cultural Society	Local Colour Protests against Van Art Gallery 1990s-2020s	15,000	0
70	Sad Magazine Publishing Society	SAD Magazine 2024 Operations	15,000	6,000
71	Screaming Weenie Productions dba the frank theatre company^^	Karajokee (Workshop + Workshop Presentation)	19,425	7,000
72	Sky Theatre Group Society	A Smoke Behind The Rope	15,000	6,000
73	SMI Film Society	The Interceptors: Community Engagement through Impact Screenings and Dialogues	10,800	2,500
74	Solid State Community Society^^	Nuestros Colores/Our Colours	11,250	11,000
75	Some Assembly Arts Society	Engaging with Intention	14,000	14,000
76	stage to page performance society^	Pho-miglia (Working title, previously, Notes on a Bowl of Soup)	15,000	5,000
77	Strathcona Spatial Sound Society	MOTHER CLOUD 2025	15,000	12,000
78	TAFF ART SOCIETY	Three Acts of a Woman	15,000	0
79	The Biting School Society	Ramping into the Unknown	12,105	5,000
80	The Community Arts Council of Vancouver^^	Neurodivergent Artist Collective Studio and Exhibition Project	7,750	7,000
81	The I.E. Artspeak Gallery Society^^	AFROQUEER YVR: Vancouver's Black Pride Party	15,000	13,500
82	The James Black Gallery Association	Hobby Hangouts: learning from the past for the future	9,000	9,000
83	The Kettle Friendship Society	The Kettle's Art Against Stigma	8,000	0
84	The Response Dance Society	PLUNGE, paid mentorship project in creation and performance for youth	11,300	0
85	The Search Party Theatre Company Society	Dance Nation	15,000	0
86	The Society of We Are Canadians Too	2024 Jade Music Fest	15,000	0
87	The Standing Wave Society	Compocon 2024	10,000	7,000
88	The Vancouver East Cultural Centre^^	EI Mashup: Hybrid Creative Workshop Series for Latinx Youth (13-18)	15,000	10,000

Communities and Artists Shifting Culture Grant				
	Applicant	Project Title	Request	Recomm
89	The Vancouver Horror Show Film Festival Society	Indigenous Voices at the Vancouver Horror Show Film Festival	10,000	6,500
90	THE VANCOUVER IMPROV CENTRE SOCIETY	THE HEAT	10,000	0
91	Theatre Replacement Society ^{^^}	Comedy Special	15,000	5,000
92	Time Will Tell Arts Society	African Chamber Music: The Common String	9,048	8,500
93	Turkish-Canadian Society	Turkish Tunes 7	15,000	5,000
94	UNIT/PITT: Society for Art and Critical Awareness ^{^^}	XINEMA Garden Film Programming Residency	15,000	0
95	United Filipino Canadian Associations in BC ^{^*}	Pista Ng Bayan	15,000	4,000
96	Urban Ink Production Society ^{^^}	Burnt Cork Workshop	15,000	5,500
97	Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre ^{^^}	workshop with collaborators for Dream Machine	15,000	8,000
98	Vancouver Black Film Festival Society	2024 Vancouver International Black Film Festival - 4th Edition	15,000	0
99	Vancouver Chinatown Foundation for Community Revitalization [*]	Light Up Chinatown: Community-Engaged Arts for Youth and Families	15,000	6,000
100	Vancouver Dyke March and Festival Society	2024 Vancouver Dyke March and Festival	6,500	6,500
101	Vancouver Improv Festival Society	Vancouver Improv Festival	8,000	8,000
102	Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre Society ^{^^}	The Alchemist Heart - A multimedia exhibition by Dafne Blanco-Sarlay	9,500	0
103	Vancouver Pride Society	Vancouver Pride Summer Celebrations (Canada Pride 2024)	15,000	8,000
104	Vetta Chamber Music Society	Connecting Cultures and Finding Our Stories: Reconciliation and Mentorship	15,000	8,000
105	Visible Art Society ^{^^}	Gwich'in stories from the Arctic Circle Screening Program	13,586	0
106	West Coast Feminist Literary Magazine Society ^{^^}	Unbound Reading Series	5,500	5,500
107	What Lab Society of Arts	Exquisite Pressure 2024-2025	14,000	10,000
108	Yarilo Contemporary Music Society	"To Hope and Back"	15,000	0
109	Yarrow Intergenerational Society for Justice	Cookbook Publication: A Yarrow Archival Project	15,000	5,500
		Total	1,392,425	520,000

[^]New applicants ^{*}Denotes grants with conditions

^{^^}Sponsored applications for individual artists/collectives

CASC supports three categories of activities: artistic creation/production; festivals, arts components of celebrations and parades; and community-engaged arts practice. Included in these categories are projects from all artistic disciplines, in various stages of development, that take place in neighbourhoods across Vancouver.

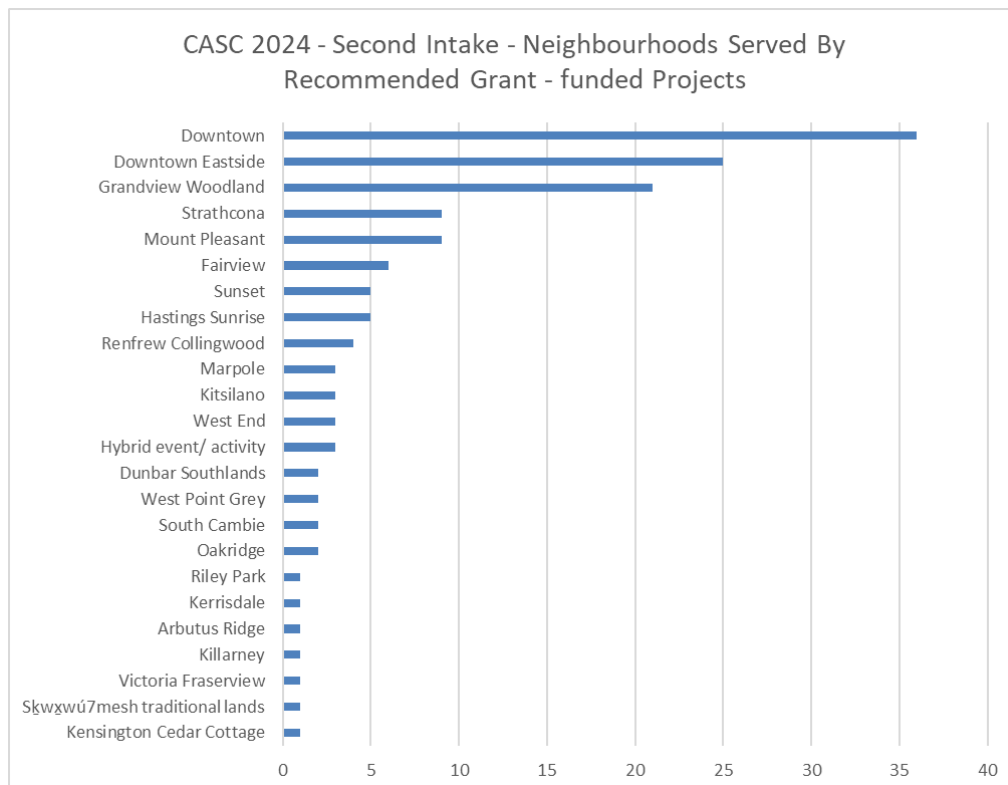
The notes below highlight some relevant data about CASC second intake grants:

- 109 applicants, 72 recommended grants by three assessment committees.
- Total funding requested: \$1,392,425; total funding recommended: \$520,000.
- Average recommended grant: \$7,289; highest grant: \$14,000; lowest grant: \$2,500; median grant: \$7,000; and most common grant: \$6,000.
- First-time applicants had a 38% success rate (five of 13 recommended for funding).
- Sponsored artists or artist collectives had a very strong (83%) success rate (15 of 18 applicants recommended for funding).
- The majority of recommended applications are for performing arts: music, dance, theatre (40%); visual arts, film, and digital media (15%); community arts/social practice (11%); multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary (11%); and cultural heritage (9%) projects.

Common reasons for not recommending a grant include:

- Less demonstrated need for additional public sector support compared to other groups
- Insufficient alignment of project with program goals and criteria
- Lack of key information to understand artistic and community impact
- Limited information on financial and human resources to ensure the successful realization of the project

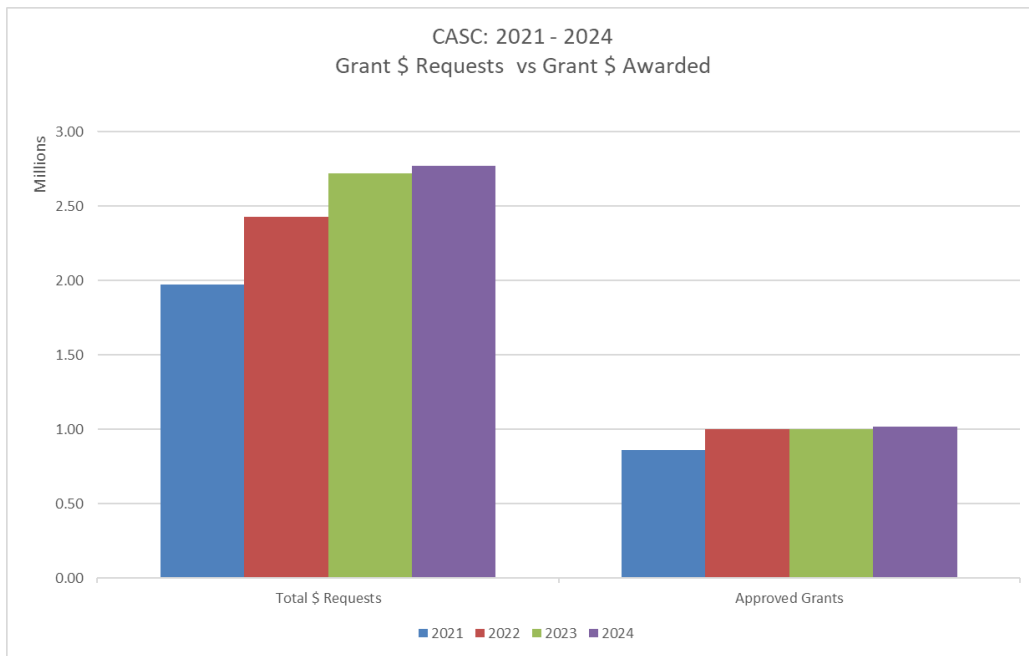
The chart below shows Vancouver’s neighbourhoods that will be served if the grant recommendations are approved. Some projects serve multiple neighbourhoods.



The number of applications is growing substantively each year - 29% increase in applications since CASC Grants launched in 2021:

Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (CASC) Grants – 2021-2024

Year	# of Applications	# of Approved Grants	Applicant Success Rate	Total \$ Requests	Approved Grants	Program Budget vs Demand
2021	153	117	76%	\$ 1,971,161	\$ 862,250	44%
2022	181	124	69%	\$ 2,427,711	\$1,000,400	41%
2023	196	138	70%	\$ 2,718,987	\$ 1,000,000	37%
2024	216	135	63%	\$ 2,767,464	\$ 1,020,000	37%



APPENDIX B
CULTURAL LEARNING AND SHARING (CLS) GRANTS

Cultural Learning & Sharing Grant				
	Applicant	Project Description	Request	Recomm
1	Aeriosa Dance Society	Learning about Deaf Culture, Sharing Dance with Deaf Artists	15,000	7,000
2	AIRS Program Society	Building community and capacity through anti-colonial learning and sharing	9,734	0
3	Asian-Canadian Special Events Association	Beyond Chinese: Exploring Who and What Define 'Chinese' in Vancouver	20,000	0
4	Enable: Arts Society^	Ensoiled: Composting and Holistic Ecosystem Approaches to Community Care	20,000	12,500
5	FESTIVAL AFRICAN HERITAGE MUSIC AND DANCE SOCIETY*	"SoWeRise"- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Live Music Business Canada	19,890	13,000
6	Future Arts Network Society	BIPOC Emerging Arts Leaders Lab	20,000	10,000
7	Hives for Humanity Society	Holding Ground: Connecting front lines through sacred fire care	20,000	0
8	Indian Summer Arts Society	ISF 2024 Cultural Roundtable	3,400	2,000
9	Italian Cultural Centre Society	From Hear to Here HoH Youth Mentorship Community Engagement Project	19,981	11,000
10	Latincouver Cultural & Business Society	Music & Dance Hack: Empowering Emerging Talents	20,000	0
11	Little Mountain Gallery Community Arts Performance Association dba Little Mountain Gallery	A matching grant for Indigenous Inclusion Training — An Introduction to Decolonizing Practices	5,040	2,520
12	MUZEWEST CONCERTS SOCIETY	Leadership Principles lab at Vantage Point	1,998	1,200
13	Racial Equity Screen Office	East by Northwest (EXNW): RCentre(d) - Conversations for Racialized Content Creatives	20,000	0
14	Radix Theatre Society	Diversity and Inclusion Workshops and Excursions	18,750	0

Cultural Learning & Sharing Grant				
	Applicant	Project Description	Request	Recomm
15	The Community Arts Council of Vancouver	Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI) Community Workshops	20,000	0
16	The HVS Heritage Vancouver Society	Stage one of Heritage Vancouver: Learning and Unlearning	13,725	1,500
17	The James Black Gallery Association	JBG Succession Mentorship	20,000	13,000
18	Theatre Replacement Society	Accelerator Lab International Fellowship	17,450	7,500
19	Tsleil Waututh Nation	səlilwətał School Talks (SST)	20,000	0
20	Vancouver Museum Society dba Museum of Vancouver	Where We Are on Unceded Lands: An Indigenous Language Toolkit	10,850	7,500
21	Vancouver Poetry House Society ^{^^}	Engaging Beyond Adapting With Deaf & Hard of Hearing Communities	15,000	8,200
22	Vantage Point Strategies Society	Vantage Point Leadership Development Bursary Program	4,000	4,000
23	ZeeZee Theatre Society	Expansion of Indigenous Community Engagement Manager role.	20,000	0
		Total	354,818	100,920

*Denotes grants with conditions

[^]New applicants

^{^^}Sponsored applications for individual artists/collectives

Criteria

- The opportunity is led by individuals who have the relevant lived experience, permission, skills, knowledge and expertise to deliver the material
- The opportunity is timely, has a strong need for support, feasible budget, & project plan
- The opportunity will greatly benefit the individual, organization, or broader cultural sector
- The opportunity strongly aligns with *Culture/Shift* actions and guiding principles
- The opportunity offers meaningful opportunities to underrepresented artists, cultural leaders, or advances equity in the sector

Summary of Recommendations

- 4 cohort-based mentorships for IBPOC and LGBTQ2+ and gender diverse artists
- 3 workshops for IBPOC artists from d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing (HoH) communities
- 2 facilitated community conversations for Black artists in the live events sector
- 1 toolkit of local Indigenous language placenames, plants, and animals

APPENDIX C**CULTURAL SPACES GRANTS**

(Cultural Infrastructure, Small Grants, Chinatown, Making Space Grant – Dance Centre, Affordable Spaces, Critical Assistance Disbursed)

Cultural Infrastructure Grant				
	Applicant	Project Description	Request	Recomm
1	221A Artist Run Centre Society^	Capital - Improvements to Production Space at E. 3rd & Main St artist housing development	250,000	175,000
2	A.S.T.C. Science World Society	Capital - Upgrades to Outdoor Stage	126,143	75,000
3	Chinese Canadian Museum Society of British Columbia	Capital - Creation of a gift shop in the Wing Sang building	250,000	0
4	Dundarave Print Workshop	Capital - Renovation of print workshop	58,569	58,500
5	Italian Cultural Centre Society	Capital - Installation of an elevator	250,000	75,000
6	Mabuhay House Society	Planning - Feasibility study for a Filipino Cultural Centre	93,505	50,000
7	The Arts Club of Vancouver Theatre Society	Capital - replacement of windows at Granville Island Stage	250,000	125,000
8	The Firehall Theatre Society^	Capital - To address accessibility and security issues	71,000	71,000
9	Vancouver Symphony Society	Planning - Collective community planning of a cultural precinct	100,000	100,000
		Total	1,449,217	729,500
Cultural Infrastructure Grant - Chinatown Cultural Partnerships				
1	B.C. Artscape Society	Capital - Upgrades to under-utilized spaces at BCA Sun Wah	250,000	170,000
2	Wongs' Benevolent Association	Capital - Improvements to the Hon Hsing building	250,000	100,000
		Total	500,000	270,000*
Cultural Infrastructure Grant - Making Space for Arts and Culture Priority				
1	The Dance Foundation	Capital - To purchase the land at 677 Davie St conditional on securing the required funding, review and confirmation of the sale (for example funds would be disbursed in trust as part of sale), and an addition of community use agreement on title ensuring the use of the site as a non-profit dance centre, providing affordable spaces for artists and production	2,000,000	1,500,000

		and administration space for local non-profit dance organizations for the benefit of the citizens of Vancouver in perpetuity		
2	The Firehall Theatre Society^		2,500,000	Deferred
		Total	4,500,000	1,500,000**
*\$250,000 from 2024 Chinatown Cultural Partnership Program Capital Budget and \$20,000 from 2024 Cultural Spaces Capital Budget				
**\$1,500,000 from the Vancouver Cultural Spaces Fund				
^ denotes current or future City-owned/controlled facility				

Cultural Small Grant				
	Applicant	Project Description	Request	Recomm
1	901 Artists Cooperative*	Capital - building lighting and electrical upgrades	25,000	20,000
2	Arts Umbrella Association	Capital - washroom accessibility upgrades	25,000	18,000
3	Association of United Ukrainian Canadians	Planning - redevelopment planning of the Ukrainian Cultural Centre to include social housing	25,000	0
4	Bard on the Beach Theatre Society	Capital - replace festival tent panel	25,000	20,000
5	Blackout Art Society	Planning – research for refugee and immigrant artist hub	25,000	0
6	Capture Photography Festival Society	Planning – for future public art sites	12,930	10,000
7	Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver	Planning – redesign of David Lam Hall	25,000	0
8	Duplex Artists’ Society	Capital – health & safety upgrades	25,000	22,000
9	Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret Society^	Capital - sound-proofing and security upgrades for studio space	25,000	18,000
10	Eastside Arts Society	Planning - develop a multi-purpose arts space in Vancouver's Eastside	25,000	20,000
11	First Pacific Theatre Society	Planning - feasibility study for new venue and upgrade costs	25,000	15,000
12	Gallery Gachet Society	Capital - washroom accessibility upgrades	21,000	21,000
13	Greater Vancouver International Film Festival Society^	Capital - install energy-saving materials	25,000	20,000
14	Little Mountain Gallery Community Arts Performance Association dba Little Mountain Gallery	Capital - building accessibility/safety/security upgrades	25,000	14,000
15	Malaspina Printmakers Society^	Capital - studio sink upgrades	24,762	12,500
16	Marpole Museum and Historical Society^	Capital - weather-proofing outdoor tool display	6,500	0

Cultural Small Grant				
	Applicant	Project Description	Request	Recomm
17	Music BC Industry Association	Capital - office space improvements	9,000	8,000
18	Out Innerspace Dance Theatre and Film Society	Planning - safety, security, accessibility, and functionality upgrades	25,000	15,000
19	Outsiders and Others Art Society	Planning - space mentorship with large arts non-profit	9,500	7,000
20	Roedde House Preservation Society^	Capital - accessible toilet purchase and install	1,000	1,000
21	Satellite Video Exchange Society dba VIVO Media Arts Centre^	Capital - accessibility repairs and upgrades	25,000	20,000
22	Scottish Cultural Centre Society	Planning - building envelope condition assessment	24,675	16,000
23	Sound of Dragon Society	Capital - improve accessibility, safety, and security of residential based studio	16,000	0
24	The Beaumont Studios Artist Society	Planning - for a permanent and sustainable space	18,284	12,000
25	The Community Arts Council of Vancouver	Planning - feasibility study to develop gallery space for outsider artists	25,000	20,000
26	Unicorn Support Services Society	Capital - theatre space seating upgrades	25,000	12,500
27	UNIT/PITT: Society for Art and Critical Awareness	Planning - capital upgrade plans for new facility	25,000	15,000
28	Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre	Planning - for mixed use space at 305 Main St	25,000	0
29	Vancouver Creative Space Society	Capital - building accessibility upgrades	8,067	8,000
30	Vancouver Independent Music Centre Society	Planning - needs assessment for DIY music space	24,040	0
31	Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre Society (VLACC)	Planning - support work towards a confirmed leased space	19,425	15,000
32	Vancouver Museum Society dba Museum of Vancouver^	Planning for exhibition set up	25,000	0
33	Vancouver Opera Association	Capital - replace rooftop HVAC units	17,100	15,000
34	Vines Art Festival Society	Capital - minor upgrades to Vines Hub	25,000	22,000
35	Yin Ping Benevolent Society	Capital - general upgrades	25,000	0
Total			737,283	397,000
Cultural Small Grant - Public Art				
1	Other Sights for Artists' Projects Association	Capital – fabrication/installation of First Nation’s ceiling art feature in Fleet Studios	23,150	20,000*
Total			23,150	20,000

Cultural Small Grant				
	Applicant	Project Description	Request	Recomm
*\$20,000 from the 2024 Capital Budget for New Public Art				
^ denotes current or future City-owned/controlled facility *Denotes grants with conditions				

Cultural Affordable Spaces Grant				
	Applicant	Project Description	Request	Recomm
1	221A Artist Run Centre Society	Operates almost 17,000 sq ft of artistic space at 222 East Georgia and 236 East Pender Street.	40,000	20,000
2	B.C. Artscape Society	Operates "BCA Sun Wah" 49,000 sq ft of arts and culture use space for production, rehearsal, presentation, education, and administration for artists, cultural producers and organizations	40,000	40,000
3	Carousel Theatre Society	Operates 3 studio spaces (approx 2,000 sq ft total) for public use on Granville Island	40,000	0
4	Dundarave Print Workshop	Operates affordable, workshop and gallery artist space with storage, to create, exhibit, educate and sell work.	25,000	15,000
5	Duplex Artists' Society	Operates affordable exhibition and production studio space for the development of emerging and early career artists.	25,000	25,000
6	Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret Society^	Operates affordable 2,200 sq ft studio including sprung dance floor, rehearsal or gallery space, props and costumes department, mirrored walls, surround sound, lighting grid, and video projector.	25,000	10,000
7	Future Leisure Performance Society	Operates "Gold Saucer" and "45W", subsidized rehearsal space for dance/theatre artists in the crosstown neighbourhood, geared toward young, emerging, low-income artists.	12,000	12,000
8	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.	40,000	25,000
9	Malaspina Printmakers Society^	Operates specifically equipped studio space on a sliding scale to artists in print media and sculpture downtown and on Granville Island	40,000	5,000

Cultural Affordable Spaces Grant				
	Applicant	Project Description	Request	Recomm
10	Odd Meridian Arts Society	Operates "Morrow," a performing arts studio and cultural hub, which prioritizes access for BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+ and artists of mixed physical abilities.	27,000	15,000
11	Out Innerspace Dance Theatre and Film Society	Operates "Q7" a 10,000 plus sq ft. facility with dance studios, office space, storage, and other facilities, as well as common areas for students, educators, staff and artists	40,000	10,000
12	Red Gate Arts Society	Operates affordable production and performance/exhibition space for artists and musicians, focused on music, visual art, film/video, and literary works.	40,000	10,000
13	Sunset Terrace Arts Society	Operates a multi-use cultural facility in Grandview-Woodlands that has accommodated affordable artist studios since 2013.	25,000	25,000
14	The Archive Printmaking Studio Society	Operates affordable working art spaces for artists in Strathcona.	15,000	10,000
15	The Beaumont Studios Artist Society	Operates a multi-functional arts and culture space including 42 multi-artist studios, two multidisciplinary galleries and event space for use by artists, designers and creative entrepreneurs; support for elimination of rental arrears	40,000	25,000
16	The James Black Gallery Association	Operates queer-led gallery and studio space for emerging artists, community engagement and experimental multidisciplinary art practices	25,000	9,000
17	Unicorn Support Services Society	Operates "Left of Main," in Chinatown, for creation and development, rehearsal, live and virtual performances, exhibitions and programming events related to arts and culture.	10,000	10,000
18	Vancouver Creative Space Society	Operates "Progress Lab 1422" that includes a large studio and a workshop studio for use by its 9 theatre and dance home companies, and the local performing arts community.	40,000	25,000
19	What Lab Society of Arts	Operates performance art studio and playing space, hosting a variety of programming to serve multiple arts communities.	25,000	14,000
		Total	574,000	305,000

^ denotes current or future City-owned/controlled facility

Critical Assistance Report Out Grants Disbursed 2023/24				
	Organization	Project Description	Grant Request	Grant Disbursed
1	Duplex Artists' Society	Emergency window repair	681	680
2	Great Northern Way Scene Shop and Arts Factory Society^	Urgent hot water tank replacement	8,747	8,747
3	Little Mountain Gallery Community Arts Performance Association dba Little Mountain Gallery	Code Consultant 110 Water St renovation	17,731	3,675
4	Little Mountain Gallery Community Arts Performance Association dba Little Mountain Gallery	Redesign and rebuild of existing front entry staircase to accommodate wheelchair lift as requested by City of Vancouver inspector.	7,200	7,200
5	Malaspina Printmakers Society^	Air cleaners for studios at 1265 Howe St	24,000	24,000
6	Strathcona Spatial Sound Society	Addressing change of use and building code related issues	24,945	20,000
7	Terminal City Glass Co-op	Urgent replacement of electrical panel	2,206	2,206
		Total	85,510	66,508
	^ denotes current or future City-owned/controlled facility			

APPENDIX D**ARTIST STUDIOS LEASE APPROVALS**

Term: the lease and sublease term for each of the six studios currently in the Artist Studio Award program will be extended by approximately 3 years for the following Premises:

- a. Studio 1 (City-owned live-work unit): having a civic address of #303 - 272 East 4th Avenue, and a legal description of PID: 023-105-445; Strata Lot 17, District Lot 200A, Group 1 New Westminster District, Strata Plan LMS2013
- b. Studio 2 (City-owned live-work unit): having a civic address of 1202 East Pender Street, and a legal description of PID: 024-375-047; Strata Lot 6, District Lot 182, Group 1 New Westminster District, Strata Plan LMS3800
- c. Studio 3 (City-owned live-work unit): having a civic address of #102 – 8031 Nunavut Lane, and a legal description of PID: 029-767-661; Air Space Parcel 2, District Lot 323, Group 1 New Westminster District, Air Space Plan EPP50837;
- d. Studio 4 (City-owned live-work unit): having a civic address of #101 – 8031 Nunavut Lane, and a legal description of PID: 029-767-661; Air Space Parcel 2, District Lot 323, Group 1 New Westminster District, Air Space Plan EPP50837
- e. Studio 5 (City-owned work-only studio): having a civic address of 1571 West 6th Avenue, and a legal description of PID: 029-153-522; AirSpace Parcel 1, District Lot 526, Group 1 New Westminster District, Air Space Plan EPP32021; and
- f. Studio 6 (City-owned work-only studio): having a civic address of 1573 West 6th Avenue, and a legal description of PID: 029-153-522; AirSpace Parcel 1, District Lot 526, Group 1 New Westminster District, Air Space Plan EPP32021.

For the following Tenants:

- a) Studio 1 awarded to: Jazzmin Whitford, multidisciplinary artist;
- b) Studio 2 awarded to: Jonas Jones, carver, dancer, drummer, singer;
- c) Studio 3 awarded to: Eric Cheung, dancer;
- d) Studio 4 awarded to: Sally Jirjees, musician and multidisciplinary artist;
- e) Studio 5 awarded to: Naomi Gracechild, multidisciplinary artist; and,
- f) Studio 6 awarded to: Emad Armoush, musician and sound artist.

APPENDIX E

Making Space for Arts and Culture Extraordinary Request Firehall Theatre Capital Renewal and Accessibility

The 40 year-old Firehall Theatre is a 12,000 square foot performing arts centre with a 140 seat theatre, rehearsal space, community offices, lobby, box office located in the DTES in a City owned 117 year brick building. The non-profit has been at the forefront of disability, equity and Indigenous programming – using the building approximately 300 days per year with 200-250 performances, supporting more than 100 artists and welcoming audiences of 35,000 people.

The building has been in urgent need of renewal for over a decade. There have been on-going public complaints on accessibility, the state of building and end of life systems (electrical, HVAC, roof). Wheelchair performers can only access building through long narrow side entrance to the stage and can not access the subpar bathroom during a performance. There is no wheelchair access to the rest of the building which includes the main entrance, box office, lobby, bar, offices, rehearsal, green room, dressing rooms (that do not meet Canadian Actor Equity Standards).

The Firehall Theatre Society submitted an extraordinary request for the critical renewal and upgrade of the City-owned theatre to create physical accessibility for audiences, artists and staff by installing an elevator, ramps, building adequate accessible washrooms and industry standard dressing rooms, and associated seismic upgrades. The total project is estimated at \$23M and includes upgrades to accessibility to the adjacent Police Museum. A second option is a 9.3M project focusing on the Theatre. Given that the renewal of the building is a City responsibility, funding to complete the project is under review as part of the mid-term capital update. Staff are providing this request as information for Council only. The community reviewers were very supportive of the request however the grant budget has limited funds available and the mid-term capital update is the appropriate place for this need to be considered.