



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON POLICY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

JUNE 4, 2025

A meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Policy and Strategic Priorities was held on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 9:31 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 Peter Meiszner, Chair
Councillor Rebecca Bligh
Councillor Pete Fry
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
Councillor Mike Klassen* (Leave of Absence – Civic Business)
Councillor Lucy Maloney
Councillor Brian Montague
Councillor Sean Orr
Councillor Lenny Zhou

ABSENT:

Mayor Ken Sim (Leave of Absence – Civic Business)
Councillor Lisa Dominato, Vice Chair (Leave of Absence – Civic Business)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:

Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:

Tina Penney, Deputy City Clerk
Connie Law, Meeting Coordinator
Irina Green, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The 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 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.

PROCLAMATION – Eid al-Adha

Acting Mayor Kirby-Yung alongside members of Council, proclaimed June 6, 2025, as Eid al-Adha in the City of Vancouver.

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council adopt Reports 3 and 4 on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Councillor Klassen absent for the vote)

REPORTS

1. Granville Street Plan May 20, 2025

The General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, provided an introduction, and the Planner, Community Planning, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability; and the Planner, Street Activities, Engineering Services; provided a presentation. The aforementioned staff along with staff from Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability; Engineering Services; and Arts, Culture and Community Services; responded to questions.

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Prior to questions to staff, it was

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Councillor Klassen absent for the vote)

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During the hearing of speakers, it was

MOVED by Councillor Bligh

SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT under section 2.8 of the Procedure By-law, the Committee extend the meeting past noon in order to complete hearing speakers on Report 1.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY**
(Councillor Klassen absent for the vote)

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The Committee heard from 10 speakers who spoke in support of the staff recommendations, two speakers who spoke in opposition of the staff recommendations, and two speakers who spoke to other aspects of the staff recommendations.

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The Committee recessed at 11:58 am and reconvened at 1 pm.

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MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor Montague

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the Granville Street Plan, generally as presented in Appendix D of the Report dated May 20, 2025, entitled "Granville Street Plan".
- B. THAT, subject to approval of A above, Council approve the amendments to the Central Business District (CBD) and CBD Shoulder Rezoning Policy (Areas A, B, C1 & F and Areas C3 & H), generally as presented in Appendix B of the Report dated May 20, 2025, entitled "Granville Street Plan", including:
 - (i) Renaming the policy as the Downtown Rezoning Policy;
 - (ii) Adding rezoning policies for the Granville Street Entertainment District; and
 - (iii) Incorporating the Downtown South Rezoning Policy (Potential "Benefit Capacity" in Downtown RTS 07500).
- C. THAT, subject to approval of A above, Council approve the Granville Street Special Design District Guidelines, generally as presented in Appendix E of the Report dated May 20, 2025, entitled "Granville Street Plan", and repeal the Granville Street (Downtown South) Design Guidelines and the Design Handbook for Building Frontages on Granville Street.

- D. THAT, subject to approval of A above, Council approve, in principle, amendments to the Sign By-law, to expand the animated neon signage area to Davie Street, to align with the Granville Street Plan, generally as presented in Appendix A of the Report dated May 20, 2025, entitled “Granville Street Plan”;
- FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward amendments to the Sign By-law for enactment, generally as presented in Appendix A of the above-noted report.
- E. THAT, subject to approval of A above, Council approve consequential amendments to related land use documents to align with the Granville Street Plan generally as presented in Appendix C of the Report dated May 20, 2025, entitled “Granville Street Plan”.
- F. THAT, subject to approval of A above, Council amend the Community Amenity Contributions Policy for Rezoning to enable Downtown Commercial Linkage target allocations to align with the Granville Street Plan, generally as presented in Appendix F of the Report dated May 20, 2025, entitled “Granville Street Plan”.
- G. THAT, subject to approval of B above, Council repeal the Granville Street Interim Rezoning Policy.
- H. THAT Council direct staff to initiate a comprehensive review of locations for a new street-end public view to the North Shore Mountains from an origin point on Granville Street in the downtown as part of the Central Waterfront Plan project.
- I. THAT, subject to approval of A above, the General Manager of Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability be instructed to make an application, for Council's consideration, to amend the Downtown Official Development Plan (DODP) to a new Downtown District Schedule in the Zoning and Development By-law to align with the Granville Street Plan.
- J. THAT A through I above be adopted on the following conditions:
- (i) THAT any approval that may be granted following the public hearing shall not obligate the City to enact any rezoning by-laws; and
 - (ii) THAT the City and all its officials, including the Approving Officer, shall not in any way be limited or directed in the exercise of their authority or discretion, regardless of when they are called upon to exercise such authority or discretion.

amended

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During discussion, Chair Meiszner relinquished the Chair to Acting Mayor Kirby-Yung in order to introduce an amendment and resumed the Chair once the amendment was dealt with.

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AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Meiszner
SECONDED by Councillor Bligh

THAT the following be added as K:

THAT Council direct staff to work with BC Housing and the Province of British Columbia to offer the use of City-owned sites to replace Single Room Occupancy (SRO) and supportive housing units currently located in the non-residential Entertainment Core area of the Granville Entertainment District (GED) with modern, dignified, self-contained housing, with robust wraparound services and capital and operational funding to come from BC Housing and the Federal and Provincial governments;

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to report back to Council on this matter as soon as possible as part of the larger Granville Street planning process.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10750)

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During discussion, Chair Meiszner relinquished the Chair to Acting Mayor Kirby-Yung in order to provide comments on the amendment moved by Councillor Maloney and resumed the Chair once finished.

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AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Maloney
SECONDED by Councillor Bligh

THAT A be amended as follows:

- Inserting the words “with the following amendments” to the end;

FURTHER THAT in A, Appendix D of the Report dated May 20, 2025, entitled “Granville Street Plan”, be amended as follows:

- In section 5.1.1, deleting the word “and” before the words “bus stop improvements”, and inserting the words “and bus bulbs”, to the end;
- In section 5.2.1, inserting the words “benches, bollards”, after the word “shelters”, and inserting the words “during Phase 1”, to the end;
- In section 5.3.5, deleting the words “consider how to accommodate”, and inserting the words “provide bi-directional”, before the word “cycling”;
- In section 5.3.5, inserting the word “access”, after the words “micro-mobility”;
- In section 5.3.5, inserting the paragraph “and to join the Granville Connector to

Dunsmuir Street. Provide measures to temporarily suspend cycling and micromobility access along some stretches of Granville Street during special events”, to the end;

- Inserting the following sub sections after section 5.3.5:
 - 5.3.6 Ensure pedestrian safety along the full length of Granville Street’s low-speed bi-directional cycling and micromobility route via surface markings and signage so that cyclists and micro-mobility users understand where they may travel, and pedestrians know where they might expect them.
 - 5.3.7 Plan for the installation of an attended indoor bike parkade to provide safe and secure bicycle parking, thereby reducing bicycle traffic along the pedestrianised corridor, minimising the risk of bike theft, and encouraging visitors to the revitalised area to use active transportation. The bike parkade should include safe and secure public toilets to address the severe shortage of public toilet facilities downtown, ensuring equitable access for all pedestrians, particularly seniors, children, and individuals with disabilities.
 - 5.3.8 In keeping with the core design principle that Granville Street should be designed with safety, inclusivity, and equity at its core, ensure that staff engage with Vancouver’s disability community, inclusive design experts, and those with lived experience of disability to ensure their needs are reflected in the final design to maximise accessibility, including but not limited to ensuring that curbs and stairs are avoided where possible and that smooth paved surfaces are used to reduce vibrations for wheelchair users.

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Bligh
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT in A, Appendix D of the Report dated May 20, 2025, entitled “Granville Street Plan”, be amended as follows:

- In section 5.2.1, inserting the words “explore options for”, before the word “benches”;
- In section 5.3.5, inserting the words “explore options to”, before the words “provide bi-directional cycling”;
- In section 5.3.6, inserting the words “explore options to”, before the words “ensure pedestrian safety”;
- In section 5.3.7; deleting the word “plan”, before the words “for the installation”, and inserting the words “explore options”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10751)
(Councillor Klassen absent for the vote)

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During discussion, Chair Meiszner relinquished the Chair to Acting Mayor Kirby-Yung in order to provide comments on the amendment to the amendment moved by Councillor Bligh and resumed the Chair once finished.

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The amendment to the amendment having carried, the amendment as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10752) with Councillor Klassen absent for the vote.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Orr
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the following be added as L:

THAT Council direct staff to consider further recommendations for Single Room Accommodation (SRA) designated buildings based on an analysis of the 2024 Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Tenant Survey and an expanded consultation process with impacted SRO tenants, and report back to Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10753)
(Councillor Klassen absent for the vote)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Bligh
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the following be added as M:

THAT staff report back on options to increase social housing units in Vancouver Housing Development Office (VHDO) and Non-Market Housing Operations (NMHO) projects to offset the loss of Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing due to the Granville Plan, including, but not limited to:

- Options and implications to utilize Vancouver Affordable Housing Endowment Fund (VAHEF) non-market projects to meet Single Room Accommodation (SRA) bylaw replacement obligations and prevent the loss of deeply affordable units;
- Options and implications of planning for the development of Property Endowment Fund (PEF) sites to include social housing or other public benefits.

amended

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During debate, Chair Meiszner relinquished the Chair to Acting Mayor Kirby-Yung in order to introduce an amendment to the amendment to Councillor Bligh's amendment, and resumed the Chair once finished.

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The Committee recessed at 1:56 pm and reconvened at 2:03 pm.

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AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Meiszner
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT M be amended as follows:

- Deleting the words "Vancouver Housing Development Office (VHDO) and", before the words "Non-Market Housing Operations (NMHO) projects";
- Deleting the words "offset the loss of", before the words "replace Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing";
- Deleting the words "due to", before the word "impacted";
- Deleting the words "options and implications of planning for the development of Property Endowment Fund (PEF) sites to include social housing or other public benefits".

CARRIED (Vote No. 10754)
(Councillors Bligh, Fry, Orr and Maloney opposed)

The amendment to the amendment having carried, the amendment as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10755) with Councillor Fry abstaining from the vote and Councillor Klassen absent for the vote.

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During debate, Chair Meiszner relinquished the Chair to Acting Mayor Kirby-Yung in order to provide comments on the motion as amended and resumed the Chair once finished.

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The amendments having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10756) with Councillor Klassen absent for the vote.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

- A. THAT Council approve the Granville Street Plan, generally as presented in Appendix D of the Report dated May 20, 2025, entitled “Granville Street Plan”, with amendments to read as follows:

5.1 Re-route Granville Street bus services to Howe and Seymour Streets with strong transit priority measures

Policies

Phases 1 & 2 - Near and Medium Term

5.1.1 Seasonally re-route bus service to Howe and Seymour Streets during pedestrian zone pilots with temporary bus priority lanes, bus stop improvements, and bus bulbs.

5.2 Improve the public realm on Howe and Seymour Streets to accommodate more people and maintain high-quality transit service

Policies

5.2.1 Provide comfortable, safe, and accessible waiting areas at bus stops with improved lighting, shelters; explore options for benches, bollards and widened sidewalks during Phase 1.

5.3 Enhance the walking experience and provide a safe and comfortable active travel environment

Policies

5.3.5 Explore options to provide bi-directional cycling and micro-mobility access on Granville Street in a low-speed shared environment when the street is pedestrianized to provide access to SkyTrain stations and destinations along the street and to join the Granville Connector to Dunsmuir Street. Provide measures to temporarily suspend cycling and micromobility access along some stretches of Granville Street during special events.

5.3.6 Explore options to ensure pedestrian safety along the full length of Granville Street’s low-speed bi-directional cycling and micromobility route via surface markings and signage so that cyclists and micro-mobility users understand where they may travel, and pedestrians know where they might expect them.

5.3.7 Explore options for the installation of an attended indoor bike parkade to provide safe and secure bicycle parking, thereby reducing bicycle traffic along the pedestrianised corridor, minimising the risk of bike theft, and encouraging visitors to the revitalised area to use active transportation. The bike parkade should include safe and secure public toilets to address the severe shortage of public toilet facilities downtown, ensuring equitable access for all pedestrians, particularly seniors, children, and individuals with disabilities.

5.3.8 In keeping with the core design principle that Granville Street should be designed with safety, inclusivity, and equity at its core, ensure that staff engage with Vancouver's disability community, inclusive design

experts, and those with lived experience of disability to ensure their needs are reflected in the final design to maximise accessibility, including but not limited to ensuring that curbs and stairs are avoided where possible and that smooth paved surfaces are used to reduce vibrations for wheelchair users.

- B. THAT, subject to approval of A above, Council approve the amendments to the Central Business District (CBD) and CBD Shoulder Rezoning Policy (Areas A, B, C1 & F and Areas C3 & H), generally as presented in Appendix B of the Report dated May 20, 2025, entitled "Granville Street Plan", including:
- (i) Renaming the policy as the Downtown Rezoning Policy;
 - (ii) Adding rezoning policies for the Granville Street Entertainment District; and
 - (iii) Incorporating the Downtown South Rezoning Policy (Potential "Benefit Capacity" in Downtown RTS 07500).
- C. THAT, subject to approval of A above, Council approve the Granville Street Special Design District Guidelines, generally as presented in Appendix E of the Report dated May 20, 2025, entitled "Granville Street Plan", and repeal the Granville Street (Downtown South) Design Guidelines and the Design Handbook for Building Frontages on Granville Street.
- D. THAT, subject to approval of A above, Council approve, in principle, amendments to the Sign By-law, to expand the animated neon signage area to Davie Street, to align with the Granville Street Plan, generally as presented in Appendix A of the Report dated May 20, 2025, entitled "Granville Street Plan";
- FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward amendments to the Sign By-law for enactment, generally as presented in Appendix A of the above-noted report.
- E. THAT, subject to approval of A above, Council approve consequential amendments to related land use documents to align with the Granville Street Plan generally as presented in Appendix C of the Report dated May 20, 2025, entitled "Granville Street Plan".
- F. THAT, subject to approval of A above, Council amend the Community Amenity Contributions Policy for Rezoning to enable Downtown Commercial Linkage target allocations to align with the Granville Street Plan, generally as presented in Appendix F of the Report dated May 20, 2025, entitled "Granville Street Plan".
- G. THAT, subject to approval of B above, Council repeal the Granville Street Interim Rezoning Policy.
- H. THAT Council direct staff to initiate a comprehensive review of locations for a new street-end public view to the North Shore Mountains from an origin point on Granville Street in the downtown as part of the Central Waterfront Plan project.

- I. THAT, subject to approval of A above, the General Manager of Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability be instructed to make an application, for Council's consideration, to amend the Downtown Official Development Plan (DODP) to a new Downtown District Schedule in the Zoning and Development By-law to align with the Granville Street Plan.
- J. THAT A through I above be adopted on the following conditions:
- (i) THAT any approval that may be granted following the public hearing shall not obligate the City to enact any rezoning by-laws; and
 - (ii) THAT the City and all its officials, including the Approving Officer, shall not in any way be limited or directed in the exercise of their authority or discretion, regardless of when they are called upon to exercise such authority or discretion.
- K. THAT Council direct staff to work with BC Housing and the Province of British Columbia to offer the use of City-owned sites to replace Single Room Occupancy (SRO) and supportive housing units currently located in the non-residential Entertainment Core area of the Granville Entertainment District (GED) with modern, dignified, self-contained housing, with robust wraparound services and capital and operational funding to come from BC Housing and the Federal and Provincial governments;
- FURTHER THAT staff be directed to report back to Council on this matter as soon as possible as part of the larger Granville Street planning process.
- L. THAT Council direct staff to consider further recommendations for Single Room Accommodation (SRA) designated buildings based on an analysis of the 2024 Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Tenant Survey and an expanded consultation process with impacted SRO tenants, and report back to Council.
- M. THAT staff report back on options to increase social housing units in Non-Market Housing Operations (NMHO) projects to replace Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing impacted by the Granville Plan, including, but not limited to:
- Options and implications to utilize Vancouver Affordable Housing Endowment Fund (VAHEF) non-market projects to meet Single Room Accommodation (SRA) bylaw replacement obligations and prevent the loss of deeply affordable units.

**2. 2025 Cultural Grants (Projects, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)
May 6, 2025**

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

MOVED by Councillor Bligh
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (CASC) grants totalling \$615,593 from the 2025 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 84 organizations listed in Appendix A of the Report dated May 6, 2025, entitled "2025 Cultural Grants (Projects, 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 \$200,275 from the 2025 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 17 cultural organizations listed in Appendix B of the Report dated May 6, 2025, entitled "2025 Cultural Grants (Projects, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)", for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Recomm" column.
- C. THAT Council approve Affordable Spaces Grants totalling \$335,000 from the 2025 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 21 cultural organizations listed in the table titled "Affordable Spaces Grant" in Appendix C of the Report dated May 6, 2025, entitled "2025 Cultural Grants (Projects, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)", for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Recomm" column.
- D. THAT Council approve 11 Cultural Infrastructure Grants and 28 Small Grants for Cultural Spaces totalling \$1,308,989 from the 2025 Cultural Spaces Capital Budget and the 2025 Chinatown Cultural Partnership Program Capital Budget to the organizations listed in the tables titled "Cultural Infrastructure Grant" and, "Small Grants for Cultural Spaces" in Appendix C of the Report dated May 6, 2025, entitled "2025 Cultural Grants (Projects, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)", for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Recomm" column.
- E. THAT Council approve a one-time grant of \$49,346 to the Vancouver Museum Society from the Olympic Legacy Reserve for the ongoing care and maintenance of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games Legacy Collection.
- F. THAT Council delegate its authority to the General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services to negotiate and execute agreements to disburse the grants described in A to E on the terms and conditions set out herein or such other terms and conditions as are satisfactory to the General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services and the Director of Legal Services.
- G. THAT pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization listed in Appendices A to C that is not otherwise a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency to be contributing to the culture of Vancouver.
- H. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of A through G above unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.

amended

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During discussion, Chair Meiszner relinquished the Chair to Acting Mayor Kirby-Yung in order to introduce an amendment and resumed the Chair once the amendment was dealt with.

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AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Meiszner
SECONDED BY Councillor Zhou

THAT the following be added as I:

THAT Council direct staff, upon receipt and review of the Vancouver Concert Hall and Theatre Society (VCHTS) Phase I Cultural Precinct Feasibility Report, including working with the Society on scoping and development of Phase II of the Cultural Precinct Feasibility Study, to report back to Council with recommendations to potentially allocate funds to the Society from the *Coal Harbour Arts Complex Reserve* for Phase II of the Feasibility Study in an amount up to \$250,000, recognizing Council's recent direction to support the city-making potential and exploration of the opportunity to site a new cultural district in the heart of Downtown Vancouver.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10757)
(Councillor Klassen absent for the vote)

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

- A. THAT Council approve Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (CASC) grants totalling \$615,593 from the 2025 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 84 organizations listed in Appendix A of the Report dated May 6, 2025, entitled "2025 Cultural Grants (Projects, 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 \$200,275 from the 2025 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 17 cultural organizations listed in Appendix B of the Report dated May 6, 2025, entitled "2025 Cultural Grants (Projects, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)", for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Recomm" column.
- C. THAT Council approve Affordable Spaces Grants totalling \$335,000 from the 2025 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 21 cultural organizations listed in the table titled "Affordable Spaces Grant" in Appendix C of the Report dated May 6, 2025, entitled "2025 Cultural Grants (Projects, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)", for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Recomm" column.
- D. THAT Council approve 11 Cultural Infrastructure Grants and 28 Small Grants for Cultural Spaces totalling \$1,308,989 from the 2025 Cultural Spaces Capital Budget and the 2025 Chinatown Cultural Partnership Program Capital Budget to the organizations listed in the tables titled "Cultural Infrastructure Grant" and,

"Small Grants for Cultural Spaces" in Appendix C of the Report dated May 6, 2025, entitled "2025 Cultural Grants (Projects, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)", for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Recomm" column.

- E. THAT Council approve a one-time grant of \$49,346 to the Vancouver Museum Society from the Olympic Legacy Reserve for the ongoing care and maintenance of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games Legacy Collection.
- F. THAT Council delegate its authority to the General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services to negotiate and execute agreements to disburse the grants described in A to E on the terms and conditions set out herein or such other terms and conditions as are satisfactory to the General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services and the Director of Legal Services.
- G. THAT pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization listed in Appendices A to C of the Report dated May 6, 2025, entitled "2025 Cultural Grants (Projects, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)", that is not otherwise a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency to be contributing to the culture of Vancouver.
- H. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of A through G above unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.
- I. THAT Council direct staff, upon receipt and review of the Vancouver Concert Hall and Theatre Society (VCHTS) Phase I Cultural Precinct Feasibility Report, including working with the Society on scoping and development of Phase II of the Cultural Precinct Feasibility Study, to report back to Council with recommendations to potentially allocate funds to the Society from the *Coal Harbour Arts Complex Reserve* for Phase II of the Feasibility Study in an amount up to \$250,000, recognizing Council's recent direction to support the city-making potential and exploration of the opportunity to site a new cultural district in the heart of Downtown Vancouver.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND A TO E
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY (Vote No. 10758)
(Councillor Klassen absent for the vote)

3. Theatre Rental Grant Allocations - Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 May 1, 2025

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve Theatre Rental Grants totaling \$1,278,350 from the 2025 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 47 organizations listed in Table A of Appendix A of the Report dated May 1, 2025, entitled "Theatre Rental Grant

Allocations - Fall 2025 and Spring 2026", for the amounts recommended in the "Sept 1 – Dec 31, 2025 Recommendation" column to allow organizations to use the Civic Theatres for the September 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025 season.

- B. THAT Council approve, in advance of the 2026 operating budget, Theatre Rental Grants totaling \$1,902,525 from the 2026 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 61 organizations listed in Table B of Appendix A of the Report dated May 1, 2025, entitled "Theatre Rental Grant Allocations - Fall 2025 and Spring 2026", for the amounts recommended in the "Jan 1- Aug 31, 2026 Recommendation" column to allow organizations to use the Civic Theatres for the January 1, 2026 - August 31, 2026 season.
- C. 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).
- D. THAT, pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization listed in Appendix A of the Report dated May 1, 2025, entitled "Theatre Rental Grant Allocations - Fall 2025 and Spring 2026", 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 through 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. 10763)

4. Contract Award for Request for Proposals No. PS20240929-ENG-RFP - Consultant for Landfill Gas System Design and Contract Administration May 2, 2025

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council authorize City staff to negotiate an agreement for the consultant design and contract administration services with GHD Limited for an estimated total contract value of \$3,672,520.43 over the approximate six (6) year term (the "Agreement"), which will be funded from the Multiyear Approved Capital Project Budget from 2023-2026 Gas Collection Infrastructure (\$2.4M), Closure Maintenance (\$0.4M), Capital Programs and Landfill Gas Operating Budget (\$1.5M).
- B. THAT Council delegate its authority to execute the Agreement to the City's Director of Legal Services, Chief Procurement Officer, and General Manager of the Engineering Department.

- C. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by Council's approval of A and B above unless and until the City executes and delivers the Agreement.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 10764)

**5. Contract Award for Digital Infrastructure and Innovation for FIFA World Cup 26 ("FWC26") in Vancouver
May 22, 2025**

MOVED by Councillor Zhou

SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council authorize City staff to negotiate an agreement for Digital Infrastructure and Innovation for FIFA World Cup 26 ("FWC26") in Vancouver with TELUS Communications Inc. ("**TELUS**") for an estimated total contract value of \$12,919,217.00 plus applicable taxes over an initial 15-month period, and with the possibility of renewal.
- B. THAT Council delegate its authority to execute the Agreement to the City's Director of Legal Services, Chief Procurement Officer, and Deputy City Manager.
- C. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by Council's approval of A and B above unless and until the City executes and delivers the Agreement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10759)
(Councillor Klassen absent for the vote)

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Declaring Housing as a Human Right

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

MOVED by Councillor Orr

SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

- 1. Vancouver and British Columbia struggle with an ongoing housing crisis. From skyrocketing rents to expanding encampments, the failure to provide adequate and affordable housing has become one of the province's most pressing human rights issues;

2. Housing as a Human Right has been legislated in Canada at the federal level since 2019 and is included in the National Housing Strategy. This legislation is Canada's commitment to recognizing the right to housing under international human rights law, and means governments must ensure that the housing system enables everyone to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity;
3. The responsibility and jurisdiction in Canada for delivery of housing is primarily with the provinces. Over the course of a decade British Columbia can expect hundreds of millions of dollars in transfer funds and other incentives from the federal government to administer towards the delivery of housing, predicated in part by the commitment to housing as a human right; and
4. The recognition of housing as a human right leads to more effective, equitable housing policy. Local governments across British Columbia are united in calling for the province to declare housing as a human right.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the City of Vancouver submit the following resolution by June 15, 2025, for consideration at UBCM's 2025 Policy Convention.

Declaring Housing as a Human Right

WHEREAS recognizing housing as a human right fundamentally shifts government motivations by adding critical urgency and responsibility to ensure access to affordable housing (meaning housing costs are aligned with income) through policies that prevent homelessness, address the escalating housing and homelessness crisis, eliminate discrimination, and prioritize the needs of vulnerable and marginalized populations;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada affirmed the right to housing as a matter of international law and enshrined it domestically through the National Housing Strategy Act (2019), recognizing housing as a human right and establishing mechanisms for accountability and inclusion:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the UBCM call for the BC Government to enshrine housing as a human right in legislation and forthcoming housing and homelessness strategies, ensuring that housing policy in British Columbia is grounded in principles of equity, accessibility, accountability, and the inherent dignity of all people.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10760)
(Councillor Klassen absent for the vote)

2. Protecting Renters by Establishing a Tenant Advocacy Office

The Committee heard from 11 speakers who spoke in support of the motion.

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During discussion on the motion, Chair Meiszner relinquished the Chair to Acting Mayor Kirby-Yung in order to provide comments and resumed the Chair once finished.

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MOVED by Councillor Maloney
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. At the date of the 2021 census, renter households represented 54.5% of Vancouver households ([Canada Census 2021](#));
2. The overall rental vacancy rate is 1.6%, which was the highest rate measured in the past 10 years, except in 2020, and the market remains relatively tight especially in lower-priced segments ([CMHC 2024](#));
3. In 2021, 39.4% of renter households were spending more than 30% of pre-tax total income on housing and therefore their housing is not considered affordable. ([Canada Census 2021](#));
4. The City of Vancouver no longer has a department dedicated to tracking, resourcing, and supporting Vancouver renters and renter issues;
5. As the Broadway Plan progresses, and buildings elsewhere in the City require redevelopment it will be increasingly important that dedicated staff follow up on issues in a timely way. Proactive monitoring and intervention is likely to reduce stress and uncertainty for tenants and possibly prevent some tenants from being tipped into homelessness. There are currently Planning staff assigned to follow up on complaints regarding Tenant Relocation Plan (TRP) compliance as a core function of their roles. Strengthening and better connecting these staff through a tenant advocacy office could increase the impact of this work;
6. 30% of older adults in the City rent their homes and as of the last City of Vancouver homeless count, 21% of people counted were over 55 years old and almost half first experienced homelessness when they were already a senior ([City of Vancouver 2024](#));
7. Indigenous people are also more likely to be renters and face adverse rental experiences. Indigenous renters in BC face increased rates of eviction and eviction into homelessness than the non-Indigenous population. In addition, many existing buildings supporting Indigenous people at affordable rents need significant repairs. ([Indigenous Housing Needs Data Resource Library](#));

8. Council allocates a number of Renter Services Grants to organisations such as Tenant Resource & Advisory Centre (TRAC), however neither TRAC nor the BC Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) are able to enforce tenant protections particular to the City of Vancouver, including agreements entered into by tenants covered by protections included in the Broadway Plan. There is an existing group of staff tasked with monitoring TRP compliance, including the Broadway TRP. Strengthening and better connecting these staff through a tenant advocacy office could increase the impact of this work; and
9. While the approval and development of dedicated rental accommodation provides more stable housing for renters, this alone is insufficient to protect renters, given the breadth of challenges facing renters and the number of tenants who are not living in dedicated rental accommodation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to identify gaps in the City's system of targeting, tracking, resourcing and supporting Vancouver renters and renter issues and report back to City Council with an implementation plan, timeline and budget for establishing a department or centre within the City of Vancouver that addresses these gaps, including:

- i. Providing an official City of Vancouver point of contact for renter and tenancy issues, including standards of maintenance, tenant relocation and protections, and renovictions and demovictions;
- ii. Oversight of drafting of permit conditions dealing with tenant protections to provide tiers of enforcement options, including financial bonds, that can be imposed throughout the development process;
- iii. Proactively monitoring developers for compliance with tenant protection conditions;
- iv. Enforcing conditions and obligations that benefit tenants living in the City of Vancouver that do not fall within the jurisdiction of the RTB, and impose penalties where necessary;
- v. Developing and reviewing policy and ensuring that tenants' interests are taken into account in the City's work;
- vi. Where appropriate, liaising with existing renter advocacy groups including but not limited to City of Vancouver's Renter's Advisory Committee, the Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre (TRAC) and the Vancouver Tenants Union (VTU);
- vii. Coordinating with City permits, building inspections, and licensing (including business and Short-Term Rentals) departments and data in order to protect tenants from illegal renovictions and monitor rate of change to affordable rental housing stock;

- viii. Advise and work across City agencies and departments to ensure that the needs of market and non-market renters including public, non-profit, and co-op housing are being taken into account;
- ix. Options for connecting existing staff whose work includes TRP compliance and other tenant support, to identify ways to improve service delivery and efficiency to increase the impact of this City work.

LOST (Vote No. 10761)

(Councillors Kirby-Yung, Meiszner, Montague and Zhou opposed)

(Councillor Klassen absent for the vote)

The Committee adjourned at 4:12 pm.

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**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON
POLICY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

JUNE 4, 2025

A meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 4:12 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT:

Councillor Rebecca Bligh
Councillor Pete Fry
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
Councillor Lucy Maloney
Councillor Peter Meiszner
Councillor Brian Montague
Councillor Sean Orr
Councillor Lenny Zhou

ABSENT:

Mayor Ken Sim (Leave of Absence – Civic Business)
Councillor Lisa Dominato, Vice Chair (Leave of Absence – Civic Business)
Councillor Mike Klassen (Leave of Absence – Civic Business)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:

Paul Mochrie, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:

Tina Penney, Deputy City Clerk
Connie Law, Meeting Coordinator
Irina Green, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities
Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities. Its items of business included:

Reports:

1. Granville Street Plan
2. 2025 Cultural Grants (Projects, Capacity, Cultural Spaces)
3. Theatre Rental Grant Allocations - Fall 2025 and Spring 2026
4. Contract Award for Request for Proposals No. PS20240929-ENG-RFP - Consultant for Landfill Gas System Design and Contract Administration
5. Contract Award for Digital Infrastructure and Innovation for FIFA World Cup 26 ("FWC26") in Vancouver

Council Members' Motions:

1. Declaring Housing as a Human Right
2. Protecting Renters by Establishing a Tenant Advocacy Office

MOVED by Councillor Meiszner
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities at its meeting of June 4, 2025, as contained in Reports 1 to 5 and Council Members' Motions 1 to 2, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

URGENT BUSINESS

1. Community Coming Together Vancouver Strong

MOVED by Councillor Fry
SECONDED by Councillor Bligh

WHEREAS

1. On June 3, 2025, Council received an urgent motion submitted on behalf of the Mayor's Office, titled "Memorial Event for the April 26th Lapu-Lapu Day Tragedy in the City of Vancouver";
2. The resolution authorized the City Manager or designate to enter into a no-fee contracts with Canucks Entertainment Corp. and Brand Live for hosting and producing a ticketed "Come Together: Vancouver Strong" event at Rogers Arena, supported by a \$50,000 City budget allocation and nominal ticket fee to cover unavoidable hard costs;
3. Council resolved to support the motion with the explicit understanding that the event would be community-led, for the community, by the community, and centering community voices; and
4. Following Council's unanimous approval of the resolution, some members of the affected communities have reached out to comment that despite Council's best intentions, the process to arrive at the urgent motion inadvertently excluded some necessary voices, and that the timing, tone, and format of such an event should be aligned with victims and the communities affected.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Steering Committee for “Come Together: Vancouver Strong” broaden its scope and mandate to immediately and meaningfully include the voices of the families and affected communities in the planning and deliverables of the event;

FURTHER THAT the City prioritize long-term recovery support as part of its commitment to those affected by the tragic events of April 26, 2025, apropos of any City-sanctioned memorial events, and ensure opportunities for intimate, community-led events.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10762)

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Meiszner

SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 4:18 pm.

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