



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: June 10, 2025
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Meeting Date: July 9, 2025
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities
FROM: Deputy City Manager
SUBJECT: 2025 Graffiti Abatement Grants for Business Improvement Areas

Recommendations

- A. THAT Council approve \$500,000 of 2025 Graffiti Abatement Grants to be disbursed to the 22 Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) as set out in Appendix A of this report, on the basis that Council deems the 22 BIAs to be contributing to the beautification of the City of Vancouver, with the source of funds to be the 2025 Operating Budget.
- B. THAT issuance of the 2025 Graffiti Abatement Grants be subject to the BIAs each executing and delivering a grant agreement to the satisfaction of the Director, Business and Economy and the Director of Legal Services.
- C. THAT the Director of Legal Services be authorized to execute grant agreements with each of the respective BIAs.

Recommendation A requires a 2/3 affirmative vote of all Council members in accordance with section 206(1)(j) of the Vancouver Charter.

Purpose and Executive Summary

This report seeks Council's approval of the disbursement of \$500,000 in 2025 Graffiti Abatement Grants to the 22 BIAs set out in Appendix A. Funding for these grants has been included in the City's 2025 operating budget. The Graffiti Abatement Grants play a vital role in supporting graffiti removal efforts across the City's business districts.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

Since 2021, Council has funded a \$500,000 graffiti abatement grant program for BIAs; a detailed history of this program can be found in Appendix B.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

For many years, graffiti on private and public property has been an issue across business districts in the City of Vancouver. According to Engineering Services, in 2024, the City-led graffiti removal program recorded the removal of over 156,000 graffiti. Further, BIA-led initiatives resulted in the removal of over 19,000 additional graffiti across business districts in the City. Graffiti continues to be a persistent nuisance, negatively affecting the image of business districts and undermining the sense of security in areas impacted by graffiti.

Most BIAs allocate funding in their annual budgets for graffiti removal within their respective districts. Since 2021, the increase of graffiti in business areas led the City to support BIAs by providing annual grants of \$500,000 for graffiti abatement efforts (referred to as the Graffiti Abatement Grants). The Graffiti Abatement Grants are intended to supplement the removal efforts already covered by the BIAs' annual budgets.

Discussion

Use/impact of these grants

Graffiti Abatement Grants have played a vital role in supporting the ongoing efforts of BIAs to address graffiti since 2021. These grants are important as they supplement both the efforts funded from BIAs' annual budgets for graffiti removal primarily on private property, as well as City-led graffiti removal activities led by Engineering Services, resulting in a broader impact on neighbourhood beautification.

BIAs use the funds differently in alignment with their area needs: some use the funds to address graffiti covering large surfaces or located above a certain height, while others focus on graffiti removal combined with mural restoration as a preventative strategy to deter future incidents. These collective efforts support a fundamental objective of fostering vibrant and welcoming business districts aimed at attracting both businesses and visitors.

Grant Allocations

The distribution of the Graffiti Abatement Grants is based on an allocation schedule proposed by the BIAs. If approved by Council, a total of \$500,000 will be distributed to the 22 BIAs in accordance with the allocation schedule set out in Appendix A. Issuance of the 2025 Graffiti Abatement Grants will be contingent upon adherence to the terms of the grant agreement in the previous year, and executing and delivering a grant agreement for 2025 to the satisfaction of the Director, Business and Economy (BEO), and the Director of Legal Services. These grants are to be used exclusively for costs directly associated with graffiti abatement, including the restoration and maintenance of murals.

Graffiti is a persistent nuisance and resource-intensive challenge to address, so understanding best practices and deterrent mitigation measures is important. Working together with the Engineering Services team and the BIAs, the Director, Business and Economy will strive to ensure optimal alignment and coordination in approach, reporting, and resourcing.

In preparation for the 2026 funding cycle, the Director, BEO will collaborate with the BIAs to explore approaches that will enable improved City insights and analysis of graffiti impacts, as

well as streamlining administrative processes for the BIAs to access the grant funds. This may include standardizing data collection to enable year-over-year analysis of incidents and area impacts, supporting alignment between resource allocation and impacted areas, and harmonizing the issuance of the Graffiti Abatement Grants with annual BIA financial cycles.

Financial Implications

Funding for the 2025 Graffiti Abatement Grants is included in the 2025 Operating Budget.

Legal Implications

The recommended Graffiti Abatement Grants for the 22 BIAs are authorized under section 206 (1)(j) of the Vancouver Charter.

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APPENDIX A

2025 GRAFFITI ABATEMENT GRANTS ALLOCATION SCHEDULE

Name of BIA	Grant Amount (\$)	Percentage
Cambie Village BIA (Cambie Village Business Association)	\$23,800	4.8%
Chinatown BIA (Vancouver Chinatown BIA Society)	\$45,000	9.0%
Collingwood BIA (Collingwood Business Improvement Association)	\$16,450	3.3%
Commercial Drive BIA (Commercial Drive Business Society)	\$23,800	4.8%
Downtown Vancouver BIA (Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association)	\$45,000	9.0%
Dunbar Village BIA (Dunbar Village Business Association)	\$10,000	2.0%
Fraser Street BIA (South Hill (Fraser Street) Business Association)	\$16,450	3.3%
Gastown BIA (Gastown Business Improvement Society)	\$23,800	4.8%
Hastings Crossing BIA (Hastings Crossing Business Improvement Association)	\$30,000	6.0%
Hastings North BIA (Hastings North Business Improvement Association) East Village	\$23,800	4.8%
Kerrisdale BIA (Kerrisdale Business Association)	\$10,000	2.0%
Kitsilano 4th Avenue BIA (Kitsilano 4th Avenue Business Association)	\$23,800	4.8%
Marpole BIA (Marpole Business Association)	\$10,000	2.0%
Mount Pleasant BIA & Expansion Area (Mount Pleasant Commercial Improvement Society)	\$30,000	6.0%
Point Grey Village BIA (Point Grey Village Business Association)	\$10,000	2.0%
Robson Street BIA (Robson Street Business Association)	\$23,800	4.8%
South Granville BIA (South Granville Business Improvement Association)	\$23,800	4.8%
Strathcona BIA (Strathcona Business Improvement Association)	\$30,000	6.0%
Victoria Drive BIA (Victoria Drive Business Improvement Association)	\$16,450	3.3%
West Broadway BIA (West Broadway Business Improvement Association)	\$16,450	3.3%
West End BIA (Davie Village Business Improvement Association)	\$23,800	4.8%
Yaletown BIA (Yaletown Business Improvement Association)	\$23,800	4.8%
Total Grants Amount	\$500,000	100%

APPENDIX B

Council Authority/ Previous Decisions: Detailed History

On April 27, 2021, Council approved a motion that directed staff to identify a funding source for \$200,000 to the BIA Graffiti Removal Program. Further, on May 27, 2021, Council approved another motion that directed staff to allocate an additional \$300,000 toward the 2021 BIA Graffiti Management program. On July 6, 2021, Council approved the disbursement of \$500,000 for Graffiti Abatement Grants for the 22 BIAs.

On April 12, 2022, Council approved a Motion to issue \$500,000 for graffiti abatement and beautification grants, funded from the City's reserves, to improve conditions in Gastown, Chinatown, Strathcona, Downtown, and other affected neighbourhoods.

On January 17, 2023, Council approved the Uplifting Chinatown Action Plan and directed staff to include funding for the Action Plan in the City's draft 2023 operating budget. This Action Plan also included funding for Graffiti Abatement Grants for the 22 BIAs, totaling \$500,000.

On December 12, 2023, Council approved the City's draft 2024 operating budget, which included funding for Graffiti Abatement Grants for the 22 BIAs, totaling \$500,000.

On December 10, 2024, Council approved the City's draft 2025 operating budget, which included funding Graffiti Abatement Grants for the 22 BIAs, totaling \$500,000.