

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

*For consideration at the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on
November 26, 2025*

3. Buoying Up a Vibrant Vancouver

Submitted by: Councillor Kirby-Yung

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver City Council is committed to supporting and enabling a vibrant Vancouver that creates a fun city and offers a diversity of activities and experiences, as well as supporting entrepreneurship, local businesses, and a strong economy;
2. Vancouver values our Cultural sector. Arts and culture are experiencing challenging economic times. While Vancouver has committed to maintaining its grant funding support for the arts, other levels of government are not sustaining their past levels of funding support, and corporate support and contributions are also under threat;
3. The Vancouver Maritime Museum showed an operating deficit in 2024 with projections for another one in 2025. This impacts their ability to create dynamic exhibits and programming, and to represent the City's rich maritime history to locals and tourists alike;
4. Opening up pathways for cultural organizations when unique partnership opportunities arise can help support longer-term stability. The Vancouver Maritime Museum has shown exceptional progress in increasing earned revenue in recent years and has an appetite for proactive business development;
5. Vancouver is also committed to A Healthy City Strategy. Recently, Council has supported the growing interest in wellness experiences by modernizing regulations, recognizing the burst in cold plunges establishments and related offerings;
6. HAVN opened its first floating hydrotherapy facility in Victoria's Inner Harbour in 2023 reimagining a historic marine experience to connect people with the past, the sea, and themselves. HAVN reimagined and was built on a reclaimed 1943 WWII naval vessel. HAVN would like to site its second ship and wellness facility in Vancouver;
7. HAVN offers a people-centred, low-impact waterfront activation — a calm, wellness-focused experience that creates healthy third spaces for our residents. The Vancouver Maritime Museum sees strong alignment in welcoming HAVN to its marina, generating a vital new revenue stream to support the Museum's

sustainability while introducing a unique, restorative experience on the water that feels authentically Vancouver;

8. Introducing an innovative, low-impact wellness destination like HAVN would help strengthen the city's visitor economy while contributing to a more vibrant City. HAVN offers the type of modest, thoughtfully designed experience that supports waterfront vitality without creating significant traffic, noise, or operational impacts;
9. In addition to HAVN's Victoria location, benchmarks and successful facilities include Loyly in Helsinki, Salt in Oslo and Bota Bota in Montreal;
10. It has been years since Vancouver has welcomed a significant new tourism attraction. Having an innovator and experience like HAVN locate here will also help buoy Vancouver's visitor economy;
11. Other municipalities are finding ways to welcome new experiences and overcoming red tape to make that happen, as a result they are landing new attractions at Vancouver's expense. Losing this opportunity would mean loss of moorage revenue that would support sustaining the Vancouver Maritime Museum, advancement of Council's goals, and related benefits and improvements for the city-owned dock and the marina; and
12. This will also bolster Vancouver's existing waterfront amenities and institutions in the existing museum district in Kitsilano as one of the city's hidden gems. The Heritage Harbour marina is an ideal location on Vancouver's waterfront complementing the adjacent H.R. Macmillan Space Centre, Museum of Vancouver and new Senakw development, and is well served with an existing parking lot and water ferry service from False Creek Ferries.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT Council expresses its support for the Vancouver Maritime Museum's partnership opportunity with HAVN Sauna Inc. and direct staff to work with the Vancouver Maritime Museum and HAVN to support the potential addition of a HAVN Saunas vessel and wellness experience to the Museum's leased and managed water lot and marina, by identifying the simplest process to enable this opportunity to move forward.

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