



## COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: December 2, 2025  
Contact: Margaret Wittgens  
Contact No.: 604.358.8764  
RTS No.: 18091  
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20  
Meeting Date: December 10, 2025  
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services  
FROM: General Manager, Arts, Culture, and Community Services  
SUBJECT: 2025 Cultural Grants (Equity, Indigenous, Redress, Spaces, Public Art)

### Recommendations

- A. THAT Council approve 24 Cultural Equity and Accessibility grants totalling \$505,500 from the 2025 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the organizations listed in Appendix A for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Grant Recommendation" column.
- B. THAT Council approve 12 Cultural Indigenous grants totalling \$324,500 from the 2025 Cultural Grants Operating Budget, and 3 Indigenous Language Revitalization Grants totalling \$75,000 from the 2025 Arts and Culture Operating Budget, to the organizations listed in Appendix A for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Grant Recommendation" column.
- C. THAT Council approve three grants to support Cultural Redress commitments totalling \$70,000 from the 2025 Arts and Culture Operating Budget to the organizations listed in the section titled "Cultural Redress Grants" in Appendix A for the amounts in the "Grant Recommendation" column.
- D. THAT Council approve a grant of \$30,000 from the 2025 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance to support REFLECT.
- E. THAT Council approve a Making Space for Arts and Culture grant of \$175,000 to the Vancouver Concert Hall and Theatre Society to support development of Phase II of their Cultural Precinct Feasibility Study to be funded from the Coal Harbour Arts Complex Reserve.
- 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 program by \$175,000, to be funded from the Coal Harbour Arts Complex Reserve.

- G. THAT Council approve amended conditions as further described in the section titled “Recommendation G” on page 7 of this Council Report, for the disbursement of the Making Space for Arts and Culture grant of \$1,500,000 from the Vancouver Cultural Spaces Fund to the Dance Foundation to procure the Vancouver Dance Centre site, as detailed in the Council Report (RTS 16100) approved on May 29, 2024, via RTS 16100.
- H. THAT Council authorize an annual transfer of \$160,000 from the Georgia Street (Shangri-La) Public Art Reserve to the Arts and Culture Operating Budget to fund on-going operations of “Art Atlas” (formerly “Offsite”) at 1100 West Georgia Street.
- I. 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 Recommendations A to G 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.
- J. THAT pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization listed in Appendix A that is not otherwise a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency to be contributing to the culture of Vancouver.
- 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 to G and I require at least 2/3 affirmative votes of all Council members under section 206(1) of the Vancouver Charter.*

## **Purpose and Executive Summary**

This report recommends \$1,180,000 in grants to 44 cultural organizations, and ongoing funding to continue public art programming at 1100 West Georgia Street.

These recommendations support key civic policy and strategic directions as follows:

- *Vibrant Vancouver: City Council's Strategic Priorities 2023-2026*
- *Culture|Shift*, the City's 10-year culture plan, including the *Vancouver Music Strategy* and *Making Space for Arts and Culture*
- The City's *Reconciliation Framework* and *UNDRIP Action Plan 2024-2028*
- The City's *Equity Framework* and *Accessibility Strategy*
- The City's *Chinatown Cultural District Framework*

## **Council Authority/Previous Decisions**

- July 5, 2022: Council approved the Historical Discrimination Against People of South Asian Canadian Descent report, identifying priorities for the preservation of South Asian Canadian community spaces.
- May 30, 2023: Council supported the Commemoration of the Komagata Maru incident through a Secondary Naming of a Street, with next steps exploring potential funding sources for the Komagata Maru Museum at the Khalsa Diwan Society.
- December 11, 2024: Council motion to support a Japanese Canadian Interpretive Centre at Hastings Park.
- May 7, 2025: Council approved a motion directing staff to review the Vancouver Concert Hall and Theatre Society's (VCHTS') Phase I Cultural Precinct Feasibility Study, and to continue working with VCHTS on scoping and development of Phase II of the Study.
- June 4, 2025: Council directed staff to report back to Council with recommendations to potentially allocate funds to VCHTS from the Coal Harbour Arts Complex Reserve for Phase II of the Feasibility Study in an amount up to \$250,000.
- May 29, 2024: Council approved an extraordinary grant of \$1,500,000 to support the Dance Foundation in securing and procuring the land at 677 Davie Street.

## **City Manager's Comments**

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

## **Context and Background**

The City of Vancouver invests in operating and capital grants to local arts and culture non-profit organizations that advance the City's arts and culture priorities and a culturally vibrant community and local economy. Grants support operations, projects, capacity building, cultural spaces, and access to the civic theatres. The distribution and impact of cultural grant streams and other grants are reported through the ACCS Annual Grant Impact Report.

This report is the fourth in a series of 2025 annual cultural grant recommendations presented to Council, focusing on two grant streams developed to achieve greater equity for those who have been historically underfunded or unrecognized in funding programs:

- Cultural Equity and Accessibility Funding
- Cultural Indigenous Funding

Funding is also recommended to advance cultural redress commitments, invest in arts leaders from equity-deserving communities, support cultural infrastructure, and deliver public art programming.

## Discussion

This report outlines priorities and processes for grants recommended to Council. A full list of applicants and recommended grantees is in Appendix A, with grant metrics in Appendix B.

Grant recommendations A and B were determined by peer assessment committees, where members of the arts and culture sector and City staff evaluate applications based on program priorities. Community assessors were Julia Aoki, Pawan Deol, Moroti George, Michelle Olson, and Quelemia Sparrow, bringing a wide range of professional and lived experience. Staff recognize the thoughtful consideration of these assessors throughout the process.

### Recommendation A: Cultural Equity and Accessibility Funding

[Cultural Equity and Accessibility Funding](#) (CEAF), previously called the Cultural Equity Grant program, was launched in 2020 as a key action of *Culture|Shift* to achieve greater equity in the City's support for arts and culture. This program provides core support for organizations led by and for equity and/or accessibility-deserving communities, funding arts and cultural programming and capacity building. This low-barrier program uses a relational approach to honour and respect the deep knowledge held by equity-deserving organizations. Approving these grants would renew funding for 12 organizations and provide operational support for 12 new organizations, supporting artists, programs, and spaces that reflect their communities.

### Recommendation B: Cultural Indigenous Funding

[Cultural Indigenous Funding](#) (CIF), previously called the Cultural Indigenous Grant program, was launched in 2019 to advance Reconciliation goals in *Culture|Shift* to increase investment and leadership opportunities for xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and Urban Indigenous artists. This program supports Indigenous arts, culture, and language initiatives, and provides core support for organizations led by Indigenous communities. This low-barrier program offers a more relational, flexible process and reflects Indigenous self-determined ways. Approving these grants would renew funding for five organizations and provide operational support for four new organizations.

The three local First Nations are recommended to receive \$40,000 for self-determined cultural projects that are creating access to history, language, and places for their communities. An additional \$25,000 is recommended to support self-determined language revitalization priorities. This funding advances UNDRIP Action Plan recommendations for the City to support, revitalize, and promote local Indigenous languages, while ensuring Indigenous partners are resourced.

### Recommendation C: Cultural Redress Grants

Having formally acknowledged and apologized for its role in various forms of historic discrimination by past City Councils, including lobbying the Federal government for discriminatory immigration policies such as the 1923 Chinese Immigration Act, complicity and support for the forced relocation and internment of Japanese Canadians, and the refusal of passengers from Guru Nanak Jahaz (Komagata Maru), the City of Vancouver has committed to community-based cultural redress initiatives towards recognizing past harms, supporting public education/awareness about these histories, and supporting focussed community development initiatives related to these communities.

Strategic one-time grants are being recommended to Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association, Japanese Canadian Interpretive Centre Society, and Khalsa Diwan Society. Funding will support capacity building and aligns with previous Council direction to support the ongoing vitality of Chinese Society buildings, further work on a Japanese Canadian Interpretive Centre at Hastings Park, and identifying priorities for the preservation of South Asian Canadian community spaces and next steps of assisting Khalsa Diwan Society to source funding for the Komagata Maru Museum. All three projects focus on key planning work necessary to support the preservation, restoration and stewardship of significant cultural assets that tell the history of exclusion from community-based perspectives. These plans will lay the groundwork required prior to any significant capital infrastructure renewal, development and/or investment.

#### Recommendation D: Arts and Culture Grant – REFLECT

[Radical Empathy for Leaders: Equity, Connection, Time](#) (REFLECT) is a cohort-based program for arts leaders from Indigenous and equity-deserving groups, launched in 2023 as a pilot project by the City of Vancouver in partnership with the Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance and The Cultch. This third and final grant for the multi-year program will allow REFLECT to serve a second cohort. By nurturing underrepresented arts leaders, this grant represents an impactful investment supporting *Culture|Shift* and *Vibrant Vancouver* objectives, strengthening diverse cultural representation, and creating a culturally rich and inclusive city.

#### Recommendations E and F: Vancouver Concert Hall and Theatre Society Grant

Staff are recommending a capital grant of \$175,000 to the Vancouver Concert Hall and Theatre Society ('VCHTS') to support Phase II of a Cultural Precinct Feasibility Study, and to advance related Council direction. The Society's Phase I study identified that Vancouver has a lower number of performing arts seats of comparable cities and proposed that new and renewed facilities are needed. The findings broadly align with *Making Space for Arts and Culture* and the *Vancouver Music Strategy*, which identify the need for new performance spaces of various sizes across the city. Phase II will further develop the technical and financial feasibility of a future Cultural Precinct. Work will include engagement with Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh Nations and partner organizations, design and technical studies on types and sizes of venue, a high-level renovation feasibility assessment for existing City-owned theaters, exploration of potential site(s), high level cost estimates, and an economic study.

Given that the Study may reference aspects of City-owned facilities, staff recommend attaching conditions to the grant to ensure clarity of roles and practical outcomes. These include regular touchpoints with VCHTS' project leads, inclusion of venue options independent of City facility renovations, exploration of multiple site options and a distributed precinct model, and City oversight of Study content related to City responsibilities. The grant will also be conditional upon receipt of quotes for the proposed Economic Study.

The grant is proposed to be funded from the Coal Harbour Arts Complex Reserve. Supporting planning and feasibility work for a future performance venue is consistent with the Reserve's broad purpose. Staff recognize that allocating Reserve funds to high-level feasibility analysis reduces the resources available for implementation and construction of a possible venue. This trade-off has been considered and informs staff's recommendation. The recommendation responds to Council's direction and ensures the study produces clear outcomes to inform the City's future capital planning and decisions. Additional background can be found in Appendix C.

City funding for the Cultural Precinct Feasibility Study supports exploration of the Cultural Precinct concept and does not represent endorsement of or commitment to recommendations in both Phase I and II of the study. The City's role and level of involvement in the future Cultural Precinct will be determined following staff review of the Phase II outcomes, including feasibility of the City-owned Larwill Park site, and further direction from Council through a subsequent staff report.

Recommendation G: Amendment of Terms for a Making Space for Arts and Culture Capital Grant to support the Dance Foundation

On May 29, 2024 (RTS 16100), Council approved an extraordinary *Making Space for Arts and Culture* grant of \$1,500,000 from the Vancouver Cultural Spaces Fund to the Dance Foundation to help procure the Scotiabank Dance Centre site. As owners of the Granville Street purpose-built dance facility, the Dance Foundation has a time-limited opportunity to purchase the site at a fixed price from the current landowner, Scotiabank.

The grant was approved subject to the Dance Foundation securing required funding, review and confirmation of the sale, and registration of a community use agreement (CUA) preserving continued use of the site as a non-profit dance centre providing affordable spaces for artists and local non-profit dance organizations for the benefit of the citizens of Vancouver in perpetuity.

Since approval, the Dance Foundation has been actively fundraising and indicated that the "in perpetuity" condition is a barrier to securing the remaining purchase funds, as the perpetual covenant limits financing options. Staff recommend amending the CUA to apply for the duration of the later of the life of the existing building or a minimum of 20 years. This amendment maintains the intent of the original condition to preserve the use while supporting the Foundation's ability to leverage the funding needed to complete the acquisition.

Recommendation H: Public Art Programming at 1100 West Georgia

Since 2009, the City of Vancouver, the Shangri-La Hotel and Residences, and the Vancouver Art Gallery have partnered on the "Offsite" program, which addressed a long-standing need for a site in Vancouver to program temporary exhibitions of public art. Over the past 15 years, "Offsite" has presented 26 public art projects in a plaza on 1100 West Georgia Street, created specifically for the site by significant artists from Vancouver and around the world, with a particular focus on artists from Asia. The Vancouver Art Gallery Association received annual funding from the City's Georgia Street (Shangri-La) Public Art Reserve (the "Reserve") to deliver the "Offsite" program.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is no longer interested in continuing the "Offsite" program. Given the desire of the downtown community to see continued programming, and the intention of the Shangri-La Hotel to continue providing \$160,000 annually, the City of Vancouver's Public Art program proposes a new civic program titled "Art Atlas" to program the 1100 West Georgia site, by working with local and international curators to deliver rotating, large-scale temporary artwork of varying mediums by international artists. The intention of "Art Atlas" is to maintain the same ethos as "Offsite" offering the opportunity for top tier artists from across the globe to create site-specific public art installations of varying mediums for one year. The proposed program also offers opportunities for supporting local emerging and established curators to gain experience in delivering public art projects.

Staff are seeking authorization of on-going annual transfers from the Reserve to the Arts and Culture operating budget to enable 'Art Atlas', for as long as Shangri-La funding continues. If the Shangri-La funding ceases, staff will review the program at that time and return to Council as needed to seek direction relating to ongoing programming of the site. Ongoing funding for "Art Atlas" will support artists, curators, and the fabrication of exceptional artwork of international significance to contribute towards a vibrant Vancouver for all local communities and tourists to enjoy.

### Financial Implications

The sources of funding for these recommendations are the 2025 Cultural Grants Operating and Capital Budget and the 2025 Arts and Culture Operating Budget, as summarized in Table 1.

*Table 1 – 2025 Cultural Grants Budget (Operating & Capital)*

| Rec   | Grants Stream                     | 2025 Budget         | Previously Approved | Rec. in this Report | Balance          |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|       | Projects (CASC)                   | \$1,105,293*        | \$1,105,293         |                     | \$0              |
|       | Cultural Learning & Sharing       | \$200,275           | \$200,275           |                     | \$0              |
|       | Operating – Institution           | \$3,822,080         | \$3,822,080         |                     | \$0              |
|       | Operating – Annual                | \$1,505,150         | \$1,505,150         |                     | \$0              |
|       | Operating – Multi-year (cohort 1) | \$1,670,700         | \$1,670,700         |                     | \$0              |
|       | Operating – Multi-year (cohort 2) | \$1,082,200         | \$1,082,200         |                     | \$0              |
|       | Operating – Multi-year (cohort 3) | \$591,000           | \$591,000           |                     | \$0              |
|       | Theatre Rental                    | \$3,018,713         | \$3,018,713         |                     | \$0              |
|       | Individual Artists Fund**         | \$0                 |                     |                     | \$0              |
| A     | Equity & Accessibility            | \$505,500           |                     | \$505,500           | \$0              |
| B     | Indigenous                        | \$324,500           |                     | \$324,500           | \$0              |
|       | Affordable Spaces                 | \$335,000           | \$335,000           |                     | \$0              |
| D     | Emerging Priorities***            | \$180,000           | \$0                 | \$30,000            | \$150,000        |
|       | <b>Total Operating Grants</b>     | <b>\$14,340,411</b> | <b>\$13,330,411</b> | <b>\$860,000</b>    | <b>\$150,000</b> |
| E - F | MS4AC Grant – VCHTS               |                     |                     | \$175,000           |                  |
|       | <b>Total Capital Grants</b>       |                     |                     | <b>\$175,000</b>    |                  |
| B     | Indigenous Language Grants        | 75,000              |                     | \$75,000            | \$0              |
| C     | Cultural Redress Grants           | 70,000              |                     | \$70,000            | \$0              |
|       | <b>TOTAL – All Grants</b>         |                     |                     | <b>\$1,180,000</b>  |                  |

\* Includes a \$42,500 reallocation of a 2023 grant, and a \$25,000 reallocation of two 2024 grants.

\*\* The Individual Artists Fund is under review this year.

\*\*\* The remaining \$150,000 will be recommended to be allocated to the second year of the Cultural Tourism Events Fund in an upcoming Council Report.

Recommendation H involves an annual transfer of \$160,000 from the Georgia Street Public Art Reserve, which is set up as an operating reserve, to the General Public Art Reserve, which is set up as a capital reserve. There are no financial implications.

## **Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications associated with the report's recommendations.

\* \* \* \* \*



## APPENDIX A GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

| <b>Recommendation A: Cultural Equity and Accessibility Funding</b> |                                 |   |                          |                             |
|--|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
|  | <b>Organization</b>             | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Funding Requested</b> | <b>Grant Recommendation</b> |
| 1  | African Friendship Society      | Provides cultural, artistic, educational, social, and community events that reaffirm and restore cultural dignity for Black and African communities.  | 30,000                   | 25,000                      |
| 2  | Afro Van Connect Society* ^     | Empowers people of African Descent through conversation, collaboration, creation and performance by gathering vibrant, creative minds, and increasing the visibility of unserved communities.   | 35,000                   | 18,750                      |
| 3  | All Bodies Dance Project        | Offers inclusive and accessible dance opportunities for people of all abilities and supports underrepresented artists through training and mentorship.  | 35,000                   | 25,000                      |
| 4  | Black Arts Vancouver Society* ^ | Nurtures the arts expression of Pan-African youth in Vancouver, by providing tools, community, and space for any and all creative articulation, at no cost to participants.   | 40,000                   | 11,250                      |
| 5  | Blackout Art Society*           | Integrates Persian theatrical traditions with contemporary innovation to highlight immigrant narratives, with a focus on inclusivity, excellence, education, community engagement, cultural preservation, collaboration, and accessibility. | 24,500                   | 20,000                      |
| 6  | Chapel Sound Art Foundation     | Supports creative expression for local emerging artists in multidisciplinary electronic art and music, without artistic boundaries and regardless of a person's race, class, gender or orientation.   | 30,000                   | 25,000                      |

|    |  |   |        |        |
|----|--|---|--------|--------|
| 7  | Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society (Dragon Boat BC) | Produces a series of races, cultural programming, and community initiatives centred around the traditional Chinese cultural sport of dragon boat.   | 40,000 | 20,500 |
| 8  | Future Arts Network Society*   | Empowers women of colour in the arts through leadership, mentorship, and equitable representation.  | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| 9  | Hogan's Alley Society*   | Advances the social, political, economic, and cultural well-being of people of African descent through the delivery of inclusive housing, built spaces, and culturally informed programming.            | 30,000 | 15,000 |
| 10 | Love Intersections Society   | Media arts collective of queer artists of colour, with a mandate to share intersectional and intergenerational, underrepresented stories of queer people of colour in the community.                    | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| 11 | MENA Film Festival Society   | Provides a stage for artists and emerging voices from Middle Eastern and North African communities to share their work, open a space for dialogue and celebrate a place in the Canadian arts landscape. | 40,000 | 20,000 |
| 12 | New Old World Music Society  | Bridges the gap between ancient and the contemporary cultural music in a fresh and captivating way that produces quality programs for audiences and creates meaningful work for artists.                | 25,000 | 15,000 |
| 13 | Odd Meridian Arts Society  | Supports the research, creation, and performance of contemporary dance and contemporary art and related practices, for creatives who identify as equity-seeking.  | 47,000 | 40,000 |
| 14 | Punjabi Market Collective Society                                    | Supports the revitalization of the historic neighbourhood on Main Street between 48th and 51st Avenues, the first “Little India” in North America.  | 33,000 | 20,000 |

|    |                                     |   |        |        |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|--------|--------|
| 15 | re:Naissance Opera                  | Empowers storytellers and produces stories that have been excluded from the operatic space, especially the stories of artists that are IBPOC, female / Trans / non-binary identifying, and that have diverse lived experiences and / or intersecting identities.  | 40,000 | 35,000 |
| 16 | Recorded Movement Society           | Provides high-quality public presentations of film/video works, producing public art exhibitions, presentations, and performance art(s) events with a focus on youth (under 25), first-time dance/movement-on-screen filmmakers, and BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ artists.   | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| 17 | The Biting School Society           | Explores and challenges socio-cultural limitations through multidisciplinary art. With a focus on ethical reflection, accessibility, and community engagement, the collective creates imaginative works and offers workshops, while supporting equity-deserving artists and fostering critical conversations around identity, history, and social dynamics. | 35,000 | 25,000 |
| 18 | Black Block Association*            | Creates a gathering space for Black individuals where culture, talents, and uniqueness are celebrated to foster community, friendships, and collaboration. The vision of the Black Block Party is creating a community for Black folks in an atmosphere that truly represents Black culture, talents, and creativity.                                       | 40,000 | 15,000 |
| 19 | The James Black Gallery Association | Queer-led arts and culture hub that provides space for experimental multidisciplinary art practices, and nurturing community connection.  | 24,000 | 15,000 |

|    |                                       |  |        |        |
|----|---------------------------------------|--|--------|--------|
| 20 | Time Will Tell Arts Society           | Supports and presents underrepresented, racialized, and equity-seeking artists through performances, workshops, and mentorship. Since 2012, TWTAS has become known for showcasing South Asian, African diasporic, and intercultural arts, with a focus on community engagement and collaboration between local and international talent. | 20,000 | 15,000 |
| 21 | Van Vogue Jam Arts Society            | Helps support and build the vogue/ballroom scene within Vancouver, and builds a culture of creativity, community, expression, accessibility, and safety of Queer, Trans, Black, and People of Color (QTBIPOC) at its core.   | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| 22 | Vancouver Asian Film Festival Society | Programs an Asian film festival; incubates and empowers Asian Canadian actors, artists, creators, and filmmakers through capacity building, mentorship, and professional development that will enhance artistic representation and educate and entertain audiences.  | 50,000 | 25,000 |
| 23 | Vancouver Cantonese Opera             | Presents the unique traditional art form of Cantonese opera at the highest level to both Chinese and non-Chinese audiences.  | 30,000 | 15,000 |
| 24 | VocalEye Descriptive Arts Society     | Makes arts and cultural events more accessible for people who are blind and partially sighted.   | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| 25 | Aphotic Theatre Society               | Illuminates marginalized stories through innovative theatre, aiming to provoke discourse and expand cultural awareness. Focuses on decolonization, community engagement, and outsider experiences.   | 25,000 | 0      |
| 26 | Corporeal Imago                       | Creates hybrid circus-dance performances with a focus on inclusion, anti-racism, and artistic innovation.  | 20,000 | 0      |

|    |   |  |                |                |
|----|---|--|----------------|----------------|
| 27 | Diwali Celebration Society                  | Diwali Fest shares the joy, light, and cultural richness of Diwali with the wider community in Vancouver.  | 40,000         | 0              |
| 28 | Gender Equity in Media Society Vancouver    | Advocates for gender equity in film and television through mentorship, education, and an annual film festival.   | 15,000         | 0              |
| 29 | Heritage Vancouver Society                  | Originally rooted in historic building preservation, now focuses on empowering diverse communities to define and share their own heritage.   | 20,000         | 0              |
| 30 | Normie Event Society                        | Curates and produces public arts and cultural programming to promote the inclusion and representation of marginalized communities, including LGBTQ2+, women and gender-diverse individuals, and Black, Indigenous, and people of colour. It also fosters healthy relationships within these communities and with the broader public, aiming to advance diversity and equity in the local arts scene. | 20,000         | 0              |
| 31 | The Society of We Are Canadians Too         | Amplifies underrepresented voices in Canada's arts and culture sector through initiatives like Jade Music Fest, Pancouver, and Beyond Chinese. These platforms celebrate heritage languages, foster cross-cultural dialogue, and challenge reductive narratives to reshape Canadian cultural stories and promote diversity.  | 40,000         | 0              |
| 32 | Vancouver Adapted Music Society             | Supports musicians with physical disabilities, emphasizing accessibility, creativity, and personal growth.   | 15,000         | 0              |
| 33 | Vancouver International Black Film Festival | Promotes Black filmmakers and inclusive storytelling, fostering social justice and cultural representation.  | 40,000         | 0              |
|    |   |  | <b>988,500</b> | <b>505,500</b> |

\* Denotes grants with conditions

^ Organization will receive a transition grant for this intake, and is recommended to apply for project funding in the future.

| <b>Recommendation B: Cultural Indigenous Funding</b> |   |  |                          |                             |
|--|---|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
|  | <b>Organization</b>                         | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Funding Requested</b> | <b>Grant Recommendation</b> |
| 1  | Aeriosa Dance Society*                      | Sponsor organization for Butterflies in Spirit, which is an Indigenous women-led dance and theatre collective founded in 2012 by Lorelei Williams (Skatin and Sts'ailes Nations) in response to MMIWG2S+.  | 40,000                   | 10,000                      |
| 2  | All My Relations Indigenous Society         | Founder of Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week, produces and supports Indigenous cultural events with the goal of being a strong, positive connecting force for Indigenous culture.  | 50,000                   | 37,500                      |
| 3  | Carnegie Community Centre Association       | Provides social, educational, cultural, and recreational activities for the benefit of low-income people of the Downtown Eastside.   | 40,000                   | 20,000                      |
| 4  | Compaigni V'ni Dansi Society dba V'ni Dansi | Creates and performs traditional and contemporary aspects of Métis culture and artistic expression within Vancouver's vibrant arts and culture milieu.   | 35,000                   | 35,000                      |
| 5  | Holy Crow Arts Society*                     | Supports the creation and production of theatrical plays, community-engaged projects, creative collaboration projects, and commissions, all with a particular focus on Indigenous and Coast Salish artistic expression and stories that seek to uplift contemporary society. | 40,000                   | 30,000                      |
| 6  | Mortal Coil Performance Society             | Sponsor organization for Tsatsu Stalkqayu (Coastal Wolf Pack), who provides educational opportunities and creates imaginative theatre and spectacle for audiences of all ages through the use of stilts, puppets, masks and fantastic costuming.                             | 35,000                   | 15,000                      |

|    |   |   |        |        |
|----|---|---|--------|--------|
| 7  | Native Hip Hop Society*                       | Provides a safe place for Native artists and peers to learn, create, produce, and share hip hop with a strong influence from traditional Indigenous culture.  | 40,000 | 17,000 |
| 8  | O.Dela Arts Society                           | Supports the creation and production of contemporary Indigenous choreography by women through community-engaged projects, creative collaboration across discipline and generation, and new project commissions.   | 40,000 | 30,000 |
| 9  | Western Canada Community Projects Society*    | Presents Indigenous arts programs that educate, develop work and life skills, and build confidence for youth, young adults and any participants who experience economic or social barriers to success.  | 30,000 | 10,000 |
| 10 | səlilwətał<br>(Tseil-Waututh Nation)          | Funding to support self-determined cultural priorities.   | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| 11 | SKwxwu7Mesh<br>Uxxwumixw<br>(Squamish Nation) | Funding to support self-determined cultural priorities.   | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| 12 | xʷməθkʷəy̍əm<br>(Musqueam Indian Band)        | Funding to support self-determined cultural priorities.   | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| 13 | Canoe Cultures Society                        | Advances Indigenous arts and the preservation of the heritage art of the canoe by offering educational opportunities from one generation to the next. Includes Indigenous artists and Elders in the projects, traditional artistic knowledge, while showcasing the vitality of Indigenous arts and culture. | 30,000 | 0      |

|    |                                   |  |                |                |
|----|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|
| 14 | Raven Theatre Performance Society | Dedicated to developing and producing original and adapted theatrical works that are imaginative, personal, and thought-provoking. Fosters collaboration between emerging and established Indigenous artists, promotes inclusive storytelling, and aims to make theatre accessible and reflective of diverse cultures. | 40,000         | 0              |
|    |                                   |  | <b>540,000</b> | <b>324,500</b> |

\* Denotes grants with conditions

| <b>Recommendation B: Indigenous Language Revitalization Grants</b> |  |   |                             |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------|
|  | <b>Organization</b>                            | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Grant Recommendation</b> |
| 1  | səlilwətał<br>(Tsleil-Waututh Nation)          | Funding to support self-determined language revitalization priorities.              | 25,000                      |
| 2  | SKwxwu7Mes<br>h Uxxwumixw<br>(Squamish Nation) | Funding to support self-determined language revitalization priorities.              | 25,000                      |
| 3  | xʷməθkʷəy̓əm<br>(Musqueam Indian Band)         | Funding to support self-determined cultural and language revitalization priorities. | 25,000                      |
|  |  |   | <b>75,000</b>               |

| <b>Recommendation C: Cultural Redress Grants</b> |  |  |                             |
|--|--|--|-----------------------------|
|  | <b>Organization</b>                              | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Grant Recommendation</b> |
| 1  | Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association | Funding to create a Sustainable Funding Toolkit for Chinatown's society-owned heritage buildings, growing CSHBA's capacity to finance heritage activation with the use of innovative and community-aligned funding models. | 25,000                      |



|   |   |  |               |
|---|---|--|---------------|
| 2 | Japanese Canadian Hastings Park Interpretive Centre Society | Funding to develop a business plan for a future Japanese Canadian Interpretive Centre within the PNE Livestock building at Hastings Park – site of Japanese Canadian World War II incarceration prior to removal from B.C.'s coastal regions | 25,000        |
| 3 | The Khalsa Diwan Society                                    | Funding to develop a feasibility, operations and business plan for the Komagata Maru (Guru Nanak Jahaz) Museum located at Khalsa Diwan Society in South Vancouver.   | 20,000        |
|   |   |  | <b>70,000</b> |

| <b>Recommendation D: Arts and Culture Grant</b> |   |  |                             |
|---|---|--|-----------------------------|
|   | <b>Organization</b>                                     | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Grant Recommendation</b> |
| 1   | Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance Society | Funding to support the REFLECT program, to develop and enhance leadership in the cultural sector for equity-deserving individuals and communities. | 30,000                      |
|   |   |  | <b>30,000</b>               |

| <b>Recommendations E to F: Making Space for Arts and Culture Grant – Capital Grant from the Coal Harbour Arts Complex Reserve</b> |  |  |                             |
|---|--|--|-----------------------------|
|   | <b>Organization</b>                        | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Grant Recommendation</b> |
| 1   | Vancouver Concert Hall and Theatre Society | Capital funding to support development of Phase II of their Cultural Precinct Feasibility Study, conditional upon regular project touchpoints with VCHTS project leads; inclusion of venue options independent of City facility renovations; exploration of multiple site options and a distributed precinct model; City oversight of Study content related to City responsibilities; and receipt of quotes for the proposed Economic Study. | 175,000                     |
|   |  |  | <b>175,000</b>              |

## APPENDIX B METRICS

**Table 1 – Grants Metrics**

| <b>Grant Program</b>                      | <b># Grants Requested</b> | <b># Grants Recomm.</b> | <b>%</b>  | <b>\$ Grants Requested</b> | <b>\$ Grants Recomm.</b> | <b>%</b>  |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Cultural Equity and Accessibility Funding | 33                        | 24                      | 73        | \$988,500                  | \$505,500                | 51        |
| Cultural Indigenous Funding               | 14                        | 12                      | 86        | \$540,000                  | \$324,500                | 60        |
| Indigenous Language Grants                | 3                         | 3                       | 100       | \$75,000                   | \$75,000                 | 100       |
| Cultural Redress Grants                   | 3                         | 3                       | 100       | \$70,000                   | \$70,000                 | 100       |
| Arts and Culture Grants                   | 1                         | 1                       | 100       | \$30,000                   | \$30,000                 | 100       |
| Making Space for Arts and Culture Grants  | 1                         | 1                       | 100       | \$175,000                  | \$175,000                | 100       |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>55</b>                 | <b>44</b>               | <b>80</b> | <b>\$1,878,500</b>         | <b>\$1,180,000</b>       | <b>63</b> |

## **APPENDIX C**

### **BACKGROUND ON THE CULTURAL PRECINCT PROJECT AND STAFF'S GRANT RECOMMENDATION**

This appendix provides further background to support staff's grant recommendation as outlined in this report.

#### **Related Council Motions**

On May 7, 2025, Council directed staff to review the Vancouver Concert Hall and Theatre Society ('VCHTS') Phase 1 report and to continue working with VCHTS on scoping and development of the Phase 2 Feasibility Study. Council also directed staff to explore the potential of locating the proposed new performance venues on the City-owned site at Larwill Park that would complement the envisioned new Vancouver Art Gallery.

On June 3, 2025, Council further directed staff "to report back to Council to potentially allocate funds to the Society from the Coal Harbour Arts Complex Reserve for Phase 2 of the Feasibility Study in an amount up to \$250,000".

#### **Project Background**

The VCHTS is a coalition of 31 performing arts organizations. The VCHTS is leading a study for a Cultural Precinct concept which envisions a centralized Downtown cultural precinct with new and renovated performing venues. The City of Vancouver provided a \$125,000 grant in 2024 to the Society for Phase 1 Feasibility Study (the 'Study'). VCHTS also received funding support from the Provincial and Federal governments. Phase 1 of the Study is completed and indicated that Vancouver has less performing arts seats than comparable cities. The Study proposes a new concert hall and renovated Vancouver Civic Theatres facilities which is recommended to be further explored in Phase 2.

#### **Phase 2 Feasibility Study and Grant Recommendation**

The Society submitted an application for a \$250,000 grant to the City for Phase 2 of the study, to be completed in summer 2026. The Society is seeking other government grants and has secured financial contributions to the study from its members. Staff recommends a grant of \$175,000 based on assessment of eligible scope items and against established program criteria. Source of funds is proposed to be the Coal Harbour Arts Complex Reserve.

#### **Coal Harbour Arts Complex Reserve Background**

The Coal Harbour Complex Reserve fund is a Community Amenity Contribution (CAC) provided to the City in the 1990s. This Reserve was established specifically for the construction of a mid-size concert hall and arts complex in downtown Vancouver. The funding originated from the redevelopment of the Coal Harbour site which ultimately proceeded as the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre without including the arts component. The Reserve totals approximately \$33.7 million, including interest accrued. Planning studies towards a capital project is consistent with its intended purpose, and several planning studies towards a future Cultural Precinct have been funded since its establishment. Staff recommend that planning initiatives continue to be funded from interest earnings to maintain a minimum of \$30M in capital for potential construction or renewal of performance facilities. Should Council approve the grant of \$175,000, approximately \$33.5M will remain in the Reserve.