

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

*For consideration at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on
December 10, 2025*

2. Cementing the City of Vancouver's Support for Pride Weekend

Submitted by: Councillor Meiszner

WHEREAS

1. The Vancouver Pride Society (VPS) is a long-standing cultural partner of the City of Vancouver, producing the annual Pride Parade, Festival, and related community programming that celebrate and support Vancouver's 2SLGBTQIA+ communities;
2. The City's 2SLGBTQIA+ Advisory Committee, at its November 13, 2025 meeting, passed a motion reaffirming the importance of continued municipal support for VPS during a period of increased financial strain, and encouraged Council to act in alignment with this longstanding commitment;
3. Council has consistently supported VPS's events and cultural programming, including through annual cultural project grants, financial offsets under the City's Special Event Framework, and through public safety and operational coordination that enable VPS to deliver large-scale, accessible events such as the Pride Parade and Pride Festival;
4. VPS has received cultural project grants of \$7,500 to \$10,000 every year for over 20 years (available records go back to 2003), and in most years has received two or more grants supporting summer and winter Pride initiatives;
5. Since 2020, VPS has received a total of \$99,700 across nine grants, supporting seven cultural projects (including summer and winter Pride celebrations), one Cultural Learning and Sharing Grant, and one Cultural Spaces Grant;
6. The City, through its Film & Special Events Branch, works closely with the Vancouver Pride Society (VPS) and the West End BIA to support the successful permitting and delivery of both the Pride Parade and the Davie Village Block Party, including the coordination of public safety and operational requirements that help sustain Pride programming drawing hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors each summer;
7. Under the City's Special Event Framework, both events receive substantial financial support: the City provides 100% coverage of City-incurred public safety costs and, through the Festshare program, covers 75% of other City and VPD operational charges, representing the most significant form of municipal financial assistance provided to VPS;

8. In 2025, the Pride Parade incurred \$98,681.44 in City and VPD costs but, after Festshare and public safety support were applied, VPS paid only \$17,550.27, with the remaining \$81,131.17 covered by the City; similarly, the Davie Village Block Party incurred \$71,602.77 in City and VPD costs but organizers were charged only \$14,299.02 after the program was applied, with the remaining \$57,303.75 covered by the City;
9. The Davie Village Block Party – led by the West End BIA, VPS, and QMUNITY – was successfully reintroduced in 2025 through the Council-endorsed motion from Councillor Meiszner entitled “Bringing Back the Block Party: Supporting Davie Village and Vancouver Pride Celebrations,” and its return helped strengthen community connection, support local businesses, and enhance Pride Weekend programming; and
10. At the Vancouver City Council meeting of July 9, 2025, Mayor and Council pledged to find ways to financially support the Vancouver Pride Society at a time when VPS is facing substantial shortfalls in corporate sponsorships.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. THAT Council reaffirm its ongoing support for the Vancouver Pride Society, including the annual Pride Parade, Pride Festival, and related community programming, and direct staff to continue providing cultural grants, special event support, and public safety cost offsets in accordance with established City policies;

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to report back in Q1 2026 with an update on supports provided to VPS and any recommended adjustments to strengthen the City’s long-term partnership with the Vancouver Pride Society.
- B. THAT Council affirm its continued support for the Davie Street Block Party, and direct staff to work with VPS and community partners including the West End BIA and QMUNITY, to facilitate the event in 2026 and in subsequent years, subject to permitting and public safety requirements.

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