



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: January 8, 2026
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Meeting Date: January 20, 2026
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager, Arts, Culture, and Community Services
SUBJECT: 2026 Cultural Grants (Projects, Advance, Multi-year, Spaces) and Social Policy Grant

Recommendations

- A. THAT Council approve the first intake of Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (CASC) grants totaling \$500,000 from the 2026 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 65 cultural organizations listed in Section A of Appendix A for the amounts recommended for each organization in the “Recomm” column.
- B. THAT Council approve the first installment (Q1) of Cultural Operating Funding - Institution grants totaling \$955,520 from the 2026 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 5 cultural organizations listed in Section B of Appendix A for the amounts recommended for each organization in the “2026 Q1 Recomm” column.
- C. THAT Council approve advance grants for Cultural Operating Funding - Annual totaling \$1,115,940 from the 2026 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 75 cultural organizations listed in Section C of Appendix A for the amounts recommended for each organization in the “2026 Advance Recomm” column.
- D. THAT Council approve grants for Cultural Operating Funding – Multi-year totaling \$373,500 from the 2026 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 17 cultural organizations listed in Section D of Appendix A for the amounts recommended for each organization in the “2026 Grant Recomm” column.
- E. THAT Council approve a Making Space for Arts and Culture grant of \$2,665,000 from the False Creek Flats Amenity Share Reserve to the Eastside Arts Society to purchase 716 East Hastings.

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 \$2,665,000, to be funded from the False Creek Flats Amenity Share Reserve.

G. THAT Council authorize the City's Director of Real Estate Services to negotiate and execute a licence agreement with Other Sights for Artists' Projects Association for an approximate 295 sf portion of City-leased lands located adjacent to the premises of 1100 Chestnut St for a nominal rental rate of \$10.00 for a FLEET mobile artist studio. The proposed licence would have a term of 23 months and 10 days, from January 21, 2026, to December 31, 2027, and constitutes an in-kind grant valued at \$4,008. All terms and conditions are to be to the satisfaction of the City's General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services, the Director of Real Estate Services, and the Director of Legal Services.

H. THAT Council approve an in-kind grant of up to \$57,590 to Dugout Drop-in Society which represents the difference between market rent and the proposed below market rent for the property located at 57 E. Hastings Street, subject to the Director of Real Estate negotiating and executing a lease. This in-kind grant will be applied annually over a two-year period, for 2025 and 2026.

I. 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).

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.

Recommendations A to 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 a total of \$5,609,000 in grants and in-kind contribution of \$61,598 to 165 cultural organizations to support programs, services, and infrastructure for artists, the cultural community, and the public.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

- September 10, 2019: Council approved *Making Space for Arts and Culture*, setting the City's long-term vision and commitment to addressing cultural space challenges, with a goal to secure, enhance, and develop affordable and accessible arts and culture spaces, including no net loss.

- July 25, 2023: Council approved the 2024 Arts and *Culture Grants Program Framework* which outlines the policy, programs, adjudication process, and accountability requirements to support ongoing and emerging needs in the arts and culture sector.
- March 3, 2020: Council directed staff to work in partnership with the Eastside Arts Society on a strategy for an Eastside Arts District, including identifying approaches to support “no net loss” and growth of cultural spaces.

City Manager’s Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

The City of Vancouver invests in critical operating and capital grants to local arts, culture, and community non-profits to support operations, cultural projects, capital projects and planning, access to the civic theatres, and capacity building. The distribution and impact of cultural grant streams and other grants are reported through the [ACCS Annual Grant Impact Report](#).

This report includes the first of a series of annual cultural grant recommendations presented to Council. The grant streams addressed in this report include:

- Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (support for cultural projects)
- Cultural Operating Funding – Institution, Annual, Multi-year

In addition, staff recommend three one-time grants to support capital infrastructure, lease costs and license fees.

The recommendations support the following key civic policy and strategic directions:

- *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*
- *Spaces to Thrive*, 2021, the City’s 10-year framework for social infrastructure
- The City’s *Equity Framework and Accessibility Strategy*
- The City’s *Reconciliation Framework and UNDRIP Action Plan 2024-2028*
- *False Creek Flats Plan*, 2017

Discussion

This report outlines priorities and processes for grant recommendations to Council. A full list of applicants and grant recommendations can be found in Appendix A, with grant metrics in Appendix B.

Recommendation A: Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (CASC) Grants - \$500,000 to 65 organizations

Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (CASC) offers project-based grants for Vancouver’s arts and culture sector, funding many recurring arts-based events and activities that comprise Vancouver’s rich cultural fabric, and providing the opportunity for new groups to receive support. Grants support artistic creation/production, festivals, celebrations and parades, and community-

engaged arts practice, including projects from all artistic disciplines taking place across the City. Grants up to \$15,000 are available with two intakes each year.

CASC is open to non-profit organizations offering arts and culture programming, and advances the goals of *Culture|Shift*, by increasing the representation of equity-deserving artists and groups to civic cultural funding. As the support of artist-centred and artist-led programs is a central value of the CASC program, individual equity-deserving artists and collectives are able to apply in partnership with non-profit organizations.

Demand for funding from the cultural sector continues to increase, as non-profits face rising costs, inflation, decreasing revenues, real estate pressures, and ongoing COVID recovery. The number of applications for this program has been increasing steadily over the past five years. Refer to Table 3 in Appendix A to see the demand over time. This first intake of CASC received 150 applications, an increase of 49% compared to the first intake of 2025. Staff recommend 65 grants totalling \$500,000, which represents 43% of applications and 27% of funds requested.

Like many cultural grant programs, CASC is assessed by committees comprised of peers from the cultural community and staff, bringing a wide range of lived and professional experience across multiple disciplines from various communities. Community assessors for this intake of CASC were Laura June Albert, Mariam Barry, Anna Hilliar, Paula Jardine, Nadia Nascimento, and Elliott Ramsey. Staff recognize the thoughtful consideration of these assessors throughout the process.

Approval of these grants will support hundreds of artists from equity-deserving communities and many creative projects, festivals and celebrations that make Vancouver a vibrant place to live. Additional information and stats for this program can be found in Appendix A. Program information can be found here: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/casc-grant-information-guide.pdf>.

Recommendations B and C: Cultural Operating Funding – Institution first installments \$955,520 to 5 organizations, and Cultural Operating Funding – Annual advance grants \$1,115,940 to 75 organizations

Operating grants advance the *Culture|Shift* goal of arts and culture at the centre of city-building; they elevate the role of arts and culture and increase investment in the sector to ensure cultural and economic vibrancy. Funding supports established Vancouver-based, professional non-profit arts and cultural organizations to develop, create, produce, and present artistic work, or provide professional services or space for the benefit of the local arts and culture sector.

The City implemented the advance grants policy in 1998 to support a healthy cultural sector by addressing the cash flow needs of grantees at a time when operating support from other public funders has not yet been awarded. Advance grants provide 40% of the previous year's grant to operating grantees, and the first quarterly grant instalment to major institutions.

Advance grant recommendations are staff-reviewed in advance of the fulsome peer assessment committee process in February, and are based on the following criteria: evidence of continued organizational activity and financial viability in 2024 and projected into 2025, and no evidence of concerns around financial, program, operational, or community impact, or non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations or with minimum terms of the Cultural Grant Agreement.

Program information can be found here: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/cultural-operating-funding-cof-2026-information-guide.pdf>

Recommendation D – Cultural Operating Funding – Multi-year \$373,500 to 17 organizations

This program launched in 2023 to implement *Culture|Shift*, streamline grant application processes and lower barriers. In line with other public funders, the program provided a consistent level of core funding over a three-year period, to reduce administration burdens on non-profits and enable groups to focus on the delivery of professional cultural programming and services to the community.

Staff are recommending a one-year extension for 17 of the 55 groups from the first multi-year cohort. These groups were invited to submit a streamlined application form for year four and are recommended for the same grant amount. Organizations with operating budgets of \$300,000 and under were selected, to balance workload and reduce administration for smaller groups.

Recommendations E + F: Making Space for Arts and Culture Capital Grant - \$2,665,000 to the Eastside Arts Society

The Eastside Arts Society (EAS) is a central champion of the Vancouver's Eastside arts and culture ecosystem, home to one of the highest concentrations of artists and cultural producers in Canada. The annual Eastside Culture Crawl presents over 500 artists across 80 buildings to tens of thousands of visitors. EAS is a key partner in developing the Eastside Arts District (EAD) - a proposed district spanning Columbia Street to Victoria Drive and 2nd Avenue to the waterfront. In 2020 Council directed staff to work in partnership with EAS on a strategy for the declaration of the EAD, with the goal of protecting and growing artist production spaces in an area facing unaffordability and rapid displacement.

Since 2015, EAS has operated from 716 East Hastings Street, a 5,980 square foot Artist Studio Class B building that serves as a production and presentation cultural hub. The building owner has made EAS a one-time, exclusive offer to purchase the property at a fixed rate, expiring in May 2026. Staff recommend a strategic grant of \$2,665,000 to support EAS' property acquisition, conditional upon review and confirmation of the sale, and registration of a Community Use Agreement on title, securing the site for non-profit shared artist production, presentation and programming uses for the latter of the life of the building or 20 years.

This grant recommendation advances several goals of the City's *Making Space for Arts and Culture* plan – securing affordable cultural space, increased community ownership and expansion of tools like the cultural district to protect and secure space. It also advances City targets related to achieving no net loss of cultural spaces. This grant recommendation also advances the proposed EAD, by securing a permanent home for the EAS. A secured asset strengthens EAS' organizational and financial stability and enables their long-term planning and growth. EAS' proven programming, research, advocacy and community engagement demonstrates their ability to activate and manage the building, and leverage it as a step towards the EAD. This one-time investment would secure affordable artist studio and programming space as a public benefit, while using a community-owned approach, without creating long-term financial obligations related to facility maintenance and renewal for the City.

The grant is proposed to be funded through a unique reserve established under the 2017 False Creek Flats Plan, which collects contributions tied to new development into the dedicated False Creek Flats Amenity Share Reserve. Using these funds to support EAS' acquisition meets the intent of this reserve which is restricted to reinvesting in affordable non-profit industrial and art production spaces to maintain its vitality and economic competitiveness. Additional information can be found in Appendix C.

Recommendation G: In-kind Grant of \$4,008 to support a FLEET mobile artist studio

Other Sights for Artists' Projects Association (Other Sights) is a non-profit organization that delivers FLEET, a project to design and deliver mobile artist studios in public spaces, offering a creative solution to the loss of artist studio space in Vancouver. In January 2025, Other Sights received funding from the City's Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (CASC) grant program to offer Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh artist residencies in FLEET studios. By supporting affordable, accessible, and flexible opportunities for artists from local Nations, this initiative aligns with *Culture|Shift, Making Space for Arts and Culture*, and UNDRIP priorities.

To deliver this specific project, Other Sights is partnering with the Museum of Vancouver (MOV) and the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, both operating at 1100 Chestnut, to host a FLEET mobile studio adjacent to MOV's leased area for a term of 23 months and 10 days, commencing January 21, 2026, to December 31, 2027. Both organizations have expressed their support. To facilitate activation of programming, City policy indicates application of a market-rate licence, valued at approximately \$2,062 per annum, or \$4,008 for the proposed term.

This market-rate licence is prohibitive for Other Sights. Given this opportunity, alignment with City priorities, and previous City grant funding for this project, staff recommend approval of an in-kind grant (forgone revenue) valued at \$4,008. Staff further recommend preparing and executing a nominal licence agreement between the City and Other Sights for the specified term of 23 months and 10 days, at a nominal licence fee of \$10.00.

Recommendation H: Social Policy Grant – In-kind Grant of \$57,590 to the Dugout Drop-in Society¹

The Dugout Drop-in Society (the Dugout) provides essential daytime low-barrier drop-in space and services to support individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness and residents of the Downtown Eastside community. The Dugout's relocation to its future BC Housing leased facility at 239 Main Street has been delayed by approximately 2 years due to required structural work. In the interim, the society occupies a 2,215 sq. ft. space at 57 E. Hastings, a City of Vancouver Property Endowment Fund (PEF) site. To remain in this space, a market-rate lease will be required in accordance with City policy for PEF sites. A City staff review of the Dugout's financial documentation indicates the Dugout would be unable to support a market rent. Given the critical services provided and alignment with City priorities, staff recommends an in-kind grant of up to \$57,590 (\$28,795/year) over two years as needed which represents the difference between the market rent and proposed below market rent and aligns with the Dugout's financial capacity. Specific terms of the lease will be negotiated and executed by the Director of Real Estate.

Financial Implications

The source of funding for recommendations are the 2026 Cultural Grants Operating Budget and Capital Budget, as summarized in Table 1.

¹ For administrative efficiencies, this Social Policy Grant is being included in this Cultural Grants report. Subject to grant approval, a lease will be negotiated in January for the next two years.

Table 1 – 2026 Cultural Grants Budget (Operating & Capital)

Rec	Grants Stream	2026 Budget^	Previously Approved	Rec. in this Report	Balance
A	Projects (CASC)	\$1,053,566*		\$500,000	\$553,566
	Cultural Learning/Sharing	\$200,000			\$200,000
B	Operating – Institution	\$3,906,082		\$955,520	\$2,950,562
C	Operating – Annual	\$2,802,350		\$1,115,940	\$1,686,410
D	Operating – Multi-year	\$2,046,700	\$1,673,200**	\$373,500	\$0
	Theatre Rental	\$3,018,713	\$1,902,525		\$1,116,188
	Equity & Accessibility	\$475,500			\$475,500
	Indigenous	\$324,500			\$324,500
	Affordable Spaces	\$335,000			\$335,000
	Emerging Priorities	\$150,000			\$150,000
	Total Operating Grants	\$14,312,411	\$3,575,725	\$2,944,960	\$7,791,726
E+F	MS4AC Grant - EAS			\$2,665,000	
	Total Capital Grants			\$2,665,000	
	TOTAL – Arts & Culture Grants			\$5,609,960	

[^] the budget allocation is preliminary in advance of the community peer assessment.

* Includes a \$19,500 reallocation for two 2025 grants.

** This amount is \$20,000 less than approved previous, as one organization has ceased operations.

For Recommendation H, the Dugout Drop-in Society is recommended for an in-kind grant. Table 2 outlines the recommended grant amount and cost to the Dugout over the next 2 years.

Table 2 – Dugout Drop-in Society Grant Budget

Year	Dugout lease - rate \$12/sf	ACCS grant – rate at \$13/sf	Maximum total lease
2026	\$26,580	\$28,795	\$55,375
2027	\$26,580	\$28,795	\$55,375
	\$57,590 grant total		

Legal Implications

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

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APPENDIX A
GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

A - Communities and Artists Shifting Culture				
	Applicant	Project	Grant Request	Recomm
1	A Wake Of Vultures Arts Society^	'SWEAT CRY' with Company 605	12,000	9,000
2	Aeriosa Dance Society*^^	Thunderbird Performance Collaboration for the Scotiabank Dance Centre 25th Anniversary.	15,000	10,000
3	African Descent Society British Columbia	BHM-African Heritage Month – Event Series 2026	15,000	-
4	All Bodies Dance Society	What are you wearing? Interdisciplinary performance creation with neurodivergent youth	14,500	funded in CEAFC
5	Alliance Francaise Canada Pacific Society	Francophonie Month 2026: Francophone Voices on Stage	8,000	5,000
6	Aphotic Theatre Society^^	Spapey̕eq	15,000	12,000
7	Asian Canadian Writers' Workshop Society (ACWW)	LiterASIAN Writers Festival	15,000	12,000
8	Asian-Canadian Special Events Association	2026 LunarFest and The Lantern City	15,000	-
9	BC Society for the Museum of Original Costume*^	Digital Museum of Historic Dress	12,000	9,500
10	BECOMING-CHIMERA ARTS SOCIETY	interplay_2027	13,000	10,000
11	Belle Spirale Dance Projects Society	DOVES and other works	10,000	7,000
12	Black Arts Vancouver Society^^	Black Arts Vancouver x Unity Arts Collective 2026	15,000	-
13	Blackout Art Society	English	13,500	funded in CEAFC
14	Blue Cabin Cooperative*	Indigenous Artist in Residence + Mentorship	15,000	10,000
15	Canadian Artists Representation / Le Front Des Artistes Canadiens British Columbia Affiliate^	Artists on the Move: Meet & Greet Gallery Tour 2026	14,700	-
16	Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society	A Window into Chinatown at the historic Chinese Theatre	15,000	funded in CEAFC

A - Communities and Artists Shifting Culture				
	Applicant	Project	Grant Request	Recomm
17	Capilano Review Contemporary Arts Society ^{^^}	Beyond Discipline: Creating Networks of Care	8,780	5,500
18	Capture Photography Festival Society	2026 Capture Public Art Billboard Projects	15,000	10,000
19	Chapel Sound Art Foundation ^{^^}	Holistic Sonic Spheres	10,000	-
20	Chinatown Together Arts and Culture Society	Journeys into Culture: Arts, Heritage, and the Auspicious Beasts Series	15,000	-
21	Chinese Canadian Museum Society of British Columbia ^{^^}	A Year of Blessings – Audio Play Project	15,000	-
22	CICA Vancouver Centre of International Contemporary Art Society [^]	Public Programs for Ayako Rokkaku Artist Residency and Exhibition	3,519	-
23	Circollective Society for Circus Artists	Circollective Society presents Circurious Cabaret 5	15,000	-
24	Company 605 Dance Society ^{^^}	Boombox - Spring 2026 Series	9,000	-
25	Connection Salon Artists Collective Society	Mad Pride Festival 2026	10,000	4,000
26	Currently Arts Society	COLLIDE Festival II	15,000	11,250
27	Dance//Novella Arts Society	Final Development and Performance of "Soft Animals".	4,500	3,500
28	Death Rides a Unicorn Society	The 19 Death Rides a Unicorn shows operating in 2026	10,000	-
29	Drawing Wisdom Decolonizing Society [^]	A Coast Salish Intervention on the Colonial Archive	15,000	12,000
30	Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret Society	Hard Times Hit Parade remount in March 2026, Russian Hall	15,000	-
31	Dutch Cultural Association of BC	Dutch Denial Archives: Reconciling Sixties Scoop Adoptions through arts-based research	14,000	-
32	Eagles Inspirit Protecting Indigenous Fathers Society [^]	Living Fire Project: A Sacred Continuum of Culture and Community	15,000	10,000
33	Electric Company Theatre Society ^{^^}	The Crows Transcending — Phase 2 Integration Residency	15,000	9,500

A - Communities and Artists Shifting Culture				
	Applicant	Project	Grant Request	Recomm
34	Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design Foundation^	Somewhere We Have Travelled - ECU Indigenous Alumni Gathering + Exhibition	14,935	8,500
35	Enable: Arts Society	“Dream of Futures Full...” residencies for multidisciplinary artists.	15,000	-
36	Fade To Black Entertainment Society	Black to da Future: Honoring Matriarchs, Bridging Nations, Shifting Culture	15,000	-
37	FakeKnot Arts Society	‘MY HOUSE’ created by FakeKnot	7,000	5,000
38	Familogue Education Society^	Cultural Bridges: Family Arts in Community	15,000	-
39	Fight With a Stick Hybrid Performance Society	In the Forest of Dreams	15,000	12,000
40	Fluxing Recreational Artists Unifying Dreams Society*	Shame Fest 2026: Planning and Staffing for Year Three Expansion	10,000	5,500
41	Foolish Operations Society^^	self checkout : research lab and youth intensive	9,573	-
42	Foundation for Chinese Dignity^^^	麒麟革命 客家起義: Revitalizing Hakka Culture and Kirin Chinese Unicorn Dance	9,000	-
43	Free the Fern Stewardship Society	Eco-Arts Festival 2026	3,500	-
44	Future Arts Network Society	Letters to My (Grand)Parents Publication	15,000	funded in CEAF
45	Gallery Gachet Society^^	Resonate: Listening to the DTES	15,000	11,250
46	Gender Equity in Media Society Vancouver	GEMFest 2026	15,000	10,000
47	Greater Vancouver Emerging Musicians Association^	SFU Concert Orchestra 2026 Spring/Fall Concerts	3,000	-
48	Helen Culture and Education Society^	Cultural Voices: ESL Speech and Expression Project	14,600	-
49	Highs & Lows Choral Society	Songs for the Future	15,000	-
50	Holy Crow Arts Society	A new original play, Aunties (tentative title).	15,000	funded in CIF
51	Hope in Shadows Society	Voices of the Street 16th Annual Publication and Public Presentation	10,000	7,000

A - Communities and Artists Shifting Culture				
	Applicant	Project	Grant Request	Recomm
52	Inverso Productions Society	LIFT Intergenerational Dance Festival	8,000	-
53	Italian Day Festival Society	Italian Day on the Drive 2026	10,000	-
54	Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver	2026 JCC Jewish Book Festival	10,000	3,000
55	Kara-Kata Afrobeat Society of Canada	Roots & Rhythms: Afrobeat & Black Food Culture in Vancouver	15,000	8,000
56	Kids Up Front Foundation (Vancouver)^	InterActive Art Access for Kids and Youth	11,500	-
57	Kinesis Dance Society	Reverence for the Rebels	15,000	7,500
58	La Libelula Latin American Arts Cooperative	Amistad: Manos que Sostienen /Friendship: The Hands that Hold Us	9,000	6,250
59	La Société de développement économique de la Colombie-Britannique^	Bon Appetit Festival. Celebrating Francophone Culture	15,000	-
60	Lamondance Arts Society	Mortals and Saints: An immersive mystery in Motion	15,000	-
61	Leaky Heaven Performance Society	Chase	15,000	10,000
62	Little Mountain Lion Productions Association	Young People's Climate Theatre Project	15,000	-
63	LIVE Biennial of Performance Art Society^^	The Boy With A Thorn: Communities Changing Performative Into Action	15,000	-
64	Lookout Housing and Health Society^^	Unstill Life	12,171	-
65	Love Intersections Society	We Were Made of Corn	15,000	funded in CEAf
66	MENA Film Festival Society	2026 MENA Film Festival	15,000	funded in CEAf
67	Mitch and Murray Productions Theatre Society	The Entropy and The Ecstasy, a dramedy by Aaron Craven.	10,000	-
68	Movement Dance Productions Society	Yolonda Skelton/Joshua Beamish - New Collaborative Creation	13,000	-
69	Multicultural Artists Alliance Society of Canada^	Celebration of 10th Anniversary Arts & Music Gala	8,000	-
70	Music BC Industry Association	SoMa Fest	15,000	5,000

A - Communities and Artists Shifting Culture				
	Applicant	Project	Grant Request	Recomm
71	Native Hip Hop Society	The 1st annual Native Hip Hop Conference	15,000	funded in CIF
72	NE. Sans Opera and Dance Association	Bach Dances: A Multidisciplinary Dance and Music Project	10,000	-
73	New Performance Works Society ^{^^}	Fall(se) Cirque(us) at the Roundhouse Theatre, March 2026	15,000	-
74	Normie Events Society	Intergenerational Chinatown: A Technological Skillshare and Cultural Exchange	11,000	6,000
75	NOW-ID Dance Society	Mirroceros	9,000	-
76	OCW Arts & Publishing Foundation	Vancouver Art Book Fair 2026	12,500	9,000
77	Opera Lirica Society	Concert Series - Heritage Salon Socials	8,000	4,000
78	Other Sights for Artists' Projects Association ^{^^}	Weather for the Blind Vancouver	15,000	12,000
79	Outsiders and Others Art Society	Creativity Explored	15,000	-
80	Peretz Centre For Secular Jewish Culture	Bridging Rhythms: fostering intercultural connections through dance.	10,050	-
81	Poetry Canada Society	2026 Phyllis Webb Memorial Reading	4,700	3,500
82	Pride in Art Society ^{^^}	Kinship: a group exhibition centering trans ceramic artists	15,000	-
83	Promethean Theatre Society	Fates Fest Public Presentation and Community Event	13,500	10,000
84	Public Disco Society	Public Disco Block Parties	15,000	8,000
85	Publik Secrets Art Society	Vibrasi Gamelan concert series - Part 2	8,940	-
86	PuSh International Performing Arts Festival Society* ^{^^}	The E.N.D.: Dancing Grief, Ancestry, and Resilience into Being	15,000	7,500
87	Queer Afro-Latin Dance Vancouver Society [^]	Doña Maraca: Queer Salsa and Community Building	4,731	-
88	Raven Theatre Performance Society	On Native Land - Production	15,000	5,000
89	Red Gate Arts Society	Red Gate TV Highlight Gala	14,722	-
90	Reel Causes Society	Reel Causes' Art and Action Series	15,000	6,000
91	Renegade Arts Society	Drift Music and Arts Festival	15,000	-

A - Communities and Artists Shifting Culture				
	Applicant	Project	Grant Request	Recomm
92	Rice and Beans Theatre Society ^{^^}	Taiwanese Canadian cross-cultural development workshop of "Hymn of the Weaverbirds"	11,536	8,000
93	Rueda De La Vida Dance Society [^]	Vancouver Outdoor Salsa Festival	15,000	-
94	Run N Gun Filmmakers Society	Run N Gun Film Festival 2026	15,000	9,000
95	Satellite Video Exchange Society ^{^^}	Greasy Zine Issue 03	15,000	11,250
96	Shades of YVR Creative Collective [^]	Sounds of the City: Live Music Series	10,000	5,000
97	Sher Vancouver LGBTQ Friends Society	Transit: Bridges of Memory	15,000	-
98	SMI Film Society	We Belong Vancouver	15,000	10,000
99	Stage 4th Society	Crossing Voices: Vancouver Chinese Culture Theatre Festival	15,000	-
100	Strathcona Spatial Sound Society ^{^^}	Wangsit: Dreaming In Future	14,958	-
101	Subterranean Arts Society [^]	Subterranean Arts Society presents... Echoes	3,400	-
102	Taff Art Society	To Love or Not To Love	15,000	7,500
103	Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Society	2026 Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival	15,000	-
104	Terminal City Glass Co-op	Learning Fire Project Expanded Outreach Program	13,100	10,000
105	The Art Party Community Services Society	Vancouver Tiny Concerts with Digital Art	13,000	-
106	The Beaumont Studios Artist Society	The B1 Gallery Path Making Project	12,050	6,500
107	The Biting School Society	The White Butterfly	15,000	funded in CEAF
108	The Britannia Community Services Centre Society	50th Anniversary Commemoration of Britannia Community Centre	10,000	6,500
109	The Group Multimodal Research Guild ^{^^}	Creative Community Mobilization via Found You Magazine Issue 4	15,000	-
110	The James Black Gallery Association	Seedlings: A Residency Incubator for Emerging Artists	11,000	funded in CEAF
111	The Revitalizing Orca Society [^]	Healing thru Indigenous Culture and Art	15,000	-
112	The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society - Vancouver Branch	Dance Scottish in Stanley Park	3,000	-

A - Communities and Artists Shifting Culture				
	Applicant	Project	Grant Request	Recomm
113	The Search Party Theatre Company Society	People, Places & Things	15,000	-
114	The Society of We Are Canadians Too	2026 LNY Splash!	10,000	-
115	The Sleepy Queers Society^	Sleepy Queers Productions Presents: The Drag & Music Series	11,000	7,500
116	The Standing Wave Society	Compocon Presentation of Final Works	7,500	4,500
117	The Vancouver Community Gamelan Society	Show on Earth: Wallace Line, Deep Time, Dust	10,000	-
118	The Vancouver East Cultural Centre^^	EI Mashup: Hybrid Creative Workshop Series for Latine Youth (13-30)	15,000	-
119	The Vancouver Improv Centre Society	East Vancouver Schools Improv Project	8,073	5,000
120	The Vancouver Maritime Museum Society^^	ETUAPTMUMK/ TWO EYED SEEING Screening, Gathering & Workshops	9,114	-
121	The Writers' Exchange Society	The Writers' Exchange Kids Chapbooks	5,000	3,000
122	Time Will Tell Arts Society	Swagat	14,218	funded in CEAF
123	Touchstone Theatre Society^^	TERMITE Creation Residency: Music, Movement, and Text	15,000	10,000
124	Turkish-Canadian Society	Turkish-Canadian Society Turkish Choir Ensemble Vancouver 2026 Concert	15,000	-
125	Upstart & Crow Literary Arts Society	Upstart & Crow Literary Arts Society: Found in Translation Program	7,500	5,000
126	Van Vogue Jam Arts Society	VVJ Weekly Community Classes	15,000	funded in CEAF
127	Vancouver Adapted Music Society	Creating a Community for Musicians with Disabilities: Recordings and Concerts	13,000	7,000
128	Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre^^	Development and public reading of Geomancer by Leslie Lum	15,000	7,500
129	Vancouver Black Library Foundation^^	Youth in Ballroom Community Workshop Series	14,500	-

A - Communities and Artists Shifting Culture				
	Applicant	Project	Grant Request	Recomm
130	Vancouver Cantonese Opera	The Awakening – Choreography and Movement Development (Acts 2, 3)	15,000	funded in CEAF
131	Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival Society	Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival - Young and Emerging Artists Program	15,000	7,500
132	Vancouver Chinatown Foundation for Community Revitalization	Taste of Chinatown! Community Arts for Year of the Horse	15,000	-
133	Vancouver Chinese Film Festival Association	14th Vancouver Chinese Film Festival	10,000	-
134	Vancouver Dyke March and Festival Society	2026 Vancouver Dyke March and Festival	6,500	4,500
135	Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art ^{^^}	Performance and Panel Discussion for Camouflage at Centre A	15,000	-
136	Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival Society	The Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival	15,000	10,000
137	Vancouver Mikoshi Sakurakai Society ^{*^}	Connecting Japan and Canada Honoring Heritage and Sharing Cultur	14,933	-
138	Vancouver Pride Society	East Side Pride 2026	15,000	7,000
139	Vancouver Sangeetopasana Sabha Society [^]	Rhythms in Unity 2026	10,000	6,500
140	Vancouver Street Dance Association	Ladies First	15,000	8,500
141	Vancouver Visual Art Foundation	Healing Through Art	7,000	-
142	Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Global Wellness & Culture Society [^]	Sacred Knowledge, Modern Creativity South Asian Heritage for Today's Generation	15,000	-
143	Vetta Chamber Music Society	A Look to the Future with the Vetta Mentorship Orchestra	15,000	-
144	West Coast Cultural Lab Society [^]	Vancouver On Ink: Music Flight	5,810	-
145	Western Gold Theatre Society	On Our Feet!(OOF!) Staged Reading Series	15,000	-
146	What Lab Society of Arts	It's Not a Stage 2026: Dream Team	14,000	10,000
147	Yarilo Contemporary Music Society	Yin and Yang - Where Jazz and Classical Meet	5,500	-

A - Communities and Artists Shifting Culture				
	Applicant	Project	Grant Request	Recomm
148	Yarrow Intergenerational Society for Justice	SNAP: Seniors Navigating Advocacy Program	15,000	-
149	Zeer Art Society^	Koomeh: A Global Music Mosaic	13,800	-
150	Zornitza Arts & Culture Society^	Concert "Roses of Bulgaria"	8,000	2,500
	TOTAL		1,865,413	500,000

*Denotes grants with conditions

^New applicants

^^Sponsored applications for individual artists/collectives

Applicants funded in CEAF (Cultural Equity & Accessibility Funding) and CIF (Cultural Indigenous Funding) approved in RTS 18091 are therefore not eligible for CASC funding.

Highlights of the first 2026 CASC intake:

- 150 applications submitted for this intake. This is a 19% increase from March 2025 (126 applications) and 49% increase from Oct 2024 (101 applications)
- 13 applicants were moved to core funding programs (Cultural Indigenous Funding & Cultural Equity & Accessibility Funding programs – see list above) so 137 applications were assessed
- Total requested amount from 150 applications submitted = \$1,865,413
- Total requested amount from 137 applications assessed = \$1,677,195
- 65 projects out of 137 assessed were recommended for support, representing an award rate of 47%, and an overall award rate of 43% based on 150 submitted applications
- Funded projects received an average of 62% of the requested amount
- Recommended grant amounts range from \$2,500 to \$12,000
- The largest types of artistic practice recommended for support this intake are for multidisciplinary (23%), music (13%), community arts/social practice (11%) and dance (11%)
- Applications by Project type:
 - Artistic creation or production – 45%
 - Community-engaged arts project – 35%
 - Festival, celebration or large-scale project – 31%

Rationale for recommendations:

As requests typically exceed available funding, not all projects can be supported.

Recommended CASC projects exceed criteria in one or more of the following ways:

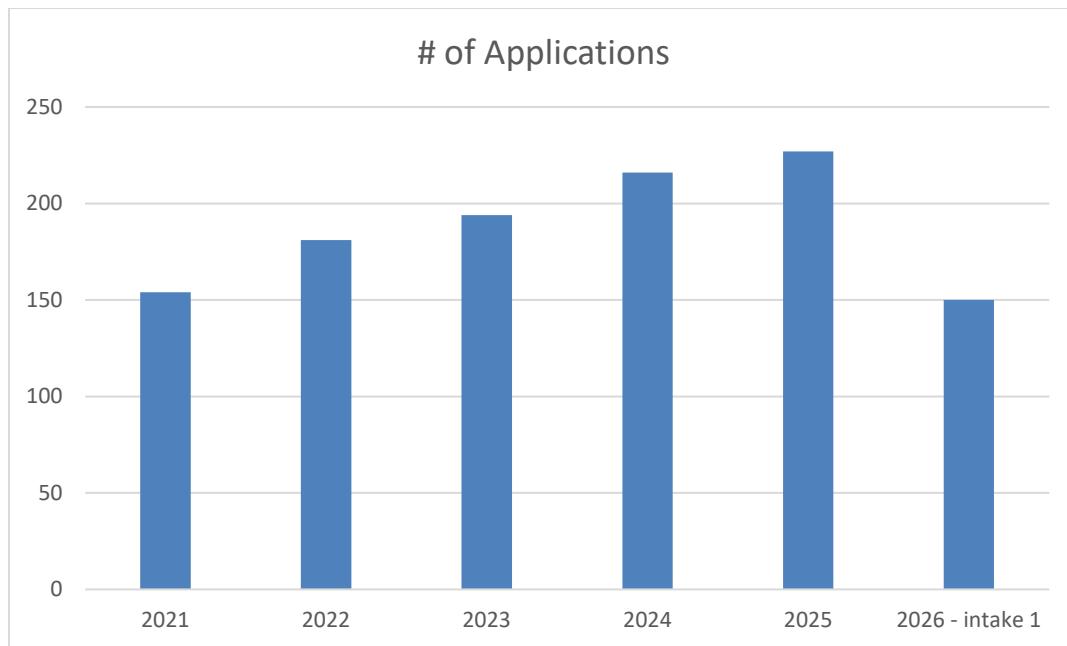
- Compelling creative vision with a strong case for timeliness of the project
- Clear understanding of and connection to the community being served and how the proposed project will have impact
- Well-developed equity, accessibility and inclusion practices with evidence of ongoing evaluation
- Relevant action beyond land acknowledgements with regard to Local First Nations and understanding of cultural protocols as appropriate

- Advances equity through meaningful inclusion of underrepresented artists and audiences and addressing intersectional barriers
- Detailed budget notes and project plan to support proposal
- Demonstrated need for City support through this program

The following are examples of recommended projects impacting communities throughout the city:

- A series of three disability-focused healing-sound gatherings at Lobe Studio
- A Writers Festival celebrating writers of Asian descent and Asian mixed-race writers
- A glass arts education program now partnering with 10 Vancouver School Board alternative high schools and expanding its outreach program.
- a one-day celebration that fuses Afrobeat music, dance, and performance with Black farming traditions and food culture.
- A dynamic showcase of Bulgarian folk dance, live music, traditional costumes, food, and crafts, along with an interactive dance workshop and an exhibition of handmade embroidery and souvenirs.
- A full-length dance theatre work developed in collaboration with an all-female cast of emerging and mid-career performers.
- A community engaged project bringing together Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh knowledge keepers and memory holders, to do a visual retelling of Vancouver archives and histories

Table 3 – Number of Applications Submitted to CASC by Year



B - Cultural Operating Funding - Institution

First Quarterly Installment

Major Institutions		2026 Grant Request	2026 Q1 Recomm
1	A.S.T.C. Science World Society	150,000	23,625
2	H.R. MacMillan Space Centre Society	519,400	110,475
3	The Vancouver Art Gallery Association	2,122,680	530,670
4	The Vancouver Maritime Museum Society	575,000	101,250
5	Vancouver Museum Society	758,000	189,500
TOTAL		4,125,080	955,520

C - Cultural Operating Funding - Annual

Advance Grant (40% of 2025 Grant)

Applicant	2026 Grant Request	2026 Advance Recomm
221A Artist Run Centre Society	100,000	28,000
Aeriosa Dance Society	30,000	9,600
Axis Theatre Society	45,000	13,000
Bard on the Beach Theatre Society	85,000	24,000
Caravan World Rhythms Society	20,000	6,800
Carousel Theatre Society	55,000	16,000
City Opera of Vancouver Society	18,500	7,400
Community Radio Education Society dba Vancouver Cooperative Radio	60,000	12,000
Company 605 Dance Society	24,310	7,480
COMPANY ERASGA SOCIETY	34,000	9,600
Craft Council of British Columbia	15,000	4,860
Dance West Network Society	30,000	8,800
Eastside Arts Society	30,000	5,200
Electric Company Theatre Society	35,000	14,000
Full Circle: First Nations Performance Society	100,000	40,000
Gallery Gachet Society	42,000	12,800
Health Arts Society	25,000	10,000
Indian Summer Arts Society	60,000	18,800
Joe Ink Performance Society	11,000	4,280
Kidd Pivot Performing Arts Society	28,980	10,080
Kokoro Dance Theatre Society	69,237	24,000
Latincouver Cultural & Business Society	30,000	8,000
LIVE Biennial of Performance Art Society	22,000	7,200
Movement Enterprises Society	11,000	3,600
Music in the Morning Concert Society	30,000	6,440

C - Cultural Operating Funding - Annual

Advance Grant (40% of 2025 Grant)

Applicant	2026 Grant Request	2026 Advance Recomm
26 New Forms Media Society	10,000	4,000
27 New Performance Works Society	31,000	11,200
28 Neworld Theatre Society	40,000	13,800
29 Pacific Ballet British Columbia Society	125,000	38,000
30 Powell Street Festival Society	95,000	18,800
31 Pride in Art Society	50,000	18,000
32 Projectile Publishing Society	20,000	4,680
33 PTC Playwrights Theatre Centre	47,500	18,000
34 PuSh International Performing Arts Festival Society	100,000	34,000
35 Raven Spirit Dance Society	35,000	10,000
36 Rosario Ancer Flamenco Arts Society	30,000	9,600
37 Ruby Slippers Productions Society	30,000	10,000
38 Rumble Productions Society	35,000	12,000
39 Satellite Video Exchange Society	67,500	15,000
40 Savage Production Society	35,000	14,000
41 Screaming Weenie Productions	30,000	10,000
42 Snichim Foundation Society	20,000	7,000
43 Sub-Terrain Literary Collective Society	12,000	3,920
44 The Art Starts In Schools Society*	28,500	11,400
45 The Arts Club of Vancouver Theatre Society	200,000	55,200
46 The Coastal Jazz and Blues Society	115,000	36,800
47 The Community Arts Council of Vancouver	20,000	6,000
48 The Documentary Media Society	40,000	12,800
49 The Firehall Theatre Society	85,000	34,000
50 The Geist Foundation	20,000	5,400
51 The Green Thumb Players Society	75,000	25,600
52 The Mascall Dance Society	25,000	6,000
53 The Vancouver Cantata Society	14,000	5,600
54 The Vancouver Folk Music Festival Society	100,000	28,000
55 The Vancouver Out On Screen Film and Video Society	55,000	20,000
56 Théâtre la Seizième	38,000	14,000
57 Touchstone Theatre Society	40,000	14,000
58 Urban Ink Production Society	100,000	22,000
59 Vancouver Access Artist Run Centre	40,000	10,400
60 Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre	40,000	12,000

C - Cultural Operating Funding - Annual

Advance Grant (40% of 2025 Grant)

Applicant	2026 Grant Request	2026 Advance Recomm
61 Vancouver Chamber Choir	20,000	7,200
62 Vancouver Fringe Theatre Society	56,424	16,000
63 Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration	90,000	8,000
64 Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art	47,000	14,800
65 Vancouver International Dance Festival Society	50,000	14,000
66 Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre Society	30,000	8,000
67 Vancouver Moving Theatre Society	35,000	14,000
68 Vancouver Opera Association	60,000	22,000
69 Vancouver Symphony Society	58,000	23,200
70 Vancouver West Side Theatre Society	45,000	14,400
71 VDC Dance Centre Society	100,000	36,000
72 Vines Art Festival Society	45,000	14,000
73 Visceral Visions Society	50,000	9,200
74 Visible Art Society	65,000	23,000
75 ZeeZee Theatre Society	30,000	9,000
TOTAL	3,640,951	1,115,940

*Denotes grants with conditions

D - Cultural Operating Funding – Multi-year

	Applicant	2026 Grant Request	2026 Grant Recomm
1	battery opera performing arts society	21,000	21,000
2	Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists - British Columbia Chapters	15,000	15,000
3	Capilano Review Contemporary Arts Society	20,000	20,000
4	Elektra Women's Choir	20,000	20,000
5	Foolish Operations Society	15,000	15,000
6	Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance Society	30,000	30,000
7	The I.E. Artspeak Gallery Society	29,000	29,000
8	Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture*	25,000	25,000
9	MISCELLANEOUS Productions Society	28,500	28,500
10	Sound of Dragon Society	15,000	15,000
11	The Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra Society	25,000	25,000
12	TTS Theatre Terrific Society	20,000	20,000
13	Vancouver Latin American Film Festival	20,000	20,000
14	Vancouver Poetry House Society	15,000	15,000
15	Wen Wei Dance Society	20,000	20,000
16	WePress Community Arts Space Society	30,000	30,000
17	West Coast Feminist Literary Magazine Society	25,000	25,000
TOTAL		373,500	373,500

*Denotes grants with conditions

D - Previously Approved**Cultural Operating Funding – Multi-year Cohort 2 (2024, 2025, 2026)**

	Applicant	Total Grant Recomm (2024-2026)	2024 Grant Recomm	2025 Grant Recomm	2026 Grant Recomm
1	Bill Reid Foundation	120,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
2	CAG Contemporary Art Gallery Society of British Columbia	225,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
3	Canadian Music Centre/Centre de Musique Canadienne	100,500	33,500	33,500	33,500
4	Centre Culturel Francophone de Vancouver	66,000	22,000	22,000	22,000
5	Chor Leoni Choral Society	60,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
6	Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Society	108,000	36,000	36,000	36,000
7	Danstabat Performance Society (Tara Cheyene Performance)	60,000	20,000	20,000	20,000

8	First Pacific Theatre Society	63,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
9	Greater Vancouver International Film Festival Society	225,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
10	ITSAZOO Productions Society	39,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
11	Music on Main Society	150,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
12	Musica Intima Society	69,000	23,000	23,000	23,000
13	New Orchestra Workshop Society	84,000	28,000	28,000	28,000
14	Out Innerspace Dance Theatre and Film Society	78,000	26,000	26,000	26,000
15	Pacific Cinematheque Pacifique	135,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
16	Pink Ink Theatre Productions Association	60,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
17	Rice and Beans Theatre Society	69,600	23,200	23,200	23,200
18	The Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia	69,000	23,000	23,000	23,000
19	The Plastic Orchid Factory Society	45,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
20	The Vancouver East Cultural Centre	466,500	155,500	155,500	155,500
21	The Vancouver International Writers Festival Society	195,000	65,000	65,000	65,000
22	The Western Front Society	138,000	46,000	46,000	46,000
23	Turning Point Ensemble	93,000	31,000	31,000	31,000
24	Up In The Air Theatre Society	51,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
25	Vancouver International Children's Festival Society	402,000	134,000	134,000	134,000
26	WESTERN THEATRE CONSPIRACY ARTS SOCIETY	75,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
TOTAL		3,246,600	1,082,200	1,082,200	1,082,200

**D – Previously Approved
Cultural Operating Funding – Multi-year Cohort 3 (2025, 2026, 2027)**

	Applicant	Total Grant Recomm (2025-2027)	2025 Grant Recomm	2026 Grant Recomm	2027 Grant Recomm
1	Boca del Lupo Theatre Society	126,000	42,000	42,000	42,000
2	British Columbia Alliance for Arts and Culture Society	123,000	41,000	41,000	41,000
3	EDAM Performing Arts Society	75,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
4	Glitch Theatre Society	90,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
5	Hard Rubber New Music Society	45,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
6	Karen Jamieson Dance Society	48,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
7	Malaspina Printmakers Society	112,500	37,500	37,500	37,500
8	Radix Theatre Society	30,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

9	Secret Lantern Society	45,600	15,200	15,200	15,200
10	Seismic Shift Arts Society	63,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
11	Still Moon Arts Society	60,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
12	The Chop Theatre Society	42,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
13	The Dancing on the Edge Festival Society	75,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
14	The Only Animal Theatre Society	51,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
15	The Or Gallery Society	111,000	37,000	37,000	37,000
16	The Vancouver Book and Magazine Fair	54,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
17	Theatre Replacement Society	120,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
18	UNIT/PITT Society for Art and Critical Awareness	90,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
19	Vancouver Choral Arts Society	82,500	27,500	27,500	27,500
20	Vancouver Independent Music Centre Society	51,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
21	Vancouver Jewish Film Centre Society	27,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
22	Vancouver New Music Society	94,650	31,550	31,550	31,550
23	Vancouver Society for Early Music	156,750	52,250	52,250	52,250
24					
TOTAL**		1,773,000	591,000	591,000	591,000

** The total is \$60,000 less than initially approved in RTS 17703 (\$20,000 per year) as Reel to Real: A Celebration of Moving Images for Youth Society has ceased operations.

E + F - Making Space for Arts and Culture Capital Grant from the False Creek Amenity Share and Density Reserve

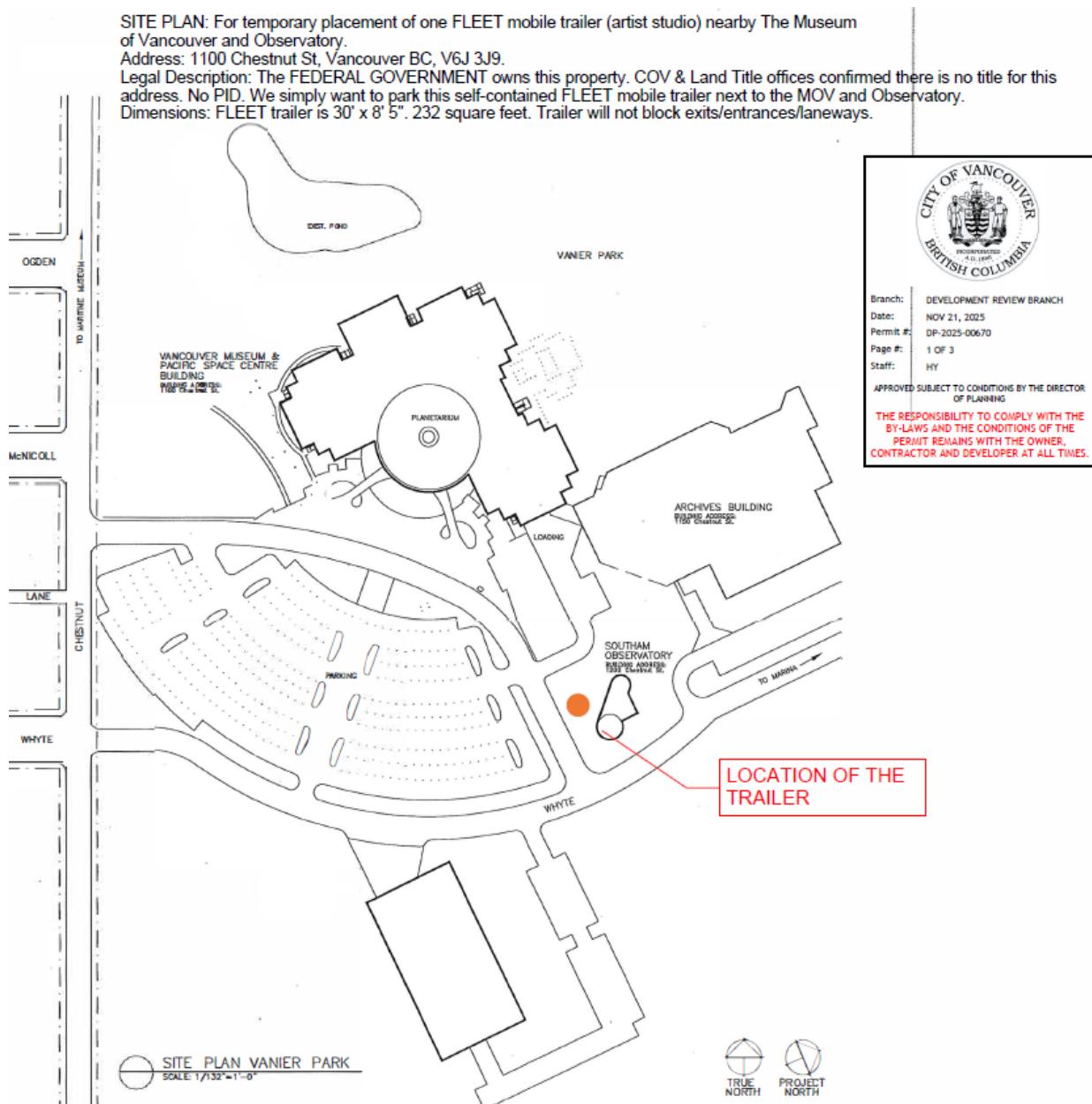
	Organization	Description	Grant Recommendation
1	Eastside Arts Society*	Capital – to purchase 716 E Hastings, conditional upon review and confirmation of the sale, and registration of a Community Use Agreement on title, securing the site for non-profit shared artist production, presentation and programming uses for the latter of the life of the building or 20 years	2,665,000
			2,665,000

*Denotes condition on grant

G - In-Kind Grant for Fleet Studios

	Organization	Description	Grant Recommendation
1	Other Sights for Artists' Projects Association	Value of FLEET nominal licence for proposed term	4,008
			4,008

FLEET Studios Site Plan:



H - Social Policy Grant for Dugout Drop-in Society			
	Organization	Description	Grant Recommendation
1	Dugout Drop-in Society	In-kind grant to reflect the difference between market and below market ease costs for the Dugout to operate a drop-in space serving the DTES	57,590
			57,590

APPENDIX B
GRANT METRICS

Rec	Grant Program	# of Applicants	# Grants Recomm.	%	\$ Grants Recomm.
A	CASC 1 st intake	150	65	43%	\$500,000
B	Cultural Operating Funding – Institution	5	5	100%	\$955,520
C	Cultural Operating Funding – Annual	75	75	100%	\$1,115,940
D	Cultural Operating Funding – Multi-year	17	17	100%	\$373,500
E+F	Making Space for Arts and Culture Arts – Eastside Arts Society	1	1	100%	\$2,665,000
	TOTAL	248	163		\$5,609,960
	Previously Approved				
	Cultural Operating Funding – Multi-year Cohort 2	26	26	100	\$1,082,200
	Cultural Operating Funding – Multi-year Cohort 3	23	23	100	\$591,000

Rec	In-kind Grants	# of Grants Recommended	\$ Grants Recommended
G	License Fee - Other Sights for Artists'	1	\$4,008
H	Social Policy Grant - Dugout Drop-in Society	1	\$57,590
	TOTAL	2	\$61,598

APPENDIX C

BACKGROUND ON THE EASTSIDE ARTS SOCIETY, EASTSIDE ARTS DISTRICT AND STAFF'S CAPITAL GRANT RECOMMENDATION

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

Background

Rapid Loss of Artist Studios in Vancouver

The arts and culture sector drives job creation and contributes significantly to the economy.² However, Vancouver has been experiencing continued and rapid loss of artist studios and cultural spaces, reducing job space, the ability for artists to work safely and generate income, and the sector's health and economic impact.

In 2019 the Eastside Arts Society (EAS) produced a report, [A City Without Art? No Net Loss, Plus](#) documenting significant loss of artist studio space. The report also showed that 83% of surveyed artists indicated imminent threat of studio displacement. Based on this report and staff's conservative estimate, since 2009, ~500,000 sq ft of artist studio space, supporting roughly 2,000 to 2,500 artists, has been lost or is at imminent risk.

The Eastside Arts District and Alignment with City Priorities

In 2020 Council directed staff to work in partnership with EAS on a strategy for the declaration of the EAD, with the goal of protecting and growing artist production spaces in an area facing unaffordability and rapid displacement. EAS has operated in Vancouver's Eastside for nearly 30 years and has a deep history of advocacy for the arts and culture community. Their 2022 report, [Seizing the Moment](#), outlines the cultural district concept and case studies, and shows community ownership as a key strategy for long-term stability.

The proposed district spans from Columbia Street to Victoria Drive and 2nd Avenue to the waterfront, encompassing the False Creek Flats industrial area which is home to 40% of the city's studio spaces.³

The purpose of the EAD directly aligns with City priorities set out in the 2017 *False Creek Flats Area Plan*, 2019 *Making Space for Arts and Culture* (MS4AC) and 2022 *Vancouver Plan* and advances Council's *Vibrant Vancouver* objectives. Specifically, the EAD is an important tool that will help meet MS4AC's goals of "no net loss," securing affordable cultural space, and increased community ownership. Community ownership provides benefits to the sector and the City. It

² The Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Business Data Lab reported in 2025 that the cultural sector supports 13 jobs for every \$1,000,000 in output, more than oil and gas, manufacturing, or agriculture. Statistics also shows that the BC cultural sector returns \$1.14 in Gross Domestic Product for every \$1 in output, generating local economic benefits. Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Business Data Lab (2025) Artworks: The Economic and Social Dividends from Canada's Arts and Culture Sector. https://businessdatalab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/BDL_Artworks_Report_October2025_FINAL.pdf

³ City of Vancouver (2017) False Creek Flats Area Plan. <https://vancouver.ca/images/web/policy-plan-false-creek-flats.pdf>

improves tenant and owner stability, financial equity for the owner to leverage additional acquisitions and manages City financial responsibility to maintenance.

A memo update to Council on October 10, 2024, on the EAD reinforced the need to support EAS-led district planning and capital investment in community ownership of space. In 2024, the City awarded EAS an EAD planning grant that includes identifying and securing at-risk artist production space, governance, business planning, funding and operation strategies. The study is expected to be completed in 2027.

Discussion

Capital Investment Opportunity into the EAD – 716 East Hastings Street

EAS and the City have a timely opportunity to invest in a key artist studio and cultural hub at 716 East Hastings Street, in the heart of the EAD. EAS has been offered an exclusive, time-limited option to acquire the property at a fixed price of \$2,665,000 (\$443 per sq ft), expiring in May 2026. Comparable market listings are transacting between \$585-800 per sq ft.

The total acquisition and renovation project is valued at \$3,581,000. EAS is proposing to leverage the City's grant to pursue provincial, federal and private funding. EAS has demonstrated due diligence, readiness and capacity to steward the property; they completed an acquisition feasibility study, developed an operating plan with appropriate contingencies, secured a private donation towards a facility reserve fund, commissioned a comprehensive building inspection and engaged commercial real estate brokers for comparable market analysis.

Public Benefits and Impacts of City Investment

Supporting the EAS' acquisition of 716 East Hastings Street represents a high-impact, tangible opportunity for the City to directly advance the EAD, complementing ongoing district planning and the City's broader effort to address the loss of artist studio spaces.

While the City's contribution would be a one-time grant, the long-term benefits to the community, EAS and the City are substantive. It contributes to the City's no net loss of cultural space goal and directly secures affordability and stability for EAS and a minimum of 20 artists, and programming space for 150+ artists annually.

The registered Community Use Agreement on title would secure the facility as a public benefit without City responsibility for direct on-going operating and capital costs. EAS will be responsible for on-going operations, programming, maintenance and capital costs. This approach maximizes public benefit per dollar invested and mitigates financial and operational risk to the City.

By securing 716 East Hastings Street as a permanent cultural anchor, the City's investment would advance the establishment of the EAD as a viable cultural destination. The proposed investment would stabilize EAS' financial position and increase self-sufficiency. With a secured asset, EAS will be able to plan, invest and grow, leveraging its equity for future acquisitions, and continuing work on district planning in partnership with the City.

This approach is aligned with previous City grants for non-profit space acquisition which include \$1,500,000 to the Western Front (2014) and \$1,500,000 to the Dance Foundation (2024) which support major cultural infrastructure acquisitions.

Proposed Funding Source: False Creek Flats Amenity Share Reserve

The proposed source of funding for the grant to EAS, the False Creek Flats Amenity Share Reserve, is established via the *False Creek Flats Area Plan*. This reserve is set up specifically to address the precarity and need for long-term, affordable light industrial and cultural production space. Amenity share contributions are collected from development in exchange for additional density and held in the False Creek Flats Amenity Share Reserve. These funds are then used to reinvest in affordable non-profit industrial spaces including artist studio production spaces, helping to maintain the area's vitality and economic competitiveness. Funds in the False Creek Flats Amenity Share Reserve are restricted for this purpose only; the recommended grant aligns directly with this intent and permitted use of the reserve.

To date, \$17,800,000 was collected in the reserve and up to \$10,000,000 of that is earmarked for the Community Economic Hub in the Downtown Eastside. Pending Council approval of this grant recommendation of \$2,665,000, \$5,135,000 would remain in the reserve.