



## COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: February 10, 2026  
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Meeting Date: March 10, 2026  
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: Director of the Business and Economy Office  
SUBJECT: 2026 Graffiti Abatement Grants for Business Improvement Areas (BIAs)

### Recommendations

- A. THAT Council approve up to \$510,000 for the 2026 Graffiti Abatement Grants to be disbursed to the 22 BIAs as outlined in Appendix A.
- B. THAT Council deem the 22 BIAs to be contributing to the beautification of the City of Vancouver.
- C. THAT issuance of the 2026 Graffiti Abatement Grants be subject to the BIAs each executing and delivering a grant agreement to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal Services.
- D. THAT the Director of Legal Services be authorized to execute grant agreements with each of the respective BIAs.

Recommendations A and B require 2/3 affirmative votes of all Council members in accordance with section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

### Purpose and Executive Summary

This report seeks Council's approval for the disbursement of \$510,000 for the 2026 Graffiti Abatement Grants to the 22 BIAs as set out in Appendix A. Funding for the grants is part of the City's 2026 operating budget, which was approved by Council on November 25, 2025. The Graffiti Abatement Grants have played a vital role in supporting graffiti removal efforts across the City's business districts.

### **Council Authority/Previous Decisions**

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

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

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

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

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

On November 25, 2025, Council approved the City's 2026 operating budget, which included funding Graffiti Abatement Grants for the 22 BIAs, totaling \$510,000.

### **City Manager's Comments**

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

### **Context and Background**

Graffiti remains a persistent issue across business districts in Vancouver. Supported by the Graffiti Abatement Grants, the BIAs have removed more than 21,800 graffiti from private properties within their areas over the past three years. This represents an annual average of approximately 7,200 removals. Each BIA applies the Graffiti Abatement Grants in ways that reflect the specific needs of their district resulting in a range of service models across BIAs.

The City also contributes to graffiti abatement efforts. The City-managed program has removed an annual average of approximately 161,000 graffiti over the past three years across the City. The current contract is with a local company that conducts monthly maintenance of designated sites and public assets owned by the City and Park Board, based on routine patrols and 311 call-ins. Additional City-led abatement efforts include:

- *Free Paint:* allows property owners and tenants to access two gallons of paint and a brush from any Dulux Paints location, up to 2 times in a calendar year;
- *Community Paint Out:* up to \$2,000 per year for paint and related supplies offered to BIAs and Community Policing Centres; and
- *Free Graffiti Wipes:* \$10,000 of graffiti wipes are mailed directly to BIAs and Community

## Policing Centres.

The Graffiti Abatement Grants are intended to supplement the graffiti removal efforts already funded through the BIAs' annual budgets. Most BIAs allocate resources toward graffiti removal as part of their broader budgets for street beautification and street safety/security initiatives. Funding levels vary significantly, ranging from an average of 17 percent of the annual levy for BIAs in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) to an average of 6 percent for BIAs outside the DTES. Further, since 2021, rising graffiti activity in business districts has prompted the City to support BIAs through an annual grant of at least \$500,000 for graffiti abatement funded through the City's operating budget.

## Discussion

### Observations

The Graffiti Abatement Grants have played a vital role in supporting ongoing efforts of BIAs to reduce graffiti since 2021. These grants are particularly significant, as they supplement both the efforts funded from BIAs' annual budgets for graffiti removal on private property, as well as City-led graffiti removal activities, resulting in a broader impact on neighbourhood beautification. Each BIA utilizes the grant funding differently in alignment with their area needs. Contracts vary in length from month-to-month to full-year arrangements, specifying the frequency of removals and particulars of eligible graffiti, such as size and complexity. Typically, graffiti that falls outside the scope of a contract is treated on a case-by-case basis. Examples of different models are outlined below.

- Remove graffiti in a certain area of a neighbourhood, above a certain size threshold, or located above a certain height;
- Remove complex graffiti that requires a higher level of attention to detail and time, such as removing graffiti on a mural;
- Creating murals as a preventative measure to deter graffiti; and
- General funding source for removing graffiti on an as-needed basis.

These collective efforts support the fundamental objective of fostering vibrant and welcoming business districts aimed at attracting both businesses and visitors.

### Grant Allocation

The distribution of the Graffiti Abatement Grants is based on an allocation schedule proposed by the Vancouver BIA Partnership. If approved by Council, a total of \$510,000 will be distributed to the 22 BIAs in accordance with the allocation schedule outlined in Appendix A. Issuance of the Graffiti Abatement Grants requires BIAs to report on the use of the previous year's grant, and to execute and deliver a 2026 grant agreement to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal Services. The grants are limited to exclusive use for costs directly associated with graffiti abatement, including the restoration and maintenance of murals.

As a persistent nuisance and resource-intensive challenge to address, the Business and Economy Office will continue collaborating with the BIAs and relevant City teams to explore approaches that will enable improved reporting insights and streamline administrative processes for the BIAs to access the grant funds.

**Financial Implications**

Funding for the 2026 Graffiti Abatement Grants was approved by Council as part of the City's 2026 operating budget.

**Legal Implications**

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

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**APPENDIX A**  
**2026 GRAFFITI ABATEMENT GRANTS ALLOCATION SCHEDULE**

| Name of BIA   | Grant Amount (\$) |
|---|-------------------|
| Cambie Village BIA (Cambie Village Business Association)                            | \$25,500          |
| Chinatown BIA (Vancouver Chinatown BIA Society)                                     | \$45,900          |
| Collingwood BIA (Collingwood Business Improvement Association)                      | \$17,000          |
| Commercial Drive BIA (Commercial Drive Business Society)                            | \$25,500          |
| Downtown Vancouver BIA (Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association)        | \$45,900          |
| Dunbar Village BIA (Dunbar Village Business Association)                            | \$10,200          |
| Fraser Street BIA (South Hill (Fraser Street) Business Association)                 | \$17,000          |
| Gastown BIA (Gastown Business Improvement Society)                                  | \$25,500          |
| Hastings Crossing BIA (Hastings Crossing Business Improvement Association)          | \$35,700          |
| Hastings North BIA (Hastings North Business Improvement Association) East Village   | \$25,500          |
| Kerrisdale BIA (Kerrisdale Business Association)                                    | \$0               |
| Kitsilano 4th Avenue BIA (Kitsilano 4th Avenue Business Association)                | \$25,500          |
| Marpole BIA (Marpole Business Association)  | \$5,100           |
| Mount Pleasant BIA & Expansion Area (Mount Pleasant Commercial Improvement Society) | \$35,700          |
| Point Grey Village BIA (Point Grey Village Business Association)                    | \$10,200          |
| Robson Street BIA (Robson Street Business Association)                              | \$25,500          |
| South Granville BIA (South Granville Business Improvement Association)              | \$25,500          |
| Strathcona BIA (Strathcona Business Improvement Association)                        | \$35,700          |
| Victoria Drive BIA (Victoria Drive Business Improvement Association)                | \$5,100           |
| West Broadway BIA (West Broadway Business Improvement Association)                  | \$17,000          |
| West End BIA (Davie Village Business Improvement Association)                       | \$25,500          |
| Yaletown BIA (Yaletown Business Improvement Association)                            | \$25,500          |
| <b>Total Grants Amount</b>  | <b>\$510,000</b>  |