

COUNCIL MEMBER'S MOTION

*For consideration at the Standing Committee meeting on City Finance and Services meeting on
May 20, 2026*

7. Building the Evidence Base for Sustained Investment in Vancouver's Arts and Culture Sector

Submitted by: Councillor Maloney

WHEREAS

1. Arts and culture are significant urban economic drivers. Vancouver ranks fifth out of 22 census metropolitan areas on the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Arts Vibrancy Index, reflecting the sector's strong capacity to generate revenue and attract tourism ([Arts Vibrancy Index](#), 2026);
2. Despite these demonstrated returns, Vancouver's arts and culture sector faces growing financial pressure. Public and private investments continue to decline, operating costs continue to rise, and organizations must increasingly piece together funding from multiple sources ([Canadian Chamber of Commerce](#), 2025);
3. This funding challenge is compounded by the lack of publicly available, aggregated social and economic data on Vancouver's arts and culture sector. As a result, organizations have fewer tools to demonstrate the value of their work when seeking grants and other funding;
4. Other cities, including Toronto, regularly document the economic contributions, community benefits, funding needs, and gaps of their arts and culture sectors. This kind of granular reporting gives policymakers and funders a stronger evidence base for sustained investment ([Toronto Arts Council](#)); and
5. The City of Vancouver regularly invests in the arts and culture sector, generating substantial related data in the process. With dedicated resources for aggregation and analysis, this information could form the foundation for a public report that strengthens the sector's future funding opportunities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT Council direct staff to report back on the estimated resources and timeline required to create a comprehensive Arts and Culture Impact website, modelled on the Toronto Arts Council interactive impact page, that consolidates existing social and economic data to highlight the sector's economic contributions, community benefits, and serves as a practical resource for arts and culture organizations in Vancouver when pursuing grants and other funding opportunities.

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