



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: May 19, 2026
Contact: Margaret Wittgens
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RTS No.: 18484
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: June 2, 2026
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager, Arts, Culture, and Community Services

SUBJECT: 2026 Cultural Grants (Projects, Cultural Spaces, Capacity) and SRO Upgrading Grant

Recommendations

- A. THAT Council approve Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (CASC) grants totalling \$525,533 from the 2026 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 61 organizations listed in Appendix A for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Recomm" column.
- B. THAT Council approve Affordable Spaces Grants totalling \$335,000 from the 2026 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 25 cultural organizations listed in the table titled "Affordable Spaces Grant" in Appendix B for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Recomm" column.
- C. THAT Council approve 11 Cultural Infrastructure Grants and 32 Small Grants for Cultural Spaces totalling \$1,607,000 from the 2026 Cultural Spaces Capital Budget and the 2026 Chinatown Cultural Partnership Program Capital Budget to the organizations listed in the tables titled "Cultural Infrastructure Grant" and "Small Grants for Cultural Spaces" in Appendix B for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "Recomm" column.
- D. THAT Council approve one Capacity Building grant of \$8,000 from the 2026 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to Vantage Point Strategies Society for the Vantage Point Leadership Development Bursary Program.
- E. THAT Council approve an SRO Upgrading Grant of \$170,000 from the 2026 SRO Upgrading Grant Capital Budget to Yin Ping Benevolent Society for capital upgrades to the property located at 414 Columbia Street, subject to the conditions described in Appendix C.

- F. THAT Council delegate authority to the City's General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services to negotiate and execute agreements to disburse the grants described in Recommendations A to E 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.
- G. THAT pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization listed in Appendix A to C that is not otherwise a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency to be contributing to the culture of Vancouver.
- H. 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 E and G require not less than 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 \$2,645,533 in grants to 118 non-profit organizations to support programs and services for artists, the cultural community, and the public in alignment with the City's Arts and Culture priorities. It also provides a report back on previously disbursed critical assistance grants to six cultural organizations for 2025 and recommends one SRO capital upgrading grant to the Yin Ping Benevolent Society.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

- 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 the local arts and culture sector (RTS 15658).
- January 20 and April 14, 2026: Council approved the first two grant reports for arts and culture, supporting cultural projects and operations (RTS 18164 and 18483).

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 and culture non-profit organizations to advance City arts and culture priorities, support cultural and economic vibrancy, and contribute to accessible and affordable cultural programming for the community. Grants support operations, cultural projects, capital projects and planning, access to the civic theatres, and organizational capacity building. The distribution and impact of cultural grant streams and other grants are reported through the ACCS Annual Grant Impact Report.

This report is the third in a series of 2026 annual cultural grant recommendations presented to Council and includes one SRO Upgrading Grant. The grant streams in this report include:

- Communities and Artists Shifting Culture
- Capacity Building
- Affordable Spaces Grants
- Cultural Infrastructure Grants
- Small Grants for Cultural Spaces
- Critical Assistance Grants
- Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Upgrading Grants¹

The recommendations advance 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*
- The City's *Equity Framework* and *Accessibility Strategy*
- The City's *Reconciliation Framework* and *UNDRIP Action Plan 2024-2028*
- *Chinatown Cultural Heritage Assets Management Plan (CHAMP) Strategic Framework*
- *Housing Vancouver Strategy (2017)* and *SRO Revitalization Framework (2025)*

Discussion

This report outlines the funding programs, priorities, and processes for the grants recommended to Council. A full list of applicants and recommended grantees is included in Appendices A to C, with grant metrics in Appendix D.

Demand for funding from the cultural sector continues to increase. Arts and culture organizations face increasing financial pressures; inflation and rising costs have significantly increased the cost of production, while the economic context is impacting revenues from ticket sales, corporate sponsorship and private donors. Organizations also face increasing real estate pressures in offering, upgrading, and protecting affordable space for arts and culture. The City's cultural grant funding provides support for local organizations and helps unlock and leverage investment from other levels of government and the private sector, amplifying the impact of every City dollar.

Grant programs related to recommendations A and C were assessed using the peer assessment process, in which committees comprised of community members and City staff evaluate applications based on program priorities. Members of the cultural sector bring a wide range of lived and professional experience across multiple disciplines and with various communities. Committees for capital grants include members with related professional experience, such as architecture and project management.

Community assessors for this set of grant recommendations were Glenn Alteen, Marianne Amodio, Ndidi Cascade, Autumn Coppaway, Nathalie De Los Santos, Moroti George, Varsha Gill, Tai Amy Grauman, Carmut Me, Corbin Murdoch, Justin Neal and Anaïsa Visser. Staff

¹ The SRO grant has been included in this cultural grants report for timing and administrative efficiencies.

recognize the thoughtful consideration of these community assessors throughout the process.

Recommendation A: Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (CASC) Grants

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 receiving funding. As the support of artist-centred and artist-led programs is a key priority, individual equity-deserving artists and collectives are able to apply in partnership with non-profit organizations. This report includes recommendations for the second intake in 2026 evaluated by peer assessment committee.

- 129 applications received requesting \$1,639,651
- Staff recommend 61 grants totalling \$525,533
- This represents an award rate of 47% (calculated as the percentage of applicants receiving a grant), and 32% of funds requested

The number of applications for this program has been increasing steadily over the past five years, as shown in Table 3 in Appendix A. This year (2026) saw a 23% increase in applications for cultural project funding, and the highest number of applications to date.

Approval of these grants would support hundreds of artists from historically underserved communities and many creative projects, festivals and celebrations that make Vancouver a vibrant place to live. A list of applicants and recommended grant amounts are provided with program metrics in Appendix A. Program information can be found here:

<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/casc-grant-information-guide.pdf>.

Recommendation B: Affordable Spaces

Affordable Spaces provides grants up to \$40,000 for facility operating costs to support non-profit space operators who offer subsidized affordable space for professional artists and cultural organizations. Funds are prioritized to support retention of cultural spaces that provide space for multiple artists and/or organizations, space operators who are not typically funded through existing grant programs, and cultural communities who are most at risk of being displaced. Applications are evaluated internally by staff.

- 25 applications received requesting \$710,000
- Staff recommend 20 grants totalling \$335,000
- This represents an award rate of 80%, and 47% of funds requested
- Grants will support 146,277 square feet of cultural space for over 2700 artists, collectives, cultural workers, and organizations

A list of applicants and recommended grant amounts are provided with program metrics in Appendix B. Program information can be found here: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/affordable-spaces-grants-information-guide.pdf>

Recommendation C: Cultural Spaces Capital Grants

Vancouver continues to experience significant loss of affordable places for artists to live, create, and share their work. Cultural Spaces Grants advance Council's ten-year cultural spaces plan, *Making Space for Arts and Culture*, to support affordable cultural spaces. This includes strengthening ɣʷməθkʷəy̓ əm, Sḵwxwú7mesh, səliiwətaʔ and urban Indigenous self-determined cultural spaces, cultural redress, equity, diversity and accessibility, sustainability and a robust and diverse ecology of cultural spaces.

The Cultural Spaces Capital Grants program consistently receives more requests than available funding, highlighting the ongoing and growing demand for cultural space development, upgrades, and retention. Continued investment is essential to sustain Vancouver's cultural infrastructure and advance the goals of *Making Space for Arts and Culture*. Applications are assessed by peer assessment committee.

A summary is provided below with the full list of applicants and recommended grant amounts provided with program metrics in Appendix B. Program information can be found here: <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/cultural-spaces-grant-program.aspx>

Cultural Infrastructure Grants

This program provides grants up to \$250,000 for non-profit arts and cultural organizations to plan, research, purchase, repair, renovate and improve Vancouver's cultural spaces with the goal of strengthening the arts and culture community's ability to develop and sustainably operate affordable space.

- 11 applications received requesting \$1,937,839
- Staff recommend 10 grants totalling \$1,232,000
- This represents an award rate of 91% and 64% of funds requested
- Staff recommendations represent projects across a diverse range of needs as detailed in Appendix B, including renovations to create a Japanese Canadian Interpretive Centre at the former livestock buildings at Hastings Park; and the next phase of 221A's Cultural Land Trust research and development.
- 27% of submissions are from non-profits operating City-owned spaces; the remainder from non-profits operating private or community-owned spaces.

Small Grants for Cultural Spaces

This program provides up to \$25,000 for non-profit organizations to support timely space-related capital projects including planning, research, accessibility upgrades, and/or mentorships. Special consideration is given to organizations, communities or areas of practice underrepresented in existing support or facing significant barriers.

- 32 submissions requesting \$677,209; 12% of submissions were first-time applicants.
- Staff recommend 25 grants totaling \$375,000
- This represents an award rate of 78%, and 55% of funds requested
- 13 recommended projects support space planning, and 12 for small capital improvements as detailed in Appendix B

- Recommended projects include the Afro Van Connect's site concept and design planning for an outdoor amphitheatre at Sylvia Stark gardens at Trillium Park, and accessibility upgrades at Hypha Arts Association's shared artist studios on Venables Street.

Chinatown Cultural Partnership Grants

Four projects that applied through the Cultural Infrastructure Grants and Small Grants for Cultural Spaces programs were recommended for funding using Chinatown Cultural Partnership budget, which is available for Chinatown-based projects. Recommended projects include:

- Wongs Benevolent Association - improvements to Hon Hsing building
- Vancouver Chinatown Foundation for Economic Revitalization - safety and accessibility improvements at Chinatown Storytelling Centre

2025 Critical Assistance for Cultural Spaces - Report Out Only

This capital grant stream provides up to \$25,000 towards repairs or upgrade costs to non-profit cultural spaces facing critical situations, including facility life-safety issues, to ensure access to safe, legal, and fully functioning cultural spaces. Staff review requests and are authorized by Council to administer these grants throughout the year according to prescribed program criteria. In 2025, grants to ten organizations totalling \$101,741 were disbursed, as described in Appendix B.

Recommendation D: Capacity Building Grant

The City of Vancouver has partnered with Vantage Point Strategies Society since 2011, to deliver organizational development and leadership training for the arts and culture sector. This report recommends a grant of \$8,000 in 2026 for the Vantage Point Leadership Development Bursary Program, which covers the costs of two workshops annually for arts and culture organizations receiving grants through the City of Vancouver. In 2025, 38 arts and culture organizations benefited from 53 workshops. Workshops build the knowledge and capacity of the sector, in the areas of governance, fund development, leadership, diversity and inclusion, human resources, and more. Program information can be found here:

<https://thevantagepoint.ca/bursaries/>

Recommendation E: SRO Upgrading Grant

Most SROs are over 100 years old and require significant investment and upkeep to remain operational and safe for residents, including ongoing capital maintenance and repair needs. The Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Upgrading Grant Program was first approved as part of the Downtown Eastside (DTES) Local Area Plan implementation in 2014. The grant program provides funding to non-profit housing operators to improve livability and life safety conditions in SRO buildings, while also securing affordability for low-income residents.

This report recommends approval of a \$170,000 SRO Upgrading Grant to Yin Ping Benevolent Society, a non-profit Chinese Society that owns and operates a 17-room SRA designated building located at 414 Columbia Street. Appendix C provides a summary of the proposed capital upgrades, recommended funding amount, and the conditions of the grant.

Financial Implications

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

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

Rec	Grants Stream	2026 Budget [^]	Previously Approved	Rec. in this Report	Balance
A	Projects (CASC)	\$1,025,533	\$500,000	\$525,533	\$0
	Operating – Institutions	\$3,783,680	\$3,783,680		\$0
	Operating – Annual	\$1,097,000	\$1,097,000		\$0
	Operating – Multi-year	\$3,944,250	\$3,944,250		\$0
	Theatre Rental	\$3,018,713	\$1,902,525		\$1,116,188
	Equity & Accessibility	\$475,500			\$475,500
	Indigenous	\$349,500			\$349,500
B	Affordable Spaces	\$335,000		\$335,000	\$0
D	Capacity Building	\$8,000		\$8,000	\$0
	Emerging Priorities*	\$151,002	\$151,002		\$0
	Sport / Destination Events	\$200,000	\$89,000		\$111,000
	Total Operating Grants	\$14,388,178	\$11,467,457	\$868,533	\$2,052,188
C	Cultural Infrastructure	\$901,019		\$894,750	\$6,269
C	Small Grants	\$357,250		\$357,250	
C	Chinatown Partnerships**	\$355,000		\$355,000	
	Total Capital Grants	\$1,613,269		\$1,607,000	\$6,269
	TOTAL – All Grants			\$2,475,533	

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

* This budget line includes grants for the Vancouver Book Award (RTS 18412), a grant to the Chinese Benevolent Association (approved by Council on February 4, 2026), and the payment of an annual fee tied to inflation to the Museum of Vancouver, for the stewardship of the Olympic Collection.

**Includes a \$105,000 carry-forward of unallocated funds from 2025 Chinatown Partnerships budget.

The SRO Upgrading Grant of \$170,000 to Yin Ping Benevolent Society is funded through the 2026 SRO Upgrading Grant Capital Budget.

Legal Implications

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

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APPENDIX A CULTURAL PROJECT GRANTS

A - Communities and Artists Shifting Culture				
	Applicant	Project	Grant Request	Recomm
1	Action at a Distance Dance Society	Create/produce a site-responsive dance for Pop-Up Dances, Sept 2026.	15,000	10,000
2	African Descent Society British Columbia	African Descent Festival 2026	15,000	-
3	The A.I.A. Arts In Action Society	Soil for the Soul	15,000	11,000
4	AIRS Program Society	Learning our Legacies: the embodiment of truth and sound	13,250	11,500
5	Amexem Roots Rock Reggae Cultural Society	Vancity Roots & Culture Experience Concert Series	14,000	-
6	Ancestral Foodways Collective Society	Traditional Creativity Shop	15,000	11,500
7	Aphotic Theatre Society	Another Birth Phase 3	15,000	10,000
8	Artists for Conservation International Foundation	2026 Artists for Conservation Festival	15,000	-
9	Asian Environmental Association ^{^^*}	The Mother Tree Batik Project	10,054	7,500
10	Asian-Canadian Special Events Association	2026 Vancouver TAIWANfest	15,000	funded in COF
11	Avenue For The Arts Society	Shared Flame	15,000	-
12	Bard on the Beach Theatre Society ^{^^}	Chochito Rey Script Development Workshop	6,000	-
13	Baza Dance Society	2026 Sunday Salsa Bachata at Robson Square	12,000	10,000
14	BC amateur opera music Association [^]	Multicultural Arts Showcase	9,000	-
15	BC Coalition of Experiential Communities Association ^{^^}	Carnal Arts Festival - Sex Worker Cultural Event	15,000	12,000
16	Belle Spirale Dance Projects Society	The Little Match Girl	10,000	7,000
17	Blueridge Chamber Music Society	Blueridge Chamber Music Festival 2026: NUance	10,000	-
18	Canada Glowup Club [^]	GC Chinese Cultural Music Festival	8,000	-
19	Casa Dende Cultural Society [^]	Vancouver Tem Dendê Festival (Third Edition)	15,000	5,000
20	Chapel Sound Art Foundation ^{^^}	Shared Camera/DERIE: Queer Aesthetics of Escape: Film, Folklore, Futures	15,500	-
21	Chinatown Celebration Society	Fire Dragon Festival 2026	15,000	8,500
22	Chinatown Together Arts and Culture Society	Recipes Between Generations: A Chinatown Zine Project	7,800	5,000
23	Chinese Canadian Museum Society of British Columbia	Common Ground – Art, Sport and Social Engagement	14,590	funded in COF
24	Circollective Society for Circus Artists	Circurious Cabaret Series	12,000	10,000
25	Circus3 Arts Society	Circus3 New Year's Variety Show at Vancouver Playhouse	13,500	-
26	Cloudscape Comics Society	Comics in Transit: Protecting Nature	7,300	-
27	Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society	Art Café series at Collingwood: bringing artists and community together	15,000	-

28	Columbian Canadian Association of B.C.^	Where We Begin, How We Are	10,000	-
29	Company 605 Dance Society^^	BOOM Around the BOX – Boombox Outdoor Performance Showcase	5,000	5,000
30	Connection Salon Artists Collective Society	Mad Arts Coffee Houses	5,500	3,475
31	Currently Arts Society	Building Together 5: Speculative Strings	15,000	-
32	Dance West Network Society^^	Eggstravaganza	9,506	8,500
33	Danstabat Performance Society^^	Live in Hell	12,000	8,500
34	Diwali Celebration Society	Diwali Fest 2026	15,000	5,000
35	Downtown South Gathering Place Community Center Association	Festival of Hallows	10,000	7,000
36	Drawing Wisdom Decolonizing Society	Our Children are our Future	15,000	10,500
37	Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret Society	Parade of Lost Souls	15,000	-
38	Earthseed Collective Society^	Motifs of our time: Trajva as living archive	15,000	13,000
39	East Vancouver Community Music School Society	Equal Measure	5,000	3,000
40	Fade To Black Entertainment Society	Da'LuV James Book Festival	15,000	-
41	Familogue Education Society*	Neurodivergent Culture Lab: Stories, Sound, Sensory Experiences in Vancouver	15,000	8,000
42	Festival du Film Libanais au Canada / Lebanese Film Festival in Canada^^	Lebanese Film Festival in Canada Vancouver Edition	15,000	9,000
43	Foundation for Chinese Dignity^^	客家舞火龍 Hakka Children's Fire Dragon Ritual	5,000	3,000
44	Gastown Business Improvement Society	Gastown Sunday Set	15,000	-
45	Gokko Creative Society^	Red Demon	15,000	9,500
46	Great Lakes Networking Society of BC	AFRICA-Canada Day/Week - Honouring Struggle, Resilience, Endurance, and Shared Futures	15,000	-
47	H.I.M. Health Initiative for Men Society^	HUSTLE: Reclaiming the Spotlight	6,000	-
48	Highs & Lows Choral Society	Lifting the stigma of mental illness: music for sharing.	15,000	-
49	Hogan's Alley Society^^	2026 Capoeira Brasil Vancouver Batizado & Cultural Festival	12,000	7,500
50	Hypha Artists Association Society^^	Enoki Cultures emerging from Creative Substrates	7,560	-
51	IC Ukrainian Cultural Society^	Interweaving: Kokum and Ukrainian Khustka in Cultural Exchange Dialogue.	14,000	11,200
52	Interdisciplinary Media Artist's Association/Population of Noise (IMAPON)	Illumination Space/Escape Lumineux	15,000	-
53	International Arts Initiatives Association^	Ancestral Resonance	15,000	12,000
54	Inverso Productions Society	Intergenerational Dance Research and Care Home Outreach	7,000	-

55	Kinesis Dance Society	Generations: Freedom Floor	15,000	9,000
56	Kudiyaan Shehar Diyaan Welfare Society^	Kudiyaan Shehar Diyaan (Women Empowerment Event)	15,000	-
57	Kurdish Cultural Society of BC	Third Annual Vancouver Kurdish Film Festival - VKFF	15,000	-
58	La Libelula Latin American Arts Cooperative^	El Nido/The Nest: Weaving the Meaning of Home	7,000	6,000
59	Landon and Friends Musical Theatre Society^	Strung Up: A New Puppet Musical	8,000	-
60	Little Mountain Gallery Community Arts Performance Association	LMG Comedy Residency Mentorship Project	15,000	7,500
61	MakeWay Charitable Society	TROUBLEMAKERS 10	10,000	7,000
62	Mandala Arts and Culture Society	Presentation of Meera Sreenarayanan and Tanveer Alam in Vancouver.	15,000	7,500
63	Mount Pleasant Commercial Improvement Society^	Chillin' In The Park: Community Arts Festival	15,000	-
64	New Primary Color Arts Foundation^	"Migration Stories: Art, Community, and Connection"	15,000	-
65	Newworld Theatre Society^^	The Apiary, presented by the Apiary Collective.	6,000	-
66	NOW-ID Dance Society	MIRROCEROS	11,000	-
67	Open Air Orchestra Society^^	HONK! BC	9,500	9,000
68	Or Festival Theatre Society	Or Festival	15,000	7,500
69	OURO Collective Society	The Bridge Project presented by OURO Collective (OURO)	15,000	-
70	Overdose Prevention Society Vancouver^ & ^^	DTES Pride 2026	9,750	-
71	Pacific Immigrant Resources Society^	The Shoe Project 2026	15,000	8,500
72	Pandora's Collective Outreach Society	Free Verse/Open Verse	15,000	10,000
73	Pride in Art Society^^	Fragile: Handle with Care	15,000	8,000
74	Promethean Theatre Society	羅密歐與茱麗葉 Romeo & Juliet	10,000	7,000
75	PTC Playwrights Theatre Centre^^	Double Vie Design Workshops 2026	15,000	10,000
76	Publik Secrets Art Society	Gamelan Workshop and Concert Series	12,000	7,500
77	Radix Theatre Society^^	Project HEAL	15,000	-
78	Raven Theatre Performance Society	Monarch - New Musical Development	15,000	-
79	Reel Causes Society	Reel Causes' Art and Action Series	15,000	-
80	Renegade Arts Society	Strengthening Public Art Management for Inclusive Cultural Communities	15,000	-
81	Ribbon Community Society^ & ^^	AIDS Memorial Cherry Grove Legacy Group	11,166	-
82	Royal Academy of Punjab Society^	Vancouver Punjabi Folk Dance Community Workshop Series	12,000	-
83	Rueda De La Vida Dance Society	Vancouver Outdoor Salsa Festival	15,000	12,000
84	Rumble Productions Society^^	The Walk of Shame	9,150	-
85	Silent Dawn Productions Performing Arts Society^	East Meets West Concert Featuring Rezwana Choudhury Bannya	2,500	-
86	Small File Media Society	Small File Media Festival (Seventh Edition)	15,000	9,500

87	SMI Film Society	Canadian Adobo: Doc and Discussion on Filipino Family Reunification	15,000	-
88	Some Assembly Arts Society	Building Inclusion from Social Exclusion	14,000	10,000
89	SPACE (Stuttering, People, Arts, Community, Education) ^	Finding the Music in Dysfluent Voices	15,000	10,800
90	stage to page performance society^^	International Day of Sign Languages	15,000	-
91	Tahanan Collective Society	Kamayan Fest 2026	15,000	-
92	Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Society	2026 Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Festival	10,000	5,000
93	The ABE Project Society^	ReMembrance: Honouring Legacy, Exploring Continuity	15,000	11,000
94	The Beaumont Studios Artist Society	B1 Gallery Path Making Phase 2	9,100	-
95	The Greater Vancouver Vivaldi Chamber Choir Society^	Mother Earth	12,000	-
96	The HVS Heritage Vancouver Society	Doing Cultural Heritage in Chinatown: Connections and Encounters	15,000	-
97	The Little Chamber Music Series That Could Society	Grandview Park Playlist	10,000	8,000
98	The Society of We Are Canadians Too	Granville Island Takeover by Jade Music Fest	15,000	7,500
99	The Standing Wave Society	Compocon 2026	13,000	9,500
100	The Starfish Environmental Society^ & ^^	Fern House - youth-led climate resilience through arts and culture	12,000	-
101	The Vancouver Community Gamelan Society	Gamelan Now - And Then - Celebrating 40 years of Intercultural Performance	15,000	-
102	The Vancouver East Cultural Centre^^	The Parallel Project 2026	14,400	9,000
103	The Vancouver Horror Show Film Festival Society	Equity-Centred Public Programming within VHS 2026	15,000	10,500
104	The Vancouver Improv Centre Society	Affinity Group Beginners Improv Program	9,393	-
105	Theatre Replacement Society^^	LIAM	14,906	-
106	Threading Change Foundation^	Fair Fashion Festival Vancouver 2026	10,000	-
107	Turkish-Canadian Society	13th Vancouver Turkish Film Festival (VTFF)	15,000	-
108	Up In The Air Theatre Society^^	Built Different	12,000	-
109	Urban Ink Production Society^^	Burnt Cork Research & Collaboration Project	15,000	-
110	Vancouver International Black Film Festival Festival Society	2026 Vancouver International Black Film Festival - 6th Edition	15,000	-
111	Vancouver Cantonese Opera	The Awakening: Reclaiming History Through Fusion Opera	15,000	funded in CEAF
112	Vancouver Chinatown Foundation for Community Revitalization	Light Up Chinatown: Community-Engaged Arts for Youth and Families	12,000	6,000
113	Vancouver Chinese Canadian Seniors Society of Multicultural Song and Dance	2026 Vancouver Chinese Art Cultural & Music Festival Series	9,351	-
114	Vancouver Honglou Theatre Society	The Butterfly Lovers: Traditional Yue Opera Theatre Performance	10,000	-

115	Vancouver Hung Sing Dragon and Lion Dance Society ^{^*}	When the Lion and the Double Headed Serpent Dance	15,000	12,558
116	Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art ^{^^}	Community Ghazal Reading Series	15,000	-
117	Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival Society	The Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival - Fall Series	15,000	-
118	Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale / Biennale Internationale de la Sculpture de Vancouver ^{^^}	Toni Latour: Art of Disclosure Book	15,000	-
119	Vancouver Island Caribbean Hub ^{^*}	Carnival on the Water: A Caribbean Cultural Cruise	10,150	7,500
120	Vancouver Pride Society	Davie Village Pride Festival 2026	15,000	10,000
121	Vancouver Sessions of Piano Foundation	VPS 2026: Reconciliation, KIDS, Mindfulness Sessions and Concerto Competition	15,000	-
122	Vancouver Street Dance Association ^{^^}	Cypher Killa Dance Festival vol.4	15,000	10,000
123	Vancouver Taiwanese Film Society [^]	20th Anniversary of Vancouver Taiwanese Film Festival	15,000	-
124	VIVA Alliance Society	The Fourth Annual VIVA Exhibition	15,000	-
125	Western Gold Theatre Society	Sandsprite by Peter Zednik	14,475	funded in COF
126	What Lab Society of Arts	Exquisite Pressure series 2026-27	15,000	10,500
127	Yarilo Contemporary Music Society	TWO PIANOS AND MORE - ACROSS CANADA AND ACROSS GENERATIONS	10,000	-
128	Youth Initiative Vancouver Society [^]	Art Moves Community: The Kerrisdale Art Discovery Festival	11,250	8,500
129	Zameen Art Society	Koomeh: A Global Music Mosaic (Summer–Fall 2026)	12,000	10,000
	TOTAL		1,639,651	525,533

*Denotes grants with conditions

[^]New applicants

^{^^}Sponsored applications for individual artists/collectives

Funded in COF: funded through Cultural Operating Funding, RTS 18483

Funded in CEAF: funded through Cultural Equity and Accessibility Funding, RTS 18091

Highlights of the first 2026 CASC intake:

- 129 applications were submitted this 2nd intake of 2026.
- Applications for the year have increased overall by 23% compared to the previous year (279 in 2026, 227 in 2025)
- 61 projects were recommended for support
- Recommended grant amounts range from \$2,500 to \$13,000
- The largest types of artistic practice recommended for support this intake are for multidisciplinary (26%), theatre (15%), cultural heritage (13%), dance (11%) and music (11%)
- Funding recommendations by project type:
 - Artistic creation or production – 34%
 - Community-engaged arts project – 33%
 - Festival, celebration or large-scale project – 33%

Rationale for recommendations:

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

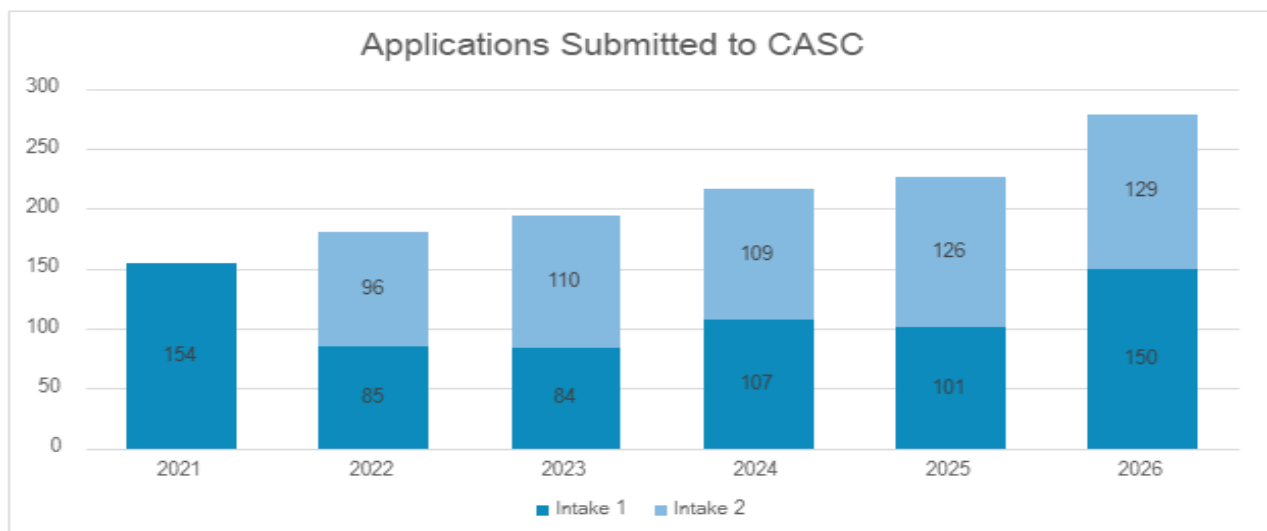
Recommended CASC projects exceed criteria in one or more of the following ways:

- 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
- Acknowledgement of the cultural lineage, protocols, and originating communities of the art form/discipline
- 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
- Inclusion of support material to demonstrate artistic merit, community support and organizational capacity

Examples of recommended projects impacting communities throughout the city:

- An intercultural exchange to rekindle relationships between Chinese and Musqueam people through sharing practices of the Chinese lion dance and Musqueam double-headed serpent dance
- An annual celebration of Cuban Salsa and Latin culture, aiming to connect people through free outdoor dance education and performances
- A series of workshops led by Indigenous artists and Knowledge keepers to teach youth hide tanning to create drums, rattles and drumsticks
- An exhibition featuring Ukrainian and Indigenous textile traditions as acts of acknowledgment and reconciliation through dialogue, community gathering and respectful relationship-building
- A Chinese-English bilingual adaptation of Romeo and Juliet set in Vancouver in 1907 during the anti-Asian race riots

Table 3 – Number of Applications Submitted to CASC by Year



APPENDIX B Cultural Spaces Grants

B - Affordable Spaces Grant				
	Applicant	Project Description	Grant Request	Recomm
1	110 Arts Cooperative [^]	Operates 8,500 sq ft including administration space for 4 non-profit arts organizations.	25,000	20,000
2	African Friendship Society	Planned operation in 2026 of a 2,142 sq ft multi-use cultural facility for African arts and heritage.	25,000	0
3	Asian-Canadian Special Events Association	Operates a 4700 sq ft affordable cultural workspace for artists, practitioners, and community cultural organizations.	40,000	0
4	B.C. Artscape Society	Operates "BCA Sun Wah" 49,000 sq ft of arts and culture use space for production, rehearsal, presentation, education, and administration for artists, cultural producers and organizations.	40,000	30,000
5	Dundarave Print Workshop	Operates affordable workshop and gallery artist space with storage, to create, exhibit, educate and sell work.	25,000	10,000
6	Duplex Artists' Society	Operates affordable exhibition and studio space for the development of emerging and early career artists.	25,000	25,000
7	Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret Society [^]	Operates a 2200 sq ft multi-use city-owned space for artists, community arts projects, theatre, music, festival, and events, with free studio space for equity-seeking groups.	23,000	15,000
8	Form Association	Operates a 3720 sq. ft. affordable, shared studio for visual artists.	5,000	5,000
9	Future Leisure Performance Society	Operates "Gold Saucer" and "45W", subsidized rehearsal space for dance/theatre artists in the crosstown neighbourhood, supporting young, emerging, low-income artists.	15,000	12,000
10	Hypha Artists Association Society [^]	Operates a 1200 sq ft multi-use arts space, providing affordable studios to artists and non-profits.	25,000	0
11	Kokoro Dance Theatre Society [^]	Operates the City-owned "KW Studios," including the 1,051 sq. ft. KW Atrium Studio and the 3,802 sq. ft. KW Production Studio space in the downtown eastside.	40,000	20,000
12	Little Mountain Gallery Community Arts Performance Association dba Little Mountain Gallery	Continuation of affordable presentation space for independent artists and producers with a focus on the local comedy community.	40,000	17,000
13	Odd Meridian Arts Society	Operates "Morrow," a performing arts studio and cultural hub, which prioritizes access for BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+ and artists of mixed physical abilities.	27,000	15,000

B - Affordable Spaces Grant				
	Applicant	Project Description	Grant Request	Recomm
14	Out Innerspace Dance Theatre and Film Society	Operates "Q7" a 10,000 plus sq ft. facility with dance studios, office space, storage, and other facilities, as well as common areas for students, educators, staff and artists.	25,000	6,500
15	Red Gate Arts Society	Operates affordable production and performance/exhibition space for artists and musicians, focused on music, visual art, film/video, and literary works.	40,000	25,000
16	Satellite Video Exchange Society [^]	Operates a 7000 sq ft shared cultural production space for artists and cultural organizations.	40,000	30,000
17	Tahanan Collective Society	Operates two 400 sq ft spaces for artist use, events, storage, and other cultural practices.	25,000	15,000
18	The Archive Printmaking Studio Society	Operates affordable working art spaces for artists in Strathcona.	10,000	5,000
19	The Beaumont Studios Artist Society	Operates a multi-functional arts and culture space including 42 multi-artist studios, two multidisciplinary galleries and event space for use by artists, designers and creative entrepreneurs.	40,000	25,000
20	The James Black Gallery Association	Operates queer-led gallery and studio space for emerging artists, community engagement and experimental multidisciplinary art practices.	25,000	9,000
21	The Western Front Society	Operates 10,223 sq ft of diverse spaces for multidisciplinary presentation, production, administration, and storage, at 303 E. 8th Ave.	40,000	0
22	Unicorn Support Services Society	Operates "Left of Main," in Chinatown, for creation and development, rehearsal, live and virtual performances, exhibitions and programming events related to arts and culture.	10,000	8,000
23	Vancouver Creative Space Society	Operates "Progress Lab 1422" that includes a large studio and a workshop studio for use by its 9 theatre and dance home companies, and the local performing arts community.	40,000	26,500
24	VIVA Alliance Society	Operates a 1800 sq ft facility with dedicated studio spaces for artists.	40,000	0
25	What Lab Society of Arts	Operates performing arts studio and playing space, hosting a variety of programming to serve multiple arts communities.	20,000	16,000
	TOTAL		710,000	335,000

[^] Current City-owned/controlled facility

Highlights of the 2026 Affordable Spaces intake:

- 25 applications assessed, total request amount of \$710,000
- 20 cultural facilities recommended for support, representing an award rate of 80%
- Grant amounts range from \$5,000 to \$30,000 with an average grant of \$16,750
- On average, recommended facilities are recommended for 47% of their request

Rationale for recommendations:

As requests typically exceed available funding, not all facilities can be recommended for support. Facilities recommended in this report were well aligned with the criteria in one or more of the following ways:

- Compelling rationale for timeliness and urgency of support
- Alignment with multiple Making Space for Arts & Culture goals and guiding principles
- The facility operator's primary purpose includes the provision and operation of subsidized, affordable, cultural workspace for artists and/or cultural organizations, outside of their own organizational programming
- The facility provides subsidized access to artists and/or cultural organizations, and has done so for more than one year
- The facility operator prioritizes access to artists and/or cultural organizations that identify as equity-deserving and is actively engaged in Reconciliation and decolonization practices
- Well-developed accessibility and healthy workplace/safe space conditions are in place with evidence of ongoing practice and evaluation
- Operating budgets and financial statements are clear and concise

The following are examples of recommended facilities in Affordable Spaces:

- WhatLab - operates a 1,700 square foot rehearsal/performance studio with shared kitchen, storage and green room areas.
- Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret Society - operates a 2,200 square foot multi-use space in the Artiste Building including a blackbox theater.
- Tahanan Collective Society - operates a 1,200 square foot artist and community space supporting 7 artists full-time and multiple community arts and culture events on occasional use basis.

C - Cultural Infrastructure Grant				
	Applicant	Project Description	Request	Recomm
1	221A Artist Run Centre Society	Planning - Cultural Land Trust	250,000	100,000
2	A.S.T.C. Science World Society	Capital - Waterproof dome	84,000	84,000
3	Australia - New Zealand Association	Capital - facility improvements, including plumbing, HVAC and fire suppression	50,000	50,000
4	Bard on the Beach Theatre Society [^]	Capital - construct storage facility	126,172	0
5	B.C. Artscape Society*	Capital - facility improvements, including adding studios and heat pump installation.	250,000	175,000
6	Italian Cultural Centre Society	Capital - Ballroom improvements	250,000	100,000
7	Japanese Canadian Hastings Park Interpretive Centre Society [^]	Capital - renovations to Hastings Park building	248,167	240,000
8	Vancouver Hungarian Cultural Society	Capital - HVAC replacement	42,500	38,000

9	Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art*	Planning - new facility feasibility and needs assessment	137,000	70,000
10	The Vancouver Maritime Museum Society^	Capital - accessibility improvements	250,000	200,000
11	Wongs' Benevolent Association*	Capital - facility improvements, including installing HVAC and mitigating basement flooding risk.	250,000	175,000
	Total		1,937,839	1,232,000

^ Current or future City-owned/controlled facility

* 337,250 from Chinatown Cultural Partnership Budget

C - Small Grants for Cultural Spaces				
	Applicant	Project Description	Request	Recomm
1	African Descent Society British Columbia	Capital - facility improvements, to enhance soundproofing, acoustics, and overall functionality.	21,150	10,500
2	Afro Van Connect Society	Planning - design and technical for outdoor presentation space	25,000	25,000
3	Arts Umbrella Association	Capital - theatre seating upgrades	25,000	10,500
4	Asian-Canadian Special Events Association	Capital – upgrade heating and cooling system	25,000	0
5	Black Arts Vancouver Society	Planning – engage contractor to determine facility improvements	15,000	0
6	CAG Contemporary Art Gallery Society of British Columbia^	Capital - replace security system	4,000	4,000
7	Chapel Sound Art Foundation	Planning - develop community toolkit for space accessibility	25,000	23,000
8	The Coastal Jazz and Blues Society	Capital - facility improvements, including electrical and plumbing	20,000	12,000
9	Foolish Operations Society	Planning - feasibility for new facility	25,000	20,000
10	Future Leisure Performance Society	Capital - equipment purchase	23,000	0
11	Great Lakes Networking Society of BC	Planning – needs assessment for space acquisition	25,000	0
12	Greater Vancouver International Film Festival Society^	Planning – feasibility study for facility improvements	20,430	0
13	Hypha Artists Association Society	Capital - safety and accessibility improvements	25,000	21,050
14	Kara-Kata Afrobeat Society of Canada	Planning - feasibility planning for cultural hub development	25,000	15,000
15	Latincouver Cultural & Business Society	Capital - facility improvements, including bathroom accessibility and kitchen upgrades.	25,000	4,600
16	Little Mountain Gallery Community Arts Performance Association	Capital - facility improvements, including entrance accessibility and plumbing upgrades	25,000	18,000

C - Small Grants for Cultural Spaces				
	Applicant	Project Description	Request	Recomm
17	Odd Meridian Arts Society	Capital - facility improvements, including electrical, security and storage	12,000	12,000
18	Other Sights for Artists' Projects Association	Planning - accessibility audit	25,000	16,000
19	Terminal City Glass Co-op	Planning - convert electrical systems for efficiency	19,410	19,000
20	The Beaumont Studios Artist Society	Planning - develop tools for space acquisition	25,000	20,000
21	The Biting School Society	Capital - exterior window replacement	15,028	13,500
22	The Dance Foundation	Capital - façade restoration	25,000	0
23	The James Black Gallery Association	Capital - facility improvements, including plumbing, roof and other minor structural repairs.	12,841	8,000
24	The Vancouver Improv Centre Society	Planning - feasibility and design for accessibility upgrades	25,000	17,500
25	The Western Front Society	Planning - design plans for performance space improvements	18,400	13,000
26	UNIT/PITT: Society for Art and Critical Awareness	Planning - accessibility planning for outdoor space	20,000	15,600
27	Vancouver Chinatown Foundation for Economic Revitalization*	Capital - safety and accessibility improvements	25,000	17,750
28	Vancouver Choral Arts Society	Planning - develop business plan for space acquisition	10,000	8,000
29	Vancouver Creative Space Society	Planning - feasibility for property acquisition	25,000	20,000
30	Vancouver Hack Space Society	Planning - space needs assessment and feasibility study	15,950	10,000
31	Vancouver Opera Association	Capital - rehearsal Hall improvements	25,000	21,000
32	Vancouver Scottish Cultural Foundation dba Vancouver Scottish Cultural Centre	Capital - exterior repairs	25,000	0
	Total		677,209	375,000

^ Current or future City-owned/controlled facility

* \$17,750 from the Chinatown Cultural Partnership Budget

Highlights of the 2026 CIG and Small Grants intake:

- 43 applications assessed, total request amount of \$2,615,048
- 35 projects recommended for support, representing an award rate of 81%
- Grant amounts range from \$38,000 to \$240,000 for CIG, with an average recommendation of \$123,200; on average, recommended projects are recommended for 68% of their request

- Grant amounts range from \$4,000 to \$25,000 for Small Grants with an average recommendation of \$15,000; on average projects recommended for 72% of their request

Rationale for recommendations:

- As requests typically exceed available funding, not all projects can be recommended. Projects recommended in this report were well aligned with the following assessment criteria:
 - Compelling rationale for project timeliness and strong organizational capacity to carry out the project
 - Detailed project plan, budget notes, and quotes to support proposal
 - Alignment with multiple Making Space for Arts & Culture goals
 - The project has wide ranging impacts on the organization and broader art and culture sector
 - The project advances equitable access to space through upgrades, renovations, or planning that prioritizes underrepresented artists and cultural workers, with a demonstrated commitment to equity, accessibility and inclusion, and active engagement in Reconciliation and de-colonial practices
 - Well-developed accessibility and healthy workplace/safe space conditions are in place with evidence of ongoing practice and evaluation

The following are examples of recommended projects in CIG and Small Grants:

- Repairs and upgrades that address safety, accessibility and functionality of Chinatown cultural spaces
- Repairs and upgrades to improve accessibility, artist and audience comfort, and functionality of cultural spaces including theatres, artist studios, and cultural hubs
- Planning to increase capacity for organizations to acquire and operate cultural space for a wide range of cultural groups

D - Critical Assistance Grants for 2025 Previously reported in RTS 17897				
	Applicant	Project Description	Request	2025 Grant
1	Satellite Video Exchange Society^	Flood and roof leak remediation	16,588	16,588
2	UNIT/PITT: Society for Art and Critical Awareness	Address urgent security, temperature, and humidity issues	3,167	3,167
3	Kokoro Dance Theatre Society^	Permit Fee Assistance	2,720	2,720
4	Visible Art Society	Secure moorage of the Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency	5,251	5,251
5	The Vancouver East Cultural Centre^	Urgent security upgrades and water ingress prevention	16,580	16,580
	Total		44,306	44,306

D - Critical Assistance Grants Report Out for the Remainder of 2025				
	Applicant	Project Description	Request	2025 Grant
1	The Vancouver Maritime Museum Society [^]	Water line repair	24,965	24,965
2	Strathcona Spatial Sound Society	Permit fee assistance	3,111	3,111
3	Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Society [^]	HVAC replacement	25,000	25,000
4	The Metropolitan Cooperative Theatre Society	Sewer back up emergency services	3,403	3,403
5	Other Sights for Artists' Projects Association [^]	Permit fee assistance	956	956
	Total		57,435	57,435

[^] Current or future City-owned/controlled facility

All Critical Assistance requests met the criteria identified in RTS 17703 *Appendix C – Critical Assistance Grants Eligibility Criteria*. Funding was distributed per those criteria:

- Demonstrate sufficient urgency (i.e. the project cannot wait until the next designated intake of the annual Cultural Spaces Grant program);
- Be for at least one of the following:
 - Unforeseen facility repairs, replacement, or clean up resulting from (i) loss or failure of existing infrastructure; or (ii) urgent life or safety requirements, which may include water or fire damage, vandalism, post-disaster emergency cleaning, or replacement of building systems;
 - Facility repair that if left unaddressed could lead to further major system or structural failure; or
 - A development or building permit or a building code consultant to address time sensitive by-law, permitting, building code, or licensing requirements, or urgent building alterations to support legal, safe and functional cultural facility use.

APPENDIX C Other Grants

D - Capacity Grant for Vantage Point			
	Organization	Description	Grant Recommendation
1	Vantage Point Strategies Society	Grant for the Vantage Point Leadership Development Bursary Program, to cover the costs of capacity building workshops for arts and culture organizations receiving grants through the City of Vancouver.	8,000
	Total		8,000

E - SRO Upgrading Grant			
	Organization	Description	Grant Recommendation
1	Yin Ping Benevolent Society of Canada	<p>The Yin Ping Benevolent Society of Canada is a non-profit charitable organization with a long-standing presence in the community. Its mission is to foster connections to cultural heritage, provide mutual aid to community members in need, and promote shared prosperity. The Society represents more than 30,000 community members in Vancouver and offers cultural programming, social services, and opportunities for community participation. In addition, the Society operates affordable housing for low-income individuals, primarily seniors.</p> <p>The Society's building located at 114 Columbia is over 110 years old. While regular maintenance has been undertaken, the age of the structure has resulted in ongoing building deficiencies, including roof leaks, aging plumbing systems, recurring pipe blockages, and water leakage. These issues have caused significant inconvenience and disruption for tenants.</p> <p>In July 2024, Council approved a \$290,000 Chinatown Housing Partnership Grant (RTS 18288) to the Yin Ping Benevolent Society for critical building repairs, including roof replacement, repairs to a leaking exterior wall, window replacement on the east side of the building, and renovations to four rooms damaged by water infiltration. The society completed the roof repairs but due to the rising cost of repairs, the grant was not able to cover the costs of the planned plumbing replacement and it was not completed. As a result, there continue to be issues related to pipe blockages and water leakage. The Society is proposing the following capital improvements to address outstanding building deficiencies and improve livability for tenants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovations to the four shared bathrooms including the replacement of four showers, toilets, and sinks. • Plumbing upgrades to the sinks in all 17 residential rooms, as well as the creation of a new laundry room, including the 	\$170,000

		<p>installation of new fixtures, drainage systems, and hot and cold water pipes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovations to 13 residential rooms, including painting, replacement of laminate flooring and baseboards, and installation of new vanities and faucets. <p>As a condition of the 2024 grant, (RTS 18288), a Housing Agreement was registered on title. This report recommends updating the Housing Agreement to reflect the change in the number of rooms from 13 to 17, updating information on proposed works, and to continue to secure one-third of all units in the building as affordable rental housing for a period of 10 years beginning in 2026. The updates to the Housing Agreement would be a condition to this grant.</p> <p>This grant will be subject to the Society obtaining all required development and building permits.</p>	
	Total		\$170,000

**APPENDIX D
GRANT METRICS**

Rec	Grant Program	# of Applicants	# of Grants Recommended	% (award rate)	\$ Requested	\$ Grants Recommended	% Funds Recomm vs Requested
A	CASC	129	61	47%	\$1,639,651	\$525,533	32%
B	Affordable Spaces	25	20	80%	\$710,000	\$335,000	47%
C	Cultural Infrastructure	11	10	91%	\$1,937,839	\$1,232,000	64%
C	Small Grants	32	25	78%	\$677,209	\$375,000	55%
D	Capacity Building	1	1	100%	\$8,000	\$8,000	100%
E	SRO Upgrading Grant	1	1	100%	\$170,000	\$170,000	100%
	TOTAL	199	118	59%	\$5,142,699	\$2,645,533	51%