

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

*For consideration at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on
July 15, 2026*

9. Supporting Prioritized Solutions from the Arts and Culture Sector Working Group

Co-Submitted by: Councillor Kirby-Yung and Councillor Fry

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver's arts, culture, festival, and creative sectors are essential to the city's social, cultural, and economic vitality, and continue to face escalating operational pressures that have led organizations to reduce programming, scale back operations, or cease operations entirely;
2. On July 23, 2025, Council received extensive public input in support of urgent investment in arts and culture, including testimony from more than 50 speakers and over 130 letters from artists, cultural workers, festivals, venues, and nonprofit organizations;
3. Council convened the Arts & Culture Sector Working Group to review challenges facing the sector, undertake a jurisdictional scan of Canadian and international best practices, and prioritize recommendations for long-term sustainability;
4. The Working Group has completed this work and presented its findings and prioritized solutions in a memo to Council, identifying key challenges including nonprofit and festival financial viability, loss of affordable cultural space, regulatory barriers, and workforce continuity; and
5. A number of solutions identified by the Working Group are already in progress through existing Council direction and staff work; however, several priority solutions require new Council direction or budget consideration to advance.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council acknowledge and thank the Arts & Culture Sector Working Group and City staff for their work in developing prioritized solutions for the sector's long-term sustainability.
- B. THAT Council receive for information the prioritized solutions outlined by the Working Group included in the memo to Council reporting back on Council's Urgent Investment in Vancouver's Arts and Culture Infrastructure: Strengthening Vancouver's Cultural Sustainability and Economic Impact motion, and direct staff to advance those solutions already in progress, including the festival support program, cultural space initiatives, and cultural land trust work currently underway.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to report back with implementation options and financial implications for the following priority areas currently lacking Council direction:

- i. Cultural Space Affordability — options to improve affordability for cultural spaces;
- ii. Cultural Capital Infrastructure — options to increase funding for the expansion, maintenance, and renewal of cultural capital infrastructure and ongoing operational costs, scoped to mechanisms within the City's legislative authority;
- iii. Arts and Culture Events License — options to continue expanding the existing license to reduce administrative and financial barriers for cultural producers and small operators, as advanced by the 2023 Council motion *Amping Up the Arts Event License Policy to Support Arts and Culture in Vancouver*;
- iv. Regulatory and Upgrade Reform — options to review and amend the Vancouver Licence Bylaw and Zoning and Development By-law as they relate to classification, upgrade, and permitting requirements for arts and culture uses;
- v. Navigator Support — options to create a dedicated Navigator position and/or develop and promote existing City and non-City resources to help cultural operators navigate permitting, development, and licensing processes, such as the support services already provided by the City's Business and Economy Office; and
- vi. Intergovernmental Revenue Tools — that staff report back on viable dedicated revenue mechanisms to support arts and culture investment, including other tools identified through the Working Group's jurisdictional scan, and that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, be requested to subsequently advocate to the provincial government for implementation of viable mechanisms.

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