



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: April 9, 2024
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Meeting Date: May 7, 2024
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability
SUBJECT: 2024 Graffiti Abatement Grants to Business Improvement Associations (BIAs)

Recommendations

- A. THAT, pursuant to section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council approve up to \$500,000 for the 2024 BIA Graffiti Abatement Grants described in this report, to be disbursed to the 22 Business Improvement Associations (BIAs) as set out in Appendix A.
- B. THAT Council deem the 22 BIAs to be contributing to the beautification of the City.
- C. THAT the grants be subject to the BIAs executing and delivering a grant letter agreement received from the City of Vancouver and satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services.
- D. THAT the Director of Legal Services be authorized to execute the appropriate grant agreements with each of the respective BIA associations.

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

Purpose and Executive Summary

In 2021, 2022 and 2023, Council approved \$500,000 of graffiti abatement grants to the City's 22 BIAs. As part the continuation of the annual graffiti abatement grants Council allocated \$500,000 in the City's 2024 Operating Budget. This report seeks Council approval to release the graffiti abatement grants to the 22 BIAs as set out in Appendix A and to instruct staff to execute the appropriate grant agreements to ensure the BIAs receive timely funding.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

- In April 2021, Council approved a Motion that directed staff to identify a funding source for an additional \$200,000 to the Business Improvement Association Graffiti Removal Program.
- In May 2021, Council also approved the Mitigating and Managing Nuisance Graffiti in Vancouver Motion which directed staff to allocate an additional \$300,000 toward the 2021 BIA Graffiti Management program.
- In April 2022, Council approved a Motion for \$500,000 for graffiti abatement and beautification grants to be funded from reserves to improve conditions in Gastown, Chinatown, Strathcona, Downtown, and other affected neighbourhoods.
- In January 2023, Council approved the Uplifting Chinatown Action Plan and directed staff to include the Plan's initiatives in the draft 2023 operating budget for Council's consideration. The initiatives were subsequently approved as part of the 2023 operating budget.
- In December 2023, Council approved the continuation of the annual \$500,000 graffiti abatement grants to the City's 22 BIAs as part of the City's 2024 Operating Budget.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

Many of the City's BIAs have well-established graffiti prevention and abatement programs. The BIA programs supplement the City's programs by addressing nuisance graffiti on non-City owned public property, and on commercial private property within their boundaries. In 2020, BIA budgets for graffiti-related expenditures totalled roughly \$800,000. Five years later this total approaches \$1,000,000 (excluding the \$500,000 annual Graffiti Abatement Grants funded by the City, which began in 2021).

During the pandemic, there was an increase in graffiti across the City, including damage to murals. In response to this increasing need, the City provided additional Graffiti Abatement Grants to the BIAs in 2021, 2022 and 2023. In 2023, the City-managed graffiti program performed over 173,000 graffiti removals up from 159,000 the previous year and up from 137,000 in 2020. The BIA-managed efforts had over 15,000 additional removals in 2023 (excluding mural repair). The sustained high levels of graffiti indicate a continued need for additional financial assistance in 2024.

Discussion

Allocation of Grants

If approved by Council, Graffiti prevention and abatement grants totalling \$500,000 will be distributed to all 22 BIAs according to the same allocation formula developed by the Vancouver BIA Partnership in 2021, as set out in Appendix A. As a condition of the grants, the funds can be used only for graffiti removal or related beautification /graffiti abatement measures such as the

creation, maintenance and repair of murals and mural coatings. The funds will be granted on the condition that they are not used to fund activities already paid for under existing graffiti abatement contracts.

Financial Implications

Council approved \$500,000 for graffiti abatement grants to Vancouver’s BIAs as part of the 2024 Operating Budget.

Legal Implications

The recommended grants are authorized by section 206(1) (j) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

Conclusion

The City’s BIAs have expressed the need and urgency to address nuisance graffiti in time for the 2024 summer season. This report recommends Council approval of Graffiti Abatement Grants to all 22 BIAs in the amounts specified in Appendix A, totalling \$500,000.

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APPENDIX A
ALLOCATION OF BIA GRAFFITI ABATEMENT GRANTS

Name of BIA/Association	Grant Amount (\$)
Cambie Village BIA <i>(Cambie Village Business Association)</i>	25,000
Chinatown BIA <i>(Vancouver Chinatown BIA Society)</i>	50,000
Collingwood BIA <i>(Collingwood Business Improvement Association)</i>	10,000
Commercial Drive BIA <i>(Commercial Drive Business Society)</i>	25,000
Downtown Vancouver BIA <i>(Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association)</i>	50,000
Dunbar Village BIA <i>(Dunbar Village Business Association)</i>	10,000
Fraser Street BIA <i>(South Hill (Fraser Street) Business Association)</i>	10,000
Gastown BIA <i>(Gastown Business Improvement Society)</i>	25,000
Hastings Crossing BIA <i>(Hastings Crossing Business Improvement Association)</i>	25,000
Hastings North BIA <i>(Hastings North Business Improvement Association)</i>	25,000
Kerrisdale BIA <i>(Kerrisdale Business Association)</i>	10,000
Kitsilano 4th Avenue BIA <i>(Kitsilano 4th Avenue Business Association)</i>	25,000
Marpole BIA <i>(Marpole Business Association)</i>	10,000
Mount Pleasant BIA & Expansion Area <i>(Mount Pleasant Commercial Improvement Society)</i>	35,000

Name of BIA/Association	Grant Amount (\$)
Point Grey Village BIA <i>(Point Grey Village Business Association)</i>	10,000
Robson Street BIA <i>(Robson Street Business Association)</i>	25,000
South Granville BIA <i>(South Granville Business Improvement Association)</i>	25,000
Strathcona BIA <i>(Strathcona Business Improvement Association)</i>	35,000
Victoria Drive BIA <i>(Victoria Drive Business Improvement Association)</i>	10,000
West Broadway BIA <i>(West Broadway Business Improvement Association)</i>	10,000
West End BIA <i>(Davie Village Business Improvement Association)</i>	25,000
Yaletown BIA <i>(Yaletown Business Improvement Association)</i>	25,000
TOTAL GRANTS	\$500,000*

*Source of funds: City of Vancouver 2024 Operating Budget