

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk
Tina Penney, Director, Legislative Operations
Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies

FROM: Arts and Culture Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Report of Activities, 2021-2022

PURPOSE

To provide Vancouver City Council with a report on the activities of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee for the period of May 18, 2021 to November 6, 2022.

BACKGROUND

The Arts and Culture Advisory Committee was established by Council. The mandate of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee is to advise Council and staff on all civic programs that relate to arts and culture, and ensure that arts and culture is appropriately represented in City plans and policy initiatives.

DISCUSSION

1. Work Plan Update

Objective 1: Affordable Space

The issue being that the affordable and/or below market rates remain unaffordable for many in the arts sector.

The ACAC struggles to understand the City of Vancouver's approach to tackling the affordable space crises for the Arts and Culture community and where the majority of efforts should be placed in this fight for affordability.

There is significant agreement that the ACAC could provide a place for the broader community to funnel input.

Discussed the function of the CAC (Community Amenity Contributions) / DCL (Development Cost Levies) and their historic impact and benefit to arts community and individual organizations. Flagged concern around developers being able to waive these contributions when 'affordable' or below market rental properties were included in development applications.

Requested information from the city on how the waiving of these fees over the last number of years have affected space contribution to the Arts and Culture community but haven't received at time of this report.

Objective 2: Intersectional Approach

ACAC members attended several meetings for other City initiatives including the Vancouver plan and Broadway plan. Some members had a vested interest in learning about the CHAMP plan for Chinatown as well. Sharing of motions between other Type A Committees allowed a glimpse into other committee challenges. The question still remains, what strategies can be employed by the ACAC to further cultural and artistic integration in other City initiatives.

Objective 3: Sustainable Arts and Culture Funding

In an era of austerity (COVID-19), the committee attempted to write letters and advocate for continued funding of the Culture|Shift plan. The question of how to strategize for this type of activity so that funds continue to flow to support this plan. The committee continues to note frustration from the community that the Vancouver Charter restricts individual artists to be able to apply directly to the COV granting programs.

Objective 4: Indigenous Sovereignty and Decolonization

We did not increase our Indigenous representation on the committee which is an issue of recruitment and retention. The committee overall supports Indigenous Sovereignty and Decolonization mostly through supporting the Urban Indigenous Advisory Committee's efforts.

Objective 5: Flexible and Adaptive Work Plan

The ACAC stayed aware of hot topic issues for the committee and city such as hybrid meetings, the re-application process, and timelines for the election.

2. Official Motions/Actions

- **2022 Capital and Operating Budget - December 2021**
 - ACAC unanimously recommended that Council prioritize the third year of funding for Culture|Shift
 - Shared as a letter and spoke directly to Council
- **2023-2026 Draft Capital Plan - April 2022**

- ACAC wrote a collaborative letter, shared with Council, which pushed for additional funding for the following:
 - Chinatown Grants & Partnerships
 - Vancouver Cultural Spaces Fund & Cultural Land
 - Firehall Theatre Renewal and Expansion
 - Cultural Infrastructure Grants
- **Cultural Heritage Asset Management Plan (CHAMP) - May 2022**
 - The ACAC unanimously passed a motion to support the draft CHAMP as circulated to the committee.
- **2023-2026 Capital Plan - June 2022**
 - ACAC spoke directly to Council commending the increase in funding for the Firehall Theatre and highlighting the continued shortfalls to the following:
 - Chinatown Grants & Partnerships
 - Vancouver Cultural Spaces Fund & Cultural Land Trust
 - Cultural Infrastructure Grants
- **Supported other Advisory Committee Motions - September 2022**
 - Motions for Honoraria on Advisory Committees
 - Motions to include seniors and healthy aging planning in the City budgets

3. Challenges and Frustrations

- The ACAC did not receive notice of important policies/plans going to Council with sufficient time to mobilize motions or speak to Council.
- The mandate for the ACAC is to uphold the directions of the Culture|Shift plan. In March the ACAC was told that a Summary+Highlights would be completed by staff in June. However the summary report was canceled which means the full report, target date November, will be released after this ACAC is dissolved.
- Lack of opportunity to actually advise and make suggestions regarding sector writ large-no opportunity to advocate for more support and funding for the arts

4. Future Directions

- The current ACAC is working on a document to provide advice for the future ACAC. This document will provide tips on creating focus within the committee and background on challenges this committee faced.
- The hope is that the next ACAC will be able to begin work, and get aligned, faster.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing information is presented to Vancouver City Council for information.

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