



ARTS AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 13, 2025

A meeting of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 5:30 pm, in the Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

PRESENT:

Kaile Shilling, Vice-Chair
Diane Brown
Mark Busse
Hanna Cho
Brent Constantine*
Anna Gibson
Henry Lu
Brian McBay
Shora Parvaresh

ABSENT:

Noor Abouchehade (Leave of Absence)
Joshua Beamish (Leave of Absence)
Ashley Daniel Foot (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Pete Fry, Council Liaison
Jorge Amigo, Head of Cultural Programming; Vancouver
Public Library Liaison
Brenda Grunau, Social Planner III – Grants & Awards;
Staff Liaison Representative

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:

Sonia Lotay, Meeting Coordinator
Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

MOVED by Brent Constantine
SECONDED by Shora Parvaresh

THAT the Arts and Culture' Advisory Committee suspend the rule of section 15.13 of the *Procedure By-law* for the duration of this meeting, to allow the use of consensus-based decision-making.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND

BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

Leave of Absence Requests

THAT the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Noor Abouchehade, Joshua Beamish, and Ashley Daniel Foot, for this meeting.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Approval of Minutes

THAT the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of Tuesday, March 4, 2025, as circulated.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

1. Vancouver Civic Theatres Presentation

Staff from Vancouver Civic Theatres provided a presentation and responded to questions and comments.

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2. Working Session Updates

None.

3. Liaison Updates

The Council Liaison provided updates and responded to questions and comments.

The Vancouver Public Library Liaison provided updates and responded to questions and comments.

4. Subcommittee Updates

Leads for the Culturally Vibrant City/Budget Subcommittee and Cultural Spaces Subcommittee provided updates.

5. New Business

WHEREAS

1. City of Vancouver civic agencies are volunteer bodies appointed by Council to convey community perspectives and advise on City priorities, projects, and initiatives;

2. These agencies are essential to public engagement and democratic accountability;
3. For nearly a century—beginning with the Vancouver City Planning Commission (1926) and evolving to today’s network of advisory bodies—Council has relied on specialized committees for informed guidance;
4. The Arts & Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC) advises Council and staff on cultivating a thriving, inclusive, and sustainable creative sector encompassing arts, culture, heritage, and creative industries;
5. Vancouver’s arts and culture economy generates more than \$6 billion in annual GDP and 100,000+ jobs, according to 2022 Culture Satellite Account data, enriches community identity, and advances the City’s Reconciliation and equity commitments;
6. Artists and cultural workers—especially those who are Indigenous, racialized, disabled, 2SLGBTQ+, women, non-binary, or low-income—face systemic barriers: insecure funding, loss of cultural space, rising costs of living, and under-representation in civic decision-making;
7. Distinct, dedicated committees like ACAC provide nuanced, technical feedback on priority initiatives such as Culture|Shift, Making Space for Arts & Culture, the Vancouver Music Strategy, Public Art Policy updates, Creative City Strategy implementation, and Reconciliation frameworks;
8. Consolidating or significant restructuring of ACAC would dilute specialized knowledge, reduce sector representation, and risk overlooking equity-denied voices;
9. Alternative improvements—clear mandate letters, cross-committee collaboration, streamlined meeting processes—can increase efficiency without sacrificing dedicated arts expertise;
10. Historical experiences of exclusion mean many cultural workers share their lived experience more openly in a committee of peers which provides a critical conduit to City Council;
11. ACAC’s long-standing relationships with Council and staff enable timely, actionable advice and build trust between City Hall and the creative community;
12. Sustained investment in ACAC (staff liaison time, honoraria, accessibility supports) is essential for meaningful engagement and accountability to the City’s stated cultural strategic priorities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee recommends that Council:

- (i) Maintain ACAC as a distinct, dedicated body providing expert, intersectional feedback on City policies and programs impacting the arts, culture, and creative industries;

- (ii) Ensure any restructuring of civic agencies does not diminish representation of equity-denied cultural communities in municipal decision-making;
- (iii) Recognize that specialized committees like ACAC are vital tools of participatory democracy beyond electoral processes, enabling historically marginalized cultural voices to shape civic life; and
- (iv) Reaffirm ongoing commitment to resource ACAC adequately—including dedicated staff support, stipends for committee members, accessibility measures, and opportunities for cross-committee collaboration—to advance shared cultural goals.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

ADJOURNMENT

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Next Meeting:

DATE: Tuesday, June 10, 2025
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall
/ Microsoft Teams Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:24 pm.

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