



ARTS AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 26, 2026

A meeting of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 5:32 pm, in the Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

PRESENT: Ashley Daniel Foot, Chair
Hanna Cho
Brent Constantine
Kareem Hassib*
Henry Heng Lu*
Shora Parvaresh, Co-Chair
John Steil
Kaile Shilling, Vice Chair

ABSENT: Noor Abouchehade
Diane Brown (Leave of Absence)
Mark Busse (Leave of Absence)
Brian McBay

ALSO PRESENT: Brenda Grunau, Social Planner III – Grants and Awards,
Arts, Culture and Community Services; Staff Liaison
Eleena Marley, Managing Director, Arts and Culture, Arts,
Culture and Community Services
Jorge Amigo, Head of Cultural Programming, Vancouver
Public Library Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Sonia Lotay, Meeting Coordinator

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.

Modified Procedures

MOVED by Brent Constantine
SECONDED by Kaile Shilling

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 leave of absence for Diane Brown and Mark Busse 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 31, 2026, as circulated.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

1. Arts and Culture Working Group Memo Review

The Staff Liaison, together with staff from Arts, Culture and Community Services, presented an update on the Arts and Culture Working Group memorandum. The Committee participated in a discussion regarding the memorandum and its recommendations.

2. Working Session Updates

The Chair provided an update on the working session held on April 28, 2026, during which Committee members began developing the following motion:

Supporting Prioritized Solutions from the Arts and Culture Sector Working Group

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 subsequently 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 the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC) recommend 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, as presented in the Working Group memo.
- B. THAT the ACAC recommend that Council endorse the prioritized solutions outlined in the Working Group memo, 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 the ACAC recommend 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 introduce subsidies and/or tax incentives to improve affordability for cultural spaces, including property tax rebates and rent subsidies for cultural spaces or for landlords offering below-market rent to cultural groups;
 - 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 expand the existing license to reduce administrative and financial barriers for cultural producers and small operators;
 - iv. Regulatory and Upgrade Reform — options to review and amend the Vancouver Business Bylaw and Zoning and Development Bylaw 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;
 - vi. Private Sector Revenue — options to develop a sponsorship framework specific to the arts and culture sector to improve access to private sector support; and
 - vii. Intergovernmental Revenue Tools — that staff report back on viable dedicated revenue mechanisms to support arts and culture investment, including hotel levies, tourism taxes, and other tools identified through the Working Group's jurisdictional scan, and that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, subsequently advocate to the provincial government for implementation of viable mechanisms.

- D. THAT the ACAC recommend that Council consider the Working Group's prioritized solutions when approving the 2027 operating budget and the 2027–2030 capital budget, to increase support for operating grant levels and cultural infrastructure funding, at minimum indexed to inflation, and direct staff to include, at minimum, an annual inflationary increase in the City's cultural grants operating budget year on year.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS
(Henry Heng Lu absent for the vote)

3. Liaison Updates

All liaisons present provided updates or comments, in addition to previously circulated updates.

4. Subcommittee Updates

None.

5. New Business

None.

ADJOURNMENT

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Next Meeting:

DATE: Tuesday, July 28, 2026
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall
/ Teams Meeting

The Committee adjourned at 7:09 pm.

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