

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>
Date: 7/21/2020 9:40:52 AM
Subject: Response to Question on Grant Report

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see staff response below regarding a question we received on the grants report –

Q: How does the vote for the funds to “Prioritize and support development of self-determined xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱w̱ᕐwú7mesh (Squamish) and səɫ ilwətaʔt (TsleilWaututh), including seed funding for the planning of self-determined cultural spaces” fit within our reconciliation work plan?

The grants in this report specifically address Reconciliation goals of strengthening relations and support to the Nations through *Culture|Shift: Blanketing the City in Art & Culture*, embedded in the City’s overall Reconciliation framework, as reported to Council in July 2020 (Reconciliation Update Memo). Additionally, *Culture|Shift*, together with *Making Space for Arts and Culture*, and *Vancouver Music Strategy*, as approved by Council in September 2019, clearly outline City of Vancouver’s overall approach to cultural Reconciliation, Decolonization, and redress work, and firmly set our corporate Reconciliation goals.

Specifically, Reconciliation and Decolonization change processes related to art and culture involve developing practices that:

- a) Respect the authority and leadership of Indigenous nations and people and their role in broader decision-making processes in matters that impact them;
- b) Support the cultural visibility of local nations throughout their unceded lands;
- c) Support the cultural, political and economic advancement of Indigenous people; and,
- d) Determine ways to redress dispossession and cultural erasure.

Furthermore, *Culture|Shift* subtitle *Blanketing the City in Art & Culture* has a two-fold significance:

- a) It underscores the critical importance of telling the truth about our colonial history and working with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh to ensure that their presence and voice is woven throughout Vancouver; and,
- b) It draws on the wisdom of the local Nations to illuminate the role culture plays in shaping place and a shared sense of belonging for all people on these unceded lands.

Grants for Council decision in this report are project specific, have been discussed with the Nations, and represent a crucial commitment for the implementation of *Culture|Shift* as well as providing the necessary support to increase capacity for engagement with the Nations over the next year. Staff have been working with the Nations to determine the scope and budgets for space planning projects, and funding is subject to staff review and approval of proposals including scope of work, budget, time lines and consultant proposals. As with any Cultural Services grants (including existing grant agreements with the local Nations), the Space grants will be

accompanied with an agreement that sets out the goals and terms, as well as a report back.

Best,
Sadhu

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Pronouns: he, him, his



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.