

**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:** 9/28/2020 4:23:11 PM  
**Subject:** Update: Cultural Impact Critical Assistance (CICA) Grants

Dear Mayor and Council,

Staff would like to update Council that as part of the overall COVID 19 adaptive recovery efforts - and the Non Profit and Social Enterprise Sector Recovery work stream specifically - Cultural Services just launched a previously approved, repurposed grant program for 2020.

This new, responsive program is the last and final Cultural Services grant intake for FY2020, and will offer critical assistance to the arts and culture sector. CICA grants will support continuity or adaptation of operations, programs, services, as well as re-opening or restart planning and implementation in the sector. For cultural spaces, funding will support timely critical cultural space projects that address urgent life safety issues, equity, accessibility, COVID-19 pandemic restart and recovery, and sector resilience.

Please note that this grant program builds upon Cultural Services' efforts to date to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on the arts and culture sector. These efforts include:

- Repurposing operating funds to allow groups to adapt their programs, operations and projects to continue to provide vital services and support to the sector;
- Cultural Infrastructure grants to support cultural spaces and recovery;
- Emergency Affordable Spaces operating grants to cultural spaces at risk;
- Support to local COVID-related funding programs including the Vancouver Foundation Arts Culture and Community Benefit (ACCB) Fund, and the BC Arts Council Pilot Microgrants Program for artists with assessment and cash resources respectively;
- Weekly COVID-19 newsletters; and
- Advocacy efforts with the Province and Federal governments for capital projects.

The CICA grants program was informed by community input gathered through the development of goals of Culture|Shift, the local arts and culture sector, and other external COVID-19 response and recovery initiatives. Most importantly, in light of ongoing events and community calls to action to address local historic and systemic racism and in particular anti-Black racism, it is critical that all recovery investment efforts centre and embed racial equity.

The CICA grants program will prioritize groups who have played and continue to play a critical role in the city's cultural and economic vitality, and who have been most impacted by COVID-19. These groups who, through their mission, programs, services, operations, administration, leadership, and space, contribute to one or more of the following:

- the livelihood of artists from equity-seeking communities
- the sustainability of a diverse and inclusive live music/performing arts sector
- the sustainability of affordable, accessible and safe cultural spaces

The CICA grants program is open to all Vancouver-based arts and cultural nonprofit organizations. These one-time grants will be up to \$25,000 and open to groups that already receive funding from the City of Vancouver and those that have never applied or received funding before.

Please feel free to follow up with Sandra Singh at [sandra.singh@vanouver.ca](mailto:sandra.singh@vanouver.ca) if you have any questions.

Best,  
Sadhu

**Sadhu Aufochs Johnston** | City Manager  
Office of the City Manager | City of Vancouver  
604.873.7627 | [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)

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.*