

**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>

**Date:** 1/18/2016 4:35:40 PM

**Subject:** Request to Staff - RTS 10381 - Civic Artist Registry

**Attachments:** [Memo - Mayor and Council - RTS 10381 -Civic Artist Registry - 2016.01.18.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Teresa Hartman, Acting GM Community Services regarding the RTS 10381 - Civic Artist Registry.

A short summary is as follows:

- The memo is a report back on Council's motion of November 15, 2013 requesting the City to establish a comprehensive professional artist registry for a variety of performing and visual artists living in Vancouver;
- While reviewing the feasibility of a City registry via a subcommittee of the Arts and Culture Policy Council and consulting with local artists it was revealed that the Alliance for Arts and Culture has developed a BC Artist Registry which launched this month;
- As such, the need for a registry is met and the City staff will continue anticipate future opportunities for collaboration with Vancouver's artists.

Regards,

Sadhu

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COMMUNITY SERVICES  
General Manager's Office

## MEMORANDUM

January 18, 2016

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, Acting City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Acting Deputy City Manager  
Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk  
Lynda Graves, Manager, Administration Services, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Communications  
Mike Magee, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Kevin Quinlan, Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Braeden Caley, Director, Policy and Communications, Mayor's Office  
Richard Newirth, Managing Director, Cultural Services  
Jessie Adcock, Chief Digital Officer  
Members of the Arts and Culture Policy Council

FROM: Teresa Hartman, Acting General Manager, Community Services

SUBJECT: Civic Artist Registry RTS #10381

This memo is a report back on Council's motion of Nov 5, 2013, on implementation of a civic artist registry. The motion (see attached) was to "establish a comprehensive professional Artist Registry for a variety of performing and visual artists living in Vancouver".

In response to the motion, the Arts and Culture Policy Council struck a sub-committee to consider the role, benefits and costs of creating an artist registry. The sub-committee conferred with City staff from Information Technology, Communications and Cultural Services and explored several options including enhancing the existing Public Art Registry and purchasing a custom-made system. It was determined that building on the existing Public Art Registry - which provides basic information on Vancouver's public art assets - would require the same resources as developing as a new site. Both options require development and on-going resources beyond current staff capacity and budgets.

In addition it became clear that there was a need to further consult and connect directly with artists. Based on this, the Arts and Culture Policy Council and staff arrived at the conclusion that an important first step would be to utilise available resources to collect basic

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information from artists and to provide a venue for direct feedback and consultation with the artist community. Subsequently, informal consultations revealed that planning was underway by the Alliance for Arts and Culture to develop and host an artist registry.

This month, the Alliance for Arts and Culture launched a BC Artist Registry. Based on examples set in Saskatchewan and other regions, the BC Artist Registry will help to advance the cultural sector through quality research and advocacy. The intent is to provide a tool for reaching artists directly, inviting their participation in surveys and other types of consultation. Recent discussions confirm that the Alliance plans to collaborate with cultural associations, funders, arts service providers, and municipalities to ensure that artists from all artistic disciplines and all regions have the opportunity to be counted. More details on BC Artist Registry can be found at <http://www.allianceforarts.com/blog/2015/11/2/join-the-bc-artist-registry>.

We are thrilled that this non-profit partner stepped forward to address this need. As the registry develops we anticipate future opportunities for collaboration. Should you have any questions, please contact myself or Rich Newirth, Managing Director, at 604-871-6455 or [richard.newirth@vancouver.ca](mailto:richard.newirth@vancouver.ca).

Teresa Hartman  
Acting General Manager, Community Services

(T) 604.871.6858

(E) [Teresa.hartman@vancouver.ca](mailto:Teresa.hartman@vancouver.ca)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TH', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Council Motion - November 19, 2013  
Civic Artist Registry**

MOVED by Councillor Ball  
SECONDED by Councillor Affleck  
WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver respects and values the professional artists living and working in our communities;
2. The City of Vancouver aims to assist professional artists in their ability to work and earn a living from their professional endeavours;
3. The City of Vancouver has established strategies in support of the arts including fostering innovation in our cultural policies, programs and services, embedding cultural awareness, instruction and programming within all our institutions and systems to engage citizen participation in cultural activities, and working with the non-profit arts and cultural sector, cultural industries, business and public sectors to develop new and innovative ways to highlight and profile the creative sector to the citizens of Vancouver and promote Vancouver's reputation as a creative city;
4. The City of Vancouver website supports an existing Public Art Registry of public artworks located throughout Vancouver with photos and biographies of the artists;
5. Cities such as Ottawa, Brooklyn, Whistler, Provincetown, Atlanta, Detroit and other municipalities have created successful Artist Registries that have proven to benefit artists and encourage the awareness of arts and culture in those communities;
6. Working artists need as much public exposure as possible to benefit and thrive from their professional work.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

- A. THAT Council request the Arts and Culture Policy Council to strike a working group to consider the benefits and costs of creating a Vancouver Artists' Registry, including surveying literature and best practices.
- B. THAT Councillors Elizabeth Ball and Heather Deal be named liaisons to that working group.
- C. THAT the working group consult with City staff including cultural services, communications, and website management, as well as with the wider cultural community, and report back on their findings to Council within six months.
- D. THAT staff investigate any non-profit partners that could assist/host/or manage the Registry.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

