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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 5/30/2023 11:24:38 AM

Subject: Upcoming news release: Vancouver City Council Approves Over \$3.4 Million in Cultural Grants, Major Boost to Chinatown Revitalization (Ma

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing a news release, following your approval of more than \$3.4 million in grants to support the city's vibrant arts and cultural sector. Notably, Chinatown will receive an additional investment from the City exceeding \$1.1 million from this funding. This aims to enhance Chinatown's cultural vibrancy and solidify its place as a cornerstone of the city's cultural heritage.

This approval includes substantial contributions to three major projects in Chinatown and operational support for the Chinese Canadian Museum Society of British Columbia (CCMSBC) over the next three years.

The City will share this via social media, once the news release has been issued to the media.

Best,
Paul

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City Manager

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver

News Release

May 30, 2023

**Vancouver City Council approves more than \$3.4 Million in cultural grants
with significant funding for Chinatown revitalization**

Today, Vancouver City Council approved \$3,486,586 in grants to support the city's vibrant arts and cultural sector.

Chinatown, recently infused with financial support from the federal, provincial, and municipal levels, will receive an additional investment from the City exceeding \$1.1 million.

This substantial contribution aims to enhance Chinatown's cultural vibrancy, solidifying its place as a cornerstone of the city's cultural heritage.

"This significant investment reinforces our commitment to fostering vibrancy through arts, culture, and heritage within the city," says Mayor Ken Sim. "With a substantial focus on revitalizing Chinatown, we are taking bold strides towards preserving and enhancing the cultural heritage of this community and ensuring that it can be a vibrant, prosperous neighbourhood for generations to come."

While cultural space and infrastructure projects in Chinatown have been and will continue to be a priority for all Cultural Spaces grants streams, the Chinatown Cultural Infrastructure Grants recommends an additional \$750,000 for three major projects to invigorate Chinatown's vibrant tapestry.

Funding will support the transformation of the historic Wing Sang building into the Chinese Canadian Museum, a ground-breaking initiative by the 221A Artist Housing Society to revive a heritage building into a dynamic cultural hub, and the Wongs' Benevolent Association's essential upgrades to the Hon Hsing building, to support a sustainable future for its cultural activities and legacy businesses.

The Chinese Canadian Museum Society of British Columbia (CCMSBC) will also receive \$334,500 from the ACCS operating budget to support operational funding for the next three years, and an opening exhibit titled "The Paper Trail to the 1923 Chinese Exclusion Act".

City Council's approval of the Cultural Grants report also includes the following investments:

- **Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (CASC) Grants** worth \$537,500 to 79 organizations city-wide, fostering artistic creation, community-engaged arts practices, and vibrant celebrations. \$54,000 in CASC grants will be allocated to five projects supporting Chinatown's cultural vibrancy and diversity.
- **Cultural Spaces Grants** amounting to \$1,864,586, supporting 40 projects including operational support for affordable cultural spaces for artists and organizations as well as infrastructure projects to research, plan, improve, buy and build cultural spaces throughout Vancouver.

Previous Funding Commitment

Vancouver City Council also previously approved four grants as a part of the Uplifting Chinatown Action Plan, for community organizations totalling \$387,000 to pilot graffiti abatement and removal projects and community supports in Chinatown. [Read our previous news release to](#)

[learn more.](#)

These financial commitments align with the City's key strategic directions, including *Culture|Shift*, the City's 10-year arts and culture plan, Vancouver Music Strategy, *Making Space for Arts and Culture* and the Vancouver Chinatown Cultural Heritage Assets Management Plan (CHAMP) Strategic Framework's goals of supporting Chinatown's cultural heritage.