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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council"](#)  
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Subject: 2025 Cultural Grants Report (RTS 17705) - Additional information

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Good morning Mayor and Council,

Further to questions raised at the Council briefing on April 7 and to support the April 15, 2025, Council Meeting item on RTS 17705 - 2025 Cultural Grants, the following bullets outline some context to the recommended reduction in the grant awarded to the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre.

- On April 15, Council will consider a report that recommends \$3.8 million in Cultural grants, including 43 operational grants to institutions and annual recipients.
- Demand for funding generally exceeds available resources. Shifts in funding ensure that City resources support organizations having the greatest impact in advancing City priorities.
- Applications were evaluated through a peer assessment process, with members of the arts and culture community and staff evaluating applications and recommending funding amounts based on the priorities of the program.
- The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre was recommended for a grant of \$441,900, which is a decrease of \$25,000 compared to last year. The decrease represents a 5% decrease in funding (the City's guidelines allow up to 10%) and is in line with past decreases for this organization.
- The level of funding for the Space Centre was seen to be high as a percentage of their operating budget compared with other groups; there was a greater alignment with City priorities demonstrated by other groups and as a result a decrease in grant level was recommended by the peer assessment committee.
  - In this program, organizations are generally receiving between 3-8% of their annual budgets through the City grant.
  - The major cultural institutions such as the Space Centre are receiving a much higher percentage due to the importance of these institutions to the City, and in some cases, their role in managing and preserving civic collections.
  - After the recommended decrease, the Space Centre will still be receiving the highest percentage of funding of all institutions and annual grant recipients; their recommended grant represents 29% of their operating budget last year.
  - In comparison, the Museum of Vancouver and Maritime Museum are recommended to receive a grant representing 24% and 21% of their operating budgets respectively; it is worth noting that they manage civic collections and the Space Centre does not.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Margaret Wittgens at [Margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca](mailto:Margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca) and she will endeavor to provide a response ahead of the Tuesday Council meeting.

Thank you,

Sandra

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*The City of Vancouver acknowledges the unceded homelands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.*