

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council"

Date: 6/5/2025 10:31:50 AM

Subject: Upcoming News Release: City champions the arts with \$5.7M in latest round of cultural grant funding (June 5, 2025)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Following your approval at yesterday's Standing Committee meeting, I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below news release regarding the latest round of cultural grant funding.

Please keep this news release embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account.

Maria will reply to this email with the relevant Vancouver.ca link and social media links, once these are live.

Best,

Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)

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 (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City champions the arts with \$5.7M in latest round of cultural grant funding



Image credit: Some Assembly Arts Society, The Wait List Experiment, Director Valerie Methot. Photo: Gaetan Nerincx (2022)

Yesterday, Vancouver City Council approved \$5.7M in grants to 270 cultural organizations to support the delivery of critical programs and services for artists, the cultural community and the public.

This latest round of funding builds on investments made by the City earlier this year, including [\\$2.6M in arts and culture grants awarded in January](#) and a further [\\$3.8M in operational support grants provided to cultural organizations in April](#).

The City of Vancouver's arts and culture grants program advances [Vibrant Vancouver, Council's strategic priorities and key directives](#) related to arts and culture, including Vancouver's 10-year culture plan, [Culture|Shift](#), and the [Making Space for Arts and Culture](#) infrastructure plan. It also aligns with the City's Reconciliation, Equity, Healthy City and Accessibility goals.

"Arts and culture play a significant role in elevating our city's identity and contributing to vibrancy, quality of life, economic prosperity, and social connection," said Mayor Ken Sim. "As rising costs and real estate pressures continue to impact the sector, these grants provide essential support for local arts organizations, programs and projects. They also help to protect and sustain the cultural spaces they need to create, connect, and thrive."

The 270 grant awards were the result of a rigorous staff and peer-driven assessment processes. They

include:

- 84 Communities and Artists Shifting Culture (CASC) Grants totalling \$615,593 that support a wide-range of short-term, one-time or limited series arts, cultural and creative projects.
- 17 Cultural Learning and Sharing (CLS) grants totalling \$200,275, to help artists and cultural organizations access or deliver learning opportunities that will build and strengthen skills, knowledge and relationships.
- 21 Affordable Spaces Grants totalling \$335,000 to support facility operating costs for local non-profit space operators who provide subsidized affordable space for Vancouver-based artists and /or cultural organizations.
- 108 Theatre Rental Grants totalling \$3,180,875 to support users of Vancouver's four civic theatres (Orpheum, Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver Playhouse and Annex).
- 39 Cultural Spaces Capital Grants totalling \$1,308,989, which support cultural building-based projects including space planning, purchase, renovation or expansion of an arts and cultural facility.

Grant recipients include:

Some Assembly Arts Society

Granted \$14,000 for Breaking Vicious Cycles, a community-engaged theatre project created by and for youth exploring anxiety, expectations and strength-based support.

Pride in Art Society

Granted \$13,500 to sponsor the artist-led celebration project Emancipation Day 2025 which is led by a longstanding advocate for queer Black visibility in Vancouver.

Protect the Burrard Inlet Society

Granted \$13,500 for a Salish Sea ceremonial canoe journey supporting cultural resurgence for the Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

Recorded Movement Society

Granted \$17,500 for a capacity-building project called Documenting RMS's Youth-Led Leadership Model, which will include a case study, report and toolkit to document and share a leadership succession strategy in a youth-centred, values-driven organization.

Musqueam Indian Band

Awarded a capital grant of \$175,000 to support improvements to their Longhouse and cultural burn

site ahead of the 50th anniversary of the Musqueam Declaration in June 2026.

Chinese Canadian Museum Society

Awarded a capital grant of \$125,000 to support improvements to Wing Sang building, home of the Chinese Canadian Museum.

[Learn more about the City of Vancouver's Arts and Culture Grants program here.](#)

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Note to editors: The 2025 Cultural Grants (Projects, Capacity, Cultural Spaces) report was passed with an amendment. Please see the added motion below. This is a draft copy provided for your understanding. The published minutes are the official record of the meeting.

- A. THAT Council direct staff, upon receipt and review of the Vancouver Concert Hall and Theatre Society (VCHTS) Phase I Cultural Precinct Feasibility Report, including working with the Society on scoping and development of Phase II of the Cultural Precinct Feasibility Study, to report back to Council with recommendations to potentially allocate funds to the Society from the *Coal Harbour Arts Complex Reserve* for Phase II of the Feasibility Study in an amount up to \$250,000, recognizing Council's recent direction to support the city-making potential and exploration of the opportunity to site a new cultural district in the heart of Downtown Vancouver.