

From: "Levitt, Karen" <karen.levitt@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

Date: 8/14/2025 1:58:25 PM

Subject: Community Street Art Opportunity and Placemaking Program Update

Attachments: ENG - Council Memo - Community Street Art Opportunity and Placemaking Program update.pdf

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Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Lon LaClaire. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- The new *Community Street Art Opportunity* builds on the existing Mural Support Program by introducing a streamlined process for collaborative public art, including pavement murals and art on infrastructure like concrete blocks, with options for both pre-selected and community-proposed sites.
- The initiative emphasizes community leadership, encouraging artists and residents to co-create street art that fosters local identity, connection, and vibrancy in shared public spaces.
- The broader *Placemaking Program* continues to support inclusive, community-driven events and installations citywide, prioritizing diverse and underrepresented groups activating public spaces through cultural and creative expression.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604-873-7336 or [lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca](mailto:lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca).

Thanks,

Karen

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Karen Levitt, Acting City Manager  
[karen.levitt@vancouver.ca](mailto:karen.levitt@vancouver.ca)

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the traditional territories of the x m k y m/Musqueam, S wx\u817 \_wú7mesh/Squamish and s lilw ta /Tsleil-Waututh nations

## MEMORANDUM

August 14, 2025

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Karen Levitt, Acting City Manager  
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Maria Pontikis, Chief of External Relations  
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office  
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Lon LaClaire  
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Community Street Art Opportunity and Placemaking Program update

RTS #: N/A

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The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the [Community Street Art Opportunity Pilot](#) under the Mural Support Program and an update on continued work within the Placemaking Program.

### Update

The [Mural Support Program](#) and [Placemaking Program](#) enable community members, including designers, artists, emerging artists, organizations, and business owners to lead projects that bring the city's public spaces to life. Opportunities include events, installations, and murals.

### Mural Support Program and Community Street Art Opportunity

The Mural Support Program has historically supported murals on buildings with the goal of helping businesses, property owners, and artists in activating the public realm while facilitating artistic expression. In addition to murals on buildings, staff have, in the past, supported other forms of 2D art such as pavement murals and art wraps, but without an established process. Through the Community Street Art Opportunity staff seek to create an easy and transparent process.

The Community Street Art Opportunity expands the scope beyond traditional murals, offering applicants the chance to explore creative interventions on a broader range of infrastructure assets. This year, staff have selected two initial sites – one for a pavement mural and one for art

on concrete blocks. In addition to these pre-identified sites, the program also includes a "bring your own opportunity" option which allows community members to propose their own infrastructure assets for enhancement.

A key feature of the Community Street Art Opportunity is that applicants – whether designers, artists, or other creative community members – are encouraged to bring together local residents or organizations to help create the design and lead its implementation.

## **Placemaking Program**

As part of the City's efforts to support community partners and residents to enhance and activate the public realm, the Placemaking Program has two streams within the Placemaking Program: Partner Placemaking and Community Placemaking. The Partner Placemaking Program offers support to plaza stewards to activate neighbourhood plazas and other public spaces they care for. The Community Placemaking Program enables residents to deliver projects across the city through an annual call for proposals that anyone can apply to.

This year's projects include music performances, art workshops, markets featuring local makers and businesses, cultural activities, and temporary installations, including community message boards and custom furniture. Projects are being delivered throughout the city from summer through fall. Priority is given to projects involving underrepresented groups, and our selection criteria ensures we support a diversity of projects across the city.

Last year we supported more than 65 projects, and this year we expect to support a similar number of projects. The Community Placemaking Program receives around a hundred applications each year.

## **Next Steps**

The Placemaking program will continue to support plaza partners and community members to program and bring life to public spaces. Through the new Street Art Opportunity initiative we aim to explore how community-led street art can enhance our urban environment beyond murals on private property.

City staff will work closely with applicants to assess feasibility and help navigate applicants through the internal review, safety measures, and permit processes.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly.



Lon LaClaire, M.Eng., P.Eng.  
General Manager, Engineering Services

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