

From: ["Singh, Sandra"](#)

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

Date: 10/10/2025 8:30:46 AM

Subject: Update : All Souls at Mountain View Cemetery

Hello Mayor and Council,

On behalf of Margaret Wittgens, GM Arts, Culture and Community Services, this email provides an update on the All Souls event, historically held at Mountain View Cemetery,

In summary, while Mountain View Cemetery will not host a formal, artist-led All Souls commemoration event this year, the cemetery remains open to the public during this period. Community members are warmly invited to continue the spirit of All Souls in their own way by visiting the grounds and bringing lanterns, candles, or other respectful items to honour and remember their loved ones. Further information is found below.

Background

- Since 2005, Mountain View Cemetery (MVC) has hosted All Souls, an artist-led event for Vancouver residents to honour their deceased loved ones through creative expression and cultural traditions.
- Initiated by artists Paula Jardine and Marina Szijarto, the event grew into a cherished community gathering rooted in remembrance, reflection and ritual. While the celebration was led by the community and artists, the City provided operational support and funding.
- In 2023 MVC provided notice to the artists that the cemetery would undertake an internal review of the City's role in supporting the All Souls event.
- The purpose of the internal review was to assess the City's role in supporting programming at MVC, and ensure fair access to opportunity and partnerships related to activations recognizing the rich diversity of Vancouver's communities.
- Increasing costs further necessitated a review as staff work to reduce cost pressures on the organization.

Update

- After careful assessment, and considering current budget constraints, Mountain View Cemetery will no longer fund programming at the cemetery including All Souls.
- Mountain View Cemetery remains committed to supporting meaningful community engagement and will continue to welcome groups interested in hosting their own self-funded celebrations and commemorative events.
- The City continues to provide funding support for diverse cultural organizations and initiatives through the [Cultural Grants Program](#).

If Council requires further information, please feel free to contact margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca and staff will address through the weekly Council Q&A.

Thank you,

Sandra

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*The City of Vancouver acknowledges the unceded homelands of the x m k y m ([Musqueam](#)), S wlu817
_wú7mesh ([Squamish](#)) and s lilw ta / selíwitulh ([Tsleil-Waututh](#)) Nations.*