

From: ["van Dyk, Donny"](#)

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

Date: 12/10/2025 12:44:34 PM

Subject: Upcoming news release: Council approves more than \$1M in cultural grants

Dear Mayor and Council,

Following your approval at this week's Council meeting, I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the news release below, which shares Council's approval of more than \$1 million in cultural grants.

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

Thanks,
Donny

Donny van Dyk (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x m k y m (Musqueam), S wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and s lilw ta (Tsleil-Wautub) Nations.

News Release
City of Vancouver
December 10, 2025

Council approves more than \$1 million in cultural grants to advance cultural vitality, equity and Reconciliation



Image credit: Holy Crow Arts, Keepers of the Salish Sea. Photo: Georgie Lawson

Today, Vancouver City Council approved \$1.18 million in grants to support 44 cultural organizations that advance equity, Indigenous leadership in the arts, cultural infrastructure and public art programming.

This marks the fourth installment of Vancouver's 2025 annual arts and culture grant awards, bringing total City arts and culture grant funding for 2025 to more than \$16 million.

"Arts and culture are essential to Vancouver's identity and quality of life, especially as we work to build a more fun, exciting and vibrant city," said Mayor Ken Sim. "These grants reflect our ongoing commitment to sustaining cultural programs and spaces so that creativity and community can thrive."

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

- 24 Cultural Equity and Accessibility Funding (CEAF) grants totalling \$505,500. Introduced in 2020 as part of [Culture|Shift](#), Vancouver's 10-year arts and culture plan, CEAF grants provide core funding to organizations led by, and for, equity-deserving and accessibility-focused communities.

Recipients include: Black Arts Society, Dragon Boat Festival, Hogan's Alley Society, Love Intersections Society, Vancouver Asian Film Festival and others.

- 12 Cultural Indigenous Funding (CIF) grants totalling \$324,500 and Indigenous Language Revitalization grants totalling \$75,000. Launched in 2019 to advance Reconciliation goals, CIF grants support Indigenous arts, culture and language initiatives by providing core funding for organizations led by Indigenous communities. These grants also support self-determined language and culture projects led by x m k y m (Musqueam) Indian Band, S wxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) and s lilw ta (Tseil-Waututh) Nation.

Recipients include: Aeriosa Dance Society, Indigenous Fashion Week, Holy Crow Arts Society, Native Hip Hop Society, Canoe Cultures Society and others.

- \$160,000 in continued annual funding for public art programming at 1100 West Georgia. Since 2009, the City has partnered on the "Offsite" program to showcase temporary public art exhibitions at 1100 West Georgia. Building on this legacy, the City's Public Art program will launch "Art Atlas" to continue commissioning large-scale, rotating artworks by local and international artist at this site.
- \$175,000 to the Vancouver Concert Hall and Theatre Society for Phase II of a Cultural Precinct Feasibility Study. Building on Phase I findings that Vancouver needs more performing arts spaces, the study will explore technical and financial feasibility, potential sites and venue options for a future cultural precinct.
- \$70,000 in grants to support cultural redress commitments. Strategic one-time grants to Chinatown Society Heritage Buildings Association, Japanese Canadian Interpretive Centre Society and Khalsa Diwan Society to support capacity building for the preservation, restoration and stewardship of significant cultural assets.

To learn more, read the full council report here: <https://council.vancouver.ca/20251210/documents/cfsc4.pdf>

What our community partners are saying

"We are deeply grateful to the City of Vancouver for their generous support. This grant will allow our organization, Black Block Association, to expand our annual programming and create more spaces for community engagement. We will continue fostering spaces that celebrate Black culture alongside the City's unwavering support. Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive Vancouver and we look forward to seeing you at the annual Black Block Party." Chidinma Agu, Black Block Association

"We are deeply grateful for the City's support which strengthens All Bodies Dance Project's ability to offer barrier-free, community-rooted dance opportunities. This funding empowers us to create innovative, inclusive work that celebrates diversities in all its forms— body, mind, age, gender, background and experience—enriching Vancouver's cultural landscape and ensuring more residents feel seen, welcomed and connected through the arts." Naomi Brand, All Bodies Dance Project

The City's arts and culture grants support Council's strategic priority to build a vibrant, diverse and culturally rich city. The arts and culture grants program **aligns** with the City's 10-year culture plan, and cultural infrastructure plan, and advances the City's Reconciliation, Equity, Healthy City and Accessibility goals.

The distribution and impact of cultural grant streams and other grants are reported through the [City of Vancouver's annual Grant Impact Report](#).

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