

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

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

Date: 4/14/2026 2:13:03 PM

Subject: Upcoming news release: City Council approves more than \$5.5M for Vancouver cultural organizations and festivals

Dear Mayor and Council,

Following your approval of the 2026 Cultural Grants Report at this morning's Council meeting, I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below news release to share that more than \$5.5M was just approved for cultural organizations and festivals.

Angela MacKenzie 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 x̱məθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

News Release
City of Vancouver
April 14, 2026

City Council approves more than \$5.5M for Vancouver cultural organizations and festivals



Image credit: Vancouver Folk Music Festival Society, image Clayton Wong

Today, Vancouver City Council approved more than \$5.5 million in grants to 86 cultural organizations supporting festivals, events, programs and infrastructure that benefit artists, the cultural sector and communities across the city.

With this latest round of funding, the City has approved more than \$11.1 million in cultural grants in 2026 to date, including [\\$5.6 million earlier this year](#).

"Vancouver's cultural organizations play a vital role in bringing people together and showcasing the best of what our city has to offer," said Mayor Ken Sim. "These grants offer stability to organizations,

allowing them to continue delivering the festivals, programs and services that make Vancouver an incredible place to live and visit.”

Funding highlights

The \$5.5M in cultural operating grants support ongoing operations and programming across Vancouver’s cultural sector and reach a diverse range of organizations including: Gallery Gachet, Out on Screen, Raven Spirit Dance, Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre, Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration, Vancouver Folk Music Festival, Vancouver Fringe and [more](#).

The distribution and impact of the City’s grant programs are reported annually in the [Arts, Culture and Community Services \(ACCS\) Grant Impact Report](#).

Grant recommendations are informed by a rigorous assessment process that includes review by a [peer assessment committee](#). To advance equity in the assessment process, more than 50% of peer assessment committee members are from historically underrepresented communities.

Cultural grants are also investments in the City’s strategic priorities, including:

- [Vibrant Vancouver: City Council’s Strategic Priorities 2023–2026](#)
- [Culture|Shift, the City’s 10-year culture plan](#)
- [Vancouver Music Strategy](#)
- [Making Space for Arts and Culture, the City’s cultural infrastructure plan](#)
- [Equity Framework](#)
- [Accessibility Strategy](#)

To learn more, access the Council meeting agenda, reports and minutes here:

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20260414/regu20260414ag.htm>

Note to editors: Please see amended motion below. This is a draft copy provided for your understanding and the published minutes are the official record of the meeting.

B. THAT Council approve Cultural Operating Funding – Annual grants totaling \$709,760 from the 2026 Cultural Grants Operating Budget to the 26 organizations listed in Section B of Appendix A for the amounts recommended for each organization in the “2026 Grant Recomm” column, which will bring the 2026 total operating grants for those 26 organizations to \$1,097,000, and that an additional

\$25,000 be added to this grant stream from reserves and allocated to The Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society of Vancouver.

Media contact

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