

From: "Amrolia, Armin" <Armin.Amrolia@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

"Wittgens, Margaret" <Margaret.Wittgens@vancouver.ca>

Date: 6/9/2026 10:17:49 AM

Subject: Memo to Mayor and Council - Holodomor Memorial Statue - RTS 18634 (2026-06-09)

Attachments: REFM ACCS - Memo to Mayor and Council - Holodomor Memorial Statue - RTS 18634 (2026-06-09).pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please find attached a joint memo from myself and Margaret Wittgens, General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services that provides an update on the Holodomor Memorial Statue, 'Bitter Memories of Childhood' in response to the April 22, 2026 Council motion "[Holodomor Memorial Statue: Honouring Ukrainian-Canadians](#)". The memo includes a summary of the status of the application by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (Vancouver Branch).

- Staff are in the process of supporting the applicant, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (Vancouver Branch) to develop a formal application
- In light of Council's in principle support for the acceptance of the memorial statue, the application review will place an emphasis on the [Commemoration Framework](#) assessment criteria relating to feasibility and sustainability, including the site feasibility, safety and security considerations, a whole-life funding strategy and the City's operational needs relating to public assets and spaces.
- Once the application and staff review are complete it will be brought forward to Council for decision ahead of a donation agreement being executed between the City and the applicant.
- Should Council approve the donation, the memorial statue is likely to be added to the City's Civic Art Collection to ensure that it is appropriately inventoried and maintained by the City's Public Art team
- Staff will report back to Council in the inaugural bi-annual Commemoration Framework omnibus report in Q1 2027

If Council requires further information, please feel free to contact either myself or Margaret at armin.amrolia@vancouver.ca or margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca and we will provide a response through the weekly Council Q&A

Thank you,
Armin

Armin Amrolia - Deputy City Manager (she/her)
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x m k y m (Musqueam Indian Band), S wxlu817_wu7mesh Uxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and s lilw ta (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)

MEMORANDUM

June 9, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: City Leadership Team
Donny van Dyk, City Manager
Jason Twa, City Clerk
Mellisa Morphy, Acting Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Armin Amrolia, General Manager, Real Estate, Environment and Facilities Management
Margaret Wittgens, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

SUBJECT: Update on Holodomor Memorial Statue – “Bitter Memories of Childhood”

RTS: 11548

PURPOSE

This memo provides an update on the April 22, 2026 Council motion titled “[Holodomor Memorial Statue: Honouring Ukrainian-Canadians](#)” and the status of the application by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (Vancouver Branch) to install the Holodomor memorial statue, ‘Bitter Memories of Childhood’.

BACKGROUND

On April 22, 2026 Council passed the “Holodomor Memorial Statue: Honoring Ukrainian-Canadians” motion which provided in principle support for the acceptance and installation of the Holodomor memorial statue “Bitter Memories of Childhood”. It directed staff to facilitate the potential acceptance and installation on the Vancouver City Hall Campus, and report back to Council with recommendations to potentially accept and install the statue.

On May 5, 2026, Council approved the City of Vancouver [Commemoration Framework](#) to guide decisions related to commemorations. They further directed staff to develop internal guidelines and public-facing resources to implement the Framework by Q4, 2026. The implementation process is underway, including initial outreach to existing applicants to support formal applications to the City.

The Commemoration Policy includes five assessment criteria against which commemoration applications are evaluated. These include: the extent to which the proposed commemoration holds broad community interest and support; is locally relevant; advances UNDRIP and equity; is feasible and whether there has been a two year pause since the event being commemorated. The steps in the Framework include Application Intake, Application Review and Decision. Staff are authorized to decline or approve time-limited, funded plaques, and Council retains decision-making authority over all other commemorations. The Framework indicates that for the majority of applications, staff seek Council direction as part of a 6-monthly consolidated commemoration report process.

DISCUSSION

Application Process

Following the April 22, 2026 Council motion, staff reached out to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (Vancouver Branch) to initiate a formal application for receipt and installation of the Holodomor Memorial Statue. The staff review of the application will be guided by the Assessment Criteria and process outlined in the recently approved Commemoration Framework.

In light of Council's in principle support for the acceptance of the memorial statue, the application review will place an emphasis on the criteria relating to feasibility and sustainability. The staff review will seek to ensure the memorial has a whole-life funding strategy and is considerate of the City's operational needs relating to public assets and spaces.

Staff received an initial application from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress on May 26, 2026 which is the basis of initial internal reviews and is being refined in collaboration with City staff and the applicant. Additional information is required to complete the application and staff review. This includes evidence of broad community interest (i.e. letters of support), identifying a location, confirming the whole-life costs, and the funding strategy. The applicant is exploring potential sponsorship opportunities which would need to consider the [City's Sponsorship and Sponsorship Naming Rights Policy](#).

Once the application and staff review are complete it will be brought forward to Council for decision.

Site Assessment

Staff from REFM and ACCS have connected with the applicant and are assessing potential locations on the City Hall campus. An in-person meeting with the applicant and key City departments, including ACCS, REFM and Corporate Protective Services, is scheduled to explore the feasibility of several location options around City Hall.

Considerations include ensuring the space can accommodate the forecasted visitor numbers, a place to convene, installation and maintenance impacts and safety and security requirements.

Identification of the recommended site will inform a whole-life budget, installation and maintenance costs and timeline.

Ownership and Terms

Terms around ownership, installation (design and construction), maintenance, insurance and deaccession are in the process of being scoped and will be subject to Council direction ahead of a donation agreement being executed between the City and the applicant.

Should Council approve the donation, the memorial statue is likely to be added to the City's Civic Art Collection to ensure that it is appropriately inventoried and maintained by the City's Public Art team. Relevant processes will be followed including presentations to the Public Art Committee and consultation with the local Nations through Cultural Liaisons meetings. Installation timelines will be dependent on the work underway and future Council direction.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will report back to Council in the inaugural bi-annual Commemoration Framework omnibus report in Q1 2027, to seek direction on the application, in accordance with the Commemoration Framework, including draft terms of a donation agreement, the proposed funding strategy. The Q1, 2027 bi-annual Commemoration Framework report will be the first omnibus report providing Council an update on commemoration applications, the status of delegated staff decisions, and recommendations to seek Council direction on in-progress applications as required.

If Council requires further information, please feel free to contact armin.amrolia@vancouver.ca or margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca and we will provide a response through the weekly Council Q&A.

Sincerely,

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