

VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-11

MEMORANDUM

September 22, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Donny van Dyk, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Jason Twa, City Clerk
Andrew Aguilar, Deputy City Clerk; Director, Legislative Operations
Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies
Brenda Grunau, Senior Planner, Arts, Culture & Community Services
Jorge Amigo, Head of Cultural Programming, Vancouver Public Library
Laura Christensen, Commissioner, Vancouver Park Board
Lois Chan-Pedley, Trustee, Vancouver School Board

FROM: Arts and Culture Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Report of Activities, 2026

PURPOSE

To provide Vancouver City Council with a summary of the activities of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee for the period of January 1, 2026 to November 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND

ACAC advises Council and staff on civic programs and policies related to arts and culture and supports the inclusion of cultural considerations in city planning and decision-making. The Committee met throughout 2024 and 2025 with members representing a range of cultural and creative sector perspectives.

We were pleased to have consistent representation from City staff, VPL representative as well as Council Liaisons Fry and Kirby-Yung. We hope for more consistent representation from Parks and VSB in the future.

DISCUSSION

1. Significant Activities

- ACAC received updates from staff and partner agencies and provided feedback on key issues affecting Vancouver's arts and culture sector, including cultural funding, cultural spaces, public art, and broader City initiatives impacting cultural vitality.
- ACAC received presentations and updates from:
 - Vancouver Public Library liaison
 - Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance
 - Grant Program Overview
 - Vancouver Civic Theatres
 - Water Street/walk street pilot update in Gastown
 - Granville Street Plan
 - Healthy City Strategy update
 - Gastown Public Spaces Plan
 - Public Art Committee liaison
- A key activity in 2025 was ACAC's support of a Council Members' motion on urgent investment in Vancouver's arts and culture infrastructure. The motion was brought forward to Council with ACAC's advocacy. At the Standing Committee meeting considering the motion, close to 50 speakers attended and spoke in support with an additional 120+ writing in their support. Following deliberation, a revised version of the motion was passed by Council, drawing significant public and sector attention.
- ACAC also provided advice to Council on maintaining specialized advisory capacity for arts and culture and continued to serve as a forum for sharing sector perspectives with staff and Council.

2. Future Directions

As an outcome of the revised motion, an Arts and Culture Sector Working Group has been formed with City staff, four ACAC members and a number of other arts and culture organizations. The Working Group supports implementation of Council's direction by identifying key sector challenges, including rising costs; exploring coordinated funding approaches and governance models for cultural infrastructure; and providing policy recommendations to strengthen the sustainability of Vancouver's arts and culture sector.

ACAC will continue to focus its advice on priority issues such as funding, cultural space needs, and infrastructure, while maintaining liaison engagement with staff and partner agencies.

3. Self-Assessment

ACAC continued to provide sector-informed advice and maintain engagement with staff and Council priorities. The Committee will continue working to support consistent participation and effective delivery of its advisory role.

CONCLUSION

ACAC remained an active advisory body during 2026, providing input on key cultural issues and supporting a Council motion on arts and culture infrastructure that resulted in a revised motion being passed following strong public participation. The Committee looks forward to continuing its role in supporting a resilient and sustainable arts and culture sector in Vancouver.

The foregoing is presented to Vancouver City Council for information.