

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 25, 2025 File: 0282-20-0078
 To: Council
 From: Doti Niedermayer, Senior Manager, Cultural Services
 Subject: **Proposed Cultural Policy for West Vancouver**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT

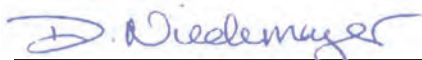
1. "Cultural Policy for West Vancouver 02-70-170" be rescinded; and
 2. proposed "Cultural Policy 0078" be approved.
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The purpose of this memorandum is to seek approval to rescind Cultural Policy for West Vancouver 02-70-170 approved on April 19, 1999, and replace it with proposed Cultural Policy 0078.

Updates to the policy are administrative, such as:

- policy 02-70-170 was moved to the updated policy 0078;
- background information was removed;
- details about the scope of the policy were updated; and
- various aspects of the policy were clarified; however, the intent of the policy remains the same.

Author:



Doti Niedermayer, Senior Manager, Cultural Services

Appendices

Appendix A: Cultural Policy for West Vancouver 02-70-170

Appendix B: Proposed Cultural Policy 0078

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District of West Vancouver CORPORATE POLICY

Parks & Community Services	Cultural Policy for West Vancouver
Policy #02-70-170	
File #3006-00	

1.0 Purpose

To establish a cultural policy for the District of West Vancouver.

2.0 Policy

2.1 West Vancouver is endowed with an unparalleled natural setting. Rising from the rugged coastline of Burrard Inlet and Howe Sound, the steeply sloped forest mountainside frames the entrance to a superb harbour, which is Canada's principle gateway to the Pacific Rim. Responding to these natural attributes the people who have settled on these shores have striven to control the development of the landmass to create a mountain-to-sea community, which displays a park-like character.

The success of this endeavour has been due to the vision and concerted effort of residents dedicated to the ideal. The task has not been easy: nor is it finished.

It is worthy to recall that, in colonial times, the early European settlers of the region saw the readily accessible timber resource of Hollyburn Ridge as an opportunity for exploitation. For over a century small and large scale logging and milling operations were carried out. These activities and two major forest fires reduced the ancient forest and land development for human habitation added to the toll. Miraculously, the inaccessibility of some timber stands plus the process of natural regeneration and residential landscaping have in small measure made up for the loss of forest cover.

Miracles aside, the motivation to develop West Vancouver as a residential community existed even before the municipality was created in 1912. The desire of the residents living west of the Capilano River to prohibit industrial development was a major motivating force, which led to the separation of the area from North Vancouver. The enthusiasm for controlled development gained support when, in 1926, the first Town Planning Commission was established. This action by the District Council led to the first Zoning Bylaw in 1931 and, in 1944, to the re-designation of large areas of commercially zoned land to single family use. During this period “local business” use of Mathers Avenue and lengthy stretches of Marine Drive west of 15th Street was discarded and the prospect of ribbon commercial development was extinguished. In 1946, Harland Bartholomew was retained to prepare a Comprehensive Town Plan, which was the guiding influence and foreshadowed the adoption in 1958 of the first Official Community Plan. This Plan was the basis for and has been amended by the Official Community Plans in 1980 and 1988.

It is of critical importance to recognize that these planning initiatives were not limited to the control and development of land use and the “built” community. The planners and the citizen advisors to the municipality have been mindful of the need to ensure that the foundation be prepared upon which the residents could fashion a lifestyle which would reflect the natural heritage of the land and provide scope for activities which would enhance human experience.

To this end the Official Community Plan incorporated specific provisions to address the requirements for Recreation Services and Facilities, Library Services and Facilities and Visual and Performing Arts. In this latter category the Official Community Plan stipulates:

- The Municipality will continue to provide leadership in the development of arts and culture within the community.
- Council will continue to explore location and funding alternatives for Community Arts facilities.

To give substance to the words in the bylaw, the Council adopts the following policy:

1. The District of West Vancouver will:
 - a) continue to encourage and support the planning, development and programming of visual and performing arts and sciences, and community heritage activities using facilities maintained by the municipality;
 - b) foster the development of community-based cultural activities through the formation, strengthening and expansion of non-profit societies, agencies and organizations sponsored and operated by residents;
 - c) support the collection, preservation and display of historically significant archival material and artifacts;
 - d) support the protection and interpretation of natural and built historic sites;
 - e) include an arts and heritage perspective in the planning of all municipal facilities and in the approval of all private developments.
2. The District of West Vancouver will include in its capital budget deliberations the construction, expansion and regeneration of facilities, which are designated for use in cultural pursuits.
3. To provide consistency in the implementation of this policy, the District of West Vancouver will maintain a Cultural Services Division of the Department of Parks and Recreation which has the mandate to:
 - a) carry out the planning, development and operation of programs and services in the visual and performing arts and sciences, and the heritage and archival aspects of the policy;
 - b) coordinate the activities undertaken in the Ferry Building Gallery, the Silk Purse, Klee Wyck, Argyle House, the Gertrude Lawson House, the Community Centre Eagle Harbour Community Centre and the Seniors' Activity Centre to maximize the presentation of cultural programs;
 - c) maintain a cooperative regime with the Board of School District #45 and the West Vancouver Memorial Library with the objective of achieving the maximum cultural advantage from programs offered by them in the community;

- d) facilitate and promote cultural events and festivals, which are offered in the community to ensure maximum attendance and encourage the participation and support of all residents. These include the Harmony Arts Festival, Concerts by the Sea, as well as the cultural components of Ocean's Day, Community Day and the Coho Festival;
- e) seek the support and active participation of the commercial segment of the community in the presentation of cultural programs and special events;
- f) facilitate external resource development for cultural programs, special events and the department."

Approval Date:

April 19, 1999

Approved by:

Policy and Planning Committee

Title: Cultural
Division: Parks, Culture, and Community Services
Policy Number: 0078
File Number: 0282-20-0078

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To establish a cultural policy for the District.

2. Scope

- 2.1. This policy applies to all District programs related to arts and culture.
- 2.2. This policy does not apply to the West Vancouver Archives.
- 2.3. The policy does not apply to the District's Community Heritage Register or the Heritage Revitalization Agreement or heritage infrastructure.

3. Definitions

- 3.1. **"Arts and Culture"** is a general term to describe the cultural sector which includes visual arts, applied arts, performing arts, media arts and film, literary arts, special events, festivals, and ethno-cultural community arts and culture.
- 3.2. **"Committee"** means a Select or Standing Committee.
- 3.3. **"Community Heritage Activities"** means arts and culture displays or programs of historical value related to the District.
- 3.4. **"Council"** means the Council of the District.
- 3.5. **"District"** means The Corporation of the District of West Vancouver.

4. Policy Statement

- 4.1. The District will encourage and support the planning, development, and programming of arts and culture, and community heritage activities.
- 4.2. The District will create and maintain an arts and culture strategy in collaboration with the arts and culture community to further develop arts and culture in the District.
- 4.3. The District will engage committees to provide staff and Council with advice and recommendations on policy issues related to arts and culture and the arts and culture strategy.
- 4.4. The District will collaborate with the West Vancouver Schools and the West Vancouver Memorial Library with the objective of achieving the maximum cultural advantage from programs offered by them in the community.

District of West Vancouver


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- 4.5. The District will foster community-based cultural activities through the formation, strengthening, and expansion of non-profit societies, agencies, and organizations sponsored and operated by residents.
- 4.6. The District will maintain a Cultural Services Department within the Parks, Culture, and Community Services Division which has the mandate to:
 - a) carry out the planning, development, and operation of programs and services within the arts and culture strategy;
 - b) seek the support and active participation of the commercial segment of the community in the presentation of arts and culture; and
 - c) facilitate external resource development for arts and culture and the department.

5. Related Documents

- 5.1. Official Community Plan
- 5.2. Arts & Culture Strategy

6. Approval

Approved by	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Manager	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor and Council
Approval date	Click here to enter a date.	
Council minutes Document ID (Council Policies only)		
Council report Document ID (Council Policies only)		
Signature		

7. Additional Information

Category	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative
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District of West Vancouver
POLICY

Related procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Date of last review	2025	

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