

<i>COUNCIL AGENDA</i>	
Date: <u>February 23, 2026</u>	Item: <u>7.</u>



7.

**DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER**  
750 17TH STREET, WEST VANCOUVER BC V7V 3T3

## COUNCIL REPORT

Date:	January 26, 2026
From:	Doti Niedermayer, Senior Manager, Cultural Services
Subject:	Proposed Uncurated Street Animation Busking Pilot Program

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT

1. an uncurated street animation busking pilot program for the summer of 2026, as recommended by the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, be approved; and
2. the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee report to Council on the outcome of the pilot program in fall 2026.

**1.0 Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to implement an uncurated street animation busking pilot program for the summer of 2026.

**2.0 Legislation/Bylaw/Policy**

Noise Control Bylaw No. 4404, 2005 (Appendix A):

- 5.1 No person shall make or cause, or permit to be made or caused, any noise or sound which:
  - 5.1.1 disturbs or is liable to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort, or convenience of individuals or the public; or
  - 5.1.2 exceeds the Sound Levels prescribed in this Bylaw.
- 5.2 No owner or occupier of real property shall allow the real property to be used so that noise or sound which emanates from the real property:
  - 5.2.1 disturbs or is liable to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort, or convenience of individuals or the public; or
  - 5.2.2 exceeds the Sound Levels prescribed in this Bylaw. Consolidated Noise Control Bylaw No. 4404, 2005 4 283011v1 5.3 Despite compliance with Part 6, a person may be found in violation of sections 5.1 or 5.2).

- 6.1 Without limiting sections 5.1 to 5.3 the following noises or sounds are deemed to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of individuals or the public and are prohibited:
- 6.1.1 any noises or sounds produced within or outside a Motor Vehicle and created by the following:
- (e) a radio, television, tape player or other sound playback device, amplification equipment, or a musical instrument, which can easily be heard by a person outside the Motor Vehicle
- 6.1.3 any noises or sounds, the occurrence of which extends continuously or non-continuously for 15 minutes or more which can be heard from a contiguous parcel, created by the following: (a) a dog or any other animal or bird; (b) a radio, record, tape, or disc player, television set, or other instrument or apparatus for the production or amplification of such
- 6.1.4 any noises or sounds resulting from the operation of a public address system outside of a building or structure;

Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 4867, 2015

Park Uses Requiring Permission

- 5.20 No person shall do the following in or on any park, except as permitted by the Director:
- e) operate or use any amplifying system or loudspeaker in or on any park.

**3.0 Council Strategic Objective(s)/Official Community Plan**

Official Community Plan (OCP)

Under Local Economy in the OCP, the importance of supporting tourism and visitors is identified:

- 2.3.13 Support placemaking through an attractive public realm and experience by:
- e. Encouraging new evening entertainment, cultural and special events.
- 2.3.15 Work with key partners, such as local and regional business and tourism associations, and provincial and federal tourism agencies to market West Vancouver as a recreational and cultural destination in Metro Vancouver and Sea to Sky region.

Under Social Well-Being in the OCP, the importance of embracing arts, creativity and lifelong education is identified:

- 2.9.7 Recognize the role that the creative sector plays in the community with respect to cultural tourism and heritage, economic development, community identity and quality of life.

## 4.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial resources allocated for this pilot program. Performers will not receive a contract fee and will solely receive funds from public donations.

## 5.0 Background

### 5.1 Previous Decisions

At the March 10, 2025 meeting, Council passed the following resolutions:

*THAT*

- 1. the West Vancouver Arts & Culture Strategy Update (2025-2029), attached as Appendix B to the report dated February 12, 2025 from the Senior Manager of Cultural Services, be approved;*
- 2. staff be directed to work with the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee and community arts groups to implement the recommendations in the West Vancouver Arts & Culture Strategy Update (2025-2029) subject to annual budget process; and*
- 3. the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee Annual Work Plan, attached as Appendix C to the report dated February 12, 2025 from the Senior Manager of Cultural Services, including how we use the new arts facility in Horseshoe Bay and the band shell idea, be approved.*

### 5.2 History

The West Vancouver Arts & Culture Strategy Update (2025-2029) (Strategy Update) (**Appendix B**) prioritized the enhancement of opportunities to increase inclusion and diversity and expand attractions for residents and visitors.

The Strategy Update identified four priorities under Goal 2: PROGRAMS, including: Initiate a pilot program for busking in parks and business areas in the summer season.

Street animation adds vibrancy to cities and can be a positive enhancement to city streetscapes and parks for residents and visitors. Performers can range from novice to professional and range from music, dance, juggling, mime, caricature artists to balloon sculpting.

At their March 13, 2025 meeting, the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC) discussed a potential pilot street performer program with the Ambleside Dundarave Business Improvement (ADBIA) Executive Director. The discussion included potential proposed locations in Ambleside, Dundarave, and Horseshoe Bay. This discussion was based on a street animation program that was curated with performers selected and paid for their performance. A curated and funded program was to ensure the

quality of performers allowed to perform in public spaces and to control the frequency of performances.

The pilot program did not move ahead in 2025 due to lack of resources.

## 6.0 Analysis

### 6.1 Discussion

At their October 9, 2025 meeting, the ACAC passed a resolution to recommend that an uncurated street animation busking program be piloted for the summer of 2026. The locations include Ambleside Park, business areas of Ambleside and Dundarave, Dundarave Park, and Horseshoe Bay.

An uncurated street animation busking program allows performers to perform for voluntary donations. Many other cities in the Lower Mainland have both curated and uncurated busking programs with guidelines for performers.

With Council approval, staff will develop a set of guidelines that outline general rules for performers to follow. Guidelines would include:

- minimum age of performers of 16 years old;
- maximum number of performers per group (e.g. three);
- maximum amount of time each performer is allowed to perform (e.g. one hour);
- compliance with the noise bylaw of a maximum of 70 decibels with no amplification allowed;
- permitted hours of busking (e.g. 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.);
- allowable equipment or props (e.g. no sharp objects such as juggling knives or flaming objects);
- no busking on Bellevue Avenue between 13th Street and 18th Street as most spaces suitable for performance are on private property;
- no busking during the Harmony Arts Festival on Argyle Avenue between 13th Street and 17th Street (July 27-August 13, 2026); and,
- compliance with the Province of BC *Safe Streets Act* regarding solicitation in a manner that could cause a reasonable person concern.

Donations for performers would be at the discretion of passersby. Should a business owner request that the performer stop performing outside of their business area, the performer will be obliged to leave or Bylaw Services could be called.

The West Vancouver Police Department (WVPD) and District of West Vancouver's Bylaw and Licensing Services (Bylaw) were consulted regarding the proposed program. When complaints are received by Bylaw, officers will provide education on the guidelines and seek voluntary

compliance. Additional enforcement will be subject to observed contraventions of existing bylaws.

## 6.2 Climate Change & Sustainability

An uncurated street animation busking program minimizes the burden on District of West Vancouver resources while allowing for an increase in animation in the summer months for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to the parks and business areas.

## 6.3 Public Engagement and Outreach

The ADBIA and Horseshoe Bay Business Association (HBBA) were consulted on the proposed uncurated street animation busking program and had no objection to a pilot program.

The Strategy Update, which has been available to the public since March 2025, has details regarding the priority to initiate a pilot program for busking in parks and business areas.

## 6.4 Other Communication, Consultation, and Research

The pilot program will be informally monitored during the duration of the program with a summary report to be submitted to Council in the fall of 2026 informed by the ADBIA, HBBA, the ACAC, WVPD, Bylaw, and Cultural Services staff.

## 7.0 Options

### 7.1 Recommended Option

THAT

1. an uncurated street animation busking pilot program for the summer of 2026, as recommended by the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, be approved; and
2. the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee report to Council on the outcome of the pilot program in fall 2026.

### 7.2 Considered Options

THAT staff provide more information on the detailed costs for a street animation busking program that is sanctioned with performers that have been screened performing in specific allocated locations and minimum artist fees paid by the District.

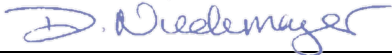
## 8.0 Conclusion

The West Vancouver Arts & Culture Strategy Update (2025-2029) and the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee have prioritized a summer street animation busking program for parks and business areas and is seeking Council's approval for a pilot program for the summer of 2026.

Date: January 26, 2026  
From: Doti Niedermayer, Senior Manager, Cultural Services  
Subject: Proposed Uncurated Street Animation Busking Pilot Program

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Author:   
Doti Niedermayer, Senior Manager, Cultural Services

### Appendices

Appendix A: Noise Control Bylaw No. 4404, 2005

Appendix B: Arts & Culture Strategy Update (2025-2029)



District of West Vancouver

## Noise Control Bylaw No. 4404, 2005

Effective Date – May 09, 2005

### Consolidated for Convenience Only

This is a consolidation of the bylaws below. The amendment bylaws have been combined with the original bylaw for convenience only. This consolidation is not a legal document. Certified copies of the original bylaws should be consulted for all interpretations and applications of the bylaw on this subject.

<b>Amendment Bylaw</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Bylaw No. 5215, 2024	November 25, 2024
Bylaw No. 5310, 2024	April 22, 2024
Bylaw No. 5042, 2019	December 16, 2019
Bylaw No. 4981, 2018	May 28, 2018
Bylaw No. 4500, 2007	May 28, 2007

The bylaw numbers in the margin of this consolidation refer to the bylaws that amended the principal bylaw (Noise Control Bylaw No. 4404, 2005). The number of any amending bylaw that has been repealed is not referred to in this consolidation.

# Noise Control Bylaw No. 4404, 2005

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District of West Vancouver

## **Noise Control Bylaw No. 4404, 2005**

A bylaw to regulate or prohibit the making of certain noises or sounds in the District of West Vancouver under the *Community Charter*.

Previous amendments: *Amendment Bylaws 4500, 4981, 5042, 5215 and 5310.*

WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the District of West Vancouver deems it expedient to provide for regulations and prohibitions regarding the making of noise;

AND WHEREAS Council may by bylaw regulate, prohibit and impose requirements in relation to the protection and enhancement of the well-being of its community in relation to nuisances, disturbances and other objectionable situations, including noise that is liable to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of individuals or the public;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the District of West Vancouver enacts as follows:

### **Part 1 Citation**

1.1 This Bylaw may be cited as Noise Control Bylaw No. 4404, 2005.

### **Part 2 Severability**

2.1 If a portion of this bylaw is held invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, then the invalid portion must be severed and the remainder of this bylaw is deemed to have been adopted without the severed section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, clause or phrase.

### **Part 3 Previous Bylaw Repeal**

3.1 Noise Control Bylaw No. 3908, 1994 (adopted on May 01, 1995) and the following amendment bylaws are hereby repealed:

<b>Amendment Bylaw</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Bylaw No. 3995, 1996	April 22, 1996
Bylaw No. 4250, 2001	July 16, 2001

## Part 4 Definitions

4.1 In this bylaw:

**“Bylaw Enforcement Officer”** means every person designated by Council as a Bylaw Enforcement Officer, and includes every peace officer;

**“Construction Noise”** means any noises or sounds made on or associated with a construction site:

- a) in carrying on work in connection with the construction, demolition, reconstruction, alteration, or repair of any building or structure,
- b) in carrying on any excavation or other operation, or
- c) in moving or operating any machine, engine, or construction equipment;

**“Continuous Sound”** means any noise or noises, other than Construction Noise, continuing for a period, or periods, totalling 3 minutes or more in any 15 minute period;

**“Day”** means the period of time from 0700 hours (7:00 a.m.) to 1800 hours (6:00 p.m.) on each week day or Saturday and from 0900 hours (9:00 a.m.) to 1800 hours (6:00 p.m.) on a Sunday or holiday;

Bylaw 4981

**“Extended Concrete Pour”** means a concrete pour that requires an extended period of time for placement or finishing due to any of the following characteristics, which must be confirmed by a Structural Engineer to be engaged by the District at the expense of the applicant:

- a) a single concrete slab pour in excess of 7,000 square feet;
- b) a concrete slab with added complexity due to below grade location, shape, or level of flatness required; or
- c) a concrete slab that requires post tension reinforcing;

**“Highway”** includes a street, road, land, bridge, viaduct and any other way open to the public use, but does not include a private right of way on private property;

**“Meter”** means an instrument which accurately measures levels of sound pressure on an “A” weighted scale in accordance with the American National Standards Institute standard for meters set out in S1.4-1983 as amended from time to time;

**“Motor Vehicle”** means a vehicle that is designed to be self-propelled and includes off-road vehicles, parts and equipment;

**“Night”** means the period of time from 1800 hours (6:00 p.m.) on one day to 0700 hours (7:00 a.m.) on the next and from 1800 hours (6:00 p.m.) on one day to 0900 hours (9:00 a.m.) on the next day when the latter is a Sunday or a holiday;

**“Non-continuous Sound”** means any noises or sounds other than Continuous Sound and Construction Noise;

**“Point of Reception”** means the place where a Meter is located to measure the Sound Level from a source of noises or sounds;

**“Power Equipment”** means any tool, equipment or machinery powered by an internal combustion engine or electric motor that is used for construction, lawn, garden, building and property maintenance, and includes edge trimmers, line trimmers, rototillers, pressure washers, carpet cleaning equipment, and hand operated power tools including but not limited to chain saws, chippers and leaf blowers;

**“Premises”** means the smallest unit of ownership or occupation of real property, whichever is the lesser;

**“Sound Level”** means the Meter reading or recording in decibels using an “A” weighted network at the slow response setting of the Meter.

## **Part 5 General Regulations**

- 5.1 No person shall make or cause, or permit to be made or caused, any noise or sound which:
  - 5.1.1 disturbs or is liable to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort, or convenience of individuals or the public; or
  - 5.1.2 exceeds the Sound Levels prescribed in this Bylaw.
- 5.2 No owner or occupier of real property shall allow the real property to be used so that noise or sound which emanates from the real property:
  - 5.2.1 disturbs or is liable to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort, or convenience of individuals or the public; or
  - 5.2.2 exceeds the Sound Levels prescribed in this Bylaw.

Bylaw 4981

- 5.3 Despite compliance with Part 6, a person may be found in violation of sections 5.1 or 5.2.

## **Part 6 Objectionable Noises or Sounds**

- 6.1 Without limiting sections 5.1 to 5.3 the following noises or sounds are deemed to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of individuals or the public and are prohibited:
- 6.1.1 any noises or sounds produced within or outside a Motor Vehicle and created by the following:
- (a) a Motor Vehicle engine or exhaust system when such noises or sounds are loud, roaring or explosive;
  - (b) a Motor Vehicle horn or other warning device except when authorized by law;
  - (c) a Motor Vehicle operated in such a manner that the tires squeal;
  - (d) a load or tow of a Motor Vehicle which causes a banging, clanking, squealing, or other like noise or sound due to improperly secured load or equipment, or inadequate maintenance;
  - (e) a radio, television, tape player or other sound playback device, amplification equipment, or a musical instrument, which can easily be heard by a person outside the Motor Vehicle.
- 6.1.2 any of the following noises or sounds:
- (a) Construction Noise:
    - (i) on a Sunday or a holiday;
    - (ii) before 0800 hours (8:00 a.m.) or after 1700 hours (5:00 p.m.) on a Saturday that is not a holiday;
    - (iii) before 0730 hours (7:30 a.m.) or after 1730 hours (5:30 p.m.) on any other day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or a holiday;

Amendment  
Bylaw 5215

(iv) despite subsections (i) – (iii), in the areas shown outlined in heavy black line on Schedule B, before 0630 hours (6:30 a.m.) or after 1930 hours (7:30 p.m.) on any day.

(b) Power equipment:

(i) on a Sunday or holiday;

(ii) during the Night;

(c) Noises or sounds from operation of a lawnmower;

(i) before 1100 hours (11:00 a.m.) or after 1600 hours (4:00 p.m.) on a Sunday or holiday;

(ii) before 0800 hours (8:00 a.m.) or after 2000 hours (8:00 p.m.) on any other day;

Bylaw 4500

(d) Noises or sounds from the loading or unloading of goods, materials, machines, equipment, waste or garbage by any means:

(i) on a Sunday or holiday;

(ii) before 0730 hours (7:30 a.m.) or after 1800 hours (6:00 p.m.) on any other day that is not a Sunday or holiday.

6.1.3 any noises or sounds, the occurrence of which extends continuously or non-continuously for 15 minutes or more which can be heard from a contiguous parcel, created by the following:

(a) a dog or any other animal or bird;

(b) a radio, record, tape, or disc player, television set, or other instrument or apparatus for the production or amplification of such;

(c) a burglar alarm or security system;

6.1.4 any noises or sounds resulting from the operation of a public address system outside of a building or structure;

6.1.5 in addition to the noises or sounds described in sections 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, or 6.1.4:

Bylaw 4500

- (a) any Continuous Sound that exceeds the following Sound Levels at the Point of Reception:

**Sound Level**

- |      |                  |        |
|------|------------------|--------|
| (i)  | during the Day   | 55 dBA |
| (ii) | during the Night | 45 dBA |

- (b) any Non-Continuous sound that exceeds the following Sound Levels at the Point of Reception:

**Sound Level**

- |      |                  |        |
|------|------------------|--------|
| (i)  | during the Day   | 80 dBA |
| (ii) | during the Night | 65 dBA |

- (c) any Construction Noise that exceeds a Sound Level at the Point of Reception:

**Sound Level**

- |     |                |        |
|-----|----------------|--------|
| (i) | during the Day | 80 dBA |
|-----|----------------|--------|

## **Part 7 Location of Point of Reception**

- 7.1 For the purpose of enforcing this bylaw, measurement of Sound Levels shall be made:

- 7.1.1 in the case of noises or sounds in or on a Highway, in a public park or in another public place, from a Point of Reception not less than 5 metres from the noises or sounds;
- 7.1.2 in the case of noises or sounds created by Construction, from a Point of Reception on any Premises, not including the Premises on which the Construction is taking place; and
- 7.1.3 in all other cases, from a Point of Reception not on the Premises upon which the source of the noise or sound is located.

## **Part 8 Exclusions**

- 8.1 This Bylaw does not apply to:

- 8.1.1 police, fire or other emergency personnel vehicles and equipment in relation to an emergency;

8.1.2 vehicles and equipment used to make emergency repairs to public utilities and services;

8.1.3 transit buses operated by a public authority;

8.1.4 work carried out by officers, employees or agents of the District;

Bylaw 4981

8.1.5 Extended Concrete Pours which have been temporarily exempted from the Construction Noise requirements contained in subsection 6.1.2 (a) of this Bylaw by the Director of Planning and Development Services, in accordance with Schedule A.

Bylaw 4981

8.2 Delegation of Authority:

8.2.1 The Director of Planning and Development Services is authorized to consider applications for exemptions from the restrictions related to Construction Noise contained in subsection 6.1.2 (a) of this Bylaw for Extended Concrete Pours, in accordance with Schedule A of this Bylaw.

8.2.2 The Director of Planning and Development Services shall approve applications for exemptions that meet the definition of Extended Concrete Pour and the requirements in Schedule A of this Bylaw.

## Part 9 Enforcement

9.1 Every Bylaw Enforcement Officer is authorized to enforce this Bylaw, and, for that purpose, may enter at all reasonable times any real property to ascertain whether the provisions of this Bylaw are being observed.

## Part 10 Penalty

10.1 Every person who violates a provision of this bylaw, or who consents, allows, or permits an act or thing to be done in violation of a provision of this bylaw, or who neglects or refrains from doing anything required by a provision of this bylaw, is guilty of an offence and is liable, upon summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 and not less than \$2,500.

10.2 Each day that a violation continues or exists under this bylaw is a separate offence.

10.3 No person may interfere with an Enforcement Officer in issuing a ticket or bylaw notice or otherwise carrying out his or her duties in accordance with this bylaw, and it is an offence for any person to interfere with an Enforcement Officer in the enforcement of this bylaw.

Amendment  
Bylaw No.  
5310, 2024

- 10.4 No person shall interfere with or obstruct the entry of the Enforcement Officer onto any land, into any building, or any vehicle to which entry is made or attempted pursuant to the provisions of this bylaw.
- 10.5 In addition to the remedies, penalties, and fines specified within this bylaw, a person found in contravention of this bylaw may be subject to penalties imposed by way of a municipal ticket information or a bylaw offence notice.

## Schedules

Schedule A – Exemptions for Extended Concrete Pours

Schedule B – Rodgers Creek and Cypress Village Construction Noise Areas

Amendment  
Bylaw 5215

READ A FIRST TIME on April 11, 2005

READ A SECOND TIME on April 11, 2005

READ A THIRD TIME on April 11, 2005

ADOPTED by the Council on May 9, 2005

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Mayor

---

Municipal Clerk

## Schedule A – Exemptions for Extended Concrete Pours

1. A person may apply to the Director of Planning and Development Services for a temporary exemption from the restrictions related to Construction Noise contained in subsection 6.1.2 (a) of this Bylaw for Extended Concrete Pours.
2. An application for an exemption from section 6.1.2 (a) of this Bylaw must be submitted for each building to which it applies to the Director of Planning and Development Services:
  - 2.1 at least 45 days before the start of the proposed exempted period;
  - 2.2 in a format and with content satisfactory to the Director of Planning and Development Services, including but not limited to the following information:
    - a) name, address, and telephone number of the applicant;
    - b) the address and building permit number of the construction site;
    - c) the reason(s) the exemption is sought including supporting documentation as applicable;
    - d) a description of the proposed works to be undertaken;
    - e) the period of time for which the exemption is desired;
    - f) a statement of the measures planned or presently being taken to minimize the sound or noise for which the exemption is being sought; and
    - g) proof of payment of the non-refundable application fee pursuant to the *Fees and Charges Bylaw*, as amended or replaced.
  - 2.3 in addition to the requirements of section 2.2, the Director of Planning and Development Services may request further details regarding the proposed exempted works, including a review by an independent industry expert at the cost of the applicant.
3. Any exemption granted by the Director of Planning and Development Services shall specify the time period during which it is effective and may

- contain such terms and conditions as the Director of Planning and Development Services sees fit.
4. The decision of the Director of Planning and Development Services is final.
  5. When an exemption is granted by the Director of Planning and Development Services the applicant may be required to, at least seven (7) days before the commencement of the exemption period, distribute a notice to all parcels within a 100 m radius of the site. The notice shall be in a form and with content satisfactory to the Director of Planning and Development, such as to advise of the nature of the exemption. The applicant shall also post a sign at the construction site advising of the nature of the exemption.



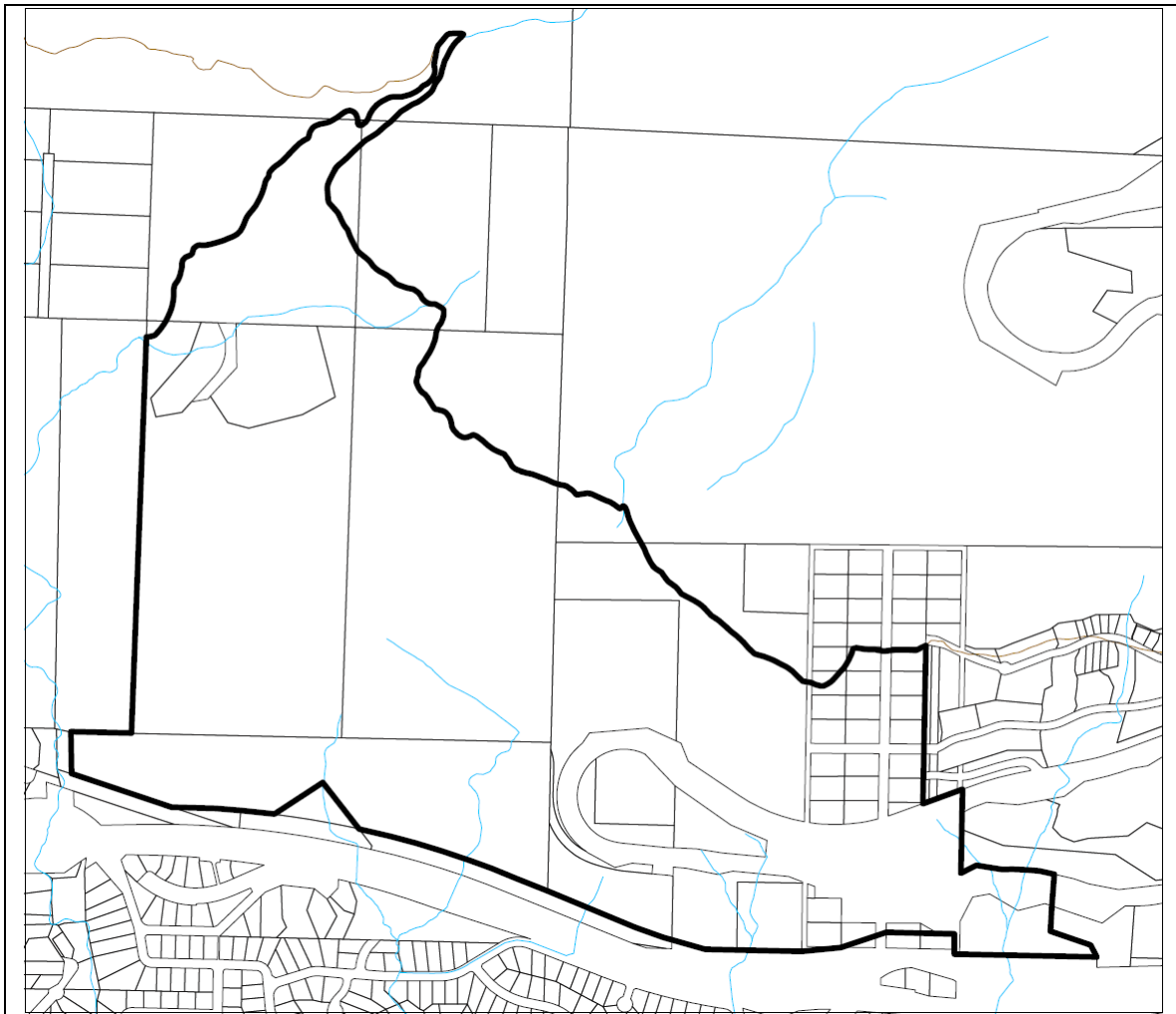


Figure 2: Cypress Village

2025-2029 WEST VANCOUVER  
**arts & culture**  
STRATEGY UPDATE



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The process to develop this *Arts & Culture Strategy Update* was led by the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee. As community ambassadors, committee members actively promoted involvement from arts groups and individuals in the planning process and acted as a focus group to assist staff during the engagement phase of the project.

## ARTS & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2024:

Nicole Brown, *West Vancouver Schools representative*

Kim Burnett, *member at large*

Kirsten Hall, *Art Museum Advisory Panel representative*

Andy Krawczyk, *Kay Meek Arts Centre representative*

Camran Monsef, *member at large*

Freda Pagani, *Ferry Building Gallery Advisory Group representative*

Stephen Price, *Community Grants Advisory Panel representative*

Anna-Marie Repstock, *Public Art Advisory Panel representative*

Catherine Schachtel, *West Vancouver Community Arts Council representative*

Scott Swan, *member at large*

Monique Wilberg, *member at large*

Lorena Yu, *West Vancouver Memorial Library representative*

Councillor Nora Gambioli, *Council liaison*

Councillor Linda Watt, *Council liaison*

## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS & CULTURE STRATEGY UPDATE:

Ambleside Dundarave Business Improvement Association

Artmania

Ambleside Orchestra

Art Museum Advisory Panel

Arts & Culture Advisory Committee

Blackout Art Society

Capilano University Music Program

Community Grants Advisory Panel

Espiritu Vocal Ensemble

Ferry Building Gallery Advisory Panel

Horseshoe Bay Business Association

Kay Meek Arts Centre

Mascall Dance

North Shore Artists' Guild

North Shore Celtic Ensemble

North Shore Light Opera Society

North Shore Needle Arts Guild

North Shore Writers' Association

Pacific Spirit Choir

Public Art Advisory Panel

Seacoast Theatre Centre

Laudate Singers

Lionsgate Sinfonia

Theatre West Vancouver

Vetta Chamber Music

West Vancouver Community Arts Council

West Vancouver Memorial Library

West Vancouver Art Museum Advisory Panel

West Vancouver Schools

West Vancouver Historical Society

West Vancouver Youth Advisory Committee

Individual artists, artisans, musicians, performers, and cultural workers

## DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER STAFF:

Doti Niedermayer, *Cultural Services Senior Manager*

Christie Rosta, *Cultural Services Manager*

Annelise Nomura, *Cultural Services Department Secretary*

Marlis Steininger, *Graphic Designer & Brand Specialist*

2025-2029 WEST VANCOUVER  
**arts & culture**  
 STRATEGY UPDATE

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), sə́lilwətał (Tseil-Waututh Nation), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Nation). We recognize and respect them as nations in this territory, as well as their historic connection to the lands and waters around us since time immemorial.

# ARTS & CULTURE STRATEGY UPDATE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

West Vancouver's unique landscape has long inspired a thriving arts and culture community. The District recognizes the importance of arts and culture as part of its identity, and investing in programs, facilities, and partnerships that support creativity and collaboration.

This *Arts & Culture Strategy Update (2025–2029)* builds on the previous *Arts & Culture Strategy (2018–2023)* by reconvening arts and culture groups, reaffirming their vision and values, addressing current challenges and opportunities, and setting priorities for the next five years. This *Arts & Culture Strategy Update* is a collaborative document that the arts sector and the District of West Vancouver (the District) will be responsible for implementing.

The purpose of this *Arts & Culture Strategy Update* is to:

- confirm the vision and values for West Vancouver's arts and culture community
- ensure collaboration among the arts and culture groups to achieve common goals
- set directions for the long-term sustainability of arts and culture
- guide and support decision-making by Council and the integration of arts and culture into District-wide planning processes
- propose roles for the arts sector and the District in collaboratively implementing the Strategy

This Update was developed through an engagement with arts organizations, individual artists and several key community organizations including the West Vancouver Memorial Library Board, West Vancouver Schools, and business associations.





LIKE THE PREVIOUS ARTS & CULTURE STRATEGY, THIS UPDATE IS BUILT ON FOUR GOALS THAT RELATE TO PEOPLE, PROGRAMS, PLACES, AND PROCESSES.

### **GOAL 1: PEOPLE | enable leadership & collaboration**

Enable leadership, encourage collaboration, build capacity, and enhance decision making.

#### **PRIORITIES ARE:**

- Develop an independent umbrella group which will connect, support, and provide services for community arts groups and individual artists in West Vancouver
- Create opportunities for arts groups to convene with, learn from, and recognize funders to expand the community of funding partnerships
- Offer meetings for arts groups across the North Shore on a regular basis to encourage relationship building, develop alliances, and create collaborations across the sector
- Define the scope of roles and responsibilities of the District versus the arts and culture groups

### **GOAL 2: PROGRAMS | enhance opportunities**

Strengthen existing opportunities, increase inclusion and diversity, and expand attractions for residents and visitors.

#### **PRIORITIES ARE:**

- Initiate a pilot program for busking in parks and business areas in the summer season
- Support professional development opportunities for the arts and culture sector
- Develop a pilot Artist in Residence Program
- Collaborate with Indigenous Nations and organizations

### **GOAL 3: PLACES | enhance spaces & places**

Enhance West Vancouver's quality and supply of spaces that enhance arts and culture opportunities.

#### **PRIORITIES ARE:**

- Confirm a location for a purpose-built arts facility that is reflective of the *Arts & Culture Facilities Plan (2019)*
- Ensure that the existing multi-purpose arts spaces are prioritized for dedicated arts use
- Develop spaces for the arts that are functional, affordable, and available for artists and arts groups
- Install electrical infrastructure in Horseshoe Bay and Ambleside Park to enable arts activities
- Create a publicly accessible database of indoor, outdoor, and semi-outdoor spaces for arts uses

### **GOAL 4: PROCESS | improve processes**

Improve processes to increase awareness and investment and allow arts and culture to flourish.

#### **PRIORITIES ARE:**

- Develop coordinated marketing
- Develop an engaging vibrant marketing campaign for the *Culture Compass*
- Review District regulations and zoning bylaws to enable increased outdoor arts activities and events
- Allow placement of kiosks dedicated to the promotion of arts events and programs
- Revise the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee Terms of Reference to include youth representation

Further details of these goals are offered on page 9.





# HISTORY

West Vancouver is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), sə́lilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Nation).

Inspired by the stunning landscape, many creative professionals moved to West Vancouver in the early 1950s and helped to establish West Coast architecture. They were attracted to live and create in a community close to an urban centre, yet still with the qualities and access to nature of a smaller neighbourhood. Over the last several decades, West Vancouver has been home to world-renowned architects, artists, and writers.

## ARTS & CULTURE IN WEST VANCOUVER TODAY

West Vancouver's breathtaking marine to mountain landscape inspires a vibrant arts and culture scene with cultural assets, events and festivals, and Indigenous culture that is supported by a dedicated community of participants and advocates. Residents of all ages engage in creative opportunities, often tied to West Vancouver's natural environment, with older adults, families, and children contributing through unique activities and interests.

### CULTURAL ASSETS:

District-run facilities, including a community art gallery, art museum, workshop spaces, archives, and a library, along with repurposed buildings, schools, faith-based groups, and private spaces provide a variety of venues for cultural activities.

### EVENTS & FESTIVALS:

Annual events attract over 250,000 participants to celebrate live music, theatre, visual arts and other unique cultural experiences. As the community becomes more culturally diverse, new festivals and programs celebrate its rich diversity.

The Squamish Nation's rich cultural and artistic traditions remain a defining part of the community's identity, with renowned artists producing works that honour both traditional and contemporary art forms.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

### CHALLENGES:

Along with the history and great successes described above, arts and culture in West Vancouver is also experiencing challenges.

- Changing demographics and socio-economic conditions affect arts and culture such as high housing costs, transportation issues and an aging population, among others.
- Older adults form an increasing proportion of the community, requiring attention to their needs and limited incomes of some.
- The very high land values limit options for development of new facilities.
- Statistics Canada shows that there are increasingly more wealthy and more poor households in the District, and affordability of arts and culture is a concern for the latter.
- Many arts and culture organizations depend on funding from public and private sources and are challenged by capacity issues to realize their potential in program and service delivery, organizational development, and revenue diversification and expansion. With so many charitable groups and worthy causes seeking donors, this is a common challenge for many organizations.

### OPPORTUNITIES:

- Demographic and cultural changes in the community require changes in the approach to planning, funding, and programming for arts and culture.
- Opportunity to build on West Vancouver's roots and the uniqueness of its culture. The challenge is to find new ways of doing this in an environment of increased competition from surrounding jurisdictions and broader issues such as high cost for land and housing and transportation limitations.
- Opportunity to be proactive and to creatively address the future of arts and culture in the community.

# WHAT IS ARTS & CULTURE?

## ARTS & CULTURE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:



### VISUAL & APPLIED ARTS

- design
- visual art
- architecture
- photography
- crafts



### LIVE PERFORMANCES

- music
- dance
- theatre
- opera
- other performing arts



### AUDIO-VISUAL & INTERACTIVE MEDIA

- radio and television
- film and video
- music publishing
- sound recording
- interactive and digital media



### LITERARY ARTS

- books
- periodicals
- newspapers
- author or writing workshops and readings



### LIBRARIES & MUSEUMS

- public libraries
- archives
- museums
- public art galleries



### FESTIVALS & EVENTS

- arts and crafts
- film and media
- heritage events
- seasonal and holiday celebrations
- street or waterfront festivals/events



### ETHNO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY ARTS & CULTURE

- ethno-cultural community festivals and events
- ethno-cultural spaces
- ethno-cultural organizations
- ethno-cultural artists and writers



### INDIGENOUS ARTS & CULTURE

- Indigenous festivals and events
- Indigenous cultural spaces
- Indigenous arts and cultural organizations
- Indigenous artists and storytellers

Adapted from Statistics Canada Cultural Framework

# VISION & VALUES

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

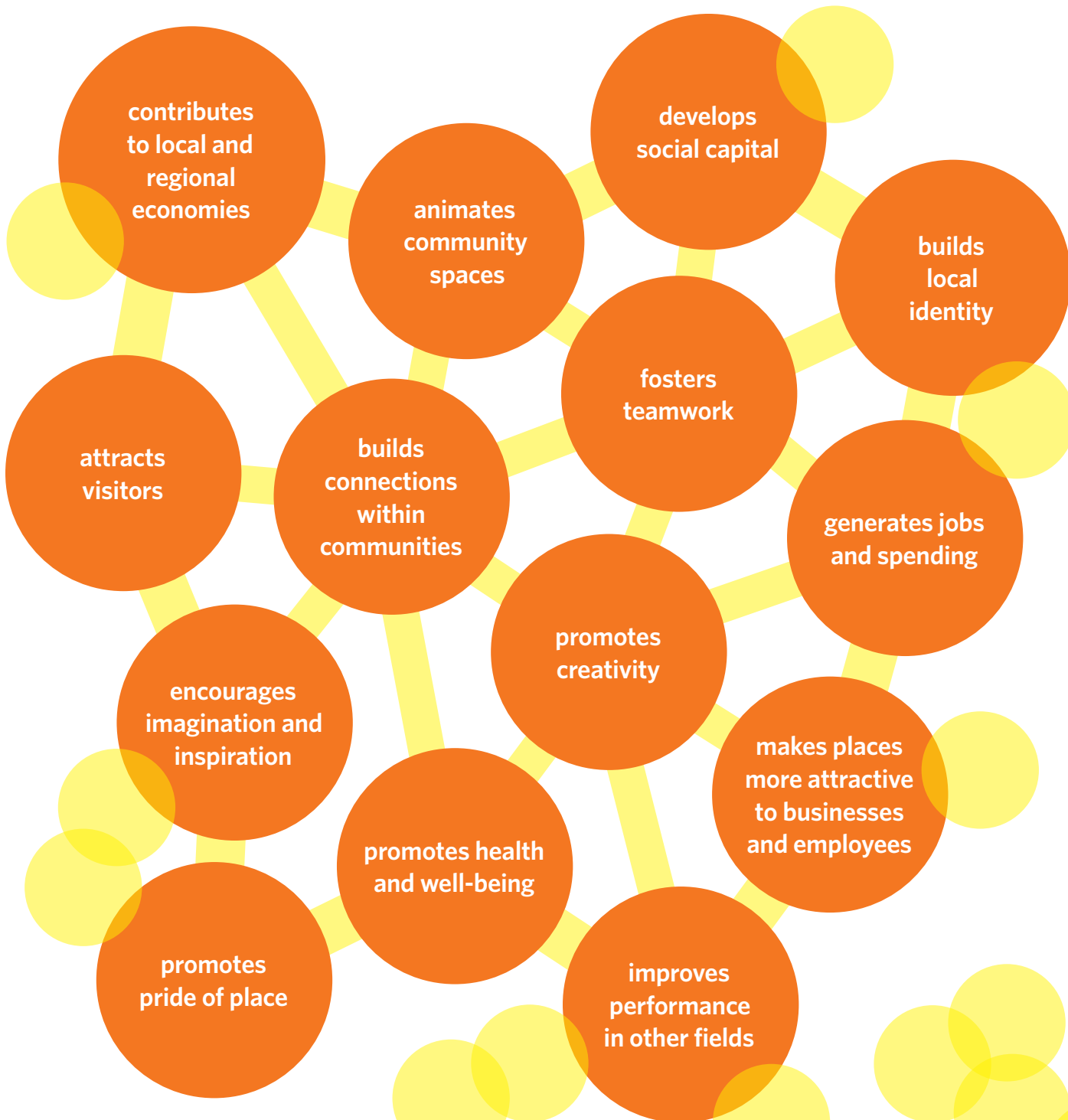
As reaffirmed from the previous *Arts & Culture Strategy*, West Vancouver's arts and culture is characterized by:

- a culture of collaboration among arts and culture groups, community partners, and the District of West Vancouver
- diverse and creative programming reflecting and serving the rich diversity of the community
- widespread recognition of arts and culture's contributions to West Vancouver as a resilient community that attracts residents and visitors
- appealing public spaces animated and enriched by arts and culture assets and activities
- an integrated network of accessible and suitable facilities across the community

VALUES	The following community values will continue to guide the implementation of the <i>Arts &amp; Culture Strategy</i> through this Update:
<b>COLLABORATION:</b>	Arts and culture providers, community supporters, and the District work collaboratively and build partnerships across sectors, generations, departments, geographic borders, and disciplines, engaging community members on major initiatives.
<b>ACCESS:</b>	Arts and culture facilities and experiences are accessible, affordable, and welcoming, widely communicated, and provide everyone an opportunity to participate or engage.
<b>INCLUSION:</b>	Arts and culture opportunities embrace the community's diversity in all its forms, including Indigenous, ethno-cultural, gender, sexual orientation, income, socio-economic status, age, and all abilities. Support for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action that relate to arts and culture is integral.
<b>INNOVATION:</b>	Innovation in arts and culture promotes creativity, inspires participation, and enhances organizational sustainability.
<b>RESILIENCE:</b>	Arts and culture facilities, programs, and activities further West Vancouver's efforts towards becoming a resilient community. This includes a diversity of programs for all ages across a range of ethnic groups. The arts and culture sector continues to be valued in troubled economic times.

# BENEFITS OF ARTS & CULTURE

WEST VANCOUVER NEEDS A STRATEGY TO GUIDE THE DISTRICT AND THE COMMUNITY BECAUSE ARTS AND CULTURE CREATES THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:





# CREATING THIS UPDATE

The process of creating this *Arts & Culture Strategy Update (2025–2029)* began in 2024 under the direction and guidance of the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC). The previous *Arts & Culture Strategy (2018–2023)* was developed through a comprehensive community engagement process that is outlined in the previous document.

This Update was developed with input from arts groups and individual artists who participated in completing questionnaires and attending workshops to arrive at a set of priorities for the next five years. The questionnaire developed by the ACAC was sent to 220 individual artists and 38 arts groups that represent approximately 2,500 individuals. Workshops were held in June 2024 to review the results of the questionnaires and to identify and confirm emerging priorities. Further feedback was received from West Vancouver Schools and the West Vancouver Memorial Library Board.

Members of the business community also provided input into opportunities for collaboration between the arts and business sectors. District staff also met with a small group of artists from the Squamish Nation to discuss opportunities for collaborative programming.

# GOALS, STRATEGIES & PRIORITIES FOR 2025-2029

The *Arts & Culture Strategy (2018-2023)* and this Update (2025-2029) are built on four goals that relate to people, programs, places and processes. This Strategy Update is intended to be dynamic and will respond to changing needs and opportunities. Implementation of the Strategy Update will be the responsibility of community arts groups and the District of West Vancouver.

● = Responsibility of the District of West Vancouver | ◊ = Responsibility of the District & arts groups

## GOAL 1: PEOPLE | enable leadership and collaboration

Collaboration in the arts and culture sector will enable creative partnerships, effective sharing of resources, and the growth of opportunities. It will also raise the profile and impact of arts and culture when initiatives reach broader audiences and engage more funders, donors, and partners. This goal focuses on enabling leadership and the collaboration required to achieve productive partnerships.

### STRATEGIES:

- Strengthen partnerships and collaboration
- Build District capacity in arts and culture planning and decision-making
- Build local capacity

### PRIORITIES FOR 2025-2029:

- ◊ 1. Develop an independent umbrella group which will connect, support, and provide services for community arts groups and individual artists in West Vancouver. This organization's fundamental priority will be to advocate for and amplify the voices of the arts sector.
- ◊ 2. Create opportunities for arts groups to convene with, learn from, and recognize funders to expand the community of funding partnerships.
- ◊ 3. Offer meetings for arts groups across the North Shore on a regular basis to encourage relationship building, develop alliances and collaborations across the sector (including the District of West Vancouver, North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission, and community arts groups).
- ◊ 4. Define the scope of roles and responsibilities of the District versus the arts and culture groups.

## GOAL 2: PROGRAMS | enhance opportunities

Within West Vancouver, arts and culture programming is provided directly by community groups and organizations as well as the District to meet a wide range of needs and reflect the diversity of the community. This goal focuses on strengthening existing opportunities, increasing inclusion and diversity, and expanding attractions for residents and visitors.

### STRATEGIES:

- Promote diversity and inclusion in programs and events
- Promote the visibility of Indigenous arts and culture
- Increase local activities

### PRIORITIES FOR 2025-2029:

- 1. Initiate a pilot program for busking in parks and business areas in summer season when bylaw changes have been reviewed and changed.
- ◊ 2. Continue to offer professional development opportunities for the arts and culture sector including opportunities for youth and teachers.
- 3. Develop a pilot artist in residence program utilizing available municipal parks buildings, arts facilities, and empty storefronts.
- ◊ 4. Continue to collaborate with Indigenous Nations and organizations on an ongoing basis to recognize, encourage, and promote Indigenous arts and culture.

### GOAL 3: PLACES | enhance spaces and places

Spaces are necessary for the creation, production, and presentation of visual and performing arts. Multiple types of indoor spaces are needed to support different ages and abilities of participants and audiences, and there has been a loss of indoor arts spaces in West Vancouver.

Public spaces and the public realm are strengthened by place-making strategies to draw residents and visitors to commercial areas to boost the local economy. These spaces also provide important anchors for community-based activities, destination events, and arts creation, exhibition, and performances.

#### STRATEGIES:

- Manage existing District facilities
- Explore the use of additional existing facilities for arts and culture
- Provide new facilities for arts and culture
- Enhance public spaces and support place-making

#### PRIORITIES FOR 2025-2029:

- 1 Council to confirm a location for a purpose-built arts facility that is reflective of the *Arts & Culture Facilities Plan* (2019) so that staff can develop a business plan and fundraising plan to ensure it is affordable for taxpayers.
- 2 Ensure that the existing multi-purpose spaces for the arts (e.g. Music Box, Arts Studio at West Vancouver Community Centre) are prioritized for dedicated arts use by both the District and independent arts groups.
- 3 Develop spaces for the arts that are functional, affordable, and available for artists and arts groups.
- 4 Install electrical infrastructure in Horseshoe Bay and Ambleside Park to enable arts activities and special events.
- 5 Identify and create a publicly accessible database of indoor, outdoor, and semi-outdoor spaces for arts meetings, rehearsals, workshops, performances and/or installations available across West Vancouver (include places of worship, schools, businesses, pop-up venues such as Cypress Park pop-up village, laneways, storefronts).

### GOAL 4: PROCESS | improve processes

There are many processes used at the District to market, plan, approve, finance, build, program, and implement arts and culture strategies. This goal focuses on improving District processes to increase awareness of arts and culture opportunities, to increase investment in artists, programs, and events; and to make it easier for artists and creative industries to flourish in West Vancouver.

#### STRATEGIES:

- Increase awareness of arts and culture
- Increase investment in arts and culture
- Support and establish policies to advance arts and culture

#### PRIORITIES FOR 2025-2029:

- 1 Develop coordinated marketing that can be done without onerous privacy issues.
- 2 Work with North Van Arts to develop an engaging vibrant marketing campaign for the *Culture Compass* on social media, newsletters, and websites.
- 3 Review District regulations and zoning bylaws to enable increased outdoor arts activities and events on streets and sidewalks (e.g. busking bylaw; review costing for operational implications to close streets for festivals such as installing bollards for ease of road closures in key festival areas).
- 4 Allow placement of kiosks dedicated to the promotion of arts events and programs in busy public areas.
- 5 Revise the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee Terms of Reference to include a representative from the Youth Advisory Committee or other youth group.



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# NEXT STEPS

## IMPLEMENTATION

The Arts & Culture Advisory Committee will provide oversight and work with District staff and community groups to develop an implementation plan for the *Arts & Culture Strategy Update* with community partners, including:

- identify the lead responsibility and contributing parties for each action
- review progress towards the actions annually, and adjust the actions and responsibilities as needed, potentially adding, deleting or modifying actions
- monitor initiatives during their delivery

Some initiatives in this Strategy were previously approved by District Council on October 7, 2024 to enable District staff and the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee to develop their 2025 work plans. Previously approved initiatives include:

- District staff work with the arts community to develop an independent umbrella group for the arts in West Vancouver
- Council to confirm a location for a purpose-built arts facility that is reflective of the *Arts & Culture Facilities Plan* (2019)
- implement District of West Vancouver zoning and bylaw changes to facilitate arts activities in West Vancouver including review of the busking bylaw, ensure the recipients of Permissive Tax Exemptions provide affordable access to community groups when spaces are available as outlined in the Permissive Tax Exemption Policy, and review zoning and other regulations to encourage property owners to provide spaces to animate when they are empty
- ensure the availability of a variety of suitable indoor and outdoor arts spaces that are dedicated to or can accommodate arts activities including an Artist in Residence Program for District-owned available buildings
- develop a publicly accessible database of all spaces suitable for arts activity available across West Vancouver
- install electrical infrastructure in Horseshoe Bay Park and Ambleside Park to enable outdoor events
- obtain approval of resources, including staffing and funding, to assist the arts community with a coordinated marketing campaign for the arts and culture sector that builds upon current infrastructure

Resources for new projects will come through grants and partnerships or future budget allocations. It will be up to the arts and culture groups and the District and its partners to prepare strategies for acquiring funding.

## EVALUATION

Measuring the success of the *Arts & Culture Strategy Update* will be important for making adjustments and as a basis for seeking funding. The following are potential measures that could be used by the District and arts groups:

- number of residents participating in arts and culture activities and programs
- number of people employed in the creative sector
- number of attendees at community arts and culture events
- satisfaction with arts and culture as measured through surveys, focus groups, and interviews
- increased social media activity and registrations to coordinated marketing channels
- increases in funds raised, sponsorships, and grants

# ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

## ROLE OF THE DISTRICT:

- create policy, zoning and bylaw changes
- support certain arts and culture events; funding, permits, services, and research grants and subsidies
- develop, manage, program and operate District-owned arts and culture assets/facilities/spaces

## SHARED ROLES:

- foster relationships with artists, networks, tiers of government
- deliver arts and culture programs and services
- support marketing, communications, databases
- evaluate the *Arts & Culture Strategy Update*
- collaborate on certain programming; Artist in Residence, Indigenous inclusion

## ROLE OF ARTS GROUPS:

- regularly convene, meet and celebrate our arts and culture community
- manage, program and operate certain community-owned arts and culture assets
- provide professional development opportunities for artists



# ARTS & CULTURE STRATEGY 2018–2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

The Arts & Culture Strategy (2018–2023) was approved by Council in June 2018. Immediately thereafter the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC) was created to oversee the implementation of the Strategy and the Arts Facilities Advisory Committee (AFAC) was created to develop a comprehensive arts and culture facilities plan. The COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 had an immediate effect on the implementation of a number of planned initiatives by closing facilities and public programming. However, the arts community in West Vancouver and across Canada pivoted quickly to provide on-line programming to audiences that were isolated in their homes to offer local programming and a sense of belonging and connection. In addition, committees of Council related to arts and culture continued to meet online to advance their work including public art projects, community grants, arts facilities development and the ACAC. The following initiatives were initiated or completed from the previous Strategy:

- Established the ACAC & AFAC
- Expanded District's participation in regional networks and initiatives
- Convened regular meetings of arts groups across North Shore to develop partnerships and collaborations
- Engaged the Youth Advisory Committee to review funding applications for Youth Initiatives through the Community Grants Program
- Created capacity building opportunities for arts sector (e.g. North Shore Arts Summit (2019 & 2023); Community Grants Committee workshop for not for profits on how to access grants)
- Supported opportunities for local business associations working more closely with Ambleside Dunderave Business Improvement Association and Horseshoe Bay Business Association on arts opportunities
- West Vancouver Cultural Fest was created in 2019 and features an international pavilion of culture to engage a greater diversity of artists to reflect the community's international character
- Expanded Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations in partnership with the Squamish Nation
- Prepared a comprehensive plan for arts and culture facilities, including:
  - *District of West Vancouver Arts & Culture Strategy: Facility Needs Assessment Final Report* (2018)
  - *District of West Vancouver Arts & Culture Facilities Plan* (2019)
  - *Arts Facilities Site Identification Analysis* (February 2020)
  - *West Vancouver Arts & Culture Centre Vision & Governance Study* (2023)
- Maintained existing facilities by restoring the Ferry Building and completing minor repairs to the Music Box, Silk Purse, and Gertrude Lawson House
- Enhanced public spaces with new public art projects including Municipal Hall (*Succession*); West Vancouver Community Centre (*Small World*; with Enhance West Van); Navy Jack Point Park (*Singsong*) & Weston Park (*Interchange*) with Parks Department; Horseshoe Bay light shades created by artists from the Squamish Nation with Parks Department
- Created and maintained monthly artsWEST newsletter for all cultural offerings in West Vancouver
- Expanded the District's investment in arts and culture with Community Grants Program funding increase for the arts and culture stream
- Maintained arms-length oversight of the West Vancouver Art Museum to ensure eligibility for funding from BC Arts Council and Canada Council; created Ferry Building Gallery Advisory Panel
- Supported and provided input to policies and plans such as the Official Community Plan and Economic Development Plan to encourage the expansion of arts and culture opportunities
- Worked with District's Planning & Development Services to implement policies supportive of arts and culture (e.g. bylaw changes to enable sale of artwork from home-based studios with Planning Department)



## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

A number of planning processes for arts and culture have been conducted over the years with significant contributions of time and resources by community members, artists, architects and District staff. The previous planning documents provided a framework for the previous *Arts & Culture Strategy (2018-2023)* and the *Arts & Culture Facilities Report (2019)* as well as the current *Arts & Culture Strategy Update*. For more information on previous planning documents, please refer to the *Arts & Culture Strategy (2018-2023)* at [westvancouver.ca/arts-culture-strategy](http://westvancouver.ca/arts-culture-strategy).

