



<u>COUNCIL AGENDA</u>	
Date: <u>June 8, 2026</u>	Item: <u>8.</u>



8.

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

COUNCIL REPORT

Date:	May 7, 2026
From:	Doti Niedermayer, Senior Manager, Cultural Services
Subject:	Approval of Public Art for Horseshoe Bay Park

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. as recommended by the Public Art Advisory Committee and outlined in the May 7, 2026 report from the Senior Manager, Cultural Services, the sculpture titled *Standing on Shoulders* by artist Martha Sturdy be approved; and
2. \$140,000 be transferred from the Public Art Reserve Fund to cover the full costs related to the project with any remaining funds to be returned to the Public Art Reserve Fund.

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s approval to commission artist Martha Sturdy for a sculpture in Horseshoe Bay Park as recommended by the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC).

2.0 Legislation/Bylaw/Policy

The Municipal Art Collection Policy 0282-20-0081, attached as **Appendix A**, includes reference to the District of West Vancouver (District) establishing and fostering a public art program; facilitating the creation of art that expresses the spirit, values, or vision of the community; taking a leadership role in integrating public art into its public amenities, facilities, and capital projects; and retaining a public art reserve fund that will hold donated, earned or allocated funds for the acquisition, commission or care of public art and the Municipal Art Collection.

The West Vancouver Arts and Culture Strategy Update 2025-2029 (Strategy Update), approved on March 10, 2025, recognizes that public spaces and the public realm are strengthened by investments in public art and the animation of space with arts and culture (Goal 3: Places, and Goal 4: Process). Enhancing public spaces and supporting placemaking, as well as identifying locations for unique placemaking features to create vibrant spaces drawing residents and visitors was reaffirmed in the Strategy Update.

3.0 Council Strategic Objective(s)/Official Community Plan

The appointment of citizens to committees of Council meets Council's strategic goal to deliver municipal services efficiently through continuing to pursue excellence in community engagement, consultation, and communication.

The Official Community Plan (OCP) provides high-level policies to express the District's long-term intent and framework to embrace arts, creativity, and education through cultural, literacy, and lifelong learning resources.

One of the key OCP actions in the Local Economy and Employment section 2.3 is to support both residents and visitors with more flexible space uses for the creative sector and placemaking for a more attractive public realm. Supportive placemaking through an attractive public realm and experience by incorporating public art in public spaces is also identified in 2.3.13.

The OCP's objectives related to the social well-being of our community include policies such as 2.8.13 that support placemaking strategies to promote social connections, public space animation, enhancement, and management. The Community Health and Cohesion section includes policies such as 2.9.6 which support enabling an active community by embracing arts, creativity, and lifelong education by incorporating public art into both public and private sector projects to enhance public spaces and the walking and cycling environment.

4.0 Financial Implications

The total proposed budget for the project is \$140,000, which includes a contingency to cover any unforeseen increases in material costs. Any unused funds will be returned to the Public Art Reserve Fund, which had a balance of \$856,807.51 as of December 31, 2025.

5.0 Background

5.1 Previous Decisions

There are no previous decisions related to this report.

5.2 History

The District has had a public art program for many years with an inventory of works that have been donated by the public or commissioned by the District for installation on public lands and in public buildings.

Public art is recognized as a significant tool for community building, economic development, and beautification by rejuvenating and enlivening spaces for the benefit of residents and visitors.

The Public Art Program is overseen by the PAAC which is comprised of community members with expertise in architecture, fine arts, and public art administration to ensure that standards of excellence and relevance are met in the delivery of public art projects throughout the District. The PAAC

reviews proposals for public art or advances District-led public art projects. The PAAC's Terms of Reference 0282-20-0218 is attached as **Appendix B**.

6.0 Analysis

6.1 Discussion

About Martha Sturdy

Martha Sturdy is a contemporary sculpture artist whose career began with maquette-like wearable sculptures that adorned models of New York in the 1980's and were featured in American, Italian, and French Vogue Magazine, the Wall Street Journal, Harper's Bazaar España, and Architectural Digest. Her work evolved to the contemporary large-format sculpture practice she is known for today and which have been featured in exhibitions in China, the United States, Japan, Korea, and Canada.

Martha Sturdy's large-format sculptures have also been commissioned for the Vancouver General Hospital and the Sheraton Wall Centre in Vancouver, the Baku Flame Towers in Baku, Azerbaijan, and in Tokyo City Centre, Japan.

She was presented with a Golden Jubilee Award by the Governor General for her achievements internationally as a Canadian Artist in 2002, was inducted into the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts in 2005 and appointed to the Order of British Columbia in 2025.

In 2024, the Public Art Advisory Panel (Advisory Panel) - which was disbanded in August 2025 - determined that the District's Public Art Inventory did not include any artwork by Martha Sturdy, a well-established and well-known artist from West Vancouver. The Advisory Panel recommended that the District directly commission a sculpture by Martha Sturdy in recognition of her international achievements and deep roots in West Vancouver. The Advisory Panel developed a concept proposal with Martha Sturdy on artwork to be located on the grass between the Hollyburn Sailing Club and the Ferry Building between 13th Street and 14th Street. District staff initiated a brief community engagement to determine the public's appetite for artwork at this location and determined that the location and artwork proposed were not compatible.

When the PAAC was re-established, they honoured the intent to work with Martha Sturdy and re-engaged with her in late 2025 to discuss a new location and artwork for a potential piece of public art.

Discussions with Martha Sturdy led the PAAC to Horseshoe Bay where Martha Sturdy's grandfather owned one of the earliest homes on the west side of the Bay that is currently Sewell's Marina and where Martha Sturdy spent many summers in her childhood.

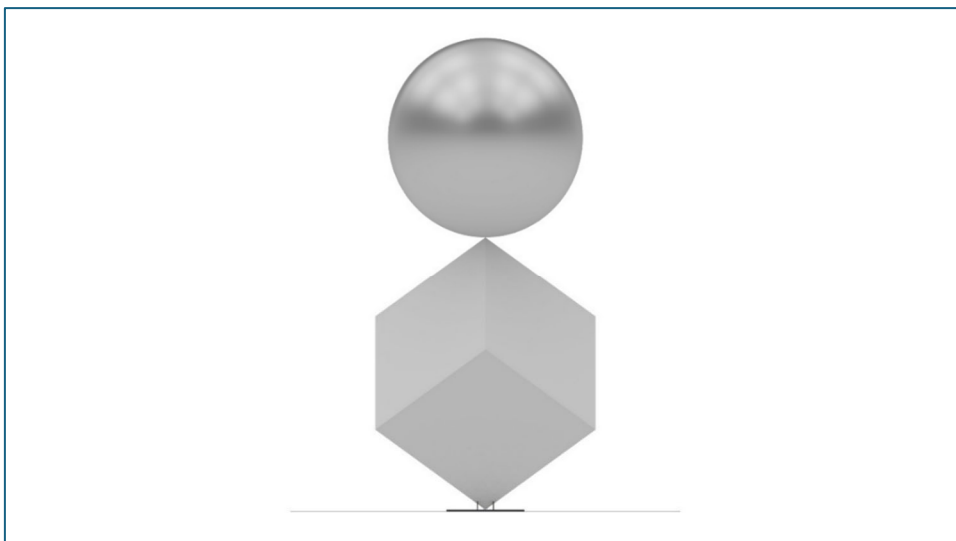
Proposed Artwork

The proposed artwork titled, *Standing on Shoulders*, represents the shared human experience of connection to place, connection to nature, and connection to the past.

As shown below, the sculpture is comprised of two primal shapes – a sphere and a cube – stacked point-to-point on the verge of tipping, *Standing on Shoulders* is intended to remind viewers of the precariousness of how we experience life. The proposed 10.75-foot sculpture will be made of orbital sanded aluminum which provides a matte appearance and will receive a clear coat finish to seal the sculpture and protect it from the elements to minimize maintenance in the coming years.



Concept Image 1



Concept Image 2

The location of the proposed artwork is on the side of Horseshoe Bay Park towards the Boathouse and the Horseshoe Bay Sanctuary by Westbank. This is also in close proximity to a tribute bench to Martha Sturdy's mother, father, and aunt (Gwen Varcoe, Britton Varcoe and Kae Haugh respectively) which was originally installed in 2004.



Proposed location in Horseshoe Bay Park as indicated in the red square

In the words of Martha Sturdy, “We build upon the histories of our ancestors and our paths are informed by those that came before us. We carry with us an often-subconscious connection to our roots, while spending our lives working to establish strong roots of our own. Horseshoe Bay is a place of coming and going, a place of memory-making, a place of new trajectories, a place of exploration, a place of shared family experiences, and a place of connection to the natural environment. *Standing on Shoulders* aims to encapsulate that.”

With Council's approval, this project will become part of the District's public art inventory and be included in Cultural Services' annual public art maintenance budget.

6.2 Climate Change & Sustainability

There are no impacts on climate change related to this proposed project.

6.3 Public Engagement and Outreach

Staff met with members of the Horseshoe Bay Business Association regarding the project and proposed artwork. There was recognition of the artist's connection to the community and the artist's international profile.

6.4 Other Communication, Consultation, and Research

The PAAC is comprised of individual community members representing the broader arts community and with expertise related to the selection and installation of public art projects.

The recommended project met the vision and theme considerations the PAAC identified as important for the development of the Public Art Program and Horseshoe Bay Park's connection to the community.

7.0 Options

7.1 Recommended Option

THAT

1. as recommended by the Public Art Advisory Committee and outlined in the May 7, 2026 report from the Senior Manager, Cultural Services, the sculpture titled *Standing on Shoulders* by artist Martha Sturdy be approved; and
2. \$140,000 be transferred from the Public Art Reserve Fund to cover the full costs related to the project with any remaining funds to be returned to the Public Art Reserve Fund.

7.2 Considered Options

THAT the sculpture titled *Standing on Shoulders* by artist Martha Sturdy as recommended by the Public Art Advisory Committee and outlined in the May 7, 2026 report from the Senior Manager, Cultural Services not be approved.

OR

THAT staff provide further information on the proposed public art sculpture in Horseshoe Bay by Martha Sturdy as directed by Council.

8.0 Conclusion

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to commission artist Martha Sturdy for a sculpture in Horseshoe Bay Park as recommended by the Public Art Advisory Committee.

Author:



Dotie Niedermayer, Senior Manager, Cultural Services

Appendices

Appendix A: Municipal Art Collection Policy 0282-20-0081

Appendix B: Public Art Advisory Committee Terms of Reference 0282-20-0218

District of West Vancouver
POLICY

Title: Municipal Art Collection
Division: Parks, Culture & Community Services
Policy Number: 0081
File Number: 0282-20-0081

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To provide framework and guide recommendations and decisions for the Municipal Art Collection.
- 1.2. Implementation of this policy is outlined in the related procedures.

2. Scope

- 2.1. This policy addresses definitions, enrolment criteria, quality assessment, relevance, site and display, donations, purchase, commissioning, safety and maintenance, deaccessioning, and management of the Municipal Art Collection.
- 2.2. This policy does not incorporate the policy and procedure of the West Vancouver Memorial Library's collection.

3. Definitions

- 3.1. **Acquisition** means the process of accepting artistic work whether by commissioning, purchase, gift, or other means, into the Municipal Art Collection.
- 3.2. **Advisory Panel** means a community-based advisory panel that works with staff to provide community input into operational matters.
- 3.3. **Charitable Tax Receipt** means a receipt issued for income tax purposes in compliance with Canada Revenue Agency regulations.
- 3.4. **Deaccessioning** means the process of removing an artistic work from the Municipal Art Collection.
- 3.5. **District** means the District of West Vancouver.
- 3.6. **Donation** means goods given to the District with no expectation of reciprocal provision of goods and services to the donor, other than recognition mutually agreed. Donations do not constitute a business relationship since no reciprocal consideration exists. Donations are given voluntarily and without compensation or non-monetary considerations such as advertising, promotion, production, or services.
- 3.7. **Municipal Art Collection** means works of art owned by the District of West Vancouver that meet stated criteria. The Municipal Art Collection is recognized as an important

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element of West Vancouver's cultural heritage and is a significant legacy for future generations.

3.8. Municipal Art Collections Database is the unified online database of collections from the West Vancouver Art Museum, Archives, and public art that is publicly searchable.

3.9. Public Art means a work(s) of art located in a public space accessible to the public. This definition covers a wide range of art forms including but not limited to: temporary and portable, permanently situated and/or integrated three-dimensional and two-dimensional works such as paintings, prints, sculptures, murals, mosaics, unique street furniture elements, projection works, lighting, multi-media and any of the above created as memorials. Not all works of public art will be enrolled in the Municipal Art Collection (example: temporary public art).

3.10. Public Art Reserve Fund was established in 2016. The District's Public Art Reserve Fund receives a minimum annual contribution of \$50,000 for public art to enable the commissioning or preservation of public art and furthering the goals of the District's Public Art Program and policy as approved by Council as outlined in Public Art Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 4912, 2016. Additionally, one percent (1%) of the unrestricted Community Amenity Contributions received are allocated to the Public Art Reserve Fund to support the provision of public art. Additional contributions may also be received from donations or proceeds from the sales of District owned public art.

3.11. Preventative Conservation means the treatment of a deteriorated or damaged work of art to restore it as accurately as possible to its original condition.

4. Policy Statement

4.1 The District of West Vancouver (District) will:

- a) Celebrate and promote its art.
- b) Acquire art and facilitate the creation of art that expresses the spirit, values, or vision of our community and incorporate these works into the Municipal Art Collection.
- c) Display, maintain, insure, and protect the Municipal Art Collection.
- d) Work with the Squamish Nation, Tsleil-Waututh Nation, and Musqueam Nation and its contexts within the community to interpret First Nations culture and history with full respect of the peoples concerned and in accordance with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action.
- e) Include and fund public art through voluntary Community Amenity Contributions as part of rezoning applications and that the public art be commensurate with the size and scope of the project but be no less than one percent (1%) of the total value of the Community Amenity Contributions.
- f) Commit to public art in suitable municipal capital projects commensurate with the size and scope of the project.

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- g) Look for opportunities to integrate public art into the concept and planning stage of all significant District of West Vancouver capital projects.
- h) Enhance existing Development Permits guidelines for local commercial areas by encouraging the provision of public art.
- i) Accept donations of works of art provided they meet the criteria established for the Municipal Art Collection or with the express purpose of selling them to support the Municipal Art Collection.
- j) Encourage and accept donations of funds for the purchase of art and/or the creation of public art.
- k) Involve art professionals, historians, artists, experts and interested individuals in the community as juries, advisory groups, or panels on an “as needed basis” for projects of public art and donations of art to the municipality.
- l) Consider a variety of funding options for acquiring art and the creation of public art including collaboration with private individuals, community organizations and business.
- m) Retain a public art reserve fund that will hold donated, earned or allocated funds for the acquisition, commission or care of public art and the Municipal Art Collection. The District may also seek additional outside funding for public art projects.
- n) Establish and continue to foster a public art program that will be evaluated as needed, so that changes may be recommended for Council consideration.
- o) Provide adequate care and maintenance of all artworks in the Municipal Art Collection. Conservation and restoration assessments will be carried out by professionals, and regular assessments of artwork conditions will be conducted. Annual funds will be allocated for maintenance and restoration purposes. The artist/maker of the artwork may be involved in the assessment and repair process.

4.2 Purchase of Art

- a) The District will purchase portable works of art when resources are available.
- b) Works considered for purchase may show preference to West Vancouver artists, defined by birth, residency or prolonged commitment to the District.
- c) Selection of created works of art for purchase will be through a convened advisory panel.
- d) Funds will be allocated for the purchase for portable works of art through the municipal capital budget process, the Public Art Reserve Fund or a directed donation.

4.3 Commissioned Public Art

- a) Works of public art commissioned and created for West Vancouver will be considered enrolled into the Municipal Art Collection, unless otherwise specified.
- b) Commissioning of public art will be a fair and equitable process.

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4.4 Donation of Art

- a) Potential donations will be assessed on their artistic, cultural, historical and social merits before being accepted into the District's inventory; the availability of a suitable location; and available funds for the ongoing maintenance and conservation of the work.
- b) All donations of art will be reviewed by District staff and when deemed necessary, by a convened advisory panel in accordance with the criteria of the Municipal Art Collection. The District has no obligation to accept any donation proposed by a donor.
- c) Donations of art will also be aligned with the requirements of the Donations to the District Policy.
- d) Evaluation of works for a municipal tax receipt must be done by an independent art assessor and may be at a cost of the donor.
- e) The District reserves the right not to hold a donated work of art in perpetuity.

4.5 Deaccessioning

The District shall consider works for deaccessioning that no longer contribute to the Municipal Art Program. A record of deaccessioned works shall be maintained by the District.

Deaccession Evaluation Criteria

- Works that are not relevant or significant to West Vancouver and/or for which documentation that illustrates relevancy cannot be secured;
- Works that are not relevant or useful to the purposes and activities of the District;
- Works which cannot be preserved properly;
- Works that are deteriorated beyond usefulness and/or become an encumbrance;
- The need of the District to improve or strengthen another area in order to further the goals of the District.

4.6 Repatriation of Indigenous Cultural Material

- a) The Municipal Art Collection may include Indigenous cultural material defined as objects with provenance to Indigenous peoples including cultural belongings, as well as archival records, tapes, films and photographs that depict Indigenous people or aspects of their culture. The District recognizes that Indigenous peoples may wish to reclaim material of Indigenous cultural patrimony that are currently part of the Municipal Art Collection. The District recognizes the importance of the cultural materials to Indigenous peoples and will work collaboratively toward repatriation or collaborative decision-making agreements as applicable and on a case-by-case basis guided by the Indigenous community.
- b) This Policy is informed by the recommendations of UNDRIP, which the provincial government passed legislation to implement in November 2019, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action. It also aligns with the applicable policies of the Royal BC Museum's Indigenous Collections and Repatriation Policy (March 2019).

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- c) The District and/or Indigenous peoples may initiate conversations with the other party about repatriation, determining provenance, and related options with respect to Indigenous cultural material in the District's Municipal Art Collection. Staff will be expected to support the District as necessary in terms of providing documentation and other information pertaining to the artifacts in their collections.
- d) Existing Indigenous cultural material at the District is a historic legacy to the District and its Municipal Art Collection. While the District has an obligation to care for and protect its collections including the Indigenous cultural material, there is no necessity for the District to manage Indigenous cultural material when an Indigenous community has a specific interest in caring for that material.
- e) The District is committed to providing Indigenous peoples with access to information pertaining to Indigenous cultural materials (taking into account the restrictions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act) including photographs of artifacts and other applicable documents.

4.7 Collection Management

- a) The Municipal Art Collection will be managed by the Cultural Services Department of the District.
- b) District staff will maintain an electronic inventory of the District's Municipal Art Collection and ensure that information is available to the public through the District's online Municipal Art Collections Database.
- c) District staff will identify and oversee any maintenance required on existing pieces of work.
- d) Staff and resources will be assigned to this work as needed through the annual operating and capital budget process.

5. Authority

- 5.1. Donated, purchased, or commissioned individual works including 2-dimensional prints, paintings, temporary and permanent structures in public places valued at or under \$10,000 may be approved by the Director, Parks, Culture & Community Services.
- 5.2. Donated, purchased, or commissioned individual works not including permanent structures in public places valued at or under \$25,000 may be approved by the Municipal Manager.
- 5.3. Donated, purchased, or commissioned individual permanent works in public places valued over \$10,000 require approval of Council.
- 5.4. Donated, purchased or commissioned individual works that are a permanent asset for the District (including 2-dimensional prints, paintings, sculptures and permanent public works in public places) valued over \$25,000 require approval of Council. Permanent structures in public places valued over \$25,000 may be referred to a public consultation process.

6. Related Policies or Procedures

- 6.1. Municipal Art Collection Public Art Procedure 0184
- 6.2. Municipal Art Collection Art Museum Procedure 0185
- 6.3. Donations to the District Policy 0125

7. Approval

Approved by	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor and Council
Approval date	2024/04/08	
Council minutes eDocs # (Council Policies only)	5718248	
Council report eDocs # (Council Policies only)	5715048	
Signature	<u>[Original signed by Mayor]</u> Mayor	

Approved by	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor and Council
Replacement date	2025/01/27	
Council minutes eDocs # (Council Policies only)	5796554	
Council report eDocs # (Council Policies only)	5784320	
Replacement Description	To update the related procedures.	
Signature	<u>[Original signed by Mayor]</u> Mayor	

8. Additional Information

Category	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative
Related procedure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (0282-20-0184 and 0282-20-0185)	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Date of last review	2025	

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Title: Public Art Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
Division: Parks, Culture, and Community Services
Policy Number: 0218
File Number: 0282-20-0218

1. Mandate

- 1.1. The purpose of the Public Art Advisory Committee (the Committee) is to:
- (a) make recommendations regarding policy and procedures related to public art, and on any matters referred to it by Council;
 - (b) advise on all issues pertaining to the Public Art Inventory Collection according to Council's established policy and procedures;
 - (c) assist with the implementation and enhancement of the Public Art Program;
 - (d) provide advice regarding best practices for public art funding and opportunities to advance community visual art; and
 - (e) make recommendations to Council on the expenditures of Public Art Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 4912, 2016 (as amended or replaced).

2. Role

- 2.1. The Committee will:
- (a) provide oversight of the Public Art Inventory, enrolment criteria, site and display, maintenance and safety, de-accessioning, donations of art and commissioning of new works; and
 - (b) review the Municipal Art Collection Policy and the Municipal Art Collection Public Art Procedure and make recommendations to Council on proposed amendments to ensure currency and inclusion of best practices in accordance with contemporary theory and implementation.

3. Membership

- 3.1. The Committee consists of a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of nine (9) voting members appointed by Council.
- 3.2. Qualifications for individuals seeking membership on the Committee include:
- (a) skills and experience related to the fine arts, public art, architecture, design, urban planning and/or general interest in community-based public art programming, with a maximum of one (1) of these volunteer representatives residing outside of West Vancouver;

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- (b) an ability to look beyond personal interests for the benefit of the community and residents of West Vancouver; and
 - (c) strong communication skills and the ability to work collaboratively as part of a team.
- 3.3.** The Committee membership includes the following non-voting members:
- (a) up to one (1) representative from the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee as appointed by the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee; and
 - (b) One (1) member of Council, appointed annually to serve as the Council representative on the Committee.
- 3.4.** Appointments will be made by Council according to the General Council Committees Procedure.
- 3.5.** The Chair and Acting Chair must be designated, by resolution, according to the Council Committee Procedure Bylaw.

4. General Terms and Code of Conduct

- 4.1.** Volunteer members are expected to uphold the standards outlined in the General Council Committees Policy, the General Council Committees Procedure, the Council Committee Procedure Bylaw, and the *Community Charter*.

5. Rules of Procedure

- 5.1.** Meetings must be conducted in accordance with the General Council Committees Policy, the General Council Committees Procedure, the Council Committee Procedure Bylaw, and the *Community Charter*.

6. Working Groups

- 6.1.** Working Groups may be established by the Committee in alignment with the Council Committee Procedure Bylaw and the General Council Committees Procedure for specific tasks or projects identified in the Annual Work Plan.

7. Annual Work Plan

- 7.1.** An Annual Work Plan must be submitted to Council for approval and be consistent with the requirements outlined in the General Council Committees Procedure.

8. Altering Terms of Reference

- 8.1.** Any alterations to the Terms of Reference must be in accordance with the General Council Committees Procedure.

9. Staff Assistance

- 9.1. Staff assistance will be provided to the Committee, as necessary and within reason, by staff of the Parks, Culture, and Community Services division.

10. Approval

Approved by	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor and Council
Approval date	2025/09/15	
Council minutes Document ID (Council Policies only)	LGDM-711734498-24640	
Council report Document ID (Council Policies only)	LGDM-745393809-2868	
Signature	<u>[Original signed by Mayor]</u> MAYOR	

Replaced by	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor and Council
Replacement date	2025/12/15	
Council minutes Document ID (Council Policies only)	LGDM-711734498-24866	
Council report Document ID (Council Policies only)	LGDM-711734498-24880	
Replacement description	To include a provision for non-voting members from the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee to attend regular monthly Community Grants Committee meetings for continuity within the overall arts and culture umbrella.	
Signature	<u>[Original signed by Mayor]</u> MAYOR	

11. Additional Information

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