In April 2004, a Select Committee of Council took up the task of developing an Arts and Culture Strategy to carry West Vancouver forward in arts, heritage and cultural development. Using the foundations of the recently revised and adopted Official Community Plan and the Cultural Policy, West Vancouver is well positioned to strengthen its focus on building a culture of creativity.

Select Committee:

- Councillor Jean Ferguson, Chair
- Councillor John Clark
- Councillor Pam Goldsmith Jones
- Molly Murray, Chair, Community Services Advisory Committee
- Kevin Pike, Director of Parks and Community Services
- Josie Chuback, Manager Community Services
- Oksana Dexter, Cultural Services Manager
- Lauren Henderson, Manager of Operations Memorial Library
- Pam Jones, Committee Clerk

This workbook is not a comprehensive history of the arts, heritage and cultural development in West Vancouver but is designed to serve as a backgrounder to highlight community commitment and support to date and encourage community participation in drafting of a road map of action for the future.

Contents:

- Context and Policy
- Brief Chronology
- Cultural Facilities, Festivals & Programs
- Ferry Building Gallery
- Museum and Archives
- Heritage
- Silk Purse, Klee Wyck, Music Box
- Memorial Library
- Harmony Arts Festival and Community Special Events
- Service Agreements and Arts Grants
- Kay Meek Centre for the Performing Arts
Context & Policy

1999 Cultural Policy

Council adopted a Cultural Policy in 1999 that sets out municipal support for arts and cultural programming:

1. The District of West Vancouver will:
   - 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;
   - 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;
   - support the collection, preservation and display of historically significant archival material and artifacts;
   - support the protection and interpretation of natural and built historic sites;
   - 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:
   - plan, develop and operate programs and services in the visual and performing arts and sciences, and the heritage and archival aspects of the policy;
   - coordinate the activities in the Ferry Building Gallery, Silk Purse, Klee Wyck, Argyle House, Gertrude Lawson House, Community Centres and the Seniors Activity Centre to maximize the presentation of cultural programs;
   - maintain the cooperative regime with the Board of School District #45 and the West Vancouver Memorial Library to maximize the cultural advantage from programs offered by them in the community;
   - facilitate and promote cultural events and festivals offered in the community to ensure maximum attendance and encourage the participation and support of all residents, including the Harmony Arts Festival, Concerts by the Sea, cultural components of Ocean’s Day, Community Day and the Coho Festival.
   - seek the support and active participation of the business sector in the presentation of cultural programs and special events;
   - facilitate external resource development for cultural programs, special events and the department.

Arts and cultural activities, including access to library resources, contribute to a sense of community. Participation in these activities advances individual expression, a sense of belonging and community pride, and many residents value having cultural opportunities close to home as an integral part of their community life.

Key municipal arts facilities are the West Vancouver Memorial Library, Ferry Building Art Gallery, West Vancouver Museum and Archives and the Silk Purse Arts Centre.

Events such as the Harmony Arts Festival and Community Day celebrate the community’s arts and cultural assets and engage the community, contributing to a vibrant local culture.
2004 Official Community Plan

Arts and Culture and Library ... enhancing the quality of life

The Plan's objectives aim to promote a healthy, complete community by supporting a wide variety of locally based arts and cultural activities in all creative disciplines and to strengthen the role of arts and culture as part of a local economy. The policies:

- promote the West Vancouver Memorial Library as a primary resource for social, cultural, educational and economic functions;
- provide leadership in the development of arts and culture by providing funding support and venues for the creation and exhibition of the arts;
- encourage the provision of public art;
- optimize use of existing public facilities such as schools and community centres for arts activities;
- examine the role of arts and culture in the Argyle Avenue waterfront and the Ambleside Town Centre.

Heritage ... recognizing history and building legacies

Heritage policies seek to promote an awareness of the community's heritage resources that will encourage the long-term preservation of significant buildings, structures, landscapes and sites:

- support the collection, retention and public accessibility of heritage records;
- encourage the preservation, retention and maintenance of heritage resources listed in municipal heritage inventories.

A brief chronology

1931 - West Vancouver Youth Band established
1947 - West Vancouver Sketch Club established; Opening season of West Vancouver Little Theatre Guild
1950 - West Vancouver Memorial Library opens
1957 - Community Centre opens
1968 - West Vancouver Community Arts Council incorporated
1969 - Bookmobile begins
1978 - Klee Wyck donated by Dr. Ethlyn Trapp to the District, dedicated as an arts centre and the home of the WV Community Arts Council
1976-77 - Sculptural Symposium of the Americas
1981 - Seniors Centre opens
1987 - Ferry Building Art Gallery renovated and dedicated as West Vancouver's first heritage building
1988 - Inventory of built heritage and natural heritage completed
1990 - Silk Purse Arts Centre renovated and opened as a cultural resource centre and new offices of the WV Community Arts Council; Argyle House opens as a production centre for Theatre West Van
1991 - First annual Harmony Arts Festival launched
1993 - WV Memorial Library renovated and Art Gallery established
1994 - WV Museum and Archives opens at Gertrude Lawson House on Canada Day
1995 - WV Youth Band named Official Municipal Youth Band
1999 - Cultural Policy for West Vancouver authored by Councillor Allan Williams adopted by Council, April 19
2000-01 - Visions of the North Shore - tri-municipal arts and heritage Millennium Project funded by Canada Millennium Partnership
2003 - WV Memorial Library Strategic Plan 2003 - 2005; Gleneagles Community Centre opens
2002-04 - Official Community Plan Review; Adopted July 19, 2004
2004 - AquaScapes by Sylvia Tait at the Aquatic Centre - first major public art commission of the new recreation facilities
2005 - Projected official opening of the Kay Meek Centre for the Performing Arts at West Vancouver Secondary School
2006 - Projected opening of the Community Centre at the Civic Centre Site

"I see West Vancouver as an arts and cultural centre of Greater Vancouver, of British Columbia and, in fact, of Canada" - Mayor Ron Wood
West Vancouver NOW

“We’re here, people have their soccer fields, the recreation centre, the timing is now, it is the arts’ turn.”
- Gerald Van Wyck

The Cultural Services section of the Parks and Community Services Division has a mandate to enable, educate and inspire people to share in the cultural life of the community. Through partnerships with the community and through the provision of services and programs, the key goal is to foster a sense of belonging, identity and place. There are myriad opportunities to set a course for arts, heritage and cultural development in West Vancouver.

Looking around – we see active and vibrant community arts.

Cultural Facilities, Festivals & Programs

The Ferry Building Gallery

The Ferry Building Gallery exhibits the works of both emerging and established North Shore artists. The intent is to enliven, enrich, inform and educate the public by presenting a diversity of stimulating and high quality juried exhibits and displays. The Gallery is committed to featuring artists who are past or present North Shore residents, to reflect diversity in style and ability, and to present works in various media.

Operation of the Gallery is supported by an Advisory Committee, Friends of the Ferry Building Gallery and exhibit volunteers.

The Gallery boasts over 55,000 annual visitors. It celebrated its 15th Anniversary in 2004 with a Celebration of the First People exhibition.

Other programs enhancing the exhibits are:

- Arts history lectures
- Art tours to local and regional galleries and artists’ studios
- Artists’ demonstrations
- Art critique sessions for emerging artists
- Arts Connection: monthly discussion salon for artists

Recent exhibitions:

| HIDDEN TREASURES: North Shore Collects, with Gordon Smith |
| CREATIVITY and DEMENTIA with Dalia Gottlieb Tanaka |
| LA MIA ITALIA: paintings of Tuscany by Jani Guzy |
| CREATIVE KIDS in the STUDIO: studio art exhibit of kids 5-11years |
| DEVOTION: Tibet’s Inner Path, paintings by Scott Plumb as part of city-wide arts celebration honouring the visit of HH Dalai Lama, 2004 |
| TONI CAVELT’s Encore: Art of the Jeweller & Painter |
| URGENT 2ND CLASS: first-ever gallery exhibition of the art of Nick Bantock; also the launch of new book by the same name |
West Vancouver Museum & Archives

The West Vancouver Museum and Archives is an educational institution that works with the community to foster awareness and understanding of community heritage, and to facilitate access to and the preservation of West Vancouver's human and natural history from earliest times to the present.

In its ten-year life span, the West Vancouver Museum has established a professional standard of well-researched and rich exhibits. Touring exhibits from institutions throughout Canada and the USA that resonate with our heritage are scheduled annually. School programs complement the exhibits and fit in with the school curriculum, attracting students from throughout the Lower Mainland.

- Lecture Series
- Community Archival research
- Photo reproductions
- Historic Walks
- Collection Support
- Genealogy
- Community Displays
- [www.wvma.net](http://www.wvma.net) - online Museum Collection, and Destination Time Walk -- a virtual historic walk around West Vancouver
- Recent Archives acquisitions: Rupert Harrison Collection; Hugh Hodgson Collection

Selected Exhibit highlights:

- Kw'achmixwaylh: Showing of the Pictures (Squamish Nation)
- Toys: A History
- Point Atkinson Lighthouse
- Firefighting in West Vancouver
- Legion: Celebrating 75 Years
- Avro Arrow: A Dream Denied
- Klondike Gold
- West Van High Remembered

Heritage

The District of West Vancouver annually appoints a Heritage Advisory Committee that works to preserve and maintain the heritage character of West Vancouver and build awareness of heritage values. It has a Heritage Inventory of important residences and buildings and a Heritage Landscape Inventory.

The Heritage Advisory Committee with respective committees in North Vancouver sponsors Heritage Week annually in the month of February, when it presents Heritage Awards for sensitive renovations and restorations of character homes. September Heritage Weekend of lectures and heritage home tours is part of their efforts to build community awareness.
West Vancouver Memorial Library

The West Vancouver Memorial Library strives to provide exceptional library service. The collection is developed to provide a broad range of materials and information resources to the community, and staff is dedicated to patron service and providing diverse high quality programming for children and adults.

A rich collection of books and audio-visual materials represents all forms of artistic expression. The library showcases local art and provides a cultural and intellectual meeting place for the community.

- Library Services
- Art Gallery
- Lectures and programs
- In 2003, Library Services were provided at Gleneagles Community Centre with twice-weekly Bookmobile stops, including weekly Storytime for 3-5 year olds. As a result, bookmobile circulation to children increased 175% over the previous year.

Other Cultural Facilities & Programs

"The best of the professional musicians will come here to the Silk Purse because it is an experience they won't have anywhere else in the world"
- Cheryl Karchut

Klee Wyck, Silk Purse and Music Box are three additional facilities that house arts activities. Klee Wyck is available for rental to a variety of cultural groups for their activities, as well as being the home to DramaWorks, a group of theatre arts instructors who provide creative training for children and youth. It is also used by the Klee Wyck Carvers, the West Vancouver Sketch Club and Sol Maya Glass Blowing.

Music Box on Argyle is the summer Harmony Arts Festival headquarters. During the winter months it is used for arts programs and as a rental facility for rehearsals and actors training.

Silk Purse Arts Centre is a charming waterfront cabin renovated to serve as the home to the West Vancouver Community Arts Council, which celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2004. Through a service agreement with the municipality, the WVCAC offers programs such as art exhibits in the Kay Meek Lounge, Music and Muffins, the Spoken Word, Jazzy July and other concert and lecture programs.

Creative Recreation is the umbrella for arts programs at the Community Centre, Gleneagles and the Seniors Activity Centre. At the recreational level, arts programs such as pottery, art classes and dance for all ages are full to overflowing. In a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere, with encouragement from skilled instructors, people of all ages can exercise their creativity and explore hidden talents just for the fun and pleasure of it.
Festivals & Celebrations

Harmony Arts Festival
celebrate community, celebrate art

The Harmony Arts Festival occurs annually for 10 days in early August. The community comes alive with visual art exhibits, outdoor sunset concerts, a craft market, and numerous other activities for all ages. In 2004 attendance topped 65,000 for 45 performances, five exhibits, craft market, artist demonstrations and creative kids day. The Harmony Arts Festival Advisory Committee is comprised of arts, community and business representatives, and hundreds of volunteers support the Festival each year.

Art Studio Tours
Art Beat - street gallery
Group shows
Craft Market
Artist Demonstrations
Fountain stage concerts
Garden stage: Youth Rock - World Music
Sunset Concerts at John Lawson Park
Late-night movies with a showcase of local filmmaker’s short films
Composers Showcase
Portraits by the Sea
Creative Kids Day

Community Special Events

Throughout the year, a number of outdoor events and celebrations bring the community together and showcases artists and musicians, and the cultural diversity of our community. Each is supported and coordinated by volunteers or a volunteer organizing committee.

- Community Day
- Canada Day
- Coho Festival
- Concerts by the Sea
- New Year’s Eve Fete
Service Agreements & Grants

**Service Agreement** - The West Vancouver Community Arts Council, through a $20,000 service agreement to program the Silk Purse Arts Centre, presents concerts and exhibits.

**Arts Grants** - Municipal Community Arts Grants of $32,500 are awarded annually to organizations including:

- British Columbia Photography and Media Arts Society
- Chor Leoni Men’s Choir
- British Columbia Boys Choir
- Hollyburn Heritage Society
- Summer Pops Youth Orchestra
- West Vancouver Youth Band Society
- West Vancouver Historical Society
- Ambleside Orchestra
- Pro Nova Chamber Players
- North Shore Chorus Society
- North Shore Light Opera Society
- O’Sihian Cultural Organization
- Pandora’s Vox
- Presentation House Cultural Society
- Laudate Singers
- Pacific Baroque Orchestra
- Sinfonia Orchestra of the North Shore
- Theatre West Van (WV Little Theatre Guild)
- West Vancouver Adult Community Band Association
- West Vancouver Adult Concert Band

**Partnerships and In-kind support** - The Cultural Services section works with independent artists and non-profit societies to support unique opportunities in a broad spectrum of arts and heritage activities:

- DramaWorks
- Seacoast Studios
- West Vancouver Sketch Club
- Klee Wyck Carvers
- Sol Maya Art Studio
- West Vancouver Historical Society
- Hollyburn Lodge Historical Society

**Coming Soon…**

The *Kay Meek Centre for the Performing Arts* - Construction is coming to a close and parts of the facility are already in operation, with the official opening scheduled for January 2005. The Kay Meek Centre with its 500 seat theatre will add an important component to the breadth of arts infrastructure in West Vancouver. West Vancouver Arts Centre Trust and School District #45 partnership, with benefactor Kathleen Meek, support this wonderful new facility which will serve performing artists from throughout Greater Vancouver.