

**THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER  
ARTS & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
RAVEN ROOM, MUNICIPAL HALL  
THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025**

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Committee Members: S. Swan (Chair), K. Hall, S. Liu, F. Pagani, S. Price, A. Repstock, and M. Wilberg attended the meeting in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall.

Non-Voting Committee Members: N. Brown (West Vancouver Board of Education), A. Krawczyk (West Vancouver Memorial Library Board), V. Mendes (Kay Meek Arts Centre Board of Directors), C. Schachtel (West Vancouver Community Arts Council Board of Directors), and Councillors N. Gambioli and L. Watt attended the meeting in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall.

Staff: D. Niedermayer, Senior Manager, Cultural Services (Staff Representative); and C. Rosta, Cultural Services Manager, attended the meeting in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m.

**2. Election of the Co-Chair**

The resignation of S. Johnson has left a vacancy of the Co-Chair position.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT F. Pagani be elected as the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee Co-Chair for 2025.

CARRIED

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the May 22, 2025 Arts & Culture Advisory Committee meeting agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the April 10, 2025 Arts & Culture Advisory Committee meeting minutes be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

## **REPORTS / ITEMS**

### **5. Horseshoe Bay Boathouse Discussion**

K. Hall presented on behalf of the Art Museum Advisory Panel's (AMAP) subpanel who conducted a high-level space planning review to assess what would be required for the Boathouse to function as an interim new home for the Art Museum. The members were reminded of the resolutions of the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC) and the AMAP on December 6, 2024 endorsing Council's plan to acquire the Boathouse and the concept of moving the Art Museum to the new location, as well as the announcement by Council on February 24, 2025 regarding the purchase of the Boathouse and intention to create a new home for the Art Museum. K. Hall also reminded the members of the ACAC resolution of March 13, 2025 to defer to the AMAP on determining the suitability of converting the former Boathouse into a new art museum on an interim basis.

K. Hall provided an overview of the Art Museum, its engagement with diverse forms of contemporary and historical art, architecture and design and its demonstrated leadership in building appreciation of the architectural heritage of West Coast Modernism. K. Hall reported on the current state of the Art Museum at Gertrude Lawson House which is at the end of its useful life and inadequate to meet the needs of the Art Museum at 2,881 sq. ft. The Boathouse offers 8,800 sq. ft. on two floors which would provide adequate space for two galleries, space for events, educational and makers programming, a gift shop, design library and lounge. Horseshoe Bay is also historically important for the Squamish Nation and offers opportunity for further collaboration and connection to engage in the cultural history of the area. The challenges and risks of relocating were also discussed. The Boathouse is 15 minutes from Ambleside, sits over water which could present humidity and potential flooding issues, and the financial feasibility of the relocation has not been explored.

At their May 20, 2025 meeting, the AMAP made the following motion:

That the Art Museum Advisory Panel recommends moving forward with planning for an interim move to the Boathouse with the following provisions:

- that it is solely used for the Art Museum to ensure the space can serve the programming needs and functional requirements of a professional, curated museum;
- the Boathouse is renovated to art museum standards with appropriate lighting, HVAC systems to control temperature and humidity, and the building is secure from water and tidal fluctuation to ensure the safety of fine art displayed in the building;
- accessible exhibition and program spaces are located within the building to enhance the visibility of the arts, and to draw in a wide range of community members and visitors;
- the Boathouse will support the Art Museum's needs for the interim period for several years; and

- it is recognized that the District continues to seek to build a purpose-built Arts & Culture Centre in the Ambleside area.

Comments from the ACAC members included:

- Councillor Watt suggested incorporating a cafe/bistro and include other permanent makers spaces with the Art Museum at the Boathouse.
- Councillor Gambioli inquired whether the AMAP subpanel had estimated the time and budget to produce feasibility studies and detailed space plans. This was not something the AMAP was asked to deliver as they did not have detailed condition reports, so could not supply this information.
- Members discussed the financial feasibility of the renovation (especially for an interim location), risk of a loss of visitors by moving outside Ambleside, the possibility of the Art Museum remaining at Gertrude Lawson and using a portion of the Boathouse as a satellite facility, and whether there would be appetite to fund a purpose-built facility if the Art Museum was relocated to the Boathouse.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT

1. the Art Museum Advisory Panel's presentation and recommendations to successfully relocate the West Vancouver Art Museum on an interim basis from the Gertrude Lawson House to the Horseshoe Bay Boathouse be received for information;
2. the recommendations for the relocation of the West Vancouver Art Museum to the Horseshoe Bay Boathouse on an interim basis as proposed by the Art Museum Advisory Panel be endorsed for Council consideration; and
3. a representative from the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee and the West Vancouver Art Museum bring forward the Art Museum Advisory Panel's recommendations to relocate the Art Museum to the Horseshoe Bay Boathouse on an interim basis for Council's consideration on June 23, 2025.

CARRIED

## **6. Public Art Project Endorsement**

A. Repstock presented a proposal from the West Vancouver Fire Department to commission a wall carving from local artist, Xwalacktun, for the entrance to their administrative offices on 16th Street. Xwalacktun had previously developed an Indigenous design for one of the fire trucks and the Fire Department now would like to use that same image for the carving. The image is of a Thunderbird rising in the smoke from a longhouse. The 'smoking' longhouse represents community (the smoke indicates the presence of people in the longhouse), and the Thunderbird represents protection and strength. Together, they conceptualize the protection of the community by the Fire Department, the Department being represented by the Thunderbird.

Since having this image on a firetruck, the Fire Department has heard from the Squamish Nation that they feel the Department understands how to serve with cultural awareness, with compassion and kindness.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the recommendation supported by the Public Art Advisory Panel for a new carving of a Thunderbird by artist Xwalacktun for the West Vancouver Fire Department for a total budget of \$40,000 including a contingency from the Public Art Reserve Fund be endorsed for Council consideration.

CARRIED

#### **7. Arts & Culture Facility in Ambleside Discussion**

Councillor Gambioli reminded the members that the Local Area Plan for Ambleside will be at Council on June 23 and that a discussion on a purpose-built arts facility has a brief mention in the current draft but there are no specific locations identified.

The members reviewed a number of locations (publicly and privately owned) that were reviewed by the Arts Facilities Advisory Committee for the Arts & Culture Facility Plan (2019) including the Masonic Hall, location of Fresh Street Market, 1590 Bellevue Avenue, the gravel field in Ambleside Park, the Times Square building at Bellevue and 16th Street, and the Lawn Bowling Club.

Members discussed the desire for a new facility within 5-10 years and that a publicly owned site would be best in terms of controlling timelines.

Due to time constraints, the remainder of the discussion was deferred to the June 12, 2025 meeting for further discussion.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT Arts & Culture Facility in Ambleside Discussion be deferred to the next meeting.

CARRIED

#### **8. Work Plan 2025 Status Update Discussion**

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the Work Plan 2025 Status Update Discussion be deferred to the next meeting.

CARRIED

#### **9. Updates from Committee Members**

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT Updates from Committee Members be deferred to the next meeting.

CARRIED

**10. Council Representative Update**

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the verbal report regarding Council Representative Update be deferred to the next meeting.

CARRIED

**11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from the public.

**12. NEXT MEETING**

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the next Arts & Culture Advisory Committee meeting be rescheduled to occur on June 12, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. and held in-person in the Main Floor Conference Room, Municipal Hall.

CARRIED

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT a subsequent Arts & Culture Advisory Committee meeting be scheduled to occur on June 26, 2025 at 4:15 p.m. and held in-person in the Main Floor Conference Room, Municipal Hall.

CARRIED

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the May 22, 2025 Arts & Culture Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Certified Correct:

  
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Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Clerk