

**THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER
ARTS AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
RAVEN ROOM, MUNICIPAL HALL
AND VIA ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION FACILITIES
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026**

Committee Members: Members: S. Swan (Chair), K. Hall, S. Liu, S. Mani, F. Pagani, and Councillors C. Cassidy and N. Gambioli attended the meeting in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall. H. Chung attended the meeting via electronic communication facilities. Absent: J. Sengara and M. Wilberg.

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

Staff: C. Rosta, Cultural Services Manager (Staff Representative), and F. McKinnon, Cultural Services Assistant (Committee Clerk) attended the meeting in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the March 12, 2026 Arts and Culture Advisory Committee meeting agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the February 12, 2026 Arts and Culture Advisory Committee meeting minutes be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

REPORTS / ITEMS

4. Arts and Culture Strategy Update (2025-2029)

Members discussed the Arts and Culture Strategy Update (2025-2029) and that the Uncurated Street Animation Busking Pilot Program was approved by Council for this summer in Ambleside Park, Ambleside and Dundarave business areas,

Dundarave Park, and Horseshoe Bay. Members mentioned outreach to local and regional performers to participate.

Members were also informed that District staff will work with the West Vancouver Community Arts Council to convene North Shore arts groups serving West Vancouver to strengthen relationships and collaboration.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the discussion regarding Arts and Culture Strategy Update (2025-2029) be received for information.

CARRIED

Member Hall joined the meeting at 4:10 p.m. in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall.

5. Update from Working Groups

Arts and Culture Centre Working Group: A written overview outlining the group's meeting was distributed with the agenda package. At their working group meeting Members considered three names for an Arts and Culture Centre that does not contain the word 'arts'; three names of individuals, recognizable to the community as leaders or major donors who might champion the cause for an arts centre or, alternatively, three names of individuals who are personally connected to a potential champion and could provide an introduction.

Three names of individuals who might be able to donate \$18,000 that Jeff Sodowsky from Global Philanthropic Canada suggested would be necessary to begin the preliminary phase of fundraising for an arts centre. Member Mendes offered to compile key information from reports that have been prepared by the District, Cornerstone Planning Group, Urban Arts Architecture and other entities to create an overview of the case for support for an arts centre.

Member Swan reported that the Working Group noted that many components for a financial framework are needed before fundraising can proceed. Members agreed they will work toward creating a financial framework as identified in the District Council approved 2026 ACAC workplan.

Communications Working Group: Member Schachtel provided the Committee with previously circulated documents for discussion at the March meeting including the *Communications Brief – Division of Duties*; and *What's Happening in 2026* with a plan to produce a semi-annual update to keep ACAC members and the public informed.

The Members delegated the Communications Working Group to work with the West Vancouver Community Arts Council and District staff to create an agenda and invitation list to coordinate an opportunity for arts groups from the North Shore that serve West Vancouver to convene, encourage relationship building, develop alliances and collaborate as outlined in the 2026 ACAC workplan.

Members highlighted that all materials must align, particularly in clarifying the current stage of the arts and culture centre planning with regard to the single site at 1590 Bellevue Avenue and surrounding area.

Member Mani recused herself for conflict of interest regarding discussion around 1590 Bellevue Avenue and left the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Committee members continued to discuss the 1590 Bellevue and surrounding area identified in the draft Local Area Plan.

Member Mani returned to the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

Ferry Building Gallery Working Group: Member Pagani reported on plans for a fall Portrait Award show featuring a cash prize judged by a jury, with awards to be presented at a gallery fundraising event. Approximately 40 portraits will be displayed in the gallery, with additional works shown in Municipal Hall and West Vancouver Memorial Library. There was discussion of the exhibition potentially traveling to other venues such as the Kay Meek Arts Centre.

Art Museum Working Group: Member Hall reported that resumes are being reviewed for the Assistant Curator position; planning is underway for West Coast Modern Week, with tickets expected to go on sale in May. The group is also advancing fundraising plans, including a private cocktail event.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the discussion regarding Updates from Working Groups be received for information.

CARRIED

6. Update from Committee Members

Member Schachtel (West Vancouver Community Arts Council) reported the hiring of a communications team member; the 2025 September launch of the Art Walk Map application featuring sites in Ambleside and Dundarave, including the Art Museum, Ferry Building Gallery, and West Vancouver Memorial Library. The app has been used by approximately 1,200 people, including many international users. The group is exploring sponsorship with the North Shore tourism partners and considering adding narration to boost engagement and attendance.

Councillor Cassidy left the meeting at 4:43 p.m. in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall.

Member Mendes (Kay Meek Arts Centre) reported that the new development officer is performing well and bringing strong community connections. The Kay Meek's 2024-2025 Impact Report was shared with the group.

Councillor Cassidy joined the meeting at 4:45 p.m. in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall.

Member Krawczyk (West Vancouver Memorial Library Board) provided an update on ongoing initiatives to identify service opportunities, including staff support for technology questions, a well-received speaker series, and positive feedback on the new mezzanine improvements. The Library also welcomed three new board members and noted strong public feedback about staff service.

Member Brown (West Vancouver School District 45) provided an update on a multicultural event that raised \$20,000, with more details to be shared at the next meeting as teachers are coming off a busy season.

Member Liu (Youth Advisory Committee) provided an update on a successful mental health workshop that occurred at the end of February with approximately 60 participants. The event included two workshops, one with the Crisis Intervention Centre and another on AI ethics.

Member Mani (Community Grants Committee) provided an update that the Community Grants Committee is currently adjudicating grant applications for the Arts, Culture and Heritage funding stream as well as the Community and Social Services funding stream. The District received a total of 83 grant applications of which 37 were applications for Arts, Culture and Heritage funding stream. Funding requests totalled \$545,884 with a 2026 budget of \$352,015. The total budget available for Arts, Culture and Heritage grants this year is \$114,185 which is based on the number of applicants received compared to Community and Social Services. The Committee will complete their adjudications soon and make recommendations for Council's approval at a future meeting.

Member Chung (Public Art Advisory Committee) reported that the Public Art Advisory Committee has been working with artist Martha Sturdy for some time regarding a new piece of public art for Horseshoe Bay. They are closer to determining the final proposed location and proposed budget for Council's consideration at a future meeting. The Committee is also working with the Navy Jack Citizen's Group to develop a piece of art for the outside east facing wall of the house. There is a Temporary Public Art Program for art murals and temporary public artworks that community groups can apply to for funding to assist in developing new art murals and temporary art projects.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the discussion regarding Updates from Committee Members be received for information.

CARRIED

7. Council Representative Update

Councillor Cassidy reported touring the West Vancouver School District early education centre serving ages 0 to kindergarten and noted the value of accessible early learning for families.

Councillor Gambioli reviewed the progress of the Arts and Culture Strategy Update (2025-2029), noting several items are underway or completed. Members discussed the Arts Spaces Database and highlighted underused rooms at the Seniors' Activity Centre and suggested it be included in the database. Members raised the idea of adding representation from the Seniors' Activity Centre to the ACAC and requested this to be added to the next agenda.

The Members also noted that planning for an arts and culture centre remains the highest priority in the Arts & Culture Strategy Update (2025-2029) and the ACAC

workplan that has not been advanced any further this year. Councillor Cassidy added that this initiative may potentially include a public referendum.

Members further recognized that the other 2026 workplan items are on schedule and to be completed by the end of the year.

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the discussion regarding Council Representative Update be received for information.

CARRIED

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

9. NEXT MEETING

Staff confirmed that the next Arts and Culture Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2026 at 4p.m. and held in the Raven Room, Municipal Hall and via electronic communication facilities.

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved and Seconded:

THAT the March 12, 2026 Arts and Culture Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Certified Correct:

s. 22(1)

Chair

s. 22(1)

Committee Clerk