



## MEETING OF THE NORTH VANCOUVER RECREATION & CULTURE COMMISSION

Thursday, June 1, 2023, 6:00 pm

Oak Room, Delbrook Community Recreation Centre  
851 West Queens Road, North Vancouver

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### MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call to Order – Indigenous Acknowledgement**
- II. Approval of the Agenda**
- III. Adoption of the Minutes of the Last Meeting** Attachment
- IV. Director’s Report** Attachment
- V. Item for Discussion/Decision**
  - a) 2023 Arts & Culture Grants: Late Intake Attachments
- VI. Item for Information**
  - a) Participation Update Presentation and attachment
- VII. Other Business**
  - a) Report from School District #44
- VIII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 5:30 pm.
- IX. Adjournment**



**Meeting of the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission**

**Thursday, March 30, 2023, 5:30 pm**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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Attendees: Commissioner Franci Stratton (Chair)  
Commissioner Dave Wilson (Vice-Chair)  
Commissioner Holly Back  
Commissioner Mary Carmichael  
Commissioner John Moore  
Commissioner Catherine Pope  
Commissioner Lisa Muri  
Commissioner Antje Wilson

Staff: Michael Hunter, Deputy Director  
Jennifer Wilson, Manager, Recreation & Culture Services  
Karen Bickford, Manager, Finance (retiring)  
Pamela Rooke, Manager, Finance  
Karen Pighin, Cultural Services Officer  
Veronica Labrosse, Executive Assistant

Regrets: Commissioner Angela Girard  
Commissioner Kate Smyth

Note: *One District of North Vancouver citizen representative position vacant*

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**I. Call to Order – Indigenous Acknowledgment**

Chair Stratton called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

**II. Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved** by Commissioner Back; **seconded** by Commissioner D. Wilson

**THAT** the meeting agenda be approved as circulated.

**Carried**

**III. Adoption of the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Commissioner Moore highlighted a typographical error in the previous minutes (p.2, Item VI., paragraph 2) for correction.

**Moved** by Commissioner Back; **seconded** by Commissioner Wilson

**THAT** the minutes of the January 26, 2023, meeting be adopted, as amended.

**Carried**

#### **IV. Director's Report**

Chair Stratton introduced Deputy Director Mike Hunter, the senior staff representative, since Director Heather Turner is away.

Deputy Director Hunter highlighted items from the report. He asked Jennifer Wilson, Manager of Recreation & Culture Services, to provide a registration update and speak to how staff are working to increase opportunities and address demand.

Deputy Director Hunter advised that Karen Bickord, Manager, Finance, was attending her last meeting since she is retiring, and he spoke words of recognition, as did the Chair who thanked K. Bickford for her years of service.

#### **V. Items for Discussion/Decision**

##### a) 2023 Arts & Culture Grants: Operating Assistance

Deputy Director Hunter introduced Karen Pighin, Cultural Services Supervisor, and Stacie Graham, Arts & Culture Grants Review Committee Chair, who were in attendance via Teams to speak to the report and answer Commissioner questions.

**Moved** by Commissioner Carmichael; **seconded** by Commissioner Moore

**THAT** the Commission approve payment of grants in the total amount of \$617,278 to support the operations and programming activities of four organizations, as set out below:

- North Vancouver Community Arts Council: \$222,607
- Presentation House Cultural Society: \$153,000
- Seymour Art Gallery: \$57,000
- BC Photography and Media Arts Society (known as Polygon Gallery): \$184,671

**Carried**

b) Sport & Recreation Travel Grant Application

Chair Stratton asked J. Wilson asked to speak to the report and answer Commissioner questions.

**Moved** by Commissioner Carmichael; **seconded** by Commissioner Muri

**THAT** the Commission approve a Sport & Recreation Travel Grant of \$200 for Michael Scherk in support of their participation in the National Legion Youth Athletics Championships hosted in Quebec in August 2022.

**Carried**

**VI. Items for Information**

**a) Final 2023 Committee Appointments**

The Chair advised that the final appointments have been circulated for the Commissioners' reference.

**VII. Other Business**

a) Report from School District #44

Commissioner A. Wilson provided her report and thanked NVRC staff for the use of fields for community events. She advised that she will send the School Board's annual report to the Executive Assistant for circulation to the Commissioners.

Chair Stratton asked Commissioner A. Wilson to ensure senior staff and the Commissioners receive invitations to School Board events.

The Chair asked if there was further business and there was none.

**VIII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 5:30 pm.

**IX. Adjournment**

**Moved** by Commissioner Back; **seconded** by Commissioner Muri

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 6:30 pm.

**Carried**

**Approved:**

**Recorded by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Franci Stratton, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Veronica Labrosse, Executive Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Unadopted

**Commission Meeting Date:**

**June 1, 2023**

**Subject: Director's Report**

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### **Optimizing Human, Fiscal and Physical Resources and Systems**

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Progress continues on the implementation of NVRC's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) 2022-2023 Commitments. Since the March 2023 update staff have:
  - Delivered the NVRC DEI Journey presentation to approximately 120 NVRC cashiers and fitness staff;
  - Delivered a NVRC DEI Journey presentation to the City of North Vancouver's Directors Team, which included all department heads, as well as City Library, MONOVA, and North Shore Emergency Management;
  - Celebrated Nowruz and Asian Heritage Month;
  - Released a DEI staff newsletter; and
  - Continued the development of in-house DEI staff training.
- National Volunteer Week: NVRC celebrated National Volunteer Week from April 16-22. In 2022, 110 volunteers contributed over 5,500 hours to NVRC programs, events and activities. Throughout National Volunteer Week, volunteers and their significant contributions were featured on NVRC social media channels. As a token of appreciation, volunteers were offered free art and yoga workshops and a personal thank you card from the Volunteer Resources Programmer.
- Registration: Summer registration began on May 16 and volumes were slightly higher than last year. Additional resources were created to help customers with their registration; these included changes to the registration information and support webpage, the frequently asked questions section and registration tips.
  - In partnership with Impact North Shore, NVRC hosted three workshops (two in-person and one virtual) to guide newcomers through the registration process as well as provide information on NVRC's programs, services and website. The first in-person workshop was for newcomer Farsi speaking community members and the second for newcomer Ukrainian community members. The virtual workshop was open to any newcomer community member. Translation support was provided by Impact North Shore settlement workers. Approximately 70 community members participated overall.

- **Independent Program Providers (IPPs) Request for Proposals (RFP):** An RFP was issued for IPPs for dance, martial arts and digital arts. Six proposals were received. In accordance with NVRC's procurement policy, the evaluation process is now complete, contract details are being worked through, and services will be implemented this summer.
- **Staff in-service:** The first in-person Customer Service team in-service training event since the pandemic was held in April. Front desk staff learned about: NVRC's DEI initiative; Access and Inclusion approach; Customer Experience initiative; and programming and rental processes. Similar in-services have been brought back for the fitness service area, sports, arena and aquatics service areas. Over 170 staff have attended staff in-services this year; they are important for staff to be grounded in key initiatives, to learn and share best practices, and to provide consistent services in every location.
- **Recruitment:** As part of NVRC's recruitment strategy, creative solutions such as a new course that combines instruction with lifesaving skills, are being implemented. This program supports NVRC lessons and student learning, and it also helps with the development of more qualified lifeguards which will support the continued expansion of service in response to high demand for swimming lessons.

### **Proactively Respond to Recreation and Culture Needs**

- **Lions Gate Community Recreation Centre (LGCRC):** LGCRC celebrated its one-year anniversary on April 20. Staff and community partners hosted an event for the community that included a trivia quiz, slide show of highlights from the past year, festive decorations and treats baked by a Capilano Community Services volunteer in the centre's community kitchen.
  - LGCRC is also one of the six sites for an Artist in Residency program. "Stories from the Kitchen" included four community cooking sessions with local chefs from Ukrainian, Asian, Iranian and Indigenous cultures. The sessions were full with waitlists. Participants connected by sharing cuisines and stories.
- **Youth Week:** NVRC celebrated Youth Week in early May by hosting a wide range of activities at City and District locations. Examples include:
  - Drop-in activities, a barbecue and outdoor games at the Harry Jerome CRC Youth Centre;
  - Movie night at Delbrook CRC;
  - Youth booth, games and a safe axe-throwing activity at the CityFest event at the Shipyards; and
  - Youth yoga session and activities in the pool during the weekly Friday Youth Night event at Ron Andrews CRC.
    - Also at Ron Andrews CRC, a lunchtime barbecue was hosted for youth in collaboration with the Parkgate Society Youth Outreach team.

- Youth Pride Swim: On Saturday, May 13, NVRC hosted its first youth Pride swim at Karen Magnussen CRC. Twenty-four youth participated in the two-hour swim which featured water guns, a giant beach ball, music, a temporary tattoo station and snacks. Staff received positive feedback from the youth and their parents. Youth also provided ideas on future activities and events that would resonate with LGBTQIA2S+ youth. A comment from one youth speaks to the impact: "It's the first time I've felt comfortable swimming in a long time."
- Indoor/Outdoor Recreation & Sport Facility Plan:
  - The facility plan project team has been coordinating with Geographic Information System (GIS) staff at the City and District of North Vancouver to compile data for all of the public recreation facilities and amenities in the community. Staff have also been working with the consultant on the planning and implementation of the community engagement process.
  - The project will include a data-informed and service level-based needs assessment and is not intended to be a list of new facility and amenity requests. Community engagement is critical to the information gathering process, and the initial efforts are focused on understanding the leisure behaviours of residents, the utilization of recreational infrastructure in North Vancouver, barriers to participation, feedback on the quality and quantity of facilities currently available, and opportunities for enhancements.
  - The engagement process will include a random survey of North Vancouver households; an open survey (the same survey as the random survey but open to anyone wishing to share thoughts and opinions), a survey of organized groups that use recreation and sport facilities; and, discussion sessions and interviews with a variety of individuals and groups in the community including facility users, service partners and representatives of equity-deserving members of the community.
  - Beginning May 25, 30,000 North Vancouver households will receive a postcard invitation to participate in a statistically valid random survey. Translation support will be provided in Farsi, Korean, Chinese, and Tagalog. The open survey will also be available at the same time. The surveys close on June 23 and will be promoted through print and digital advertising, social media, posters in the community, e-newsletters and digital signage in NVRC facilities.
  - The results of the community engagement process will be tabulated and supplement utilization, trends and demographic data. This data will then go through a Council-approved decision-making framework to identify priorities.
- Centennial Theatre: The Theatre's 2022/2023 season wraps up in June with the number of rentals at pre-pandemic levels. Regular renters report their audiences being at 80% of pre-pandemic numbers with over half reporting 85% of their audiences have returned.



## **Extended our Effectiveness through Collaboration**

- **"CityStudio" Program:** This spring, NVRC's Public Art Officer participated in the "CityStudio" program in which Capilano University students collaborate with City of North Vancouver staff and partners to co-create projects for the community. This year's project started with developing an understanding of public art and touring North Vancouver's artwork, and culminated in specific tools for engaging youth in public art. These tools will be used by the NVRC's Public Art Program. Commissioners may visit the "Public Art Collection" page on NVRC's website: <https://www.nvrc.ca/arts-culture/public-art/art-collection>.
- **Partnership:** In partnership with Impact North Shore, NVRC offered a women-only yoga 'try-it' series in May for Ukrainian refugee women. Impact North Shore assisted with translation. The remaining five sessions will be open to anyone who would benefit from participating in a women's-only environment.
- **North Shore Art Forum:** Hosted by NVRC and the District of West Vancouver in collaboration with Arts BC, the forum was held at Delbrook CRC on May 16. Over 40 people from local cultural organizations attended the full-day event to learn from each other, strengthen relationships, and focus on collaboration and equity. The day also included a presentation by North Van Arts on the North Shore Culture Compass data.
- **New sport and activity program for young adults:** In partnership with the HOpe Centre early intervention program, NVRC offered a new sport and activity program for young adults. Participants were provided an opportunity to play or try a variety of sport activities and to feel comfortable coming to NVRC's facilities. The program is running for six sessions with the goal of extending it further and broadening the activities. NVRC currently runs five partner programs with the HOpe Centre.
- **Open-space shelters:** The City of North Vancouver's newly open-space shelters at Ray Perrault and Heywood parks are being programmed with outdoor fitness with arts programs to be added in the future. A participant at a morning yoga class at Heywood Park commented, "I think this is what heaven is like". Additional outdoor programs will be offered including Zumba and yoga at the Shipyards, camps at Myrtle, Princess and Loutet parks, youth pop-ups throughout the City and District, and fitness classes at Parkgate Park.

## **Enhance Understanding of the Scope and Impacts of our Services**

- **Award:** The B.C. & Yukon Branch of the Lifesaving Society awarded Karen Magnussen CRC the 2022 award for the most Lifesaving Society Instructor courses and re-certifications offered for community populations of 100,000-175,000.
- **2023 BC Recreation & Parks Association (BCRPA) Symposium:** This year NVRC supported 15 staff and one Commissioner to attend the BCRPA Symposium in Vancouver. The theme, "On the Front Lines of Change" was designed to activate

BCRPA's four strategic areas: physical inactivity, climate change, equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), and reconciliation. The information is being shared amongst staff teams to extend the learnings to those who didn't attend and to consider ideas that should be implemented.

- Storytelling: A new [News & Stories](#) page has been added to NVRC's website. Storytelling is being used more to share news and information about the organization, and then the stories are being shared with the community on NVRC's social media channels and e-newsletters.
- Fall concert series: Centennial Theatre is looking for local musicians to perform as part of its fall concert series. Theatre supervisor Neil Scott was interviewed by the North Shore News and highlighted how NVRC is supporting North Vancouver's musician community, "*We want to be able to help the emerging artists – this is great community outreach and artist development, and something that as a Commission we're committed to.*" Read the article: [NS News - Emerging musicians need apply for Centennial Theatre concert series](#).
- Community Engagement:
  - A new [Community Engagement](#) page has been added to NVRC's website. This page lets community members know all the different ways they can get involved and provide feedback to NVRC.
  - NVRC's community engagement tool, CivilSpace, has a new, user-friendly web address, [engage.nvrc.ca](#). The recreation and sport facility planning project has a page on the website, [engage.nvrc.ca/facilityplan](#), which is the primary spot for community members and interested parties to learn about the project and provide feedback. Use of this tool will be expanded to further engage with the community and provide opportunities for meaningful feedback.



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Heather A. Turner  
Director of Recreation & Culture

**Commission Meeting Date:**

**June 1, 2023**

**Report Author: Karen Pighin, Cultural Services Supervisor**

**Subject: 2023 Arts & Culture Grants: Late Intake**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT** the Commission approve Arts and Culture Grants in the amount of \$108,000 comprised of \$70,000 for Programming & Projects Grants and \$38,000 for Celebrations and Events Grants, as set out below:

- North Shore Celtic Ensemble: \$2,000
- Vancouver Iranian Choir: \$1,500
- Deep Cove Heritage Society: \$5,000
- Musart Cultural Society: \$6,000
- Blackout Theatre Society: \$20,500
- Laudate Singers Society: \$17,500
- Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia: \$17,500
- Lynn Valley Community Association: \$1,500
- North Shore Veterans Council of Canada: \$4,500
- Artists for Conservation International Foundation: \$15,000
- Belweder North Shore Polish Association: \$7,500
- Blueridge Chamber Music Society: \$9,500

**BACKGROUND:**

This report outlines funding recommendations from the Arts & Culture Grants Review Committee for 12 funding requests within the Programming & Project Assistance grant stream and the Celebrations & Events grant stream. In accordance with policy, the Committee is appointed by the Commission to provide an independent assessment of funding requests submitted to the Arts & Culture Grants program. It consists of volunteer North Vancouver residents with experience and expertise in the arts, cultural programming and the non-profit sector.

The Arts & Culture Grants program has three intakes per year:

- an **Early Intake in November**, covering Programming & Project Assistance Grants, Celebrations & Events Grants and Community Public Art Grants, to support a range of activities in the first half of the calendar year;
- an **Operating Assistance Intake in January** to provide stable support for the operations and programming of leading organizations in the not-for-profit arts sector; and

- a **Late Intake in March**, covering Programming & Project Assistance Grants, Celebrations & Events Grants and Community Public Art Grants, to support a range of activities in the second half of the calendar year.

## DISCUSSION:

The recommendations in this report are based on program-specific funding and evaluation criteria as approved in the Arts and Culture Grants Policy. They reflect the assessed merit, impacts and benefits of the proposed activities, and consider the capacity of the applicant organizations to deliver them. A summary of the requests and recommendations for Programming & Project Assistance Grants and Celebrations & Events Grants is appended to this report as Attachment 1.

**1. Programming & Project Assistance Grants** support the delivery of innovative, high-quality programming and services to the residents of North Vancouver; reward creativity; foster innovation; and support the emergence of new groups or activities. Grants are available in three categories:

- New Initiatives Grants invest in pilot projects and new initiatives, as well as programs and activities that support emerging arts and cultural practices or that target the underserved;
- Program and Project Grants provide support for the activities of smaller, community-based arts, cultural and heritage groups; and
- Annual Programming Grants invest in innovative, high-quality programming across a broad spectrum of artistic and creative practices.

Organization <i>Activity or Event</i>	Program/Project Budget	Grant Request	Recommended Grant Award 2023	Grant Award in 2022
<b>New Initiatives Grants</b>				
North Shore Celtic Ensemble	\$ 16,000	\$ 4,000	<b>\$ 2,000</b>	N/A
Vancouver Iranian Choir	\$ 27,000	\$ 6,500	<b>\$ 1,500</b>	N/A
Sub-Total:	\$ 43,000	\$ 10,500	<b>\$ 3,500</b>	
<b>Program and Project Grants</b>				
Deep Cove Heritage Society	\$ 19,000	\$ 7,500	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	\$ 4,500
Musart Cultural Society	\$ 35,622	\$ 10,500	<b>\$ 6,000</b>	N/A
Sub-Total:	\$ 54,622	\$ 18,000	<b>\$ 11,000</b>	

Organization <i>Activity or Event</i>	Program/Project Budget	Grant Request	Recommended Grant Award 2023	Grant Award in 2022
<b>Annual Programming Grants</b>				
Blackout Arts Society	\$ 170,000	\$ 22,500	<b>\$ 20,500</b>	\$19,750
Laudate Singers Society	\$ 143,520	\$ 22,500	<b>\$ 17,500</b>	\$17,000
Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia	\$ 76,400	\$ 22,500	<b>\$ 17,500</b>	\$15,000
Sub-Total:	\$ 389,920	\$ 67,500	<b>\$ 55,500</b>	
<b>Programming and Projects Total:</b>	<b>\$ 487,542</b>	<b>\$ 96,000</b>	<b>\$ 70,000</b>	

**2. Celebrations & Events Grants** support a range of events that enrich quality of life or foster community connections by bringing people together in a celebratory and creative environment. Grants are available in the following categories:

- a) Community Events Grants are single-day events at a local, neighbourhood scale that foster community connections and contribute to residents' sense of belonging, identity and place;
- b) Major Celebration Grants are signature single and multi-day events at a regional scale that mix culturally relevant arts programming with a significant program of other activities and entertainments; and
- c) Arts Festival Grants are usually multi-venue events that present a coordinated program of innovative and entertaining arts programming.

Organization – <i>Event or Festival</i>	Event Budget	Grant Request	Recommended Grant Award 2023	Grant Award in 2022
<b>Community Event Grants</b>				
Lynn Valley Community Association	\$ 8,574	\$ 4,500	<b>\$ 1,500</b>	\$ 1,000
North Shore Veterans Council of Canada	\$ 17,850	\$ 4,500	<b>\$ 4,500</b>	\$ 4,500
Sub-Total:	\$ 26,424	<b>\$ 9,000</b>	<b>\$ 6,000</b>	

Organization – <i>Event or Festival</i>	Event Budget	Grant Request	Recommended Grant Award 2023	Grant Award in 2022
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### Major Celebration Grants

No applications received.

*(continued next page)*

Organization – <i>Event or Festival</i>	Event Budget	Grant Request	Recommended Grant Award 2023	Grant Award in 2022
<b>Arts Festival Grants</b>				
Artists for Conservation Int'l Foundation	\$ 170,000	\$ 18,500	<b>\$ 15,000</b>	\$ 15,000
Belweder North Shore Polish Association	\$ 54,725	\$ 13,000	<b>\$ 7,500</b>	\$ 7,000
Blueridge Chamber Music Festival	\$ 86,000	\$ 10,000	<b>\$ 9,500</b>	\$ 10,000
Sub-Total:	\$ 310,725	\$ 41,500	<b>\$ 32,000</b>	
<b>Celebrations and Events Total:</b>	\$ 337,149	\$ 50,500	<b>\$ 38,000</b>	

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

The 2023 Arts & Culture Grants budget is \$899,116. After the approved Early Intake Grants (\$114,500), the approved Operating Grants (\$617,278) and the Operating Assistance Grants in year two of a three-year cycle (\$59,325), \$108,013 remains available for grant funding in the Late Intake. This report recommends the Late Intake grants of \$108,000 be approved. This recommended allocation is within the budget allotment and results in the allocation of all funds in 2023.

**CONCURRENCE AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:**

The Arts & Culture Grants Review Committee makes recommendations to the Commission. Upon Commission approval, applicants are notified within five business days, provided a Notice of Award and required to submit a signed Grant Acceptance Form. All grant recipients must comply with the terms and conditions of the grant program and use the awarded funds as outlined in their application.

The Arts & Culture Grants program and funding requirements are communicated through the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture (NVRC) website, arts newsletter and social media channels as well as at the North Shore Arts and Culture roundtable (held bi-monthly). NVRC staff also host seasonal workshops and individual meetings with prospective applicants on the grant application process.

As per policy, NVRC informs the City of North Vancouver Council and the District of North Vancouver Council annually of the organizations, services and initiatives funded through the Arts & Culture Grants program.

**POLICY/AUTHORITY:**

Authority to allocate funding in accordance with the Arts and Culture Grants Policy is delegated by the City of North Vancouver and District of North Vancouver to the North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission. The Commission approves recommendations for grant allocations from the Arts & Culture Grants Review Committee.

**CONCLUSION:**

The grants recommended in this report support artistic leadership, encourage the advancement of different artistic and cultural practices, and foster a creative and engaged community. They also deliver on a wide range of important community outcomes such as addressing social isolation, providing opportunities for creative community engagement, and supporting inclusion and diversity. The provision of grants is key to ensuring the survival and resilience of the arts and cultural sector in North Vancouver.

The grants recommended in this report are consistent with the NVRC's Strategic Plan and Official Community Plans for both the City of North Vancouver and District of North Vancouver.



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Jennifer Wilson  
Manager of Recreation & Culture Services



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Heather A. Turner  
Director of Recreation & Culture

**2023 Arts and Culture Grants, Late Intake:  
Summary of Grant Requests and Recommendations**

**PROGRAMMING AND PROJECT ASSISTANCE GRANTS**

**New Initiatives Grants**

**1. North Shore Celtic Ensemble (NSCE)**

The (NSCE) is the lower mainland's largest and North Vancouver's only alternative music program specializing in folk and fiddle music, with a dual mandate to inspire youth and adults to do more and go further with music, and to use music to build and strengthen community connections. This new initiative is for the Community Ensemble Program: String Theory Folkestra which is a community of students, family, friends and neighbors that make Canadian and Celtic music together on a biweekly basis. Open to acoustic musicians with beginner to advanced skills, the group will perform alongside the other ensembles at public events.

**Committee comments:** The Committee appreciates the blending of skill levels within an orchestra-type setting and the aim of expanding interest, involvement and the audience of this genre of music.

Requested: \$4,000

**Recommended: \$2,000**

**2. Vancouver Iranian Choir**

The Vancouver Iranian Choir is a community group that provides affordable and accessible opportunities for Farsi-speaking individuals, particularly women from lower income backgrounds, to gather and engage in music. The group's mission focuses on Persian music though also represents Kurdish, Azeri, and Balochi music as well. The choir aims to help its members discover their talents by providing training in classical and folk voice techniques.

**Committee comments:** The Committee acknowledges the importance of providing newcomers and those from marginalized communities with opportunities to have their voices heard through music and song.

Requested: \$6,500

**Recommended: \$1,500**

**Program and Project Grants**

**1. Deep Cove Heritage Society**

The Deep Cove Heritage Society, established in 1985, serves general interest and research purposes with an archived collection of over 4,000 photographs, manuscripts, maps, oral and written interviews and other documents; many of these items date back to the turn of the century. The Society has developed a strong history of the community and is collaborating with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation to expand its knowledge, collection and workshops. With a continued goal of collecting accurate memories in picture and story, the Society is focused on



their mandate of continual education.

**Committee comments:** The Committee recognizes the value in relationship-building with First Nations and the Society's continued development of programs and workshops that integrate Indigenous experiences and historical accounts. The Committee acknowledges the development of new ideas explored through student-led projects.

Requested: \$7,500

**Recommended: \$5,000**

## **2. Musart Cultural Society**

Musart Cultural Society, formed in 1997, provides education and exposure for the arts through summer art camps and the Cates Park Concert Series. The Concert Series will be held each Saturday in August 2023.

**Committee comments:** The Committee recognizes the need for youth camps and artistic experiences as well as the provision of opportunities for up and coming artists to perform in public.

Requested: \$10,500

**Recommended: \$6,000**

## **Annual Programming Grants**

### **1. Blackout Theatre Society**

The Blackout Theatre Society, established in 2012, centres their work on immigrant and refugee artists focused on addressing social issues concerning race, class and gender. The Society produces an annual weeklong STAND festival (Strength Through Art Network Diversity) that consists of micro-performances, workshops and presentations that encourage the development of emerging immigrant artists. The Society will be producing and presenting a play about a stranger arriving to a new city and the dilemma of being accepted and finding a place within society. They also provide educational opportunities including an artist six-month training and workshop series as well as a mentor program where artists and playwrights are matched with a mentor to develop their work.

**Committee comments:** The Committee values the programming focus on newcomers' experiences including immigrants, refugees and underserved communities. They also acknowledge that the programming provides opportunities for those from various backgrounds to learn about each other and build understanding.

Requested: \$ 22,500

**Recommended: \$20,500**

## 2. Laudate Singers Society

Laudate Singers Society, formed in 1995, is a choral society dedicated to building community and moving audiences with choral music on the North Shore. The Society includes Laudate Singers, a semi-professional chamber choir and Paragon Singers, an intermediate choir that produce large-scale choral/orchestral works and free concerts. The Society continues its long-established composer-in-residence program by commissioning two new works each year, adding to the rich Canadian choral literature. Performances are in-person and live-streamed.

**Committee comments:** The Committee recognizes the long-standing tradition of the choirs and recognizes the value of the Composers in Residence program and the new Conductor-mentoring program. The Committee also applauds the efforts they are making to increase ticket sales.

Requested: \$22,500

**Recommended: \$17,500**

## 3. Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia (WBT)

In recent years WBT has re-defined its habitat preservation activities through a lens of Indigenous cultural practices. WBT is focused on a process-oriented decolonial relationship methodology that centres on listening and collaboration over western curatorial traditions. 2023 programming includes an Artist Residency, providing Tsleil-Waututh artists the opportunity to explore cultural practice through self-directed work, water exhibits, public gatherings and a Coast Salish ceremony. It also includes associated programming such as: printmaking with Tsleil-Waututh youth, an audio walking tour, film screenings, talks, public walks, paddling tours in partnership with Takaya Tours, and a focus on Tsleil-Waututh's work regenerating ecology and culture on sə̌ilwət (Indian Arm), including the work of the Sacred Trust.

**Committee comments:** The Committee recognizes the significant fundraising efforts that the Trust undertakes and appreciates the connection to Tsleil-Waututh artists and Indigenous programming that connects to the land.

Requested: \$22,500

**Recommended: \$17,500**

## CELEBRATION AND EVENTS GRANTS

### Community Events

#### 1. Lynn Valley Community Association

Lynn Valley Community Association is a resource that provides opportunities to participate, foster community pride, and build community connections. Lynn Valley's Family Fun Day, in its second year, provides an opportunity for neighbours to connect, become engaged in the community and to celebrate local talent. Family Fun Day includes activities such as sack races, egg and spoon races; community-based bands; puppet shows, and face-painting, plus the District of North Vancouver Fire Department charity will provide a BBQ with fire trucks on site.

**Committee comments:** The Committee applauds this event as a way to connect community. The Association is on a path to build diversity into its artist roster and to continue to engage local businesses to help support this community event.

Requested: \$4,500

**Recommended: \$1,500**

## **2. North Shore Veterans Council of Canada**

The North Shore Veterans Council of Canada, established in 1948, supports the annual Remembrance Day Parade and Ceremony at the Cenotaph in Victoria Park, North Vancouver. Each year, thousands of people attend the ceremony, organized by volunteers, consisting of retired Veterans as well as active and retired Peace Officers. This event is one of the largest Remembrance Day services in Canada outside of Ottawa.

**Committee comments:** The Committee recognizes the commitment and dedication of the volunteers in holding a very large annual parade and ceremony. The Committee also noted the valuable outreach to schools that this group undertakes and encourages further outreach work to those who may not know about the service or why it takes place.

Requested: \$4,500

**Recommended: \$4,500**

## **Arts Festivals**

### **1. Artists for Conservation International Foundation**

The Artists for Conservation Festival has been in place for 12 years. It is a multi-day, nature-themed arts and culture event that immerses visitors in a cohesive blend of visual art, music and First Nations cultural performances, art workshops/activities, plein-air sketching walks, art and music demos, and film. The festival takes place in Vancouver at VanDusen Gardens and in North Vancouver at Maplewood Flats. The North Vancouver program includes West Coast portraits, a carving demo, music and a live birds of prey display. The grant is in support of the North Vancouver portion of the festival.

**Committee comments:** The Committee recognizes the significant roles volunteers play to support this festival. It is noted that there are numerous partnerships that also support this festival and that Indigenous artists from North Vancouver are included in the programming.

Requested: \$ 18,500

**Recommended: \$15,000**

### **2. Belweder North Shore Polish Association**

The North Shore Polish Association's mandate is to preserve Polish traditions, share the wealth of Polish culture and language, and facilitate cross-cultural exchange and understanding. The association's "Belweder", established in 2002, keeps the knowledge of the Polish history, language and culture alive through cultural heritage celebrations. The annual event is comprised of workshops where participants create folklore-inspired Christmas/Easter

decorations, gifts and toys.

**Committee comments:** The Committee applauds the organization's volunteer engagement and the addition of more inclusive programming.

Requested: \$ 13,000

**Recommended: \$7,500**

### **3. Blueridge Chamber Music Society**

The Blueridge Chamber Music Festival continues to garner increasing attention and critical acclaim around the region. The Society, with its creation, *The Chamber*, a portable acoustic structure (stage), provides a sonic environment for a summer series of outdoor concerts in parks.

**Committee comments:** The Committee recognizes the programming excellence of this long-standing festival and appreciates the empowerment of female composers in their work and their engagement of volunteers. Developing organizational capacity should help the festival grow.

Requested: \$ 10,000

**Recommended: \$9,500**

**Commission Meeting Date:**

**June 1, 2023**

**Report Author: Jennifer Wilson, Manager of Recreation & Culture Services**

**Subject: Participation Update**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT** the Commission receive this report for information.

**BACKGROUND:**

North Vancouver residents place a high value on being healthy and active. Through the 2018/2019 North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission (NVRC) Needs Assessment, 87% of the community (City and District residents combined) reported that they participate in outdoor recreation activities and 82% in indoor recreation activities.

NVRC plays a significant role in supporting North Vancouver's healthy and active lifestyles as well as in strengthening social connections in the community. The last Needs Assessment data confirms that a high proportion of North Vancouver residents (81%) participate in NVRC programs and services which includes registered indoor and outdoor programs, lessons, membership activities, drop-in activities, special events, and facility rentals.

NVRC regularly assesses community need, customer satisfaction, barriers and participation data to provide high quality services to meet the needs of the community. This report provides the Commission with 2022 participation data as well as some data for the first quarter of 2023.

**DISCUSSION:**

COVID-19 Impacts

Participation data is typically shared with the Commission on an annual basis. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting service delivery, reports were not prepared for 2020 and 2021.

The pandemic had a significant impact on services, customers and staffing from early 2020 until the spring of 2022, including:

- Facility closures and partial openings;
- Suspension of all or some services at different points in time;
- Capacity and age-based restrictions;
- Physical distancing requirements and enhanced cleaning protocols;
- Mask mandates and the requirement to check for proof of vaccination; and

- Staff lay-offs and changing responsibilities as a result of Provincial Health Orders (PHOs).

NVRC's approach throughout the pandemic was to offer as many programs and services as was permitted where there was sufficient demand and staff available.

Early 2022 still required vaccination and mask mandates, and some key services were again suspended. For example:

- Fitness centres were closed;
- Fitness and adult dance classes were suspended due to the Omicron variant;
- Capacity limits were in place for arenas and adult sports;
- Indoor celebratory gatherings were prohibited which impacted facility rentals;
- Age requirements for proof of vaccination were amended;
- Centennial Theatre, which was reopened in November 2021, saw a lag in 2022 bookings as theatre rentals are typically confirmed up to 18 months in advance; and
- Local schools followed a cohort system which restricted NVRC from offering school-age based programs.

By April 2022, proof of vaccination was no longer required, which had a mixed impact on the organization. Staff no longer needed to check vaccination status and some residents reported that they did not feel comfortable recreating indoors with those who were not vaccinated.

While all COVID-19 related restrictions are now lifted, there are still impacts in 2023, including a prolonged labour shortage, a reluctance by some customers to be in indoor settings in proximity to other people and a noticeable rise in the number of behavioural issues.

In response to the ongoing labour challenges and changes to customers' level of comfort, some services have been redesigned:

- Class sizes were reduced in many programs to increase comfort with multiple people in indoor spaces.
- Many programs for children and young families were redesigned to strengthen comfort in social settings.
- Some outdoor programs have continued because of the health benefits and customers' desire to be outside.
- To maximize the deployment of instructors, less popular classes have been combined and staff are instructing additional classes.

### Participation Data

The participation data to follow focuses on the programs and services NVRC delivered in 2022 along with some data on the first quarter of 2023 including:

- Registered programs and lessons – recreation, sport and art activities for which customers registered;
- Memberships activities – activities for which participants scan their membership (i.e., lane swim, fitness centre, public skate or swim, racquet/squash courts, open gym, table tennis) and classes (dry-land, trail and water-based fitness);

- Drop-in/Book-a-Visit (BAV) programs – activities for which customers pay a drop-in fee or are required to book their spot (i.e., water walking, lane swimming, table tennis, open gym, racquet sports, public skate or swim); and
- Facility rentals – spaces that organizations book to provide activities and events for their groups.

The 2022 data shows that the post-pandemic recovery is well underway:

- Registered programs and lessons – almost 48,000 people served and 57,800 program spaces provided. Data shows a strong recovery back to pre-pandemic levels in most program types.
- Membership activities – \$1.96 million in revenue, 15,350 memberships sold and 453,300 membership scans. Data on memberships show a continued recovery back to pre-pandemic levels.
- Drop-ins – 410,866 visits. Data shows that 2022 visits exceeded pre-pandemic levels.
- Facility rentals – 14,363 rental hours in pools, arenas, gyms and Centennial Theatre. First quarter comparisons show that rentals are near pre-pandemic levels.

As noted previously, 2022 was a recovery year. This report presents 2022 participation data along with a comparison of first quarter data for 2022 and 2023 to show recent trends. Typically, this report would include a comparison to previous years, however, with services being disrupted in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, these numbers have not been included.

### **Participation in Registered Programs and Lessons**

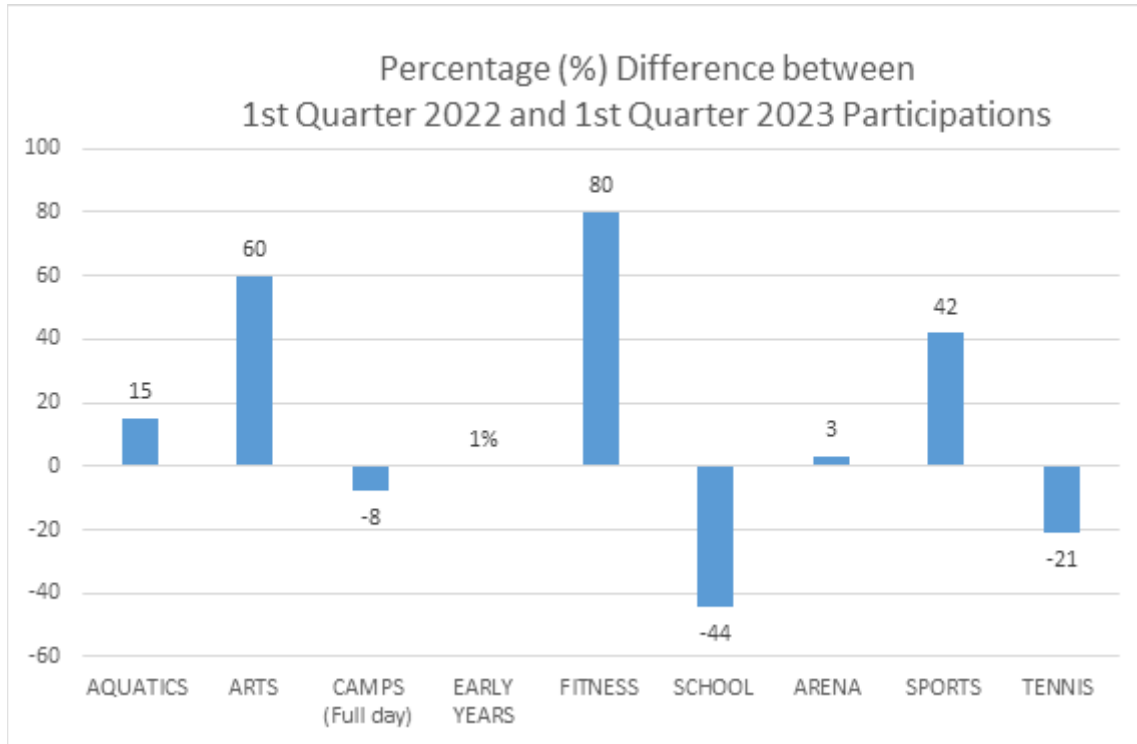
Almost 48,000 people participated in NVRC programs and lessons in 2022. A comparison of first quarter numbers for 2022 and 2023 (Figure 1) shows a 21% increase in 2023 year-to-date overall and an increase in most service areas. 2022 revenue is at 80% of pre-pandemic levels.

The exceptions in Figure 1 are full-day camps, after-school programs and tennis programs.

- The slight reduction in camp participation numbers is due to one extra winter break camp being offered in 2022 though not in 2023.
- Participation in after-school programs has been impacted by staffing challenges, working remotely and decreased daycare costs for many families.
- The reduction in tennis participation is a result of a set of tennis programs starting in the second quarter of 2023 instead of the first (which was the case in 2022).
- NVRC continues to welcome back participants into specialized programs. Specialty programs such as adaptive programs, rehabilitation programs, programs for individuals with special needs and youth activities are built into many service areas to respond to diverse interests. These programs are particularly important to those individuals who may experience additional barriers to community life and play an important role in building competencies, addressing isolation, developing resiliency and reducing the health impacts of inactivity.

- Also of note is the opening of Lions Gate Community Recreation Centre in April of 2022. The activities initially focused on drop-in opportunities to test interest areas.

Figure 1



**Program Spaces and Fill Rates**

Table 1 (below) shows the number of program spaces provided in each service area and the associated fill rates. The number of program spaces (or opportunities provided) in 2022 was almost 58,000 and fill rates were high in almost all service areas.

As part of program planning, staff reviews this data to ensure that instructors and facility spaces are maximized. In addition, on registration days, staff monitor waitlists and fill rates to create new classes and consolidate classes where possible. This is particularly important with ongoing staffing shortages.



Table 1

Service Areas	2022	
	Program Spaces	Fill Rates
AQUATICS	14,095	91%
ARTS	11,963	56%
CAMP	4,199	89%
EARLY YEARS	2,994	78%
FITNESS	7,198	77%
SCHOOL	84	93%
ARENA	1,991	92%
SPORTS	8,083	77%
TENNIS	7,197	95%
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,804</b>	<b>83%</b>

### Program Demand

The service areas with the highest unmet demand are historically swimming and skating. The reduction of services during the pandemic, especially in progressive types of programs, has resulted in heightened customer demand. On the service delivery side, there is a wide-spread shortage of qualified staff. To address this challenge, strategies were implemented to consolidate programs, leverage existing staff to take on more classes, recruit new staff and focus staff on programs with higher participant to instructor ratios.

### Membership Activities

Memberships provide access to lane swim, fitness centres, public swim, public skate, racquet courts, open gym activities, table tennis, and some indoor and outdoor fitness classes. Participation in membership activities is measured through revenue and scans.

- **Membership Revenue**

Table 2 (below) shows the continued recovery of membership revenues; 2022 revenue is 65% of 2019 revenues and the first quarter revenue in 2023 shows a 103% increase over the same period in 2022. It is hoped that 2023 membership revenue will be near pre-pandemic levels by the end of the year.

Table 2

	Annual Revenue		% Decrease	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Revenue		
	2019	2022		2022	2023	% Increase
<b>Membership Revenue</b>	\$3,013,143	\$1,959,629	35%	\$344,029	\$698,801	103%

- **Membership Scans**

Scan data is limited as several older buildings do not have one control point or scanners. Even though it underestimates visits, it is a useful indicator of general trends in usage. Table 3 (below) shows a 24% decline in membership scans between 2019 and 2022 as a result of COVID-19 related capacity limits, physical distancing, vaccination and mask restrictions. In addition to these restrictions, fitness centres were closed and fitness classes were not permitted in January 2022. However, first quarter 2023 data shows a 157% increase over 2022 and tracking towards pre-pandemic levels.

Table 3

	Annual Scans		% Decrease	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Scans		
	2019	2022		2022	2023	% Increase
<b>Membership Scans</b>	599,863	453,327	-24%	69,004	177,103	157%

### Drop-in Participation

There are two types of drop-in single visit activities:

- 1) Point of Sale (POS) – Activities that are administered by POS are those that do not have space limitations and therefore do not require a customer to pre-book or pay in advance (i.e., open gym, bridge, lane swim, water walking, table tennis, public skate or swim). A customer pays for a single admission at the front desk and goes directly to their activity.
- 2) Book-a-Visit (BAV) – Activities that are administered using BAV are high-demand and include pickleball, badminton, volleyball, basketball, table tennis, racquetball/squash, soccer, stick and puck, masters swim and membership fitness classes. A customer books a visit either online, over the phone or in person in advance of their activity and a spot is held for them. BAV was implemented during the pandemic as a way to ensure monitoring and adherence to PHO capacity limits. Post-COVID-19, BAV continues for some activities because it provides a more equitable and positive customer experience than POS drop-ins.

In 2022, drop-ins increased by 26% versus 2019 and the upward trend continues in 2023 (see Table 4). The increase is primarily due to customer demand for pickleball and a preference by some for drop-in activities rather than registering and paying for a full program session. Some of the increase is also due to the need in 2022 to use BAV to manage capacity limits for activities that did not require admission before (i.e., membership fitness and access to the fitness centre). These services will go back to being tracked by membership scans.

Table 4

	Annual Drop-ins			1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Drop-ins		
	2019	2022	% Increase	2022	2023	% Increase
POS Drop-In	326,995	239,096		81,244	81,608	
Book-A-Visit	N/A	171,770		N/A	51,008	
<b>Total</b>	326,995	410,866	26%	81,244	132,616	63%

### Facility Rentals

In 2022, NVRC provided 14,363 hours of rentals in pools, arenas, gyms and Centennial Theatre (see Table 5). Data on rentals of multipurpose rooms is not included in this report and will be in future reports.

Total revenues from rentals in 2022 were 9% below 2019, though are increasing in 2023 (see Table 5). While Centennial Theatre rentals are 20% lower in first quarter of 2023 compared to 2022, the trend in the theatre is positive and rentals are expected to be close to pre-pandemic levels by the end of June.

Table 5

Rentals	Annual	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter		
	2022	2022	2023	% Increase/Decrease
<b>Pools</b>	5,442 hours	1,322 hours	1,414 hours	+7%
<b>Arenas</b>	6,768 hours	1,919 hours	1,926 hours	+ .03%
<b>Gyms</b>	708 hours	708 hours	1,244 hours	+75.7%
<b>Centennial Theatre</b>	1,445 hours	491 hours	392 hours	-20%

#### Notes:

- In aquatics, the increase between the first quarter of 2022 and 2023 reflects the return of swim clubs that did not rent pool time during the pandemic. It is anticipated that in 2023 pool rentals will reflect typical allocations.

- Demand for ice time in 2023 continues to exceed what can be allocated however all rental groups are being given the same or more hours than they had pre-pandemic. Gym rentals have increased by 75% due in large part to the opening of Lions Gate Community Recreation Centre and reopening community access to the Sutherland Secondary School gymnasium.

**CONCLUSION:**

NVRC plays a key role in supporting the community's demand for indoor and outdoor recreation and culture experiences. It provides a variety of services to meet the different needs and preferences of the community including programs and lessons, membership activities, drop-in activities and the services provided by rental groups.

The disruption of NVRC's services due to the pandemic was deeply felt by the community. Opportunities to recreate, have an outlet for creative expression, socialize, build or maintain important competencies and have fun were severely limited. Throughout the pandemic, NVRC's approach was to offer as much as was allowed. This meant being attentive to every shift in the PHOs and quickly mobilizing and coordinating the efforts of all NVRC teams.

The data presented shows that participation in all types of NVRC services is increasing in 2023. Staff will continue to monitor participation rates and revenue to help inform service and budget planning.



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