



MEETING OF THE NORTH VANCOUVER RECREATION & CULTURE COMMISSION

Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 5:00 pm

VIA TEAMS

MEETING AGENDA

I. Call to Order - Indigenous Acknowledgement

- "On behalf of the Commissioners and those present, I express my gratitude to the Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, and I appreciate the opportunity to learn, live and share experiences on these traditional and unceded territories. North Vancouver Recreation & Culture is committed to building relationships with First Nation communities and this acknowledgement is one small step in honoring their culture, history and stewardship of the land."

II. Approval of the Agenda

III. Adoption of the Minutes of the Last Meeting Attachment

IV. Arts & Culture Grants Appeal Attachment

V. Mandate; Vision, Goals and Commitments Attachments

VI. Arts Strategy Attachment

VII. Director's Update Attachment

VIII. Other Business

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 4:30 pm via Teams.

X. Adjournment



Meeting of the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission

Thursday, May 23, 2024, 5:00 pm

Via Teams

MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners in attendance: Councillor Lisa Muri, DNV (Chair)
Mayor Linda Buchanan, CNV (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Angela Girard, CNV
Mayor Mike Little, DNV
Dr. Leanne McCarthy, CNV CAO
David Stuart, DNV CAO
Heather Turner, Director of Recreation & Culture

Staff: Mike Hunter, Deputy Director
Jennifer Wilson, Manager, Strategic Initiatives
Christine Walker, Acting Manager of Recreation
Karen Pighin, Cultural Services Supervisor
Veronica Labrosse, Executive Assistant

I. Call to Order – Indigenous Acknowledgment

Chair Muri called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm and provided the following Indigenous Acknowledgement:

- “On behalf of the Commissioners and those present, I express my gratitude to the Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, and I appreciate the opportunity to learn, live and share experiences on these traditional and unceded territories. North Vancouver Recreation & Culture is committed to building relationships with First Nation communities and this acknowledgement is one small step in honoring their culture, history and stewardship of the land.”

II. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Commissioner Little; **seconded** by Commissioner Buchanan

THAT the meeting agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

III. Adoption of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Little; **seconded** by Commissioner Buchanan

THAT the minutes of the April 4, 2024, meeting be adopted.

Carried

IV. 2024 Arts & Culture Grants: Late Intake

Chair Muri asked Karen Pighin, Cultural Services Supervisor, to speak to the report. K. Pighin mentioned Stacie Graham, Arts & Culture Grants Review Committee Chair, was in attendance and that this was her last meeting.

Following a question from Commissioner Buchanan on the Community Events grant process and the annual Remembrance Day event coordinated by North Shore Veterans' Council Canada, Chair Muri asked for staff to investigate another funding mechanism to provide more stability to the group which would not require the organisation to apply every year. Commissioner Turner advised this will be reviewed by staff and brought back to the Commission.

Moved by Commissioner Buchanan; **seconded** by Commissioner Little

THAT the Commission approve Arts & Culture grants in the amount of \$108,500 comprised of \$66,500 for Programming and Projects Assistance grants, \$38,500 for Celebrations and Events Assistance grants, and \$3,500 for a Community Public Art grant, as set out below:

- Deep Cove Heritage Society: \$5,000
- Musart Cultural Society: \$5,500
- Blackout Arts Society: \$21,000
- Laudate Singers Society: \$15,000
- Vancouver Iranian Choir: \$2,000
- Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia: \$18,000
- Lynn Valley Community Association: \$1,000
- North Shore Veterans' Council Canada: \$4,500
- Coho Society of the North Shore: \$10,000
- Artists for Conservation International Foundation: \$15,500
- Belweder North Shore Polish Association: \$7,500
- Artists for Kids: \$3,500

Carried

Chair Muri thanked K. Pighin and S. Graham for their attendance.

V. Sport & Recreation Travel Grant Application

Moved by Commissioner Stuart; **seconded** by Commissioner McCarthy

THAT the Commission approve a Sport & Recreation Travel Grant in the amount of \$1,000 for the North Vancouver Football Club in support of their team's participation in the Club America Championships held in San Diego, California on May 25-27, 2024.

Carried

Following discussion on formal delegation of authority to staff, a second motion was brought forward.

Moved by Commissioner Stuart; **seconded** by Commissioner McCarthy

THAT the Commission delegate authority to staff to approve future Sport and Recreation Travel grants.

Carried

VI. Director's Update

Commissioner Turner spoke to items in the report.

VII. Other Business

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

VIII. Next Meeting

Chair Muri advised the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 17 at 5:00 pm via Teams.

IX. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Little; **seconded** by Commissioner Buchanan

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 5:31 pm.

Carried

Approved:

Recorded by:

Lisa Muri, Chair

Veronica Labrosse, Executive Assistant

Date

Commission Meeting Date:

July 17, 2024

Report Author: Karen Pighin, Cultural Services Supervisor

Subject: Arts & Culture Grants Appeal

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Commission approve the recommendation of the Arts & Culture Grants Appeal Committee to maintain the 2024 grant as initially awarded to the Belweder North Shore Polish Association in the amount of \$7,500.

BACKGROUND:

At the May 23, 2024 Commission meeting, the Commission approved a grant in the amount of \$7,500 to the Belweder North Shore Polish Association (the Association) for Arts Festival Assistance. In accordance with policy, the Notice of Award was sent to the Association following the Commission meeting. Subsequently, the Association contacted staff to discuss an appeal and a formal appeal was filed on June 19, 2024.

Grounds to appeal a grant recommendation are:

- Policy has been incorrectly applied or procedures have not been followed and there is reason to believe that these omissions have had a detrimental impact on the grant recommendation.
- There is reason to believe that there was a significant misunderstanding of information submitted in the original application.

An Appeal Committee of the Arts & Culture Grants Review Committee (ACGRC) met on June 26, 2024 to consider the appeal.

DISCUSSION:

The Association's appeal included a response to feedback provided by the ACGRC related to the marketing plan, human resources, sponsorship, financial position and rationale to receive a three-year grant. It also provided new budget information showing increased costs for artists from out-of-province, a screen rental and advertising.

Based on the information submitted, the Appeal Committee recommends the 2024 grant to the Belweder North Shore Polish Association remain at \$7,500 and for a single year, in recognition that the group's funding request may change in future years.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

None

CONCURRENCE AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:

The Appeal Committee has conducted a review of the appeal and made a recommendation to the Commission. The Belweder North Shore Polish Association is aware of the process and will be advised of the Commission's decision.

POLICY/AUTHORITY:

The authority to allocate funding in accordance with the Arts and Culture Grants Policy is delegated to the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission (NVRC) by the City of North Vancouver and District of North Vancouver. A process was established several years ago for any grant applicant who wishes to formally appeal the decision of the Commission.

The Commission has final authority with respect to appeals.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the parameters for an appeal and the information provided through the appeal process, the Appeal Committee believes the previously approved grant of \$7,500 is appropriate to enable the Belweder North Shore Polish Association to deliver a free arts festival that promotes Polish culture in North Vancouver.



Jennifer Wilson
Manager of Strategic Initiatives



Heather A. Turner
Director of Recreation and Culture

Commission Meeting Date:

July 17, 2024

Report Author: Heather Turner, Director of Recreation & Culture

Subject: Mandate; Vision, Goals and Commitments

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Commission approve the Mandate; and Vision, Goals and Commitments (Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND:

The mandate of the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission (NVRC) is outlined in the Establishing Bylaws approved by the City of North Vancouver (CNV) and District of North Vancouver (DNV) Councils. The Commission has determined a number of desired changes to the mandate which will ultimately require approval by both Councils.

The NVRC's Strategic Plan is due for renewal and revised Vision, Goals and Commitments have been drafted based on the Commission's recommended mandate changes. This document may be further refined in 2025.

DISCUSSION:

Through discussions of the Commission, a number of desired revisions to the mandate have been identified. Some of the revisions are to have greater alignment with the Strategic Plans of the CNV and DNV, and others are a shift in role. The notable shifts are for NVRC to be the:

- **Leader** of processes to identify recreation needs for outdoor services, facilities and venues, and primary liaison to outdoor facility and venue user groups;
- **Coordinator** of the setting and reviewing of fees for outdoor facilities and venues to be consistent with indoor fees, and to ensure coordinated consultation with user groups;
- **Provider** of input into park, playground and plaza design to support recreation, sport and arts;
- **Supporter and provider** of a variety of community events to connect residents, showcase arts, and to enable permitted use and enjoyment of public spaces; and the

- **Lead convenor** of consultation and information-sharing with and between those interested in arts, sport and recreation services.

In addition, NVRC will support municipal plans to provide temporary respite and shelter for residents as required due to extreme weather and emergencies.

The recommended Vision, Goals and Commitments reflect the mandate revisions and recognize that recreation and arts services are drivers of the health and wellbeing of residents, and are important and valued components of communities.

The Commission periodically reviews and revises the Strategic Plan and approves an annual Service/Priorities plan consistent with the Strategic Plan.

COMMUNICATION AND CONCURRENCE:

Once approved by the Commission, the Mandate will be recommended to both Councils. The Vision, Goals and Commitments will be communicated to Councils, staff, community organizations and the general public.

CONCLUSION:

The NVRC's new governance body has had a number of strategic discussions, the first of which related to the Commission's mandate, vision, goals and commitments. These are foundational to further discussions regarding the partnership between the DNV and CNV for the joint planning and delivery of recreation and arts services.



Heather A. Turner
Director of Recreation & Culture



Mandate of the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission

The District of North Vancouver and City of North Vancouver are committed to the joint delivery of quality recreation and arts services to residents of both municipalities, and mandate the Commission, on behalf of the District and the City to:

- a) Optimize opportunities for personal growth, health and wellness, connecting to others and enhanced quality of life for all North Vancouver residents through recreation and arts;
- b) Plan, deliver and evaluate programs, services, facilities, venues, events and art to benefit the community as a whole;
- c) Make recommendations to both municipalities regarding indoor and outdoor recreation, art and sport facilities, amenities, services, process improvements, fees, strategies and plans in response to changing needs;
- d) Approve municipal grants to support arts, recreation and sport, and make recommendations on applicable grant programs and policies;
- e) Recommend content and implement Council-approved plans, strategies and policies related to recreation and arts; and
- f) Support City and District plans and efforts to provide temporary shelter for residents due to extreme weather, emergencies, etc.



Vision, Goals and Commitments of the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission

Vision

- All residents are inspired and enabled to be active, creative and connected to their community.
- The livability and vibrancy of North Vancouver is enhanced through opportunities and places for all to recreate, celebrate, play, create and connect.

Goals

1. Improve health and wellbeing of individuals and families
 - Provide indoor and outdoor opportunities for all residents to be active, play and create, regardless of their circumstances.
 - Ensure the provision of outlets for expression, celebration and interpretation.
2. Foster community connections
 - Create opportunities for all individuals to feel a sense of belonging, connection to others and to the community.
 - Celebrate North Vancouver's diversity and uniqueness through events, public art and services.
3. All residents value recreation and arts services whether they use them or not.

We will be guided by our commitments to:

- Equitable access for all
- Innovation and creativity to respond to changing needs
- Informed decision-making based on data, community insights and professional expertise
- Inclusivity, collaboration and engagement
- Responsible resource stewardship

Commission Meeting Date:

July 17, 2024

Report Author: Jennifer Wilson, Manager, Strategic Initiatives

Subject: Arts Strategy

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT this report be received for information.

BACKGROUND:

Capital funds have been approved for the Commission to develop an Arts Strategy. Part of the Commission's mandate is to recommend strategic direction for the arts. This strategy will replace the 2002 Cultural Plan, include engagement from the arts community and the general public, and align with the City of North Vancouver (CNV)'s and District of North Vancouver (DNV)'s strategic plans.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of the Arts Strategy is to establish a shared vision for the arts in North Vancouver and recommend a set of priorities to support realization of the vision.

The process will include:

- Developing a vision for the arts that aligns with the two municipal strategic plans;
- Gathering input from residents about their needs and satisfaction with the arts services in the community;
- Reporting on the strength, opportunities and challenges expressed by local arts organization and artists;
- An assessment of City and District-owned arts spaces and identification of opportunities and priorities;
- Identifying gaps in arts services and options to address the gaps;
- Developing a prioritized list of actions and strategies; and
- Identifying measures, evaluation processes and reporting mechanisms.

A Request for Proposals for a consultant experienced in arts and culture will be issued shortly and the selection is anticipated to be made by early fall. Once the consultant is chosen, the work plan will be developed through a collaborative process.

The Commission will be consulted as appropriate in the process and will be provided with updates on the progress and timelines.

COMMUNICATION AND CONCURRENCE:

The scope for the strategy has been developed with input from CNV and DNV staff, key community arts organizations, the Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation. Once the work plan is set, a communication and engagement plan will be developed.

CONCLUSION:

An Arts Strategy will provide a roadmap for decisions that can enhance community wellbeing through the arts by fostering health and wellness, creativity, inclusion, vitality, pride and a sense of belonging.



Heather A. Turner
Director of Recreation & Culture

Commission Meeting Date:

July 17, 2024

Subject: Director's Update

Optimizing Human, Fiscal and Physical Resources and Systems

Work continues on the **Indoor/Outdoor Recreation & Sport Facility and Amenity Assessment:**

- The project Steering Committee is in the process of refining the draft report, with the internal review process continuing through the summer. The draft assessment as well as the "What We Heard" report with the details of phase 1 of the community engagement process will be presented to the Commission at the September meeting. With the Commission's support, the reports will be shared with the community for feedback with the goal of having a final draft ready for the Commission's consideration in the fall, and then both Councils.
- The assessment will provide principle-based recommendations on priorities for indoor and outdoor facilities and amenities that will form the foundation for more detailed planning by the City of North Vancouver (CNV) and District of North Vancouver (DNV)'s Parks and Facilities teams. Both municipalities are updating their respective Parks and Open Space Strategic Plans which will refine the analysis, identify actions and implementation timelines, and propose specific projects for consideration in the 10-year capital plans.
- The municipalities are also currently advancing a number of supporting plans that address specific aspects of the outdoor recreation landscape, including the DNV's Sport Court Strategy, Natural Areas Trails Strategy, artificial turf field capital projects, the CNV's Tennis Courts Feasibility Assessment, and the Outdoor Recreation Fees and Charges Study. These projects are being advanced in coordination with NVRC's community-wide facility and amenity assessment process.
- The work to date confirms that recreation and sport are an important part of the social fabric of North Vancouver, and that residents are generally satisfied with the quality and quantity of amenities available. A comparison with similar jurisdictions across Canada demonstrates that the provision of amenities in North Vancouver typically meets or exceeds the levels of service in most communities. That said, there are opportunities to enhance some amenities to address evolving community expectations and to better support equity-deserving neighbourhoods. Longer-term, the challenge will be maintaining or adapting existing service levels as North Vancouver continues to grow.

As the **Lynn Creek Community Recreation Centre** (LCCRC) nears completion, preparations are taking shape:

- This spring, the programming team hosted three pop-up consultations, attended an Indigenous event (hosted by NVRC Events) and a Youth Week picnic pop-up. At each of these events the LCCRC team engaged with the local community to understand which programs and services are desired. There are additional pop-ups planned throughout the summer including two youth events.
- Summer programming is also occurring in the Lynn Creek area with day camps and fitness classes taking place outdoors at Seyllynn Park.

IT Services has renewed their focus on improving efficiency and internal communication, as well as providing quality, timely data:

- In June, significant progress was made on the Arts & Culture Grants Application which will streamline the process for both grant applicants and staff.
- Working closely with DNV IT and their consultants, NVRC will participate in an IT Services Review over the coming months, seeking opportunities for increased efficiency and security.

Proactively Respond to Recreation and Culture Needs

June was **Indigenous History Month**. NVRC retained Indigenous artists, primarily from the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation and sə́lwlətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nation, to offer opportunities to explore, learn and celebrate Indigenous culture.

- Over 550 people participated in the 11 concerts, weaving and beading workshops offered across North Vancouver.
- NVRC also encouraged people to visit North Vancouver's public art collection at <https://www.nvrc.ca/arts-culture/public-art/art-collection> and tour the numerous works by Indigenous artists.

NVRC celebrated **Indigenous History Month** organization-wide offering 12 [events](#) to the public and staff from dreamcatcher-making, cedar mat and wool weaving workshops to live performances and public art tours. Staff were also provided opportunities to learn about the history and present of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation and sə́lwlətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nation.

In preparation for summer programs and services, over 300 staff received training in June. Staff groups included Customer Service Representatives (CSR), Aquatics staff and Summer Camp Leaders. Information on the upcoming transition to the Swim for Life Swim Lesson program for school-aged children was a key focus area for both the CSR and Aquatics training. Summer Camp training focused on a wide variety of topics including safety and supervision, extreme weather response, professionalism, outdoor nature training, conflict resolution and more.

Centennial Theatre concluded its 2023/2024 season following a very busy May and June, with 44 booked dates for dance and end-of-school-year events (up from 34 the previous year). The summer months are typically a low season for bookings, allowing staff to focus on repairs and maintenance in preparation for the fall. This September, all weekend dates are booked. The number of confirmed and tentative bookings for September has risen to 15 (from six in 2023).

From July 4 to 6, **the Centennial Theatre and Special Events teams combined their skills to present an innovative event, Culture Paths, at Whey-ah-Wichen/Cates Park.** Approximately 75 people attended and the feedback for this unique outdoor event was very positive. Instead of a traditional static audience, small groups were guided to three distinct locations within the park, each featuring a unique 15-minute micro-performance, concluding with a 45-minute grand finale performance. A mobile-friendly version of the event was also offered.

NVRC was a major funding partner of the [Canada Day at The Shipyards](#) event organized by Rotary Club of Lions Gate.

Extended our Effectiveness through Collaboration

Inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility (IDEA):

- NVRC has actively participated in the **DNV Accessibility Implementation Plan** process. An executive summary was presented to ACDI (North Shore Advisory Community on Disability Issues) for feedback at the June 27 meeting.
- The **North Vancouver Municipal IDEA Working Group** is scheduled to meet in July, continuing to foster important collaboration across the CNV, DNV, libraries, museum (MONOVA) and North Shore Emergency Management (NSEM). The group's purpose is to coordinate IDEA plans and actions, and share resources to improve consistency, quality and efficiency.

NVRC's Access Services wrapped up a successful year (September 2023 to June 2024) of program delivery, providing low-barrier and supported recreation and culture opportunities in collaboration with community service providers. These programs take place in NVRC facilities, are facilitated by NVRC staff with support from the partner agencies, and are designed to provide a safe and welcoming experience that will encourage ongoing participation in NVRC programs and facilities.

Access Services extends NVRC's reach into the community by working with agencies to connect with newcomers and provide information sessions on programs and services, the Financial Assistance Program, how to navigate NVRC's website and how to register for programs (including on the first day of registration). Staff recently met with the Harvest Project, Lookout Society and Impact North Shore and have worked with Impact North Shore and SD44 to provide presentations to new immigrant parents both virtually and in-person at Norgate Elementary School.

Enhance Understanding of the Scope and Impacts of our Services

Targeted promotional campaigns were implemented to raise awareness of and encourage participation in: Indigenous History Month events and workshops; summer registration; Culture Paths event; Live & Local summer events; summer camps; school-age swim lessons transition; outdoor youth pop-up events; the final Aspiring Musicians Performance Series (AMPS) concert on June 2; call for artists for in-facility art displays; and, artist in residence talk and show opening on July 4. Campaigns in progress include the opening of LCCRC; themed swims and water safety education at Ron Andrews CRC over the summer; and a call for members for the Arts & Culture Grants Committee.

NVRC's Indigenous History Month events were highlighted in a *North Shore News* article about events across the North Shore: [How to engage with National Indigenous History Month on the North Shore](#).

Proactive media pitches resulted in two articles about the Culture Paths event being published. One in the *North Shore News*: [Unique outdoor performance festival to debut in Deep Cove](#) and one in *The Georgia Straight*: ["Culture Paths" brings micro-performances to North Van](#). The *North Shore News* pitch also resulted in an article being published about one of the Culture Paths performers, ventriloquist Don Bryan, which mentioned his participation in the Culture Paths event: [North Vancouver artist breathes life into ventriloquism](#).

An interview with the *North Shore News* about the Live & Local summer event series took place July 8 with an article expected to be published shortly.

Wayne Elderton, Tennis Director for the North Vancouver Tennis Centre since it opened in 1999, was recently awarded **Tennis Canada's "Ari Novick Service to the Game Award"**. This national award is presented annually to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the game of tennis in Canada for over 10 years.



Heather A. Turner
Director of Recreation & Culture