

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL**

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

**SUBJECT: REFERRAL TO STAFF - BURNABY ARTS COUNCIL ANNUAL  
OPERATING GRANT**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT** the report titled “Burnaby Arts Council Annual Operating Grant”, of the Executive Committee of Council meeting of May 5, 2025, be **REFERRED** to staff to provide additional information on how the funding will be allocated by Burnaby Arts Council, and report back to Executive Committee of Council at a future meeting.

**REPORT**

The Executive Committee of Council, at its meeting held on May 5, 2025, received the attached report seeking Council approval of the Burnaby Arts Council’s annual operating funding of \$25,000, ensuring it remains eligible for funding from other levels of government.

The Committee noted the importance of understanding how the operating funding will be allocated.

As a result, the original recommendation in the report was not moved and the above recommendation was moved and seconded.

The recommendation is now before Council for final approval.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of  
Council,

Councillor S. Dhaliwal  
Chair

Councillor P. Calendino  
Vice Chair

**TO:** EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL (ECC)  
**FROM:** GENERAL MANAGER PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE  
**SUBJECT:** **BURNABY ARTS COUNCIL ANNUAL OPERATING GRANT**  
**PURPOSE:** To seek Council approval of the Burnaby Arts Council's annual operating funding of \$25,000, ensuring it remains eligible for funding from other levels of government.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** an operating contribution of \$25,000 be awarded to the Burnaby Arts Council for the 2025 fiscal year, as outlined in the report "Burnaby Arts Council Annual Operating Grant", dated May 5, 2025.

## **1.0 POLICY SECTION**

City support for the Burnaby Arts Council (BAC) is aligned with the following Council-adopted policies, plans, and strategies: The Burnaby Economic Development Strategy (2007), the Social Sustainability Strategy (2011), the Benefits Based Approach (2023) and the Corporate Strategic Plan (2017)

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

Since 2000, the City has supported BAC with annual operating funding of \$25,000 and access to a facility that is owned and maintained by the City. The City's contribution provides stability and service continuity while leveraging additional partnerships and funding to support BAC services and programs.

BAC faced significant financial and organizational difficulty in 2024, eventually leading to the departure of key staff and a pause in public-facing programs. On November 4, 2024, Council directed staff to contract consulting support to support the organization to structure a new, sustainable operating model. This initiative is funded in the draft 2025 budget with a \$75,000 one-time allocation and the selection process is underway. The award will be completed in April and a final report anticipated this fall.

In the meantime, the BAC has engaged in its membership and begun the development of a new Strategic Plan that will guide its next steps. The Board consists of a mix of

long-term and new members who are committed to overseeing this next chapter of organizational renewal.

### **3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION**

BAC is a non-profit and charitable organization which has operated in Burnaby since 1967, with a mandate to promote, support and expand the arts. BAC currently has a volunteer board, non-paid staff, and membership of over 140 individuals and twenty-member groups. It operates the Deer Lake Gallery in Deer Lake Park and provides a variety of programs and services, including monthly community arts exhibitions and special events. It is a unique non-profit arts organization in Burnaby. Since its inception, the Arts Council has experienced change, both in its organizational composition as well as in the programs and events that it leads. A constant has been its mission to expand cultural activity in Burnaby for emerging and early career artists and to ensure that artist development and support is occurring at a grassroots level in addition to the complementary professional programming at the Burnaby Art Gallery and Shadbolt Centre for the Arts. The BAC estimates that 80% of its audience and program participants are Burnaby residents.

The City has historically provided operating funding and in-kind support to the BAC due to the strong alignment between both organizations in cultural priorities. The City's provision of operating funding ensures that the BAC remains eligible for funding through the BC Arts Council and other levels of government. Other revenue sources include BC Gaming, memberships, individual contributions, donations, raffles, sponsorships, and program fees.

During this period of operational pause and engagement in renewal, the City's funding will support BAC in managing general operating expenses, and some limited public and member facing activities.

### **4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

All organizations receiving City funding must acknowledge support in all promotional materials and communications including brochures, posters, advertisements, websites, news releases, signs, etc. with the City's logo.

### **5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The operating grant is allocated from the Parks, Recreation and Culture – Culture Division's approved 2025 operating budget and there is no impact on other community grants.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morrison-Clark, General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture

## **REPORT CONTRIBUTORS**

This report was prepared by Yvonne Chui, Manager Arts Services, and reviewed by Emmaline Hill, Director Culture.