



Burnaby Arts Council
6584 Deer Lake Avenue
Burnaby, BC V5G 3T7

May 13, 2025

Executive Committee of Council
City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

Subject: Request for 2025 Operating Contribution

Dear Members of the Executive Committee,

On behalf of the Burnaby Arts Council, I am writing to respectfully request the continuation of the City of Burnaby's annual operating contribution of \$25,000 for the 2025 fiscal year. This foundational funding, which you have generously provided for the past 24 years, not only enables the BAC to deliver inclusive, community-focused arts programming that strengthens Burnaby's social and cultural vitality, but also helps cover essential operating expenses, as outlined in the attached budget. These include staffing and ongoing administrative costs—both significant for an organization of our size.

Since 1967, the BAC has championed local artists and creative expression through exhibitions, performances, and events from our home at the Deer Lake Gallery. In 2025, we will continue to foster community connection through a dynamic range of programming:

- **Live at the Gallery:** Monthly gatherings that combine local performances, open mic sessions, and rotating visual art exhibitions.
- **Summer Arts Festival:** A celebration of Indigenous artistry and hands-on creativity, featuring performances, workshops, and curated exhibits.
- **Thematic Exhibitions:** Including a showcase of local photographers and *Clocking In for Unpaid Labour*, exploring themes of work and identity.
- **Winter Craft Festival:** Now in its 55th year, this cherished holiday tradition brings together artists, artisans, and the public.
- **Scholarships:** Supporting Burnaby high school students pursuing post-secondary arts education.

These initiatives build community, support artists, and promote civic pride. However, like many cultural organizations, we continue to face financial challenges. Recovery efforts across Canada

highlight the need for stable, local investment to rebuild and sustain arts infrastructure. The City's support directly contributes to our stability and allows us to leverage additional funding from provincial sources, such as the BC Arts Council and the Community Gaming Grant—both of which require that we have year-round, impactful programming in order to receive continued funding.

With a newly energized Board of Directors and an upcoming Organizational Review and Renewal in partnership with a consultant firm, we are strategically positioning ourselves for a stronger future. The \$25,000 operating grant would provide essential support during this renewal, enabling us to continue serving Burnaby residents and contributing to Council's strategic goals.

We are deeply grateful for the City's longstanding support, including the use of 6584 Deer Lake Avenue and the generous in-kind contributions that help sustain our operations. Quite simply, we could not do this work without the City of Burnaby's partnership. Your investment has been instrumental in allowing us to offer meaningful cultural programming, foster artistic growth, and serve the people of Burnaby. As we move forward with the guidance of a professional consultant and a renewed Board of Directors, we are excited to strengthen our organization and deepen our impact. With the City's continued support, we are confident in our ability to navigate this critical period of renewal and build an even more vibrant future for the arts in our community.

Thank you for your continued support and consideration.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Anna Parolin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maria Anna Parolin
Co-President, Burnaby Arts Council