

Terms of Reference

Arts Advisory Committee



Background

Prior to 2021, the City had two (2) advisory bodies: Arts Commission and Public Art Advisory Committee;

At the direction of Council, staff reviewed the mandates of the advisory bodies and proposed the development of a new, single advisory body, the Arts Advisory Committee (AAC);

The intention of the change was to:

- Streamline the existing advisory functions;
- Maintain the specialized function of the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC); and,
- Reflect the goals and vision of the Arts Strategy and the City's commitment to equity and reconciliation;

The Terms of Reference for the AAC was approved by Council in November 2021;

Vision/Goal Statement

The Vision/Goal Statement for the AAC is as follows:

The Arts Advisory Committee is a conduit for communication and engagement, providing advice and recommendations to staff, the Culture and Economic Development Task Force, and Council on arts-related civic programs and civic art matters including Public Art.

The AAC will work to support and strengthen the arts in New Westminster for the benefit of all citizens, recognizing those community members that have historically been disadvantaged and excluded from civic processes including BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of colour), persons with developmental, physical, and acquired disabilities, and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.

Mandate

- Provide advice and support regarding the implementation of the Arts Strategy, Theatre Strategy, Public Art Policy, Public Art Plan and other related Council adopted Strategic Plans;
- Advise on strategies for ongoing and meaningful inclusion, ensuring representation of diverse voices and equity in all arts-related plans, policies and opportunities;
- Be a voice for the broad needs of the arts community to inform the City's strategic policies and land use initiatives as required;
- Provide advice and support to staff in regards to engagement and audience development initiatives;
- Serve as a public engagement platform for the Culture and Economic Development Task Force.

Membership

The Committee shall consist of up to sixteen (16) members as follows:

- Members of Council (2)
- Arts Council of New Westminster representative (1)
- Education Sector representative (1)
- Local NFP Arts Sector representative (2)
- Artists – New Westminster-based (3)
- Artists – Other (1)
- Arts Professional (1)
- Urban designers, architects, landscape architects (2)
- Community representatives including youth (3) with broad representation of the City's demographics, including the Indigenous community.

Membership

Through its membership the AAC will strive to:

- Remove barriers to participation
- Ensure diverse representation for BIPOC and equity-seeking community members and artists;
- Reflect a diversity of lived experience;
- Include youth voices and perspectives; and,
- Ensure a balance of expertise that aligns with the
- Committee function.

The term “equity-seeking” refers to those in the community that face entrenched marginalization due to attitudinal, historic, social and environmental barriers including age, ethnicity, disability, economic status, gender, nationality, race, sexual orientation or transgender status.

AAC & Public Art

As stated in the Public Art Policy, the AAC's role is to provide expert community input on public art, and to:

- Promote awareness and encourage dialogue around public art;
- Recommend and advise on public art policies, guidelines, plans and issues;
- Review public art project plans and allocations to ensure alignment with the Policy and guiding principles;
- Act as a resource to City Council and staff;
- Advise the City on public art issues and current topics relevant to public art;
- Advise and consult on specific issues, such as donations or deaccessioning of public art;
- Nominate one of their members to serve on the selection panel for specific art projects as a non-voting representative;
- Support Public Art staff in carrying out the purpose of the Public Art Policy.

