

# **REPORT**

## ***Office of the Chief Administrative Officer***

**To:** Mayor Cote and Members of Council      **Date:** November 1, 2021

**From:** Lisa Spitale  
Chief Administrative Officer      **File:**

**Item #:** [Report Number]

**Subject: Arts Advisory Committee**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council approve the establishment of the Arts Advisory Committee;

THAT Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Committee as attached to this report;

THAT Council repeal the Arts Commission bylaw in order to facilitate this governance transition.

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### **PURPOSE**

To receive Council's approval to establish the Arts Advisory Committee and approve the Committee Terms of Reference. Staff are also requesting that Council repeal the existing Arts Commission bylaw in order to facilitate this governance transition.

### **SUMMARY**

Following a review of the existing mandate of the Arts Commission and Public Art Advisory Committee, and in response to direction received from Council to centralize the City's arts advisory functions, staff are recommending that a new Arts Advisory Committee (AAC) be established to replace the existing advisory bodies.

The new AAC will serve 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.

This transition will require Council's repeal of the existing Arts Commission bylaw.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2019, the City Task Forces were created in alignment with the City's Strategic Priorities, which included the establishment of the Culture and Economic Development Task Force. The same report recommended streamlining the advisory committee structure within the City and to bring the function of the PAAC within the existing Arts Commission. The goal was to establish a single overarching advisory body for the Arts in New Westminster. Although the original direction from Council was to complete the transition in January 2021, due to the impact of COVID-19, the existing committee structure was extended to January 2022.

## **ANALYSIS**

### **Intent of the Arts Advisory Committee**

As noted, the intent of the AAC is to streamline advisory functions of the Arts Commission and the PAAC, continue to provide for the broad advisory function of the Arts Commission and to maintain the specialized function of the PAAC.

### **Arts Commission**

The Arts Commission, established in 2009, has played a key role in advancing the City's arts portfolio, including supporting the establishment of a professional staff team and dedicated civic arts infrastructure, the development of key strategic guiding documents and supporting a thriving and diverse civic arts program.

Over time, the role of the Arts Commission has shifted away from a governance function to a community advisory function and therefore no longer aligns with the Commission function as defined in the Community Charter.

### **Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC)**

The PAAC was developed to provide community input regarding public art policies, projects and procedures. The PAAC has supported the development of the program, guiding public and community art selection processes, recommending projects and priorities to Council and providing expert advice to City staff in regards to program implementation, collections maintenance and planning.

### **Review Process**

The Terms of Reference for the AAC as attached to this report was informed through consultation with the Culture and Economic Development Task Force as well as the existing Arts Commission and the Public Art Advisory Committee. All three bodies

endorsed the intent, roles and responsibilities and membership for the AAC as outlined in the draft Terms of Reference and provided specific feedback on engagement:

*Provide equitable engagement for not-for-profit arts and cultural organizations*

In addition to rotating membership representation on the AAC, all of the City's not-for-profit arts and cultural organizations will be given the opportunity to request to present to the AAC on an annual basis, thus providing an ongoing and equitable mechanism for all organizations to participate and share their activities, unique needs and challenges.

*Establish a relationship with the business and tourism sectors*

It is important that the AAC maintain a strong relationship with the local business and tourism sectors. In order to facilitate this direction, staff will work with the AAC to develop strategies for meaningful engagement with these key sectors.

*Develop alternative streams of engagement*

In addition to the formal advisory role of the AAC, staff will develop alternative streams of engagement such as sector-based round tables and informal meeting opportunities, in order to remove barriers and expand community connection.

## **OPTIONS**

Council is asked to consider the following options:

1. Approve the establishment of the Arts Advisory Committee;
2. Approve the Terms of Reference for the Committee;
3. Repeal the Arts Commission bylaw;
4. Provide staff with other direction.

Staff recommend Option 1, 2 and 3.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Draft Terms of Reference – Arts Advisory Committee

This report was prepared by:

Todd Ayotte, Manager of Community Arts and Theatre  
Jacqueline Killawee, City Clerk

This report was approved by:

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer