

3.11 Arts, Culture and Heritage

Arts and culture opportunities are an important component of life in the City of North Vancouver. Likewise, the City's heritage reflected in written historical accounts, artifacts and buildings, contributes positively to present day experiences of community members and visitors.

This section emphasizes the role that arts, culture, and heritage play in every day life in the City both socially and economically. Acknowledged in this section is the important role that municipal bodies such as the Arts Commission, Heritage Advisory Commission, and the City Library, along with other local arts groups play in maintaining arts, culture and heritage as a vital component of our community.

GOAL

Support and enhance the arts, cultural and heritage sector as a vital component of City life.

Objective 1: Recognize the importance of the arts and cultural sector.

Actions

The City will:

1. Continue to support the arts and culture policy role of the North Shore Arts Commission.
2. Continue to encourage and support the awareness, value and experience of arts and culture facilitated by existing and future arts organizations through the Arts Assistance Grant Program and other funding initiatives.
3. Develop and consider integration of Arts and Cultural Policies within City policy documents such as the Official Community Plan and the City's Strategic Plan.
4. Encourage further development of arts and cultural programming in a variety of locations through greater collaboration between the North Vancouver Community Arts Council, Recreation Commission and School District #44.

Objective 2: Support the development of a network of community and regional arts and cultural facilities that are easily accessible to the general public.

Actions

The City will:

1. Continue to support the use of public facilities for community arts programs, events, classes, displays, and related activities.
2. Continue to support the City Library as a community cultural facility.
3. Encourage the development of cultural programming, which is affordable and accessible to all community members, in a variety of community facilities.
4. Assist in the upgrading and development of facilities where existing facilities are inadequate to serve the local arts community and the general public.
5. Continue to participate in cooperative initiatives that seek to develop regional cultural facilities between North Shore municipalities and the School Boards, and which incorporate other funding partners.
6. Enhance the role of Centennial Theatre as one of the focal points in community arts programs and entertainment.

Objective 3: Recognize the importance of the arts as a sustainable source of economic growth, particularly through strategies which increase employment and tourism.

Actions

The City will:

1. Continue to support the development, upkeep, and promotion of destination arts facilities that attract local residents and tourists.
2. Develop policies to encourage the growth of cultural industries.
3. Utilize the results of the research of the Regional Cultural Plan Committee of the Greater Vancouver Regional District to assist in developing ideas for generating a local arts industry.

Objective 4: Support the preservation of the City's cultural heritage, and promote the appreciation of the City's history.

Actions

The City will:

1. Work with public and private agencies to foster awareness of the City's cultural heritage.
2. Continue to support the City's heritage conservation program and other initiatives of the Heritage Advisory Commission, such as protection of heritage buildings, the annual Heritage Weekend celebration and the Heritage Plaque program.
3. Preserve the community's historic artifacts and archives in a permanent public collection maintained by the North Vancouver Museum and Archives Commission.
4. Establish a Heritage Services Building, as a joint project with the District of North Vancouver, to store archival records and museum artifacts, as well as provide research and administration office space.
5. Establish, as a joint effort with the District of North Vancouver, a museum for exhibition of local artifacts, which will serve as a major cultural focal point.

Objective 5: Increase participation of members of the local arts community in City planning processes.

Actions

The City will:

1. Consult with the main arts organizations and the North Shore Arts Commission on funding and facilities issues.
2. Ensure that the main arts organizations and the North Shore Arts Commission are aware of opportunities for raising public awareness, and advertising of events and programming through City publications and communications tools.