Director	General Manager	CAO

The Corporation of **THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER**
INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORTATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT

INFORMATION REPORT

To: Mayor Linda Buchanan and Members of Council

From: Magda Kwaterska, Manager, The Shipyards and Waterfront

Subject: CULTURAL PROGRAMMING SUPPORT GRANT – "CULTURE MAKES THE CITY" – OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

Date: November 4, 2026 File No: 01-0360-20-0117/2025

ATTACHMENTS

1. Cultural Programming Support Recommendations Council Report, October 1, 2025 (CityDocs 2742461)
2. Cultural Programming Support – Update, Council Info Report, July 2, 2026 (CityDocs 2830460)

SUMMARY

The purpose of this information report is to advise Council that the *Culture Makes the City* programming grant program to support cultural programming by community groups throughout 2027, will be launched in mid-November.

Culture Makes The City is a new City of North Vancouver program that turns 2027 into a year-long celebration of local culture. Community groups can apply for grants of $1,000 to $25,000 to run cultural events and activities across the city. Funded activities join the celebration under one banner, and the City promotes the year as a whole.

The grant will be open for applications in November 2026 to support events being held throughout 2027.

Full details are available on the City's website – www.cnv.org/culturemakesthecity

BACKGROUND

In November 2025, following a comprehensive needs assessment, Council passed a motion to undertake key actions and associated pilot initiatives to support local cultural organizations in their event and festival production.

The key actions and associated pilot initiatives are:

- **Contribute** – establish a grant program to reduce cost barriers for local cultural event organizers.
- **Facilitate** – foster collaboration, increase capacity, encourage grassroots participation, and communicate the City's event permitting process and resources.
- **Amplify** – launch a marketing campaign to showcase the impact of local cultural events and strengthen community engagement.

This ongoing work builds on the efforts of Council's Multicultural Community Festival Task Force by identifying and implementing priority actions where City resources can have the greatest impact for both the community and local cultural event organizers.

The *Culture Makes the City* grants accomplish the contribute and amplify pilot initiatives. The grant seeks to:

- Build the capacity and sustainability of groups to host their own events, thereby ensuring authentic and community-rooted expression of diversity
- Help to address financial barriers related to events being experienced by community-led groups.

Culture Makes The City is more than a grant. It's a year-long celebration of the cultures that shape the City of North Vancouver.

Picture a lantern workshop in November. A storytelling night in March. A dance class in a neighbourhood park. A light installation on a fall evening. New groups trying new ideas, and familiar favourites growing.

Every funded activity becomes a chapter in that story. Grant recipients will join the celebration under the *Culture Makes The City* banner.

DISCUSSION

What the grant can fund

Below is a summary, full details are available on the program website: www.cnv.org/culturemakesthecity

The grant can fund community-led cultural events and activities that:

- take place in the City of North Vancouver in 2027
- are open to the public
- help people learn about, celebrate or showcase the City's cultural communities.

Think festivals, performances, film screenings, workshops, talks, cooking classes, storytelling, artisan markets, light shows and pop-up installations.

The grant can pay for the costs of putting on and promoting the activity. That includes equipment rental, insurance, staffing, artist fees, food and marketing. Reusable equipment able to be used again is eligible too.

It can't pay for core operating costs, past activity, fundraising events, travel, bursaries or contests, worship or religious instruction, or anything permanently installed on City land.

Funding is offered in three tiers, based on intent:

Tier	Amount	Best for
Tier 1	$1,000 to $3,000	Getting small events and activities off the ground. Short application and low reporting requirements.
Tier 2	$2,500 to $12,000	Strengthening existing events and programs. Fuller application and report post event.
Tier 3	$10,000 to $25,000	Helping established events and programs grow and last. Fullest application and report post event.

Who can apply

Community groups serving City of North Vancouver residents. Applicants can be based elsewhere, as long as your activity takes place in the City.

- Non-profit societies and registered charities
- Federal non-profit corporations
- Informal (non-incorporated) community groups*
- Individuals*
- Indigenous organizations and groups
- Artist collectives

*Individuals and informal groups can apply directly for Tier 1. For Tier 2 or 3, apply through a sponsor: an incorporated non-profit that holds the funds. New groups formed just for the activity are welcome.

Not eligible: businesses, faith and religious organizations, political parties, and educational institutions.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The grant is informed by the comprehensive Needs Assessment which included consultation through interviews with cultural festival and event subject matter experts, municipal colleagues and a focus group with local cultural organizations.

This engagement identified priority needs to lessen the burden of event costs from production to promotion (examples include: infrastructure rental, safety/security, waste management, staffing, marketing etc.).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding for this project is identified in the City's 2025-2029 Financial Plan.

An additional $30k will be brought forward for Council consideration as part of the process to develop a 2026-2030 Financial Plan. If approved, this additional funding would support community group programming needs throughout the year via a responsive fund with intake windows in May and September aligned with the event permit application deadlines.

$100,000 is anticipated to be offered via the grant:

- $70,000 in the main round in December 2026 (award in February 2027)
- $30,000 throughout 2027, Tiers 1 and 2 only (pending 2026-2030 Financial Plan endorsement)

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The grant program is being developed and delivered collaboratively by the City's Shipyards and Waterfront, Communications, Planning and Finance teams.

Grant applications will be assessed by a multidisciplinary panel of City staff and external participants with events, business and culture expertise.

STRATEGIC PLAN, OCP OR POLICY IMPLICATIONS

These actions will continue to support local community organizations to deliver opportunities for the community to learn, celebrate and showcase the diverse North Shore culture. Building the capacity out in the community will be a critical pathway to sustainable volunteer-led cultural and intercultural events and activities, and contribute to delivering on all of Council Strategic Plan Priorities:

- A City for People
- A Livable City
- A Vibrant City
- A Prosperous City

NEXT STEPS

The recommended grant recipients will be brought to Council for consideration in early 2027.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Magda Kwaterska
Manager, The Shipyards and Waterfront