

## **The Langley Arts Council**

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Aldergrove BVC  
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## **City of Langley**

20399 Douglas Crescent  
Langley, BC  
V3A 4B3

July 4, 2024

## **RE: Operating Agreement Request to the City of Langley from the Langley Arts Council**

### **Financial Request and Term Length**

The Langley Arts Council requests **\$50,087.41** in financial support for an Operating Agreement with the City of Langley to sustain its current operations.

Within this request, we are also providing an option for further partnership. A request of **\$69,087.41** which includes an additional **\$19,000** will support subsidized arts and cultural programming for city residents within the community.

For both agreements we are seeking funding support for a 3-year term starting in 2025, that includes the addition of an increase based on the Consumer Price Index for Metro Vancouver, starting in the second year to support the annual increase in inflation and the cost of living.

### **Rationale for Request**

- **Lack of consistent operational funding and project funding available to the organization amidst funding cuts by provincial and federal levels of government.**
- The Arts Council operates as a lean organization with limited staff and expenses. In 2024 – 2025 our organization received \$31,100 in annual operational core funding. Having \$31,100 in annual core funding makes it challenging to effectively manage finances and operations and mitigate risk for the organization. To supplement these funds, the Arts Council applies to take on specific ‘project grants’ which are not guaranteed and have a high risk for funding cuts through provincial, and federal levels of government.

- These 28,963 residents (2021) are provided with a satellite model of arts and cultural programming which requires additional funding to facilitate. As the Arts Council serves two municipalities, it serves just shy of 150,000 residents. The Maple Ridge Arts Council serves a similar population and receives \$809,065 from their municipality in support funding. See the attached appendix 1 for additional information.
- The rising demand for arts, cultural, and heritage programming within the City of Langley by arts professionals. This can be seen through an influx of collaboration requests from for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, instructor, performer, and artist applications.
- The additional financial challenges that come with supporting a community outside of which we operate.

#### Services Provided to Residents and Municipality

- Affordable and accessible arts programming offered in the form of classes and workshops, free community events, professional exhibition opportunities, markets, festivals, and more. This programming is available for all ages and offered at a range of artistic levels and mediums, to ensure there is something for everyone. See our Annual Report for 2023 – 2024 programming outcomes, how our operations have expanded, and our impact.
- Ability to secure funding streams that support programming for residents as it relates to arts, culture, heritage, and community initiatives. The funding available to the Arts Council is unavailable to the municipality, bringing in an influx of cash support for community building initiatives.
- The arts provide new work opportunities to the creative industry locally through contract work for events and programming, bringing this income into the local economy.
- The arts and arts programming builds social cohesion and intercultural understanding. The city has an increasingly diverse population which the Arts Council supports through its programming and collaborative efforts. An operating grant would support the Arts Council supporting these diverse communities as the arts are common ground and understanding within these networks.

#### Rationale for Agreement

- With the municipality's growing population, there will be a demand for more cultural services and offerings. These services will require additional funding, support and contribution from both municipalities.

- Across the Fraser Valley, Arts Councils are recognized for playing a key role in supporting arts, culture, and heritage. This is shown throughout the region in Operating Agreements or a Fee for Service Model. Both agreements include a long-term facility lease and an annual operating grant. As the Arts Council does not operate a facility within the Community, we have removed support for our hard facility costs. See the breakdown of Breakdown for Income for Operations for additional information.
- Demand for arts, culture, and heritage programming is increasing and currently exceeds our current capacity.
- The Arts Council provides additional services to residents within the municipality alleviating the workload for municipal staff.
- The Arts Council can adapt our programming and services to fulfill the community's needs. We integrate surveys into our operations to ensure we're continually auditing and monitoring our offerings.
- Arts Councils stimulate public interest in the arts; promote knowledge, appreciation, education, and support the practice of the arts.
- Support the city in serving communities that can be challenging to navigate and develop relationships.

#### Groups Supported by this Request and Served by Our Organization

- Youth, teens, children, and at-risk youth
- Young families
- Seniors
- 2SLGBTQI+ community
- Newcomers
- Women
- Racialized peoples
- Persons with disabilities
- Low-income households

#### Alignment between the Arts Council and the City of Langley Official Community Plan (OCP), and the City of Langley's Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan (PRCMP)

- Support theme three in the OCP's 'Big Themes' for a Safe & Inclusive Community Rich with Cultural Destinations. Under this theme, the Arts Council, and its current operations support nurturing cultural diversity and relationships.

- Assists the City in achieving 3 of the 5 goals outlined in the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan (PRCMP); Inclusive, accessible, affordable, a safe community, and improved connectivity.
- Supporting key recommendations outlined in the PRCMP of;
  - More visual and performing arts classes
  - More outdoor programs, events, and more partnerships
  - More focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Support the inclusion of local art and history within the community through our on-going programming options and support the encouragement of cultural expression.
- We develop programming that supports the cultural needs and aspirations of Langley City's diverse population through culturally relevant programs, services, and facilities.
- Provide on-going exhibition opportunities within the Timms Walkway Gallery that allow the viewing of original artworks in a free and accessible space.
- Support to the municipality as an arts programs partner for classes and workshops within the Timms Community Centre.
- Assists the City in developing a healthy and livable lifestyle by providing entertainment, employment, and community gathering opportunities close to home.
- Our organization seeks out creative ways to partner with the public and private sector to provide unique offerings and services to the community and has been successful in this initiative.
- Assisting in the provision of a variety of educational and cultural activities and facilities to help make the City of Langley attractive to business and tourists.
- We support the development of a strong community spirit through community services and programming that is inclusive, values all its members—regardless of age, culture, identity, and ability. With the objective of involving all residents in civic affairs and community life.
- Assisting in creating a strong sense of identity within the community along with beauty, creativity, and diversity that is critical to attracting and retaining the kind of talent, tourism market, and businesses that keep our economy strong.

#### Additional Recommendations that will be met through the Operating Agreement

- Collaborate and support the sustainability of service organizations to address the needs of those experiencing challenges.
- Stimulate economic & cultural growth through increased investment in arts and cultural amenities and services offered year-round.

- Support the City Staff and municipality by taking on some of the demand for programming off the municipality

Why Arts and Culture, and Heritage is a Strong Economic Investment

- Investing in arts, culture and heritage strengthens the economy. In 2021, the Government of Canada spent 1.9 billion on the country’s cultural sector. In the same year, arts, culture and heritage organizations contributed \$53.1 billion to Canada’s GDP.
- In 2022, Canada’s culture GDP rose 8.2% to 58.5 billion, with increases in all domains. The largest contribution was the visual and applied arts at \$1.4 billion.
- On the provincial level, B.C. spends \$40 million annually on arts, culture, and heritage. In 2022, British Columbia’s cultural share of the GDP was \$9.3 billion, or a 15.9% economic share.
- Arts culture and heritage build social cohesion and intercultural understanding within an increasingly diverse population. By starving cultural organizations, we reduce the vitality and resiliency of our communities and exacerbate many other problems facing a community.

Rationale to Operating Grant; Option 1

Option 1 is presented as the minimum request to sustain current services within the City of Langley.

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|---|---------------------|
| Wages Support (see the breakdown below) | \$ 50,087.41        |
| <b>Total Request</b>                    | <b>\$ 50,087.41</b> |

Rationale to Operating Grant; Option 2

Option 2 is to present additional programming within the City of Langley.

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| Wages Support (see the breakdown below)   | \$ 50,087.41 |
| <b>Additional Programming Requested by the Community to present free programming; Support the organization in becoming a Service provider for the municipality.</b> | \$ 19,000    |
| \$19,000 will provide <b>11 - 15</b> workshops  |              |

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| within the City of Langley. Includes instructor fees (\$9,000), rental fees (\$9,000), and supplies (\$1,000). |                     |
| <b>TOTAL Request</b>   | <b>\$ 69,087.41</b> |

Rationale for Option 2:

- Fulfills additional recommendations outlined in the OCP and PRCMP and supports municipal staff.
- These funds will be allocated to after-school programming within the City to supply the current demand.
- Provide short-term support for arts and cultural programming before creating a Performing Arts Centre.
- Assist in providing drop-in programming a trend outlined in the PRCMP that is affordable to those experiencing financial strain.
- Assists in providing more options allowing for additional surveys and responses for programming.

2024-2025 Breakdown for Income for Operations

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|--|----------------------|
| BC Arts Council Operational Grant<br>(confirmed eligibility to apply for 2024 – 2025, not reliable past this funding term)     | \$ 11,000            |
| BC Community Gaming Operational Grant<br>(confirmed eligibility to apply for 2024 – 2025, not reliable past this funding term) | \$ 20,100            |
| Funds Earned by the Arts Council to Support Operations   | \$ 88,341.04         |
| Township Operating Grant   | \$ 89,655.59         |
| City Operating Grant (less \$ 19,784.09 for facility costs of the Aldergrove Kinsmen Community Centre).                        | \$ 50,087.41         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$ 259,184.04</b> |

2024-2025 Year End Actuals

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|---|---|
| 2023 – 2024 (April 30 <sup>th</sup> year-end) | To be completed for the Arts Council’s October 2025 Annual General Meeting. |
| 2022 – 2023                                   | <b>\$ 221,142</b>   |
| 2021 - 2022                                   | <b>\$ 206,656</b>   |

Why Support Now?

- Covid Relief Resilience Funding is no longer available to the organization with limited access to operational funding. The Arts Council is seeking support to continue its operations and steady growth trajectory.
- The Arts Council has solidified a community surrounding its programming and initiatives, we support underserved communities, and at-risk individuals, provide programming that supports the array of arts practices, and support underrepresented communities with limited support resources.
- The Arts Council has a proven track record of growth, demand for its services, and the importance of arts, culture, and heritage in the local community.
- The Arts Council needs this support to continue operations and to seek opportunities for expansion of our organization.
- To support the Arts Council in managing this growth sustainably. The demand for programming and the rate of growth of the community is outpacing our financial ability to provide amenities and services.
- Public expectations for delivering more programs and services at an affordable cost.

We thank the City of Langley Mayor and Council, and staff for considering our Operating Agreement request to support the ongoing operations of the Langley Arts Council. As iterated above, this support will provide the necessary funding for the Arts Council to support the residents of the City of Langley, the municipality, the Langley Arts Council and our growing community.

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**The Langley Arts Council**



Diane Gendron  
President



Claire Sarfeld  
Executive Director

## Supporting Documents

Continued Support for Arts, Culture, Heritage and Sport Sector Organizations - [Continued Support for Arts, Culture, Heritage and Sport Sector Organizations - Canada.ca](#)

Provincial and Territorial Cultural Indicators, 2022 - [Provincial and Territorial Cultural Indicators, 2022 | Canada Council for the Arts](#)

Provincial and Territorial Cultural Indicators, 2022 - [The Daily — Provincial and Territorial Cultural Indicators, 2022 \(statcan.gc.ca\)](#)

The ACT Maple Ridge, Impact Report - [2022/2023 Impact Report \(squarespace.com\)](#)

The Reach Gallery and Museum - [TheReach-2019-AnnualReport\\_web-1.pdf \(mybluehost.me\)](#)

Why Museums are still a Smart Investment for Taxpayers - [Times Colonist E-edition \(pressreader.com\)](#)

The economic case for more funding for the arts - [Opinion: The economic case for more funding for the arts - The Globe and Mail](#)