



Item
Meeting2017 Jun 12

COUNCIL REPORT

TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2017 June 07

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING **FILE:** 4200 08
 DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & *Reference:* Burnaby Art Gallery
 CULTURAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF BURNABY ARTS COUNCIL PROPOSAL
 FOR A NEW ART GALLERY

PURPOSE: To respond to the request from the Burnaby Arts Council regarding their submitted proposal for a new art gallery.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council confirm its support for the existing policy framework for the visual arts in Burnaby.
2. THAT Council advise the Burnaby Arts Council that development of a new art gallery for the City is not supported, in accordance with established city policies.
3. THAT a copy of this report be sent to the Burnaby Arts Council.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

At the regular open meeting held on 2016 February 22, Council received a presentation from a delegation of the Burnaby Arts Council titled: "A New Art Gallery for the City of Burnaby". Arising from the presentation and discussion, Council requested staff to "prepare a report responding to issues raised by the delegation on the feasibility and advisability of the request for a new art gallery in Burnaby".

The Burnaby Arts Council presentation specifically requested Council support for their vision to support a new art gallery as a key part of the community's Official Community Plan. This vision included a new gallery facility that would address the physical and environmental limitations of the Ceperley Mansion house, conserve and make accessible civic art collections; meet international museum standards for larger exhibitions and programming; and serve as a cultural and urban architectural destination to further advance the city's economy and urban vibrancy.

In response to this request, staff have prepared an overview of the City's existing policies and directions related to the delivery of visual art programs in relation to the art gallery proposal. Staff have also provided a review of the feasibility and advisability of the request in terms of the

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relationship of the proposal to the City’s existing cultural programs, and the capital and operating budget priorities of the City.

A review of the specific issues raised by the delegation in their presentation has also been provided.

2.0 BURNABY POLICIES AND DIRECTIONS

The City has developed a comprehensive set of policies and plans that provide the framework for delivery of existing programs, and have set the direction for the City’s ongoing future investments in public facilities and programs, including the visual arts. These policies provide the context for the City’s existing programs and guide decisions for future programs and facilities.

The following summarizes Council’s adopted arts policies and provides an assessment of the Burnaby Arts Council request for a new art gallery in relation to the:

- Arts Policy
- Social Sustainability Strategy
- Burnaby Art Gallery Mandate
- Economic Development Strategy
- Financial Policies and Capital Project Priorities

2.1 Arts Policy

On 1990 July 23, Burnaby Council adopted its first comprehensive “Arts Policy”, developed by the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, which provides both a mission statement and a number of objectives that continue to guide the City.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide Burnaby with optimum access to the arts for all citizens by supporting the arts, encouraging partnerships, stimulating excellence and acknowledging and promoting the contribution of the arts in the community.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Subject to available resources at any given time, the following goals and objectives will be pursued:

1. *ACCESS - To develop and provide opportunities for learning, enjoying and participating in the arts, accessible to all who visit and live and work in the community.*

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2. **PUBLIC AWARENESS** - To improve the level of public awareness of the value of the arts and to improve public participation in the arts.
3. **DIRECT PROGRAMS** - To establish and maintain arts programs and services sponsored by the City where there is an identified community need.
4. **COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS** - To contribute to community initiatives that provides a variety of arts experiences and enriches the cultural sectors for all citizens.
5. **FACILITIES** - To support initiatives to build or improve facilities dedicated to artistic and cultural endeavours where the community need is identified, and to consider such need in the development or redevelopment of properties owned and operated by the Municipality.
6. **RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT** - To encourage, recognize and support individual artists and arts organizations involved in arts activities within the boundaries of Burnaby.
7. **ART EDUCATION** - To encourage higher standards and more opportunities for art education and training.

Summary Assessment:

A review of this policy against the wide-range of existing civic arts and cultural initiatives demonstrates that the City is fulfilling its current direction in terms of supporting and facilitating the arts. It is important to note that the policy does not identify a single facility, organization or civic department that would be responsible for fulfilling the Mission Statement. Rather, the City's policy is based on a vision to provide citizens with optimum access to the arts, being subject to the limitations of "available resources", which is a reference to defined limits set within the planned capital and operating set budgets.

In specific terms regarding programs and facilities for the arts, the policy confirms that the City will only:

"support initiatives to build or improve facilities dedicated to artistic and cultural endeavours where the community need is identified, and to consider such need in the development or redevelopment of properties owned and operated by the Municipality".

To date, a new art gallery building has not been advanced as a broadly accepted community need, and therefore does not meet the Arts Policy, and cannot be supported by the existing financial resources allocated for arts programming.

In conclusion, staff consider that the existing program for both the visual arts, and the City's dedicated resources in this area meets and/or exceeds the identified need in the community and the stated goals of the Arts Policy. Therefore, as stated, staff would consider that the current visual arts policy direction (including the existing program structure and level of financial support) is consistent with the City's adopted policies.

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2.2 Social Sustainability Strategy

In 2010, Council launched the Social Sustainability Strategy (SSS) with a public engagement process to create a comprehensive policy guide that: “articulates a social sustainability vision and long-term sustainability goals for Burnaby”. Adopted in 2011, the SSS provides a strong social sustainability vision with inspiring and practical goals that frame the City’s long-range plans and create a plan for action on the City’s vision.

Some of Burnaby’s “great strengths”, that the strategy aimed to build on, was the City’s well-established achievements in “Arts, Culture and Entertainment”, including but not limited to:

- Development and operation of the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts
- Adoption of an Arts Policy
- Adoption of an Art in Public Places Policy
- Management of the Burnaby Art Gallery
- Adoption of an Art Education Policy
- Engagement of a Community Arts Coordinator

The SSS established Arts and Culture within the theme of “Celebrating Diversity and Culture” as one of Burnaby’s Strategic Priorities with specific suggested actions that the City may consider to meet its goals. While some actions represented immediate opportunities, other actions were intended for the City to adopt and develop over time as resources and opportunities permit. The overall intent of these Strategic Priorities were to channel the City’s attention and effort into these linked themes in order to support the vision and build upon Burnaby’s strengths within the context of other civic priorities and the limitations of the City’s financial resources.

Specific Suggested Actions related to the Visual Arts and the provision of future facilities include:

Building on our Foundation

- *Consider designing new City facilities that have the flexibility to accommodate the performing arts and art exhibits, as appropriate.*

Expanding our Horizons

- *Consider reviewing the mandates of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, the Visual Arts Advisory Committee of the Burnaby Art Gallery and the Burnaby Arts Council to enhance their collective capacity to support and promote the arts in Burnaby.*
- *Explore options for giving local...artists a higher profile, including showcasing of their work at City facilities.*

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- *Help foster an active arts and culture scene in all four quadrants of the city by looking for opportunities to provide each quadrant with access to actively programmed multi-functional performance and cultural space...located in /at either City or non-civic facilities.*

Summary Assessment:

The implementation plan for the SSS is linked to Council's ongoing approval for major initiatives, planning and projects as an overall policy guideline, and presents a 'call for action' when appropriate, and where possible. As opportunities arise, implementation of the actions identified in the strategy provide the guidance to create new programs and/or projects for Council and community review and approval.

The SSS is very clear in its direction to foster an active arts and culture scene in all four quadrants of the city by looking for opportunities to provide each quadrant with access to actively programmed multi-functional performance and cultural space, located at/in either City or non-civic facilities. This policy, therefore, does not support the proposal by the Burnaby Arts Council to create a single stand-alone art gallery, and the advancement of such a proposal would appear to contradict the City's adopted vision and directions under the SSS.

In line with the SSS, Council has defined directions to consider designing new City facilities that have the flexibility to accommodate the arts, on a case-by-case basis, contingent on its relative merits and potential impacts to financial and operating considerations. A stand-alone art gallery facility, such as that proposed by the Burnaby Arts Council, is not supported by the directions of the City's SSS. The City will consider opportunities for engagement in the arts at new and renovated civic facilities and projects going forward, such as the public art components of the Willingdon Linear Park currently being developed.

2.3 Burnaby Art Gallery Mandate

As stated, the City of Burnaby operates the Burnaby Art Gallery as part of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department. As such, it is governed by Burnaby Council through the delegated authority of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission. Under the direction of the Commission, staff pursue the following Mandate, Values and Role:

Mandate:

The Burnaby Art Gallery operates as an art museum, gallery and community forum to explore and advance knowledge, appreciation and understanding of contemporary and historical visual art through exhibition, programming and collection services in traditional and non-traditional contexts and places in and outside the City of Burnaby.

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Institutional Core Values:

- Art has the ability to make the abstract tangible.
- Ideas are the foundations for actions.
- Education creates knowledge.
- Learning is a lifelong endeavour.
- Experiences shape our view of the world and how we interact with one another.
- Collections represent our heritage.

Role of Institution:

- Provide experiences for art museum visitors and program participants (public and school) that challenge their creativity, ideas, norms, values, identity, and beliefs in order to create greater understanding of the ideas behind contemporary and historical art, and the artists that create work so that greater visual arts literacy within the communities that the Burnaby Art Gallery serves is developed.
- Act as a leader in the collection, preservation and exhibition of those artists who choose to work on paper – the only public art museum in Canada dedicated to works of art on paper. Through our collection and exhibition practices the Burnaby Art Gallery endeavours to represent the best and most promising Canadian artists.
- Act as a community forum and gathering place for the dissemination of ideas. This is accomplished through free public talks, symposia, and community outreach projects (libraries and non-traditional art museum spaces such as shopping malls, public squares, and community centres) related to exhibitions and public art events that occur within and outside of the art gallery.

Summary Assessment:

The art gallery's mandate was specifically created to support the overall Arts Policy of the City. As such, it does not present a specific facility requirement or a vision to create a stand-alone facility separate and apart from the City's integrated public art programming. The role of this civic institution specifically calls for a flexible and dynamic mandate that has a strategic approach to disseminate its programs through community outreach in non-traditional settings. The Burnaby Arts Council proposal for a new art gallery, does not align with the aims of the Burnaby Art Gallery, and would not be consistent with its stated mandate, values or role.

2.4 Economic Development Strategy

In 2007, the City completed the Economic Development Strategy (EDS), the first of Burnaby's sustainability initiatives, for improving the local economy, and which creates a vision where residents and business enjoy: a healthy and livable community; a high-quality physical setting; and a robust and sustainable local economy. The plan provided a review of all the City's

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economic sectors including “Sport/Tournament, Arts/Culture, Retail” and provided a specific action plan to advance the City’s stated objectives and vision.

The EDS provided some analysis related to arts and culture, including its ties to tourism and advocated that the City should:

“Consider placing an emphasis on enhancing and building on the assets Burnaby has, rather than hoping for the creation of some major new visitor attraction.”

In terms of its specific actions related to Arts and Culture, Council adopted the following actions:

- Pursue opportunities to enhance existing arts/culture facilities.
- Explore supporting the mixing of art/culture (e.g. art galleries, street parties, plazas) to further humanize these places.
- Consider increasing the profile of arts in Burnaby by sponsoring arts/culture events and looking for ways to add arts related components to other tourism initiatives.
- Continue working on shifting the region’s arts/culture away from Downtown Vancouver by creating high-profile events such as festivals and concerts.

Summary Assessment:

The Burnaby Arts Council proposal that an art gallery be provided to be a major cultural destination in the city, and to provide new economic benefits to the City, is contrary to the assessment, and strategic actions recommended and adopted by Council as part of the EDS. Specifically, the EDS supports a strategic objective of pursuing the enhancement of existing facilities such as the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts and looking for opportunities to make the arts a dynamic part of Burnaby’s town centres. The plan also calls for supporting tourism efforts at the local level, rather than competing regionally, through supporting new events (e.g. concerts and festivals) rather than new facilities. Therefore, the proposal to create a new art gallery facility does not meet the economic objectives set by the City through the EDS.

2.5 Financial Policies and Capital Project Priorities

2.5.1 Annual Capital Plan

Burnaby’s Capital Plan is a five-year guideline and planning tool for the City’s major expenditures and projects, based on Council policy, directions, approvals and priorities. The plan reflects Council’s commitments to its citizens for delivering services. Capital reserves fund the majority of the City’s Annual Capital Plan for the replacement or purchase of new capital assets. The City’s five-year Capital Plan includes major initiatives for the future renewal of roads, water, sewer, storm-water, computer and other systems; land purchases; and development of park and community facilities.

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Past civic projects funded by Capital reserves include various community centres, libraries, sports facilities, arts and cultural facilities, and fire halls located throughout the City, as well as major civic infrastructure for transportation and public utilities that meet the ongoing needs of the community.

2.5.2 Community Benefit Bonus Policy – Priority Projects

Included in the Capital Plan, and building on the City’s established Official Community Plan and other strategic policies, the City has also established priorities for capital investments for future public facilities, using Community Benefit Bonus funds. This community strategic plan is detailed in a report approved by Council in 2014 titled: “Community Benefit Bonus Policy Review”.

The Community Benefit Bonus Policy is one of the funding sources available to the City for the provision of community amenities, services, and infrastructure. The Community Benefit Bonus Policy is intended to be used for the provision of extra-ordinary community benefits, including community amenities and affordable and/or special needs housing. It is in addition to the City’s Capital Reserves and Gaming Funds Reserves which are allocated to support other Civic projects. Burnaby’s fiscal strategies seek to ensure that the City’s long-term financial performance is sustainable. The City’s policy is to finance Civic projects without incurring debt, which is part of a prudent and responsible fiscal strategy. The funding sources enable the City to provide and maintain community amenities, services, and infrastructure that contribute to a livable City.

In regards to the City’s future commitment to building new facilities, Council has approved a program of both Capital replacement and maintenance of existing facilities, and provision for priority facilities within the Capital Plan. These outline commitments for expenditures for long-term planning purposes. The Community Benefit Bonus Policy Review of 2014 established a number of new priority projects, which include:

- Metrotown: a new Performance / Event space;
- Brentwood: a new Brentwood Community Centre and a new Linear Public Space along Willingdon Avenue;
- Edmonds: a new Edmonds Arena complex; and,
- Lougheed: the replacement of Cameron Recreation Centre including a pool and the replacement of the Cameron Library.

It is noted that these projects are informed by arts and cultural initiatives. The new Willingdon Linear Park will incorporate public art to showcase the City’s commitment to creating a vibrant public realm enlivened by art, recreation and culture. Similarly, the future new performance/event space planned for Metrotown is guided by the Council’s adopted plan to create multi-use community facilities with provision for appropriately scaled visual arts components.

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The proposed new performance/event space will be developed once a suitable and viable project opportunity is identified. At that time, the City will embark on specific review and consideration of a future facility design proposal and key partnerships. The project will be subject to a rigorous and detailed civic financial review and consultation for both facility construction and future operation/maintenance. This amenity provision may provide opportunities to expand the City's capacity to support rotational displays of community, civic and privately-owned exhibits and/or collections. It is anticipated that such a venue may provide the ability to curate, host and program museum/art exhibitions, within the capacity and mandate of the City's Cultural Services division.

Summary Assessment:

It is noted that Burnaby's priority capital projects meet the City's defined and varied objectives. Specifically, the need to advance multi-use public venues is considered an important community building component for Burnaby's town centres. Therefore, the Burnaby Arts Council proposal for a single purpose art gallery has not been identified as a priority capital project. The project is not part of the City's objectives to provide multi-use facilities to serve the wider needs of residents, and the strategic approach adopted for building a sustainable community.

3.0 SUMMARY OF POLICY CONCLUSIONS

Burnaby has a well-established and strong decision-making process that is founded on the policies and principles of good governance and planning, in addition to sound economic and financial considerations. This approach has served the community's needs by providing transparency for citizens and a clear and consistent approach to public expenditures. New projects are advanced to meet both the City's policy directions and Council's consideration and approval, before advancing to the stage of project planning.

The City's existing arts, economic and financial policies support the current framework for the delivery of Burnaby's comprehensive community arts program. Rather than being limited to any single visual arts initiative, or contemplated building or facility, the civic policies support the existing expansive venue for the arts in Deer Lake Park, supplemented with a vision for art and culture to be infused into all aspects of the City's development of new community facilities. The community has advanced and supported the vision and delivery of multi-use facilities, with public art to be located in each quadrant of the City, through town centre development opportunities presented by replacing or enhancing existing community centres and public venues.

Based on this review, staff conclude that the Burnaby Arts Council proposal for a new art gallery does not meet the vision that has been reflected in the existing policy framework for the arts in Burnaby. More fundamentally, it would appear that advancing a plan for a stand-alone art gallery, would undermine the basis that has been articulated in the adopted planning framework. Burnaby's overall vision is to move arts beyond the walls of a traditional art gallery and into the community to become a more integrated, meaningful, and an influential factor in building the City, based on an innovative sustainability approach.

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**4.0 BURNABY ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTATION –
A NEW ART GALLERY FOR BURNABY**

The Burnaby Arts Council presented Council with a document titled: “Vision Statement – A New Space to House the Burnaby Art Gallery and Collection”. As stated, this presentation was created by the Burnaby Arts Council with the expressed purpose of advocating that the City conduct a study on the “Feasibility and Desirability of Building a New Public Art Gallery in Burnaby”. The Burnaby Arts Council has been guided and informed by their membership’s views, and as stated also, through information gathered at a hosted forum on November 2, 2015 for approximately 100 of their members and the public.

The Burnaby Arts Council proposal’s vision statement includes the four issues that were presented to support their specific request for a new Art Gallery for Burnaby. These issues are presented here to serve the purposes of review, analysis and response, both in terms of specific issues, and whether or not the proposal meets key City policy objectives. This section of the report will address Council’s request for a staff response to issues raised by the delegation.

4.1 “Create a new space for the Burnaby Art Gallery now and for the future that will address the physical and environmental limitations of the current building.”

Staff Response:

The historic Ceperley Mansion “Fairacres” in Deer Lake Park has served as the traditional home to the City’s art gallery since the creation of the Burnaby Arts Centre in 1966, as Burnaby’s Canadian Centennial project. From 1967 until 1997, the gallery was operated under an agreement with the City by a non-profit society known as the Burnaby Art Gallery Association.

In 1997, based on the results of the Burnaby Art Gallery Planning Study report, Council supported the funding of a new visual arts program, including the ‘Burnaby Art Gallery’, as part of the Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services division. The Ceperley Mansion still serves as the location for cultural services staff offices, visual arts, and some of its public programming. Significant restoration and maintenance of this landmark heritage building has been ongoing. Upgrades to the building to improve physical and environmental conditions were made overtime within the limitations of the building’s physical structure. As a protected heritage building, which has been adaptively re-used from its original residential use, it is acknowledged to have limitations, and is not expected or intended to achieve the standards which may be demanded in certain curatorial circumstances regarding environmental and security considerations.

When the Ceperley Mansion was significantly upgraded and restored in 1998, it was intended that the building would continue to be utilized following the guidance of the Deer Lake Park Master Plan. This means that it is to be an integral part of the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, and available for wider public uses including as a venue for both civic and private events. As such, while the Ceperley Mansion currently serves as an exhibition gallery for visual arts, it was never

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intended to be the only civic venue available for visual arts and public programming. The Cultural Services Division regularly exhibits its collections in the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, and also within other civic facilities, including the public libraries, as part of its programming. As such, the physical space associated with the Ceperley Mansion is not intended to confine the work or operations of the Burnaby Art Gallery, which is to serve the broader community in diverse locations.

As this report's policy review clearly indicates, it is the stated intention for the City to continue to develop and enhance its community facilities to integrate visual arts in all of its forms, and to specifically advance new projects that are multi-use in nature. Therefore, the stated objective in this vision for the construction of a new art gallery is not supported by City policy.

4.2 "It will adequately house and conserve the city's significant art collection and thereby attract more opportunities to build the collection and make it more accessible for viewing studying and researching."

Staff Response:

As part of the 1997 review of creating Burnaby's visual arts program, the care of the City-owned art collection was a priority consideration. Council approved a staff recommendation that the collection be relocated to the City's environmentally controlled storage space at Burnaby Village Museum. To date, this arrangement has served the purpose of managing this civic asset, including staff and public accessibility. The collection is primarily works on paper with a smaller collection of sculptural/three dimensional pieces. The collection is managed on the basis of the City's capacity to store, conserve and protect an art collection that is within the collections mandate of the gallery.

As the City's art collection is located in a public facility, within the arts and cultural precinct of Deer Lake Park, it is considered both accessible for both gallery staff and the public. Utilizing this existing, purpose built, climate-controlled facility for storing and managing all city-owned collections serves the City's own asset management principles and sustainability policies. Additionally, it provides a cost-effective solution to collections management to centralize storage of such collections.

Access to the Burnaby Art Gallery collection meets the scope of professional practices and procedures of other public art and cultural institutions. It is further noted that the Burnaby Art Gallery has also fully digitized the collection and made it available on a public website that provides for access and interpretation (<http://collections.burnabyartgallery.ca>).

From a policy perspective, it can be stated that the Cultural Services division has developed a detailed planning and approval process for all new art acquisitions. To meet the objectives and vision for the Burnaby Art Gallery, all collecting will be guided by the mandate and policies established by the City, and taken in consideration to the space dedicated for this purpose. As noted, the proposal to construct a new building to incorporate dedicated storage for the City's art

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collection does not meet adopted objectives and financial policies governing City direction on facility provisions.

4.3 ***“The space by meeting international museum standards, will create increased options to attract important traveling exhibitions, to curate exhibitions of greater diversity and size and to expand visual arts engagement, programming and education for artists, residents and visitors.”***

Staff Response:

The City has defined the mandate for the Burnaby Art Gallery to meet the needs of both its Arts Policy and the role of a local community art gallery and its' collection to serve residents of Burnaby and visitors at a municipal level and context. The Burnaby Arts Council proposal advocates for an expanded mandate for the Burnaby Art Gallery which would elevate its service level beyond its currently approved capacity in order to serve a wider regional context. This would have significant financial impacts and would not be consistent with the City's policies.

A new art gallery, as outlined in the proposal, would demand resources and facility requirements beyond that which is currently provided for in the City's long-term facilities plan and adopted Capital Plan. Additionally, the move towards expanding the art gallery services under the proposal are not accommodated within the City's operating budget, and has not been identified as a priority civic service requirement. Expanding any existing service or proposing a new facility comes with capital and operating costs, which must be viewed within the context of the City's policies, plans, resources and tax base limits.

As noted, the proposal by the Burnaby Arts Council for a new art gallery is contrary to a host of the City's adopted policies, and to the existing mandate of the Burnaby Art Gallery to serve local community and cultural needs.

4.4 ***“The new space will become an important cultural destination at the geographic heart of the Lower Mainland, providing new economic benefits for the future prosperity of the City and it will also be a significant architectural statement adding to the urban vibrancy.”***

Staff Response:

The City has defined its Arts Policy and the mandate of the Burnaby Art Gallery to serve the local needs of the community and as part of a larger arts and cultural centre within Deer Lake Park. The City has made significant capital investments in the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, the Festival Lawn and Burnaby Village Museum to build a destination cultural precinct that already provides a successful and wide-range of economic and community benefits for the City. The central location of the arts and cultural complex meets City policy directions and is supplemented with additional arts events, classes and exhibits that are provided for in other civic recreation centres, libraries, schools and wider community programming.

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In regards to efforts to improve the City's urban vibrancy, it has been well recognized that Burnaby's arts and cultural precinct provides a substantial contribution to citizens as a shared cultural centre and place of celebration. As previously outlined, the City has established plans to ensure that arts and cultural activities are further infused into the planning of our four town centres in a variety of strategies.

Council, through its Arts Policy and the Social Sustainability Strategy, has already approved a plan to incorporate the visual arts and culture as a priority aspect of new community amenity development in its town centres. The City's adopted Community Benefit Bonus Policy has established priority capital projects including a major performance/event space for Metrotown. This will incorporate additional opportunities to expand the City's Arts Policy both in the form of public art and space for exhibits which may in future serve as another venue for the Cultural Services division to utilize for community based and gallery art exhibits and programming.

In this regard, the Economic Development Strategy stated: *"Consider placing an emphasis on enhancing and building on assets Burnaby already has, rather than hoping for the creation of some major new visitor attraction in Burnaby"*.

It is also noted that Metro Vancouver has a host of both public and private galleries that compete for a shared and limited pool of gallery visitors, community interest and funding opportunities. Specifically, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as the leading destination art institution within the region and the Province. In recent years, it has garnered the majority of funding and regional community interest through its new expansion proposal and fund raising campaign. Burnaby's taxpayers also contribute to subsidizing the Vancouver Art Gallery through Provincial and Federal funding provided for this institution's capital and operating grants. Given Burnaby's geographic proximity to Vancouver, Burnaby is also served by this gallery.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The presentation by the Burnaby Arts Council is clear in its advocacy for more financial support for the City's art programming, and specifically requests that this aim be achieved through the construction of a new art gallery. As outlined in this report, the City has a long history and demonstrated support for arts and culture which is evident in the current level of investment and programs. The Burnaby Arts Council proposal, however, does not align with the City's arts strategies, SSS, EDS policies directly or specific approved plans and financial directions for capital and operating budgets.


The City of Burnaby has developed a unique strategic plan for its arts program and delivery. Arising from this work and specific achievements, such as the Arts Policy, and the City's sustainability strategies, Burnaby residents have charted a course to view arts and culture as integral to all of the City's efforts in community building and project planning. A new art gallery facility is not currently a community priority or a long-term objective based on the policies and directions established by the City. Staff expect that Burnaby will continue to be

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well-guided by its strategic objectives and specific plans to further develop the arts and cultural vision that has been approved and is within the financial framework established.

In undertaking this review of the City’s Arts Policies and other strategic objectives, the clear direction for the future of art programming has been highlighted as being visionary and pragmatic in approach. As Burnaby’s direction for the visual arts will serve the stated requirements of the community, now and into the future, the following recommendations for Council consideration have been advanced:

- 1) That Council confirm its support of the existing policy framework for the visual arts in Burnaby.
- 2) That Council advise the Burnaby Arts Council that development of a new art gallery for the City is not supported, in accordance with established city policies.
- 3) That a copy of this report be sent to the Burnaby Arts Council as a response to their presentation and request for a new art gallery.



Lou Pelletier, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING



Dave Ellenwood, Director
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

cc: Director Finance
City Clerk

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