

**CULTURE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 5, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Culture Services Advisory Committee convened on Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 7:05 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

**Indicates Virtual Attendance*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Teri Towner, Chair
Councillor Robert Mazzarolo, Vice Chair*
Rob Bottos, Citizen Representative
Silvia Camolese, Citizen Representative*
Gina Chong, Festival Planners Network
Dana Ebtekar, Citizen Representative*
Marwa Elziny, Citizen Representative
Markus Fahrner, Coquitlam Heritage Society
Anthea Goffe, Coquitlam Public Library Board
Andrea Jensen, Artistic Community Representative
Julia Lomonosova, Evergreen Cultural Centre Society
Joan McCauley, Place Des Arts

ABSENT: Jaylene Liu, Citizen Representative (regrets)
Clinton Pope, Citizen Representative (regrets)

STAFF: Heidi Hughes, Manager Tourism and Visitor Economic
Caitlin Osborne, Communications Coordinator
Hilary Letwin, Manager Cultural Services
Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

Julia Lomonosova, Evergreen Cultural Centre Society Board member, provided an introduction as this is the first Committee meeting she has attended.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Culture Services Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, November 13, 2025

The Minutes of the Culture Services Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, November 13, 2025 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

2. Committee Orientation Review

The Committee Clerk gave a presentation entitled “2026 Advisory Committee Orientation” and referred to slides found in the Agenda package.

Councillor Mazzarolo entered the meeting at this time (7:11 p.m.).

3. 2026 Work Plan

The Manager Cultural Services gave introductory comments and referred to the document found in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to understanding the distinction between the proposed presentation by the School District 43 Youth Arts Council regarding a self-directed mural project and the presentation by the Coquitlam Youth Council about a youth perspective on arts, culture, and heritage.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

MOVED

AND SECONDED

The Committee recommends to Council to approve the 2026 Culture Services Advisory Committee Work Plan as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Update on the Festivals and Events Strategy

The Manager Tourism and Visitor Economy gave a presentation entitled “Festivals and Events Strategy” and referred to slides found in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Suggestions to promote cultural diversity in events and festivals by creating policies and procedures that are flexible; defining a range of event types (pop-ups, local events, signature events, etc.) with specific permit requirements; limiting administrative barriers to smaller groups; compiling City information on event permitting in a guide or manual; and establishing policies or evaluation criteria to prioritize the events that are desired.
- Suggestion to align the Events and Festivals Strategy with the priorities of the Spirit of Coquitlam grants.
- Desire to diversify the location of events throughout the city, as they have increasingly been concentrated at Town Centre Park.
- Suggestion to promote block party grants, as they are not being utilized in every neighbourhood, particularly those with high-density multifamily housing.
- Suggestion to set comprehensive accessibility requirements for event permits.
- Suggestion to amplify marketing of City-led events by collaborating with cultural organizations, and connect community-led events with these opportunities as well.
- Concern that there are limited facilities for indoor events, including a lack of hotels.
- Concerns about funding for festival planners as there has not been an increase in five years despite cost pressures, additional cost requirements for safety and traffic management, loss of the provincial festivals grant, and loss of sponsors due to economic conditions; alternate sources such as the tourism grant has cumbersome requirements, such as documenting hotel stays, and gaming grant decisions are made too late in event planning.
- Understanding the distinction between the Tourism Coquitlam and the City of Coquitlam websites as providing information on experiences and on municipal services, respectively.
- Suggestion that the Tourism Coquitlam website should provide more information about signature events to encourage advance plans to attend.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted the following:

- The City provides support to festival planners in meeting requirements for special event permits and facility use agreements, but not for event planning.
- The City issues approximately 50 permits for community-led events each year.
- The Festival and Events Strategy will include adaptations to risk management plans related to new safety concerns, such as hostile vehicular mitigation, with direction to come from the provincial government.

The Manager Tourism and Visitor Economy and the Communications Coordinator left the meeting at this point and did not return (7:59 p.m.)

5. Review of Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategic Plan

The Manager Cultural Services gave a presentation entitled “Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategic Plan, 2015-2030” and referred to slides and documents found in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation of how much has been accomplished from the Plan thus far.
- Understanding of some events mentioned in the Strategic Plan, including the Summer Concert Series at Town Centre Park and the Kaleidoscope Festival at Blue Mountain Park.
- Suggestion to expand art exhibition spaces by collaborating with businesses such as cafes to host local artists.
- Suggestion to establish an art rental and sales program, as operated by the Vancouver Art Gallery, to provide centralized rent-to-own or rent-for-staging services.
- Interest in exploring the cultural facilities assessment in more detail to address deficiencies by identifying opportunities and means to activate provisional spaces in the interim prior to new capital projects.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted the following:

- Collaboration with businesses as exhibition spaces has precedent in both private arrangements and the Streetscape Enhancement Program although it may not be feasible for the City to broker these arrangements; alternative supports can be explored.
- Art rental programs were more common amongst professional art galleries in the past, but require significant staff and space resources that make it impractical for municipalities to undertake; however, an alternative model may work, or this may be undertaken by a community organization.
- Residents who want to volunteer or otherwise get involved in cultural events should sign up to Parks, Recreation, and Culture e-newsletter to learn about opportunities with the City, and contact the City’s Cultural Partners or other local non-profit organizations.

6. Update on Art in Public Spaces

The Manager Cultural Services gave a presentation entitled “Art in Public Spaces Plan” and referred to slides found in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation of the Coquitlam 125 Salmon Project as both an exceptional opportunity for local artists and example of place making.

- Suggestion to install art reflecting Korean culture in the “Korea Town” area along North Road.
- Appreciation of instances of public art types in Mundy Park, the Indigenous cultural recognition piece and a place-making commemorative bench.

7. **Committee Members’ Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)**

The Chair invited Committee members to share emerging issues and information regarding events occurring in their communities.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Report that this year is the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion, and membership is now open to the public and free for first-time members; the Legion is also engaging in outreach to Korean veterans and veterans of the war in Afghanistan to bolster membership.
- Report of current and upcoming Coquitlam Heritage Society events.
- Report of current and upcoming Place des Arts events.
- Report of current and upcoming Evergreen Cultural Society events.
- Report of current and upcoming Coquitlam Public Library events.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – Thursday, April 16, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Councillor Teri Towner, Chair

Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk