

## Arts, Culture, Events and Heritage Service Review Report

**Recommendation:**

**THAT Council receive the Arts, Culture, Events and Heritage Service Review, dated October 17, 2025, for information.**

**Report Purpose and Summary Statement:**

This report and the attached summary report provides Council with the research outcomes and recommendations of the *Arts, Culture, Events and Heritage service review*.

**Funding Source:**

The project was funded through the 2024 business planning process.

**Strategic Alignment:**

Engaged, Healthy Community

**Advisory Committee Consultation:**

The Engaged, Healthy Community Advisory Committee participated in the community engagement phase of the analysis at a meeting on July 3, 2025.

**To:** Mayor and Council

**File number:**

## **Arts, Culture, Events and Heritage Service Review Report**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The *Walking Together Culture Plan* (“*Culture Plan*”), approved by Council in 2018, guides arts and cultural placemaking, collaboration and innovation for cultural development in the community. The plan’s Implementation Framework guides staff in addressing six strategic priorities:

- Connection, Capacity and Collaboration
- Awareness and Visibility
- Cultural Tourism and Creative Entrepreneurship
- Youth and Family Arts
- Indigenous Cultural Heritage and Arts
- Multiculturalism and Social Inclusion

In 2022, work began on developing a new *Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan* (“*Master Plan*”) that resulted in six additional recommended strategies, one of which recommended to continue to advance the infrastructure related objectives and supporting actions identified in the *Culture Plan*. Together the *Master Plan* and *Culture Plan* provide staff direction on fulfilling Council’s Strategic Priorities.

The *Arts, Culture, Events and Heritage service review* (“*Service Review*”) was initiated to assess the continued progression of the six plan priorities, identifying where efforts should continue and where shifts in focus have emerged in arts, culture, events and heritage. The review is intended to ensure that the *Cultural Plan* remains relevant and responsive to our evolving community needs.

Initiated in March 2025, the *Service Review* launched and included a current state and inventory assessment of arts, culture, events and heritage in Maple Ridge, a community engagement and perception audit, research on municipal best practices, all of which resulted in the development of key themes and recommendations.

The project’s research and engagement phases occurred prior to the commencement of the operations transition of the Arts Centre Theatre, from the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Arts Council to the City of Maple Ridge in September 2025.

## **ANALYSIS:**

### **Discussion:**

The *Service Review* assesses the progression of cultural development in the City. Cultural development involves strategic planning and investment by a city in arts, culture, events, and heritage to enhance quality of life, attract residents and businesses, and bolster the local economy.

The review identifies emerging themes and recommendations that are the product of an arts, culture, events and heritage current state, trends and best practices analysis, municipal arts and culture comparison research, and targeted interest holder and public engagement. The results are grounded in a local context, recognizing the uniqueness and vibrancy of Maple Ridge's arts and cultural scene, and provides visionary outcomes positioning the City as both a support for local and grassroots programs and partnered service delivery and a creative place-making destination valued by artists, curators, historians, educators, cultural champions and community participants.

The *Service Review* recommendations align with the strategic priorities of the *Culture Plan*, described as the community's plan for arts, culture and heritage. The *Service Review* reinforces the continued relevancy of the plan and the implementation framework and provides additional suggested focus areas that have emerged or have increased in need in today's cultural landscape.

Detailed recommendations are set out in the *Service Review* final report (Attachment A).

### **Next Steps:**

Staff will utilize the results of the review and assess the recommendations for integration into both the strategic and the day-to-day operations of various City departments. In addition, City facilities, including the ACT facility, have significant potential to address some of the identified gaps and to create new opportunities for the community to participate in arts, culture, events and heritage programs.

### **Strategic Alignment:**

Engaged, Healthy Communities, Liveable Community, Diversified Thriving Economy

### **Advisory Committee Consultation:**

The Engaged, Healthy Community Advisory Committee participated in the community engagement phase of the analysis and that feedback is included in the *Service Review* (Attachment A)

## **CONCLUSION:**

The *Service Review* assesses the progression of cultural development in the City, using the *Cultural Plan* as a benchmark. As a growing city, the results position Maple Ridge to address the changing arts and culture landscape, the increased diversity and broadening needs and expectations of cultural service delivery by residents and artists, performers and other program providers and partners.

Arts and culture are globally recognized and investment in culture is a catalyst to building strong, inclusive, healthy communities and is a driver of economic prosperity.

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Prepared by: Christa Balatti, Manager of  
Special Projects

**Attachments:** (A) Arts, Culture, Events and Heritage Service Review Report

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Arts, Culture, Heritage and Events Service Review Final Report.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment A - Arts, Culture, Events and Heritage Review - Summary Report.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Oct 23, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Cidalia Martin, Director of Recreation Services

Corinn Howes, Deputy Corporate Officer

Scott Hartman, Chief Administrative Officer