



City of Kelowna  
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# Council Policy

Cultural Policy

APPROVED: October 29, 1990

Contact Department: Active Living and Culture

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## Guiding Principle

The City of Kelowna recognizes that culture is important to the well-being of the community, the quality of life for all residents and the economic vibrancy of the city. The City will engage in planning for and investment in cultural programs, services and facilities.

We acknowledge that our community is located on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the syilx/Okanagan people.

## Purpose

To guide cultural development in the City of Kelowna through City led programs and initiatives, convening and connecting creative sector stakeholders and supporting artists and cultural organizations.

## Application

To provide direction for the City in the development, management and administration of cultural services.

## Definitions

*Community art*: temporary or permanent installations of any art form that are developed through community engagement.

*Culture*: a porous and flexible concept, which includes heritage, the arts, human diversity and many other attributes and practices.

*Cultural District*: a six-block region in Kelowna's downtown area that acts as a hub of Kelowna's artistic and cultural activity

*Cultural facilities*: City owned cultural venues, including galleries, theatres and museums.

*Creative sector*: all self-employed individuals, profit, non-profit and public enterprise including incorporated and unincorporated businesses that produce, create, distribute and/ or conserve cultural and artistic goods and services.

*Creative sector stakeholders*: a broadly inclusive term intended to represent cultural workers, artists, organizations, businesses, facilities and educational institutions who are involved in the creative sector.

*Public Art*: City commissioned temporary or permanent installations ranging from murals and banners to sculptures and artistic works integrated into local streetscapes, created by local, regional, national and international artists.

## Policy Statement(s)

### **1.0 Cultural and Heritage Planning**

- 1.1 The City will develop and regularly update a Cultural Plan and Heritage Strategy to set priorities and guide civic investments through:
- information gathering from, and consultations with, a variety of creative and heritage sector stakeholders and the community-at-large, in accordance with the Engage Policy No. 372;
  - honouring, respecting, collaborating and engaging with local Indigenous people;
  - a review of best practices and comparable documents from other jurisdictions;
  - a review of policies, regulations and procedures;
  - opportunities for new initiatives and partnerships;

- preparation and submission of a document which will establish an overall vision, goals, specific strategies and an implementation plan; and
- ongoing implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

1.2 In partnership with local Indigenous governments, organizations and artists, the City is committed to working collectively to develop and implement a framework for including the voice of Indigenous artists and cultural leaders in the creative sector, thereby providing an opportunity to enhance the representation of Indigenous art and artists within the City.

1.3 The City is committed to developing and enhancing mutually beneficial partnerships that support the development of cultural programs, services and facilities.

## **2.0 Land Use**

2.1 The City will:

- consider the opportunities to enable the development of affordable live/work spaces and studios for artists to attract and retain cultural workers;
- explore opportunities for including cultural facilities and spaces when reviewing and/or submitting land use applications within Urban Centres;
- work to ensure appropriate and supportive zoning and mixed-use developments, amenities, development and design to create a vibrant and economically sustainable Cultural District;
- determine how cultural infrastructure and activity can be extended to residents at the neighbourhood level throughout Kelowna;
- incorporate a high level of aesthetic treatment including public art, as well as opportunities for programmed and spontaneous cultural events and activities in the design of public spaces creating cultural identity;
- create conservation plans and implementation strategies for City-owned heritage properties to maintain the importance of conserving heritage buildings, structures and landscapes; and
- continue to support and recognize the established heritage conservation areas of Abbott Street and Marshall Street in order to preserve and share the history of the community.

## **3.0 Economic Development**

3.1 Creative sector stakeholders are central to developing prosperity in Kelowna therefore, the City will provide appropriate and supportive policies, zoning, amenities and other forms of support which foster the creation of artists' production spaces, presentation and performance venues, as well as retail and other commercial land uses that complement culture.

3.2 Marketing is integral to the creative sector and the ongoing success of cultural activity in Kelowna therefore, the City, in partnership with the creative sector, will continue to support and/or develop, as appropriate, awareness of the creative sector, specifically in the Cultural District, through marketing and promotion initiatives.

3.3 The City will foster a dynamic environment for heritage and cultural tourism and continue to support and/or develop, partnerships, programs, events, and facilities which will increase tourism visitation and revenue. Working in partnership with stakeholders of the tourism sector will be integral to this work.

3.4 The City of Kelowna is committed to building the capacity and viability of the creative sector.

## **4.0 Cultural Facilities**

4.1 The City may, through non-market leases, funding support, or other means, enter into arrangements with qualified third parties for the operation, maintenance and programming of City-owned cultural facilities.

4.2 Through innovative approaches and ongoing partnerships, the City will establish a future direction for the development or redevelopment of cultural facilities.

**5.0 Funding Support**

- 5.1 The City is dedicated to fostering a rich and vibrant creative sector in our community by supporting cultural events, projects and organizations that align with the Cultural Plan and Heritage Strategy. The City provides funding support in accordance with the Community Grant Policy 380.
- 5.2 In order to promote the conservation of heritage buildings, the City offers grants to owners of buildings listed on the Kelowna Heritage Register to cover a portion of the expenses incurred in conservation work relating to the heritage character of their buildings. Funding support is provided in accordance with the Community Grant Policy 380.
- 5.3 The City will engage in Sister City relationships in accordance with the Sister City Policy 355.
- 5.4 The City will preserve the conservation, structural maintenance and restoration of heritage buildings, particularly agricultural, commercial, industrial and institutional buildings with support in accordance with Heritage Building Tax Incentive Program Policy 318.
- 5.5 The City provides support to non-profit sport, event, social service and cultural organizations for the purpose of undertaking activities or initiatives that develop the organization's capacity and sustainability.

**6.0 Public Art**

- 6.1 The City has established a Public Art Reserve Fund and will contribute to the Fund a minimum of \$130,000 annually, up to a maximum equal to 1% of the City's annual capital budget from general taxation revenue. Any unspent portion of the annual allocation is moved to the Public Art Reserve fund at the end of each fiscal year.
- 6.2 The Public Art Reserve Fund is to be used to fund civic public art commissions, as well as to provide matching funds to encourage the provision of public art by the private sector within publicly accessible portions of developments.
- 6.3 Expenditures from the Public Art Reserve Fund are recommended by Staff and approved by Council. A committee of community members are available for staff to call on to evaluate opportunities.
- 6.4 To the extent of being feasible and appropriate, opportunities for Public Art should be identified and undertaken in conjunction with municipally funded infrastructure projects.
- 6.5 Community Art opportunities encourage the creation of publicly accessible artworks, fosters community pride, promotes identity and reflects the diversity of the community. Funding for community art projects is made available from the Public Art Reserve Fund. The City provides funding support in accordance with the Community Grant Policy 380.
- 6.6 Maintenance costs of the public art collection including condition reports and maintenance assessments provided by professional conservation staff, will be funded through the Infrastructure Maintenance Fund.

**Amendments**

Resolution: R0411/20/06/01

Replacing: R651/00/07/24; R341/199/04/26; Policy No. 208; S1581-S1601/1990/10/29