

CULTURE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 13, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Culture Services Advisory Committee convened on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 7:00 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 Robert Mazzarolo, Chair
Councillor Teri Towner, Vice Chair
Silvia Camolese, Citizen Representative*
Gina Chong, Festival Planners Network
Dana Ebtekar, Citizen Representative
Marwa Elziny, Citizen Representative*
Anthea Goffe, Coquitlam Public Library Board
Philip Hartwick, Evergreen Cultural Centre Society
Andrea Jensen, Artistic Community Representative
Al Lau, Coquitlam Heritage Society
Joan McCauley, Place Des Arts
Clinton Pope, Citizen Representative*

ABSENT: Rob Bottos, Citizen Representative (regrets)
Jaylene Liu, Citizen Representative (regrets)

GUESTS: Jay Peters, Coquitlam Public Library Manager Programming and
Community Connections (re: Item 3)

STAFF: Hilary Letwin, Manager Cultural Services
Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk

CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Culture Services Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, September 11, 2025

The Minutes of the Culture Services Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, September 11, 2025 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

2. 2025 Year-End Review / 2026 Work Plan Development

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

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation of Public Art Walking Tours and suggestion to include them on the 2026 Work Plan.
- Appreciation of receiving agenda packages in advance in order to prepare to engage at the meetings.
- Clarification of the number of meetings to be held in 2026 as an election year.
- Clarification of the City’s objectives for the Committee, including public art selection, feedback on key projects with culture service elements, collaboration between cultural organizations, and identification of cultural opportunities.
- Desire to address a range of cultural topics beyond the arts and to explore the distinction and alignment with the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee.
- Suggestion to include an update on the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Strategic Plan in the 2026 Work Plan.
- Suggestion to invite the Student Arts Council to present.

3. Arts and Culture at Coquitlam Public Library

The Executive Director and the Manager Programming and Community Connections for the Coquitlam Public Library gave a presentation entitled “Cultural Offerings: Coquitlam Public Library” and referred to slides found in the Agenda package.

Marwa Elziny arrived at the meeting at this point (7:41 p.m.).

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation of the breadth of programming and lending services offered by the Public Library.
- Appreciation of the quality of partnerships undertaken by the Public Library.
- Appreciation that cultural events like Iranian Nowruz serve the related cultural community but are also opportunities for the broader public to learn.
- Suggestion to expand language programming to other languages, particularly French given the official language status and speakers in the community.
- Suggestion to host a Slam Poetry event for students in partnership with the School District.

Jay Peters left the meeting at this point and did not return (8:05 p.m.).

4. Update on Cultural Services Programs

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

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation of the Streetscapes Enhancement Program, particularly the thematic benches in Austin Heights.
- Appreciation of the Public Art Walking Tours celebrating culture in multiple languages to connect people, particularly newcomers, to the community.
- Appreciation of murals as an additional element of public art.
- Suggestion to ensure public art is planned with future development in mind to ensure continued visibility.
- Suggestion to create a mural at Evergreen Cultural Centre in the future.

In response to committee discussion, staff noted the following:

- Public Art Walking Tours are promoted through the Culture Days website, the Parks, Recreation, Culture, and Facilities e-newsletter, and City social media accounts.
- The Public Art Selection Subcommittee is an important mechanism to ensure that public art reflects the communities in which it is installed.

5. 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 Place des Arts raised \$11, 000 for scholarships through its online auction, and will host an exhibition entitled “Positively Petite” on November 14, 2025.
- Report that the Evergreen Cultural Centre will host a number of holiday performances in the coming weeks, will host events in connection with Lights at Lafarge, and will present a finalized strategic plan in the New Year in connection with the Centre’s 30th anniversary.
- Report that the Coquitlam Heritage Society will host Christmas portrait services at the Heritage House.
- Report that the Theatrical Arts Education Association of Canada is looking for partners in youth programming in the summer.
- Report that the federal budget maintains or increases funding for key cultural

programs.

- Report that HollyDaze in the Heights will be held on November 15, 2025.
- Report that Lights at Lafarge will launch on November 28, 2025.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – 2026

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Councillor Robert Mazzarolo, Chair

Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk