

# Arts and Culture



As the “City of the Arts”, Port Moody integrates art and culture across all areas of City planning and decision-making. Port Moody strives to be known for its creative atmosphere, beautiful cityscape, and collaborative environment. Its spectacular natural setting on the waterfront, leisure opportunities, Indigenous heritage, and walkable neighbourhoods offer a variety of cultural experiences and is recognized nationally as a destination for artists, tourists, and new residents.

Port Moody residents take pride in cultural aspects of the city including music, film, festivals, concerts, special events, outdoor recreation, nature, parks, and cultural diversity reflected within the arts community. In Port Moody, arts, culture and other creative and innovative enterprises are drivers in growing and diversifying the local economy while attracting tourism. The City’s cultural facilities are central in shaping the community and residents enjoy the community’s diverse and rich arts and culture amenities:

- **Arts Centre** - PoMoArts is housed in the historic Old City Hall and Centennial Appleyard House and is managed by the PoMoArts Centre Society.
- **Museum** - The POMO Museum is owned and operated by the Port Moody Heritage Society and promotes awareness and knowledge of Port Moody’s heritage and history.
- **Theatre** - The Inlet Theatre and Galleria at the Port Moody Civic Centre is owned and operated by the City and regularly features plays, concerts and dance performances, as well as special events and private functions.
- **Library** - The Port Moody Public Library located at the Port Moody Civic Centre was established in 1943 and offers a wide range of services, programs and collections (online, print and multimedia) for all ages. The Port Moody Public Library Board determines and adopts policies governing the services and operation of the Library.
- **Rocky Point Park** - Rocky Point Park is Port Moody’s best-known park and a popular destination to enjoy many festivals and special events or Burrard Inlet from the recreational pier and Shoreline Trail. Rocky Point Park’s proximity to Murray Street and Brewers Row, cycling infrastructure and multi-use paths facilitates a social and community-oriented environment.
- **Artist Studios** - The City of Port Moody owns and operates a collection of artist studios at 2709 Esplanade Avenue. These spaces are rented to emerging and professional artists to encourage them to base their practice in the City and foster a larger creative network to promote collaboration and community.



Port Moody strives to make cultural opportunities, resources, and activities accessible to residents of all ages, abilities, ethnicities, orientations and economic circumstances across the community. Port Moody continues to support a diversity of artistic and cultural themes such as those related to climate change, environment, and Indigenous history.

The OCP builds off the following City frameworks to achieve the City’s commitment to arts and culture and enhance its City of the Arts brand: Private Developer Public Art Guidelines (2017); Arts and Culture Master Plan (2017); Art in Public Spaces Master Plan (2021); and Art in Public Spaces Policy (2024).

These plans should be referred to for specific actions. In 2023, the Mayor’s Arts and Business Coalition Task Force was convened to work together to identify opportunities to strengthen the City’s branding as City of the Arts, and made a number of recommendations to Council. The Task Force’s work will also be reflected in a broader City of the Arts Strategy being developed through 2025.



## Objective 1: Maintain, enhance, and fund art in public spaces.

Public art enhances quality of life, contributes to economic development, and helps Port Moody celebrate a rich and diverse history. Increasing the profile of arts and culture and making public art more visible in public spaces also elevates the City of the Arts branding. Creating strong connections and resourcing between Port Moody's public gathering places and artistic and cultural expression ensures cultural opportunities, resources, and activities are accessible to all residents.

### ► Art in Public Places Policies

1. Continue to enhance the City's parks, multi-use pathways and trails systems with public art.
2. Examine opportunities to incorporate the arts into the exterior of new development and into City infrastructure (e.g., new construction, utility boxes, tree grates, landscaping, street furniture or new signage).
3. Support the growth and concentration of creative industries and businesses that support arts and culture, and create more physical connectivity between them where possible (e.g., walkable distances).
4. Continue to support City and community cultural projects and initiatives through reserves to fund public artworks, artistic programming, cultural initiatives and maintenance of public artworks.
5. Develop an incentive program to encourage arts related space in new development.



## Objective 2: Build cultural capacity, expand creative placemaking, and advance priority sites.

Strengthening collaboration and partnership builds a strong and vibrant cultural community in Port Moody. Placemaking is a collaborative process to shape the public realm to collectively re-imagine and re-invent public spaces as the heart of the community. Transforming spaces by intentionally leveraging artistic and creative activity serves the community and builds identity. Quality of place can foster social inclusion and wellness, participation, pride of place, and arts awareness. Artistic expression can also be a means of honouring truth, reconciling past discriminatory actions and sharing stories of unique experiences over time in this place. Ensuring opportunities to advance key public priority sites through development and other locations further builds upon the City's art in public spaces program.

### ► Cultural Capacity and Placemaking Policies

1. Encourage creative placemaking in City planning and innovative multi-purpose design that provides climate change adaptation benefits.
2. Explore opportunities to enhance the diversity of cultural expression in the city through placemaking and public art.
3. Share stories of how people have experienced this land. Build on projects such as In the Presence of Ancestors.
4. Initiate a mural program with preference for a broad range of bold expressions (e.g., encompassing themes may include climate change and environmental issues, Indigenous history, etc.).
5. Increase opportunities to access cultural spaces (e.g., studios, programmable space such as parking lots, parks for festivals and theatrical events, etc.).
6. Increase accessible gathering spaces (e.g., pocket parks, plazas etc.).
7. Aspire to provide a range of cultural facilities for residents in various neighbourhoods and convenient locations, as population and financial resources increase to support these facilities.

## ► Cultural Capacity and Placemaking Policies (continued)

8. Include the following as priority sites for art in public spaces:
  - a. Main entry points to city
  - b. “Art Station” – art gallery presence surrounding transit station exteriors and adjacent public realm
  - c. Integrate into major developments such as:
    - i. Coronation Park
    - ii. Moody Centre Station
    - iii. Woodland Park
    - iv. Westport Village
    - v. Oceanfront District
  - d. Rocky Point Park and Queens Street Plaza
  - e. Civic facilities
  - f. Moody Centre streets envisioned to be pedestrian-oriented such as Spring Street, Murray Street, Clarke Street, Queens Street, Moody Street and Williams Street.
  - g. Community arts creative zones
9. Explore opportunities to create a cultural node through redevelopment in the area including and surrounding Kyle Park, Kyle Centre, PoMoArts and Queens Street Plaza.



## Objective 3: Support the creation of arts in innovation areas.

The importance of arts in supporting innovation areas helps to achieve vibrant, active, pedestrian-oriented places that attract businesses and visitors. These areas encourage the development of artist studios, live/work studios and other innovative forms of development and commercial activity. Artists are often supported by complementary trades, many which are in light industrial areas. These industries include, but are not limited to, metalworking, fiberglass, powder coating, carpentry, and printing. Additional supporting industries could include structural engineers, landscape architects, and other professional services. The arts are inherent in innovation and this environment is critical to support and attract an entrepreneurial, creative and innovative technology community as well as tourism. Pockets of these areas exist throughout the city and can be further developed and built upon to take shape in various areas including the Moody Centre Station Transit-Oriented Area – Core, Oceanfront District, Clarke Street, Westport Village and Murray Street.

### ► Arts and Innovation Policies

1. Support artists through the retention and creation of urban industrial zones for specific areas.
2. Support the creation of additional artist spaces through new development and the re-purposing of existing buildings.
3. Support the development of knowledge, intellectual property, arts and technology in digital economies (including the creative sector).
4. Prioritize street-level activation and productivity within streetscapes to encourage a vibrant pedestrian-oriented environment.
5. Consider the feasibility of establishing car-free areas (e.g., specific times) to encourage walkability and community gathering in different neighbourhoods.
6. Encourage a vibrant and distinct cityscape through building design, streetscape, and neighbourhood planning.



## Objective 4: Facilitate and support community partnerships and outreach to integrate arts and culture into as many areas of the community as possible.

As City of the Arts, the City has a goal of integrating arts and culture into all facets of life in Port Moody. There are several arts and culture related community groups and organizations that are already present in Port Moody. Opportunities to strengthen collaborations and partnerships between groups will increase the arts and culture fabric in the community and leverage the synergies that exist. Civic Committees, like the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Committee, also play a role in supporting the development of strategies and initiatives. The City's development of a City of the Arts Strategy will further strengthen the value of developing partnerships in the community.

### ► Community Outreach and Partnership Policies

1. Strengthen collaboration and partnerships among arts and culture groups, and between these groups and public, private, and community partners to build a strong and vibrant cultural community in Port Moody.
2. Continue to support existing and re-establish, and/or explore the creation of new, festivals and special events on a variety of scales.
3. Continue to support community partners, including the Port Moody Public Library Board, the Port Moody Heritage Society and the Port Moody Arts Centre Society, in exploring options that will allow them to grow with the community (i.e., new and/or expanded facilities), ensuring that they are able to continue offering the best services possible.
4. Work with arts and business stakeholders and related civic committees to identify opportunities and leverage synergies.