

13. Arts & Culture



13.1 Overview

Arts, culture, and heritage play an integral role in creating a sense of place and identity, and in contributing to social capital and well-being.

The City of Colwood sits on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people, who have stewarded the land and water since time immemorial. Archaeological sites and oral tradition are the vestiges of this rich history.

Colwood has a vibrant arts and culture community. The waterfront serves as a backdrop for a variety of weekly and seasonal events such as live performances by local musicians, performers, and artists. PACE Musical Theatre Program and arts programs at Dunsmuir Middle School and Royal Bay Secondary School help to foster an appreciation for the arts from a young age. The West Shore Arts Council, run by a volunteer Board of Directors, advocates for participation and appreciation of the arts, culture, and heritage. View Royal Casino Entertainment Venue and Colwood's vibrant festival scene provide special events and entertainment for the residents of Colwood.

13.2 Objectives and Policies



Welcome Totem by local Coast Salish carver Tom LaFortune

Objective: 13.2.1

To build understanding and seek partnership opportunities with First Nations.

POLICY 13.2.1.1 BUILDING UNDERSTANDING

Work with the Kwsepsum (Esquimalt), Lekwungen (Songhees), Scia'new (Beecher Bay), and T'Sou-ke (Sooke) Nations to build an understanding of how to strengthen relationships between the City and local First Nation communities.

POLICY 13.2.1.2 PARTNERSHIPS

Continue to partner with First Nations on initiatives for the mutual benefit of all communities.

Objective: 13.2.2

To encourage protection of historic built assets.

POLICY 13.2.2.1 INVENTORY OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

Develop a voluntary community heritage registry or inventory of heritage resources, including historic sites, structures, and landscapes.

POLICY 13.2.2.2 HERITAGE ASSET PROTECTION

Continue to work with the Colwood Heritage Commission and other jurisdictions to protect heritage resources, such as Colwood Community Hall, Hatley Gardens, Hatley Castle, Fort Rodd Hill, Fisgard Lighthouse, Cole Island, St. John the Baptist Church, the Colwood Pioneer Cemetery, and possibly other historic sites and structures.

IMPLEMENTATION

- **ACTION:** The City should establish an inventory for use by community members and groups in populating it.
- **TIMING:** Before 2023

Objective: 13.2.3
To support and reinforce cultural inclusivity and involvement.

IMPLEMENTATION

- **ACTION:** The City should incorporate cultural inclusivity strategies in the Parks Master Plan.
- **TIMING:** Before 2023.

POLICY 13.2.3.1 DIVERSE CULTURAL NEEDS

Ensure cultural resources and activities are inclusive and respond to the cultural needs and aspirations of diverse populations through culturally relevant programs, services, and facilities.

POLICY 13.2.3.2 DIVERSE CULTURAL EXPRESSION

Encourage diverse cultural expression – through events, public art, and other means – that reflect diverse populations and community needs and interests.

Objective: 13.2.4
To support the arts and culture sector.

IMPLEMENTATION

- **ACTION:** The City should develop an Arts and Culture Plan that includes directions for arts and culture amenities, resources, and opportunities.
- **TIMING:** 2023 or later

POLICY 13.2.4.1 PUBLIC ART AND ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

Provide adequate spaces for and encourage the installation of formal and informal public art and artistic expression in buildings, streets, parks, and other areas of the public realm, giving preference to local artists.

POLICY 13.2.4.2 ARTS AND CULTURE CENTRE

Work with community groups and residents to support the development of an arts and culture centre that would accommodate programming, performance, and exhibitions, and that would serve the entire West Shore and build on the strengths of the West Shore Parks and Recreation Society.

POLICY 13.2.4.3 PROGRAMMING, EVENTS, AND SPACES FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

Identify opportunities to nurture and showcase local art and culture by:

- a. Exploring the possibility of using space in public buildings such as community centres, schools, and City Hall for arts and culture;
- b. Developing spaces for programmed or spontaneous performances and art installations in public realm upgrades and other infrastructure projects;



Beach events - an example of local events that showcase local culture and identity

- c. Promoting culture-led economic development by offering tax incentives to building owners who provide affordable rents to arts and culture businesses or organizations;
- d. Supporting diverse arts programs, artistic opportunities, cultural festivals, and other events that celebrate and contribute to Colwood's cultural identity; and
- e. Continuing to collaborate with the West Shore Arts Council on local art programs.