

Arts and Culture

A flourishing society includes universal access to arts programming and cultural events.

HOW WE'RE THINKING ABOUT THIS

Arts and culture are essential to a flourishing society, offering insights into our past and shaping our present and future. They foster community connections and help give voice to what we're experiencing now and into the future.

The First Nations people of British Columbia are revitalizing their traditions of art, storytelling and community resilience through determination and perseverance. Both the provincial and federal governments bear the responsibility to support and fund these vital cultures, allowing Indigenous peoples of this land to flourish.

The BC Greens recognize that the wellbeing of all British Columbians is closely tied to the health of the province's cultural investments. Repatriation, ceremony, and the sharing of knowledge and language are critical for future generations to understand their history and navigate their present. Indigenous peoples possess invaluable knowledge for managing diverse ecosystems, which will be increasingly crucial as climate change intensifies and extreme weather events become more common.

A robust arts and culture sector will benefit all British Columbians—creating greater connection to our communities and our shared future.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Arts, culture and heritage are frequently underfunded and unsupported by all levels of government. This has led to the closure of local music venues and the shutdown of valuable programs across British Columbia, where the voices of our storytellers have traditionally found space to share.

Historically, governments in this province have devalued art and culture. Colonization resulted in the theft of First Nations' art and culture, alongside the destruction and burning of numerous heritage sites. Preserving the province's rich and vibrant history is essential, as is providing Indigenous communities with the necessary resources to sustain their cultural practices.

POLICIES FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Strengthen the arts, culture, and heritage sector in British Columbia through increased funding and strategic planning

- We will increase the annual BC Arts Council budget to \$55 million to enhance support for arts and culture initiatives.
- We will maintain COVID-era investments in arts, culture, and heritage and increase funding based on inflation to support ongoing recovery and growth.
- Collaborate with the sector to develop a provincial Arts, Culture, and Heritage Action Plan to guide future investments and initiatives.

Supporting First Nations repatriation

- Develop a centralized service with the Royal BC Museum that assists Indigenous communities with repatriation of cultural items. By working and liaising with global institutions, the service would streamline Indigenous repatriation.

Provide additional funding streams for BC Museum

- Ongoing Heritage Legacy Fund: An annual allocation of \$500,000 to support operational needs, addressing past funding cuts and stakeholder concerns.
- Archives Grant Program: An annual grant of \$50,000 to assist with digitization and proper archival processes, ensuring the preservation of cultural artifacts – especially in light of climate impacts.