

NANAIMO ARTS COUNCIL TRANSIT SHUTTLE REQUEST - 2025

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve Nanaimo Arts Council's request for the Regional District of Nanaimo to provide transit shuttle service for the Nanaimo Artwalk 2025, two-day event on November 22 and 23. The total cost charged to the Nanaimo Arts Council will not exceed \$1,000 for both event days .

BACKGROUND

The Nanaimo Arts Council is hosting its annual Nanaimo Artwalk 2025, event that involves 50 or more visual artists exhibiting their art in 20 public and private venues along Commercial Street and Old City Quarter in the City of Nanaimo's Downtown. The Nanaimo Arts Council estimates that 1,000 people will attend the two-day event, based on their annual survey data, with approximately ten percent (10%) coming from out of town. This year's event will occur on Saturday, November 22 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sunday, November 23, from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

The event is split between two areas in the City of Nanaimo's downtown, Commercial Street and Old City Quarter. The elevation between the two locations is too steep for many event goers to travel between venues and therefore the event is not fully utilized by all event attendees. The complementary shuttle service between the two areas of downtown would encourage attendance, reduce congestion in both areas and allow attendees to escape the inclement weather experienced at the time of year the event is being held, November.

The Artwalk two-day event request for shuttle service meets the below criteria of the Regional District of Nanaimo's (RDN) Policy C3-01, 'Use of Buses for Special Events', Attachment 2:

- The event is community oriented and open to participation by all members of the public.
- The event is held within the Transit service area.

This complementary public shuttle service will help the City of Nanaimo achieve its goal of trying different approaches to make transit more appealing so the public will choose to leave their personal vehicles at home for public events. Encouraging mass transit as an alternative to personal automobiles helps reduce greenhouse gases in the region, congestion and supports the RDN Boards strategic plan. The Nanaimo Arts Council has been approved by the RDN Board to provide this service for the past two years and this marks the third consecutive year they have submitted a request for shuttle bus service.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Nanaimo Arts Council has requested one (1) RDN transit bus and transit operator for six (6) hours of shuttle service on the first event day, and four (4) hours of shuttle service on the second event day, plus additional travel time to and from the transit yard. The total for the two days of shuttle service will not exceed \$1,000. There is no cost to the RDN to provide this service. RDN staff will consult with BC Transit to seek any potential cost saving measures that would benefit the Nanaimo Arts Council.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Offering shuttle service allows more residents to participate in a public event effectively, encourages transit use to reduce congestion and reduces greenhouse gases.

Managing Impacts of Climate Change - Shift to more environmentally sustainable modes of transportation to help achieve provincial objectives and regional targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

REVIEWED BY:

- D. Marshall, Senior Manager, Transportation Services
- C. Crabtree, General Manager, Corporate and Transportation Services
- D. Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Nanaimo Art Council Request for RDN Shuttle Service for Artwalk
2. Policy C3-01 Use of Buses for Special Events (June 2017)