



Ref: 32091

January 3, 2018

Mr. David Calabrigo
Chair
Board of Trustees
Vancouver Art Gallery
750 Hornby Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2H7

Dear Mr. Calabrigo:

I would like to thank you for your funding request regarding the Vancouver Art Gallery (VAG) replacement project. I appreciate that the VAG represents the epicentre of the thriving cultural ecosystem in Vancouver, and the importance it has both within the community and as a draw for tourists. The arts are important to our government as they play a critical role in our provincial economy and in the health and vitality of our communities. Artists and arts and culture organizations like the VAG make our communities more desirable places to live and work.

The Province recognizes the many benefits of building the new gallery, and it continues to be of interest to us. However, we must consider your funding request within the context of other pressing government priorities across all sectors, and as such the Province is unable to commit to your funding request at this time. We invite you to submit another request at the point in which you are able to demonstrate significant progress in raising private funding for this project.

In addition, please keep me apprised of the project and share any new information or strategic documents that the VAG develops in relation to the redevelopment. I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Beare
Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture

pc: Ms. Sandra Carroll, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

Ms. Kathleen Bartels, Director
Vancouver Art Gallery

BRIEFING NOTE

Vancouver Art Gallery

Meeting Location TBD

Briefing Note

What:

Vancouver Art Gallery's proposed new facility

Who:

Geoff Meggs – Chief of Staff, Premier's Office

Brenda Bailey – Parliamentary Secretary for Technology and Innovation and
MLA for Vancouver-False Creek

Executive Summary:

- In 2007, the Vancouver Art Gallery (VAG) announced its plans to build a new facility located on the Larwill Park site, bounded by Cambie, Dunsmuir, Beatty and Georgia Streets, and owned by the City of Vancouver.
- The VAG capital campaign aims to raise \$355 million, including \$50 million to establish an endowment to offset operating costs and ensure sustainability.
- In 2008, the VAG received \$50 million from the Province for this project.
- VAG has raised \$187 million from the private sector which is exceptionally high level of private financial support for a Canadian cultural institution.

- s.21

- The VAG is seeking s.21
original request of \$100 million) and an s.21
s.21 original request of \$50 million) from the Province.

BRIEFING NOTE

Vancouver Art Gallery

Meeting Location TBD

Background:

- At approx. 300,000 square feet, the new building will be more than double the space of the current building and provide more diverse and compelling exhibitions, public programs and learning opportunities, including early learning.
- In 2011, Vancouver City Council voted unanimously to grant the VAG the option for a 99-year lease at the Larwill Park site. In 2020, Vancouver City Council confirmed its commitment to the lease until December 2022.
- The new Gallery has been designed by Swiss architecture firm Herzog & de Meuron, working with local architect Perkins + Will.
- On May 27, 2019, Minister Beare sent letters to the federal ministers responsible for culture and infrastructure advocating for the federal government to provide \$100 million to the VAG for this project, outside of any existing bi-lateral infrastructure agreements.
- In June 2020, the VAG selected a new CEO and director, Anthony Kiendl.
- The new CEO has done a good job at articulating how the project supports government priorities – municipal, provincial and federal.
- VAG has also updated the project business case, reduced costs by ^{s.21} through the elimination of one floor and reducing ceiling heights, etc.
- VAG has been hard hit by the pandemic with revenues down 75% since reopening in June, and attendance levels have remained at about 20% of pre-pandemic levels.

Recommendations:

- The Royal BC Museum and Chinese Canadian Museum remain the top arts and culture infrastructure priorities for the Province ^{s.13}

BRIEFING NOTE
Vancouver Art Gallery
Meeting Location TBD

- s.13



November 20, 2017

Honourable Lisa Beare
Minister of Tourism, Arts, and Culture

The following is a Cabinet minute excerpt from November 8, 2017 for your attention:

6. Vancouver Art Gallery

s.12; s.13

Elizabeth MacMillan
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

pc: Sandra Carrol, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture

From: [Wood, Chelsea TACS:EX](#)
To: [Berkes, Andrea TACS:EX](#)
Subject: FW: VAG direction
Date: March 3, 2021 11:14:23 AM
Attachments: [Funding letter to VAG board chair.pdf](#)
[Cabinet Minute.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Chelsea Wood

A/Senior Executive Assistant

Deputy Minister's Office | Ministry of Tourism, Art, Culture and Sport
Telephone: 778-974-5432 | Cell: 250-920-6886

From: Avison, Claire TAC:EX
Sent: February 1, 2021 1:04 PM
To: Mayhew, Neilane TAC:EX
Subject: VAG direction

s.13

Claire Avison | Assistant Deputy Minister | Ministry of Tourism Arts Culture and Sport | Cell: 250-217-9059 | claire.avison@gov.bc.ca

From: Mayhew, Neilane TAC:EX <Neilane.Mayhew@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 29, 2021 11:32 AM
To: Peters, Melissa GCPE:EX <Melissa.Peters@gov.bc.ca>; Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>; Jonker, Brian TAC:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>; Berkes, Andrea TAC:EX <Andrea.Berkes@gov.bc.ca>; Warwick, Alexei TAC:EX <Alexei.Warwick@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: TACS Media Request: VAG Follow Up

s.13; s.16

Neilane

From: Peters, Melissa GCPE:EX <Melissa.Peters@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 29, 2021 11:29 AM
To: Mayhew, Neilane TAC:EX <Neilane.Mayhew@gov.bc.ca>; Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>; Jonker, Brian TAC:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>; Berkes, Andrea TAC:EX <Andrea.Berkes@gov.bc.ca>; Warwick, Alexei TAC:EX <Alexei.Warwick@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: TACS Media Request: VAG Follow Up

Good point. Could we say the following? I know both RBCM/CCM are listed in her mandate letter.

s.13

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/ministries-organizations/premier-cabinet-mlas/minister-letter/mark_mandate_2020_jan.pdf

Melissa Peters
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
250-213-1634

From: Mayhew, Neilane TAC:EX <Neilane.Mayhew@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 29, 2021 11:24 AM
To: Peters, Melissa GCPE:EX <Melissa.Peters@gov.bc.ca>; Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>; Jonker, Brian TAC:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>; Berkes, Andrea TAC:EX <Andrea.Berkes@gov.bc.ca>; Warwick, Alexei TAC:EX <Alexei.Warwick@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: TACS Media Request: VAG Follow Up

s.13; s.16

Neilane

From: Peters, Melissa GCPE:EX <Melissa.Peters@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 29, 2021 10:29 AM
To: Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>; Mayhew, Neilane TAC:EX <Neilane.Mayhew@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>; Jonker, Brian TAC:EX <Brian.Jonker@gov.bc.ca>; Berkes, Andrea TAC:EX <Andrea.Berkes@gov.bc.ca>; Warwick, Alexei

TAC:EX <Alexei.Warwick@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: TACS Media Request: VAG Follow Up

Claire, Neilane,

The reporter has come back with a follow up asking if VAG is a priority project (see yellow highlight below). s.13

s.13

Melissa Peters
Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
250-213-1634

From: Glen Korstrom <gkorstrom@biv.com>

Sent: January 28, 2021 5:33 PM

To: Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: Vancouver Art Gallery - is funding its proposed expansion with another \$50 million a priority?

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Chris.

Thanks for the statement. Am I able to attribute the statement to the ministry? (When some people say "background," they mean that it cannot be attributed.)

Also, by "promote support for this project," does the ministry mean that a new Vancouver Art Gallery is a priority infrastructure project?

Beare said in 2018 that the art gallery expansion had to be put in the context of other priorities – "These priorities include taking action to increase affordable housing, addressing the Lower Mainland's rapid transit infrastructure and creating affordable childcare for BC families."

Given those other priorities for federal funding, is money for a new Vancouver Art Gallery more or less important?

Cheers,

Glen Korstrom

Reporter, Business in Vancouver

Business in Vancouver Media Group

Cell: 604-345-6949 | @GlenKorstrom | Web: www.biv.com

303 West 5th Avenue | Vancouver | BC | V5Y 1J6

From: Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 5:11 PM

To: Glen Korstrom <gkorstrom@biv.com>

Subject: RE: Vancouver Art Gallery - is funding its proposed expansion with another \$50 million a priority?

Hi Glen – thanks for your inquiry. Please note the following background info from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport:

The B.C. government appreciates the important role the Vancouver Art Gallery plays in promoting the arts and artists in B.C. There are many benefits to building a new art gallery and the province will continue to engage with the federal government to promote support for this project.

Right now, the provincial government's focus is on the recovery of the arts and culture sector as a whole. That's why the government is providing \$21 million to support the resilience of the arts and culture sector. This funding will help arts and culture organizations cover operating expenses and rehire people who work in the sector. The government has also committed to expanding the Arts Infrastructure Program to help improve arts spaces in more communities across B.C.

Cheers, Chris

From: Glen Korstrom <gkorstrom@biv.com>

Sent: January 27, 2021 4:39 PM

To: Harbord, Chris GCPE:EX <Chris.Harbord@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Vancouver Art Gallery - is funding its proposed expansion with another \$50 million a priority?

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Chris.

This is to follow up our phone chat. I'm writing about how the Vancouver Art Gallery is faring

during the pandemic. One part of the story is its long-desired push for a new facility.

They now have \$87M out of a needed \$150M to come from the private sector. They need \$200M from governments and so far only have \$50M, which the Gordon Campbell government pledged in 2008.

You can see the email response from January, 2018, below, when Lisa Beare was the arts and culture minister.

She in early 2018 was urging the gallery to demonstrate better private sector support. Since then, the gallery has received a commitment of \$40M from the Caleb Chan family, among other smaller donations.

Of the \$200M that the VAG needs from governments, the plan is to get \$50M more from the province, and for the province to signal to the feds that having Ottawa match the \$100M total committed from the province should be matched. Ottawa's process for granting infrastructure funding is to have the province's prioritize projects for this funding.

B.C. has yet to commit to the additional \$50 million for the gallery or to make that project a priority among infrastructure projects for Ottawa funding.

So, I'm after an update of a statement from the one the province sent on January 8, 2018. Is this project a priority? If not, what does the province want to see before it becomes a priority? More private sector funding?

I need to file my story by end of day Friday.

Thanks,

Glen Korstrom
Reporter, Business in Vancouver
Business in Vancouver Media Group
Cell: 604-345-6949 | @GlenKorstrom | Web: www.biv.com
303 West 5th Avenue | Vancouver | BC | V5Y 1J6

From: Jack, Carolyn GCPE:EX <Carolyn.Jack@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2018 5:12 PM

To: Glen Korstrom <gkorstrom@biv.com>

Subject: Hello Glenn - reply to queries re: VAN ART GALLERY ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Hello Glenn.

Thank you for your queries regarding funding the Vancouver Art Gallery's new building project.

Please cite Tourism, Arts & Culture Minister Lisa Beare when quoting from the reply below:

The B.C. Government appreciates that the Vancouver Art Gallery plays an important role in promoting the arts and artists in British Columbia, as well as its place as a significant draw for tourists. Our government is committed to supporting BC's vibrant arts community.

In 2008, the B.C. Government provided a one-time grant of \$50 million to support a new or refurbished gallery. The Gallery also received \$715,000 in operating funding from the BC Arts Council, in addition to \$225,000 in BC Community Gaming Grant funding in fiscal year 2016-17.

We recognize the many benefits of building the new art gallery, and the project continues to be of interest to us.

However, the current funding request must be considered within the context of other pressing government priorities across all sectors, with the aim of making life more affordable for British Columbians. These priorities include taking action to increase affordable housing, addressing the Lower Mainland's rapid transit infrastructure and creating affordable childcare for BC families.

At this time, the B.C. Government is encouraging the Vancouver Art Gallery to demonstrate greater private donation support.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Vancouver Art Gallery and remain open to hearing about new information and reviewing any future strategic documents the Gallery develops in relation to the redevelopment.

Regarding your query about federal infrastructure funding:

While there may be some federal funding programs that can be accessed directly, funding from programs such as the Building Canada Fund are allocated based on an agreement between the federal and provincial governments. As such, requests for funding from these programs must first go through provincial review and alignment with provincial priorities prior to being considered by the federal government. At this time, the remaining funding for the Building Canada Fund is currently oversubscribed and has already been allocated to other projects.

As you may be aware, Phase Two of the federal Investing in Canada Plan, as outlined in Budget 2017, provided additional funding for infrastructure. The Province is working with Infrastructure Canada to conclude an Integrated Bilateral Agreement with respect to the plan by March 31, 2018, and further details on these programs will be available at that time.


Regarding your request for comment from Premier Horgan:

The Premier is unavailable today and is not commenting on this subject at this time.

I hope this is helpful to you.

With best regards
Carolyn Jack

Carolyn Jack, Acting Director of Communications
Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture, Responsible for Sport
and Multiculturalism

 (250) 893-4449



Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [Anthony Kiendl](#)
To: [Poirier, Dorice TACS:EX](#)
Cc: [Avison, Claire TACS:EX](#)
Subject: RE: capital project update
Date: January 28, 2021 8:23:26 AM
Attachments: s.21

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

I am attaching for Claire's reference s.21
s.13 We have a call with them this afternoon as well.

AK

From: Poirier, Dorice TAC:EX
Sent: January 28, 2021 8:16 AM
To: Anthony Kiendl
Cc: Avison, Claire TAC:EX
Subject: RE: capital project update

CAUTION: This is an external email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Anthony, I will be sending an invite shortly to all the people included in the email below.
Is there any material that Claire needs to review prior to the call?
Many thanks for making this call possible!

Dorice Poirier Executive Administrative Assistant to Claire Avison | Assistant Deputy Minister,
Arts and Culture | Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport | **778-698-0455** |
dorice.poirier@gov.bc.ca

From: Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 28, 2021 7:33 AM
To: Anthony Kiendl <akiendl@vanartgallery.bc.ca>
Cc: branislav.henselmann@vancouver.ca; Poirier, Dorice TAC:EX <Dorice.Poirier@gov.bc.ca>; Elain Evans <eevans@vanartgallery.bc.ca>; Lindsay Sherman <lsherman@vanartgallery.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: capital project update

Great thanks. I will make 11 this morning work. My office will send call in details shortly.

Best

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 28, 2021, at 7:31 AM, Anthony Kiendl <akiendl@vanartgallery.bc.ca> wrote:

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Claire,

So nice to hear from you, thank you.

I have availability this morning at 11 am. I would invite our Campaign Director Elain Evans to join us. If this works, we can set up a zoom, let me know how you wish to proceed.

Anthony

From: Avison, Claire TAC:EX <Claire.Avison@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: January 27, 2021 5:27 PM

To: Anthony Kiendl <akiendl@vanartgallery.bc.ca>

Cc: branislav.henselmann@vancouver.ca; Poirier, Dorice TAC:EX <Dorice.Poirier@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: capital project update

CAUTION: This is an external email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Anthony – I hope this email finds you thriving despite the pandemic. I'm reaching out looking for an update on VAG's capital project. Let me know if ok to set up a short call tomorrow if possible. I'm also hoping to set up another meeting with you and Branislav as part of a more regular check in that we discussed the last time we met. Looking forward to connecting.

Best

Claire Avison | Assistant Deputy Minister | Ministry of Tourism Arts Culture and Sport |
Cell: 250-217-9059 | claire.avison@gov.bc.ca

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.21