

## **Summary of Cultural Gathering discussions**

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### **Space:**

#### **Need:**

The most significant need expressed was to have accessible and affordable space for community arts programs. From space to have art or photography shows and sell work, to space for rehearsals and performances, it's clear that Nanaimo does not have adequate affordable and accessible space available.

#### **Ideas:**

There were a number of interesting ideas:

- Having the city use tax or other incentives to motivate property owners of unused or under-utilized buildings to make space available at a price that is affordable to community arts groups. The old A&B Sound building came up as an example.
- Having the city build (or purchase and renovate an existing building) for a purpose-built multi-use space. A specific suggestion was made for a performing arts / music venue that is mid-sized (smaller than the Port Theatre and bigger than the Vault)
- Requiring City owned or subsidized properties like rec centres or Port Theatre to make space available regularly at a price that is much lower for community arts groups and initiatives.
- Facilitate cooperation with the school district to allow the use of unused school space. The band building at the former Woodlands Secondary was suggested.

### **Coordination and Consultation:**

#### **Need:**

There was a sense that there is great untapped potential in having the city more connected with individuals, groups and businesses who curate cultural experiences in the city.

#### **Idea:**

More opportunities to consult and involve these people

Programs to encourage a growing community of people in the city who are professional musicians, artists, performers etc.