

2025-February-26

Re: Grant Application to Canada Council for the Arts

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for Art Action Earwig, as they seek to secure funding from Canada Council for the Arts in support of Pulling To Gather 2025-2026, a community-driven eco-art collaboration project that will bring together concepts of art and ecological restoration together through creative activities and interdisciplinary cultural projects. The City of Nanaimo's support for Pulling To Gather began in 2023, and we presented their Earth Day celebration in Colliery Dam Park in the following spring.

By engaging in the establishment of a Coast Salish food forest and removal of invasive plant species in a local watershed and park areas, Pulling To Gather will directly enhance the health of the local ecology and raise awareness in the community for better climate resiliency and food security. This year they are aiming for longer-term and broader knowledge-based ecological and cultural changes in the Cat Stream area/ Robins Park and Colliery Dam park. Plans for the project, including but not limited to recovering and enhancing habitat of the Cat Stream, collaboration with Snuneymuxw First Nation and local artists, align directly with the City of Nanaimo's City Plan, including recognizing culture as a significant contributor to quality of life, supporting community led arts and culture programs, facilitating collaboration with and between arts and culture organizations, and allowing for encounters with public art in trails and unexpected places as reflections of local environment and community history.

The City of Nanaimo plans to provide expansive in-kind support to Art Action Earwig in the facilitation of this project which will involve support from multiple city departments including Community Development, Facility & Parks, and Recreation & Culture. The City commits to provide equipment to assist with the work party activities along the Cat Stream, contribute some staff time in a liaison capacity for restoration parties and celebrations, assist in distributing marketing materials to all recreation facilities throughout the City to help promote the event. We also informed the artists of relevant grant opportunities from the City's programs from which the artists may benefit.

The City of Nanaimo heartily supports this group in their fundraising efforts via other providers. We look forward to watching this project continue to evolve and benefit current and future communities in Nanaimo and the region.

Name

Position/ Department

City of Nanaimo