



To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** March 13 2020
From: Mayor Helps and Councillor Loveday
Subject: COVID-19 City Response to Support Small Business, Arts and Culture and the Visitor Economy

The City of Victoria has been following all the health protocols required by the Provincial government and keeping our residents up to date by email, website and social media. In addition, we've been working with Island Health to ensure that the City's most vulnerable residents are cared for at this time.

Senior levels of government have more tools at their disposal to support jobs and workers and we will continue to advocate and partner with them. However, it is also incumbent on local governments to take action to support our local economies. As it says in *Victoria 3.0*, which is also coming forward for Council's consideration today, the point of economic development in the 21st century is to rearchitect the economy in a way that puts the community at the centre. There may be small things the City can do – or not do – to stimulate and sustain the local economy so that we can prepare for economic recovery in a sustainable and resilient way.

We want to provide as much certainty and hope as we can to the people who are feeling not only insecure about their health, but also insecure about their jobs, their companies or their events. We know that connection is key to healthy communities and in a time when we're telling the public to socially distance themselves and isolate, investing now in recovery is key.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Direct staff to examine all of the City's fiscal, legislative and legal powers to support small businesses and jobs, arts and culture and the visitor economy in order sustain the local economy during the pandemic and recover stronger and more resilient than before.
2. Report back to Council on an urgent basis.
3. Forward this recommendation to the daytime Council meeting of March 19th.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Helps



Councillor Loveday