



Report Number: EC2026-0346

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2026 April 14

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Agent of Change Policy Framework for Music, Arts, and Cultural Venues

Sponsoring Member(s) of Council: Councillor Clark

WHEREAS Arts, culture, music, and the creative economy are recognized by The City of Calgary as contributors to economic development, place-making, tourism, and community well-being, as reflected in Council-approved plans and strategies;

AND WHEREAS Cultural use including live music venues, performance spaces, and cultural establishments often pre-exist new residential, hotel, or mixed-use development in established and emerging neighbourhoods;

AND WHEREAS As Calgary continues to grow and intensify, conflicts can arise when new development is introduced near existing venues, particularly related to noise, hours of operation, and land-use compatibility.

AND WHEREAS In the absence of a clear, proactive policy framework, these conflicts are frequently addressed reactively through complaint-driven enforcement mechanisms rather than through planning and design at the development stage;

AND WHEREAS Other Canadian municipalities, such as Toronto, have adopted an “Agent of Change” principle, which assigns responsibility for mitigating land-use impacts to the party introducing change, typically through building design, construction standards, and disclosure measures applied at the time of development approval;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee forward this Notice of Motion to the 2026 April 28 Regular Meeting of Council for consideration; and

BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure and Planning no later than Q2 2027 with an assessment of the feasibility and implications of introducing an Agent of Change policy framework applicable to new residential, hotel, or mixed-use development proposed in proximity to existing music, arts, and cultural venues, and

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the report include an examination of how an Agent of Change framework could be implemented in Calgary, including consideration of

- a) whether existing planning and policy tools could be used or enhanced to better support both new and longstanding music, arts, and cultural venues as contributors to Calgary’s creative economy,
- b) Available statutory and non-statutory tools that could support implementation, including potential alignment with the Calgary Plan and the Zoning Bylaw,

- b) Appropriate geographic application and proximity, such as defined entertainment, cultural, or mixed-use districts, or other location-based approaches.
- c) How the framework could be applied through the planning and development process, including high level considerations related to building design, site planning, mitigation measures, or disclosure requirements, without prescribing specific technical or acoustic standards at this time; and
- d) How the framework would interact with existing City bylaws, policies, and enforcement tools, including clarity on roles and responsibilities. .