

Frequently Asked Questions

Proposed SBIA 2024-2025 Budget and 7-Year Budget Ceiling



What is the biggest source of change that contributes to the 18.5% increase for 2024-2025 budget compared to the 2023-2024 budget?	The biggest increase in this budget comes from the proposed additional safety patrol hours to be added onto the current safety patrol service. This addition will add capacity to provide additional support especially during seasons when members may have more frequent need for support.
What does a 7-year budget ceiling mean?	The proposed 7-year budget ceiling of \$9,273,637 is the total levy amount that SBIA members collectively will contribute to the SBIA budget for the entire next 7 years. Having said that, SBIA aims to keep the annual budget increase at a relatively low and stable level between the year 2025 to 2030 as a way to maintain predictability for SBIA members.
After the 2024-2025 budget increase, will there be a similar percentage increase for the budget every year?	No. The principle behind this 7-year budget ceiling is to maintain predictability. After the first year's 18.5% increase, the goal is for SBIA to maintain an average 3% year for the annual budget starting from 2015-2016 onward. The aim is to minimize fluctuation and unpredictability of year over year annual budget increase.
Why is SBIA taking on so much of the responsibility of community safety of Strathcona instead of the City of Vancouver?	This budget increase in community safety reflects the SBIA's commitment to provide consistent support to members as much as possible. While safety patrol as a service continues to be appreciated and used by many SBIA members regularly, it is also recognized that the safety patrol program alone can only meet certain safety and security needs. We understand community safety goes beyond the safety patrol service, and that it is unsustainable for SBIA to shoulder the entire responsibility of community safety in the long run. We have the vision of working with the City of Vancouver and Strathcona Community Policing Center more strategically on new initiatives in the coming years. The goal is to share the work of community safety with partners who have greater capacity and focused mandate to manage community safety, in order for SBIA to shift our focus and capacity to business and community relation development instead.

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Does this budget take into consideration the increasing challenge in dealing with graffiti?	Yes. Due to the growing challenge with graffiti in Strathcona, this budget reflects the increasing demand on the anti-graffiti service. The City of Vancouver has been providing additional graffiti abatement grant support to BIAs across the city in the past 2 years. BIA Partnership will continue to advocate for more City funding support in order to meet the increasing challenge in dealing with graffiti.
What projects, programs, and services are included under the Business Development component of the budget?	The Business Development component of the budget includes the work around advocacy for greater flexibility and modernization of industrial lands used as the foundation for greater economic diversification and intensification. This is important to the development of the creative and retail business clusters which are increasingly seen as the core building blocks for Strathcona’s potential as a complete community. The goal is to continue to build on the internal capacity for research and public communications in order to achieve effective advocacy, implement district promotion and strengthen partnership with the City of Vancouver.
Strathcona has a vibrant arts community. Does this budget include funding for the arts development within the district?	Yes. SBIA believes arts as a business cluster is critical to Strathcona’s vision as a complete community. This is reflected in the new dedicated budget item on community arts sponsorship. The goal is for SBIA to play the role as a strong and consistent funding partner to SBIA members within the arts cluster.
Is there any major change to the budget allocated for operations?	The operation part of the budget remains conservative by assuming inflationary increases to most of the operational and administrative functions such as human resources, office supplies, legal and accounting. The largest variable budget items under Operations are insurance and IT.