

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to follow-up with Council on the implementation of youth-related initiatives, as well as an opportunity to enhance how investments are planned and implemented.

BACKGROUND

The City invests significantly in programs and services relating to citizens of all ages. Child and youth participation and opportunities range from 0-6 months to 25 years. In the past year, the total investment in this area has exceeded \$1 million, through a combination of programs delivered by City staff or other community stakeholders.

The City is involved in the direct delivery of youth recreation programs and services through the Recreation division. The team offers 1,400 programs for youth relating to sport, aquatics, fitness, social development and leadership. The Recreation group also administers an annual training program for residents, Youth Leadership in Training, which provides temporary employment experience for young citizens over a 2-month term.

In addition, the City supports programs and services provided through 11 community/seniors centre operators, in neighbourhoods throughout the city. The City supports the work of these non-profit organizations through a variety of funding sources, including a Community Centre Youth Grant which offers additional capacity to engage local youth.

In April 2005, Council approved the establishment of the City of Victoria Youth Council (CVYC). The Youth Council is a youth-driven, grassroots program that offers opportunities for civic engagement. In 2018, Quadra Village Community Centre (QVCC) became the new organizational host for the Youth Council. The City has approved a \$26,000 grant to administer the Victoria Youth Council, along with logistical support as needed from City staff.

In February 2017, Council approved a three-year Youth Strategy, developed in collaboration with youth, focused on opportunities to enhance openness and inclusivity, increase communication and education about the City, and provide opportunities and support for youth and advocate on youth issues. In 2017, a part-time Youth Strategy Coordinator role was established on a one-time basis to assist with implementation of the strategy.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

Current Delivery Model

At present youth-related initiatives are delivered through multiple City departments with variable levels of resourcing and coordination. The Recreation division delivers youth programs and services at the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre and collaborates with colleagues in local governments throughout the region on programs, events and initiatives. Currently there is limited interaction between City staff and the various community groups and agencies that receive funding from the City for community services.

The City's Engagement department is currently responsible for supporting the implementation of the Youth Strategy, and with the Neighbourhoods Team, the work of the Youth Council. The Youth Strategy identified more than 20 initiatives to be undertaken over a three-year period, including how the City can better support youth. To-date, while much has been accomplished, many of the long-

term implementation requirements have not been fully scoped and costed, although some initial funding has been allocated to progress certain actions.

City staff in the Finance department administer the annual grant funding programs to support youth focused initiatives, including the Community Centre Youth Grants. The table below offers a summary of 2018 investments in youth-related services:

Recreation Programs and Services	\$853,570	Direct program delivery
Community Centre Youth Grants	\$84,423	Annual allocation
Youth Strategy Coordinator	\$30,000	One-time allocation
Youth Council Annual Grant	\$26,000	Annual funding
YLIT Program	\$20,000	One-time funding
Total City Investment in 2018	\$1,013,993	

The present lack of a staff lead to provide oversight of the overall portfolio of City investment is resulting in missed opportunities to share resources and meet common objectives amongst the various stakeholders involved.

Proposed Delivery Model

Staff recommend a coordinated approach that will improve service delivery for youth and increase accountability. The proposed model would be led by a new full-time staff position who would represent the City team from a “home base” in Recreation. This new position would act as the primary point of contact for the planning and coordination of Youth Services including the implementation of the Youth Strategy, youth programs and services, the Youth Council and community centre youth grants. This position would be responsible coordinating, planning and reporting on the impact of City investments, and assist with aligning further City support that may be required to make further progress on strategic objectives.

In addition to direct coordination of Youth Services delivered by City staff, the position will serve as the key contact for community centre operators. These organizations provide a wide range of programs and activities for residents of all ages. This new role will provide consistent support to community centre operators to enhance the City’s effective relationships with these stakeholders, as well as service agencies, youth and others focused on removing barriers to access and inclusion.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Staff recommend that Council support the proposed improvement to the delivery of Youth Services, including consideration of a new full-time position, within the 2019 Financial Plan.

This coordinated approach will improve the planning and implementation of youth related initiatives across the City, providing an increased level of staff support for current plans, future proposals and community partners.

Accessibility Impact Statement

Respect and respond to the perspectives, values and needs of individuals, groups and communities, and address barriers to participation.

2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan

The proposed model helps facilitate the following objectives in the City's Strategic Plan:
Objective 2: Engage and Empower the Community
Objective 7: Facilitate Social Inclusion and Community Wellness

Impacts to Financial Plan

Upon Council approval the requested funding would be allocated as a part of the 2019 Financial Plan.

Item:	Status:	Cost:	Benefit:
Recreation Supervisor	On-going	\$105,000	Oversight of Youth Services portfolio and support for Community Centre operators
Program Implementation	One-time	\$15,000	Resources to support program implementation
		\$120,000	Proposed new investments

Official Community Plan Impact Statements

9.12 Seek to maintain partnerships, policies and fee structures for parks and recreational facilities that encourage the participation of people of all ages, incomes, abilities, backgrounds and lifestyles.

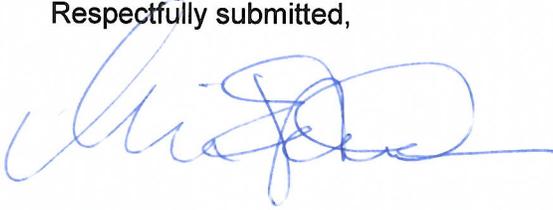
9.13 Work closely with community centres, senior centres, community organizations, the public library and residents to seek innovative opportunities to sustain and enhance community-based recreation services and programs.

9.14 Enhance child and youth-friendly parks and recreational facilities, services, and programs in the City, to promote a healthy community and to help attract and retain households with children.

CONCLUSION

This updated model will provide a more coordinated and effective delivery of the City's investments in youth programs to meet the growing needs of the community.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Eisenhauer
Head of Engagement



Thomas Soulliere
Director
Parks, Recreation and Facilities

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:


Date: DEC 31, 2018

List of Attachments

- Appendix A – January 4, 2017 COTW Report (Youth Strategy Mid-Term Report)
- Appendix B – Youth Strategy (February 2017)