

## **APPENDIX A**

### **OUR PLACE EXTENDED HOURS AND STORAGE OF BELONGINGS**

Options for adding ongoing funding for grants to Our Place for extended hours and storage of belongings.

### **BACKGROUND**

Over the last several years, Council has awarded grants to Our Place on an ad-hoc basis. The following table summarizes those grants from 2016 to 2022:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount Paid</b>
2016	Strategic Plan Grant (extended hours)	\$50,000
2017	Strategic Plan Grant (extended hours)	\$50,000
2018	Strategic Plan Grant (seniors program initiative)	\$20,000
	Next Steps Employment Program	\$25,000
	Extended Hours (new spring/summer operating hours)	\$25,000
	Storage Facility (construct & operate 6 hours/day x 7 days/week)	\$130,000
		\$200,000
2019	Strategic Plan Grant (seniors social inclusion)	\$30,000
	Extended Hours (April to Oct, match winter hours)	\$50,000
	In-kind Services (staffing & police for July 28 block party)	\$1,493
		\$81,493
2020	Strategic Plan Grant (integrated re-housing program focus on first-time homelessness)	\$22,000
	Extended Hours (April to Oct, match winter hours)	\$50,000
	Storage Facility	\$50,000
		\$122,000
2021	Extended Hours (spring and summer)	\$50,000
	Storage Facility	\$50,000
		\$100,000
2022	Extended Hours (spring and summer)	\$50,000
	Storage Facility	\$50,000
		\$100,000

### **FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Should Council wish to continue providing these grants to Our Place, Council could consider reallocating funding from an existing grant program such as the Strategic Plan Grants, or request that Our Place apply for a grant under an existing program. Alternatively, property taxes could be increased by \$100,000, which equates to a 0.06% tax increase.

## **OPERATING GRANTS FOR NORTH PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION (NPNA) AND DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (DRA)**

That the DRA and NPNA provide reports to Council for Council's consideration as part of the 2023 budget process.

### **BACKGROUND**

The City provides annual operating grants of \$78,020 (2022 amount) to associations who operate the 11 community and seniors centres under operating agreements with the City to provide recreation programming to the community. Community coordinator grants of \$20,000 are provided for neighbourhoods without community centres, including North Park, Downtown, James Bay, Rockland, and Jubilee.

For 2022, The North Park Neighborhood Association (NPNA) and the Victoria Downtown Residents Association (DRA) each requested a one-time grant to support efforts to meet the needs of residents in these neighbourhoods.

The NPNA proposed to use the additional funding to hire two staff to implement outreach and capacity-building initiatives. The DRA hired two contract staff to support community operations and outreach, local programming, and volunteer recruitment coordination. In addition to meeting immediate needs, the NPNA and DRA have indicated that this funding will support the development of workplans that may inform future initiatives, including collaboration with the City on projects, such as the Equity Framework, Affordable Housing Strategy, local area plans, Crystal Pool Replacement Project, and the Climate Leadership Plan implementation.

New for 2022, Council approved a one-time operating grant of \$78,020 each to NPNA and DRA, instead of the \$20,000 community coordinator grant.

Attached for Council's information are the requested reports from NPNA and DRA.

### **FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Both organizations are requesting continued funding of \$78,020 each. The draft 2023 Financial Plan includes \$20,000 each for the community coordinator grant. Should Council wish to provide the additional funding requested, it could be funded through a property tax increase of \$116,040 or 0.07%.



December 23, 2022

Attn: Susanne Thompson  
Cc: Mayor and Council, Michael Hill  
Re: 2023 Budget - Report on Operational Funding

In February 2022, the City of Victoria approved enhanced funding to the Downtown Residents Association (DRA) on a trial basis in the form of a \$58,020 operating grant, bringing the total amount of funding provided to the organization by the City more in line with the amounts received by neighbourhood associations that have community centres connected to them.

This increased funding, in addition to the annual \$20,000 Coordinator Grant that was established in 2021, enabled the DRA to retain our contract Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator (first contracted in May 2021) at 20 hours per week, and contract a Land Use Planning Advisor (12 hours per week). Additional funds have also made it possible to secure a desk at a Downtown co-working space called theDock, enabling the DRA to establish a publicly accessible home base in our neighbourhood for the first time. We use the space to plan and organize, host meetings, hold educational and social events, and store resources in a secure location. Funding has also helped us to cover programming and materials expenses for a wide range of free events that we have hosted, as well as a welcome package for new residents. Additionally, funding has led to increased participation on the DRA's board and committees in 2022, due in large part to the support that our two contractors were able to provide.

Contracting a Land Use Planning Advisor has provided our Land Use Committee with research skills and professional planning advice which have become critically important in a neighbourhood under rapid redevelopment. The increased capacity strengthens the resiliency of the Land Use Committee and ensures that the CALUC process is well supported by the DRA.

A full Annual Neighbourhood Association Grant Report, outlining how the Base Grant and Coordinator Grant that we received for 2022 were utilized, will be submitted to the Neighbourhoods Team by the February 15th deadline. In the meantime, we are pleased to submit this letter **to request that the \$58,020 operating grant that was approved for the DRA in February 2022 as a one-time trial be extended and included in the 2023 budget**, bringing our annual funding from the City to \$78,020 plus the per-capita Base Grant.

The DRA was incorporated as a non-profit society in 2004 and has been run by a volunteer board of directors since then. Our purpose is to promote, facilitate, support or undertake any activity that will enhance the quality of life and the environment of the Downtown community for its residents. Healthy, vibrant neighbourhoods need organizations focused on building links between people. As our neighbourhood receives more and more new residents, finding ways to connect people and welcome them to this unique neighbourhood is critically important. The DRA is working to build those connections. The Coordinator Grant and subsequent operational funding has greatly increased the capacity of the organization to both understand and address the needs of Downtown residents. The following are some highlights of our 2022 activities, which demonstrate the progress that we were able to make as a result of the enhanced funding.

## **Resident Survey**

Representing residents is one of the main functions of a neighbourhood association and the DRA has long recognized the need for data that captures the unique experience of Downtown residents. In order to properly represent the neighbourhood, we need hard data from a wide cross-section of residents. Given the challenges of engaging with residents living in high-rise apartments and condo buildings, the DRA focused attention this year on creating a resident survey. Information about accessing the survey, which could be completed online or by paper copy, was made available through social media and via a postcard mail drop. We also made paper copies available to unhoused residents through several Downtown service providers.

The survey was designed by our Land Use Planning Advisor with input from our board of directors and Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator. Without these two contract positions, we would not have had either the time or the expertise to create and promote it, or organize and analyze the survey results. The survey results (which will be made public in early 2023) give us better information about the concerns of Downtown residents and will form the basis for our work in 2023 on green space, community gardens, easing social isolation, community-building and land use decision-making.

## **Community Events and Workshops**

In an effort to bring neighbours together and build a stronger sense of community Downtown, the DRA regularly hosts free community events. Enhanced funding allowed us to plan more events in 2022, including a series of outdoor concerts in the three small City-owned parks that fall within our neighbourhood boundaries - Harris Green Park, Reeson Park and Cridge Park - during the summer of 2022. Animating these underused public spaces helped to draw residents to places that some had previously viewed as dangerous or undesirable. We also partnered with the Bicycle Music Festival to bring the event to a Downtown park for the first time.

The DRA organized and hosted a number of free educational workshops intended to provide residents with tools to address some of the issues that folks living Downtown encounter on a regular basis. These included workshops about complex PTSD and its impact on folks who are unhoused (run in partnership with The Existence Project and The Seraphim Project), as well as a Naloxone training led by staff from SOLID Outreach.

In June, we collaborated with the Yates Street Community Garden to host a Blossom Your Pride event. The DRA also had a presence at a number of events put on by partner organizations, including Franco Fest, Go By Bike Week, Wicked Victoria, and the City's Seedling Distribution Days. In December we supported The Backpack Project in collecting donations for unhoused neighbours and distributing warm clothes and hot drinks on one of the coldest days of the year.

One of the DRA's most recent community engagement endeavours is a monthly Queer Open Stage that is held at theDock on the third Thursday of each month. This project is run in collaboration with queer musician Sara Rose, a Downtown resident who performed at one of our summer concerts. The open stage is intended to create a safer space for queer performers to share their art and build community and, to our knowledge, is the only ongoing, sober performance event specifically for 2SLGTBQIA+ members of Victoria's arts community. This project demonstrates how the increased organizational capacity that enhanced funding has provided enables the DRA to support grassroots initiatives led by Downtown residents.

## Election Events

The DRA's main focus during the late summer and early fall was engaging Downtown residents in the municipal election. We utilized data from our resident survey to create a questionnaire that was sent out to all candidates for mayor and council. The responses we received were published on our website to give residents a clear idea of where candidates stood on various issues related to living Downtown. In addition, we hosted a mayoral debate at the Vic Theatre and an all-candidates debate at The Atrium, which provided a forum for residents to meet council candidates and chat with them about topics particularly relevant to Downtown.

## Welcome Package

At a time when a number of new multi-residential buildings have been completed in recent months, the DRA recognizes that many Downtown residents are not only new to the neighbourhood, but also to Victoria. In response to this, and in line with the Victoria Welcoming City Strategy, the DRA recently created a "Welcome to the Neighbourhood" brochure, which will be distributed to residents as they move into new buildings early in 2023, starting with Hudson House on Blanshard St. and followed by the residences above the new fire hall on Johnson Street. Renewed operational funding will allow us to enhance this program by developing a series of Downtown walking tours and continuing to update our Resident Resources webpage.

## Land Use Planning

Funding for the Land Use Planning Advisor lightened the workload for the chairs of the Land Use Committee and provided resources for us to develop our neighbourhood profile and survey, as well as do research for the committee on the Inclusionary Housing policy and upcoming developments. Retaining this contractor has greatly increased the capacity of the Land Use Committee to review, conduct research, and respond regarding the multitude of development applications and liquor permit amendment requests. Renewed funding will allow this to become a full-year position at a higher number of weekly hours.

## Organizational Resilience

This year the DRA focused attention on strengthening and diversifying its board membership through recruitment. Four new members have joined the board over the past year (thanks in part to the increased profile of our organization that has resulted from having paid contractors for the first time) and we held an in-depth orientation session for board members in July. The DRA has six committees, each of which is chaired by a member of the board. Having support from our two contractors enabled our Urban Livability and Land Use Committees, in particular, to flourish in 2022 without burning out their volunteer chairs.

As described above, 2022 has been a busy year of growth for our small organization. This growth is reflected in the attached chart, which provides some key statistics.

Engagement Method	2021	2022
Number of free community events and workshops hosted	10	17
Number of partner events attended	5	8
Total number of people engaged	804	1555
Instagram followers	854	1039
Facebook followers	321	588
Newsletter subscribers	436	530

With renewed enhanced funding for 2023, we expect our impact to be even greater than it was

this year. Our original Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator moved on to a role with another organization in March and the transition time it took to hire and onboard a new contractor meant that much of our programming was put on hold temporarily. We also spent a large amount of contractor and volunteer time on our resident survey and election-related programming. The time allocated for these projects in 2022 will be freed up for planning and hosting additional community events and workshops in 2023. Attached is a draft summary of how our 2022 grant funding has been spent to date as well as our projected spending for 2023.

The \$20,000 Coordinator Grant that was provided by the City in 2021 allowed the DRA for the first time to go beyond the basics of what a volunteer board could accomplish. The additional \$58,020 that we received in 2022 made a huge difference in being able to understand our neighbourhood and its residents and scale up our engagement and community-building efforts, as well as our involvement in land use planning issues. Without this same level of funding in 2023, we fear that the momentum that we have been building will be stalled and that the great potential that we see for the organization and our neighbourhood will not be realized.

We are grateful for the enhanced funding that was provided to the DRA by the City in 2022 and urge you to renew this funding in 2023 so that our organization can continue to grow and better serve the needs of all residents of the Downtown neighbourhood.

Yours truly,

Sandra Severs  
President - Victoria Downtown Residents Association

## Victoria Downtown Residents Association - Draft Actual/Projected Expenditures

<b>2022 Coordinator and Operational Grants Awarded <u>\$78,020</u></b>	<b>2022 Actual Expenditures</b>	<b>2023 Projected Expenditures</b>
Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator contract payments	\$27,500.00	\$35,750.00
Land Use Planning Advisor contract payments	\$12,500.00	\$23,750.00
Desk/Storage space at theDock	\$5,800.00	\$6,100.00
Event expenses	\$9,500.00	\$12,000.00
Residents Survey expenses	\$2,600.00	
Welcome Package expenses	\$950.00	\$1,000.00
	<b>\$58,850.00</b>	<b>\$78,600.00</b>

Notes: 1.) The Coordinator and Operational Grants were received on June 1, 2022. The actual expenditures total for 2022 reflects the fact that we did not have a full 12 months after we received the grant to spend the funding. 2.) Our Land Use Planning Advisor was contracted in April 2022. 3.) As described in our letter, we anticipate having capacity to host a higher number of community events in 2023.



ATTN: Susanne Thompson (Director of Finance)

CC: Michael Hill (Neighbourhoods Team), Mayor and Council, NPNA Board,

December 21, 2022

**RE:** North Park Neighbourhood Association: 2022 Operating Grant report

The NPNA is grateful for the opportunity to have been one of two neighbourhoods without community centres to pilot a different approach to operational funding in 2022. We believe that this experiment has been highly successful and effective, and encourage the City to renew this funding and consider testing it in more neighbourhoods without community centres.

This year-end report contains both insights and metrics. Before we dive in, we offer three conclusions.

1. Neighbourhoods without community centres have been historically underfunded and under resourced, and hence have a lot of catching up to do to meet community needs. It takes time and resources to develop and sustain social cohesion, capital, networks and supports. This is especially true in a neighbourhood like North Park, home to a diverse population that includes some of the most underserved and disconnected populations in the region: people overburdened by systemic failures such as poverty, homelessness, discrimination, and racism. This operating grant has enabled the NPNA to move away from crisis mode, and towards capacity and relationship building fundamental to physical health and psychosocial well-being. Predictable funding enables the stability and consistency needed to plan for the future.
2. The value of providing barrier-free, no-cost, neighbourhood-based and neighbourhood-inspired programming and supports to a diverse, dynamic and overburdened urban population cannot be overstated. This approach is necessarily different from that employed by the regional facilities located in North Park, that operate on a pay-to-access model, and serve populations beyond our boundaries. We hear time and time again from residents, especially young and immigrant families, about how the NPNA's free, accessible, and inclusive activities and events offer relief from life's challenges and spark hope for a better future.
3. Delivering fundamental supports and services using a fractured/pop-up approach (described below) is a stop-gap solution until a comprehensive community centre plan is finalized for the North Park and capacity is increased in the other underserved Northern neighbourhoods: Downtown, Hillside-Quadra, and Fernwood. Lessons learned from 2022 reinforce unequivocally the need for a community centre that has the same level of features and functionality as communities such as Fairfield, Burnside and Oaklands - namely a single site, centrally located, accessible to the entire community, that features



large outdoor green and flex spaces, and large indoor recreational and flex spaces. No qualitative or quantitative data exists to support the City's plan to locate a community centre on the 900 block of Pandora.

### **Operating grant breakdown**

The City operating grant will be expended by March 2023, at which point the \$78,020.00 will have been distributed almost entirely to staffing, with a minor assignment to programming costs incurred due to scope increases:

- Executive director (wages): \$54,764.55
- Land Use Planning advisor (wages): \$15,400.00
- Multicultural Festival coordinator (wages): \$3,122.97
- Programming: hub activation extension \$2800, free skate expenses \$2036.76

In 2020 and 2021, the pandemic combined with existing inequities meant that the NPNA had to find other grants in addition to City funding to fill in the significant gaps in supports and services required by a community where many residents are in crisis. In 2022, one of our primary funding sources was the Healthy Community Initiative grant distributed by Community Foundations of Canada and the Canadian Urban Institute.

The 2022 City of Victoria operating grant funded staff wages which allowed for the planning and coordination of the deliverables listed in the chart on page 4. The Healthy Communities Initiative funded the program supplies, volunteer honorariums, insurance, etc.

As mentioned above, operational funding at this level (\$78,000 vs \$20,000 in 2021) has enabled our organization to do more strategically and on the ground. In 2022 we initiated multi-year planning, pursued new funding sources, and tested responsive programming that will start to build a culture of predictable and consistent supports and services for residents. In other words, \$20,000 lets a neighbourhood without a community centre start to scratch the surface to identify needs and gaps; \$78,000 makes it possible to go deeper into developing and delivering programs to improve quality of life. Funding at the 2022 level starts to let a neighbourhood have more concrete aspirations, to begin to have a robust conversation about what kinds of facilities, and physical spaces might be put in place to continue to meet these needs, and to plan for the future in a whole new way.

### **Metrics**

Here is snapshot of the number and range of engagements and interactions in 2022. See chart on page 5 for a more detailed summary of activities.

- Strategic partnerships/relationship building: there are 50 social service and community based organizations in the neighbourhood with whom we must engage and collaborate on an almost daily basis to manage the complexity, volume and urgency of the social issues impacting residents in and around North Park.
- Programming partnerships: our most consistent partners in events and activities include

Masjid Al Iman Mosque, VIRCS and the First Met Church, as well as a dozen or so extremely active volunteers who build bridges through their diverse social networks.

- Community and land use meetings and engagement sessions: 640 people representing the widest array of lived experiences
- Multicultural festivals (4 in 2022): total attendance 3000
- Free skate: doubled attendance this year to 400 households
- 80 total events in 2022 attended by 7,523 community members

### **North Park 'fractured and free' approach**

By making use of existing City owned and community spaces (Royal Athletic Park, Franklin Green, Central Park, Save on Foods Memorial Arena), created spaces (Vancouver Street Plaza) and borrowed spaces (First Met Church, Community Room at 1008 Pandora), we have been able to offer services, programs, activities, and events to a wide range of diverse communities that make up our neighbourhood. This approach is not without its challenges as it places a great strain on our 1.5 FTE staff and small group of volunteers who are constantly setting up and tearing down these 'pop up' spaces, as well as being 'on' day and night to meet people where they are at,

Given the demographics of North Park, we have long known that all our programming needs to be barrier-free, which mostly means 'no cost' but also refers to things like creating culturally safe spaces for Indigenous or queer youth and new immigrants, and 'close to home' activities due to the high numbers of people without vehicles. Being barrier-free has enabled us to connect with an incredible broad range of residents who are otherwise fundamentally left behind/underserved.

As stated in the introduction, optimally the right-community-centre-in-the-right- location can be realized for North Park in the near future. Once built, this community centre's offerings must include barrier-free programming to reflect the reality of the burdens experienced by residents of this neighbourhood.

### **2022 program areas, metrics, and alignments with City policies**

The NPNA's service to the community can be organized into six categories, listed below. The following chart offers some examples of the activities within these categories, as well as metrics and alignments with City policies/objectives. *Note: this chart only represents a portion of the NPNA's activities that were enabled by the operating grant. A full report with all programming and activities funded from other sources will be provided to the Neighbourhoods Team in February 2023.*

1. Communications & organization capacity
2. Land use committee
3. Service delivery & support
4. Events & activities
5. Arts & placemaking
6. Research partnerships & resource sharing

We are extremely proud of our consistent ability to reach and engage with the incredible range of populations and lived experiences in our neighbourhood. At every event, activity, and meeting the

diversity of voices listed below are regularly in attendance.

- Adults and seniors living alone,
- Children, adults, seniors, and families living in low income and/or core housing need
- Youth, adults, and seniors experiencing homelessness
- IBPOC community members
- Persons with disabilities
- Renters
- Newcomers
- Youth, adults, and seniors experiencing homelessness
- Individuals living in subsidized, supportive, and transitional housing
- Community members with substance use disorder

<b>Category</b>	<b>Metrics</b>	<b>Alignment with City objectives</b>
<b>Communications &amp; Organizational Capacity</b>		
<p>The 2022 operational funding has enabled our organization to develop our capacity through relationships with community partners and service providers, spend more time with neighbourhood businesses, expand our volunteer base, and further develop collaborative relationships with our neighbouring community associations in Fernwood, Downtown, and Hillside Quadra.</p> <p>Throughout 2022, the NPNA hosted and attended monthly meetings to represent views of community members, share and receive information, and provide opportunities for input and engagement.</p> <p>Meetings included: <a href="#">monthly meetings</a>, AGM, <a href="#">CALUC</a> meetings, <a href="#">Tiny Homes Community Advisory Committee</a>, 900 Block Good Neighbour Agreement Meetings, Downtown Service Provider (DSP), Systems Transformation Working Group (STWG), Health &amp; Housing Steering Committee, and the <a href="#">Victoria Community Association Network</a>.</p> <p>We actively work to keep residents informed about events, activities, and opportunities for engagement throughout North Park and the City of Victoria. Communication strategies</p>	<p>In-person/virtual meeting attendance at scheduled meetings in 2022: 640<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Online engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 24 newsletters (twice monthly) distributed in 2022</li> <li>– 949 newsletter subscribers</li> <li>– 55% newsletter open rate</li> <li>– 1,810 Instagram followers</li> <li>– 1,417 Twitter followers</li> <li>– 503 Facebook followers</li> </ul>	<p>Strategic Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 1.16 “. Develop and implement processes for convening the community and gathering input on what the community is interested in giving input on — not only engaging when City Hall has a question for the community”</li> <li>– 5.10b “Community efforts that promote inclusivity, understanding and collaboration across cultures to learn about and appreciate everyone’s unique perspective”</li> <li>– 5.10e.” Ensure a welcoming, compassionate and neighbourly</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Number of NPNA-organized monthly and CALUC meetings in 2022: 14

Average number of participants per meeting: 20 = 280 engagement

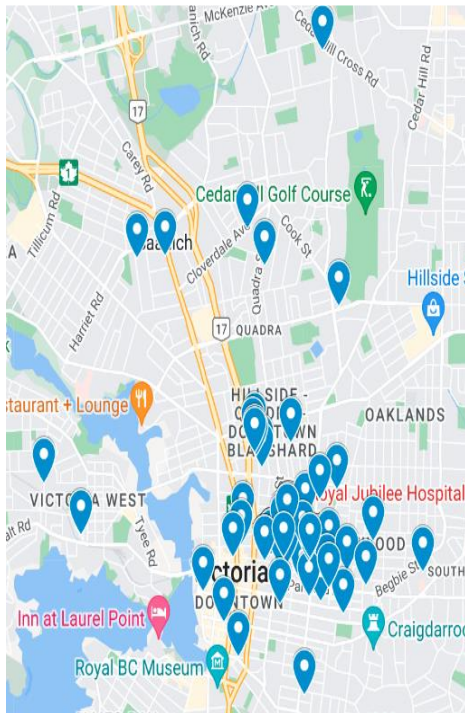
Number of community meetings NPNA staff and active volunteers attended in 2022: 120

Average number of NPNA participants per meeting: 3 = 360 engagements

<p>include: <a href="#">newsletters</a>, regular <a href="#">website</a> updating, social media (<a href="#">Instagram</a>, <a href="#">Facebook</a>, <a href="#">Twitter</a>), hand delivering posters to apartment buildings and popular neighbourhood bulletin boards, sending direct invitations about upcoming events and opportunities for feedback to community groups and organizations (ie. George Jay, VIRCS, Silver Threads, etc)</p> <p>Other notable accomplishments: we have increased our insurance coverage with a custom insurance package, upgraded our bookkeeping software, and will be welcoming new board members at our upcoming AGM.</p>		<p>atmosphere in our community where all people, including immigrants and refugees are welcomed, accepted, respected and encouraged to participate”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 8.8 “Establish a community centre for North Park”</li> <li>– 8.10 “. Facilitate a series of virtual engagement events to share community profile information and advance discussions on imbedding equity into the Engagement Framework”</li> </ul>
<b><i>Land Use Committee</i></b>		
<p>We view the Land Use Committees as an opportunity to educate residents about City policy, development process, and how they can participate in municipal decision making. The Land Use Planning Advisor plays a vital role in providing this service to the community by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Maintaining an up to date <a href="#">publicly available spreadsheet</a> of all active and archived developments, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- letters from City of Victoria about each development,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Land Use/CALUC participation rates rolled into Communications numbers, above.</p> <p>Active CALUC committee members: 37</p> <p>2022 developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 1046/1048 North Park</li> </ul>	<p>Strategic Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 3.16 “Incentivize development of rental housing and look for further opportunities to expedite and simplify development processes for affordable rental housing”</li> <li>– 3.19 “Identify opportunities for affordable housing in all</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development Tracker links,</li> <li>- CALUC meeting dates and meeting minutes, and</li> <li>- CALUC letters</li> <li>- Hosting <a href="#">CALUC</a> meetings</li> <li>- Summarizing feedback in meeting notes</li> <li>- Tracking feedback on each development</li> <li>- Drafting and submitting letters on behalf of CALUC</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the CALUC, the Land Use Planning Advisor assisted with attending meetings and informing the community about the North Park Local Area Plan and Downtown Core Area Plan (which covers much of North Park), as well as the Land Use Map with UVic Community Mapping students, updating the <a href="#">Land Use Translation Guide</a></p> <p>Supporting City projects and initiatives falls within the educational and information sharing goals of the CALUC. This year, the CALUC and Land Use Planning Advisor was involved in sharing information about the North Park Villages &amp; Corridors Local Area Plan, advocating for the re-envisioning of Royal Athletic Park (now on the 2025 work plan for the Parks Department) , working to identify ways of increasing access to and availability of green space in North Park through developments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1056 North Park</li> <li>- 2120 Quadra</li> <li>- 1702 Quadra</li> <li>- 1952 Quadra</li> <li>- 940 Caledonia (Tiny Homes)</li> <li>- 953/959 Balmoral</li> <li>- 926/930 Pandora</li> </ul>	<p>neighbourhood plans”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6.17 “Initiate a Parks and Open Spaces Acquisition Strategy to identify priorities for parkland acquisition that align with Official Community Plan, Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan, and other approved City plans”</li> <li>- 6.21 “Strengthen tree protection and enhance tree canopy and urban forest”</li> <li>- 8.5 “Develop Local Area Plans”</li> <li>- 8.19 “Advocate for adequate support and supervision accompanying downtown supportive services so people have all the supports they need, not only housing”</li> </ul> <p>Pandora Task Force Report and Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Declare the 900 block of Pandora Avenue a ‘Special Area’ in alignment with the Motion carried by Victoria City Council, June 13, 2019, re: Application of Equity and Affordability Policies, which</li> </ul>
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		"Council direct the City Manager to imbed these four principles for the city's emerging equity policies."
<b><i>Service Delivery &amp; Support</i></b>		
<p>The <a href="#">North Park Grocery Hamper Program</a> began in April 2020 as a pandemic response initiative. We quickly realized that the food insecurity of participants had been pre-existing long before the pandemic began. This program has become a foundational program for our organization.</p> <p>In 2022, we increased grocery hamper program distribution to 95 households per week, and hired a 10 hour/week grocery hamper coordinator to oversee ordering, enrollment, volunteer scheduling, etc.</p> <p>We operate the hamper program out of First Met Church who donate the use of a room to sort and distribute the hampers every Thursday. Hampers are customized for household size, dietary restrictions/preferences, and are delivered directly to the homes of recipients who are limited by mobility, childcare, or work schedules.</p>	<p>Total number of hampers delivered in 2022 is 4,845</p> <p>Due to turnover, we carry a roster of 175 households, representing 350 individuals, but on a weekly basis we only have capacity for delivery to 95 households.</p> <p>2022 Grocery Hamper Recipients reflect the diversity of voices listed above, and include households ranging in size from 1-11 people.</p> <p>Number of one-on-one cases in 2022: 60</p> <p>Hours expended: varies, but can take 8 to 40 hours per person to navigate the</p>	<p>Strategic Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 5.12 "Support neighbourhood food/meal programs"</li> <li>– 5.26a " Advocate for better prevention and more support for those aging out of foster care.</li> <li>– 5.26b "Advocate for more funds for mental health and more publicly-funded recovery options and de-stigmatization of mental health and addictions"</li> <li>– 5.26c. Advocate for and facilitate planning and delivery of additional harm reduction services in the city and region, including a safe inhalation site</li> <li>– 5.26d. Advocate for the BC government to provide</li> </ul>



While very labour and administratively intensive, this program has enabled the NPNA to help improve food security for households throughout the City. Despite our eligibility requirement that recipients must live, work, or spend time in North Park, our program includes recipients throughout the City. For many recipients, they are unable to access food security resources at the other community

centres that have food programming (Oaklands, Burnside, Quadra Village, Fernwood) or through other organizations because those programs require recipients to pick-up food during working/childcare hours, they do not meet their dietary restrictions/preferences, they are not eligible or the program is oversubscribed. Unlike most food security programs in Victoria, we purchase additional food (cooking and baking staples, proteins, etc) with grant funding. See the map above showing the postal codes of hamper recipients.

complexities of their situation and the complexities of the support systems.

currently illicit drugs/safer substances to reduce harm from addictions

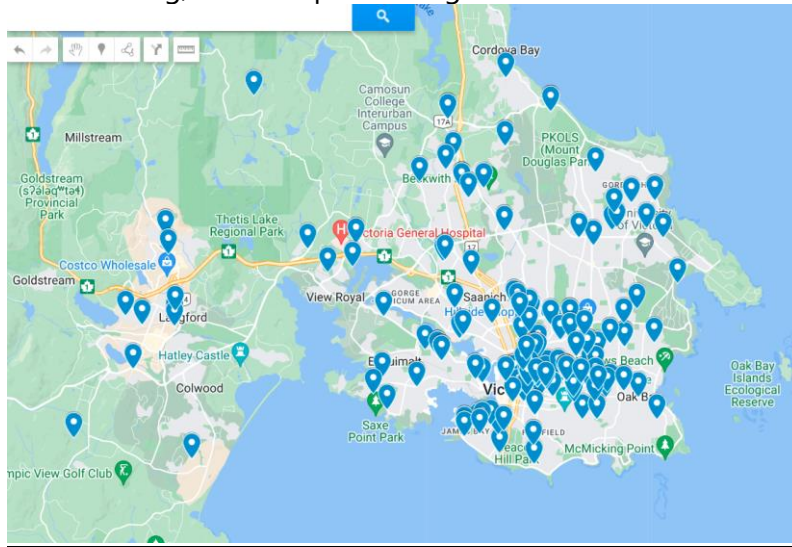
- 5.26f.” Advocate to the Province and/or the CRD and Capital Regional Hospital District to measure homelessness, acute addiction, mental health and to identify service gaps and better coordinate between existing service providers, and create better funding opportunities “



<p>Throughout the year, the NPNA provided one-on-one emergency support and system navigation to community members. Oftentimes, community members had been unable to access support due to capacity issues at existing organizations. Due to the nature of most issues, the assistance required was usually both time sensitive and time consuming. Examples of one-on-one support in 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Accessing emergency shelters</li> <li>– Advocacy for unhoused community members for improved care,</li> <li>– Eviction prevention support</li> <li>– Assisting community members to access emergency shelter support through the Ministry</li> <li>– ID replacement</li> <li>– Transportation to appointments</li> <li>– Tax filing and benefit applications</li> <li>– Veterinary support and emergency funding for pet care</li> <li>– Food security in addition to hamper program</li> <li>– Aging in place (home support, cleaning, referrals to VIHA, etc)</li> <li>– Navigating healthcare system post hospitalization</li> <li>– Accessing a family doctor and urgent care</li> </ul>		
<p><b><i>Free Events &amp; Activities</i></b></p>		
<p>The events and activities in 2022 fall into three categories: recurring events, single day events, and collaborative events.</p> <p>Recurring events highlights include: summer programs at Royal Athletic Park (RAP), quarterly Multicultural Festival, weekly craft social, and garden parties.</p>	<p>2022 activities &amp; events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 7 recurring representing</li> <li>– 58 individual sessions</li> <li>– 10 single day events</li> <li>– 12 collaborative events</li> </ul>	<p>Strategic Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 4.11 “Advocate for adequate income and supports to ensure everyone has access to a decent quality of life”</li> </ul>

A few of the single day events hosted this year include: Jane's Walk, webinars, outdoor gear repair, All Candidates Meet & Greet, art workshops, and a family drag show & karaoke.

Finally, collaborative events were any events that the NPNA supported, or helped another organization put on, such as the City's Family Day at RAP, walking tours of North Park for international students, bicycle music festival, repair cafe, and "Get Growing, Victoria" plant and garden material distributions.



- = 80 total events

Estimated total number of participants in 2022:

- 7,523
- This does not include interactions at the Vancouver Street Plaza (summarized below)

Attendance highlights:

- Summer activities at RAP: 150 unique program participants, representing 900 visits over 8 weeks of sessions
- Jane's Walk: 55 walkers
- 50 repairs of outdoor gear with Basecamp Repairs
- Multicultural Festival attendance 500-1000 guests/event

Number of active volunteers supporting these deliverables:

- 56

While all events were attended by North Park residents, many

- 4.14 "Support buy local initiatives to promote sustainable local enterprise"
- 4.18 "Support economic opportunities for urban agriculture producers, farm businesses and farmers markets"
- 5.21 "Ensure ethno-cultural diversity in municipal festival, arts and cultural funding supports"

Create Victoria: Arts & Culture Master Plan

- Use parks, open spaces, community centres and schools, to act as central creative nodes in neighbourhoods

North Park Neighbourhood Plan, 2022

- 11.10 Royal Athletic Park: Continue to expand public access and programming at Royal Athletic Park and consider other changes and improvements as part of a future planning process.
- 5.8 Additional Placemaking Opportunities: Outside of

	events attracted a regional response. See the map to the left of the postal codes of the 400 households who attended the free skate on December 18, 2022 at the SOFMC.	<p>North Park Village and existing parks, locations suggested for enhanced placemaking include but are not limited to Vancouver Street along the west side of Royal Athletic Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Enhance public space along Vancouver Street.</li> </ul>
<b>Art &amp; Placemaking</b>		
<p><a href="#">Vancouver Street Plaza</a> placemaking activations included the Little Free Craft Store with SUPPLY Victoria, Lending Hub, and Artist in Residence Program.</p> <p>The goal of this project is to increase access to free recreation and activities, promote social inclusion, and develop neighbourhood identity and sense of place.</p> <p>Throughout the year, we worked with local artists on community art projects with the goal of promoting neighbourhood identity and supporting art production. These projects include: a mural designed by women from Muslim community to be painted on shipping container in Central Park, the <a href="#">Humans of North Park</a> photo project at May Multicultural Festival, <a href="#">North Park Village Banner Design Competition</a>, <a href="#">Mural at Action Pawn</a> with Kay Gallivan &amp; Caitlin McDonagh, and a <a href="#">map of North Park</a> for Jane's Walk commissioned from Masami Teramachi.</p>	<p>Vancouver Street Plaza activations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Little Free Craft Store: 1200 visits ( February through May)</li> <li>– Lending Hub: 500 borrows of board games, puzzles, lawn games, sports equipment (June to October)</li> <li>– Artist in Residence: 5 artists activating the hub for 4-6 weeks each, in addition to a free workshop (December 2022 to March 2023)</li> </ul>	<p>Strategic Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 4.10 "Support arts, culture and innovation venues and spaces "</li> <li>– 4.12 "Identify opportunities to support non-transactional approaches to the provision of goods and services, e.g. neighbourhood-based sharing libraries, tools, seeds, etc."</li> <li>– 5.22 "Consider the implementation of play streets, school streets and other child-friendly strategies"</li> <li>– 7.18 "Support traffic calming in neighbourhoods"</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 7.20 “Support greenway improvements in neighbourhoods to allow for alternate design treatments for shared streets on identified greenways”</li> <li>– 8.18 “Support neighbourhood placemaking initiatives”</li> </ul> <p>North Park Neighbourhood Plan, 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 1.14 Encourage Diverse Public Art: Encourage public art programs through community action and existing grant programs, to create events, murals, art installations, and other artistic and cultural expressions identified by the community. Seek to involve, empower, and reflect Indigenous and multicultural experiences and perspectives.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Research Partnerships &amp; Resource Sharing</i></b>		
Partnerships with academic institutions have been a major way that we have moved from crisis mode to planning for the further policy recommendations to benefit community and	Key informant interviews: 19 North Park residents, people	<p>Strategic Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 1.18 “Develop a measurement and</li> </ul>

<p>personal wellbeing in North Park. Our goal through these partnerships is to promote the use of evidence based equity decision making.</p> <p>In 2022, we began work on a <a href="#">Needs Assessment with University of Victoria</a> Masters student researcher. We expect the final report to be completed by April 2023 and will be submitted to City of Victoria. We also worked with University of Victoria Community Mapping students on a <a href="#">land uses map of North Park</a> demonstrating the concentration of social services, supportive housing, and lack of green space and low barrier recreation. We also paired with a University of Victoria student completing their thesis on heatwave mapping and recommendations for future developments to host engagements for community members to share their heat event experiences.</p> <p>We seek opportunities to share information with other neighbourhood associations and groups to demonstrate the value of collaboration and the importance of an equity focused and evidence based decision making.</p> <p>In 2022, we have presented for the Burnside Gorge Community Association, Greater Victoria Placemaking Network, and meetings held by MLA Lore and MP Collins about the Vancouver Street Plaza project, provided a presentation to Minister Eby on behalf of North Park, Fernwood, Hillside Quadra, Downtown, and Burnside Gorge advocating for more support for non-profit housing providers to stem the flow of REIT purchase of aging affordable rental stock.</p>	<p>working in social service agencies and business owners</p> <p>Early themes from key informant interviews: emphasis and desire on the importance of meaningful social connection, building community compassion and awareness through locally organized low barrier events, and is bolstered by undercurrents of pride in community and celebration of diversity.</p>	<p>monitoring process to assess community happiness and well-being”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 3.23 “Create a municipal housing service to acquire land and enter into partnerships for the purposes of providing affordable (de-commodified) housing”</li> <li>– 5.19 “Identify and remove barriers to make Victoria accessible and apply a barrier-free lens to all decisions we make to ensure we’re not creating new barriers”</li> </ul>
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Basecamp Repairs at Vancouver Street Plaza



Multicultural Festival at RAP



Jane's Walk



Multicultural Festival at RAP



Lending Hub



Lending Hub



Vancouver St. Plaza



Neighbourhood Food Pantry launch



Family Day at RAP



Jane's Walk



Little Free Craft Store



Vancouver St. Plaza



Map maker - Masami Teramachi



Little Free Craft Store & Workshops



Little Free Craft Store & Workshops



Mosaic making workshop at RAP



Vancouver St. Plaza Lending Hub



Mosaic making workshop at RAP



Grocery Hamper Program



Multicultural Festival vendors

Garden materials distribution at Franklin Green



Little Free Library at Vancouver St. Plaza



Banners in North Park Village

Franklin Green Native Plant Garden



Multicultural Festival vendors



Mural by Kay Gallivan and Caitlin McDonagh





Get Growing, Victoria seedling distribution



Family Drag Show & Karaoke at RAP



Grocery Hamper Delivery Cyclist



Pride Bike Ride



Soccer at RAP



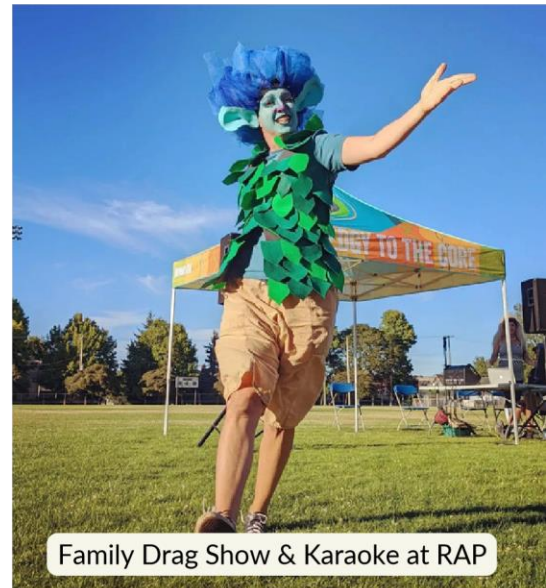
Jane's Walk Map



Craft club



Family Drag Show & Karaoke at RAP



Monthly garden party



Mosaic making workshop at RAP



Mapping with UVic at Multicultural Festival



Neighbourhood Free Skate & Multicultural Festival



Making Fairy Doors at Craft Club





Humans of North Park Photo Project



## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PER CAPITA BASE GRANTS**

That Council direct staff to include for Council's consideration in the 2023 financial planning process an additional increase in funding for neighbourhoods with centres up to the same per capita grant level of neighbourhoods without centres.

## **BACKGROUND**

This grant stream provides funding to neighbourhoods based on their population for costs such as meeting space, communication and community events. Per capita rates for neighbourhoods without community centres are currently higher (\$1.60 per capita) than those with community centres (\$1.20 per capita), given that community centres provide staff and meeting spaces.

In addition to these grants, Coordinator Grants provide funds for neighbourhoods without community centres to support the Neighbourhood Association with both operations and community development.

To receive Base Grants and Coordinator Grants, associations are required to complete an annual report describing how funds were used in the previous year and what they hope to achieve in the coming year. Council approved the attached Grant Policy in February 2022.

## **FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Should Council wish to increase the per capita base grant for neighbourhoods with centres to \$1.60 per capita, the total budget increase required would be \$29,677, which equates to a 0.02% tax increase.

# Neighbourhood Base Operating and Coordinator Grants Policy

## Purpose

Neighbourhood Base Operating and Coordinator grants are provided to designated neighbourhood associations to support their roles in the community, specifically to:

- Represent residents through informing them of neighbourhood issues of interest, better understanding their views and representing their expressed interests
- Connect residents and neighbourhood organizations with each other through events and activities that build social connections
- Lead and support improvement projects and programs that contribute to addressing the needs and interests of residents
- Support City Strategic Plan objectives and other City Plans that contribute to neighbourhood improvements for residents
- Strengthen the capacity and resiliency of the association in supporting the above roles

Base grant funding is applicable to all these areas. Coordinator grant funding is applicable to operating expenses and must include the services of a coordinator.

For neighbourhood associations with community centres, the above roles are intended to complement service delivery that is their primary focus (e.g., recreation, childcare, adult education).

## Annual Reporting

To qualify for the grant each year, neighbourhood associations are required to provide information on activities undertaken for the previous year and generally indicate anticipated objectives and activities for the coming year that reflect roles and purposes stated above.

Neighbourhood associations are also required to report budget expenditures by category in sufficient detail to provide a general understanding of how funding has been used. Annual financial statements may be specifically requested by the City but are not required for the purposes of annual reporting.

[Annual reports](#) are to be submitted to [neighbourhoods@victoria.ca](mailto:neighbourhoods@victoria.ca) by February 15 of each year.

## **SAFE CROSSING – DOUGLAS STREET AND KINGS ROAD**

That Council:

1. Approve in principle the installation of a safe crossing for pedestrians and cyclists in the vicinity of Douglas Street and Kings Road.
2. Direct staff to report back report back in the 2023 financial planning process on the implications of proceeding with design of this crossing in 2023.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City has recently completed construction of the All Ages and Abilities (AAA) cycling corridors on Government Street (Pandora to Hillside) and on Haultain/Kings (Douglas to Richmond). Through the development and construction of the priority AAA network, a gap has existed between the Kings/Haultain, and Government Street Corridors due to the limited east-west road network between Bay, Government and Douglas Streets and lands within the “Bay Street Triangle”.

Implementing a new pedestrian and bicycle crossing on Douglas Street along with continuation of a route westwards towards Government Street has merit and is included within medium-term program planning. Proceeding with the design and implementation of a signalized pedestrian and bicycle crossing on Douglas Street is not recommended for 2023 and that this be coordinated with future land development opportunities and asset renewal work.

In the shorter term, staff are currently working on the detailed design for the AAA cycling on Gorge Road, which will start construction in 2023. As part of this project, staff have identified an opportunity to extend the project further east on Hillside Avenue as far as Nanaimo Street/Ross Lane to develop an AAA connection between the Haultain/Kings corridor and the remainder of the AAA network.

## **FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

A new crossing of Douglas Street in the vicinity of Kings Road (between the Hillside Avenue and Bay Street intersections) is anticipated to be included within a future year Financial Plan with the timing informed by future land development and asset renewal coordination opportunities. Advancing a project now would impact the delivery of identified traffic signals for 2023.

## **MOBILE VENDING**

That Council:

Direct staff to prepare resource considerations to introduce a pilot and establish an on-going Mobile Vending Business Licence and associated permit program as part of the 2023 Financial Planning Process.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City has a program for bicycle vendors and also approves business licenses for mobile vendors to operate through Special Event Permits, Park Permits, or on private property.

With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, festivals and events were not occurring and a temporary mobile vending option under the “Build Back Victoria” program was introduced with the intent of providing additional opportunities for these types of businesses to continue to operate. Permits were made available for a range of vendors to operate free of charge in 15 pre-approved locations for two-week periods.

The temporary program successfully offered alternative opportunities for vendors during the provincial Covid restrictions. After public health restrictions were removed, uptake was low with at any given time, only three to five vendors having permits through 2022. Administration requirements were high however, competing against other established road right of way management priorities. While public reaction was generally positive, some complaints were received related to the use of public parking spaces, noise from portable generators, and aesthetics. Some vendors cited preference to operate in locations for longer periods of time, in a “semi-permanent” arrangement, or the ability to set up on streets located closer to shops, services and other retail/commercial areas. The program is set to expire on March 31, 2023.

## **FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Establishing a pilot and on-going licensing scheme for mobile vendors, such as food trucks, is not provided for within current work plans. It will require both new and amended bylaws, vendor support requirements, and a fee structure, with resources being drawn from Legislative Services, the Transportation Division within E&PW, Strategic Real Estate, Engagement, the Business Hub, and Legal Services. Advancing a pilot scheme in 2023 would impact other current work across several departments and is not recommended at this time.

## **WELCOMING CITY IMPLEMENTATION**

That Council request that staff report back as part of the 2023 budget process on the following Implementation Plan items:

- a. Hosting a job fair for newcomers and immigrants to help fill City job vacancies
- b. Hosting a workshop for newcomer-owned businesses to learn about the City's social procurement process, prequalification, and procurement opportunities
- c. Adding a section to the Connect Victoria App, available in multiple languages, that is for newcomers, with information about resources, events, etc.
- d. Working with the Welcoming City Advisory Committee to develop a program to reach accepted refugees destined for Victoria including a Welcome to Victoria package in their own language, connections with local employers, etc., as they are waiting to come to Canada.
- e. Ongoing support for an annual welcoming event for newcomers including hosting a pre-event or post-event activity and dialogue to introduce newcomer artists and performers to local community leaders and other community members, broaden their connection to the community, and strengthen cross-discipline relationships and knowledge-sharing.

## **BACKGROUND**

The attached report provides recommendations from the Welcoming City Advisory Committee. Council provided direction on a number of them and requested that some be forwarded to the 2023 financial planning process for consideration.

### **Hosting a job fair**

An event to support newcomers to access employment opportunities with the City could include information on job duties and qualifications, the application and recruitment process, and strategies for achieving employment and career skills development. Engagement with the Welcoming City Advisory Committee would inform event planning as well as marketing and promotion. People and Culture does not currently have the resources required to plan and host this type of event without significantly impacting ongoing recruitment. However additional positions have been incorporated into the 2023 Financial Plan to support pro-active talent acquisition strategies such as job fairs and if approved, no additional resources would be required.

### **Social procurement**

The City will partner with British Columbia Social Procurement Initiative (BCSPI) to host a workshop for newcomer-owned businesses to learn about the City's social procurement process, prequalification, and procurement opportunities. The event can be virtual or in-person.

The Economic Development team in partnership with BCSPI, and potentially the Welcoming City Advisory Committee, will work with local newcomer-serving organizations, like ICA, to reach newcomer and immigrant audience in marketing and promotion of this event.

The City is a member of BCSPI which supports all interested local governments as well as School Boards, Health Regions and Publicly Funded Post-Secondary Institutions in the province in implementing social procurement.

### **Online information in multiple languages**

The City will continue to provide website content in multiple languages. Currently we offer translations to 131 languages. A new website is planned to be implemented in 2023 with a focus on improving the mobile experience and accessibility. The ConnectVictoria app, which currently has

approximately 30 active users a month, will be phased out once the new website has been launched. No additional funding is required at this time.

#### Program for refugees coming to Victoria

The objectives and scoping of the program within a municipal mandate and partnership opportunities will be determined through engagement with the Welcoming City Advisory Committee. No additional resources are required at this point.

#### Welcoming event

In lieu of the welcoming event action of the Welcoming Cities Implementation Plan, the 2022 welcoming event was coordinated by Here Magazine and held in partnership at the Belfry Theatre. Better Together Gala is a unique celebration of over 100 newcomer and Indigenous performing, literary, and visual artists. This annual roving feast of arts features exhibitions, dance, musical, literary, and theatre performances, as well as a presentation of a youth award (to-date by the Mayor of Victoria) to honour achievements of newcomer, immigrant, and Indigenous youth building bridges across diverse communities. The City allocated \$7500 from the City's 2022 contingency budget to fund refreshment costs for this event.

In addition to the annual Better Together Gala event, Here Magazine, in partnership with Le Relais Francophone de la Colombie-Britannique, coordinates the Welcome Day Celebration and Newcomer Expo that welcomes approximately 800 attendees and engages 50 newcomer volunteers annually. Welcome Day Celebration is a "one-stop shop" for newcomers of all backgrounds to engage with the wider community and newcomer-serving and supporting agencies; meet other newcomers to Canada; showcase their talents, skills, and small businesses; and grow their own knowledge through workshops and cultural exchange.

The total cash budget for each event is approximately \$45,000 and both receive additional in-kind contributions.

Both or one of the events would continue to be led by Here Magazine as a community lead of the annual welcoming newcomers event. The event organizer's funding request is attached.

#### **FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Some of the implementation items Council requested be brought to the 2023 financial planning process can be accommodated within existing resources as outlined in the background section above. Hosting a job fair could be accomplished if the additional positions included in the draft Financial Plan are approved by Council. The organizers of the Welcoming event have requested a cash grant ranging \$20,000-45,000 and this would equate to a property tax increase ranging 0.01-0.03%.





**Council Member Motion**  
**For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of July 14 2022**

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**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** June 24 2022  
**From:** Mayor Helps and Councillor Dubow  
**Subject:** Welcoming City Advisory Committee Recommendations to Council

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**BACKGROUND**

In October 2021, Council endorsed the Welcoming City Strategy and Welcoming City Action plan and appointed a Welcoming City Implementation Advisory Committee. Working with staff in the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Office, the Advisory Committee has developed an implementation Plan for the Year 1 and Year 2 Actions. Please see attached. The implementation plan is meant to be a living document and future year actions will be added when this plan is reviewed in July 2023.

Staff reported back to the Committee on the actions that are currently underway and those that would require additional resources. In preparation for the 2023 budget, the Advisory Committee has prioritized actions that they feel will have the biggest impact in some of the key areas of focus including economic inclusion and specific actions to welcome newcomers including:

- a.) Hosting a job fair for newcomers and immigrants to help fill City job vacancies
- b.) Hosting a workshop for newcomer-owned businesses to learn about the City's social procurement process, prequalification, and procurement opportunities
- c.) Adding a section to the Connect Victoria App, available in multiple languages, that is for newcomers, with information about resources, events, etc
- d.) Working with the Welcoming City Advisory Committee to develop a program to reach accepted refugees destined for Victoria including a Welcome to Victoria package in their own language, connections with local employers, etc, as they are waiting to come to Canada
- e.) Ongoing support for an annual welcoming event for newcomers including hosting a pre-event or post-event activity and dialogue to introduce newcomer artists and performers to local community leaders and other community members, broaden their connection to the community, and strengthen cross-discipline relationships and knowledge-sharing.

In addition, there is a Year One action: "The city to host or support an annual Welcoming Event for newcomers to promote and celebrate the social, economic and cultural benefits and contributions newcomers bring to the city and welcome those who came within the previous year." Such an event will be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022. The Committee requests that the City partner with Here Magazine, the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Belfry Theatre to support this event and allocate \$7500 from the City's 2022 contingency budget to do so.



The event's primary funder, the Department of Canadian Heritage, is unable to fund refreshment costs. In order to remove financial barriers to attendance, there is no charge for admission to this event, thus there is no way to recover the food costs. Food is an integral part of cultural-sharing and community-building and it is also an economic development opportunity as the food will be provided by local newcomer, immigrant, and Indigenous caterers.

There is also a request for the City to host a pre-event or post-event activity and dialogue to introduce newcomer artists and performers to local community leaders and other community members, broaden their connection to the community, and strengthen cross-discipline relationships and knowledge-sharing. The timing of the event – after the municipal election and before the new Council is sworn in – makes it difficult for the City to undertake this role this year, but the committee recommends that the City and members of the Welcoming City Advisory Committee consider taking this on in future years, subject to budget deliberations.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Welcoming City Advisory Committee has worked hard to prepare this submission for the 2023 budget and to make recommendations to Council to help advance Council's Welcoming City Action Plan. We realize it will take a number of years to implement the Action Plan and have prioritized items that will help to make the city more welcoming and inclusive of newcomers including a focus on economic inclusion. We note that in a tight labour market and with a high number of vacancies at the City, actions #3a and #3d in particular are also advantageous for the city administration.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council:

1. Receive the 2022-2023 Welcoming City Implementation Plan for information
2. Allocate \$7500 from the 2022 Contingency budget to support Action 3.2, "Host or support an annual welcoming event for newcomers."
3. Request that staff report back as part of the 2023 budget process on the following Implementation Plan items:
  - a.) Hosting a job fair for newcomers and immigrants to help fill City job vacancies
  - b.) Hosting a workshop for newcomer-owned businesses to learn about the City's social procurement process, prequalification, and procurement opportunities
  - c.) Adding a section to the Connect Victoria App, available in multiple languages, that is for newcomers, with information about resources, events, etc
  - d.) Working with the Welcoming City Advisory Committee to develop a program to reach accepted refugees destined for Victoria including a Welcome to Victoria package in their own language, connections with local employers, etc, as they are waiting to come to Canada.
  - e.) Ongoing support for an annual welcoming event for newcomers including hosting a pre-event or post-event activity and dialogue to introduce newcomer artists and performers to local community leaders and other community members, broaden their connection to the community, and strengthen cross-discipline relationships and knowledge-sharing.

**Financial Plan Motions - Report Back**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Helps".

Mayor Helps

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Dubow".

Councillor Dubow



January 5, 2023

### **RE: Welcoming City Initiative**

To Whom It May Concern:

REP Here In Canada welcomes the opportunity to submit a request for financial support for the annual Better Together Gala and Newcomer Welcome Day Celebration, the activities of which are closely aligned with recommendations detailed in the City of Victoria's Welcoming City Strategy and Action Plan. These community-based events have been coordinated and delivered by and for the communities they represent for many years. As in previous years, we encourage event participation from the Mayor, Council, and City staff and welcome input from the Welcoming City Advisory Committee.

#### **Better Together Gala overview**

Coordinated by REP Here In Canada (Here Magazine) and held in partnership at the Belfry Theatre, Better Together Gala is a unique celebration of over 100 newcomer and Indigenous performing, literary, and visual artists and creates a space for meaningful representation and participation of newcomer and Indigenous artists in the local arts landscape. This annual roving feast of arts features exhibitions, dance, musical, literary, and theatre performances, as well as a presentation of a youth award (todate by the Mayor of Victoria) to honour achievements of newcomer, immigrant, and Indigenous youth building bridges across diverse communities. Throughout the evening, over 275 guests and 30 newcomer volunteers engage with artists and performers in an intimate setting that allows for one-on-one authentic connections and conversations. Dozens of different cultures and faith communities, along with multiple intersectionalities, are represented at the Gala and interact in a safe and supported space. The Gala creates a beautiful artistic and social space not just to showcase the talents of newcomer and Indigenous artists and to connect the wider community with diverse communities and perspectives, but, perhaps most importantly, to have members of these communities see themselves represented and honoured in community arts institutions and events they may have, in the past, not have had access to or felt welcomed.

#### **Welcome Day Celebration and Newcomer Expo overview**

Coordinated by REP Here In Canada (Here Magazine) and Le Relais Francophone de la Colombie-Britannique, Welcome Day Celebration and Newcomer Expo welcomes approximately 800 attendees and engages 50 newcomer volunteers annually. Started in 2015 by Ximena Londono from Le Relais, this newcomer welcome event has grown from a modest event welcoming Syrian newcomers to a full day of cultural performances, workshops, demonstrations and a newcomer and service organization expo for all newcomers to the region. Welcome Day Celebration is a “one-stop shop” for newcomers of all backgrounds to engage with the wider community and newcomer-serving and supporting agencies; meet other newcomers to Canada; showcase their talents, skills, and small businesses; and grow their own knowledge through workshops and cultural exchange.

**Project Sponsors:** REP Here In Canada, Le Relais, City of Victoria (2022) Department of Canadian Heritage (2021), École Victor-Brodeur, Belfry Theatre

## **Financial Plan Motions - Report Back**

The total cash budget for each event is approximately \$45,000 and both receive additional in-kind contributions. Cash costs include performance and workshop fees, event insurance, equipment rental, event and volunteer coordination, marketing and promotion, and hospitality. Because federal and provincial financial support is inconsistent, sustaining and growing these events can be challenging. Welcoming City contributions could ensure the ongoing delivery of one or both of these events.

### **Welcoming City Request**

We would welcome the full or partial funding request considered and approved by the Council to ensure annual delivery of one or both of these events.

Full funding (\$45,000) would allow to sustain ongoing delivery; partial funding (\$30,000) to ensure delivery of core elements; or supplemental funding (\$20,000) to support delivery of specific elements of one or both of these events. Additional funding alternatives can be considered.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our proposal.

Sincerely,  
Kareece Whittle-Brown  
Director of Operations, REP Here In Canada

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[heremagazine.ca](http://heremagazine.ca)

## **Financial Plan Motions - Report Back**

### **BEING MUSLIM IN VICTORIA**

That Council consider a budget allocation of \$17,500 to support the work as outlined in this report in the 2023 budget and that this report be included as part of the 2023 budget package for Council's consideration.

### **BACKGROUND**

The attached report outlines recommendations put forward from the Panel on Muslim Voices.

### **FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Should Council wish to provide a grant of \$17,500 to support this work in 2023, Council could consider reallocating funding from an existing grant program such as the Strategic Plan Grants, or request that this organization apply for a grant under an existing program. Alternatively, property taxes could be increased by \$17,500, which equates to a 0.01% tax increase.



### **Council Member Motion**

**For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 8 2022**

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**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** August 2 2022  
**From:** Mayor Helps  
**Subject:** Being Muslim in Victoria and Saanich – 2023 Budget Recommendation

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### **BACKGROUND**

In October 2021 the City of Victoria, the Victoria Foundation and the Canadian Urban Institute hosted a conference in Victoria, “CUIxVictoria, Conversations for Our Shared Future.” This three-day event included a number of panel presentations and workshops focussed specifically on equity, diversity and inclusion, and how to build more inclusive communities.

A key evening plenary panel was “Belonging in Victoria: Muslim Voices for Change,” which was a powerful sharing of Muslim women’s experiences of Islamophobia, racism and resilience in Victoria and the region. As part of the panel, they provided recommendations to the City of Victoria and the District of Saanich and to both Sannich PD and Victoria PD. Both mayors as well as police personnel and police board members were in attendance at the panel.

Following the conference and the presentation of recommendations, Mayors Haynes and Helps have been working together with a group of Muslim women, Saanich and Victoria staff, and Victoria and Saanich police chiefs to action the recommendations that fall within operational jurisdiction and did not require additional resources from either the District or the City.

Over the past year, we have worked to build trust and take some small steps forward. These include Saanich and Victoria hosting a Muslim art exhibit (Saanich, July 27-September 5, Victoria, January 2023), installing signs about where to make wudu (washing before prayer) in public facilities, and we’ve also made connections for the women to the Greater Victoria Public Library Saanich and Victoria board members and library staff about the potential of starting a Muslim women’s book club.

We have written to school district chairs and private schools in the City and the District and requested meetings to learn more about anti-Islamophobia work that’s already happening in schools and to open doors for the women to get more involved in this work. These meetings will happen in September 2022. We’ve also been working with VicPD and Saanich PD to understand more about hate-crime reporting, data gathering, and what supports there are for Muslim people, and others in the community who experience hate-related incidents.

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According to the [NCCM National Summit on Islamophobia Recommendations](#), more Muslims have been killed in targeted hate-attacks in Canada than any other G-7 country in the past five years because of Islamophobia.

Muslim Canadians have endured every-day aggressions while bearing witness to more violent acts of Islamophobia. Muslim Canadians report being regularly harassed and subject to microaggressions at work, school and in public spaces. Mosques and community centers have come under violent attack. Canada has become a country where wearing a hijab can put a target on your back, and where many mosques now require security.

Victoria and Saanich are not immune from these kinds of trends and concerted effort and resources are required to continue to implement the recommendations made in October 2021 and to make Victoria and Saanich welcoming communities that create a sense of belonging and safety for all.

### **Recommendations put forward from the Panel on Muslim Voices**

Addressing the recommendations put forward at the Voices for Change panel is whole of community approach involving Muslim community members and the mosque, City and District staff, VicPD and Saanich PD staff, and, as per the recommendation below, a one-time expenditure to be shared by the City and hopefully by the District of Saanich in 2023 to engage a consultant to manage the next phase of the work, which we have all be doing off the side of our desks for the past year.

#### **0.1 Environmental Scan**

**Desired Outcome:** This environmental scan is needed to have a good sense of what is currently done in BC and across Canada in regard to Muslim community support and Islamophobia. We want to look at the four themes that are listed below and additionally, any additional sectors we haven't yet considered.

What are other communities doing on interfaith engagement and anti-Islamophobia work? Are there gaps that our work together can fill? Are there best practices from elsewhere?

### **Theme #1: Normalizing Islam: Positive Representation, and Visibility**

#### **1.1 Annual public Eid festival and proclamation from Victoria and Saanich Councils**

**Desired Outcome:** Celebration of Eid in Victoria/Saanich through a public festival and proclamations.

#### **1.2 Public art exhibitions across the city and district**

**Desired Outcome:** Greater awareness of Islamic cultural traditions, and increased opportunity for interaction, inclusion, and engagement between Muslims and other communities in Greater Victoria.

#### **1.3 Quiet/meditative/prayer spaces in city halls, city libraries, and recreational spaces**

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**Desired Outcome:** Greater sense of belonging for Muslims in the city through the acknowledgment of cultural holidays and space for prayer. Greater awareness of Islamic cultural traditions, and increased opportunity for interaction, inclusion, and engagement between Muslims and other communities in Greater Victoria.

**Significance:** A shared interfaith space in which to pray, in places that Muslims already use, work in or pass through, meets practicing Muslim's everyday needs and allows for the normalisation of Islamic practices.

1.4 During Ramadan have an event at the Save on Foods Memorial Arena for the Muslim Community and the general public to hear recitations.

**Desired Outcome:** Greater sense of belonging for Muslims in the city through the acknowledgment of cultural holidays and space for prayer. Greater awareness of Islamic cultural traditions, and increased opportunity for interaction, inclusion, and engagement between Muslims and other communities in Greater Victoria.

### **Theme #2: Education**

2.1 Develop a resourced, Muslim-led, school-based advocate system to confront Islamophobia in schools.

2.2 Provide space for culturally safe dialogue and healing.

2.3 Coordinate a review of Islamic resources that can be shared across school boards as needed (during Ramadan, when there are global incidents of terrorism, etc.)

**Desired Outcome:** Making schools safer. Providing support to Muslim children and youth who have to carry the emotional labour of representing Islam and diversity in schools.

**Significance:** Based on lived experience and anecdotal data. Islamophobia and racism in schools is currently underreported and poorly addressed.

### **Theme #3: Data**

3.1 Collate available sources of data on hate crimes, racism, and Islamophobia in the City and District

**Desired Outcome:** To ensure public officials, Muslims, the general public, and other stakeholders across sectors have access to credible data that can inform the development of relevant programs and policies to address Islamophobia and racism.

**Significance:** Evidence informed programming and policies are needed. The extent of Islamophobia and racism is often underreported.



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3.2 Based on the sources of data listed above, provide and publicly share accurate and up-to-date data on Islamophobia at City and District level. Utilise this data to inform policy development at the City and District level.

**Desired Outcome:** To ensure public officials, Muslims, the general public, and other stakeholders across sectors have access to credible data that can inform the development of relevant programs and policies to address Islamophobia and racism

**Significance:** Evidence informed programming and policies are needed. The extent of Islamophobia and racism is often underreported.

3.3 Provide ongoing opportunities for Muslims (and other equity deserving and faith-based groups) to tell their stories of racism, and discrimination

**Desired Outcome:** People in Victoria and Saanich have a deeper understanding about how to address racism and Islamophobia.

**Significance:** Evidence informed programming and policies are needed. The extent of Islamophobia and racism is often underreported.

### **Theme #4: Safety and Policing**

4.1 Review levels of knowledge and skill in addressing hate crimes and Islamophobia within Sannich PD and VicPD across emergency and non-emergency lines, and community engagement.

**Desired Outcome:** There is clarity around the legal definition of a hate crime and people know who to go to in order to report a hate crime. When there is hate directed action that is not a hate crime people know where they can go for support.

**Significance:** To create a stronger sense of trust between Muslim communities and police.

4.2 Fact and resource sheets developed and shared and translated (Arabic, Somali, Urdu) on what to do if community members need help

**Desired Outcome:** Identifying instances that may lead to hate (not people, but body language, phrases etc.), managing moments during acts of Islamophobia (how to ignore, find help, defuse the situation etc.) and what to do after an act of Islamophobia (how to report it and how to find support after)

**Significance:** To create accessible and clear information for managing instances of Islamophobia.

### **Proposed Noise Bylaw Housekeeping Change**

As part of our work together in the last year we also identified one other item that is a small but important change to make our communities more inclusive of all. These are housekeeping changes to the noise bylaw, so they require a decision of Council. Victoria's noise bylaw currently states that the following are exempt: "the use of bells or chimes by churches, and the use of carillons where such carillons have been lawfully erected." The group recommends changing the wording of the

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bylaw to be less prescriptive and more inclusive, to change the language from “church” to something more inclusive such as site of worship.” This work is not urgent or time sensitive and can be done as and when staff resources are available.

### **Conclusion**

To continue to support this work, a one-time expenditure of \$31,000, to hopefully be shared between Saanich and Victoria, is required to engage a consultant to have responsibility for the implementation of this important work in 2023.

The consultant will:

- Work with partners to support Masjid al-Iman Muslim community members and other local Muslims
- Track progress on recommendations
- Provide regular updates for key stakeholders, City staff in the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Office in Victoria and District staff in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion office once established
- Work on grant applications to secure future programing
- Support the implementation of prioritized recommendations with project management


Appendix A outlines a draft project timeline.

The Muslim women who have been volunteering their time for the past year in this work with Mayors Haynes and Helps will continue to serve in a volunteer capacity and will continue to support the work by advising and consulting regarding community collaborations (libraries, art, policies etc.) and also liaising with the Masjid.

### **Recommendation**

1. That Council consider a budget allocation of \$17,500 to support the work as outlined in this report in the 2023 budget and that this report be included as part of the 2023 budget package for Council’s consideration.
2. That Victoria Council write to Saanich Council requesting matching funding in 2023 for this initiative once their Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has been established.
3. That Council direct staff to amend the City’s noise bylaw to make the reference to “churches” more inclusive of all places of worship.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Helps



Councillor Dubow

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### **ARM STREET PUBLIC DOCK**

That Council refer this report and the attached materials to the 2023 Financial Planning process, to allow Council to consider providing a City of Victoria financial contribution toward the capital costs of an Arm Street Public Dock.

### **FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

On January 5, 2023, Council referred a new motion on this topic to the 2023 Strategic and Financial Planning process. Resource implications would be reported on subsequent to strategic planning and stakeholder discussions.