



Update on Open Government Initiatives



Open Government at the City of Victoria

Openness and transparency in government



More engaged and well-informed citizenry

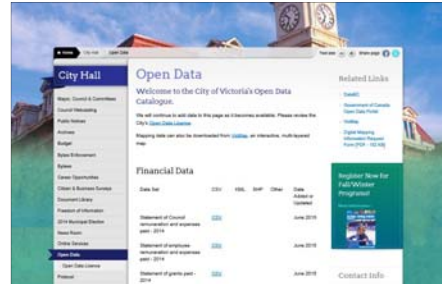
Three Areas

- Access to data
- Access to City Hall
- Access to services and information



Open Data

- In 2011, the City adopted an *Open Government Through Open Data* policy
- Since that time, significant progress has been made
- Over 130 data sets online currently



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Upcoming Open Data Enhancements

- Budget simulator
- Open data portal with visualizations
- More mapping, including Census and neighbourhood mapping
- Service request app



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Upcoming Open Data Enhancements

- Emergency notification system
- Partnership with University of Victoria
- Exploring ways to make bylaws more accessible
- Expansion of Development Tracker and partnering with PlaceSpeak



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Access to City Hall

- City Hall is a public asset
- Recent customer service improvements make City Hall more accessible
- How can we continue to better connect citizens to this resource?



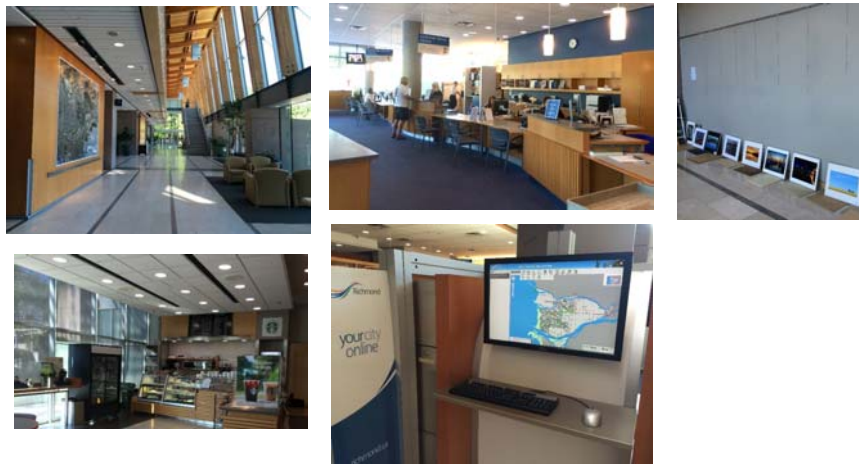
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ACCESS TO CITY HALL
Municipal Field Trip: **Delta**



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ACCESS TO CITY HALL
Municipal Field Trip: **Richmond**



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ACCESS TO CITY HALL

Municipal Field Trip: **Vancouver**



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ACCESS TO CITY HALL

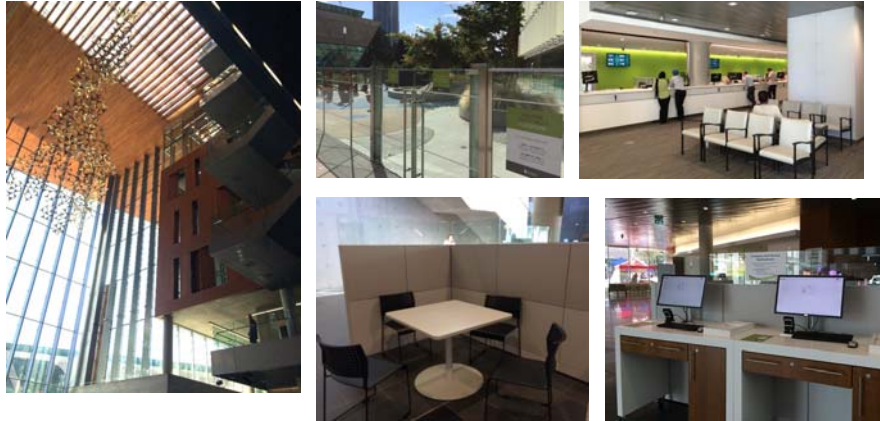
Municipal Field Trip: **Burnaby**



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ACCESS TO CITY HALL

Municipal Field Trip: **Surrey**



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Access to City Hall

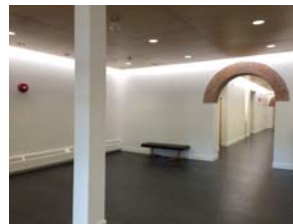
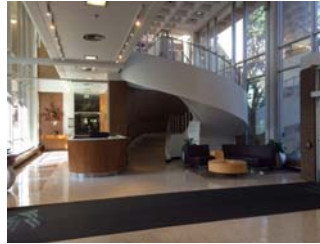
How can we provide citizens better access to their City Hall?



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Potential Spaces

- Council Chambers
- Antechamber
- Songhees Nation Meeting Room
- Esquimalt Nation Meeting Room
- City Hall foyer
- Douglas Street entrance
- Councillor Lounge



Update on Open Government Initiatives

Potential Uses

- Meetings by community groups and non-profit organizations
- Art shows and other events
- Local school groups
- Weddings



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Policy Considerations

- Ensuring day-to-day business of City Hall is not impacted
- Frequency and timing of events
- Insurance requirements
- Staffing and security requirements
- Clear process for booking the space
- Equipment availability
- Room availability
- Catering options
- Fees – cost recovery, with exception of private weddings



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Access to Services and Information

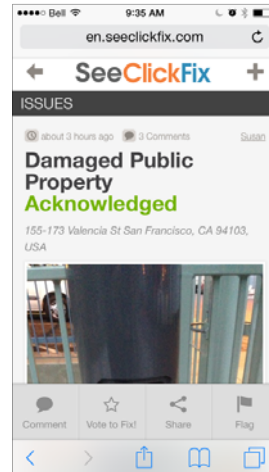
- Better use of social media for City services, and for Council business
- Better access to Council agendas on City's website
- Using the City Hall foyer screen to promote upcoming Council meetings
- All jobs (internal and external) posted on City's website for better transparency



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Upcoming Enhancements

- Investigating search through capability between City's website, iCompass and Granicus
- Service request app
- City e-Newsletter



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Potential Enhancements

- Display motions being debated on screens in Council Chambers
- Ensure decisions are clearly announced following each Council vote
- Explore adding functionality to webcasting, i.e. vote counts, displaying motions
- Posting all Council and Committee agendas and minutes as searchable PDFs, not scanned
- Adding links between webcasting, agendas and minutes to better enable citizens to follow specific items and reference background and context



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Connection with Strategic Plan

- Engage and Empower the Community
- Facilitate Social Inclusion and Community Wellness
- Nurture our Arts, Culture and Learning Capital
- Demonstrate Regional Leadership



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Financial Impacts

2016 Financial Plan Requests

- Service request app (\$10,000 - \$15,000)
- Open Data portal (\$30,000)
- City Hall bookings on a cost-recovery basis



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Recommendations

That Council direct staff to:

1. Create a policy on the use of City Hall, consistent with the Guiding Principles for the Use of Public Space.
2. Adopt a policy for allowing weddings in City Hall, with potential for revenue generated.
3. Create a program for local school groups
4. Endorse changes to transparency in Council business including posting Council documents as searchable PDFs, and linking between Council documents and webcasting; displaying motions being debated on screens in Council Chamber; exploring additional functionality to webcasting including vote counts and display of motions
5. Introduce new apps for residents, including request for service, and emergency notification subscriptions

