



Date: September 22, 2005

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**

**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**

**SUBJECT: Conversion of Moberly Park Fieldhouse**

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## RECOMMENDATION

*THAT the Board approve the conversion of the Moberly Park Fieldhouse to provide additional capacity, programming and activities at the Moberly Arts & Cultural Centre.*

## BACKGROUND

Moberly Hall has been an integral part of southeast Vancouver since the mid 1950's, when community members raised funds and built the hall primarily for community program space and as a venue for celebrations and social events.

In 1991, the non-profit society that administered the Hall merged with the Sunset Community Association. Discussion was initiated in the mid 1990's about upgrading Moberly Hall and in 1998 a community cultural development process resulted in community support for the changes necessary to make Moberly Hall into a cultural and community arts venue. Funding for the renovations was received from several sources including the Vancouver Park Board, Sunset Community Association, Provincial Government and from the Capital Plan's additional \$2 million allocation approved for parks projects.

The Moberly Arts & Cultural Centre opened in 1999 and is operated jointly by the Sunset Community Association, the Moberly Advisory committee and the Vancouver Park Board. The mandate of the Moberly Arts & Cultural Centre is a community arts centre that provides a place for intercultural connections, a gathering place for the community and an opportunity for all to experience the arts in programs, events and performances.

## DISCUSSION

The Moberly Arts & Cultural Centre has one large hall and a second smaller space for programming and activities.

The Moberly Fieldhouse is located on the east side of the building adjacent to the Moberly Arts and Cultural Centre. It has been vacant for approximately eighteen months and with minimal changes would provide an excellent program and small activity area.

The Sunset Community Association has put forward a proposal to renovate the existing Moberly Fieldhouse in order to provide opportunities for additional arts and music programs as well as meeting space for the community. The major change needed would be the removal of the wall separating the smaller spaces to create one space of approximately 300 square feet. See Appendix A.

Park Board staff has been consulted and confirm that a cost of \$10,000 is required to convert this space. These costs are proposed to be shared with \$5000.00 to be provided from the operating budget for Fieldhouse maintenance and the other \$5000.00 to be provided by the Sunset Community Association. Their contribution will be used to remove the interior wall, repair the floors, upgrade lighting fixtures, provide window coverings as well as furnishing the facility with a new fridge, microwave, coffee urn, kettle, tables and chairs.

#### Culture and Recreation Committee

The Moberly Fieldhouse conversion was presented to the Board's Culture and Recreation committee on September 14, 2005. The committee supports this proposal.

#### **SUMMARY**

The conversion of the Moberly Fieldhouse into a usable space provides an opportunity to expand the capacity of the Moberly Arts & Cultural Centre for a variety of small group programs and activities that will benefit the community.

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