

Date: November 30, 2006



**TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board**  
**FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: Jericho Arts Centre - Lease Agreement**

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## RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Board enters into an agreement with the Friends of Jericho Arts Centre Society to lease the Jericho Arts Centre for a five year period from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2011 under the terms and conditions described in this report;*
- B. THAT once the form of the agreement has been approved by the General Manager and the Director of Legal Services, the General Manager be authorized to execute the document on behalf of the Board.*

## BACKGROUND

The Jericho Arts Centre was dedicated as an arts centre by the Vancouver Park Board in 1993. The 135-seat performance venue is located in the heart of Vancouver's west side near Jericho Beach. The purpose of the arts centre is to:

- Provide opportunities for a range of artistic disciplines
- Expand the access to the arts for all members of the community
- Provide a variety of options for participation in the arts through programs and the activities of arts groups

Jericho Arts Centre is the home of United Players and Theatre Terrific, a non-profit theatre company for youth and adults with mental and physical disabilities.

The Jericho Arts Centre is presently operated by the West Point Grey Community Association in partnership with the Park Board. The Association has a Jericho Arts Centre Committee and many of its members are also members of the "Friends of Jericho Art Centre Society". This group is a BC registered society which has been formed to represent the users and volunteers of the Jericho Arts Centre (the Arts Centre). Several years ago the Society approached staff and the Community Association expressing interest in moving toward an independent operation of the Arts Centre. This would permit the "Friends" to put more focused attention into the artistic endeavors at the Arts Centre, apply for grants directly and expand the programming at the facility. The West Point Grey Community Association supports the proposal that the Friends of Jericho Arts

Centre Society and Park Board enter into an agreement that would permit the Society to administer, operate and manage the Jericho Arts Centre.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Friends of Jericho Arts Centre Society has presented a detailed proposal to staff and to the Finance Committee. The Society proposes to:

- Manage, administer and operate the programs/events occurring at the centre under a lease agreement with the Park Board for a nominal consideration
- Continue to utilize the performing space for United Players, Theatre Terrific and other groups and individuals as time permits.
- Continue the display of visual art of local artists
- Undertake day-to-day maintenance of the facility
- Contribute to the facility's annual utility costs at an increasing scale beginning at \$3000 in year one to a maximum of \$6000 in years four and five.

The Vancouver Park Board will continue to be responsible for the major maintenance including all outside work on the grounds and repairs and internal structural work on the building if necessary. The direct volunteer efforts and specific cash contributions proposed by the Friends of the Jericho Arts Centre Society will cover approximately 50% of the Board's annual operating costs of the facility.

Staff have reviewed this proposal and in view of the fledgling nature of the Society, its extensive volunteer base and its relatively small financial resources, are recommending a five year term for this lease. This will allow sufficient time for the Society to gain more direct experience in the operation of the facility and to assess their success in supporting arts in the Community.

The Finance Committee indicated their support for this proposal.

## **SUMMARY**

The Friends of Jericho Arts Centre Society is proposing to lease the Jericho Arts Centre directly from the Park Board for a five year term beginning in January 2007. They will operate, manage and maintain the facility as a site for community arts, specifically performing and visual arts. Their contributions will include a share of annual utility costs. The Park Board will continue to be responsible for structural repairs to the facility if needed. Park Board staff, the West Point Grey Community Association and the Finance Committee has indicated their support for this proposal.

Prepared by:  
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