



December 4, 2015

**TO:** Park Board Chair and Commissioners  
**FROM:** General Manager - Parks and Recreation  
**SUBJECT:** TED2016 Evening Event at Olympic Village Square & Plaza

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## RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve a request from event organizer, PDW Inc., to host a private evening event in the Olympic Village Square & Plaza for TED2016, with capacity for 1,000 guests on February 17, 2016, from 9pm to 11pm.

## POLICY

Park Board approval is required for special events not included in the annual Calendar of Major Special Events and/or that are in variance with one or more Park Board by-laws.

## BACKGROUND

World-renowned TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) conferences are operated by the non-profit Sapling Foundation, under the vision "Ideas Worth Spreading". TED was founded in 1984 as a one-off event; the annual conference series began in 1990. TED's early emphasis was technology and design but it has since broadened its focus to include talks on many scientific, cultural, and academic topics.

The main TED conference is held annually in Vancouver and its companion, TEDActive, is held in Whistler. Prior to 2014, these conferences were held in Long Beach and Palm Springs, respectively. TED events generate significant visibility/awareness for their host cities, address a wide range of topics within the research and practice of science and culture, and feature global thought leaders such as Bill Clinton, Jane Goodall, Steve Jobs, Arianna Huffington, Al Gore, Bill Gates, Bono, Google founders Larry Page, and Sergey Brin, as well as many Nobel Prize winners.

TED talks have been available for free viewing online since June 2006. As of February 2015, over 1,900 TED talks have been made available to the public, with viewership exceeding one billion globally.

The TED2016 conference will be dedicated to "the greatest dreams we are capable of dreaming".

## DISCUSSION

In addition to their primary program at the Vancouver Convention Centre, TED conferences offer a series of evening events. The proposed TED2016 Evening Event at Olympic Village Square & Plaza will commence with conference attendees being transported by coach from the event hub at the Vancouver Convention Centre to several restaurants in the Olympic

Village neighbourhood (see Appendix A). Following their dining experience between 7pm and 9pm, the attendees will walk to Olympic Village Square & Plaza for a private event featuring live entertainment and networking in a casual and relaxed environment. The venue for the TED2016 Evening Event will include both the Village Square and the Village Plaza (the latter is located directly north and adjacent to the Tap & Barrel Restaurant). Two large and fully enclosed tents (including tent walls, fencing and sound reduction technology), each with a capacity of 500 guests, will be erected in these spaces to accommodate the event (see Appendix B).

It is anticipated that this Evening Event will operate from approximately 9pm to 11pm. The two event spaces will be licensed for 1,000 guests (500 guests per location), with last call occurring at 10:30pm. At the conclusion of the initiative, guests will be shuttled back to the Vancouver Convention Center. Coaches will be staged along Athletes Way with a transportation coordinator overseeing the logistics of this event operation. All event activities would be completed by 11:30pm.

To support the overall event, load-in would take place on February 15 and 16, with tear-down on February 18.

This event application has been reviewed and conditionally approved by the City's FEST Committee (which includes representatives from the VPD, VF&RS, BC Ambulance Service, BC LC&LB, City Special Events, Traffic Management and Park Board), subject to Board approval and the submission of final event plans (site security, health and safety, noise management, emergency response, communications (including community notification), egress plan and green events).

## **SUMMARY**

TED is an industry-leading organization that strives to foster the spread of good ideas. Their events are targeted at an educated and well-mannered audience, and strive to always leave a positive impression.

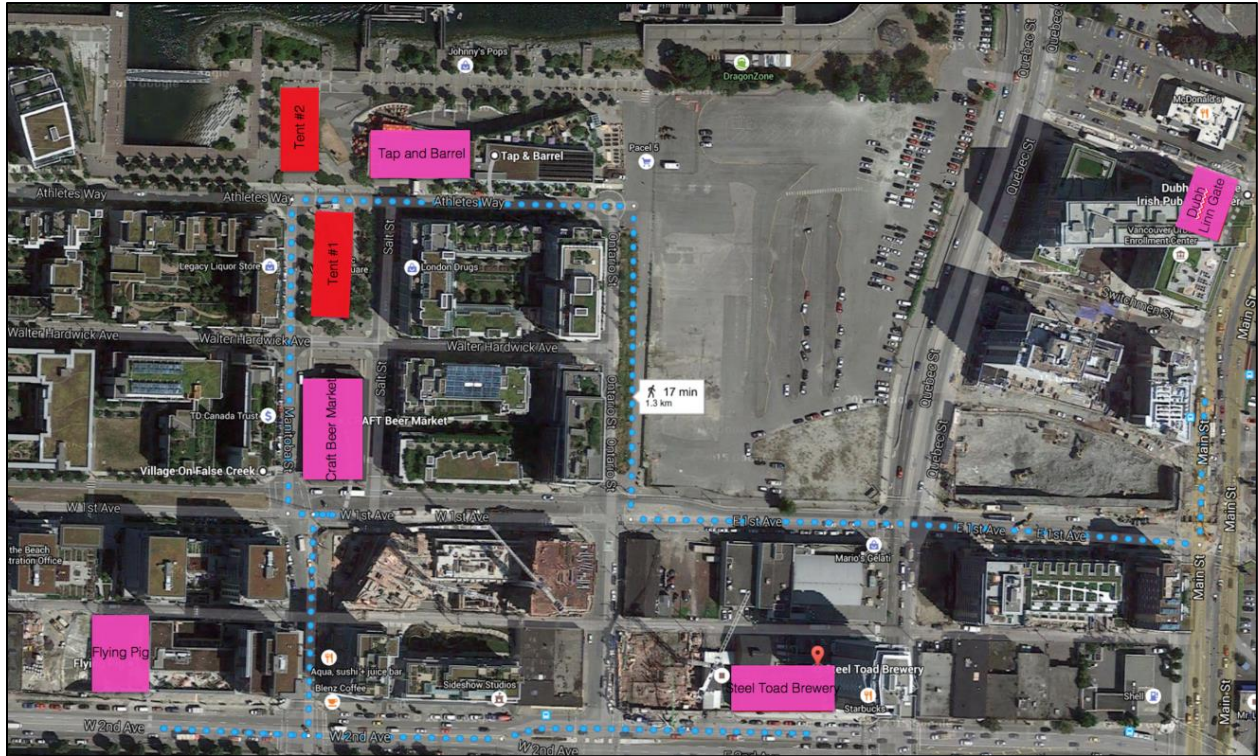
This event will showcase one of Vancouver's most attractive neighbourhoods, enhance the vibrancy of our city, and stimulate economic activity in the area. Staff have thoughtfully reviewed the various aspects of this special event application with the organizers and are confident that the initiative can be executed successfully. Accordingly, staff recommend that the Board approve the request as outlined above. Staff will continue to collaborate with organizers to ensure the event is implemented in accordance with all permit conditions.

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TED2016 Evening Event at Olympic Village Square & Plaza - Dinner Venues



TED2016 Evening Event at Olympic Village Square & Plaza - Preliminary Site Plan

