



February 25, 2016

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Reconciliation Art Program - Corporate Sponsorship Funding

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Vancouver Park Board contribute \$40,000 from the Corporate Sponsorship Reserve for the implementation of two key Reconciliation strategies in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, including: staff training and the launch of the new Park Board Indigenous and non-Indigenous Community-Engaged Arts Program.

POLICY

The Park Board Corporate Sponsorship Fund may be used:

- To fund one-time expenditures to a limit of \$50,000 that will support revenue generating activities and the money repaid into the Corporate Sponsorship account from the increased revenues within a period of three years;
- To fund initiatives with one-time expenditures to a limit of \$50,000 that will result in improved efficiencies;
- To fund one time expenditures over and above the existing funding level in the operating budget which are beneficial to the overall Parks and Recreation system

All funding expenditures require Board approval.

The Park Board Arts Policy states that:

- The Board contributes to the health of communities through community cultural development processes linking artists and community members addressing issues of shared interest.
- The Board values both innovation and tradition in the arts and takes measures to implement new and creative ventures as well as maintaining cultural and civic traditions.
- Recognizing the role artists play in society and the expertise that they carry, the Board affirms that artists must be paid for their work.

BACKGROUND

On June 23, 2015, Vancouver City Council passed a motion directing staff to provide recommendations on how to move forward on actions recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC). City staff reported to Council on January 19, 2016.

On June 29, 2015, the Urban Aboriginal Committee passed a motion requesting the Park Board undertake a review of the TRC Calls to Action.

On July 20, 2015, the Vancouver Park Board passed a motion directing staff to report back with recommendations on how to move forward on actions recommended by the TRC that are within the Park Board's jurisdiction.

On January 11, 2016, the Vancouver Park Board passed a motion directing staff to implement 11 strategies which address the principles contained in the TRC's Call to Action.

DISCUSSION

The TRC issued 94 Calls to Action in its report; in January staff was directed to implement eleven strategies which address the TRC principles, (see Appendix A).

At this time five of the strategies are underway including:

- adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- the precedent setting work on Stanley Park
- review of archeological protocols
- acknowledgement of Aboriginal language rights
- no charge is being levied for changes to reclaimed names for OneCard users

Four of the strategies require staff review of existing policies, practises and opportunities including:

- 360 degree approach to programming
- review of monument, memorial and public art donation processes
- review of business contracts and procurement policies
- review of event permitting and sports hosting protocols

The two remaining strategies require one time expenditures over and above the existing funding level in the operating budget. These are to:

- Work with First Nations peoples and other civic bodies to identify, create, and deliver appropriate and actionable staff training on indigenous issues and reconciliation.
- Establish and fund as a priority a program for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative community-engaged projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process.

Both of these strategies play an important role in creating communities of understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members. The power of tailored educational opportunities and of professionally led community-engaged arts projects to bridge difference, create new cultural understanding and inspire individual and collective action is well known. By funding the first year of these activities the Park Board will allow the important work of Reconciliation to begin in local communities. In subsequent years both of these strategies will be funded through the annual operating budget.

The contribution to development and delivery of appropriate and actionable staff training on indigenous issues and reconciliation is \$15,000. This figure is based on existing third party workshops which have a set agenda and an average cost of \$1,500 - \$3,000. The amount requested would allow for the customization and piloting of three models of training appropriate to different staff groups.

The contribution to the priority goal of establishing a community-engaged arts program with Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists is \$25,000. This figure is based on current funding levels for successful Park Board programs such as the Artists in Communities program. A key element of this new Reconciliation Community-Engaged arts strategy is the engagement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists working together. This figure establishes the practise of fair remuneration for the complex work of co-creation between artists from different cultures and the engagement of a wide variety of community members.

SUMMARY

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation has made a commitment to move forward on the actions recommended by the TRC that are within Park Board's jurisdiction. The eleven strategies Park Board directed staff to implement reflect a broad inclusive approach and mark the next phase of the journey embarked upon under the direction of the Board. With Board approval of the \$40,000 all eleven of the identified Reconciliation strategies will move forward in 2016.

This request for funds from Corporate Sponsorship complies with the policy for the use of Corporate Sponsorship funds and sufficient funds are available in the reserve to provide for this request.

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jw/ep/clc/jk

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action

Excerpted from Minutes: 2016-01-11

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THAT, in response to the [Calls to Action](#) provided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to:

- A. Adopt the "[United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)" as a reference framework for Park Board's Reconciliation initiatives;
- B. Work with First Nations people's and other civic bodies to identify, create, and deliver appropriate and actionable staff training on indigenous issues and reconciliation;
- C. Take a 360 degree approach to programming, including in the areas of culture, health, public dialogue, physical activity, and sport in order to increase public knowledge and awareness of reconciliation and to provide support to indigenous peoples including children, youth, Elders and families;
- D. Continue Park Board's precedent-setting intergovernmental approach to the future stewardship of Stanley Park and other relevant lands;
- E. Review the donation of monuments, memorials, and public art processes and policies to ensure integration of Indigenous history, heritage values, and memory practices;
- F. Review archeological protocols to ensure that "Aboriginal protocols shall be respected before any potentially invasive technical inspection and investigation of a cemetery site" or soil disturbance of a midden site takes place on park lands;
- G. Acknowledge that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights; that preservation, revitalization and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities;
- H. Review partner and business contracts, relationships and procurement policies for alignment with [TRC Calls to Action](#);
- I. Establish and fund as a priority a program for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative community-engaged projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process;*
- J. Review event permitting and sports hosting opportunities to ensure that Indigenous peoples' territorial protocols are respected and that, if appropriate to the scale of the event, that local Indigenous communities are engaged;
- K. Maintain current policy of no charge for changing a name on the OneCard, especially in relation to Indigenous people reclaiming names changed by the residential school system.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY