



June 7, 2018

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager – Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: African Descent Festival – Special Event

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve an application from the African Descent Society Vancouver, organizers of the African Descent Festival, to obtain a Special Event Permit with a maximum capacity of 100-guests from the BC Liquor Control & Licensing Branch, to serve alcohol at their event in Thornton Park on July 21 & 22, 2018, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager of the Park Board.

POLICY

Per the [Vancouver Charter](#), the Park Board has exclusive jurisdiction and control over park land use in the City of Vancouver, including any structures, programs and activities, fees, and improvements that occur within designated parks.

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

The African Descent Society Vancouver (ADSV) is a registered non-profit with a mandate to foster, empower, and increase education, economic development, and tolerance for the preservation and promotion of Black arts, culture, customs, values, history, heritage, and way of life within Canada. The ADSV works to produce and present cultural, heritage, educational, and social events that profile and celebrate Canadians of African descent.

Its marquee event, the African Descent Festival, is a cultural initiative that enables Canadians to enjoy and learn about cultures from different parts of Africa. It is an initiative that provides participants and performers with an opportunity to showcase the music and cultural heritage of their region (West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa and North Africa) as well as the music and cultures of people of African descent (Latin America, African Caribbean, Brazil, etc.). The Festival is free and features culturally diverse art, dance, fashion, food, and music activations; numerous community booths are also displayed. Since its inception in 2014, the Festival has grown its programming and audience, and is now expected to attract hundreds of guests daily to Thornton Park on July 21 & 22, 2018.

DISCUSSION

The African Descent Festival has historically operated without a licensed area. However, in order to enhance guest experience and generate additional revenues to offset event expenses, Festival organizers are seeking permission from the Park Board to obtain a Special Event

Permit with a maximum capacity of 100-guests from the BC Liquor Control & Licensing Branch to serve alcohol at their event on the aforementioned dates.

The proposed licensed area will be located in the northeast corner of the park, away from residential buildings located along Main Street, and in close proximity to policing, security, and first aid stations. It will operate from 12:00noon to 7:00pm on Saturday and Sunday, with last call occurring 30 minutes before closing time. A preliminary site plan for the Festival is presented in Appendix A, and a preliminary site plan for the licensed area is presented in Appendix B.

This proposal has been reviewed and conditionally approved by key FEST Committee members, including the Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services, the City of Vancouver's permitting departments, and the BC Liquor Control & Licensing Branch, subject to final approval by the Park Board.

SUMMARY

The African Descent Festival is an emerging and recurring summer event that promotes unity and inclusivity amongst all Vancouverites, and enhances the vibrancy and connectedness of our city. For 2018, Festival organizers are seeking permission to integrate a 100-guest licensed area into their event. This application has been carefully reviewed and assessed by staff, and they are confident that this proposal can be executed as planned. Accordingly, staff recommend that the Board approve this application as outlined above.

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African Descent Festival – Preliminary Site Plan



African Descent Festival – Licensed Area – Preliminary Site Plan

