



February 27, 2019

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager – Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Women Deliver 2019 Conference & Park Board Support

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Vancouver Park Board support the strategic initiatives related to the City of Vancouver's participation in the Women Deliver 2019 Conference as outlined in this report.

REPORT SUMMARY

In response to the January 29, 2019 City Council motion seeking the Park Board's support of the City's strategic initiatives in relation to the Women Deliver 2019 Conference, this report provides background and information on the conference, as well as information on the different initiatives and events. Park Board participation in the conference would include providing support to several of the City-led initiatives.

POLICY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The Park Board passed a motion titled [Women in Sport](#) in November 2012 to ensure equal access for women to the recreation system.

The Board passed a motion in April 2018 that asked staff to look at [gender equity and participation for women and girls](#) across the recreation system.

The City of Vancouver passed the [Women's Equity Strategy 2018-2028](#) in January 2018. The strategy reflects the City's vision to make Vancouver a place where all women and self-identified women have full access to the resources provided in the city, and opportunities to fully participate in the political, economic, cultural, and social life of the city.

On January 29, 2019, City Council passed a motion titled [City Participation in Women Deliver 2019 Conference](#). As part of that motion, the report was referred to the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Vancouver Library Board and Vancouver Police Department Board for information and to request support of the strategic initiatives related to the City's participation in the conference.

BACKGROUND

The [Women Deliver 2019 Conference](#) is coming to Vancouver June 3 to 6, 2019. This is the world's largest conference on gender equality and the health, rights, and well-being of girls and women in the 21st century. The goal of the conference is to accelerate progress for women and girls everywhere.

Women Deliver 2019 will provide an international stage for the City of Vancouver to showcase its commitment to women's equity, with more than 6,000 world leaders, influencers, advocates, academics, activists, and journalists attending. The conference expects participation from 6,000-7,000 attendees, 2,500 organizations, over 160 countries, 1,500 young people, 500 journalists, 100,000 virtual & satellite event participants, 1,000+ private sector representatives from multiple industries, and UN agencies and government representatives including ministers and parliamentarians from 50+ countries.

The City was not involved in the bidding or organizing committee for the event, which was led by Tourism Vancouver, however hosting such a large scale and prominent event provides an opportunity to showcase and support the City's local initiatives tied to women's equity. A cross-departmental Steering Committee has been created to advise on the City's participation in Women Deliver. The committee includes staff from: Park Board; Arts, Culture, & Community Services; Human Resources; Engineering Services; Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability; Vancouver Police Department; Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services; Civic Engagement & Communications; Real Estate & Facilities Management; and Vancouver Public Library.

The Steering Committee proposed the following four areas in which the City can participate in the conference, many of which provide an opportunity for reconciliation action. These areas of participation will leverage the conference to advance existing City programs, priorities, and initiatives:

- Contributing a Women Deliver Legacy Housing Project;
- Supporting Women Deliver Culture Night;
- Engaging with the community and the City; and
- Women's equity programming before, during, and after the conference.

The [full council report](#) is available for reference, which outlines all initiatives proposed by the committee and subsequently approved by Council.

DISCUSSION OF PARK BOARD PARTICIPATION

Park Board staff are focused primarily in the equity programming and community engagement before, during, and after the conference. We will also play a role in supporting several city led initiatives.

1. Remarkable Women Series Revival

From 2008 to 2014, the Park Board Arts and Culture team led the Remarkable Women poster series which honoured local women who made significant contributions to arts, culture, sports, and community. This program will be re-launched using momentum and profile gained through the conference. Staff are redeveloping content from the original 84 women recognized through the series and will keep the program going with a new series starting in 2020.

2. Show and Shine Event

This is a public event for residents and visitors that showcases City of Vancouver, Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services, and Park Board vehicles and equipment. The event will feature storytelling by female staff in under-represented trades and professions across City departments, and presents a recruitment opportunity.

3. Livestreaming with Community Roundtable Satellite Events

Park Board staff are currently evaluating the ability to stream content at community centres to provide a low-barrier opportunity to the public to participate. This will compliment streaming being offered by Vancouver Public Library, including a community dialogue at a satellite conference venue within the central branch.

4. Honouring Community Sport Champions Program

The Sport Hosting team will launch a new program stream of “Honouring Community Sport Champions” for grants to recognize individuals and organizations who break through the traditional limits and pave the way for girls and women to participate at every level in sport, including participation, coaching, administration, and leadership. 2019 recipients will be recognized at the Women Deliver Culture Night. Park Board staff will support this initiative and participate in the selection of the recipients.

Other positive initiatives for the broader community include: removing financial barriers to participation for non-profit conference attendees through ticket purchases and other financial support; providing forums and workshops for key projects such as the UN Safe Cities Scoping Study, Women in Disasters and Resilience Planning; and participation in and support of the conference Culture Night to showcase local first nations arts and culture. Culture night is an opportunity for conference attendees to “meet” the city in which the event is happening and is a part of every Women Deliver Conference.

A full discussion of all initiatives can be found in the [council report](#).

NEXT STEPS

Park Board staff will continue to work on planning and execution of the identified initiatives that will provide an exciting opportunity for both staff development and public participation. A future board report will present the larger [Women’s Equity Strategy](#), which supports the Park Board’s participation in this initiative and drives the long term direction for the City.

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