

JOINT CITY OF VANCOUVER & PARK BOARD COMMEMORATION FRAMEWORK: Guiding Principles, Vision & Emerging Priorities

Park Board Committee Meeting
Monday, June 20, 2022





Land Acknowledgement

Presentation Overview

Purpose:

- Define commemoration and civic memory practices
- Explore changes in the municipal commemoration field
- Review Phase 1 preliminary findings
- Propose foundational elements for board approval

Outline:

- Concepts
- Process
- Preliminary Findings
- Draft Guiding Principles, Vision, and Priorities
- Recommendations

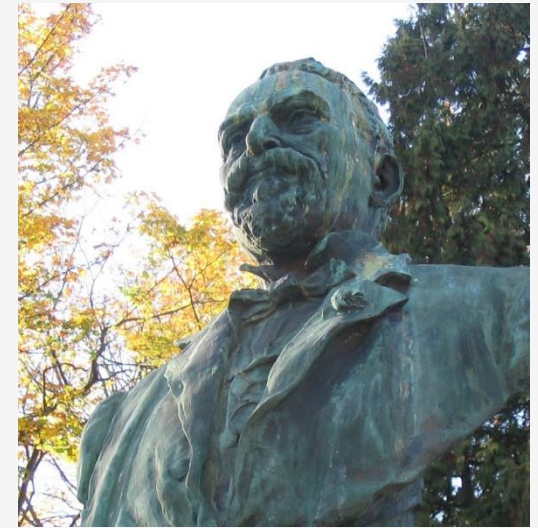


civic memory practices tell the story of this place + who belongs; celebrate icons + achievements; mark what should not be forgotten; include monuments, names, plaques, land-based markers; + remind us what matters

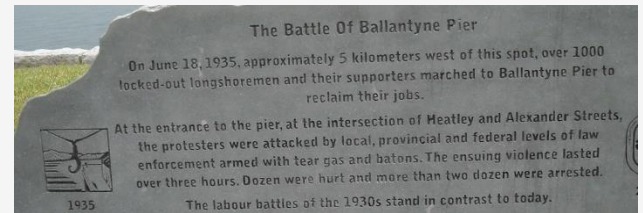
Today: a worldwide reckoning with colonial commemoration



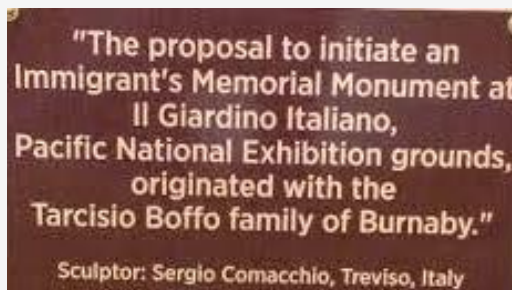
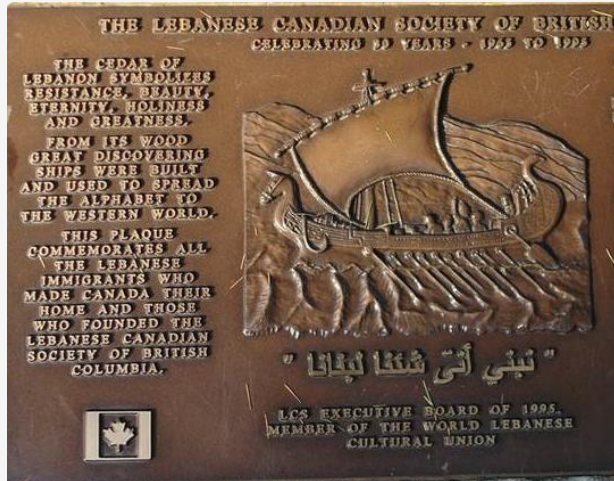
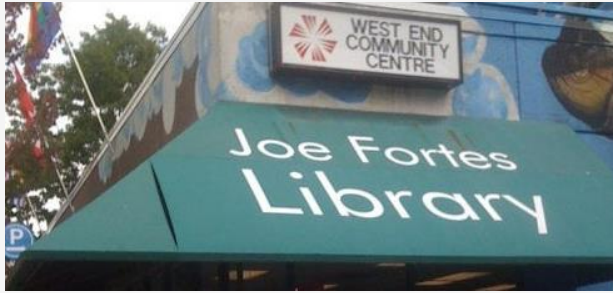
Erase + Rewrite: Vancouver replaces Host Nations presence



Honour Memory: memorializing lost lives + movements



Mark Stories: preserving legacies for generations



Reinscribe Legacies: reassert Nations' presence + equity-denied communities place in the commemorative landscape



Problem

The absence of a commemoration framework:

Privileges communities that have access to decision-makers + funding

Impedes Host Nations' visibility + authority

Hinders equitable approaches to accurate + inclusive commemoration, Reconciliation + redress

Purpose

The presence of a commemoration framework:

Guides transparent, fair selection + funding processes

Enables government-to-government partnership with Host Nations

Embeds City + Park commitments to decolonization, Reconciliation, redress, equity, + accessibility



Whole Systems Thinking

Cultural Services
City of Vancouver

Decolonization, Arts, + Culture
Park Board

Social Policy +
Operations

Planning + Heritage

Engineering

Real Estate +
Facilities

City Archives

Public Library

Pacific Northwest
Exhibition

Fire + Rescue

Emergency
Management

Police

Public Art
Committee

Civic Asset Naming
Committee

Heritage
Committee

Project Team + Structure



Project Team

Cultural Services

- Metha Brown
- Krystal Paraboo
- Dionne Paul
- Sheena Jardine-Olade
- Eric Fredericksen
- Branislav Henselmann
- Sandra Singh

Decolonization, Arts, + Culture

- Julia Hulbert
- Jessica Carson
- Rena Soutar
- Donnie Rosa

Internal Advisory Committee: Engineering – Street Activities, Social Policy – Cultural Redress + MMIWG2S, Archives, VPL, REFM, VRS, Planning – Heritage, PNE

Host Nations Committee + External Advisory Committee

Related Strategy + Projects



City

- Equity Framework, 2021
- Heritage Action Plan, 2021
- Places for People,
- šxw̓łexən Xwtl'a7shn renaming, 2019
- Culture|Shift, 2019
- Reconciliation Framework, 2014
- Storyscapes, 2005

Underway

- UNDRIP Task Force
- Missing + Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, + Two-Spirit People
- Anti-Racism + Cultural Redress
- Nations' Cultural Heritage Project – VanPlan
- Indigenous Languages

Park Board

- VanPlay Implementation Plan 2019
- Exploring Park Board's Colonial Roots + Current Practices, 2018 (report)
- Truth-Telling: Indigenous Perspectives on Working with Municipal Governments, 2017
- 11 Reconciliation Strategies, 2016

Underway

- Stanley Park Comprehensive Master Plan, underway
- Smithe + Richards Park Naming, underway
- Colonial Audit, underway
- Decolonization Framework, proposed
- Interim Naming Policy
- Interim Donations Policy

Project Map + Scope

Framework

Guiding Principles

Vision

Priorities + Guiding Questions

Administrative Policies

Monuments, Memorials, Plaques:

Commissioning
Donations
Deaccessioning

Naming + Renaming:

Parks
Streets, Plazas
Buildings

Wayfinding + Signage:

Boards
Signs
Secondary Signage

Functional:

Water Fountains
Street Furniture
Charging Stations

Cultural Heritage Sites, Assets, + Practices

Tangible
Intangible

Events:

City-Led;
Funded
Permitted

Planting

Indigenous Design Principles

Initial Scope

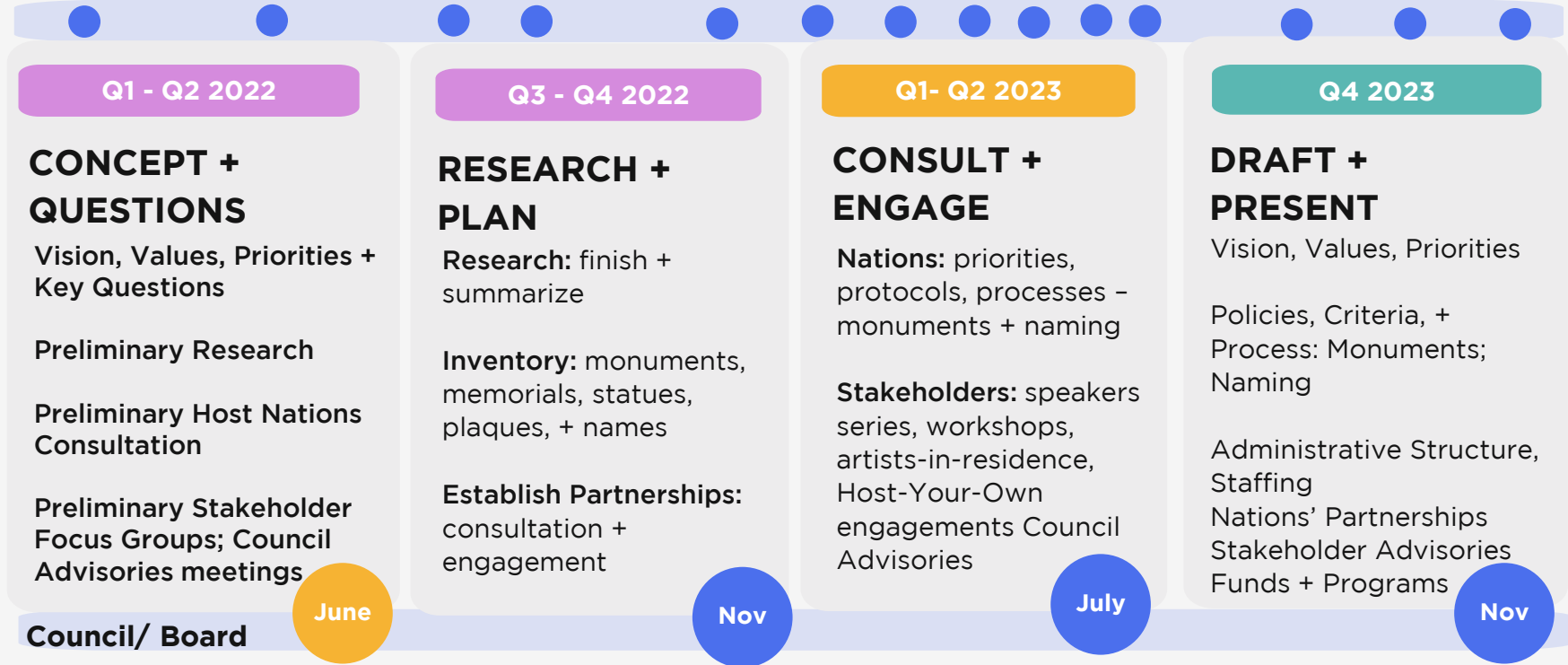
Extended Scope

Future Work

UNDRIP Task Force; Host Nations' Cultural Heritage Project

Timeline (proposed)

Host Nations Touchpoints



Phase 1: CONCEPT + QUESTIONS Findings

Jurisdictional Scan: Approaches

Cities Reviewed: Toronto, Victoria, Ottawa, Halifax, Saskatoon, Auckland, Los Angeles, New York, Richmond VA, Durham, NC, District of Columbia, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Charlottesville VA, New Orleans, San Francisco, Baltimore, Edinburgh, Bristol; British Columbia, Saskatchewan

Engagement

- Community Circles
- Town Hall + Hearings
- IBPOC Naming Table
- Academic Essays
- Interactive Maps
- Bus Tours
- Curatorial Projects
- Surveys
- Oversample IBPOC

Research + Education

- Monument Labs
- Dialogue Series
- Host-Your-Own
- Asset Inventories
- Online Inventories
- Archives Initiatives
- Library Reading Lists
- Local Curricula
- Embedded Historians

Programs + Policy

- Host Nations Park Co-Management
- Host Nations Heritage Area
- Proactive equity commission programs
- Community-engaged IBPOC pilots
- Recognition Policy

Jurisdictional Scan: Practices

Criteria

Merit: civic values; reconciliation, equity, + inclusion; principal legacy; aesthetic value

Value: impact, mitigation

Feasibility: authority, process, cost

Public Opinion: volume, duration, consensus

Options

Remove – during/ after process

Reinterpret – modify to reframe

New Work – tension, negotiation

Relocate – location, position, owner

Rename – public requirement, costs

Keep – as is

Host Nations Consultation

Musqueam: Awaiting;
1 Member Interviews

Squamish: 2 staff
meetings

TWN: 1 staff meeting

Concurrent Processes:
UNDRIP Task Force,
HN Cultural Heritage
Project, Indigenous
Languages, temporary
memorials + Gassy
Jack, Colonial Audit

- Prioritize commemoration that centers Host Nations' self-determination and cultural presence.
- Protocols establish and renew the relationship between governments, peoples, and places.
- Reckoning with colonial histories is a shared priority
 - Diverse views on reinterpretation or removal/re namings
 - Truth-telling should be centred in both approaches
 - Centre victims and families
 - Avoid triggering intergenerational trauma
 - Engage publics in more complete understandings of collective histories

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- Naming and renaming
 - contribute to language continuity and revitalization
 - must be carried out with great care
 - past rushed processes hindered opportunities for learnings of history and languages, and public education
- Reframing permanent + temporary works
- Rushed, under-resourced efforts cause harm and damage relations
- Centre reciprocity, working to reduce burdens on the Nations, adequately resourcing City requests

Public Engagement

Focus Groups:

Black/ African Descent;
People of Colour;
White

City Council Advisory Committees:

Public Art
Civic Asset Naming,
Arts + Culture,
Urban Indigenous Ppl.,
Racial + Ethnocultural
Equity,
Persons w/
Disabilities,
2SLGBTQ+,
Families/Youth
(Seniors declined)

- Take Directions from the Host Nations
- Support trauma-informed approaches to truth-telling and public education.
- Address inequitable, inaccurate, and incomplete representations
- Explore reinterpetative approaches that clarify inaccurate framings and challenge the normalization of White people as primary founders
- Explore approaches to removals in ways that center those most impacted
- Uplifting equity-denied communities' brilliance without over-positive frames
- Avoid single figures or areas; embrace broader communities and areas
- Explore commemorative works that create space for healing and connection across communities

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- Prioritize spaces to gather, particularly culturally-safe spaces
- Explore temporary, experiential, and evolving forms
- Explore functional commemorations to meet daily needs
- Enable artists to engage communities in more diverse, interactive, and creative opportunities to explore commemorative objects and sites
- Rushed, under-resourced processes perpetuate structural racism.
- Create transparent, culturally safer, resourced policy-development
- Support process-driven partnerships to encourage power-sharing, heal rifts;

Guiding Principles + Vision

(draft)



Host Nations Self-Determination, Reciprocity, Integrity

Equity + Accessibility, Learning + Unlearning, Artistic + Cultural Practice

**civic memory practices reckon with
difficult histories + combat erasure,
equitably celebrate + honour significant
figures + events, + make space to
remember together.**

Emerging Priorities (draft)



- **Make Space for Host Nations to Assert Self-Determined Memory Practices**
- **Reckon With Colonial History + Narratives Celebrating Conquest**
- **Centre Equity-Denied Communities Stories + Memory Practices**
- **Foster Belonging, Multiplicity, + Connection Across Communities**

Emerging Priorities (draft)



Host Nations Self-Determined Memory Practices

- Enable Host Nations' visibility
- Protocols guide commemorative processes
- Shift permanence paradigms
- Naming as relationship-making and place-keeping

Reckon with Colonial History

- Develop thoughtful approaches to contend with colonial names and monuments
- Engage communities in relearning histories in trauma-informed ways

Equity-Denied Communities

- Uplift equity-denied communities' brilliance and complexity
- Expand forms of commemoration to reflect diverse memory practices
- Avoid ableist triumph narratives

Foster Belonging Across Communities

- Prioritize commemorative space for ongoing memory-making
- Support memorials that honour and heal

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the proposed joint Commemoration Framework Guiding Principles, Vision & Emerging Priorities contained within this report in principle, subject to final approval by City Council and the Park Board at a future date.

- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to work with City staff to further develop a proposed Commemoration Framework and comprehensive administrative policies for a) monuments, memorials, and plaques; and b) naming and renaming, including Indigenous naming, and be prepared to receive a subsequent report with budget requests for Host Nations consultation and public engagement.

- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to suspend the review of any new commemorative requests including plaques, naming, and monument donations while the Commemoration Framework is under development.



Presentation Concurrences



Division/Department	Name & Title	Concurrence Date
Decolonization, Arts & Culture	Rena Soutar, Manager	June 1, 2022
Planning & Park Development	Dave Hutch, Director	June 8, 2022
Board Relations	Cheryl Chan, Manager	
Recreation Services	Steve Kellock, Director	June 3, 2022
Park Operations	Amit Gandha, Director	June 2, 2022
Finance (FP&A Parks & Rec)	Natalie Froehlich, Director	June 8, 2022
Strategic Ops / Board Support	John Brodie, Acting Director	June 8, 2022
Business Services	Steve Jackson, Director	June 5, 2022
GM's Office	Donnie Rosa, GM	GMO to obtain
Arts Culture & Community Services	Sandra Singh, GM	June 13, 2022

- Should generally align with concurrences required for report; adjust as needed.
- ALL concurrences up to Park Board GM level to be obtained prior to submitting to PBGMO for final review & GM concurrence.