



## **Park Board General Manager's Report October 24, 2022**

*The following report is intended to provide an overview and update on recent and upcoming activities within the Park Board.*

### **Decolonization, Arts and Culture – Indigenous Arts and Culture Visibility**

The past 6 weeks have seen several key Decolonization, Arts and Culture initiatives increasing the visibility of Indigenous arts and cultural practice across the Park Board:

#### **Host Nations Artist in Residence at the A-Frame Fieldhouse in Stanley Park**

T'uy't'ananat-Cease Wyss (Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh, Sto:lo, Hawaiian, Swiss) is the new artist in residence at the A Frame Fieldhouse in Stanley Park through to the summer of 2025. Cease is an educator, interdisciplinary artist, and Indigenous ethnobotanist engaged in community-based teaching and sharing. This cultural residency supports a community member from the x̓w̓m̓əθk̓w̓əy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), or səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations to work in a creative, activated and community-engaged space in a part of their unceded territory currently known as Stanley Park.

#### **At The Centre of Community: Exhibition and Programs**

The annual DAC exhibition celebrating artist and communities working together took place at the Roundhouse in last two weeks of September show-casing Indigenous-led cultural projects from across the Park Board. Thank you to Commissioner Giesbrecht for her warm and thoughtful opening remarks at the exhibition launch. Programming included an evening conversation with Rena Soutar, Cease Wyss and Chrystal Sparrow – the outgoing and incoming artists in residence in Stanley Park, reflecting on bringing their practices to these unceded territories.

#### **Strathcona Mural ceremony and celebration at Strathcona School/Strathcona Community Centre**

Park Board, the Vancouver School Board, Strathcona School and the Strathcona Community Centre Association came together to celebrate the completion of a mural 2 years in the making, created by Indigenous artists Bracken Hanuse Corlett, Athena Picha, Chelsey Sparrow and Ocean Hyland. The mural spans the north facing wall linking the school and the community centre and is a celebration of connection to land and community

#### **Greater Vancouver Native Society: 2 Spirit BBQ**

Moberly Arts and Culture Centre hosted and supported a new collaboration with Greater Vancouver Native Society celebrating 2 Spirit Community with feasting an outdoor 2 Spirit Drag Show, Indigenous vendors and lots of love, laughs and acceptance.

### **Decolonization, Arts and Culture and Recreation Park Activations – Summer 2022 Highlights**

The Park Activation programming team, which is a collaboration between Decolonization, Arts and Culture and Recreation, supported and directly delivered a number of community-engaged programs and activations in four parks in the Downtown Eastside, Downtown South, and Grandview-Woodlands this summer. Programming included:

- The second summer of Art in the Park at Andy Livingstone Park with artist Sylvan Hamburger, Elder Leslie Nelson and Carnegie Community Centre. This work built on the relationships formed at Andy Livingstone in summer 2021, connecting park users with art making, performance, Indigenous cultural practice, and community twice per week from July to September.



- Staff also supported a number of community-led initiatives at Strathcona Park, including the 2nd summer of the weekly West Coast Family and Powwow Night community gatherings, and the inaugural Celebrate Strathcona community festival.
- New this summer were two programs at Grandview Park offered in partnership with Britannia Community Centre, including an Elders Drumming group with Britannia Elder Seis'lom, and drop-in cedar bark weaving with Haida weaver Todd Giihlgigaa DeVries.
- Also, at sθəqəlxenəm ts'exwts'áxwi7 Park, the Park Activation team operated a new Playground Leader program in July and August, and supported Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh Nations' community days in the park.
- Lastly, the Park Activation team supported numerous skateboarding programs and activations, including offering a twice-weekly skateboard host programming at Strathcona Park, and supporting the pop-up indoor skateboarding space that operated at the Vancouver Curling Club in July and August.

Looking ahead, staff are continuing to strengthen community partnerships and collaborations, and are preparing plans for some all-weather activations through the fall and winter months!

### **Queer Inclusion Team Updates**

In response to recommendations in the Trans and Gender Variant Inclusion Steering Committee's "[Building a Path to Parks and Recreation for All](#)" report, two regular full time Recreation Programmer positions have been created to serve this community. These positions have been designated by the BC Office of the Human Rights Commissioner as specifically requiring lived experience in the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. Christa Giles is the Recreation Programmer II, 2SLGBTQIA+ Inclusion. She has been in the position since the end of April. Dana Kremetz is the Recreation Programmer I, 2-Spirit, Trans, and Gender Diverse (2STGD) Inclusion, and they joined us on October 3. We are thrilled to welcome these two staff to the department.

Attendance in the 2STGD swim has increased approximately four-fold since January 2022, with an average of 41 patrons currently attending the weekly drop-in program. Both paid and Leisure Access visits have increased. Attendees are primarily adults who pay the drop-in fee. Leisure Access participants are 15% of total admissions, which is consistent with general recreation program participation.

Staff have been working with 2STGD community members to develop communication methods that are safe and of interest for community members, including communicating via Queer groups on Facebook and a transgender online subforum on Reddit. These methods have been successful at reaching new community members who have become regular program attendees.

The 2STGD Workout program at Creekside Community Centre offers exclusive use of a fitness program room with access to spin bikes, free weights, and resistance equipment. The 2STGD weekly swim at Templeton Pool was enhanced by the addition of four 30-minute weekly swim lessons for 2STGD adults, youth, and the children of 2STGD parents, who experience barriers to attending mainstream swim lessons. The children's lessons now include lessons for gender creative children. These new lessons have contributed to a jump in program visits as their cis gender parents and siblings also attend the swim during the lessons.

A new 2SLGBTQIA+ Craft Social at Hillcrest Community Centre will start in mid-October and run on Thursday nights through the end of December. Registration is available online via ActiveNet. A Queer



Inclusion Swim and a QTIBPOC Swim for queer and/or transgender Indigenous, Black and People of Colour have started at Templeton Pool on alternating long weekend Sundays. The first Queer Inclusion Swim was October 9, and the first QTIBPOC Swim is November 13th.

#### Future Dreams

Moving forward, Recreation’s Queer Inclusion team is excited to:

- Deepen connections with more community centres and CCAs
- expand swimming and fitness opportunities,
- create new social and active activities including and not limited to:
  - monthly outdoor experiences with Dana;
  - youth programming with contracted sport instructors; and
  - family-focused classes for queer parents to connect with one

#### Upcoming Council Business (related to or impacting parks & recreation):

Council to receive a report on the City of Vancouver’s [United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People’s \(UNDRIP\) Strategy](#) by the UNDRIP Task Force on October 25, 2022. This report outlines calls to action to implement UNDRIP at the City.

Council to receive a report on an Easement Agreement for Encroachment on the Permanently Designated Park Property at Willow Park on October 25, 2022. This minor encroachment would allow for the installation of a rain screen to allow for water shedding and drainage on the adjacent building.

#### Board Briefing Memos and Emails: July 20 to October 24, 2022

Date	Topic
July 29	<a href="#">Spanish Banks West Concession Water Main Leak</a>
July 29	<a href="#">Outdoor Aquatics Update</a>
August 5	<a href="#">Portable Toilets at CRAB Park</a>
August 10	<a href="#">Queen Elizabeth Dancing Pond</a>
August 12	<a href="#">Lost Lagoon</a>
August 31	<a href="#">ActiveNet System Update</a>
September 1	<a href="#">Looper Moth Infestation</a>
September 12	<a href="#">2023 Budget Outlook</a>
September 16	<a href="#">Charleson Park Water Feature Update</a>
September 28	<a href="#">Fieldhouse Management and Strategy</a>
October 18	<a href="#">2022 Service Plan Adjustments with Mid-Year updates for Major Priorities</a>