



Park Board General Manager's Report December 5, 2022

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

DAC - Arts, Culture and Engagement

As the year comes to a close, Decolonization, Arts and Culture celebrates the work of artists and culture groups working in communities across the Park Board with the support of the Arts, Culture and Engagement (ACE) Team.

In 2022 ACE worked with over 70 artists and arts & culture groups in residence and 30 arts partners. Together they comprise over 400 artists in all disciplines, Indigenous cultural practitioners, environmental stewardship and local food specialists, and knowledge holders who lead work in and with community on creative projects. Their projects and events brought another 1400 guest artists and specialists into work with community.

This work includes 2500 free projects, workshops and activities and nearly 1000 performances, events and cultural celebrations. Over 16,000 community members were direct participants in creating and presenting cultural work, with another 77,000 joining in as audience members.

This creative community connection is the result of over 40,000 hours of work by the artists and groups we work to support.

DAC – Indigenous Arts and Culture Visibility

In the past year DAC staff have supported the organization of a significant number of Indigenous-led cultural events and ceremonies in parks, in collaboration with the Park Activation Team. Staff worked to remove barriers for artists and enable Indigenous community-led work, which in turn creates opportunities for staff to focus on cultural sensitivity and equity.

Park Board funding and staff support have advanced trust and relationship building with Musqueam, Squamish, Tseil-Waututh and Urban Indigenous families and organizations that have in turn enabled over 15,000 people to gather for ceremony, healing and celebration on the land.

DAC – A return to gathering in person

As in many sectors, 2022 was the year of a slow return to in person gatherings and to building on lessons learned throughout the pandemic period. Cultural projects, events, exhibitions and performances took place including:

- In fieldhouses, community centres and parks;
- On-line on every platform;
- By conference call and snail mail;
- In outdoor performances, workshops, and sound, art and plant walks;
- Through community planting, harvesting and food sharing;
- With projections and screenings in facility windows; and
- Through outdoor art exhibitions on tennis court fences and artist led mural projects on our facility walls, sidewalks and fences.

To develop and support these projects in parks and recreation spaces, artists and organizations brought over \$1,000,000 in outside funding through grants and other means. The Park Board also benefits from this vast network of partners that artists and groups bring in, connecting organizations



like The David Suzuki Butterfly Rangers, the African Friendship Society and Vancouver Public Library into work in parks and community centres.

The heart of this practice has always been community cultural development; literally building community through creative practice. In 2022 we are reminded that this work is about innovation, resilience, connection, care and humanity.

Food and Beverage: Concessions in the Winter

Second Beach Concession is installing an outdoor weather enclosure that will enable shade and provide cover during rainy & windy months, creating a space for customers to dine in all weathers. This will be installed before the holidays (install planned for the second week in December). Second Beach is our busiest concessions out of the 13 concessions - these updates will benefit a large customer base.

Due to the extended warm weather many of the concessions sites remained open during the fall months with favorable feedback, praise and thanks from customers. A handful of sites will continue to operate throughout the winter months (weather dependent).

Concessions provide a diverse product offering. We continue to look for ways to improve and upgrade our menu mix including ramen noodles, curry fries, selections of tacos and our house made Korean hotdogs, as well as our nostalgic menu favorites. We are always looking for ways to provide more sustainable, local, and plant based options.

Targeted Tree Giveaway

Building on past Annual Tree Sales, the Park Board will soon launch a targeted tree giveaway with the goal of increasing urban forest canopy on private property. The pilot giveaway will provide 250 trees to residents of two low-canopy neighbourhoods in South Vancouver, Sunset and Victoria-Fraserview. The average canopy cover in Vancouver is 23% and the Park Board's goal is to reach 30% by 2050. The current canopy cover in Sunset is 12% and Victoria-Fraserview is 14%. Promotion of the giveaway will begin in February 2023 and trees will be delivered to participants in March.

Spanish Banks Stream Work

Park Board staff facilitated stream habitat restoration works in Spanish Banks Park, with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). Spanish Banks Creek was daylighted in 1999 and is celebrated as a successful stream daylighting project. Over the years, the creek became filled with sediment, making passage for salmon fry difficult. Sedimentation causes shallower water depth and leaves salmon fry exposed to predation. Deepening the pools by removing sediment has provided more areas for fish to rest and hide. Chub salmon returned to spawn in this Creek in November of this year, but more work remains by the Province (MOTI) on the culvert under NW Marine Dr.

Spanish Banks is one of few remaining locations in Vancouver where you can watch salmon return to their ancestral streams every year in the fall. As directed by the Park Board in late 2021, staff are working on plans, permits, and funding assistance applications to also daylight another creek that flows from Pacific Spirit regional park. Lessons learned from restoring the Spanish Banks and Salish Creeks are helping to inform plans to [daylight Canyon Creek](#) in the same park.

Oxford Park Indigenous Garden

Vancouver Urban Food Forest planted an Indigenous garden called Chen Chen Stway Healing Garden, meaning 'to stand and work together, to hold each other up' at Oxford Park this summer to



support Indigenous food and medicine cultural practices and knowledge with local groups, including the Aboriginal Mother's Centre.

New Garden at Trillium Park

The Asian Seniors community gardening program, hosted by Carnegie Community Centre staff, planted a new food garden in partnership with Earth Hand Gleaners at Trillium Park in spring. This partnership provides opportunities for inter-cultural exchange by sharing knowledge about plants, language, and cultural practices such as spinning and weaving plant fibers shown in the photo.

Main and 7th Park – Public Engagement

The second phase of public engagement for the new park at Main Street and 7th Avenue started on November 29 and will continue until December 21. During this phase, staff are looking to receive the public's feedback on the preliminary concept plan that has been developed, in response to feedback heard during the first public engagement.

All information can be found on the project Shape Your City and during an in-person open house event on December 8, between 5:00pm and 8:30pm, at the Mount Pleasant Community Centre. This new park will create a valuable public green space in the vibrant and growing Mount Pleasant neighbourhood.