



# SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR 2024

## Major Events

Park Board Committee Meeting  
Monday, February 26, 2024



## PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

- Report back on 2023 events with location changes
- Present and review the 2024 Calendar of Major Special Events
- Seek Board approval for the Calendar



# BOARD AUTHORITY, POLICY & PREVIOUS DECISIONS



- **Board authority:**

- Jurisdiction and control over all areas designated as permanent and temporary parks (Vancouver Charter)

- **Policy:**

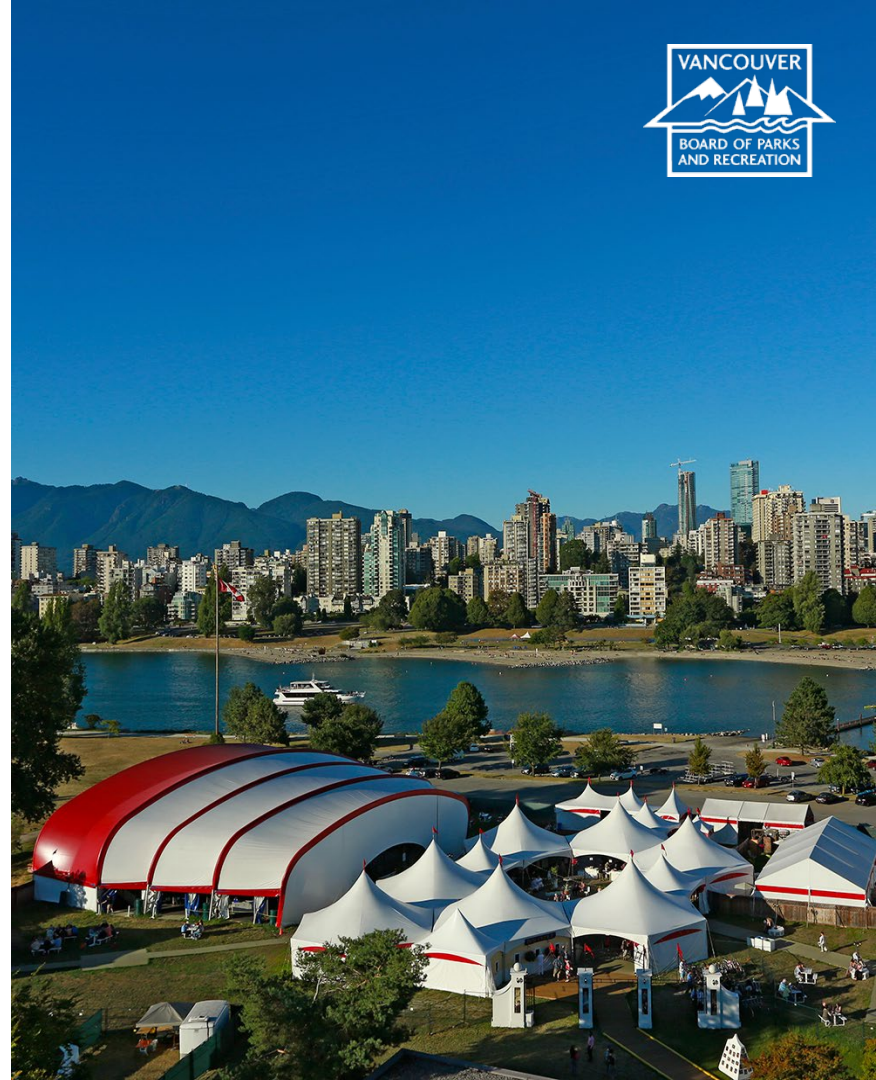
- Park Board reviews annual list of major special events
- Board approval required for new events and/or events in variance of bylaws (Special Event Guidelines)

- **Previous decisions:**

- May 2019 – moratorium approved on new commercial events/activations
- December 2022 – moratorium lifted on new commercial events/activations
- January 2023 – Think Big Revenue Strategy motion passed

## BACKGROUND | Events in Parks

- Parks are popular locations for entertainment and celebrations
- These activities fall within the Park Board's mandate
- Special events:
  - Activate public spaces, foster community connectedness, provide enriching cultural experiences
  - Deliver important economic benefits
- Park Board's role is largely that of a host (1,500+ events/year)



## BACKGROUND | Permit Process

- Designating use of park space is achieved by the special event permit process
- Special Event Guidelines and current practices:
  - Permit application requirements
  - Define process for evaluation
  - Inform terms and conditions
- Events involving space outside Park Board jurisdiction are coordinated in partnership



## BACKGROUND | Approval Process

- Park Board reviews and approves:
  - New major special events
  - Changes to existing events
- Major events defined:
  - Significant impacts on public access to park space
  - Neighbourhood impacts
  - Require approval of specific event features
- Events added to annual calendar pending successful execution and Board report back



## 2023 EVENTS REPORT BACK

- ***Carnaval del Sol:***
  - Celebrated 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary at David Lam Park
  - Successful and well attended
  - Consideration for noise impact & future growth
  - Returning to Jonathan Rogers Park in 2024
  - Exploring relocation to Jericho Beach Park in future years



## 2023 EVENTS REPORT BACK

- ***African Descent Festival:***
  - Festival held at English Bay Beach for the first time
  - Enjoyed by many and generally well received by the community
  - Operationally and logistically challenging site
  - Safety and operational improvements suggested for future festival
  - Organizer interested in returning to English Bay Beach in 2024
  - Approval pending discussions with the organizer and FEST Committee





## 2023 EVENTS REPORT BACK

- ***Dîner en Blanc:***
  - Celebrated 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Coopers Park
  - Final activation under the founding organizer, The Social Concierge
  - Well executed and enjoyed by thousands of guests
  - Event is slated to return to a Vancouver park under leadership of new organizer in 2024



## 2024 Calendar

- Includes events which confirmed intention to move forward in 2024 at time report was prepared
- Calendar also includes approved annual special events without confirmed 2024 dates
- 2024 Calendar anticipates the return of majority of annual major events and robust season



## 2024 CALENDAR | Overview

- Contains 98 major special events
- Events distributed throughout the year and the Park Board network:
  - 6 Park Board organized/delivered events
  - 2 events at VanDusen Garden
  - 90 events across Vancouver parks
- Seasonal peak in spring/summer; concentration in Stanley Park, downtown and waterfront parks
- Calendar also lists road closures in Stanley Park to host marquee events



## SUMMARY

- Major special events provide a range of public benefits
- Park Board staff have carefully considered requirements and potential impacts of the 2024 major events calendar
- Confident events can be executed successfully and as intended



## RECOMMENDATION



- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board receive for information the report back on 2023 events with location changes as outlined in this report;
  
- B. FURTHER THAT the Board approve the Special Events Calendar 2024 – Major Events as outlined in this report and attached as Appendix A.

