

**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>  
**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>  
**Date:** 2/12/2016 9:52:30 AM  
**Subject:** Confidential: St James purchase has concluded

Greetings Mayor and Council,

I am happy to inform you that the City of Vancouver has finalized the purchase of St. James Community Square. Please don't share the news until we issue a press release, which you will receive.

**Background:**

The deal closed yesterday. The City is also ensuring that this venue is available for ongoing community use by negotiating a lease/operating agreement with the St. James Community Square Society to maintain the existing and future uses of the building.

The lease agreement will allow the Society to continue delivering programs for 20 years, with two options to renew for a further term of five years each. This will allow St. James Community Square to continue operating as a vital community hub providing much needed space to local non-profit and community organizations for meetings, performances, cultural and special events.

The City investment and lease arrangement will ensure that residents of the Kitsilano neighbourhood and of all Vancouver can continue to enjoy this community space for cultural, social, recreational, and educational activities into the future.

**Community Celebration:**

Mayor Gregor Robertson will be joining a community celebration this Saturday. It will include a rehearsal performance by Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra

You are all invited to attend:

**When:** February 13, 2016 at 11 am  
**Where:** St. James Community Square  
[3214 W10th Ave, Vancouver](#)  
**Who:** Mayor Gregor Robertson  
[Mel Lehan](#), St. James Community Square

**Background: St. James Community Square**

The non-profit Society has been operating and maintaining the Square as a community resource for 21 years – providing affordable facilities for various community uses including: child care (25 spaces), Japanese language preschool (20 spaces), gymnastics and sport programs for youth, music lessons, art classes, support groups, Vancouver Youth Symphony, and regular musical performances by Rogue Folk Club and other presenters.

In addition to seasonal visual arts programs, and rehearsals and auditions by the arts community - 12 cultural groups consistently use the space for rehearsals, performances and office space. The St. James Community Square model of operation is unique and compliments and works with other City facilities and service providers. The 18,000 square foot building hosts approximately 500,000 user visits per year and there are about 5,000 people registered in or regularly attending one or more programs a week.

For more details on St. James Community Square and upcoming programs and activities:

<http://sjcommunitysquare.org/>

I'd like to thank Bill Aujla and the team from REFM and Teresa Hartman, who was serving as acting GM from CSG for their leadership.

If you have questions or require further information, please contact me.

Thanks

- Sadhu Johnston, Acting City Manager

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

3/20/2017