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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"Matthews, Lesley" <lesley.matthews@vancouver.ca>
Date: 6/22/2020 4:56:50 PM
Subject: 2020 Awards of Excellence - Cancelled

Dear Mayor and Council,

Since 2014, the *Awards of Excellence* has recognized the outstanding achievements of individuals – adults, youth, and children – and organizations in five categories that benefit everyone by making Vancouver greener, healthier, more diverse and accessible. After careful consideration and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a decision has been made to cancel the *2020 Awards of Excellence*. The rationale for the cancellation is twofold:

- 1) Only 6 nominations have been received since March 4 and the closing date for nominations is this Friday, June 26. In a typical year, approximately 50-60 nominations are received by the closing date. Promotion for this year's *Awards of Excellence* was on hold while the City focused its communication on the current health crisis, and staff were unable to create the awareness necessary to generate enough nominations for a successful program to proceed.
- 2) Current public health guidelines restrict social gatherings of over 50 people. Given this restriction, the City will not be able to host an awards ceremony like past years which typically attracts between 250 to 350 people. Staff determined that hosting a virtual awards ceremony or hosting multiple, small, in-person and physically-distanced award presentations in lieu for one larger ceremony would be too costly given the City's current budget constraints and the low number of nominations received this year.

As for next steps, staff will close the online nomination form and post a message on the City's *Awards of Excellence* webpage advising the public of the cancellation. All 6 nominations received so far will remain on file to be eligible for consideration for the *2021 Awards of Excellence*. Nominations for the *2021 Awards of Excellence* will re-open in early March 2021, or as soon thereafter as public health guidelines allow for a large, in person awards ceremony to take place again.

If you have any question, please contact lesley.matthews@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Sadhu

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Pronouns: he, him, his



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.