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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 7/2/2021 4:55:37 PM
Subject: [Access to City Space](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Staff often receive referrals to them of community groups who are looking for access to City space. ACCS has put together the following information that they hope will help you in your discussions with community organizations.

In terms of immediate requests, all of the City's properties that are available for lease can be viewed here <https://vancouver.ca/doing-business/city-owned-properties-for-sale-or-lease.aspx>. Given the limited City properties as listed above, we recommend that groups interested in finding space contact a real estate agent/broker to review available lease properties.

For non-profit organizations seeking space, City-owned spaces in our Social Policy portfolio typically are offered through an RFP process and all space allocations adhere to the City's procurement and supply management protocols. Open and awarded bids and RFPs may be found here: <https://vancouver.ca/doing-business/bids-contracts-rfps-purchase-orders.aspx>.

On occasion, the City will direct source with a non-profit, but it usually as part of a joint venture with the Province, either through BC Housing or Vancouver Coastal Health, and if Council approved/directed.

Given the current demand, staff continue to seek innovative ways to support Non-Profit partners in securing affordable and adequate space. For example:

- In January 2021, the City launched a site intended to help match commercial [for lease](#) data and the Zoning Use approved: <https://vancouver.ca/doing-business/city-owned-properties-for-sale-or-lease.aspx>.
- One of the [Action while planning](#) programs staff are currently scoping for the Social Infrastructure Strategy is a community space matching and sharing [Concierge](#) program, anticipated to launch in late 2021/22.
- The City works in partnership with the Community Impact Real Estate Society (CIRES), who work with non-profits to align with available space in their portfolio: <https://www.communityimpactrealestate.ca/portfolio/available-units>.

Upcoming work: Space for community serving agencies continues to be at high demand given increasing service needs, pace of development, affordability and COVID recovery impacts. The Vancouver Social Infrastructure Strategy is in development and will propose policy, priority, and implementation initiatives to address the demand for social and community serving spaces. The policy framework is anticipated to come forward to Council in Fall 2021 with an implementation strategy to follow in Spring 2022.

We look forward to working with colleagues and partners in other levels of government, the non-profit and social enterprise sectors, and private sector to better meet the needs of community. Please feel free to contact General Manager of ACCS Sandra Singh directly if there are questions related to the above and she will ensure questions are answered through the weekly Q&As.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.