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**Subject:** New GM of Arts, Culture and Community Services

Good day,

As you know, Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas will be retiring in early 2018. I am pleased to announce that starting in April, Sandra Singh, currently Chief Librarian at Vancouver Public Library, will be joining the City as Kathleen's successor in the role of General Manager.

There is a natural transfer of corporate knowledge and fit within the culture here at the City, a continuity of projects, and Sandra is an ideal fit for this role. This succession between two current members of our City Leadership Team provides an opportunity for an effective and stable transition. I know that Sandra's experience as a chief executive, her operational and policy development expertise, as well as her extensive engagement in arts and culture, will provide real value as she takes on her new role.

This appointment provides an opportunity for the City to more fully embrace our commitment to art and culture by including those components of our work in the title of the department. As part of this refocus, we are renaming the department to accurately reflect this shift in perspective to Arts, Culture and Community Services. Sandra will bring great insight into these areas, and has a proven track record with the Library in bringing strategic focus to services that affect each and every citizen.

I am very excited that we are able to have Sandra take on this role. Her tenure at the Library has been full of impressive achievements, notably development of the Inspiration Lab, the Sun Life Financial Musical Instrument Library, the Inspiration Pass, the first indigenous naming of a civic facility, the expansion of the library's digital services, transformational change of several departments and services, and the \$15.5m expansion of Central Library started last year to name a few of the library's achievements. Under Sandra's leadership, VPL has delivered on a well-designed strategic plan to keep library services modern, engaged, creative, and customer focused. As Chief Librarian, Sandra also participates as a member of our City Leadership Team and I have very much appreciated her wisdom and input on strategy development for our broader organization.

Previous to her role as Chief Librarian at the VPL, Sandra worked as the head of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC, as both VPL's IT Director and Director of Branches East and Outreach Services, as the Manager of Library Services in Port Moody, as a cybrarian at a local dotcom, and as a reference librarian and a cataloguer in Texas and Alberta. She currently sits on the Canada Council for the Arts' Public Lending Right Commission and is chairing the multi-sector National Heritage Digitization Strategy.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Kathleen for her contributions to the Community Services portfolio. She leaves the department in a great place, having paved the way with city-wide housing policies, the introduction of the Empty Homes Tax, directed actions to end street homelessness, helped to bring the MuralFest and Junos to Vancouver, and introduced best practices in business planning to Community Services, in addition to many other accomplishments.

Before she departs for Ontario, Kathleen will start to hand over the department's reins to Sandra to ensure as seamless a transition as possible. I wish her all the best in resuming her life in Ontario and thank her for the great work she has done.

Best,  
Sadhu

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