

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

CC: "Dobrovlny, Jerry" <jerry.dobrovlny@vancouver.ca>
"Wittgens, Margaret" <Margaret.Wittgens@vancouver.ca>
"City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"

Date: 6/12/2018 4:58:52 PM

Subject: 2018 Upcoming Public Space Initiatives

Attachments: Memo - 2018 Upcoming Public Space Initiatives.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Jerry Dobrovlny. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- There are a number of public space initiatives being delivered this summer by the Street Activities Branch in the Public Space and Street Use Division of Engineering Services.
- Upcoming highlights include:

Date	Event
June 14	Bike rack design competition public viewing and voting – City Lab
June 17	14 th and Main pavement-to-plaza and Car-free Days on Main Street
June 18	Naming announcement of the Vancouver Art Gallery's north plaza (led by Corporate Communications)
June 28	Lunchtime music series on Helena Gutteridge Plaza begins
June 30	Mural unveiling and blessing with Squamish First Nations at 1515 Franklin Street
Late June	Up to three new parklets are scheduled to be installed
July 1	Sport BC Summer Warm Up, Canada Day event at Vancouver Art Gallery, in partnership with the DV BIA

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Margaret Wittgens, Director of Public Space & Street Use, at 604-673-8227 or margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca.

Best,

Sadhu

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MEMORANDUM

June 12, 2018

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Communications Director
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Naveen Girn, Community Relations Director, Mayor's Office
Margaret Wittgens, Director, Public Space & Street Use, Engineering Services

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: 2018 Upcoming Public Space Initiatives

This memo provides an update on upcoming public space initiatives being delivered this summer by the Street Activities Branch in the Public Space and Street Use Division of Engineering Services. The Street Activities Branch animates, enhances and manages the street experience through partnerships, pilots and programs (e.g. through the VIVA Vancouver program).

Upcoming highlights include:

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June 14	Bike rack design competition public viewing and voting – City Lab
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New Public Space Projects

Successful public spaces are those that are community driven, where the design is context specific and where there is a stewardship plan to ensure the health and wellbeing of the community and the space itself. We are looking to double the number of street to public space conversions in 2018, a few of which are highlighted below.

New – Robson and Alberni Public Realm Project

The Robson and Alberni Streets public realm project will launch in summer with the benefit of a unique engagement strategy to inform the design. Working in partnership with the Robson Business Association and Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA), a series of temporary public space pilots are scheduled to be installed to test street activation concepts. Pilots will include mid-block crossings, extending the sidewalk using platforms, and curbside seating (parklets and patios). Improvements to the Bute/Robson plaza will also be made in conjunction with the Robson Street project.

New – 14th and Main Pavement to Plaza

In partnership with the Mount Pleasant BIA, a temporary plaza at E 14th Avenue just east of Main Street will be launched during Car-free Day (June 17). Along with improvements to the 14th Avenue bike route, the new interim plaza will create places to sit and socialize, with a long term aim of becoming permanent once a review is conducted including public input and monitoring.

New – Ackery's Alley

In partnership with the DVBIA and Civic Theatres, Ackery's Alley will be launched this summer. Building on the success of Alley Oop, the laneway will be transformed into a welcoming place to experience colour, light and music.

Curbside Seating (Parklets & Patios)

Staff are working to almost double the number of curbside seating structures (Parklets and patios) by the end of 2018.

Stewardship of Interim & Newly Built Spaces

Staff are working to develop a City-wide Stewardship Strategy, and are also continuing to test and improve the stewardship of interim, and newly developed, spaces, including:

Vancouver Art Gallery (VAG) plazas (800 Robson and North Plaza)

The City is working in partnership with the Province to deliver the permanent plaza on 800 Robson in 2019. With the North Plaza now available for use, the City is also leading the development of a stewardship plan and a 2018 programming pilot for the whole site in partnership with the DVBIA, the Province, VAG and UBC Robson Square.

Helena Gutteridge Plaza

Since the launch of the plaza in front of City Hall this spring, a variety of events have occurred and amenities have been provided to support passive and active uses in the plaza, including tables, chairs and umbrellas and a ping pong table. A range of activities over the summer is being planned such as a weekly lunchtime concert series, evening dance events and VIVA pop-ups.

Arbutus Greenway

The Arbutus Greenway adds approximately 42 acres of public space and transportation infrastructure. With public spaces along the length of the corridor, there will be a need for a stewardship management plan to guide the future use of these spaces.

Jim Deva Plaza

Staff continue regular coordination with the Jim Deva Oversight Committee to effectively address stewardship needs for the plaza, and to identify and distill lessons to help guide the City-Wide Stewardship Strategy.

Adanac-Vernon Plaza

Last summer, staff created a plaza at the Union-Vernon-Adanac intersection. In May of this year, staff installed a permanent ping-pong table and a little free library.

Alleys – Partnership with DV BIA

A strong partnership between the City and the DV BIA help support ongoing programming and monitoring in downtown alleys, including “Alley Oop” at Seymour and West Hastings and the upcoming Ackery’s Alley.

VIVA Vancouver Program – the City’s Tactical Urbanism and Innovative Public Space Program

Pop-up Activations

In May, staff issued an open call for proposals for community-led pop-up public space activations, building on the 60+ pop-up activations that were supported in 2017. The call helps to break down the barriers to working in public space, support community groups, and promote public life. The call closes on June 8 and projects selected for funding will go live in select public spaces in July. While the call is open, priority will be given to animating the Vancouver Art Gallery plazas, Helena Gutteridge Plaza and Arbutus Greenway.

The Thingery

A Thingery is a community-owned lending library of things in a modified shipping container. Staff, in partnership with Sustainability and the Arbutus Greenway team, are supporting Thingerys in three locations: Grandview-Woodland, Hastings-Sunrise, and on the Arbutus Greenway. The Thingerys are currently being installed and will be open to use by the public this summer.

Design Competitions

The Bike Rack Design Contest was launched in April 2018. The City received over 450 entries, and all of them will be on display June 14-16 at City Lab. An opening reception will be held on Thursday, June 14, 4pm-8pm and everyone is welcome to attend and vote for their favourite design. Following the exhibition, a jury will decide on up to ten bike rack designs to be prototyped and displayed at a public event later this summer. These designs can later be chosen for installation around the city.

Staff are currently scoping another design competition, in partnership with the Vancouver Public Space Network and Rain City, focused on developing more rain-friendly public spaces. The competition is expected to be launched in late summer.

Murals and Art Wraps

Murals

Inspired by the First Nations' role in saving lives during the Great Fire of 1886, Hastings North BIA received a grant and support from the Mural program and Cultural Services to produce a mural by artists Nomadic Alternatives (Nelson & Xochitl Leal) at 1515 Franklin Street.

Our Integrated Graffiti Management team who manage the City's mural program will also see a range of other Indigenous-lead murals this year, building on our relationship with First Nation artists resulting from Canada 150+. In partnership with Create Vancouver Society and Cultural Services, staff are delivering the third consecutive Vancouver Mural festival featuring several large scale murals and two festivals (June 23 and August 6 to 11).

Art Wraps

Staff are working with 13 BIAs to support the commissioning of over 30 different artists for utility boxes across the city.

Green Streets

The Green Streets Program includes 1,030 street gardens, many of which are cared for by citizens. The Green Streets Party is an annual recognition event for volunteers. The event is typically attended by approximately 200 of the volunteers, and provides an opportunity for social connections and knowledge sharing, as well as a venue for the City to offer thanks and appreciation for the volunteers' contributions to their community. The event is scheduled to be held on September 30, 2018.

Policy and Research

Staff are currently developing a corporate marketing strategy to provide regulatory guidance on promotion and advertising in public space, conducting a curbside patio study and review, and developing a pavement-to-plaza program. Staff also continue to evaluate the success of new and existing public spaces via data collection and monitoring, which includes exploring

partnerships on innovative public space research methods with groups like Happy City. Staff are also partnering with Planning to advance Places for People and the City-Wide Plaza Stewardship Strategy to help guide future efforts for delivering and stewarding public spaces in the city.

Please check our website and social media channels for updates on VIVA activations and we hope to see you at one of the sites this summer.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Margaret Wittgens, Director of Public Space and Street Use, at 604-673-8227 or margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Dobrovolny', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Jerry W. Dobrovolny, P.Eng., MBA
General Manager, Engineering Services

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