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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
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Date: 8/16/2019 10:46:49 AM
Subject: Fostering Change Campaign at City Hall on August 16: The 19th Birthday We Deserve

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Today, Friday August 16, *Fostering Change Campaign* is hosting a community celebration and public gathering at City Hall from 2-3pm titled "The 19th Birthday We Deserve".

Background

Vancouver Foundation launched *Fostering Change* in 2013 addressing homelessness impacting youth aging out of care as well as compiled data from 2013-2018 (highlights below). In Spring 2018, *Fostering Change Campaign* moved to *First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition* which is a non-partisan coalition of 101 provincial and regional organizations that advocate through public education, community mobilization, and public policy advocacy. Coalition members identified Four Keys to Success for Children and Youth:

- A strong commitment to early childhood development;
- Support in transitions from childhood to youth to adulthood;
- Increased economic equality; and
- Safe and caring communities.

Vancouver Foundation Findings 2013-2018:

- 92% of people across BC provide their own children with support post-19, and that 76% believe support should be extended for foster care youth
- Costs of up to \$268M per year are associated with the adverse experiences of youth from care, while only \$57M per year is required to improve outcomes
- 17,000 petition signatures demonstrated that the public want to see action on this issue by government, business, and the community
- Propose expanded youth engagement by non-profits, including youth with lived experience as staff and partners in research and project implementation
- Created a "Candidates Pledge" signed by both current and former Ministers for Children and Family Development, 41 MLA's, and 147 BC election candidates, to further improve support
- VF distributed \$5M in grants to non-profits to create better connections / support for foster care youth

City's Role

Supporting youth in care and aging out of care is primarily the Province's responsibility (MCFD). The City of Vancouver does support some initiatives that address the above four key success factors as identified by *First Call* through social grants and supporting youth programming, although *not all* are explicitly for youth in care and aging out of care. Related ACCS initiatives include:

Community Services Grant	Aunt Leah's The Link	Offers youth from foster care the tools resources and supportive community necessary to help them secure housing, increase their quality of life, and achieve their goals. COV support for 5 years.	\$35,444
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Community Services Grant	First Funds Society	Provides Indigenous youth with mentorship, housing supports and basic life skills in their transition from foster care to adulthood.	\$30,000
Community Services Grant	Childcare Enhancement Grants to Out of School Care	Supports youth in foster care. Data provided in 2019 grant applications indicates that approx. 10% of children supported by CC Enhancement grants are in foster care – this would largely be Out of School care (after school)	\$976,000
Community Arts Grant	Britannia Community Services Centre Society	<i>East Van Hip Hop Drop</i> young artists are supported by various community-based agencies and professional staff. Proactive, relevant and fun hip hop dance workshops are hosted to engage at-risk youths	\$6,000
Community Arts Grant	Arts Umbrella	<i>Open Stage Weekly</i> , free of-charge theatre classes and mentorship to students aged 8-13 in vulnerable Vancouver neighbourhoods, providing a safe environment and supportive peer group, enhances self-confidence and healthy self-expression	\$5,000

Community Arts Grant	Girls Rock Camp	<i>Summer Camp 2019</i> builds self-esteem in girls and non-binary children and youth through music creation and performance	\$6,000
Community Arts Grant	Some Assembly Arts Society	Roundhouse Youth Theatre Action Group (RHYTAG) New Play Project: 'REWIRE' community arts project that engages youth from diverse cultural groups, backgrounds and challenges (including addictions, mental health, low income) with diverse professional artists in a collaborative process creating, developing and performing a play that promotes awareness, dialogue and harm reduction associated with issues facing youth	\$6,750
Innovation Fund through Mayor's Taskforce on Mental Health and Addictions	Family Services of Greater Vancouver	Develop a collective impact approach to address Action Area 4 (supporting better youth transitions) resulting in the identification of a shared vision, a backbone organization (McCreary Centre Society) and three key success pillars, 1) Caring Connections, 2) Access to Meaningful Experiences, and 3) Opportunities for Growth (Phase 1)	\$40,000
Innovation Fund through	McCreary Centre Society	Advance Family Services of Greater Vancouver's collective impact work: formalize governance structure, develop	\$40,000

Mayor's Taskforce on Mental Health and Addictions	shared measures, seek long term funding and advance actions and activities specific to: housing, education and employment and the Caring Connections success pillar (not all were achieved-Phase 2)
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If you have any further questions about how the City's work in this area, please feel free to contact Sandra Singh at Sandra.Singh@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.