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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"

"Impey, Patrice" <Patrice.Impey@vancouver.ca>

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Date: 12/9/2019 5:00:46 PM

Subject: Memo - West End Participatory Budgeting Pilot Update and Voting Dates

Attachments: COM - Participatory Budgeting - Memo to Council - 12-03-2019.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Rena Kendall-Craden, Director of Civic Engagement and Communications, regarding the West End Participatory Budgeting Pilot Update and Voting Dates. A brief summary is as follows –

- In December 2017, Council authorized staff to undertake a Participatory Budgeting Pilot, with the revenue from the West End Parking Strategy, and requested that staff report back on the results.
- A summary of key updates and the shortlist of community-generated project proposals brought forth by the WE Choo\$e Impact Team is attached to this memo.
- The Community Vote is scheduled for January 25 to February 4, 2020, with a public announcement of the results on February 8, 2020.

Should you have any questions, please contact Rena Kendall-Craden at Rena.Kendall-Craden@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager
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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.

MEMORANDUM

November 29, 2019

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Patrice Impey, General Manager, Financial Services
Colin Knight, Associate Director, Financial Analysis, Budgets & Reporting
Lon Laclaire, Director, Transportation, Engineering Services
Christopher Darwent, Senior Branch Head, Engineering Services

FROM: Rena Kendall-Craden
Director, Civic Engagement and Communications

SUBJECT: West End Participatory Budgeting Pilot Update

Purpose

This memo is intended to provide an update to Council on the progress of the West End Participatory Budgeting (PB) Pilot. The following is a summary of key updates and the shortlist of community-generated project proposals brought forth by the WE Choo\$e Impact Team for a community vote currently scheduled for January 25 - Feb 4, 2020, with a public announcement of the results on February 8, 2020.

Background

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic engagement process where community members propose and vote on community investment projects, funded through a predetermined budget. Once a community votes, the selected projects are adopted and implemented with the support of the government. Participatory Budgeting has been implemented in dozens of cities across the United States, South America, Latin America, Europe and Canada (City of Victoria, Toronto and Guelph).

The impacts we can expect from an effective, meaningful and measurable PB process include:

- Increase civic involvement by empowering members of the public to make project decisions for their community and to practice empowered decision-making.

- Foster community resilience and trust by creating a space for community members to discuss local needs collaboratively and to deliver outcomes that a majority of residents want.
- Increase financial literacy by building capacity to understand financial allocations that consider project viability, financial trade-offs and equitable distribution of funds.
- Deliver specific public goods decided upon by the community.

In 2013, the Engaged City Task Force recommended the development of a participatory budgeting project. Following two years of research and study into best practice, a viable pilot opportunity emerged via the West End Parking Strategy consultation process.

In December 2017, Council authorized the Director of Civic Engagement and Communications and General Manager of Finance, Risk, and Supply Chain Management to undertake a Participatory Budgeting Pilot, with the revenue from the West End Parking Strategy, and requested that staff report back on the results.

In September 2018, the City of Vancouver convened members of the West End community to come together to decide how \$100,000 of revenue generated in their community should be spent as part of the City's first ever participatory budgeting program. They were invited to learn about PB, and to establish a stewardship committee (the WE Choo\$e Impact Team), as well as the guidelines for the pilot.

Since then the PB pilot has gone through several phases:

- **Public Brainstorming and Ideation (January - February 2019)**
The Impact Team launched the idea collection phase of the process. Members of the community submitted their ideas on how the \$100,000 should be spent online at or at one of six public information sessions, which included pop-up events and community assemblies that included a presentation and an ideation session. Over 1700 ideas were collected from the West End community for Impact Team and its subcommittees to deliberate.
- **Proposal Development (April - October 2019)**
Taking all the ideas submitted, the Impact Team worked with project/idea proponents, consultants and staff to develop, through a predetermined criterion, meaningful, actionable proposals and to cost them in preparation for voting. Individual proposed projects can request funding ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000, allowing multiple projects to be selected.

The project is now preparing to enter the following phases:

- **Community Voting & Announcement – January 25 - February 8, 2020**
The Impact Team will lead a voting process to help identify the winning projects. The PB voting process will be promoted between now and January through community partners, local media outlets and on-the-ground canvassing to encourage members of the West End community to have their say in selecting the local projects to be funded.

Note: The number of projects that can be implemented will be constrained by the available budget associated with the projects that receive the highest number of

community votes. City of Vancouver staff will support the vote, but generally do not play a role in the deliberation or decision, nor do elected officials.

- Report back on Final Community Improvement Projects (February - March 2020)
The winning projects will be reported to City staff and Council. Projects that involve grants to community partners must also receive Council approval before disbursement and implementation. Other projects will be implemented through appropriate operating departments. A project evaluation and report back to Council will follow.
- Project Implementation (ongoing 2020)
The winning projects must begin implementation within a year and be completed within 18 months. Ensuring that the winning projects are implemented, within a timely manner, is a key principle of the Participatory Budgeting process.
City staff and community partners will implement the community improvement projects, and the community monitors implementation. City staff and the Impact Team will also promote and publicly share each project as they are implemented.

The Impact Team would like to present their final shortlist of projects (attached to this memo) to inform Council of the various projects being brought to a community vote from January 25 – February 04, 2020. The voting results will be announced on February 8 – with a community celebration to follow.

Further Information

Further information, including background documents, can be found at www.vancouver.ca/participatory-budgeting

Should you have any questions or comments about PB engagement or process, please contact Rena Kendall-Craden at Rena.Kendall-Craden@vancouver.ca.

Regards,

Rena Kendall-Craden
Director, Civic Engagement and Communications

WE Choose Impact Team's Shortlist of Community Improvement Projects for Community Voting (January 25 - February 04)

Project Name	Brief Description/Location/Amount
West End Placemaking Mural	<p>Funding to commission a large community placemaking mural (or several smaller murals) in the West End.</p> <p>Location(s): Multiple possible sites within the public realm throughout the West End.</p> <p>Amount: \$25,000</p>
Chalk Art Block Party Event	<p>Supported by Gordon Neighbourhood House (GNH), a chalk and art block party for all ages in the streets and sidewalks of the West End guided by local artists.</p> <p>Location(s): Multiple Possible Sites. Blocks of Bute Street between Robson and Davie / Walls at Laneway Entrances / Area around Gordon Neighbourhood House</p> <p>Amount: \$15,000 [Grant to GNH]</p>
West End Care Kits	<p>Distributed by the Gordon Neighbourhood House (GNH), these welcome kits for individuals experiencing homelessness will encourage a sense of belonging, community and security.</p> <p>Location(s): GNH</p> <p>Amount: \$12,000 [Grant to GNH]</p>
Eat.Play.Connect Summer Series 2020	<p>Connecting our community through free outdoor food, fitness and art events from June to September 2020.</p> <p>Location(s): West End (beaches, parks, community centres, seawall, pool)</p> <p>Amount: \$50,000</p>
West End Childcare Emergency Grants	<p>15-20 one-time emergency childcare grants for single parents/caregivers unable to make monthly payments, eligibility will be assessed on income level, need, employment, and number of children.</p> <p>YMCA childcare location: Robert Lee YMCA</p> <p>Amount: \$10,000 [Grant to YMCA]</p>

<p>Healthy Minds, Healthy Hearts</p>	<p>Funding to Gordon Neighborhood House to expand their free mental health services by hiring part-time staff for 12 months.</p> <p>Location(s): Gordon Neighborhood House & Dr. Peter Centre</p> <p>Amount: \$35,000 [Grant to GNH]</p>
<p>West End Food Hub</p>	<p>Funding for food, services, and programming for neighbours who are nutritionally vulnerable, experiencing homelessness, newcomers, and low-income seniors and families.</p> <p>Location(s): Gordon Neighbourhood House or other West End Agency</p> <p>Amount: \$50,000 [Grant to GNH]</p>
<p>Davie Village "Flower Power"</p>	<p>Davie Village blossoms: A Hanging flower basket program along the 3 blocks of the Davie Village (Burrard to Jervis) in partnership with the West End BIA.</p> <p>Location(s): Davie Village – Burrard to Jervis Streets</p> <p>Amount: \$40,000 [Grant to West End BIA]</p>
<p>West End Calisthenics Parks</p>	<p>Creation of local calisthenics parks to enabling residents to pursue and maintain a simple but effective strength and skills workout through pull-up, parallel and wall bars.</p> <p>Location(s): Barclay Heritage Square</p> <p>Amount: \$50,000</p>
<p>Pedestrian Crossing at Barclay and Nicola Streets</p>	<p>Improve the pedestrian crosswalk at Barclay and Nicola Streets, including a zebra crossing, signage and curb ramp upgrades.</p> <p>Location(s): Barclay at Nicola Streets</p> <p>Amount: \$15,000</p>

<p>Sidewalk Improvements</p>	<p>Replace the sidewalk at six locations to remove tripping hazards and enhance safety.</p> <p>Location(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bute Street between Nelson and Comox Streets (west side) - Bute Street between Jepson-Young Lane and Pendrell Streets (west side) - Bute Street at Harwood Street (north side) - Burnaby Street between Beach and Bidwell Streets (south side) - Burnaby Street between Nicola and Broughton Streets (south side) - Burnaby Street between Broughton and Jervis Streets (south side) <p>Amount: \$30,000</p>
<p>West End Seniors' Network (WESN) Transportation Service</p>	<p>A grant to West End Seniors' Network's (WESN) Better at Home service to enhance the program and transport West End seniors around the Vancouver area to medical and other related appointments.</p> <p>Location(s): No permanent location, transportation based.</p> <p>Amount: \$15,000 [Grant to WESN]</p>
<p>Happy Denman: Transforming the Street Before Your Eyes</p>	<p>A resident-led project where your ideas will guide temporary street re-designs to test changes that make Denman Street more safe, inclusive and people-friendly. Facilitated by the Happy City Institute.</p> <p>Location(s):</p> <p>Amount: \$20,000 [Grant to Happy City Institute]</p>
<p>Christine Fretwell and Kathryn Gibbons Memorial Gift to West End Students</p>	<p>A memorial donation of \$20,000 (\$10,000 for both Lord Roberts Elementary and King George Secondary) for sports and/or music equipment.</p> <p>Location(s): Lord Roberts Elementary and King George Secondary</p> <p>Amount: \$20,000 [Grant to Lord Robert and King George PAC]</p>



November 28, 2019

Dear Mayor and Council,

RE: Grants for Successful Projects - West End Participatory Budgeting Pilot

During the process of developing community projects and having them vetted by City staff, it came to our attention that there is no legal mechanism in the Vancouver Charter that allows for pre-approval of grants. This greatly concerns us - the volunteer WE Choo\$e Impact Team leading the West End Participatory Budgeting (PB) Pilot - since 8 out of the 14 Participatory Budgeting projects involve grants.

The negative impact of non-approval of grants by Council for successful projects of the West End PB community vote next year (January 25 to February 4, 2020) would be significant for the PB Pilot and the City of Vancouver for a variety of reasons. Firstly, a central tenet of PB is that local people decide how to spend these public funds, and they have been assured by the City of Vancouver over the past year that the projects they vote on will be implemented. Secondly, the goals of PB include increasing civic engagement and building trust between the community and the City. And lastly, while elected officials are supposed to support the process, they are not meant to play a role in decision-making.

We are writing to request that the successful projects of the West End PB community vote, including those that will require grants, be approved by Council via the City's granting process when they come before you next year. Please review the shortlist of projects (presented in the Memo to Council) which we will begin promoting soon, and let us know if there is any clarification needed. We feel that this will best minimize the chance of non-approval for grants after the community vote.

The first day of voting on January 25 will include a kick-off event, and the results of the community vote will be publicly announced on February 8 at a community celebration. We welcome Mayor and Council to join us, more details will follow closer to the date.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Kupferschmidt".

Anthony Kupferschmidt
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Fish".

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