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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

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

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Date: 3/2/2020 12:13:54 PM

Subject: Memo - Upcoming Public Equity Initiatives on Public Space and Streets Design

Attachments: Memo - Upcoming Public Equity Initiatives on Public Space and Streets De...pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Lon LaClaire that provides an update on upcoming public-facing equity initiatives. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- Engineering Services, in coordination with Arts, Culture and Community Services and Planning and Development Services, are working on a number of equity initiatives
- In the next few weeks, there will be public-facing equity initiatives focused on how to improve our approach to equity in public space and transportation design projects:
 - On Saturday, February 29th placemaker and author Jay Pitter will host a "Granville Bridge Women's Storytelling Walk"
 - On Sunday, March 1st Jay Pitter will host "Smashing Public Space Barriers: a youth storytelling circle, public space audit and play date"
 - On Wednesday, March 11th Happy City will host a "Designing for Difference" workshop on the proposed plaza at Cambie St and 18th Ave
 - On Wednesday, April 1st Happy City will host a "Designing for Difference" workshop on the proposed plaza at Ontario and 5th Ave
 - In May, Happy City will host a "Designing for Difference" workshop on the proposed plaza under the south side of the Cambie Bridge

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lon LaClaire at 604-873-7336 or lon.laclaire@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.

MEMORANDUM

February 27, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Civic Engagement and Communications Director
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office

FROM: Lon LaClaire
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Upcoming Public Equity Initiatives on Public Space and Streets Design

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update to on upcoming public equity initiatives related to public space and streets design. Increasing the focus on diversity and critical social issues is a key City priority. Engineering Services, in coordination with colleagues in Arts, Culture and Community Services and Planning and Development Services, have initiated planning and design initiatives to explore how we can improve our practice and better address equity in our public space and transportation projects.

Several public events are coming up soon. First, we are working with placemaker and author Jay Pitter to engage equity-seeking groups, provide staff training, and support a stronger approach to equity in some of our current transportation and public space projects. Two upcoming public events are:

- On Saturday, February 29 Jay Pitter will host the "Granville Bridge Women's Storytelling Walk". A diverse range of local women will share their stories of navigating Granville Bridge and the surrounding area, and these insights will help inform the design of the Granville Bridge Connector, as well as any future initiatives along Granville St. More information and registration for the event here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/granville-bridge-womens-storytelling-walk-tickets-95462295295>

- On Sunday, March 1 Jay Pitter will host the “Smashing Public Space Barriers: a youth storytelling circle, public space audit and play date”. The focus of this event is to bring together youth, who are too often overlooked and excluded in the planning and design of public space, to share their experiences of Vancouver’s public spaces. Discussions will inform the City’s approach to public space design, programming and stewardship. More information and registration for the event here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/smashing-public-space-barriers-a-youth-placemaking-event-tickets-94082173313>

Second, the Street Activities branch is working with local urban planning and design firm, Happy City, to assess and identify barriers facing those traditionally underrepresented in public place. This work is focused on three potential future pavement-to-plaza locations which were identified through community planning and engagement:

- Cambie Street and 18th Avenue
- Ontario Street and Fifth Avenue
- Under the south side of the Cambie Street Bridge

Through stakeholder engagement, focus groups, and workshops, the “Designing for Difference” project aims to include more diverse and underrepresented perspectives and experiences that will inform the design, programming and stewardship of these public spaces. There are three upcoming public events:

- On Wednesday, March 11 Happy City will host a “Designing for Difference” workshop on the proposed plaza at Cambie Street and 18th Avenue.
- On Wednesday, April 1 Happy City will host a “Designing for Difference” workshop on the proposed plaza at Ontario Street and Fifth Avenue.
- In May, Happy City will host a “Designing for Difference” workshop on the proposed plaza under the south side of the Cambie Bridge.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any further questions about these initiatives.



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