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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 3/14/2022 7:01:01 PM

Subject: [Update on the Commemoration Policy - RTS 14868](#)

Attachments: [ACCS - GM - Memo \(Council\) - Commemoration Policy - RTS 14868 \(2022-03-14\).pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

The attached memo from Sandra Singh provides an introduction to current, ongoing ACCS and Park Board efforts related to development of a shared, city-wide Commemoration Policy (RTS 14868).

Key points include:

- Development of a shared, City-wide commemorative policy for monuments and memorials is one of key actions coming out of *Culture|Shift*, the City's 10 year cultural strategy, unanimously approved by Council on September 10, 2019, and of Park Board's *VanPlay Implementation Plan*.
- A staff team drawn from Cultural Services and Park Board has begun research, and is entering an early engagement phase with Council Committees and community focus groups.
- The initial scope of this work will establish a primary focus on the tangible commemoration realm, including monuments, memorials, and naming.
- Staff aim to present preliminary research and engagement findings along with plans for comprehensive research and engagement phases to both the Council and Park Board in June 2022.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Sandra directly and she will ensure responses are provided through the weekly Q&A.

All the best,
Karen

Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager (she/her)
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm/Musqueam, Sḵwx̱wú7mesh/Squamish and səliłwətaʔ/Tsleil-Waututh nations.

MEMORANDUM

March 14, 2022

TO: Mayor & Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Maria Pontikis, Director, Civic Engagement and Communications
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
Theresa O'Donnell, Director of Planning, PDS
Lon LaClaire, General Manager, Engineering
Donnie Rosa, General Manager, Board of Parks and Recreation
Christina de Castell, Chief Librarian, VPL

FROM: Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

SUBJECT: Commemoration Policy

RTS #: 14868

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to provide an introduction to current, ongoing ACCS and Park Board efforts related to development of a shared, city-wide Commemoration Policy.

BACKGROUND

Development of a shared, City-wide commemorative policy for monuments and memorials is one of key implementation actions coming out of Council-approved *Culture|Shift*, the City's 10 year cultural strategy, unanimously approved by Council on September 10, 2019. In 2019, the Park Board approved the *VanPlay Implementation Plan*, which calls for staff to work with Cultural Services to develop a joint Monuments and Memorials Framework to guide the criteria and process for commemoration.

In response to recent events in Vancouver and across Canada that further emphasized the importance of developing a comprehensive, City-wide commemoration policy as an immediate corporate priority, the staff have initiated a phased interdepartmental policy-development framework, led by a collaborative team from ACCS's Cultural Services and Park Board's Decolonization, Arts and Culture departments.

DISCUSSION

In the absence of a shared, City-wide commemorative policy framework, the City's current programs and practices rely on donations, and favour communities that have access to decision-makers and funding, resulting in an incomplete and often inaccurate commemorative landscape. Existing policies are not equipped to support truth and reconciliation, decolonization, or cultural redress.

A comprehensive commemoration framework will aim to guide the review and development of civic memory practices, commemorative works, and names which celebrate, honour, or memorialize specific events, ideas, or persons. The framework will further reflect City and Park Board commitments to decolonization and reconciliation, the living histories of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətaʔ; and the living histories of Urban Indigenous people and equity-denied communities

Scope

The initial scope of this work will establish a primary focus on the tangible commemoration realm including monuments, memorials, and naming. Subsequent work may include Indigenous design principles, wayfinding, and commemorative planting, as well as cultural heritage practices, or commemorative events.

Values & Priorities

Drawing from the extensive engagement through the development of the *City Reconciliation Framework*, *Equity Framework*, *Culture|Shift*, *Park Reconciliation Strategies*, and *VanPlay Master Plan*, staff are developing a preliminary set of proposed values and priorities to consider in preliminary, dedicated consultation and engagement. These values and priorities will, in turn, shape the development of further research, engagement, and policy development phases.

Timeline

Period	Phase	Deliverable	Council, Board Review
Q1-Q2 2022	Preliminary Planning	Draft Vision, Values, Priorities	June 2022
Q3-Q4 2022	Research + Engage	Research Summary; Engagement Plan	November 2022

Q1-Q2 2023	Consult + Engage	Consultation + Engagement Findings	July 2023
Q3-Q4 2023	Draft + Present	Commemoration Framework; Policies - a) Monuments and Memorials; b) Naming	November 2023

NEXT STEPS


Staff have commenced the work on the Preliminary Planning phase, and will seek feedback through consultation meetings with the Host Nations, relevant City Council Advisory Committees, and stakeholder focus groups with members of the public. Throughout this phase, staff will provide draft materials related to context, problem and objective, and values and priorities in order to determine and test whether the engagement findings from prior City and Park Board policy development are correctly shaping the focus for the current commemoration framework and policy development.

Staff will aim to present preliminary research and engagement findings along with plans for the comprehensive research and engagement phases to both the Council and Park Board in June 2022.

FINAL REMARKS

Guided by the City and Park Board commitments to Reconciliation and redress, a City-wide, shared Vancouver commemoration policy is key to building a future where civic memory can reckon with difficult histories and combat erasure, equitably celebrate and honour significant figures and events, and memorialize that which should never be forgotten. Staff will continue to keep Council apprised of commemoration policy research, findings and further development.

If Council requires further information, please feel free to contact me directly at sandra.singh@vancouver.ca, and we will provide response through the weekly Council Q&A.



Sandra Singh
 General Manager, Arts, Culture, and Community Services
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