

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 12/5/2023 9:30:22 AM
Subject: Announcing the new ACCS General Manager (December 5, 2023)

Dear Mayor & Council,

I am writing to let you know that we have wrapped up our internal recruitment process to fill Sandra Singh's previous role as General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services (ACCS). I am very pleased to let you know that Margaret Wittgens, Deputy General Manager, Engineering Services, has accepted this appointment.

Margaret's appointment as GM, ACCS will begin on January 2, 2024. In the interim, she will be managing the hand-off her current responsibilities in Engineering and working with Sandra on orientation and transition into her new role.

The City will be informing all staff and issuing a news release about Margaret's appointment later this morning. I ask that you please keep this information confidential until City staff have been informed.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
News release
December 5, 2023

Vancouver welcomes new general manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

Today, the City is announcing that Margaret Wittgens will take on the role of general manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services, effective January 2, 2024.

Wittgens joined the City in 2016 as its first director of public space and street use in Engineering and has served as a deputy general manager of Engineering Services since 2019. Prior to joining the City, Margaret worked with TransLink as director, system planning and in other senior planning roles.

"Margaret is an exceptional human-centred leader and I have seen firsthand her incisive intelligence, thoughtful collaboration and unwavering commitment to public service," said City Manager Paul Mochrie. "I look forward to collaborating with her in her new capacity and the vital contributions she will make as a member of our City Leadership Team."

"I am honoured to step into the role of general manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services for the City of Vancouver. It's a responsibility I embrace with enthusiasm and commitment," said Wittgens. "I am eager to contribute to an inclusive and thriving city and collaborate with a team with such deep knowledge, understanding and dedication to serving community."

In her previous roles at the City, Wittgens has been instrumental in expanding the public space portfolio including various pandemic response programs such as the temporary expedited patio initiative. Her leadership has notably contributed to the delivery of new public spaces such as the 800 Robson Street Plaza.

Wittgens has played a pivotal role in refining the special event policy, bolstering support and working to streamline the process for hosting events within the City. Recognizing the significance of the film industry in Vancouver, she also fostered improved engagement through the establishment of the Motion Picture Industry Leadership Group. Additionally, Wittgens has enhanced collaboration with Business Improvement Areas, working together towards a vibrant and welcoming public realm.

Wittgens holds a Bachelor of Arts and Science (Political Science) and a Master of Arts (Planning), as well as a designation as a Registered Professional Planner and Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners.

Wittgens assumes this role following the recent appointment of Sandra Singh to the position of deputy city manager.

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Note to editors: Photo of Margaret Wittgens attached

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