

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

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

Date: 6/23/2025 1:48:47 PM

Subject: Memo - Neighbourhood Plaza Program Update

Attachments: Memo - Neighbourhood Plaza Program Update.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Lon LaClaire. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- The City of Vancouver operates 28 neighbourhood plazas in partnership with local organizations, offering inclusive public spaces for community life and cultural expression.
- The City provides annual funding for events, art, and temporary installations, with a focus on supporting diverse and underrepresented groups.
- Five plazas are undergoing infrastructure upgrades to become permanent, including electrical, green infrastructure and landscaping, while others are receiving targeted improvements like new furniture, planters, and art wraps.
- Three new pilot plazas were implemented in Spring 2025, with community feedback planned to assess their long-term viability.

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

Best,

Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver

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MEMORANDUM

June 23, 2025

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Lon LaClaire
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Neighbourhood Plaza Program Update

RTS #: N/A

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the Neighbourhood Plaza Program and current initiatives underway.

Background

In partnership with Business Improvement Associations (BIAs), local businesses and community organizations, the City manages 28 neighbourhood plazas across the city. These plazas create a place for public life in the heart of neighbourhoods, including space for people to gather with friends, find shade and respite, dine outside, hold small events, host markets, and express culture and creativity. All plazas start as low investment pilots to test the use of the space and, if successful, remain in place. Over time, in collaboration with plaza partners, the City supports investment in these plazas through partner-led placemaking, targeted upgrades, and, when funding is available, permanent infrastructure improvements.

Current Work

Plaza Improvements Underway

Every year, the City's placemaking program provides plaza partners with financial support to contribute to their efforts to activate public spaces with events and temporary installations. This year, projects include music performances, art workshops, markets featuring local makers and businesses, pavement murals, and horticulture upgrades. The City also provides support to

community members organizing community gatherings, cultural activities, and temporary installations, with priority given to underrepresented groups, and ensuring diversity of projects.

In addition, throughout the spring and summer, staff are working with plaza partners on targeted upgrades to some plazas. Improvements include new or refreshed furniture, weather protection, planters, additional landscaping, water fountains, art wraps, and storage boxes.

Finally, five plazas are being upgraded with infrastructure investments including electrical, water, paving treatment, fixed seating, green infrastructure, trees and landscaping:

- Bute Street at Robson Street – construction underway, completion fall 2025
- Kamloops Street at Hastings Street – construction underway, completion winter 2025
- 18th Avenue at Cambie Street – construction underway, completion winter 2026
- 14th Avenue at Granville Street – construction starting August, completion winter 2026
- 14th Avenue at Main Street – construction starting September, completion spring 2026

Bute-Robson Plaza is coordinated with improvements along Robson Street, and the four other neighbourhood plazas are being delivered as part of a new standardized program aimed at streamlining design and implementation to deliver more, faster. Given these expedited timelines, all five plazas will be completed in advance of the FIFA World Cup 26™.

New Pilot Plazas

In response to interest from businesses, community organizations and BIAs, three new pilot plazas were implemented this spring:

- 50th Avenue at Main Street – in partnership with Punjabi Market Collective
- Kitchener Street at Commercial Drive – in partnership with Livia Forno e Vino and Commercial Drive Business Improvement Association
- 3rd Avenue at Main Street – in partnership with Ethos Lab

These pilot plazas offer an opportunity to test these community spaces in more neighbourhoods across Vancouver. Over the summer, staff will engage with plaza partners, adjacent businesses, residents, and the broader community to evaluate the success of the plaza, determine whether it should stay, and identify key areas for improvement.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to work with plaza partners to improve existing plazas and collaborate with interested businesses and community organizations to test new plazas in neighbourhoods throughout the city.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions.



Lon LaClaire, M.Eng., P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering Services

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