



August 26, 2021

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Donnie Rosa - General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Circles Music Concert – Andy Livingstone Park – August 28, 2021**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to inform you about the Circles Music Concert (Circles), which will be taking place at Andy Livingstone Park on Saturday, August 28, 2021. This initiative was originally moving forward as an unsanctioned event, however, the Park Board has intervened in order to show support for Vancouver's Indigenous and arts & culture communities, as well as to mitigate potential impacts to the surrounding neighbourhood and park assets.

Circles is a youth and family-focused Indigenous hip hop event that will feature live performances, food for community, and a number of Indigenous vendors. This is a dry initiative (no alcohol).

With the discoveries of unmarked graves on the grounds of residential schools, ongoing challenges related to the pandemic, and extreme climate change weather events affecting communities across Canada, 2021 has been a time of incredible hardship for Indigenous Peoples. This project responds to a real need for Indigenous youth to gather, process, and heal from this past year, in spaces where community strength and solidarity can be fostered and cultural practices can be shared.

As part of our ongoing commitment to Reconciliation and Decolonization, the Park Board recognizes the need to provide this space. The event is facilitated through our work to support Indigenous cultural practitioners interested in hosting large and small gatherings in parks, by assisting in navigating permitting processes, public safety considerations, sanitation requirements, COVID safety plan development, and supporting event production, on a case-by-case basis.

Headline act, Dakota Bear, has a strong commitment to supporting and inspiring Indigenous youth and we hope our support of the Circles event will strengthen and enable future pathways for Indigenous youth to connect across the city.

Event load-in will begin at 7:00am on August 28, with performances/speeches occurring between 1:00pm and 10:00pm. Load-out will take place at the conclusion of the concert and continue until 11:00pm. If required, additional load-out will take place early morning on August 29. No other permitted events or activities are being displaced to accommodate this initiative, and Park Board staff are working closely with key FEST Committee members, including the Vancouver Police Department and Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services, on safe event delivery.



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We welcome you to drop by and support, as a community, this Indigenous-led cultural initiative. We are grateful to do this work on the unceded, ancestral territories of the x̣m̄əθk̄w̄əȳəm (Musqueam), Sk̄wx̄w̄ú7mesh (Squamish) and sə̄lilw̄ətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

Please contact me should you have any questions or require additional information.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Donnie Rosa (*they/she*)
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/os

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Business Development
PB Communications