



To: General Purposes Committee
From: Kim Somerville
Director, Community Social Development
Re: Youth Strategy Guiding Principles

Date: January 21, 2021
File: 07-3425-02/2021-Vol
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Staff Recommendations

1. That the Guiding Principles detailed in the staff report titled “Youth Strategy Guiding Principles,” dated January 21, 2021, from the Director, Community Social Development, be endorsed; and be used to inform the strategic directions and actions of the draft Youth Strategy.

Kim Somerville
Director, Community Social Development
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REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Recreation Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Arts, Culture and Heritage Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY SAO

Staff Report

Origin

The City has a long history of responding to the needs and aspirations of youth. The City of Richmond's 2015–2020 Youth Service Plan, which was endorsed by City Council in March 2015, builds on the successes of the 2008-2012 Youth Service Plan and has acted as an important guide for the City and those who work with youth in Richmond.

Since 2015, the City has shifted and adjusted how youth services are delivered according to the current community context. As a result, the previous 2015-2020 Youth Service Plan will be replaced with a new 10-Year Youth Strategy (2021–2031). City Council approved the development of the Youth Strategy in the 2020 Operating Budget. This new Youth Strategy will provide those working with youth with an important framework to support and meet the unique needs of youth in Richmond.

Through partnerships and engagement, the goals of the new Youth Strategy are to do the following:

- Update the profile of youth in Richmond, including information about youth 18-24 years;
- Identify or confirm areas of greatest community need;
- Identify actions that the City can take to support and engage youth;
- Identify actions that the City, and its partner Community Associations and Societies, can take to fulfill the City's vision "for Richmond to be the best place in North America to raise children and youth"; and
- Identify actions that can be taken by community organizations serving youth to also fulfill their mandates and visions.

The development of the Strategy will be divided into three phases:

1. Phase One: Stakeholder Advisory Committee formation, background research and development of Guiding Principles; - In Process
2. Phase Two: Key stakeholder engagement and development of draft strategic actions; and
3. Phase Three: Public engagement and Finalize Youth Strategy.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval of the draft Guiding Principles that will help shape the development of a draft Youth Strategy.

This report supports City Council's Strategic Plan 2018–2022 Strategic Focus Area #4 An Active and Thriving Richmond:

An active and thriving community characterized by diverse social and wellness programs, services and spaces that foster health and well-being for all.

This report supports City Council's Strategic Plan 2018–2022 Strategic Focus Area #8 An Engaged and Informed Community:

Ensure that the citizenry of Richmond is well-informed and engaged about City business and decision-making.

This report also supports the Social Development Strategy 2013–2022 Strategic Direction #4 Help Richmond’s Children, Youth and Families Thrive:

Action 13: —Monitor and update the Youth Service Plan, striving to create an environment that generates opportunities for Richmond’s youth to have a safe and healthy journey into adulthood, placing priority attention on:

13.3 Engaging youth in City and community-based planning processes.

13.5 Supporting community-based initiatives to provide children and youth from diverse backgrounds with opportunities to receive common leadership training and volunteer to serve others in the community.

Analysis

The draft Youth Strategy will be developed under the direction of a project team with input from the Youth Strategy Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

The draft Guiding Principles were developed in collaboration with the Youth Strategy Stakeholder Advisory Committee, which consists of a broad range of stakeholders and representatives from the public and not-for-profit organizations that serve youth including:

- City of Richmond
- Community Association and Society staff
- Foundry Richmond
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Richmond Public Library
- Ministry of Child and Family Development
- Richmond School District
- SUCCESS
- Youth at Large (13-18 years)
- Young Adults at Large (19-24 years)

Other community organizations that work with youth in the community will be involved through the key stakeholder engagement process.

Guiding Principles

The following draft Guiding Principles are proposed to help guide the project and inform the development of a draft Youth Strategy for Richmond.

1. Maximize meaningful participation and engagement of a diverse community of youth.

2. Identify and prioritize engagement activities that encourage genuine participation that are free from stigma and discrimination.
3. Collaborate with Community Associations and Societies and organizations serving youth to promote innovation, improve accessibility and avoid duplication of community efforts.
4. Ensure that planning is intentional, considers the impacts of notable and emerging trends and addresses gaps in the continuum of services and supports for youth.
5. Adopt an approach that integrates and complements relevant policies, strategies and resources to support youth in Richmond.
6. Manage resources effectively and maximize the full potential of individuals and organizations to achieve measurable outcomes.

The draft Guiding Principles are intended to inform the draft Youth Strategy and guide both the project team and Stakeholder Advisory Committee when making decisions, planning engagement activities or considering the development of actions as part of the Strategy.

Next Steps

Staff are working towards presenting a draft Youth Strategy and public engagement plan to City Council in the fourth quarter of 2021 for Council's consideration prior to seeking public input. Subsequently, the final draft of the Youth Strategy, including the results of the public engagement process, will be presented to City Council for its consideration in the first quarter of 2022.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The Guiding Principles proposed in this report will set a strong foundation to help guide the project team and the Stakeholder Advisory Committee in creating the draft Youth Strategy. The Guiding Principles will also support the development and design of draft strategic actions in the new Strategy. Building on and advancing the progress made on the previous plans for youth in Richmond, including the 2015–2020 Youth Service Plan, the new Strategy will help to guide those working with youth and further the City's vision, "for Richmond to be the best place in North America to raise children and youth."



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