

Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report

Introduction

The Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) was established by City Council in February 2002 to act as a resource and provide advice to City Council in support of enhancing and strengthening intercultural harmony and cooperation in Richmond. The committee also provides information and recommendations regarding intercultural issues and opportunities referred to the RIAC by Council.

At the start of 2022, the RIAC consisted of up to 17 Council-appointed members with representatives from Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee, Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee, RCMP, Richmond Multicultural Community Services (RMCS), Richmond School District, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), Richmond Centre for Disability, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and individual citizen appointees. In September 2022, the Richmond School District representative and Chair of the RIAC moved on from her role in the School District and resigned from the RIAC. In the remaining four months of 2022, there were 16 RIAC members.

The 2022 RIAC Annual Report is prepared for City Council in accordance with the Terms of Reference. This document serves as a summary of the RIAC's activities during the 2022 calendar year and is based on input from RIAC members with support from the Staff Liaison.

Highlights of 2022

Cultural Harmony Plan

The RIAC continues to support the implementation of the recommended actions of the Council-adopted Cultural Harmony Plan, which informs the City's response to building awareness of and enhancing cultural harmony among Richmond's diverse population. Throughout the year, staff have consulted with the RIAC on various initiatives and the RIAC members have provided feedback on initiatives that fall within the RIAC's mandate.

City of Richmond Diversity Symposium

The eighth annual Diversity Symposium offered free training opportunities for City staff, volunteers and community partners interested in learning and advancing equity, diversity and inclusion in their communities. The 2022 Diversity Symposium was offered virtually for the third consecutive year. Overall there were 639 registrations, with most of the registrants joining from the Lower Mainland and some registrants from across Canada.

As in previous years, many RIAC members were actively involved in the planning and implementation of the Diversity Symposium with a number of RIAC members sitting on the steering committee and serving as session hosts during the virtual sessions.

Newcomers Video Series

In November 2022, the City launched the Newcomers Video Series, which features stories of newcomers who have settled in Richmond and provides information on accessing services in the community. The series comprises five short videos, highlighting Richmond's diversity, heritage sites, settlement services, and art and recreational activities, as well as ways to get involved in the community. It includes subtitles in Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Punjabi, Farsi, Arabic and Ukrainian to reach diverse community groups and is available to view on the City's YouTube channel and website: www.richmond.ca/newcomers.

RIAC members were involved in the selection committee, offering insight and expertise into choosing the filmmaker who would be able to bring the vision of the project to life. A launch event for the project with participants of the video series was held at the last RIAC meeting of the year on November 16, 2022.

The Newcomer Video Series advances one of the actions identified in the City's Cultural Harmony Plan of pursuing "viable options of providing City-related information for newcomers, immigrants and refugees that would assist them in accessing services in the community."

Activities for 2022

Guest Speakers and Organizational Presenters

Throughout 2022, guest speakers and organizational representatives presented innovative and collaborative approaches to strengthening intercultural connections and removing barriers to participation in our community.

January

- Alex Korotchenko, Head of Newcomer and Volunteer Services from the Richmond Public Library gave a presentation on Newcomer Programs and Services that are available at the Library.

February

- Johnny Trinh, Community Arts Coordinator with the City of Richmond, provided an overview of programs and services offered in the Arts, Culture and Heritage Services Department, particularly services at the Richmond Cultural Centre, Richmond Art Gallery and the Richmond Arts Centre.

March

- Valerie Watson, Program Lead for Homelessness with the City of Richmond, provided an overview of initiatives addressing the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in Richmond.

April

- Odilia Dys-Steenbergen, a PhD student in Social Psychology at Simon Fraser University and Senior Analyst in Cultural Safety and Humility with the First Nations Health Authority, presented findings of her research project called “Community Identity – Love Where You Live”.

May

- Sarah Hunn, Emergency Programs Coordinator for the City of Richmond, gave an overview on Emergency Programs and Services in Richmond and how to become a more resilient community in the event of an emergency.

June

- Eugene Lupynis from the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko and Reverend Peter Cheung from The Salvation Army gave a presentation on displaced Ukrainians arriving in Canada, particularly in Richmond.

September

- Krystal Kiran, the City’s 2022 Branscombe House Artist-In-Residence, shared a presentation on her work in Richmond over the past year.
- Daniel Remedios, Executive Director of Richmond Addiction Services Society (RASS), gave a presentation on programs and services offered at RASS.

October

- Claire Adamson, Manager, Community Social Development for the City of Richmond, gave an overview of the recently-adopted Richmond Seniors Strategy.

Members of the 2022 Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee

Citizen Appointees

1. Yun-Jou Chang
2. Vladimir Choi
3. James Hsieh
4. Michael Ma
5. Mikaela Nuval
6. Kanwarjit Sandhu
7. Randy Sandhu
8. Linda Sum

Organizational Representatives

1. Rebeca Avendano, Richmond School District (January to August)
2. Karen Barclay, Vancouver Coastal Health
3. Ian Lai, Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (Urban Bounty)

4. Allie Lin, S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
5. Ihsan Malik, Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee
6. Ashok Rattan, Richmond Multicultural Community Services
7. Daniel Remedios, Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (Richmond Addiction Services Society)
8. Roy Wong, RCMP
9. Ian Yeung, Richmond Centre for Disability

Council Liaison

Councillor Linda McPhail (January to October)
Councillor Bill McNulty (November to December)

Staff Liaison

Dorothy Jo, Program Manager, Social Planning

Staff Support

Peggy Chen, Inclusion Coordinator

Financial Summary

As an Advisory Committee to City Council, the RIAC's activities are fully supported by the City's operating budget. In 2022, the City allocated an operating budget of \$2,500.00 for RIAC and part of these funds were used for refreshments:

Revenue	
City funding	\$2,500.00
Expenses	
Refreshments	\$284.60
Balance	\$2,215.40

Conclusion and Acknowledgements

2022 was another busy year for the RIAC. Although the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our lives, the RIAC still achieved a full slate of nine meetings and fulfilled its mandate of acting as a resource and providing advice to City Council on intercultural issues. RIAC members were delighted to gather in-person in November for the last meeting of the year, where the Committee celebrated the launch of the Newcomers Video Series. The RIAC supported another successful year of the Diversity Symposium and RIAC members were invited to take part in community consultation opportunities. The RIAC is pleased to be involved in these initiatives which support some of the actions contained in the Cultural Harmony Plan. These activities demonstrate that the RIAC has an important role to play in advancing cultural harmony in the community.

We acknowledge the significant commitment and contributions of outgoing members in 2022, namely James Hsieh and Linda Sum, citizen appointees to RIAC, Ihsan Malik from the Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee, Karen Barclay from Vancouver Coastal Health, and Rebeca Avendano from the Richmond School District. We would also like to thank Councillor Linda McPhail for her support of the RIAC during the past four years. We also express our appreciation to Dorothy Jo, Staff Liaison, Peggy Chen, Staff Support, and Kristy Ng, Minute-Taker, for their work in supporting the committee's needs. We look forward to furthering our work together in 2023.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ian Yeung
Vice-Chair, Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee