



To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** June 14, 2021
From: Kim Somerville **File:** 07-3300-01/2021-Vol 01
 Director, Community Social Development
Re: Implementation of Cultural Harmony Plan Actions

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Implementation of Cultural Harmony Plan Actions” dated June 14, 2021 from the Director, Community Social Development be received for information.

Kim Somerville
 Director, Community Social Development
 (604-247-4671)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Intergovernmental Relations & Protocol Unit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Arts, Culture and Heritage Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Recreation and Sport Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

On June 22, 2020, staff received the following referral from Council:

(1) That staff be directed to propose by November 1, 2020 an implementation plan to include timelines, cost estimates, and cultural heritage value for the restoration of the First Nations Bunk House located at the Britannia Heritage Shipyards site being an opportunity pursuant to item #3 of Strategic Direction One of the Richmond Cultural Harmony Plan 2019-2029 report;

(2) That staff be directed to implement item #5 of Strategic Direction Two of the Richmond Cultural Harmony Plan 2019-2029 to: (a) pursue programs and funding opportunities provided by senior levels of government regarding cultural harmony initiatives; and (b) report progress back to General Purposes Committee in 12 months; and

(3) That staff be directed to implement item #4 of Strategic Direction Five of the Richmond Cultural Harmony Plan 2019-2029 to (a) strengthen relationships with various cultural and ethnic communities in order to integrate their arts, cultural and heritage practices into the City's programs and events; and (b) report progress back to General Purposes Committee in 12 months.

The first item of the Council referral was responded to in a staff report titled “First Nations Bunkhouse Program Plan” dated October 14, 2020 from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, and outlines the proposed program plans for the First Nations Bunkhouse.

The purpose of this report is to respond to the second and third items of the Council referral and provide an update on the implementation of the action items that fall under Strategic Directions Two and Five of the Cultural Harmony Plan 2019–2029.

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2018–2022 Strategic Focus Area #3 – One Community Together:

Vibrant and diverse arts and cultural activities and opportunities for community engagement and connection.

3.1 Foster community resiliency, neighbourhood identity, sense of belonging, and intercultural harmony.

3.4 Celebrate Richmond’s unique and diverse history and heritage.

This report also supports the Social Development Strategy 2013–2022 Strategic Direction #5 – Build on Richmond’s Cultural Diversity:

19.1 Encouraging collaborative approaches to ensure that Richmond remains a welcoming and integrated community, while respecting the desires of immigrant groups to maintain their own cultures.

19.2 Facilitating the development and coordination of intercultural events that provide opportunities for active learning about the traditions of different cultures.

Analysis

On November 25, 2019, City Council adopted the first Cultural Harmony Plan 2019–2029, which is intended to inform the City’s approach to fostering and enhancing cultural harmony among Richmond’s diverse population through a vision, five strategic directions and 27 recommended actions. The objective of this ten-year plan is to identify innovative and collaborative approaches to strengthen intercultural connections among Richmond residents, provide City programs and services that address the needs of the city’s diverse population, and remove barriers to participation for Richmond residents. The plan defines the following vision statement:

That Richmond residents recognize and respect diversity in the community and enable each individual’s contributions in all aspects of community life.

To assist the City in achieving this vision, the Cultural Harmony Plan emphasizes five strategic directions. Each strategic direction includes items for action that are intended to meet the objectives and intended outcomes of the plan:

1. Intercultural connections;
2. Collaboration and partnerships;
3. Targeted training and professional development;
4. Communication and community engagement; and
5. Programs and services.

Since the adoption of the Cultural Harmony Plan in 2019, the City has worked to advance the implementation of various actions under these strategic directions. This section will focus on the following two actions under Strategic Directions Two (Collaboration and Partnerships) and Five (Programs and Services) as requested in the Council referral:

- Pursue programs and funding opportunities provided by senior levels of government regarding cultural harmony initiatives; and
- Strengthen relationships with various cultural and ethnic communities in order to integrate their arts, cultural and heritage practices into the City's programs and events.

Strategic Direction #2: Collaboration and Partnerships

Richmond has a strong network of Community Associations and Societies, community service organizations, and ethno-cultural and faith-based community groups that deliver programs and services to the community. The City has established collaborative relationships with many of these organizations to share information, identify gaps in services, and respond to challenges and opportunities in the community. The City also partners with many of these groups to pursue programs and funding opportunities provided by senior levels of government regarding cultural harmony initiatives. The following list provides highlights of recent collaborative initiatives:

- Doors Open Richmond is an annual event presented by the Richmond Museum Society in partnership with the City of Richmond and offers a look inside places of worship, cultural and civic centres, local businesses, museums and heritage sites. The Richmond Museum Society received funding for Doors Open from the Department of Canadian Heritage Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program for \$17,500 in 2020 and \$25,000 in 2021.
- The Richmond Art Gallery received a Canada Council for the Arts Co-production grant for \$47,000 in 2020 for an exhibition by Brendan Fernandes titled “Inaction”, which reflects on the social upheavals of 2020 including the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement, how our bodies are affected by systemic violence, and the potential for positive change through gathering, protest, and physical collectivity.
- The City received funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage Celebrate Canada for \$35,000 in 2021 to support Canada Day celebrations in Richmond in collaboration with the Steveston Salmon Festival. This event enables all Canadians to appreciate Canada’s cultural, ethnic, linguistic and geographic diversity. The online program featured videos by local artists, including Uzume Taiko’s drumming and drum-making demonstration.
- The City, in partnership with the Richmond Arts Coalition, received \$65,000 in 2020 and \$48,900 in 2021 from the Department of Canadian Heritage: Building Communities through Arts and Heritage – Local Festivals component for the Richmond Maritime Festival. The Richmond Maritime Festival features a number of local artists and performers sharing stories of their families’ cultural history related to the fishing industry in Steveston, including a local First Nations artist who was featured in 2020 showcasing traditional arts and crafts.
- The Minoru Seniors Society received funding of \$6,300 from the Canadian Red Cross Community Support Grant in 2020 to launch an outreach project for Chinese-speaking seniors in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The project reached 216 Cantonese and Mandarin-speaking seniors through activities and outreach calls. A total of 25 activities were delivered virtually in Cantonese and Mandarin, including chair exercise, music, health and wellness workshops, and coffee and chat sessions. In addition, project staff connected with over 30 Chinese-speaking seniors on a regular basis through outreach calls that included information and resources, birthday calls and wellness check-ins.
- In 2021, the City, in partnership with Richmond Multicultural Community Services, applied for the Department of Canadian Heritage Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program Project Component. The City’s application proposes to use socially engaged artist practices as a catalyst to bring diverse and multigenerational community members together to engage in dialogue on issues of multiculturalism, diversity, racism and intersectionality, and increase community capacity to address racism and discrimination. The City is currently awaiting the result of its application.

The City continues to pursue funding opportunities provided by senior levels of government in partnership with various Community Associations and Societies and community organizations in order to develop and implement initiatives that advance the objectives of the Cultural Harmony Plan.

Strategic Direction #5: Programs and Services

Programs and services that reflect the needs and priorities of Richmond's diverse population facilitate a sense of belonging and well-being. The City and Community Associations and Societies work to establish and maintain relationships with various cultural and ethnic communities to integrate their arts, cultural and heritage practices into their programs and events. They also strive to incorporate cultural harmony elements into their programs and events to reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of Richmond's population. In addition, City staff regularly participate in external committees with various cultural organizations and meet with service providers to learn about gaps in services. The following list provide examples of relationships between the City and organizations in the community that integrate their arts, culture and heritage practices:

- The City collaborates with the Wakayama Kenjin Kai to co-produce the annual Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival, which celebrates the region's Japanese heritage and the cherry blossom season. This year's online program allowed visitors to explore facets of Japanese culture through a series of videos highlighting performances and how-to demonstrations.
- In 2020, the Richmond Museum signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UBC Initiative for Student Teaching and Research in Chinese Canadian Studies (ISTRCCS) allowing the Museum to extend its knowledge of and connection to Richmond's Chinese Canadian heritage. The project will help build new bridges between the Richmond Museum and Richmond's Chinese Canadian community, produce materials that will showcase Chinese Canadians in Richmond, and encourage more participation of Richmond's Chinese Canadian community in the presentation and preservation of their cultural heritage.
- The First Nations Bunkhouse at Britannia Shipyards National Historic Sites offers a unique opportunity to tell the stories of First Nations peoples and their participation in BC's early fishing industry. Sharing these stories in the words of First Nations people is important to helping the public understand the reality of First Nations people and their complicated history with the fishing industry. Conversations with Musqueam on this project are on-going.
- The Richmond Art Gallery's Pacific Crossings is an ongoing conversation and public presentation series that draws participants from various regions across the Pacific Ocean. In 2020, the series hosted *Triangulations*, three online discussions with artists and curators in Hong Kong, Beijing and Manila, encompassing shared concerns germane to the pandemic and locational contexts.

- City staff regularly meet with service providers to identify barriers new immigrants face in participating in programs and services at City facilities. The fourth edition of the *Newcomer's Guide to Richmond* was released in December 2020, which contains information on resources that help newcomers settle in to life in the city. It is available in English, Simplified Chinese and Traditional Chinese. The City is also in the process of developing the *Newcomer's Video Series* that will feature stories of newcomers who have settled in Richmond.
- The City and Community Associations and Societies celebrate Richmond's diverse cultures and foster intercultural understanding through the recognition of the following important cultural events:
 - Lunar New Year: Community Associations such as South Arm, Cambie and City Centre held events to celebrate the Lunar New Year. This year's virtual Children's Festival also marked this event by incorporating elements of the Lunar New Year in its programming.
 - Black History Month: The City marks this event with an annual art exhibition at the Richmond Cultural Centre Rotunda. In 2020, artist Chrystal Johnson's exhibition, *Are We*, explored themes of identity and vulnerability through her soapstone sculptures.
 - Ramadan: In 2020, a free online screening of *American Ramadan* was presented by the Richmond-based Islamic Art British Columbia in partnership with the Richmond Media Lab and Richmond Public Library to foster understanding about the holy month of Ramadan and fasting.
 - Asian Heritage Month: Due to an increase in anti-Asian incidents in the community, the City released public statements that encourage residents to learn about and celebrate Richmond's Asian heritage and the rich diversity of its residents. It also acknowledged May 10, 2021 as a Day of Action against Anti-Asian Racism and called for everyone to stand up against racism and violence in the community.
 - National Indigenous Peoples Day: Cultural organizations across Richmond worked together to implement a week of virtual programming as part of National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations. In 2020 and 2021, virtual live and on-demand presentations, talks and films provided an opportunity to learn more about local Indigenous heritage and culture.
 - Harvest Moon and Mid-Autumn Festival: City Centre and Cambie Community Centres hosted virtual celebrations for the Harvest Moon and Mid-Autumn Festival in 2020. The celebrations included stories, trivia and workshops in lantern making, harvest flower arranging, vegetable lantern carving and moon cake making.

- The City's Public Art Program partnered with Richmond Multicultural Community Services in 2021 as part of the Engaging Artists in Community program to commission an artist to capture the stories of Richmond-based refugees from Arabic and Farsi-speaking countries. This project seeks to strengthen relationships with Richmond's refugee communities and create work that will foster belonging, health and well-being, and cultural awareness.
- In 2020, the City hosted its ninth annual Writer-in Residence program and featured award-winning author Lindsay Wong, the author of the memoir *The Woo-Woo: How I Survived Ice Hockey, Drug Raids, Demons, and My Crazy Chinese Family*, which touched on her Asian immigrant experience and the realities of mental illness in her family.
- *Eating in the Time of COVID-19* is an online collection of stories, quotes, photos, poems and illustrations that captures culturally diverse and multigenerational experiences with food during the COVID-19 pandemic. This project was launched by the City's Public Art Program in 2020 as part of the #RichmondHasHeart campaign.
- Community Associations and Societies continue to incorporate various cultural practices in to their programs and activities. For example, before health restrictions took place in 2020, City Centre Community Centre hosted a craft session allowing participants to create a Japanese windsock called a Koinobori and an intergenerational dumpling making session welcomed children and their parents to join seniors in making dumplings. Steveston Community Centre also held monthly luncheons that celebrated Japanese culture including Nikkei lunches and Japanese New Year celebrations with Japanese cuisine, dancing and singing performances.
- Many recreation and wellness programs are available in languages other than English, such as Mandarin, Cantonese and Japanese, to reduce barriers for participation and to create a more welcoming and inclusive atmosphere at community centres. Some of the programs offered in other languages include wellness workshops such as the Prostate Cancer Foundation BC Support Group, Fall Prevention One-on-One Check-Ins, Yoga, Tablet Technology Club, Using Transit in the New Normal Workshop, Chronic Disease and Diabetes Self-Management Program, Osteofit and Tonari Gumi Genki wellness program. Prior to the pandemic, City Centre partnered with Vancouver Coastal Health to offer Baby Days to first-time parents in Mandarin and Cantonese. Language classes are also offered to learn English, French, Korean and Mandarin.
- Community Associations and Societies continue to implement programs that seek to enhance positive social and intercultural connections among Richmond's diverse populations and raise awareness of the city's rich cultural, ethnic and religious diversity. Examples of programs include: drumming circle, Japanese tablet club, Hawaiian dancing, Iki Iki social, K-pop dancing, Chinese brush painting, Chinese new year zodiac workshop, dragon boat art workshop, origami art and taiko drumming. There is also a South Asian women's support group, an immigrant support group, a Chinese multicultural group and a biweekly Mahjong social, among others.

- City Centre Community Centre’s youth leadership teams have been working on cultural harmony initiatives. For instance, C-Change organized the On the Table event in November 2020 for youth to discuss topics on racism and cultural differences. Fearless organized a digital event called Not An Object, Property, or Exotic (NOPE) from March 2 to April 13, 2021 that highlighted the harmful effects of fetishization of Asian women in media. Youth conducted research and planned several group discussions to raise awareness about the event.

The City, Community Associations and Societies and community organizations continue to develop programs and services to reflect Richmond’s cultural and ethnic diversity and serve the needs of the city’s diverse population.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The City of Richmond has a strong tradition of working collaboratively with Community Associations and Societies, local community organizations and senior levels of government to develop programs and services that address the diverse needs of Richmond’s population. The Cultural Harmony Plan 2019–2029 demonstrates the City’s leadership in addressing social issues and building on its social inclusion practices as they relate to policy development, program and service delivery, and community engagement. The City continues to monitor the progress of the Cultural Harmony Plan 2019–2029 and an update outlining the progress of the Plan will be distributed to City Council and the community in Spring 2022.



Dorothy Jo
Inclusion Coordinator
(604-276-4391)