

In Your Neighbourhood

North Park Village Street Revitalization

The design for the improvement project for Cook Street (North Park Village) is nearing completion and Engineering staff would like some input before the four month project commences at the end of February. These relate to a crosswalk pattern, banner design for gateway poles (new one will not have lights) and branding signage/placement locations for gateways.

Branch Chipping

The branch chipping program is a service the City offers residents each year to help turn unwanted branches into fantastic mulch for Victoria's gardens and flower beds. Residents are asked to place branches on their boulevard from February 1 to 14, or drop them off at the Public Works Yard every Saturday (excluding statutory holidays) from 7 am to 2 p.m. Check the City [website](#) for more information.

Visual Victoria

Victoria's downtown public realm plan and city-wide wayfinding strategy is proceeding to its final phases. The summary report from the second phase of the project will be posted on the [City website](#) on February 8. A public Open House will be scheduled in March to receive comments on the draft plan. The plan will then be finalized for presentation to Council in late April.

Great Neighbourhoods Grant

In preparation for the 2017 [Great Neighbourhoods](#) grant program, City staff met with a group of grant recipients and neighbourhood groups on February 1 to discuss any suggestions they may have to improve the program. We appreciated all of the great ideas that were brought forward and in coming weeks we will prepare recommendations for improving the 2017 program. Please email us at grants@victoria.ca, if you have any further suggestions by Monday, February 13.

- How else could the program be promoted?
- Do you prefer one or two intakes per year?
- What other types of projects, programs or initiatives would you like to see included for funding?
- How can the application be improved upon?
- What resources or toolkits would be useful to you when considering a project?

Developing Social Enterprise

The Mayor's Task Force on Social Enterprise and Social Procurement would like community input into its draft [action plan](#) to help employ Victorians who are out of work and help grow a strong, inclusive economy. The draft plan includes recommendations to strengthen the City's procurement practices and maximise benefits to the community, small business and social enterprise.

You can provide feedback by completing the online survey, emailing comments to economicchange@victoria.ca or tweeting [@CityofVictoria #EconomicChangeVic](#) by Sunday, February 12, 2017. Public input will help inform a revised draft action plan that will be presented to City Council for consideration in March.

Public Engagement Roadmap

The City would like to know when you'd like to be involved in City decision-making and how you would like to be engaged. Join us as we share all of the initiatives we have planned for the next two years and tell us how much say you would like in shaping your city.



February 2017 Update

Fernwood

The workshop will be held on Saturday February 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Royal BC Museum. For those who don't have time to attend the workshop, you can drop in from 2:30 to 4 pm to get an overview and share your suggestions.

Please [RSVP](#) by Monday, February 12 so we know how much coffee to make. We will have creative activities for kids, should you wish to bring your children. The [Roadmap](#) workshop agenda can be viewed [here](#).

Create Victoria

In consultation with the community, the City of Victoria is developing a Cultural Policy and an Arts and Culture Master Plan branded *Create Victoria* to guide the City's investment in arts and culture over the next five years. From mid-February to the end of March, the City will be inviting stakeholder groups and the public to provide input on their vision for arts, culture and heritage in Victoria, which will help inform the Cultural Policy. More information will be available soon at www.victoria.ca/create

Training Opportunities

[Leadership Victoria](#) is a voluntary organization with a mission to develop leaders with a passion for building a vibrant community. In addition to a nine month Community Leadership Development program and sponsoring annual Victoria Leadership Awards event, they offer workshops and symposia for developing leadership skills. [Upcoming workshops](#) are three hours long and the cost is \$10.

- *Engaging Skilled Volunteers* – Wednesday, February 15 at 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- *Making Decisions to Make Progress: Improving Board Effectiveness* – Wednesday, March 8 at 9 a.m.
- *Board Governance: Being a Really Good Board Member* – Wednesday, March 8 at 1 p.m.

As part of [Volunteer Victoria's](#) mission to "inspire everyone to volunteer", they offer training and networking opportunities that advance the quality of volunteer programs and build capacity in the non-profit sector. [Upcoming workshops](#) are three hours long and the cost is \$40-60.

- *The New BC Societies Act: The Basics* – Tuesday, February 21 at 2 p.m.
- *What Now that the BC Societies Act is in Force?* Thursday, March 2 at 4:p.m.

Neighbourhood Communications

It has been suggested that standard email addresses might ensure consistent communication from the City to neighbourhood associations. If neighbourhood associations adopt, for example, *Board@(neighbourhood association)* and *CALUC@(neighbourhood association)* as their designated email addresses for City communication, this would allow neighbourhoods to determine who they would like to receive communication and update the contacts as necessary without having to notify the City. Some neighbourhood associations (including Fernwood) have this in place. For those that don't, it may be something that you want to consider.

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole will meet February [2](#), [9](#), 16 and 23 at 9 a.m. and Council will meet February [9](#) and 22 at 6:30 p.m.