

In Your Neighbourhood

North Park Village Street Revitalization

The improvement project for Cook Street (North Park Village) will begin in mid-March and be complete by July 1. The NPNA is involved in assisting with the selection of crosswalk pattern, banner design for gateway poles (new one may not have lights) and branding signage/placement locations for gateways.

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 is now posted on the [City website](#). 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. All of the great ideas that were brought forward were appreciated and in coming weeks, final recommendations for improving the 2017 program will be prepared.

Short Term Vacation Rentals

At their [March 2 Committee meeting](#), Council will be considering the outcomes of their February workshop on Short Term Vacation Rentals. The report is provided for information to Council in shaping their recommendations - no staff recommendations are made.

Cannabis Retail Rezoning

At their February 16 [Committee of the Whole \(COTW\) meeting](#), Council opted to proceed with consideration of a rezoning application at 546 Yates Street and defer a later application from a second nearby location. Council also resolved that applications for rezoning under the Cannabis policy shall be forwarded to the Neighbourhood Association in which the subject property is located, for information and comments they may wish to provide.

Centennial Square

The City is seeking creative [proposals for program activities](#) for the community to enjoy in Centennial Square and Beacon Hill Park from May to September 2017. Event programmers are invited to submit the fillable application form available online and email it to culture@victoria.ca with samples of their work by midnight on Monday, February 20, 2017.

Submissions will be evaluated based on their appeal, creativity and the applicant's experience in delivering successful programs to the community. Submissions will be reviewed by a City staff team and notifications completed in early March.

There is also a [design competition](#) open for creating a playful pop-up installation for kids of all ages in Centennial Square. A panel of qualified jurors will judge submissions based on the following criteria: play value, relationship to events, local context, robustness, feasibility. The jury's choice will receive a \$5,000 award and up to \$50,000 for the design, build and install an imaginative creation in Victoria's signature public square. The People's Choice will receive a \$1,000 award. Design packages must be submitted online by 4 p.m. PST on March 30, 2017. Installation will take place in early July to be enjoyed during the summer and fall.

Crystal Pool

Council provided direction for the future of Crystal Pool at their February 16 [COTW meeting](#). Project Update (#2): Crystal Pool Feasibility Study. Council approved funding to consist of \$10 million from the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve and the remainder through a combination of external borrowing and other funding. Staff were directed to:

- Develop an implementation plan for a new facility to cost no more than \$69.4 million total.
- Amend the 2017-2021 Financial Plan for 2017 to include \$10 million towards the funding of the project;
- Develop a plan to use the referendum process as the method for placing the borrowing question before the electors, once additional funding opportunities have been explored
- Consult with citizens and stakeholder groups on the design elements of the future facility, in alignment with Council's decision on a facility option.

Update on Cycling Network Implementation

Staff provided Council a workshop on the implementation of Phase 1 of the City's AAA cycling priority network and future work moving forward. The workshop included a review of AAA design guidelines, an update on the current program status, and an update on the development of the overall program implementation plan which remains subject to further analysis and planning, while providing Council an opportunity to provide feedback. Council directed staff to report back in June 2017 with further cycling network updates and recommendations regarding sequencing, scheduling, resourcing and costs for completion of the network by 2022. [View the report](#).

Community Gardens Map

We have just launched a new online Community Gardens [feature map](#). It includes information on existing community gardens and the revised 2017 land inventory for community gardening. To find out more about community gardens in Victoria, visit our [website](#).

Public Engagement Roadmap

In an effort to better understand how the community would like to be involved in City decision, a workshop was held in February. The Public Engagement [Roadmap](#) draft plan is being prepared and will be shared with the community at the end of March for a two week feedback period.

Create Victoria

The City 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.

The public is invited to drop by the *Create Victoria Cultural Café* at City Hall on Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. to share their ideas on how they currently participate in arts and culture, their vision for a vibrant arts and culture scene and the role the City can play in providing support. The drop-in event will include live music, treats and arts activities for all ages.

To help measure the impact of arts and culture in Victoria, the community is also invited to participate in an online survey at www.victoria.ca/create until March 31, 2017. Pop up kiosks and a series of cultural cafés with sectors of the arts and culture industry will be coming up in March. The City will come back to the community in mid-June for feedback on the draft Arts and Culture Master Plan.

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



March 2017 Update

Fernwood

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.

- *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.

- *What Now that the BC Societies Act is in Force?* Thursday, March 2 at 4:p.m.
- *Building Blocks of Budgets for Not for Profits.* March 15 5-7 p.m.
- *Understanding Financial Statements.* April 3 5-7 p.m.
- *Creating a Fundraising Appeal that Works.* April 11 9-12 p.m.

Council Meetings

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