

AGENDA
Arts, Culture & Community Wellness Advisory Committee
To be held in Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams,
Saanich Municipal Hall, 770 Vernon Avenue,
Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

The District of Saanich lies within the territories of the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the WSÁNEĆ peoples represented by the Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Tseycum and Malahat Nations.

We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.

1. CHAIR'S REMARKS

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- September 27, 2023

3. SAANICH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLACE

- Corrine Hilton, Executive Director

4. LIFE Financial Assistance Program

- Kathy Graham, Community Programmer II, Community Services Division

5. DEVELOPMENT PERMIT DESIGN GUIDELINES

- Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability

* Adjournment *

Next Meeting: November 22, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

To ensure quorum, please contact Angela Hawkshaw at 250-475-5494 ext. 3505 or angela.hawkshaw@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.

The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Arts, Culture & Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee

From: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager- Community Services Division

Date: October 11, 2023

Subject: Community Services Update

The following update is provided to committees for information.

Background: The CS division of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) department, focuses on providing equitable and meaningful programs, events and opportunities for any Saanich resident who is experiencing a barrier to participation whether due to financial, social, cultural, age or ability-based factors. Our staff are all specialists in providing these services to ensure that in Saanich, everyone belongs.

Community Arts: Saanich's Autumn Lantern Festival on September 16 at Gordon Head Recreation Centre and Lambrick Park was a well-attended success, that shared arts and cultural expression through performances and creative lantern-making and displays. Dozens volunteered and thousands visited the event and took part in activities to celebrate the coming of fall.



Upcoming Exhibits: At Cedar Hill catch Garth Homer Society Artworks Program through Nov. 12; Cassandra Klassen through Dec. 10; At Municipal Hall visit Saanich Archives' Remembrance Day exhibition through Nov. 29. Visit our [Saanich events calendar](#) for more info.

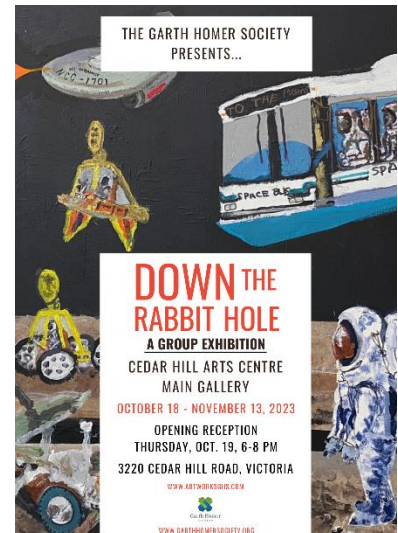
Community Events: Plans are well underway for the Saanich Remembrance Day Ceremony, held at the Saanich

Cenotaph on November 11th. New this year, staff are working with Canadian Armed Forces and the military Chaplain to increase diversity in the ceremony by inviting other faith leaders and community members to offer a hymn, song, or prayer in addition to those offered by the Chaplain, in recognition that active and retired service people may come from a multitude of faiths and backgrounds. Additionally, staff have helped to facilitate an invitation to the Songhees Nation, both for an Elder to open the event with a blessing and for the Songhees Nation to attend and lay a wreath. Staff hope to receive word from Songhees soon about their attendance. Ceremonial elements, such as the lowering and raising of the flag, the bugle calls, anthems, and the military parade remain unchanged.

Child & Youth Services: Youth Services kicked off their fall programming by attending the Welcome Back BBQ's at our partnership schools. Families joined our information table for interactive games, stickers, and a chance to win fun Saanich swag. It was wonderful to see youth who attended our summer programs getting excited to join our fall programs at each of the three Teen Centres.

Fall programs are underway and thriving in our Crafters and Bakers, and Dungeons & Dragons programs, just to name a few of our exciting programs. We are thrilled to continue our evening partnership programs with Aquatics and Skating, where youth attend a games and swim or games and skating.

Disability and Inclusion Services: The new Disability and Inclusion Programmer position has been filled and they have begun work in this area meeting with different municipal service areas to examine the current practice



and address the most pressing needs. Working with the new Accessible B.C. act, efforts to ensure that the municipality is working towards standards of excellence in this area of work are underway.

Diversity and Equity: Again this September we worked with Victoria Orange Shirt Day Society and offered orange shirts for sale through the recreation community centres. This year we sold more than 850 shirts. All monies went back to the VOSD society to continue their work.

October is Islamic History Month and we will be hosted a celebration at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre on October 14th. Every year the event has a theme and this year it is exploring historical and contemporary Muslim contributions to the sciences and the arts, both in Canada and across the world. It was a wonderful afternoon of community, delicious food, and a fascinating glimpse into hidden history!

Financial Assistance: The new Financial Assistance programmer has been evaluating the Leisure Involvement for Everyone (L.I.F.E.) program to look for ways to increase awareness, streamline processes and remove barriers for eligible individuals. They have engaged with the regional L.I.F.E. working group to solidify practices for determination of eligibility and look to future needs of the region. In June, recommendations were made to council to improve the L.I.F.E. program and they were unanimously approved. These changes are in the process of being implemented before the end of the year. This will include unlimited access to Saanich Recreation Centres for drop-in programs, post-secondary student eligibility, two-year rolling applications and the replacement of coupons with credit amounts. Changes are in-line with the recommendations brought out of the regional 2019 L.I.F.E. review.

Older Adult Services: Art Hive 55 begins a new session November 3 – December 8th and our Community Art Program: Healing Through the Arts begins on October 27th. These two art programs exemplify the ways we partner with Cedar Hill Arts Centre to serve low-barrier opportunities to the community, as well as therapeutic arts, in our spaces with the partnership of nearby community organizations.

We are already planning the next location of Speed Friending event due to the success of the first one recently. With registration full, the room became a bubble of activity and chatting for two hours, while twenty persons, seventy years or older, met each other, one on one, for under ten minutes, before heading to a next person. Witnessing that many connections happen in such a short amount of time was awe inspiring and uplifting. Many participants now have been paired with new friends they met at the event. The impact of this ongoing event is that it not only helps those that may face barriers to friendship due to age, perhaps long-term friends or partners passing, but helped those that may face barriers to friendship due to being a person with hearing or sight challenges. We were able to pair an assistant to help anyone with these additional barriers connect with potential friends looking for similar interests. Being able to include participants that face additional barriers to connecting was an amazing impact staff who partnered with Luther Court Society's new Community Health Centre staff team, and the Lutheran Church of the Cross, gifting the use of location. The next one will be held in the Tillicum neighbourhood of Saanich!

Volunteer Services: Staff continues to support Parks, Recreation and Community Services by recruiting, administering, and appreciating volunteers from our community. In collaboration with Cedar Hill Recreation Centre, Volunteer Services is partnering with the University of Victoria to bring nursing students into older adult programs to learn about healthy aging while supporting our community programs. This fall, staff are attending several volunteer fairs to increase awareness of our program and recruit general and specialized volunteers in preparation for winter events, spring programming, and summer camps and events.



MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE, & COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Committee Room 2 and via Microsoft Teams
Saanich Municipal Hall, 770 Vernon Avenue
September 27, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Councillor Karen Harper, Clare Atwell, Jim Hesser, Ian Kopp (via Teams), Kimberly Van Nieuvenhuyse (via Teams), Robert Randall, Chris Poirier-Skelton, Mark Leiren-Young (via Teams).

Staff: Mitchell Edgar, Economic Development Manager; Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services; Amber Walker, Senior Planner (Current Planning); Evelyn Wolfe, Archives Supervisor (via Teams); Jason Jones, Community Programmer II, Equity, Diversity & Parks; Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Arianna Marie Scott

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by R. Randall and Seconded by C. Poirier-Skelton: “That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee meeting dated, May 24, 2023, be adopted.”

CARRIED

- It was noted that the minutes are a high-level summary, not a verbatim transcription.

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed the committee members, and the following was noted:

- The Committee Recognition Event is on October 19, 2023, and all members are invited to attend.

INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND SUMMER EVENTS UPDATE

The Community Programmer provided an update, and the following was noted:

- Saanich is actively working on building relationships with the First Nations and Urban Indigenous Métis.
- The District of Saanich has interdepartmental working groups that consist of Directors and Managers. These groups discuss the future plans for building relationships and training opportunities.
- The Community of Practice is a group within the District of Saanich that collects information for training purposes.

- Workshops with the Parks Department and the Resilient Saanich Technical Committee (RSTC) give opportunities to learn about the land use of the WSÁNEĆ members.
- Providing transportation to these workshops has encouraged participation and attendance.
- Saanich supports community lunches at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC). This participation allows for open conversations around the National Indigenous Peoples Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Saanich assisted the VNFC in transporting a tipi. This is one way that Saanich and other municipalities are building connections.
- Work is being done to increase and support the Territorial welcomes and acknowledgement. Some ideas include incorporating drumming and dance groups and inviting an Elder to partake.
- An Indigenous Relations Specialist is a possible role for the future.
- This past summer, 22 musical performances, eight cultural events, and a community picnic were held in Saanich.
- Pride in the Park was successful and well-attended. Police were on site but not needed.
- Music in the Park, Music in the Bay, and Music on the Gorge were very successful.
- The Saanich Community Concert series was held in the courtyard at Dawson Heights to allow for accessibility.
- The Uptown Multicultural Festival included multiple vendors, performances, and food. There is an opportunity to expand in 2024.
- The Indigenous Music Festival involved participation from a variety of Indigenous communities. The turnout was larger than in 2022.
- Community Mela is a Punjabi celebration that takes place in Beckwith Park. Many performances and food vendors participated, with over 1,000 people in attendance. Other cultures are encouraged to join in on the festival.
- Parking for events can be challenging, so advertising is limited.
- Navratri is a large Hindu festival that was held at Beckwith Park.
- The Autumn Lantern Festival was enjoyed by more the 3,000 people. Latin dancing and food trucks were a highlight of the evening.
- Saanich has a Muslim Community program which offers private swim nights after hours and private fitness classes for women to comfortably remove their hijabs. There are separate swim times for men and the LGBTQ2 community. Budgeting is allotted for extra staff.

The members made the following comments:

- The variety and types of programs are diverse and impressive. There are opportunities for more cultural events in the future.
- Multicultural communities are mostly interested in rental facilities and programs.
- There is a potential in the community to build relationships using art and culture.
- Saanich Parks and Recreation is on the Community Wellness advisory board with the Greater Victoria Local Immigrant Partnership (GVLIP).
- Different modes of transportation, like bike valets, would assist with parking challenges at events.
- Working with other municipalities to host these events allows for relationship-building.

The Community Programmer exited the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

The Economic Development Manager provided an update, and the following was noted:

- The strategy is in the draft stages and will go to Council by the end of the year.
- Arts and culture are a foundation for economic development. They are important factors to consider as people look to move and work here.
- The vision is for a green, innovative, and knowledge-based economy that is also creative. This will encourage people who work in the art industry to find a home here and enjoy a high quality of life.
- The 15-minute city outlined in the Official Community Plan (OCP) will create access to the entertainment community.
- Affordable housing will attract the labour force.
- Working with developers will showcase areas that are best for the amenity contributions, such as theatres and art galleries.
- The Uptown development offers large areas for art.
- A consultant would be helpful to assist in the developing stages for art amenities.
- One of the target sectors in the strategy is tourism.
- Integrating all plans is essential to success.

The committee members made the following comments, and the following was noted:

- Artscape would be a helpful model to use in developing creative spaces.
- Small concerts in courtyards are an achievable solution for bringing people together.
- The University Heights development has integrated art into the plaza.
- The Ian Stewart Complex development would be beneficial to partner with in the early design stages for flexible space and could generate income for the University of Victoria.
- Arts and culture considerations could be part of new development applications. The Planning Department will provide direction.
- Affordable living space is challenging for artists and musicians.
- Integrating arts and culture into the economic development strategy is an excellent addition.
- The Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) is providing input.
- A sense of belonging in the community can improve health and wellbeing.
- The Victoria Foundation has tracked wellness in the community through surveys. This data would be beneficial to the plan.
- A way to measure outcomes as it pertains to wellbeing would be useful.

The Economic Development Manager exited the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

ARCHIVES UPDATE

The Archives Supervisor provided an update, and the following was noted:

- Visitors increase in the fall.
- The Archives staff have expanded the online content.
- The Royal Oak Community Timeline has received good feedback.
- Six online neighbourhood exhibits have been completed.
- There is a new online photo gallery showcasing 23 Saanich Mayors from 1906-2006.
- The Archives newsletter is available on the Saanich website.
- A Remembrance Day exhibit will be displayed at the Municipal Hall in October.
- Some recent acquisitions to the Archives collections include:
 - Memorial Avenue Committee records
 - Gordon Head Fruit Growers Association records from 1940 – 1960
 - Donations of Oldfield family items including photographs, plaques, scrapbooks and ledgers
 - The Nicholson family photos with postcards from the Royal North-West Mounted Police in Saskatchewan.

STRATEGIC OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

The Senior Community Planner provided an update, and the following was noted:

- Phase two of the engagement process was presented to Council in August 2023.
- Excellent feedback was gathered, and the participation from the community was good.
- A revised draft will be brought forward for Council's consideration in November 2023.
- The arts, culture and wellbeing aspect of the plan could use clarification.
- The 2008 Official Community Plan (OCP) is being reviewed to ensure the strong framework is carried over to the updated plan.
- Enjoying a sense of wellbeing in the community is vital and could be reflected in the update.

The Chair made the following comments, and the following was noted:

- The OCP continues in the same direction as the 2008 version and is a rich and vibrant document.
- The OCP contains the updated Housing Strategy and neighbourhood plans; this is a living document.
- The OCP combines all areas of policies and strategies into one document.
- The public engagement process was meaningful, allowing all Saanich residents ample time to provide feedback.
- Emphasis on specific areas of the OCP allows for a streamlined approach.
- The Minister of Housing is in a better position because of the policy documents that are in place.

***The Senior Community Planner exited the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

INSTALLATION OF PRIDE PAINTED CURBS AT SAANICH OPERATION CENTRE

The Senior Manager of Community Services gave a presentation, and the following was noted:

- The public yard will be redeveloped in the near future.
- A welcome sign and painted roadblocks would be visible from the drop-off bay.
- Hearing from the committee would be helpful.
- This project will encourage conversation with a variety of people.
- Vandalism will be repaired as soon as possible.

The committee made the following comments:

- This plan is good and should move forward.
- Information on the website would be helpful.
- Decisions are made with an inclusive lens.
- Normalizing sidewalks and paintings will build acceptance.
- The report was appreciated, clear and well laid out.

FINAL REMARKS

The Chair made the following comments, and the following was noted:

- Applications to apply for the 2024 Advisory Committees are due in November. The Terms of Reference will be updated.
- An arts and culture award could be considered in the future.
- A clear vision is needed for how the arts is integrated into all the Departments.
- The committee's new name has broadened the mandate.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Councillor Harper, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk