

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, September 27, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

The District of Saanich lies within the territories of the lək'wəŋən 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**
 - May 24, 2023
- 3. INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND SUMMER EVENTS UPDATE 30 min**
 - Jason Jones, Community Programmer II, Equity, Diversity & Parks, Parks Recreation and Community Services
- 4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE 15 min**
 - Mitchell Edgar, Economic Development Manager, Administration Department
- 5. ARCHIVES UPDATE 5 min**
 - Evelyn Wolfe, Archives Supervisor, Legislative & Protective Services Department
- 6. STRATEGIC OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE 15 min**
 - Amber Walker, Community Planner, Planning Department
- 7. INSTALLATION OF PRIDE PAINTED CURBS AT SAANICH OPERATION CENTRE 30 min**
 - Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services Division
- 8. FINAL REMARKS 10 min**
 - Terms of Reference
 - Division Report – for information only (memo)

* Adjournment *

Next Meeting: October 25, 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: David Sparanese; Senior Manager of Public Works
Date: September 13, 2023
Subject: Installation of Pride Painted Curbs at Saanich Operation Centre

PURPOSE

That the ACCW Committee receive this report for information.

DISCUSSION

The Saanich Operation Centre (SOC) has committed to installing wheel stop curbs, painted in LGBTQ2+ Pride colours, at the Garden Waste Drop-Off site (see attached). This location is used heavily by members of the public and is a prime location for Engineering to signal their commitment to Saanich's newly approved Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Strategic Report and Framework.

In addition to the rainbow curbs, the department will also place a sign, visible by the public, that includes a depiction of the Pride Progress flag and the text of Saanich's DEI Statement. The department will also undertake dialogue with their work force to both educate staff on the purpose of this project, and to encourage diverse members of the SOC staff team to offer opinions on the overall impact of the project.

In preparing the installation plan, Engineering consulted the Community Services Division. During a site visit, it was determined that the site chosen was in good faith and that the project echoed similar crosswalk installations in Saanich at Municipal Hall and the four Community Recreation Centres. It was noted that the site layout of the SOC did not lend itself to a typical Pride Crosswalk, but that one could potentially be included in the future redesign of the SOC site.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None. The repainting of wheel stops at the SOC is a planned maintenance project. No additional funding is required to complete this action. The addition of a public Pride flag sign and DEI Statement is a de minimis expense that will be absorbed by existing funds within the Engineering department.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The installation of Pride Crosswalks and similar visible symbols of inclusion are mandated in current strategic plans.

The Official Community Plan, Sustainable Saanich, gives direction to staff to create:

- “A safe, inclusive, and healthy community” (5.1 Basic Needs); and
- “Opportunities for residents of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds, income levels, abilities, and genders to participate in community life (5.2 Strengthening Community).

This project is also supported in Saanich’s DEI Framework under items:

- Community Focused Strategic Priority #4
“Creating and sustaining a welcoming environment. Complete a facility review and identify changes to support DEI and a welcoming environment, such as gender-diverse washrooms and appropriate signage.” and;
- District Internal Strategic Priority #4
“Listen to the lived experiences of racially and ethnically diverse communities and consider these experiences in District decision-making processes.”

CONCLUSION

Saanich strives to be a safe and inclusive community for all residents and visitors. The installation of signage and visible markers that create a welcoming environment for traditionally marginalized communities is integral to promoting the values of the district. Not only will the painted curbs at the SOC underscore these values for patrons and staff alike, it is also a very unique civic project that expands the interpretation of what a “Pride Crosswalk” can be.



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.



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.



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.





The Corporation of the District of Saanich

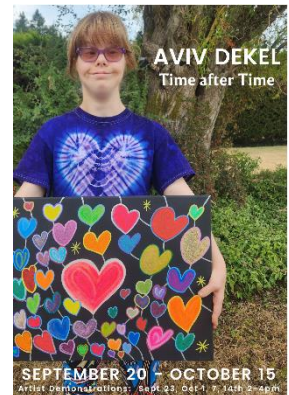
Report

To: Arts, Culture & Community Wellbeing Advisory Committee
From: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services Division
Date: September 13, 2023
Subject: Community Services Division Update

The following update is provided to the ACCW committee for information.

Background: The CS division of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services 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. We are the newest division in the department, but our staff are all specialists in providing these services to ensure that in Saanich, everyone belongs.

Community Arts: Summer featured exhibitions by two artists focused on aspects of the environment. Artist Tara Juneau shared “Secret Saanich,” an exhibition of plein air paintings of Saanich parks and included weekly plein air sessions for the community to stop by and visit around Cedar Hill Park. Digital and environmental artist Colton Hash’s exhibition “Urban Watersheds” incorporated large-scale projections and interactive digital works, along with a well-attended Artist Talk and Walk with community presenters from Friends of Bowker Creek Society, RUSH initiative, Peninsula Streams Society. Next up is Aviv Dekel’s exhibit Time after Time through October 16.



Community Events & Filming: Community Events has had a great summer and is winding down into the fall season. This summer saw five events produced from June - September: the Saanich Family Picnic, portions of the Gorge Canda Day Picnic, Strawberry Festival, Cadboro Bay Festival and the Autumn Lantern Festival. Highlights of the summer include a record-breaking estimated 11,000 attendees at Strawberry Festival and the first year of a ‘brand refresh’ for Cadboro Bay Festival. Stay tuned next summer for more exciting things to come for these signature events.

Additionally, special permits were issued for several third-party events, such as the Tour de Victoria, Elk Lake Triathlon and the Gorge Canada Day Picnic, and shoots at four film productions, including Reginald the Vampire and Guiding Emily. Filming was down this summer as a result of the SAG-AFTRA and WGA strikes and it’s expected to continue to be slow throughout the fall.

Child & Youth Services: We have concluded another successful summer in all our Child & Youth Services summer camps, with full weekly camps in Saanich Neighbourhood Playgroup Program and Youth Break-Out Adventures. The weeks were jam packed with games, activities and guest appearances from the Saanich Police Community Engagement Division, Kenzen Karate and UVic Vikes - Science Venture!

This season we experienced an increase of participants for our junior leadership program – WYLD (Willing Youth Leading Diverse Communities). This program has successfully implemented an internship program, providing a pathway and succession planning for our future summer camp leaders. In fall we will be working with Saanich Recreation to include an Aquatics Stream!

As fall approaches, we are busy preparing our Teen Centres for the return of our Middle School and High School participants. We are particularly looking forward to the refurbishment of our Music Studio at Saanich Commonwealth Youth Centre.

Disability Inclusion Services: This summer our one-on-one support program provided seventy-two spaces for children and youth requiring additional supports to attend our fabulous summer programs. This amount included both recreation and off-site camps in Saanich. This fall we will be reviewing our process to meet the demands of an ever-growing need for inclusion support services for the community.

Diversity and Equity: It was a busy summer. Started in June with Pride in the Park and World Refugee Day Picnic. July saw Community Eid Celebration, Uptown Multicultural Festival and Indigenous Music Festival. August was quieter with only the Punjab Mela. September will continue to be busy. Navratri was held Sept 2,3,9 & 10 and the Autumn Lantern Festival is also this month on the 16th. September will also see the return of the Lekwungen Territory Tours for the fall.



Older Adult Services:

A few of our dedicated Seniors Garden Group members - what a productive summer!

Older adults were able to participate in social programming over the summer months for the first time! Due to increased programmer staffing in 2022, from council,

we were able to secure spaces and program these popular programs in traditionally tricky times due to travel and space availability in the community. During July and August community members took tours of G.R. Pearkes, Saanich Commonwealth, Cedar Hill and Gordon Head Recreation Centres, and over three hundred and fifty walks were had by those participating in our over thirty Trails and Treks walks held outdoors in beautiful Saanich parks, trails and neighbourhoods over the summer.

During September older adults were hosted at Social Croquet “Free Days” for those looking to try croquet before signing up at a program. The new 70yrs+ Speed Friending and Drop-in Social Knitting programs, aimed at addressing social isolation and warm blankets for those in need, have started. And we have held a Saanich Residents’ Climate Action Q&A for older adults. This went well with participants being thankful for the information and inspired about what they can do as individuals and with their neighbours. October older adults will be hosted at a community conversation about earthquake preparedness for those who have walkers, wheelchairs, and other assistive devices and how you can stop, cover and hold even with mobility devices. There is also a free Carpet Bowling afternoon for older adults at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre who may want to try this social sport before joining a program. Finally, it is worth noting that our Art Hive 55+ (a free, registered and instruction-supported art and craft-making program) it continues throughout the fall. To offset the cost of this program we have secured a Victoria Foundation Grant to ensure we can offer it for free.

Parks Programs: Summer means music concert series. Music in the Park was a success again with numbers returning to pre COVID sizes or in some cases a bit larger. All seven partners were involved again for the first time since 2019. Music in the Bay concert series also saw an increase in numbers this summer with a core of folks returning each week. Staff added Music on the Gorge in July to re-activate the Gorge Waterway. The concert was marketed to paddlers and rowers with the actual band playing in Kosapsom Park. There were over sixty boards/boats in the water and over seventy showed up to enjoy from the land.

Volunteers:

Volunteer services has guided more than ninety-four community members in volunteering for Parks, Recreation & Community Services (PRCS), from the Pulling Together program in Parks to shadow guards in Recreation Aquatics to special events volunteers at Strawberry Festival and Cadboro Bay Festival. Highlights from this summer include twelve volunteers at summer camps for Recreation, seventeen volunteers at Saanich events, and fifty-two volunteers at the parks volunteer summer gathering.

In the fall, Volunteer Services will begin a large-scale review of the volunteer process to ensure it's working for all users, whether internal (PRCS) or external (current and prospective volunteers). Additionally, Volunteer Services will be conducting community research on recruiting new volunteers and celebrating and maintaining our current volunteer base.