



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee
From: Terry Crowe, Manager, Policy Planning
Re: EAST RICHMOND GATHERING PLACE PROJECT

To Parks Recreation & Culture -
Date: May 9, 2005 *May 25, 2005*
File: 11-7000-09-20-050

Staff Recommendation

That Council endorse an allocation of \$45,000 from the 2003 Public Art Project Account and the 2001 Public Art Project Account for the development of the East Richmond Gathering Place Project, as per the report from the Manager, Policy Planning dated May 9, 2005.

Terry Crowe
 Terry Crowe
 Manager, Policy Planning

Att. 4

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY					
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER			
Budgets	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Joe Crowe</i>			
Parks Design, Construction & Programs..	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>				
Recreation & Cultural Services	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>				
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>DW</i>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>GD</i>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

This report presents for Council's consideration a proposal to undertake the development of the East Richmond Gathering Place Project at King George Park.

Findings Of Fact

East Richmond Community Association

The East Richmond Community Association, a non-profit organization, is committed to actively pursuing the very best in cultural, social, recreational and educational programs for the citizens of Richmond. The City supports the Association in its efforts.

Shaping Our Future: A Healthy Community Strategy For East Richmond – 2003 to 2010

Since 2003, the East Richmond Community Association (ERCA) has made great strides in addressing some of the priority issues facing the East Richmond Community. The ERCA has invested approximately \$150,000.00 of its resources in developing and implementing the East Richmond Healthy Community Strategy (June 9, 2003).

In general terms, the Healthy Community Strategy is based on fostering the key determinants of health and social development within the East Richmond community.

The Strategy objectives are to build a community that:

- Is equitable and meets the basic needs of food, shelter, education, work, and income, as well as safe working and living conditions;
- Provides opportunities for gainful and meaningful employment;
- Enhances the physical, mental, and social well-being of people;
- Promotes education, creativity, recreation and the development of human potential for the whole population;
- Preserves the cultural and biological heritage, thus strengthening a sense of connectedness of community members to the area's history and environment;
- Promotes and sense of belonging, with assurance of mutual support;
- Promotes citizen participation and involvement in decision-making;
- Is liveable and appealing, linking the form of the city's public places with the resident's social and physical well-being.

The initiatives noted below illustrate some of the specific Healthy Community Projects undertaken in East Richmond to date:

1. Market and Agricultural Festival
2. Youth Public Art Project
3. Developmental Assets Forum
4. Healthy Community Forum 2005
5. Neighbourhood Action Committee Workshop
6. Festival and Park Safety Initiative
7. Community Gathering Place Project.

A detailed copy of the East Richmond Community Association's "*Shaping Our Future – A Healthy Community Strategy for East Richmond – 2003-2010*" is available in the City Clerks Office.

Community Project Partners

The participating partners in this project include:

- East Richmond Community Association and area residents,
- Coast Capital Savings,
- City of Richmond
- Pomegranate Center

East Richmond Gathering Place Project

A gathering place is a neighbourhood focal point that contributes to community distinction, arts, cultural vitality and social interaction, as well as enhancing a stronger sense of community, good relations between neighbours, and feelings of safety and security. The development of a community-gathering place involves community members working together to integrate social, artistic and environmental perspectives into the creation of a community place.

A gathering place is a multi-functional space, serving as a point for community celebrations, a play space for children and local community programming and a tranquil meeting space.

Community Involvement & Design Process

The East Richmond Community workshops to develop a gathering place were held on September 30th to October 2nd and 4th, 2004, followed by two community design charrettes held on March 11th and 12th, 2005. **Attachment 1** presents the notes from the two workshops.

These workshops were led by the Pomegranate Center, a non-profit community design and development organization, that helps communities utilize their unique gifts to become more vibrant and humane through:

- The creation of meaningful gathering spaces,
- Constructive and inclusive community-based planning, and
- Educational outreach, research and training.

Approximately 50 to 60 residents attended each of the four sessions, which led to a design of the East Richmond Gathering Place Project.

Attachment 2 presents the designs for the community designed gathering place. Generally speaking, the community design consists of a small amphitheatre with pathways and gateways with community art.

Proposed Gathering Place Location

The community, in consultation with City staff, recommend that the East Richmond Gathering Place Project be located at the western side of King George Park between the children's water park area and children's playground.

This location is preferred because it is located:

- Away from the park’s main field sports activity areas,
- Nearer to the No. 5 Road and Cambie Road commercial centre, and
- Along the main east west pedestrian link that connects the primary park destination areas.

Attachment 3 shows the location of the proposed East Richmond Gathering Place Project in King George Park.

Site Ownership

The City owns the site for the proposed gathering place. Park staff recommend the project on the site.

Implementation Process

The East Richmond Community Association and Parks staff support the community gathering place design as presented. The proposed implementation of the project is expected to take place during the summer and early fall months of 2005. The basic gathering place work is to be undertaken by City staff and/or outside contractors, and followed by the detailed design work being completed by the community with support assistance from the Pomegranate Center.

Project Funding

The proposed funding for the East Richmond Gathering Place Project is as follows:

Project Funding Sources	Funding	Status
Public Art Project #40802	\$ 29,000	Council approval requested
Public Art Project #40853	+\$16,000 \$ 45,000	
East Richmond Community Association	\$ 20,000	Funds committed
Coast Capital Savings	\$ 10,000	Funds committed
2005 Parks Minor Capital Program – Park Characterization – King George Park	\$100,000	Approved by Council on April 11, 2005
Total	\$175,000	

Letters from the East Richmond Community Association and Coast Capital Savings supporting funding for this project are presented on **Attachment 4**.

Financial Impact

From the City

\$45,000 is recommended from the 2003 and 2001 Public Art Project Accounts for the East Richmond Gathering Place Project.

On April 11, 2005, Council approved \$100,000 from the 2005 Parks Minor Capital Program (RTC doc# 1459006) for the East Richmond Gathering Place Project.

From the Partners

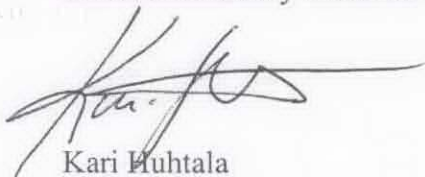
Funds from the East Richmond Community Association and Coast Capital Savings will ensure that project is designed, built and completed as planned.

May 9, 2005

- 5 -

Conclusion

The East Richmond Gathering Place Project represents a truly community development project, where community residents are work together with the city in creating their own gathering place.



Kari Huhtala
Senior Planner
(4188)
KEH:cas

East Richmond Gathering Place

City of Richmond, East Richmond Community Association,
Coast Capital Savings & Pomegranate Center

Project Goals

- Create a specific project that expresses the community vision and provides impetus for future projects.
- Use the Pomegranate Center model that includes the following priorities:
 - Full community involvement,
 - Site-responsive design,
 - Continuous process: imagine-design-build-steward-learn,
 - A generous use of hands,
 - Design for all generations and many purposes,
 - Environmentally sustainable practices,
 - Revealing connections and meaning.

Goals for Workshop 1 in October 2004 were to:

- Generate a vision for the project,
- East Richmond Gathering Place is envisioned as series of interconnected elements that create opportunities for gatherings, places for private enjoyment, expression of beauty and the use of environmentally-friendly methods,
- Agree to a location,
- West portion of the King George Park,
- To define basic design concepts participants suggested the following:
 - Amphitheatre,
 - Gateways,
 - Water elements,
 - Shelters,
 - Seating,
 - Lights,
 - Mounds, Earthworks,
 - Connecting Paths,
 - Trees (since October 2004, some 50 trees have already been planted),
 - Design that acknowledges its relationship to other community amenities such as the Skate Park and Community Garden.
- Define agreed-upon values & principles: Participants agreed that this project should include everyone; express beauty and inspiration; enhance pride, learning, and community identity; be created for low maintenance and safety; be environmentally and socially ethical; to be user friendly; serve many purposes and be multi-functional.

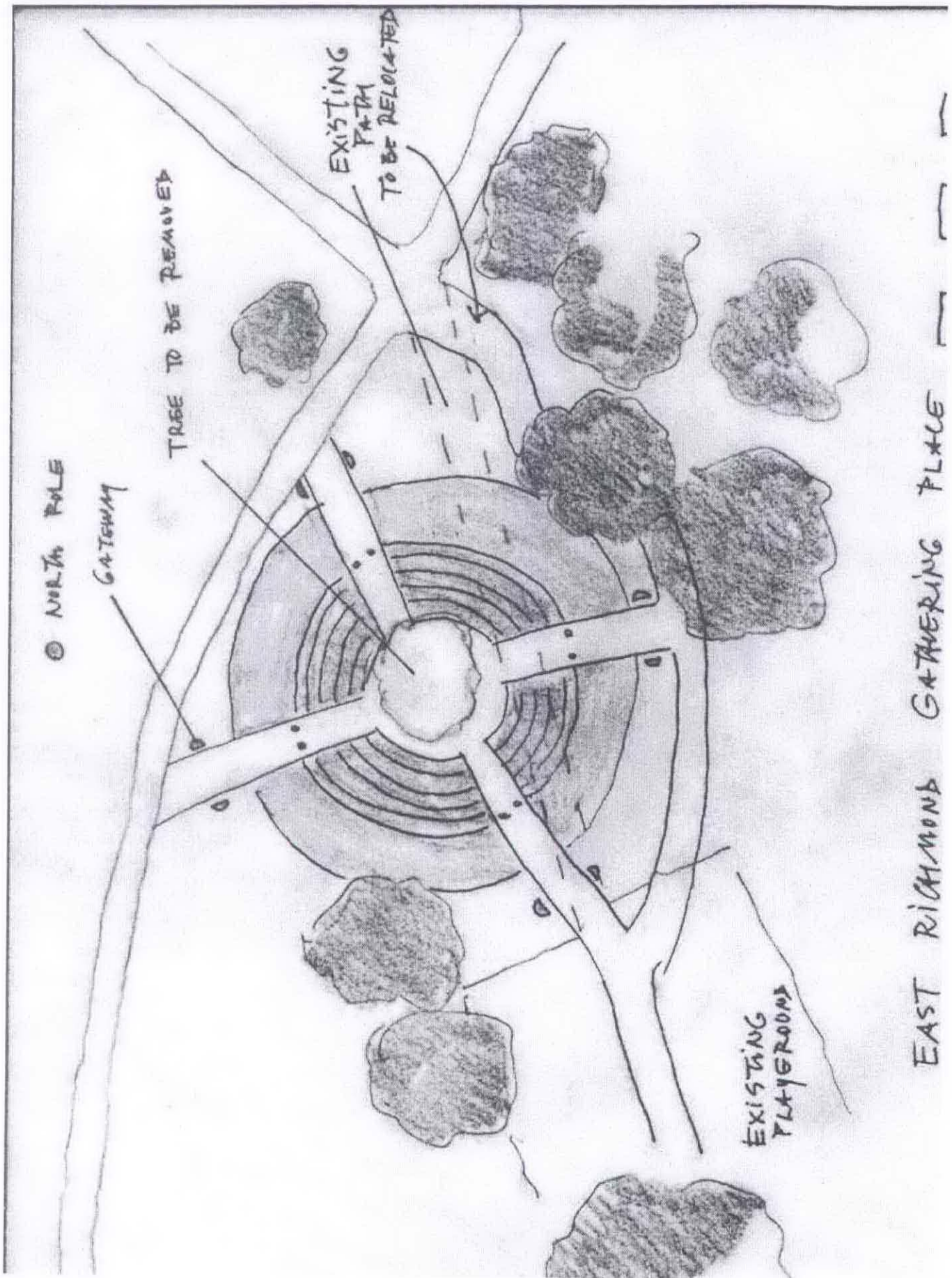
Goal for Workshop 2, March 2005, was to create a design expressing and celebrating ideas identified during Workshop 1; interpret and refine the design through input; and begin to develop plans for programming and stewardship.

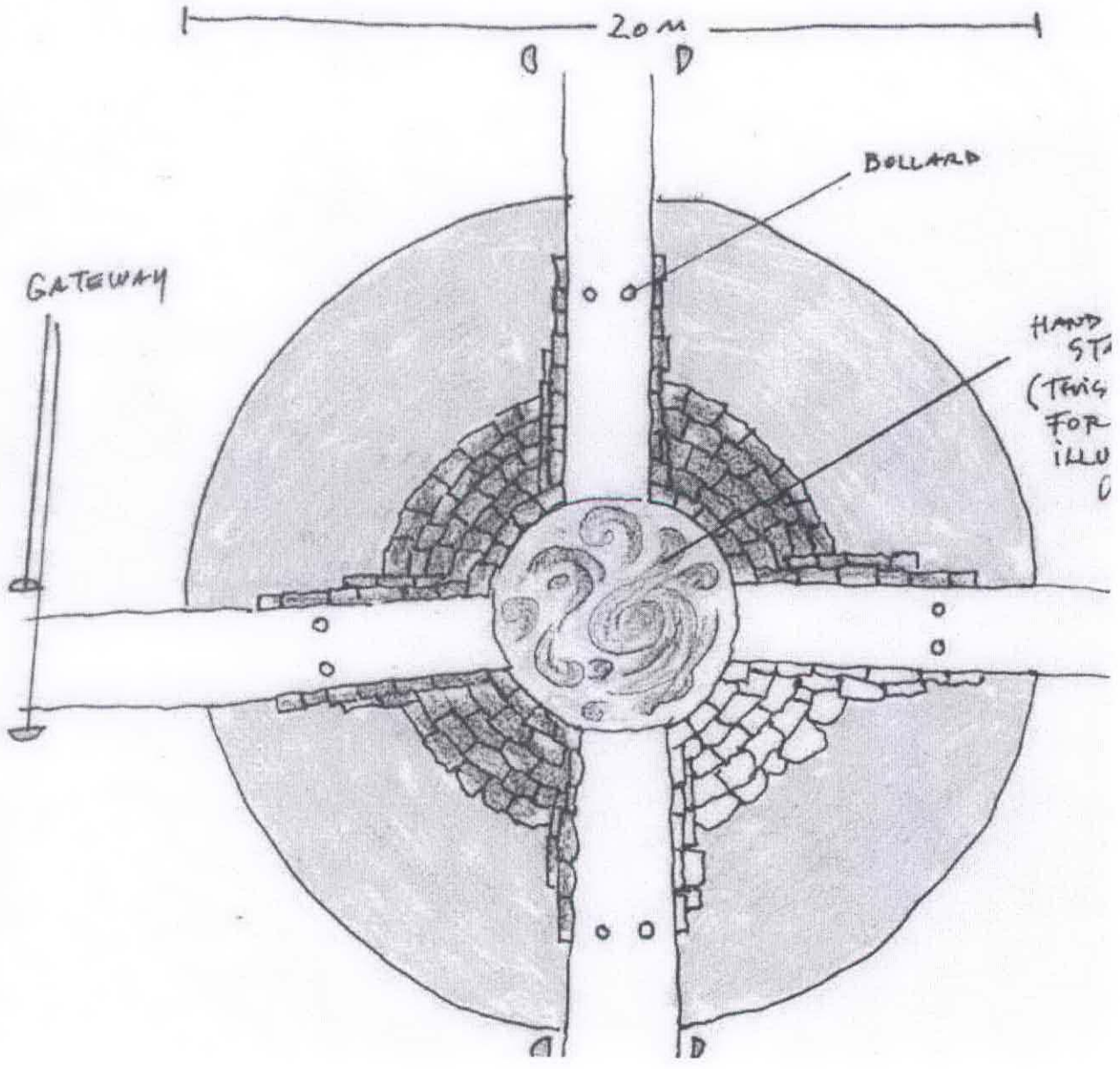
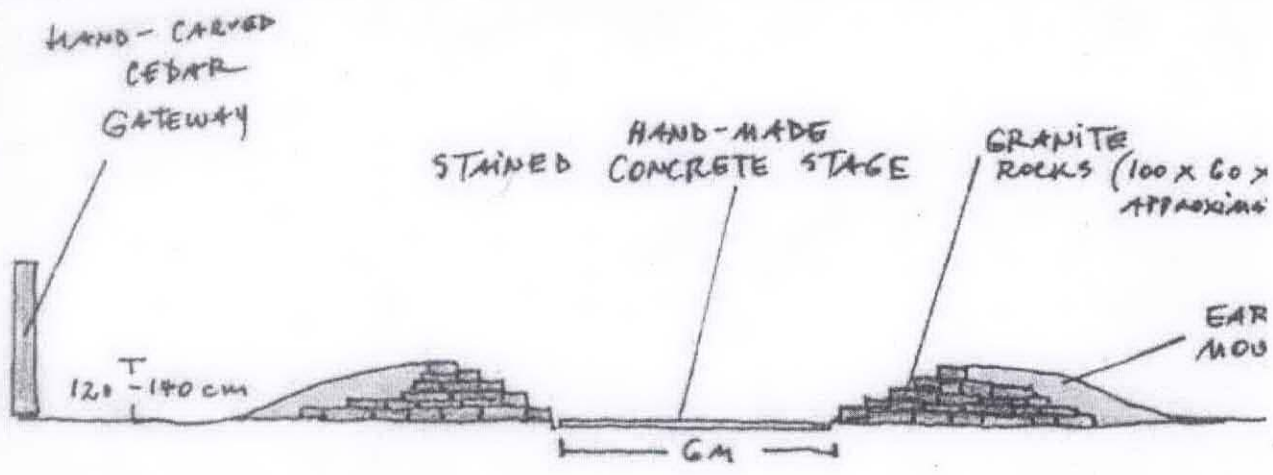
Proposed Design Concept

1. Amphitheatre
 - A coloured concrete stage area of 3M radius,
 - 5 rows of stone seats about 25 cm high and 50 cm deep, rising to an approximate height of 125 cm,
 - Earth mounds at the back of the stone rows,
 - 3-4 paths leading to the stage area; bollards may be used to allow pedestrian only access.
2. Gateways
 - 3-4 smaller gateways, 2 M high, of carved cedar cut into half will be located on each side of each path leading into the amphitheatre,
 - 4 larger gateways, 3 M high, of carved cedar cut into half will be located at strategic locations leading into the King George Park.
3. Carved cedar pole
 - On the North side of the amphitheatre a carved pole about 5 metre high is proposed.
4. Shelter (requested by young workshop participants),
 - Quartered cedar log for columns,
 - Green roof.
5. Benches
 - Reuse metal cast iron legs stored at the Parks materials yard,
 - U these legs to create a series of interconnected short benches that can be assembled in a variety of combinations.

Next steps

Pomegranate Center will coordinate with the City staff, East Richmond Community Association and workshop participants to fine-tune the design, the budget, and project schedule. At this time it is anticipated that the City will construct the mounds in the summer of 2005, and that a 10-day community volunteer-based construction period will be scheduled between June and September of 2005.







EAST RICHMOND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Cambie Community Centre
 4111 Jacombs Road
 Richmond, BC V6V 1N7
 Telephone: (604) 233-8399
 Fax: (604) 278-2609

Kari Huhtala
 City of Richmond
 6911 No. 3 Road
 Richmond VY6 2C

Dear Kari:

**Re: East Richmond Healthy Community Initiatives
 Gathering Place Project**

This letter is to confirm the ongoing support of the East Richmond Community Association for the Gathering Place project together with our commitment of funds in the amount of \$20,000.

The opportunity to enhance the King George Park with a community designed project has certainly attracted interest and participation and we are very pleased with the progress to date. Following an initial community meeting in the fall with staff from the Pomegranate Center of Issaquah, Washington, a further meeting was held over the weekend of March 11 and 12 resulting in a 3D model or design charette of a beautiful granite amphitheatre with adjoining pathways and carved cedar gateways to be located in the west side of King George Park.

This gathering place will be multi-functional, serving as a locale for anything from community celebrations, to being an enriching and safe place for children to play, to offering a tranquil space for reading a book or meeting a friend; a place that is "intentionally" designed for neighbours to "accidentally" bump into one another. This community development project is designed to change our community's culture from one of relative isolation and individualism to one of connection and caring.

The East Richmond Community Association is committed to our Healthy Community Initiatives and the Gathering Place project will be a symbol of that commitment.

Yours truly,

N. A. Wright

Nora Ann Wright
 Vice President

CAMBIE COMMUNITY CENTRE

1503290 4111 JACOMBS ROAD, RICHMOND, B.C. V6V 1N7 TEL: 273-3394 FAX: 278-2609



April 18, 2005

Cara-Lee Malange
Healthy Community Coordinator
East Richmond Community Association
4111 Jacombs Road
Richmond, BC, V6V 1N7

Dear Cara-Lee:

On behalf of our Coast Community Fund Committee, I'm pleased to report that a grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 has been approved to assist with the East Richmond Gathering Place. We support many events and projects in our local communities, particularly those that contribute to the well-being of our community. Our cheque is enclosed.

We appreciate the opportunity to display our corporate logo on your print material and ask that you contact Jennifer Honeybourn by e-mail at Jennifer.honeybourn@coastcapitalsavings.com or by phone at 604-517-7000 to arrange for an electronic copy of our corporate logo.

We are pleased to be able to assist you with this project and offer our sincere best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely,



Tracy Kalaw
Community Relations Officer
Coast Capital Savings