



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Planning Committee **Date:** January 19, 2023  
**From:** Kim Somerville **File:** 07-3300-01/2023-Vol 01  
 Director, Community Social Development  
**Re:** **Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Work Program**

### Staff Recommendation

That the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee’s 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Work Program, as presented in the staff report titled “Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Work Program,” dated January 19, 2023, from the Director of Community Social Development, be approved.

Kim Somerville  
 Director, Community Social Development  
 (604-247-4671)

Att. 2

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b>
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>	

## Staff Report

### Origin

The Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) was established in 2002 to act as a resource and to advise City Council by providing information, options and recommendations regarding intercultural issues and opportunities referred to the RIAC.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018–2022 Strategic Focus Area #3 – One Community Together:

*Vibrant and diverse arts and cultural activities and opportunities for community engagement and connection.*

This report supports the Social Development Strategy 2013–2022 Strategic Direction #6 – Support Community Engagement and Volunteerism:

26.2 *Mechanisms for ensuring that committees are best positioned to provide helpful and timely advice to City staff and elected officials including:*

- *Work programs that reflect Council Term Goals*

This report also supports the Cultural Harmony Plan 2019–2029 Strategic Direction #2 – Collaboration and Partnerships:

2.1 *Continue to work with Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) members to implement the RIAC Intercultural Strategic Plan and Work Program.*

### Analysis

#### 2022 Annual Report

Activities undertaken by the RIAC are outlined in the 2022 Annual Report (Attachment 1). Highlights of the Committee's work include:

- Supported the implementation of actions outlined in the Council-adopted Cultural Harmony Plan by providing feedback to City staff on various intercultural initiatives throughout the year.
- Assisted in the planning and implementation of the 2022 Diversity Symposium by participating on the steering committee and acting as session hosts during the event.
- Stayed informed of intercultural issues by inviting the RIAC members and guest speakers to present on programs, services and initiatives available to the Richmond community, including:
  - Richmond Public Library – Overview of newcomer programs and services that are available at the Library;

- Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko and The Salvation Army – Presentation on displaced Ukrainians arriving in Canada and Richmond; and
- Branscombe House Artist-In-Residence – Shared a presentation on the work done at Branscombe House over the past year, which fostered cultural connections.
- Assisted in the planning and implementation of the Newcomers Video Series by participating on the selection committee for the filmmaker and launching the series through an in-person celebration at City Hall.

### 2023 Work Program

The proposed 2023 Work Program (Attachment 2) was discussed at the RIAC meeting held on January 18, 2023. In 2023, priorities for the committee include:

- Providing input on initiatives related to the implementation of the Council-adopted Cultural Harmony Plan;
- Assisting City staff with the planning and implementation of the 2023 Diversity Symposium; and
- Presenting on initiatives and inviting guest speakers to increase RIAC members' awareness on programs and services available in the community.

The 2023 Work Program outlines the RIAC's priorities in the coming year to continue to advance the committee's mandate of strengthening intercultural cooperation and fostering positive intercultural connections in Richmond. The Work Program supports several actions in the Cultural Harmony Plan 2019–2029.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

The RIAC 2022 Annual Report provides a summary of the activities undertaken by the Committee during the 2022 calendar year. The RIAC 2023 Work Program outlines the Committee's priorities for the year to continue to fulfill its mandate of enhancing intercultural harmony and strengthening intercultural cooperation in Richmond. Staff recommend that the RIAC 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Work Program be approved.



Peggy Chen  
Inclusion Coordinator  
(604-276-4104)

- Att. 1: Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report  
2: Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee 2023 Work Program

## **Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report**

### **Introduction**

The Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) was established by City Council in February 2002 to act as a resource and provide advice to City Council in support of enhancing and strengthening intercultural harmony and cooperation in Richmond. The committee also provides information and recommendations regarding intercultural issues and opportunities referred to the RIAC by Council.

At the start of 2022, the RIAC consisted of up to 17 Council-appointed members with representatives from Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee, Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee, RCMP, Richmond Multicultural Community Services (RMCS), Richmond School District, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), Richmond Centre for Disability, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and individual citizen appointees. In September 2022, the Richmond School District representative and Chair of the RIAC moved on from her role in the School District and resigned from the RIAC. In the remaining four months of 2022, there were 16 RIAC members.

The 2022 RIAC Annual Report is prepared for City Council in accordance with the Terms of Reference. This document serves as a summary of the RIAC's activities during the 2022 calendar year and is based on input from RIAC members with support from the Staff Liaison.

### **Highlights of 2022**

#### **Cultural Harmony Plan**

The RIAC continues to support the implementation of the recommended actions of the Council-adopted Cultural Harmony Plan, which informs the City's response to building awareness of and enhancing cultural harmony among Richmond's diverse population. Throughout the year, staff have consulted with the RIAC on various initiatives and the RIAC members have provided feedback on initiatives that fall within the RIAC's mandate.

#### **City of Richmond Diversity Symposium**

The eighth annual Diversity Symposium offered free training opportunities for City staff, volunteers and community partners interested in learning and advancing equity, diversity and inclusion in their communities. The 2022 Diversity Symposium was offered virtually for the third consecutive year. Overall there were 639 registrations, with most of the registrants joining from the Lower Mainland and some registrants from across Canada.

As in previous years, many RIAC members were actively involved in the planning and implementation of the Diversity Symposium with a number of RIAC members sitting on the steering committee and serving as session hosts during the virtual sessions.

## Newcomers Video Series

In November 2022, the City launched the Newcomers Video Series, which features stories of newcomers who have settled in Richmond and provides information on accessing services in the community. The series comprises five short videos, highlighting Richmond's diversity, heritage sites, settlement services, and art and recreational activities, as well as ways to get involved in the community. It includes subtitles in Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Punjabi, Farsi, Arabic and Ukrainian to reach diverse community groups and is available to view on the City's YouTube channel and website: [www.richmond.ca/newcomers](http://www.richmond.ca/newcomers).

RIAC members were involved in the selection committee, offering insight and expertise into choosing the filmmaker who would be able to bring the vision of the project to life. A launch event for the project with participants of the video series was held at the last RIAC meeting of the year on November 16, 2022.

The Newcomer Video Series advances one of the actions identified in the City's Cultural Harmony Plan of pursuing "viable options of providing City-related information for newcomers, immigrants and refugees that would assist them in accessing services in the community."

## Activities for 2022

### Guest Speakers and Organizational Presenters

Throughout 2022, guest speakers and organizational representatives presented innovative and collaborative approaches to strengthening intercultural connections and removing barriers to participation in our community.

#### January

- Alex Korotchenko, Head of Newcomer and Volunteer Services from the Richmond Public Library gave a presentation on Newcomer Programs and Services that are available at the Library.

#### February

- Johnny Trinh, Community Arts Coordinator with the City of Richmond, provided an overview of programs and services offered in the Arts, Culture and Heritage Services Department, particularly services at the Richmond Cultural Centre, Richmond Art Gallery and the Richmond Arts Centre.

#### March

- Valerie Watson, Program Lead for Homelessness with the City of Richmond, provided an overview of initiatives addressing the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in Richmond.

### April

- Odilia Dys-Steenbergen, a PhD student in Social Psychology at Simon Fraser University and Senior Analyst in Cultural Safety and Humility with the First Nations Health Authority, presented findings of her research project called “Community Identity – Love Where You Live”.

### May

- Sarah Hunn, Emergency Programs Coordinator for the City of Richmond, gave an overview on Emergency Programs and Services in Richmond and how to become a more resilient community in the event of an emergency.

### June

- Eugene Lupynis from the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko and Reverend Peter Cheung from The Salvation Army gave a presentation on displaced Ukrainians arriving in Canada, particularly in Richmond.

### September

- Krystal Kiran, the City’s 2022 Branscombe House Artist-In-Residence, shared a presentation on her work in Richmond over the past year.
- Daniel Remedios, Executive Director of Richmond Addiction Services Society (RASS), gave a presentation on programs and services offered at RASS.

### October

- Claire Adamson, Manager, Community Social Development for the City of Richmond, gave an overview of the recently-adopted Richmond Seniors Strategy.

## **Members of the 2022 Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee**

### **Citizen Appointees**

1. Yun-Jou Chang
2. Vladimir Choi
3. James Hsieh
4. Michael Ma
5. Mikaela Nuval
6. Kanwarjit Sandhu
7. Randy Sandhu
8. Linda Sum

### **Organizational Representatives**

1. Rebeca Avendano, Richmond School District (January to August)
2. Karen Barclay, Vancouver Coastal Health
3. Ian Lai, Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (Urban Bouny)

4. Allie Lin, S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
5. Ihsan Malik, Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee
6. Ashok Rattan, Richmond Multicultural Community Services
7. Daniel Remedios, Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (Richmond Addiction Services Society)
8. Roy Wong, RCMP
9. Ian Yeung, Richmond Centre for Disability

**Council Liaison**

Councillor Linda McPhail (January to October)  
 Councillor Bill McNulty (November to December)

**Staff Liaison**

Dorothy Jo, Program Manager, Social Planning

**Staff Support**

Peggy Chen, Inclusion Coordinator

**Financial Summary**

As an Advisory Committee to City Council, the RIAC’s activities are fully supported by the City’s operating budget. In 2022, the City allocated an operating budget of \$2,500.00 for RIAC and part of these funds were used for refreshments:

<b>Revenue</b>	
City funding	\$2,500.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
Refreshments	\$284.60
<b>Balance</b>	\$2,215.40

**Conclusion and Acknowledgements**

2022 was another busy year for the RIAC. Although the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our lives, the RIAC still achieved a full slate of nine meetings and fulfilled its mandate of acting as a resource and providing advice to City Council on intercultural issues. RIAC members were delighted to gather in-person in November for the last meeting of the year, where the Committee celebrated the launch of the Newcomers Video Series. The RIAC supported another successful year of the Diversity Symposium and RIAC members were invited to take part in community consultation opportunities. The RIAC is pleased to be involved in these initiatives which support some of the actions contained in the Cultural Harmony Plan. These activities demonstrate that the RIAC has an important role to play in advancing cultural harmony in the community.

We acknowledge the significant commitment and contributions of outgoing members in 2022, namely James Hsieh and Linda Sum, citizen appointees to RIAC, Ihsan Malik from the Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee, Karen Barclay from Vancouver Coastal Health, and Rebeca Avendano from the Richmond School District. We would also like to thank Councillor Linda McPhail for her support of the RIAC during the past four years. We also express our appreciation to Dorothy Jo, Staff Liaison, Peggy Chen, Staff Support, and Kristy Ng, Minute-Taker, for their work in supporting the committee's needs. We look forward to furthering our work together in 2023.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Ian Yeung  
Vice-Chair, Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee



## **Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee 2023 Work Program**

The proposed 2023 Work Program aligns with the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee's (RIAC) mandate to act as a resource and provide advice to City Council in support of enhancing and strengthening intercultural harmony and cooperation in Richmond.

This work program supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018–2022 Strategic Focus Area #3 – One Community Together:

*Vibrant and diverse arts and cultural activities and opportunities for community engagement and connection.*

This work program supports the Social Development Strategy 2013–2022 Strategic Direction #6 – Support Community Engagement and Volunteerism:

- 26.2 *Mechanisms for ensuring that committees are best positioned to provide helpful and timely advice to City staff and elected officials including:*
- *Work programs that reflect Council Term Goals*

This work program also supports the Cultural Harmony Plan 2019–2029 Strategic Direction #2 – Collaboration and Partnerships:

- 2.1 *Continue to work with Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) members to implement the RIAC Intercultural Strategic Plan and Work Program.*

### **2023 RIAC Budget**

RIAC annually receives an operating budget of \$2,500.00.

2023 RIAC Work Program

Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) 2023 Work Program		
Initiative	RIAC Actions	Expected Outcome
1. Act as a resource to the City on issues relating to intercultural harmony in Richmond.	<p>1.1 Participate in consultation on City plans, updates, strategies, projects and new policies relating to intercultural harmony.</p> <p>1.2 Provide an intercultural lens to City events and initiatives, as they arise.</p> <p>1.3 Respond to Council requests and provide advice on issues relating to intercultural harmony in Richmond, as appropriate.</p>	1.1.1 RIAC members will be able to provide an intercultural lens to City strategies and initiatives, and advise City Council, as needed.
2. Build on and improve RIAC members' knowledge of intercultural issues through information sharing, guest speakers and educational opportunities.	<p>2.1 Invite guest speakers to present on intercultural issues facing the community.</p> <p>2.2 Present on intercultural initiatives from member organizations and/or other groups that can inform the City's policies or practices.</p> <p>2.3 Monitor intercultural issues and emerging trends.</p> <p>2.4 Include an environmental scan on relevant items and media coverage as a standing item on the RIAC agenda.</p>	<p>2.1.1 A summary of key findings from the various speakers is included in the RIAC Annual Report.</p> <p>2.1.2 Members are better informed and well equipped to provide an intercultural lens to City strategies and initiatives, as requested.</p>
3. Support and promote initiatives that address incidents of racism and discrimination in the community.	3.1 Identify and participate in anti-racism initiatives and relay relevant information back to the RIAC.	3.1.1 RIAC members share information on best practices from other organizations and/or municipalities that can be applied in Richmond.

**Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) 2023 Work Program**

Initiative	RIAC Actions	Expected Outcome
4. Participate in external committees that align with the RIAC's goals and objectives.	4.1 Participate in external committees that align with the RIAC's mandate and provide updates to the RIAC.  4.2 Promote the RIAC's role as an advisory body to City Council and the City's contributions to fostering intercultural harmony in the community.	4.1.1 Community partners are aware of the RIAC's role in fostering intercultural harmony in Richmond.  4.1.2 RIAC members are informed of other committees and initiatives that align with the RIAC's mandate.
5. Participate in initiatives related to the implementation of the Cultural Harmony Plan in Richmond, as appropriate.	5.1 Provide advice and feedback on initiatives that support actions related to the Cultural Harmony Plan, as requested.	5.1.1 RIAC members are involved in the implementation of actions listed in the Cultural Harmony Plan, as appropriate.
6. Assist with the planning and implementation of the 2023 City of Richmond Diversity Symposium.	6.1 Encourage RIAC representatives to sit on the 2023 Diversity Symposium Steering Committee to develop ideas for themes and topics, review options for keynote speakers and presenters, and select final presenters for the workshop sessions.  6.2 Provide event support, including promoting the event to RIAC representatives' networks, acting as session hosts, networking, and representing the RIAC at a community resource table.	6.1.1 RIAC members actively participate in the planning and implementation of the 2023 Diversity Symposium program.
7. Support initiatives related to Truth and Reconciliation.	7.1 Identify and support Truth and Reconciliation initiatives and relay relevant information back to the RIAC.	7.1.1 RIAC members share information on best practices from other organizations and/or municipalities that can be applied in Richmond.