



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** May 22, 2020
From: Marie Fenwick **File:** 11-7000-01/2020-Vol
 Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services 01
Re: **Phoenix Net Loft Public Consultation Process**

Staff Recommendation

That staff be authorized to proceed with Phase One of the Phoenix Net Loft Public Consultation Process as described in the staff report titled "Phoenix Net Loft Public Consultation Process", dated May 22, 2020, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services.

CM Fenwick

Marie Fenwick
 Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services
 (604-276-4288)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Sevener</i>
Recreation Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Project Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Policy Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: <i>CS</i>	APPROVED BY CAO <i>[Signature]</i>

Staff Report

Origin

At the regular Council meeting on February 24, 2020, Council endorsed the following resolution:

- (1) That the Capital Program budget be amended from the previously approved \$11.5M to \$19.44M for the Phoenix Net Loft Preservation project for Option C – Museum-style Interpretive Centre use for the Phoenix Net Loft preservation project;*
- (2) That the difference of the \$11.5M and the Proposed \$19.44M (\$7.94M) to be used for the Phoenix Net Loft preservation project be withdrawn from the Capital Building and Infrastructure Reserve Fund; and*
- (3) That the Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan (2020-2024) be amended accordingly.*

The purpose of this report is to seek Council authorization to proceed with Phase One of a public consultation process to determine the future program plan for the Phoenix Net Loft.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #3 One Community Together:

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

3.1 Foster community resiliency, neighbourhood identity, sense of belonging, and intercultural harmony.

3.2 Enhance arts and cultural programs and activities.

3.3 Utilize an interagency and intercultural approach to service provision.

3.4 Celebrate Richmond's unique and diverse history and heritage.

Background

The Phoenix Net Loft was constructed in 1943 as a facility to dry, mend and store fishing nets. It is part of a collection of historic buildings on the waterfront that were constructed to service the fishing and boat building industry in Steveston and operated as a net storage and repair facility until the early 2000's when the City acquired the building from BC Packers as part of the redevelopment of their land in Steveston.

Its character defining elements include:

- association with the canning and fishing industry in Steveston;
- location on the riverfront adjacent to the Britannia Shipyards buildings;
- scale, massing, and heavy timber construction; and
- details of its construction including board and batten siding, unique gabled roof design and piling foundation.

Proposed Public Consultation Process

Part of the standard City approach to program planning for a public facility such as this is an extensive public consultation process to ensure the building program meets the current and future needs of the community.

The purpose of the public consultation is:

- To ensure the building, exhibits and programs meet the current and future needs of target audiences and the residents of Richmond;
- To ensure the development process for the facility is transparent and provides opportunity for input into decision making where appropriate; and
- To ensure the public is informed, engaged, and excited about the benefits to the community of the facility.

Exhibit and program planning is an iterative and involved process that will ultimately lead to design documents and a plan with sufficient detail to prepare capital and operating budgets.

Staff recommend advancing interior space program planning with a two-phase public consultation process.

Phase One: Key Stakeholder Consultation

The purpose of this phase would be to define a set of interior program options that can be taken for broader public consultation. This would be accomplished in consultation with key stakeholders in the museum, heritage and tourism sectors.

The objectives of Phase One include:

- Determining target audiences for the facility;
- Defining the key interpretive theme or themes; and
- Identifying amenities and interpretive elements that would be required to support the interpretive themes and attract target audiences.

Program options will be guided by creating a space that:

- Contributes to the cultural vibrancy of Richmond;
- Offers interpretive and informal learning opportunities;
- Complements the existing interpretation at Britannia Shipyards and throughout Steveston; and
- Is sensitive to the heritage value of the site.

Staff recommend targeted consultation with the following key stakeholders from the museum, heritage, and tourism sectors.

- Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society;
- Richmond Museum Society;

- Steveston Historical Society;
- Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society; and
- Tourism Richmond.

It is expected that through this process an option, or range of options, suitable for public consultation will emerge.

Staff will then report back to Council to seek its endorsement for the proposed option(s) and presentation materials prior to proceeding with the next phase of broader public consultation.

Pending Council approval, staff propose to initiate this phase in Fall 2020. Consultation methods will be aligned with the Council approved plan to restore City services and any emerging provincial health authority guidelines.

Phase 2 – Public Consultation

This phase would present the option(s) developed in Phase 1, and approved by Council, to a broader group of stakeholders, and the community as a whole. The proposed plan and engagement method are detailed in Table 1 below.

Consultation methods suggested below may be revised pending COVID-19 related restrictions on public gatherings.

Table 1: Public Consultation Plan

ENGAGEMENT METHOD	DESCRIPTION
Stakeholder Consultation	<p>A broader group of stakeholders will be consulted directly through a workshop or series of workshops.</p> <p>This will include the key stakeholders and additional Community Stakeholders such as Indigenous communities, London Heritage Farm Society, Steveston Harbour Authority, Steveston Merchants Association, Steveston Community Society, Richmond Chamber of Commerce, Richmond Heritage Commission, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre and the Chinese Canadian Historical Society.</p>
Let’s Talk Richmond	A Let’s Talk Richmond Survey will be launched to gain input from the general public.
Community Open House(s)	A Community Open House, or series of Open Houses, will be held to both educate the public about the project and to elicit ideas and feedback on the proposed options.
Promotions via print and social media	All public consultation opportunities, including the Public Open House and the Let’s Talk Richmond survey will be widely publicized via print and social media to ensure the widest audience possible is aware and engaged in the design process.

ENGAGEMENT METHOD	DESCRIPTION
Direct promotions	Direct mail will be used to invite stakeholders and residents in a catchment area (to be determined) to the Open House and to participate in the Let's Talk Richmond Survey.

Financial Impact

The estimated cost for phase one of the public consultation process is \$30,000. These costs are included in the existing approved budget.

Funding to implement the program will be the subject of a future report to Council and a capital submission.

Conclusion

A two-phase consultation process for the Phoenix Net Loft is recommended to ensure the building program meets the current and future needs of the community. This report seeks Council authorization to work with key stakeholders in the museum, heritage and tourism sectors to define a set of interior program options. It is expected that through this process an option or range of options suitable for public consultation would emerge.

Staff will then report back to Council to seek its endorsement for the proposed option(s) and presentation materials prior to proceeding with the next phase of broader public consultation.



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