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**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee**

**Council Chambers, City Hall  
6911 No. 3 Road**

**Tuesday, September 28, 2021  
4:00 p.m.**

Pg. #      ITEM

MINUTES

**PRCS-3**      *Motion to adopt the **minutes** of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee held on July 20, 2021.*



NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

October 26, 2021, (tentative date) at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

1. **BLUE CABIN FLOATING ARTIST RESIDENCY**  
(File Ref. No. 11-7000-09-01) (REDMS No. 6729192)

**PRCS-7**

**See Page PRCS-7 for full report**

*Designated Speaker: Biliana Velkova*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

*That the Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency proposal as detailed in the staff report titled, "Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency" dated August 11, 2021, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be endorsed.*



2.      **SUMMER PROGRAM UPDATE 2021**

(File Ref. No. 11-7000-01) (REDMS No. 6735530)

**PRCS-26**

**See Page PRCS-26 for full report**

*Designated Speaker: Kirsten Close*

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

*That the staff report titled, “Summer Program Update 2021”, dated August 30, 2021, from the Director, Recreation and Sport Services, be received for information.*

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3.      **GARDEN CITY LANDS UPDATE**

(File Ref. No. 06-2345-20-GCIT1) (REDMS No. 6741699)

**PRCS-35**

**See Page PRCS-35 for full report**

*Designated Speaker: Alex Kurnicki*

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

*That the staff report titled “Garden City Lands Project Update,” dated September 8, 2021, from the Director, Park Services be received for information.*

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4.      **MANAGER’S REPORT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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## Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

Date: Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Place: Council Chambers  
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Harold Steves, Chair (by teleconference)  
Councillor Michael Wolfe (by teleconference)  
Councillor Chak Au  
Councillor Bill McNulty  
Councillor Linda McPhail (by teleconference)

Also Present: Councillor Carol Day (left the meeting at 6:14 p.m.)  
Councillor Andy Hobbs (by teleconference)  
Councillor Alexa Loo (left the meeting at 5:23 p.m.)

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

### MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

*That the minutes of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee held on June 29, 2021, be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

### NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

September 28, 2021, (tentative date) at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

1. **NATIONAL DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK JULY 18 - 24, 2021**  
(File Ref. No. 11-7000-01) (REDMS No. 6702759)

Staff highlighted that signage throughout waterfront areas have been updated to include information about wave and boat activity.

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In response to queries from Committee, staff noted that (i) there is signage at Garry Point Park along the water, (ii) drowning prevention material is included on posters and is part of the curriculum in swimming lessons, (iii) the number of participants in swimming lessons was approximately 8,000 due to Covid-19, (iv) the City is working with the School District to revamp the WaterSafe program, and (v) signage is typically installed at high-use areas.

It was moved and seconded

*That the staff report titled “National Drowning Prevention Week July 18 - 24, 2021,” dated June 19, 2021, from the Director, Recreation and Sport Services be received for information.*

**CARRIED**

*Councillor Loo left the meeting (5:23 p.m.).*

**2. COMMUNITY SERVICES – NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS  
WELLNESS CHECK**

(File Ref. No. 11-7000-01) (REDMS No. 6700615)

It was moved and seconded

*That Community Services staff continue to collaborate with non-profit community organizations on addressing the organizational impacts of COVID-19, including conducting a follow-up Wellness Check, as outlined in the staff report titled “Community Services – Non-profit Organizations Wellness Check,” dated June 23, 2021, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, and the Director, Recreation and Sport Services.*

**CARRIED**

**3. COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT GRANTS  
PROGRAM**

(File Ref. No. 10-6125-30-001) (REDMS No. 6663436)

In response to queries from Committee, staff noted that (i) the Environmental Enhancement Grants Program is open to other non-profit societies, and (ii) the City currently works with community groups to incorporate beekeeping in City parks.

It was moved and seconded

*That, as described in the report titled ‘Community Environmental Enhancement Grants Program’ dated July 6, 2021 from the Director, Park Services and Director, Sustainability & District Energy:*

- (a) The purpose, scope and process of Option 1 to support ongoing environmental initiatives be endorsed; and*

2.

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- (b) Council approve the proposed amendments to City Grant Policy 3712.*

**CARRIED**

**4. COMMUNITY GARDENS REFERRAL RESPONSE**

(File Ref. No. 06-2345-01) (REDMS No. 6705760)

Councillor McNulty withdrew his remarks in regard to community gardens made at the June 29, 2021 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee meeting. He offered a sincere apology to the volunteers and staff of the Moncton Avenue community garden, and said he continues to be a strong supporter of community gardens.

In response to queries from Committee, staff noted that (i) a public consultation takes place when considering the location for a community garden, (ii) next steps would be to prepare for a public consultation process, and (iii) a public consultation process would be completed before selecting a site.

In response to queries from Committee, Ian Lai, Executive Director, Urban Bounty, highlighted the benefits that community gardens bring to the community.

It was moved and seconded

*That the staff report titled “Community Gardens Referral Response,” dated July 2, 2021, from the Director, Parks Services, be received for information.*

**CARRIED**

*Councillor Day left the meeting (6:14 p.m.).*

**5. MANAGER’S REPORT**

(File Ref. No. 06-2345-01) (REDMS No. 6705760)

*(i) Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site*

Staff highlighted that (i) the Britannia Shipyards Society is actively working on developing a dock management plan, and (ii) they have reached out to the owner of the Chinese junk ship to invite them to have a presence at Britannia Shipyards on an ongoing basis as well as at Richmond Maritime Festival.

In response to queries from Committee, staff noted that the possibility of staff attending the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival, depending on Covid-19 restrictions, can be discussed with the CAO.

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**(ii) Heat Wave Update**

In response to queries from Committee, staff noted that (i) Community Services staff are working with Emergency Support Services staff and Vancouver Coastal Health to review the City's response to the heat wave at the end of June, 2021, and (ii) portable drinking fountains were not installed, but could be considered for future use depending on Covid-19 restrictions.

**(iii) Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival**

Discussion ensued with regard to the possibility of sending staff and Councillors to Port Townsend for the Wooden Boat Festival. As a result of the discussion, the following **motion** was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

***That two Councillors be named and approved to travel to the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival, provided Covid restrictions permit.***

**CARRIED**

**(iv) Temporary Dog Parks**

In response to queries from Committee, staff noted that (i) the cost of installing a temporary dog park depends on the size of park and materials, and (ii) some parks have been identified as future dogs off-leash areas.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded

***That the meeting adjourn (6:19 p.m.).***

**CARRIED**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

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Councillor Harold Steves  
Chair

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Shannon Unrau  
Legislative Services Associate



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Committee

**From:** Marie Fenwick  
Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services

**Re:** **Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency**

**Date:** August 11, 2021

**File:** 11-7000-09-01/2021-  
Vol 01

### Staff Recommendation

That the Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency proposal as detailed in the staff report titled, "Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency," dated August 11, 2021, from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services, be endorsed.

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

Att. 5

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
Finance Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>

## Staff Report

### Origin

The Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency (Blue Cabin) is designed to moor at different waterfront locations in the region. Currently located in Vancouver's False Creek, the structure consists of a floating platform with a restored heritage cabin that acts as a studio for artist-led community-based activities alongside a recently built, contemporary "off the grid" support space. This report brings for Council's endorsement, a proposal to bring the Blue Cabin to Imperial Landing for a two-year term starting in Fall 2021.

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.*

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #4 An Active and Thriving Richmond:

*An active and thriving community characterized by diverse social and wellness programs, services and spaces that foster health and well-being for all.*

### Analysis

#### Background

The Blue Cabin was originally constructed in the 1920s by an unknown Norwegian boat builder as a floating watch house for the Coal Harbour logging industry. In 1932, it was moved to the beach between the low and high tide lines at Cates Park in North Vancouver, where it was home to maritime labourers and their families. In the 1960s it became a place of creative respite for renowned Vancouver artists Al Neil and Carole Itter. Slated for demolition in 2014, the Blue Cabin was saved by a consortium of arts organizations (Grunt Gallery, Other Sights for Artists' Projects and Creative Cultural Collaborations) and has since been transformed into a floating artist residency that offers artists and the public a unique, shifting view of the region and the ideas and histories that inform it (Attachment 1).

The Blue Cabin residency program invites artists to work in the space for a six to eight week period for both solo artistic production as well as engagement with the community. When the Blue Cabin spaces are not used by resident artists, they can be booked for local programming and small events.

The inaugural program for the Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency titled *Skeins: Weaving on the Foreshore* was launched in 2019. It was a celebration of Coast Salish weaving practices from the three local nations: Debra Sparrow from Musqueam, Janice George and Buddy Joseph of Squamish, and Angela George from Squamish/Tsleil-Waututh. The program also included a residency with Australian Indigenous artist and activist Vicki Couzens produced in partnership with the Australia Council for the Arts. The program was carried out with some interruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically having to postpone the residency of Debra Sparrow.



### Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency in Richmond

As the current location in False Creek is slated for redevelopment, the Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency is seeking its next temporary location to start by the end of the year. The City of Richmond was approached by the organization in March 2021 and staff considered a few waterfront locations before determining that the small side float at Imperial Landing would be the recommended option as it is secure, easily accessible, highly visible and has access to water and power.

Staff are currently developing an agreement whereby the Blue Cabin will provide community programming in exchange for City support in relocating the platform, moorage and utilities. We anticipate the Blue Cabin will be at Imperial Landing for two years. The Blue Cabin will be used during the day and evening only with no live-aboard.

The 2022 programming is being developed and the first artists to use the space are to be Richmond-based artist Keely O'Brien and Musqueam artist Debra Sparrow who also has strong ties to Richmond. Both artists will work with the local community to offer free workshops and events as well as collaborate with local groups to inform their own practices. Details of the programming, which is still in development, are included in Attachment 2.

Staff will work with the Blue Cabin organizers to inform the programming for the rest of the tenure. It will be designed with an emphasis on arts and heritage programming with a local and community connection. This includes opportunities to partner with local events such as the Richmond Maritime Festival, Salmon Festival and other programs to animate the area. All programs will follow COVID-19 Provincial Health Orders and the City of Richmond's Restoring Richmond Plan.

The Richmond Arts Coalition and the Richmond Art Gallery have expressed interest in collaborating. Additionally, opportunities exist to work with the Steveston Historical Society, the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society, the Richmond Nature Park Society and others on heritage and/or nature themed programming. Tourism Richmond is also interested in bringing visitors to the project. Staff met with the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site Society on July 17, 2021, to review the proposal of the Blue Cabin temporary moorage at Imperial Landing. The Society was supportive of the project in principle. The Richmond Public Art Advisory Committee (RPAAC) was informed of the Blue Cabin upcoming programming at Imperial Landing email on August 31, 2021 and was in support of the project.

Letters of support from community organizations are included in Attachment 3.

### Technical Considerations

The Imperial Landing Floating Dock is a modular 600 ft. long by 20 ft. wide steel and timber waterfront amenity that is accessible by boat from the Steveston Channel, and landside from the Imperial Landing Pier by way of two gangways. Both the Imperial Landing Pier and Dock are publically accessible year-round.

The existing program for the Imperial Landing Dock was approved by Council on March 12, 2012. The program includes: 1) day moorage, 2) non-motorized recreational boat launching, 3) fishing and recreation and 4) major events, and is intended to meet multiple objectives and community needs, including hosting of maritime events, and public sightseeing access to the waterfront.

The small side float (33 ft. x 20 ft.), which is accessible from the Imperial Landing Pier via a gated gangway, is the recommended location for the Blue Cabin residency. This location provides a stable and quiet environment, sheltered from strong currents. Limited water and electrical power is also readily available (Attachment 4).

The Blue Cabin's support space building has a kitchen for the resident artist to use and two washrooms with composting toilets: one for the resident artist and one for public (for use only during scheduled programmed events). No sewer hook-up is needed. Parks will provide water and electrical hook-up.

Staff has provided depth soundings to the Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency. Based on a 2020 survey, there is a 10-11 ft. draft along the front of the main floats and 4.75-5.25 ft. depth along the front of the side float. Given the Blue Cabin's requirement of a 5 ft. draft, there may be a few days a year during the low tide season that the barge would be sitting directly on the river bed at zero or negative tides. (See Attachment 5 for Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency technical information.) Staff will work with community groups currently using Imperial Landing to ensure that the Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency does not interfere with their moorage and programming.

### **Financial Impact**

There will be one-time cost of approximately \$5,000 to the City, to be funded from an existing Public Art capital project, for the relocation of the Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency to Imperial Landing.

Any operating costs or maintenance will be the responsibility of the organizations operating the Blue Cabin; there is no additional cost. Expenses for any public programming by the City would be accommodated within existing budgets.

### **Conclusion**

The Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency offers a vantage point from which to consider the city differently. International in scope but deeply rooted in the histories and narratives of the Lower Mainland, the Blue Cabin offers artists and the public opportunities to learn, explore and engage with the foreshore.



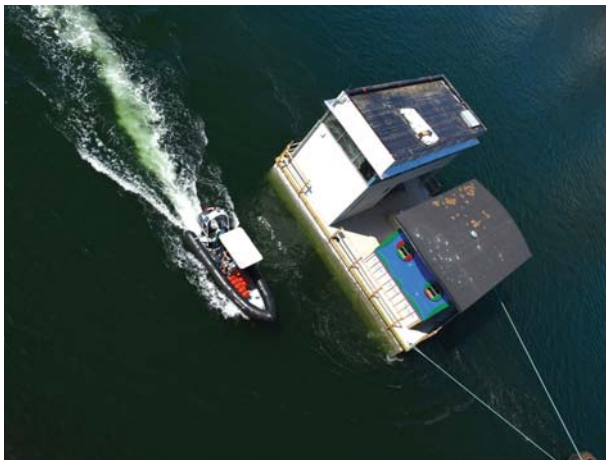
Biliana Velkova  
Public Art Planner  
(604-247-4612)

- Att. 1: Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency 2019-2021  
2: Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency 2021-2022 Programming  
3: Letters of Support from Tourism Richmond and Richmond Arts Coalition  
4: Imperial Landing Float Dock – Proposed Location for Blue Cabin  
5: Blue Cabin Information Sheet (Technical)





**The Blue Cabin floats!** What an exciting first year it was for the Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency. After several years and a huge community effort to save and restore the cabin — which included the generosity and ingenuity of Polygon Homes, Maplewood Farms, the District of North Vancouver and artist/builders Jeremy and Sus Borsos — in the spring of 2019, the Blue Cabin was moved to Vancouver Pile Driver's dry dock where its custom floating platform and the Deckhouse living space were built, overseen by architect Marko Simcic and artist Germaine Koh. The Deckhouse is a sustainable, off-the-grid living quarters with a 360 degree uninterrupted view of the water, designed as a compact but comfortable retreat for residents of the Blue Cabin. An immensely dedicated and heartfelt effort by all. In August 2019 the Blue Cabin and the Deckhouse were towed into False Creek to their new home beside the Plaza of Nations.







The story of the Blue Cabin captured the awe and imagination of the public and [the press](#), and on August 25<sup>th</sup> 2019 Creative Cultural Collaborations Society, grunt gallery and Other Sights hosted an all day event to officially launch the project. With public tours of the Cabin and Deckhouse and welcoming speeches from artist and former cabin resident Carole Itter; Committee Members Glenn Alteen, Barbara Cole, and Esther Rausenberg; City of Vancouver Public Art Program Manager Eric Frederickson; artist and weaver Angela George; Master Weaver Debra Sparrow; Chief and Master Weaver Janice George; and MLA Melanie Mark, among others. During this event, the inaugural year of programming for the Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency was unveiled. The many people who had followed the project since it began in 2015 flocked to False Creek to finally see this community effort come to fruition, exploring the remediated cabin, the custom built deckhouse and getting the chance to hear from the many dedicated and inventive people who brought this extraordinary project to life. During the launch on the 25th, there were over 500 visitors to the cabin.

The inaugural residency program, *Skins: Weaving on the Foreshore*, is a celebration of Coast Salish weaving practices that have developed in these territories since time immemorial. Anchored by the participation of weavers from the three local nations — Debra Sparrow from Musqueam, Janice George and Buddy Joseph of Squamish, and Angela George from Squamish/ Tsleil-Waututh — the first resident of the Blue Cabin was Australian Indigenous multimedia artist, activist and a world renowned possum cloak maker Vicki Couzens (Gunditjmarra), produced in partnership with Australia Council for the Arts.



Starting in September 2019 with Couzens' residency, our artists-in-residence each spent 6 weeks aboard the Blue Cabin and hosted an artist talk and several workshops where the public had the chance to learn weaving techniques in an intimate setting. Highlights from each of the residencies to date can be found below.

In the late winter, we released our first International Residency Call. The call was quite successful, taking in applications from Vancouver, across Canada, as well as proposals from several other countries. Artists were invited to submit proposals until the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, 2020. In early March, the Blue Cabin Committee jury selected two local artists and two international artists for upcoming residencies. While programming has shifted as the Blue Cabin Committee responds to Covid-19 safety considerations, all the selected artists are keen to begin their residencies and excited to develop programming with us.

In March, activities at the Blue Cabin were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the summer months, the Blue Cabin team worked together to produce programs that live online. Throughout May, June and July, Blue Cabin Engagement Coordinator Trish Klein launched a virtual film screening series in collaboration with the NFB and several local filmmakers. In this nine week series, local and national histories from Indigenous, Chinese-Canadian, environmental, archival and activist perspectives were explored. Each week, a post-screening discussion was held and live Q&A sessions were hosted with filmmakers Nettie Wild, Charles Wilkinson, Teresa Alfeld, Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers and Kathleen Hepburn.

In January 2021, after several months of disruption to our programs due to the pandemic, we were able to safely welcome local multidisciplinary artist Pippa Lattey for a residency at the Blue Cabin. Read on for further highlights from the past year at the Blue Cabin and more!



Vicki Couzens arrived from Australia in early September 2019, and was immediately struck by the beauty, uniqueness and significance of the Blue Cabin and its connection to the lands and waters of our three local host Nations. Over the course of six weeks, Couzens led workshops at the Blue Cabin and the Native Education College, presented at the World Indigenous Business Forum, and connected with local artists, activists, and community members.

*The Blue Cabin residency was an amazing experience and I can't wait to go back and visit again. It was an awesome and humbling experience to be in Vancouver, floating on False Creek, in Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh*



*nations' unceded territory. It was important to me to meet the Aboriginal Traditional Stewards of the country and to be welcomed into their lands. It was also important in sharing our stories where we have so much in common in our experiences of colonisation. I was invigorated to learn and share.*

*I loved meeting the other artists and Carole Itter at our 'welcome' dinner. I loved the chance to catch up with a couple of the artists after this and to meet other Aboriginal people in the community. I really enjoyed the public program activities and we received a big response and attendance from the wider community.*

*For my creative practice the residency allowed me time to reflect and think, to rest a bit too from the busyness of my creative life at home and so reflection helped to clarify my new direction. I was also fortunate to be invited to do an exhibition in Haida Gwaii in October 2020 so all things permitted I might be back over that way sooner rather than later. — Vicki Couzens*



Open House events were hosted during and after Vicki Couzen's Residency, allowing further opportunities for members of the public to come and learn about the cabin, its history and its new program for first year residencies: Skeins. These were all well attended with a steady flow of people coming in to visit and also share their stories and connections to the Cabin.



Following Vicki's residency, local artist and weaver **Angela George** was in residence from November, 2019 through to mid-January 2020. Her residency incorporated weaving sessions, talks, open studios, tutorials, community gatherings, as well as school and university presentations. George was given a 2 month paid research period for the development of her residency prior to her time at the cabin. As a result, she proposed the creation of a significant artwork: *Weaving Governance*, a large-scale 10' x 6' weaving to represent key elements of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation's laws, protocols and

history. This proposal was also presented as part of her final EMBA in Indigenous Leadership through Simon Fraser University. Connecting Tsleil-Waututh governance models to the long established practice of Coast Salish weaving, she envisioned *Weaving Governance* as a tool to teach and demonstrate, as George states, *the Nation's ancient*

*knowledge and connection to the lands, waters and ancestors that continue to guide and empower sustainability in modern times.*

An incredibly active member in the community, George also hosted numerous other groups at the cabin sharing her project, artistic practice and knowledge. Examples of these many visits include: high school and university students, teachers, indigenous youth groups, elders from the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh nations, an Indigenous mom and tots group, local arts and crafts communities, Vancouver Art Gallery docents, the Contemporary Art Society of Vancouver and board members from grunt gallery.



Once the residency was completed, *Weaving Governance* was displayed at the SFU Beedie School of Business building for George's colleagues and teachers in the program to review. The work was then moved to the Tsleil-Waututh Administration Building on Tsleil-Waututh Territory in North Vancouver where *Weaving Governance* has been permanently installed as both a legacy weaving work and active document that shares the nation's governance model with all who visit the offices. George generously invited members from the Blue Cabin Committee and team to attend the artwork's reveal, a very special ceremony with 200 attendees that was dedicated to all of the work that George had undertaken with this project.



***Chepximiya Siyam' Chief Janice George and Skwetsimeltxw Willard 'Buddy' Joseph*** were welcomed in February 2020 as the new artists in residence at the cabin. Both are accomplished weavers and teachers from the Squamish Nation. George is a hereditary chief, trained museum curator and educator. George also co-organized the 1st Canada Northwest Coast Weavers Gathering, with other Squamish Nation Weavers. George and Joseph are from prominent Squamish families and have numerous ceremonial and cultural responsibilities in their community. Joseph is the former director of the Squamish Housing and Capital Projects and currently consults on capital projects for First Nations communities. Together they co-founded L'hen Awtxw Weaving



House to share the teachings and practice of traditional Coast Salish wool weaving.

During their residency, George and Joseph were working on replicating a rare 18th century Coast Salish ceremonial robe. George and Joseph also were able to offer a couple of workshops before their time was sadly cut short due to Covid-19 isolation restrictions. Their unique Coast Salish robe will now be completed back home on the North Shore of the Burrard Inlet. A presentation of the complete robe is expected later in 2020.

**Debra Sparrow** will be the final artist in residence from the inaugural *Skeins: Weaving On the Foreshore* year of programming. Sparrow was meant to take up residence in April after Janice George and Buddy Joseph completed their residency. She and the Blue Cabin Committee agreed that due to Covid-19 restrictions it was best to postpone the residency until a mutually agreed upon date — Debra will join us at the Cabin in the warmer months of 2021.

Debra Sparrow was born and raised on the Musqueam Indian Reserve and is self-taught in Salish design and jewellery-making. Her contemporary work combines textile and Salish design into geometric, hand spun blankets and hangings and can be seen in various museums and institutions, including the Vancouver Airport, Museum of Civilizations in Ottawa and the University of British Columbia. Debra designed the logo for the Canadian Men's Hockey Team for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver, B.C. She also continues to work on pieces close to her heart at her home in Musqueam. It is Debra's hope to educate others about the beauty and integrity of her people's history through her art. Debra is a highly accomplished weaver, and for over 20 years has played a pivotal role in the ongoing revival of Musqueam weaving.



Meanwhile, we were thrilled to welcome Pippa Lattey for a residency at the Cabin from January 19—March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Lattey works with movement and repetition, material and technology. She collects and repurposes objects with interesting social histories and local contexts. Lattey's project at the Cabin built upon her ongoing work that honours the legacy of artist, musician and writer Al Neil, who occupied the cabin and used it as a studio for over 50 years. Lattey constructed a kinetic sculpture to rotate Neil's upright piano, mounted on a digitally controlled steel frame and programmed to follow historic tide data from the Burrard Inlet. Inside the cabin once again, the piano rotated with local data collected from False Creek. Lattey hosted a virtual artist talk and by-appointment studio visits during her residency, and broadcast a 24/7 livestream of the soundscape in and around the Cabin, in collaboration with musician Thomas Evdokimoff.



### Thanks to our generous donors!

2019-2020 was a highly successful year in fundraising for the cabin as well. The team collectively raised **\$394,000** of the \$498,000 goal to secure the first three years of operations for the cabin. The Blue Cabin team remains continually grateful for additional support and donations which are helping us to finish off final cabin and deckhouse infrastructure elements.

Thanks to a generous donation from Mark Harskamp of Divert Millwork, the deckhouse kitchen cabinet and storage units were installed. Harskamp

generously donated a significant amount of his time and labour to create this kitchen installation, working closely with deckhouse architect Marko Simcic. Divert Millwork also generously donated the majority of the supplies and materials needed for this installation. A very special gift for the Cabin and all of its future artists in residents who will benefit from this. Thank you Mark and Divert Millwork!



We are currently planning for the Blue Cabin's move to its next home, a major effort which will include hiring engineers, towing and other specialized services. Please don't hesitate to contact Anthony Meza-Wilson, Blue Cabin Managing Director, if you can assist with your skills, your time and expertise, or with funds.

Donations also support future 2021-22 programming endeavors.

Interested in donating? Visit <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/24397>

Please contact Anthony Meza-Wilson for further details: [anthony@thebluecabin.ca](mailto:anthony@thebluecabin.ca)





Thanks for your support!



Photo Credits:

The Blue Cabin in False Creek, August 2019, Photo: Henri Robideau (P1)  
Towing the Blue Cabin into False Creek, images by Tianna Barton (left) and Colin Griffiths (right) (P1)  
Blue Cabin Launch, Blue Cabin Committee (left) launch event speakers (right) Photo: Krista Lomax (P2)  
Blue Cabin Interior, 2020 Photo: Henri Robideau (P2)  
Vicki Couzen's first visit to the Blue Cabin, September 2019, Photos (left and right) Tianna Barton (P3)  
Blue Cabin Visitor (left) and Vicki Couzens presenting her work October 2019 Photos: Sunshine Frere (P4)  
Angela George leading a workshop during her residency, courtesy of the artist (P4)  
Angela George with her weaving assistant presenting her work Weaving Governance at SFU (left) (P5)  
Angela George looking over her work Weaving Governance at the Blue Cabin Deckhouse (right) (P5)  
Both page 5 photos courtesy of the artist  
Janice George & Buddy Joseph, courtesy of artists (P5)  
Debra Sparrow, Photo: City of Richmond (P6)  
Pippa Lattey's piano installation, 2021, PhotoGlenn Alteen (P6)  
Blue Cabin Interior, 2020, Photo: Henri Robideau (P6)  
Blue Cabin Interior, 2020 (left), Photo: Henri Robideau (P7)  
Blue Cabin from the waters of False Creek, 2020 (right), Photo: by @andellpsis on instagram (P7)  
The Blue Cabin in False Creek, August 2019, Photo: Henri Robideau (P7)

The Blue Cabin is an initiative by Creative Cultural Collaborations Society,  
grunt gallery and Other Sights for Artists' Projects Association.

**Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency  
2021-2022 Programming Year  
Upcoming Artists**

**Debra Sparrow – Autumn/Winter 2021**

The fourth and final residency in our *Skeins: Weaving on the Foreshore* program will be with Musqueam master weaver Debra Sparrow. Debra Sparrow was born and raised on the Musqueam Indian Reserve and is self-taught in Salish design and jewellery-making.

Her contemporary work combines textile and Salish design into geometric, hand spun blankets and hangings and can be seen in various museums and institutions, including the Vancouver Airport, Museum of Civilizations in Ottawa and the University of British Columbia. Debra designed the logo for the Canadian Men's Hockey Team for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver, B.C. She also continues to work on pieces close to her heart at her home in Musqueam. It is Debra's hope to educate others about the beauty and integrity of her people's history through her art. Debra is a highly accomplished weaver, and for over 20 years has played a pivotal role in the ongoing revival of Musqueam weaving.

**Keely O'Brien - Spring 2022**

Keely O'Brien is a Richmond-based community engaged arts educator who creates and facilitates participatory and collaborative artwork with community members and organizations. Deeply siteresponsive and engaged with questions of place, home, and belonging, Keely's work aims to celebrate the potential for creativity and community in the place and people around her. Keely is Co-Artistic Director of experimental theatre company [Popcorn Galaxies](#).

She holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from Simon Fraser University. Keely has works in the City of Richmond Public Art collection and was the 2018 Artist-in-residence at the Branscombe House.



205 South Tower, 5811 Cooney Rd  
Richmond, British Columbia  
Canada, V6X 3M1  
604 821 5474  
info@tourismrichmond.com

August 19, 2021

RE: Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency in Imperial Landing in Richmond

To whom it may concern,

The Blue Cabin Floating Residency is a unique cultural experience that will offer not only engagement opportunities for local artists, but also provide a unique experience for locals and visitors. We believe that the Blue Cabin will enhance the waterfront experience in Steveston and create a new way to for all to experience the river and art.

We fully support the relocation of the Blue Cabin to Steveston's Imperial landing.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Small". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Small  
CEO, Tourism Richmond



**RICHMOND**  
**ARTS** YOUR  
**COALITION** ARTS VOICE

August 24, 2021

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing to you today to communicate the support of the Richmond Arts Coalition for the Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency project that is being presented to you. It was my pleasure to be invited to tour the Blue Cabin, at its present location in False Creek Monday August 9<sup>th</sup>, with members of City staff and Richmond Tourism and find out more about the project and the history behind the Blue Cabin.

Richmond Arts Coalition will collaborate with the Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency and the City of Richmond to support unique cultural and engagement opportunities for Richmond artists. Richmond Arts Coalition feels that this project will gain wide community exposure and the Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency will foster collaborations between local artists, communities and other stakeholders to share knowledge, build connections and develop new ways of engagement. The Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency Project will also support and enhance the goals of Richmond's Arts Strategy to increase awareness and participation in the arts spaces through (and for) the arts.

In closing the Richmond Arts Coalition supports the moving of the Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency from its present location in False Creek to Imperial Landing in Richmond, even though it is possibly only a short term, to add yet another venue for artists of different genres to work, display their works and hold workshops or speaker series to educate the Richmond community. Richmond can truly benefit from hosting the Blue Cabin Artist Residency Project.

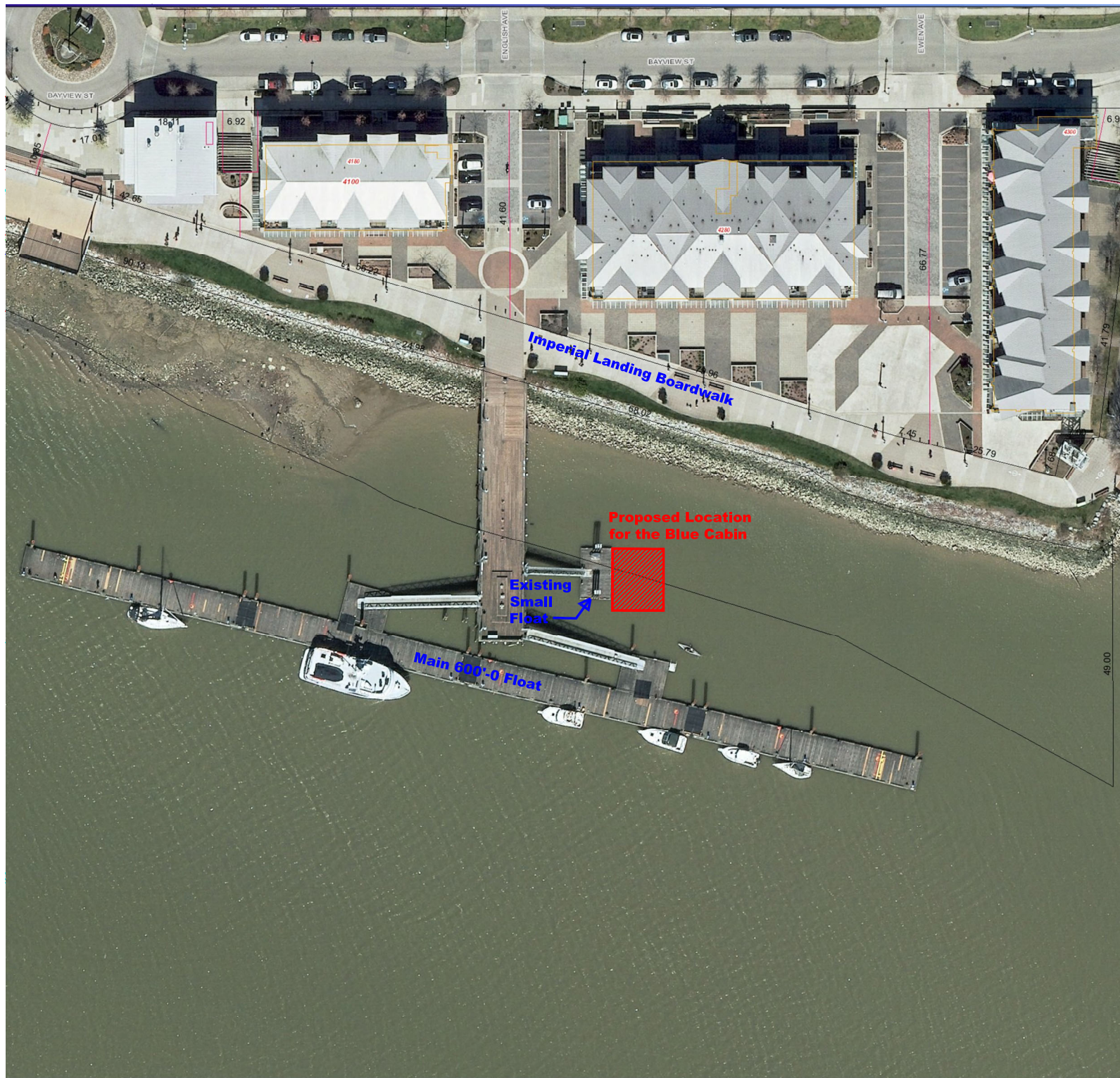
Thank you very much for accepting our letter of support.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Dufour', followed by a horizontal line.

Paul Dufour  
Vice Chair  
Richmond Arts Coalition







## The Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency



Architectural visualization only

In 2014, grunt gallery began working in partnership with Other Sights for Artists' Projects (Other Sights) and Creative Cultural Collaborations (C3) to develop the concept for a permanent engagement site for the Blue Cabin.

Given the need for artist residency space in Vancouver and the cabin's history on the foreshore, the team oversaw the cabin's refurbishment and are repurposing it as an off-the-grid floating artist residency on the Lower Mainland waterfront. Mounted to a floating platform, the historic cabin will function as a dedicated studio alongside a small residential component to house visiting artists

### INFORMATION SHEET

#### **We are Seeking:**

- Moorage space to host residencies – negotiable term, 2 years ideally

**Designation:** Pleasure craft

**Size:** Approximately 32' x 40' - 7' hull height

**Hull:** Foam filled concrete hull, flat bottom

**Cabin:** All above deck components, wood

**Finished Weight:** Approximately 172 tons

**Draft:** Approximately 5'

**Freeboard:** 2'

**Moorage:** 4"x 8" wood rub rails all round

**Vessel Capacity:** 20 people maximum

**Engineering:** All components designed by engineers, structural and marine.

**Insurance:** Coverage for vessel and cargo, and Protection & Indemnity Liability

**Moving:** Light towage – contracted skiff or small tug

**Systems:** electrical hook-up 50A – ideally 240V w 3 pin adapter photovoltaic solar power and generator back-up. Water tanks (filled by standard 5/8" garden hose 400'), grey water system, composting toilet.

**Heating:** Cabin and tiny house, electric heat.

**Safety:** As per CSA 201, small vessel regulations; life-saving equipment as per regulations (first aid, flotation device, fire extinguishers, etc.)



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Committee

**Date:** August 30, 2021

**From:** Elizabeth Ayers  
Director, Recreation and Sport Services




**File:** 11-7000-01/2021-Vol  
01

**Re:** Summer Program Update 2021

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled, "Summer Program Update 2021", dated August 30, 2021, from the Director, Recreation and Sport Services, be received for information.

Elizabeth Ayers  
Director, Recreation and Sport Services  
(604-247-4669)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
Arts, Culture & Heritage Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b> 

## Staff Report

### Origin

Summer is a highly anticipated season in community facilities characterized by distinct programming opportunities for the City and our community partners. This report provides a summary of the Community Services Division's summer programs and initiatives for children, youth and families that met multiple objectives related to Council-approved strategies including the Recreation and Sport Strategy (2019-2024), Community Wellness Strategy (2018-2023), and Arts Strategy (2019-2024).

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.*

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #4 An Active and Thriving Richmond:

*An active and thriving community characterized by diverse social and wellness programs, services and spaces that foster health and well-being for all.*

*4.1 Robust, affordable, and accessible sport, recreation, wellness and social programs for people of all ages and abilities.*

This report supports the following focus areas in the Recreation and Sport Strategy 2019-2024:

Focus Area #2 Engaged Community:

*Recreation and sport opportunities are accessible, inclusive and support the needs of a growing and diverse population in Richmond.*

Focus Area #3 Physical Literacy and Sport for Life:

*Richmond residents have the fundamental movement skills, competence, confidence and motivation to move for a lifetime.*

Focus Area #6 Community Capacity-Building:

*Collaborations, partnerships and volunteerism are strengthened to expand the reach and impact of recreation and sport in Richmond.*

This report supports the following focus areas in the Community Wellness Strategy 2018-2023:

Focus Area #1:

*Foster healthy, active and involved lifestyles for all Richmond residents with an emphasis on physical activity, healthy eating and mental wellness.*

Focus Area #2:

*Enhance physical and social connectedness within and among neighbourhoods and communities.*

## Analysis

Through a relationship-based service delivery model, Community Services and respective Community Associations and Societies offered a wide range of summer programs and activities for children, youth and families designed to meet diverse physical, social and cultural interests and needs. As in previous years, the 2021 summer season offered distinct opportunities for programming due to the following factors:

- Children and youth are out of school;
- Warmer days allow for a wider variety of activities;
- Outdoor pools and school facilities are available for use; and
- Young adults and youth are available to work and volunteer in programs in the community.

Affordable, accessible and inclusive opportunities for all ages were offered during the summer to provide participants with active, interesting and fun experiences to learn new skills, connect to their community, and reinforce a sense of belonging. Programs and activities for children, youth and families were especially important given the nine week break for the majority of schools in Richmond. Since many parents and guardians work during the summer, full day camp options were popular as a daycare alternative. Registered programs, typically occurring once per week over several weeks, were also available. Additionally, family-oriented, drop-in style activities, such as public skates at the Richmond Ice Centre, public swims at South Arm Outdoor Pool, or the Richmond Museum's *City at Work* exhibition, provided opportunities for families to participate together. The Recreation Fee Subsidy Program continued to support children, youth and families to participate in summer programs and camps, with over \$3,500 in funding provided over the nine week period.

Table 1 below lists the participation for summer daycamps and other registered programs over the past three summers, with 2019 being the last ‘regular’ operating year prior to the pandemic.

Table 1: Community Services Summer Registration – Daycamps and Registered Programs

<b>Program Category</b>	<b>2019 Registrations</b>	<b>2020 Registrations</b>	<b>2021 Registrations</b>
Summer Daycamps	11,816	1,298	5,687
Registered Programs	17,913	1,319	11,793
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,729</b>	<b>2,617</b>	<b>17,480</b>

Table 2 below lists the participation in other registered programs, not including daycamps, broken down by program category.

Table 2: Community Services Summer Registration – Registered Programs by Program Category

<b>Registered Program Category</b>	<b>2019 Registrations*</b>	<b>2020 Registrations*</b>	<b>2021 Registrations*</b>
Swimming lessons	6,396	368	2,188
Skating lessons	890	0**	930
Arts – dance, music, visual and performing arts	3,970	68	1,320
Computers, Technology and Social Media	140	0**	24
Cooking	401	0**	0**
General Interest (including Museum and Heritage programs)	880	82	753
Martial Arts	621	16	239
Nature and Science	560	81	594
Online	n/a	n/a	1,509***
Racquet Sports – tennis and badminton	870	85	495
Sports/Fitness/Health – physical literacy, sports (e.g., basketball, soccer) and group exercise	3,185	562	3,741
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,913</b>	<b>1,262</b>	<b>11,793</b>

\* Includes registration for all ages

\*\* Not offered due to COVID-19 health restrictions

\*\*\* Included in other program categories prior to 2021

Despite limitations on program offerings due to health restrictions, registration numbers were promising in 2021 and indicate a steady recovery towards pre-pandemic participation. It is expected that program offerings and participation numbers will return to historical levels in 2022, barring any further COVID-19 impacts.

### Daycamps

Daycamps provide engaging experiences for children to stay active, try new things, build social skills, connect with new peers and build a sense of community belonging. Daycamps also play an important function in providing child care for working parents or guardians. As the COVID-19 pandemic continued, daycamps were even more important due to the social isolation, increased screen time and lower activity levels that many have experienced. In alignment with health and safety restrictions, daycamps took place outdoors with an emphasis on activities within the local neighbourhood. Participant numbers were limited with a higher ratio of instructors to participants, and participants were organized into smaller cohorts. Summer daycamps were offered through community centres, the Richmond Arts Centre, Richmond Nature Park and Minoru Arena, as well as an Archaeology Summer Camp at the London Heritage Farm.

Furthermore, the West Richmond Summer Slam Basketball Program, comprising of basketball camps and an inclusive league, resumed in 2021. This grass-roots developmental basketball experience provided approximately 250 children and youth in grades 4 to 11 with the opportunity to partake in a positive and inviting environment while growing their skills, developing team work and building positive relationships. Summer Slam also provided volunteer and paid employment opportunities for 24 youth.

### Drop-in Programs and Registered Visits

In addition to summer daycamps and registered programs, a wide range of drop-in and registered visit opportunities were available. These included fitness and sport activities at community centres, including Minoru Centre for Active Living, as well as public skates at the Richmond Ice Centre, where over 7,000 registered and drop-in visits occurred.

Always a popular and highly anticipated seasonal amenity, the Steveston and South Arm Outdoor Pools provide another way for children, youth and families to be active and play together. Indoor public swimming was also offered, in addition to swimming lessons at both indoor and outdoor pools. Over 97,000 visits were recorded for public swims and lane swims at the City's aquatics facilities over July and August.

*The Voyage of the Gikumi: Exploring the Fraser River Estuary* was an exciting new offering at Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site this summer, which consisted of a pre-registered three hour boat cruise aboard the MV Gikumi, a 67-year old restored West Coast work boat. The unforgettable experience enabled participants to discover the engaging stories, lore and legends that make the Fraser River such a potent force for both creation and destruction. Over 110 people attended the tours, including four sold-out voyages.

### Youth Programs and Activities

A wide variety of activities were offered for youth this summer across the City's community centres, with a greater focus on outdoor-based programs. In addition to our 'traditional' registered programs attended by over 200 youth in 2021, over 60 youth participated in newly offered programs such as Bike Camps, Photo Walks, and High School Prep camps. The breadth of experiences offered ranged from sport skills, hip hop and K-pop dance, improv theatre, leadership, self-care, do-it-yourself and STEM projects, visual arts and financial literacy. In addition, a number of low cost, no cost opportunities such as weekly open gyms and youth hangouts were provided to allow a safe place for youth to spend time while being active and meeting friends.

The Link Program ("Link"), a referral-based program led by a Youth Outreach Worker to provide support and mentorship to vulnerable youth while building capacity, connecting with peers and developing a sense of community belonging, was also offered. Link enabled 16 youth to build strong, positive relationships with the goal of transitioning them into mainstream recreational, cultural and social opportunities, such as those offered through the City's nine community centres. The program was offered two to three times per week over seven weeks and provided youth with different physical and social activities such as hiking, biking, and indoor climbing at locations within the Lower Mainland, with some activities facilitated in partnership with youth-focused clinical counsellors from Vancouver Coastal Health.

The Richmond Youth Media Program ("RYMP") also continued weekly skill sessions and community engagement projects, including outdoor RYMP in the Park sessions. The 200+ hours of projects that youth engaged in included learning macro nature photography and music video creation, as well as a youth presentation to our community partners at The Foundry.

Lastly, Richmond Public Art partnered with the West Richmond Community Association to commission artists Sam McWilliams, Paige Gratland and Phranc to create a public artwork in collaboration with LGBTQ2+ youth. The youth played an active role in developing the project opportunity, including the development of the call to artists, artist selection, concept development and installation of the artwork. *Signs of Pride* is a vinyl wrap installed on three exterior concrete columns on the west façade of the West Richmond Community Centre.

### Free Programs, Events and Activities

There were a variety of free programs and events for children and families alike, which allowed participants to enjoy physical, artistic, cultural and social activities. These opportunities included:

- Weekly, free drop-in programs offered at nine neighbourhood parks throughout the city, for children from six to 12 years of age to try fun arts, crafts and sports facilitated by Summer Outreach Leaders;
- Neighbourhood Block Party at South Arm Community Centre, which featured an outdoor paint night, taiko drumming workshop and social media contest;

- Living History program at London Heritage Farm and Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site, an opportunity to step into the past to view and participate in historical demonstrations led by costume interpreters;
- Richmond Nature Park's four walking trails, where visitors used their free trail guide to explore the plants and animals in bog, forest and pond habitats;
- Terra Nova Adventure Play Environment, which gave families an opportunity to play and be adventurous together, whether sliding down the hillside slide, zooming along the zipline or climbing the 10 metre tall tree house;
- Richmond Museum's exhibition, *City at Work*, where attendees explored the invisible inner workings of the City of Richmond;
- Richmond Art Gallery's summer exhibition, *Imperfect Offerings*, featuring delicately repaired kintsugi pottery, with related online and in-person events;
- Big Red Scavenger Hunt, a web-based outdoors adventure to uncover Steveston's history and mysteries at heritage locations such as Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site, Imperial Landing and the Gulf of Georgia Cannery;
- Canada Day in Richmond, a re-imagined online festival presented in partnership with Steveston Salmon Festival with a salmon-themed public art scavenger hunt, digital parade, pre-recorded mainstage and more;
- Richmond Maritime Festival at the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site, with wooden boats, storytelling and roving entertainment; and
- Branscombe House's online and in-person workshops for youth and adults in zine making, basket weaving, printmaking and more, led by artist-in-residence, Rachel Rozanski.

These free programs, events and activities provided opportunities for children and families to meet new friends, connect and get to know each other, and explore the wonders of their local community, thus supporting physical, mental, social and emotional wellness and leading to a more connected community.

### Employment and Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers play a vital role in supporting the delivery of many summer programs and events. Volunteers learn new skills and accomplish personal development goals while increasing competence, confidence and build community capacity. These volunteer positions often lead to employment as a daycamp leader, youth leader or program instructor in future years. Many students, at the high school and post secondary level, find that the skills developed in summer programs, such as leadership, critical thinking and decision making, are highly valued in future careers. Volunteers were welcomed back to our summer programs and events in 2021 which resulted in over 40 volunteers contributing over 2,500 hours of service altogether.

### Program Highlights

Participants shared their appreciation for the variety of programs and the benefits they and their children experienced. The following are a few of the many positive testimonials from Summer



2021 program leaders and participants, demonstrating the benefits to participating in these meaningful and impactful activities:

“I made so many new friends at camps. We even play basketball together after camps now!” – Participant, 14 years old, City Centre Community Centre

“I have benefited immensely from LINK. I was able to meet new friends, explore new places, and have the time of my life! As a teenager, I tend to stay indoors more than I should and joining this program was just the outlet I needed. It offered a multitude of activities to do indoors and outdoors and I fully enjoyed all the ones I attended! I highly recommend this program to any teenagers wanting to spice up their lives!” – Participant, 18 years old

“[Our youth employee] began his journey at the Nature Park in 2017 as a participant in Camp Ecology for two summers. He also accompanied his mother to the Nature Park program she was the instructor for. Soon after, he volunteered for Polliwog Preschool Camp. He was inspired by the amazing role models his leaders were for him and he wanted to embody those same characteristics. He is now part of our staff team and is working his way up to become a leader. We strive to pull children away from their devices and plug them back into nature to create more youths like [him]!” – Nature Park

“I just really want to thank you and your team of coaches for putting together this amazing [Summer Slam] league. Honestly, it has been THE highlight of my son’s summer. He really looks forward to each practice and game. I really appreciate how the coaches are so encouraging and positive. He has developed a real love for basketball through playing in this league. His skills have improved and he is motivated to practice at home. It’s been so tremendous for [him] and I am very grateful to you and all the coaches for your time, dedication, and hard work!” – Parent/guardian of 11 year old participant, West Richmond Community Centre

“I really liked learning how to code in camps! Even though there are a lot of free resources online, I liked learning from the leaders. It was so fun!” – Participant, 13 years old, City Centre Community Centre

“[My son] came home really excited about a leadership program [the daycamp leader] did with the group yesterday. He showed me his training worksheets and was very interested in it. I thought this was amazing and wanted to let you know.” – Parent/guardian of 8 year old participant, West Richmond Community Centre

“A family who registered their child in our camps moved here from Hong Kong two months ago and were nervous that their child would be really shy in camps not have any friends here. The parents complimented our leaders on their abilities to create an environment that was inclusive and encouraged new friendships. The child came into camp not knowing anyone in Canada and left the camp making new friends in their neighbourhood.” – Summer Coordinator, Steveston Community Centre

“Open gym has been one of the best highlights of summer. To me, open gym was a way to practice and have fun with people. It was also a way to practice volleyball with people who were at different levels, and to meet new people.” – Participant, 15 years old, Cambie Community Centre

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

Summer programs continue to be valued by the community. They provide opportunities for participants of all ages to meet new friends, and remain physically and mentally active while developing new skills and building confidence. Summer programs also assist in building stronger and more resilient neighbourhoods. All of these opportunities are fundamental to achieving the City’s Recreation and Sport Strategy vision for Richmond to be a leader in the planning and delivery of recreation and sport opportunities, inspiring individuals and communities to be active, connected and healthy for a lifetime.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Close'.

Kirsten Close  
Manager, Community Recreation Services  
(604-247-4461)



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Committee

**Date:** September 8, 2021

**From:** Todd Gross  
Director, Parks Services

**File:** 06-2345-20-GCIT1/Vol  
01

**Re:** Garden City Lands Project Update

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Garden City Lands Project Update," dated September 8, 2021, from the Director, Park Services be received for information.

Todd Gross,  
Director, Park Services  
(604-247-4942)

Att. 3

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 
APPROVED BY CAO 	

## **Staff Report**

### **Origin**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on recent and planned activities on the Garden City Lands (the Lands) as requested by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee and to follow-up on the staff report titled “Agricultural Land Commission Non-Farm Use Application by the City of Richmond for Community Gardens at 5560 Garden City Road (The Garden City Lands),” dated February 23, 2021.

### **Analysis**

#### Recent Project Activities

The following is a summary of current activities related to this project:

#### *Community Gardens*

Approval was received from the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) for placement of community gardens on the Lands on August 13, 2021. Staff are now working on the layout and construction of the community gardens and will be collaborating with Urban Bounty (UB), formerly Richmond Food Security, for the administration of the garden beds. The gardens are scheduled to be completed late winter and ready for gardeners in spring of 2022. Consistent with the Approval from the ALC, approximately 200 community garden plots and up to 20 parking spots will be installed to meet the needs of the community. See Attachment 1 – Garden City Lands Community Gardens Layout Plan, for more details.

Updates related to the City-wide community garden process will be the subject of an upcoming committee report.

#### *Soil Remediation*

On November 26, 2019, Council reviewed the staff report titled “Garden City Lands Update and Site Activation Plan” and approved staff to proceed with further site investigation and characterization of the soil contaminants. Based on that direction, staff applied to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund Grant program which Council approved on December 14, 2020 (Attachment 2 – Council Committee Meeting Minutes - December 14, 2020). The recently announced award from the FCM Grant program of \$175,000 will support the ongoing soil remediation studies on the Lands. Consequently, staff will be issuing a Request for Proposals this fall to select a qualified environmental professional specialized in testing, analyzing and recommending next steps for the management of the contaminated soils on the site.

Work is expected to commence this fall with extensive testing via bore holes and creation of monitoring wells. The results on this initial testing phase will determine the next steps in the overall remediation program. It is expected that the study will be approximately three years in duration depending the test results and methods of remediation required.

### *Seating*

Consistent with the Garden City Legacy Landscape Plan and in response to several requests from the community, 12 benches will be installed along the Perimeter Trail at key locations in consideration of views and key park assets. The benches selected, which include recycled plastic composite components, will become the standard bench for the site in keeping with the agricultural theme of the Lands. More amenities may be added as public need increases and the City receives approvals from the ALC to fully open the site to the public.

### *Planting*

Staff are finalizing plans and securing plant material for an extensive planting program which is planned to proceed this fall and winter (late 2021 into early 2022). The plant material selected (Attachment 3 – Garden City Lands Native Plant List) are primarily native species in keeping with the original planting design implemented in 2017. This phase will see over 500 trees and over 20,000 shrubs planted throughout the perimeter trail system over the winter months. Planting during the rainy season and supplementing new plantings with additional watering during the summer of the first year will help ensure plant survival to the greatest extent possible. In keeping with the future agriculturally focused activities planned for the western half of the site, some non-native, fruit bearing trees will be planted along the Garden City Road frontage as a demonstration for residents of flowering and fruit bearing trees which support beneficial insects, pollinators and birds in the home landscape. Final species selection will be dependant on nursery stock availability.

### *Soil Placement*

Staff continue to seek and identify appropriate soil source sites in Richmond as viable, clean material for the Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) farm area as approved by Council. The City has received approval from the ALC to place soil in the area the City has leased to KPU for its teaching and research farm. Staff will ensure that soil test results are received and meet provincial contaminated sites standards prior to the importation of any soil material into the site in order to secure soil with the best quality are received for agricultural purposes. Soil placement results in revenue for the City as per the Soil Fee Bylaw.

### *Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) Farm Area*

KPU has secured provincial grant funding for the construction of a proposed barn structure to support farming and educational activities on the Lands. While still early in the planning process, City staff are meeting regularly with KPU to map out the process which would include a request for approval from Council as well as a Non-Farm Use Application with the ALC. As the landowner, the City would be filing this Application on behalf of KPU.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

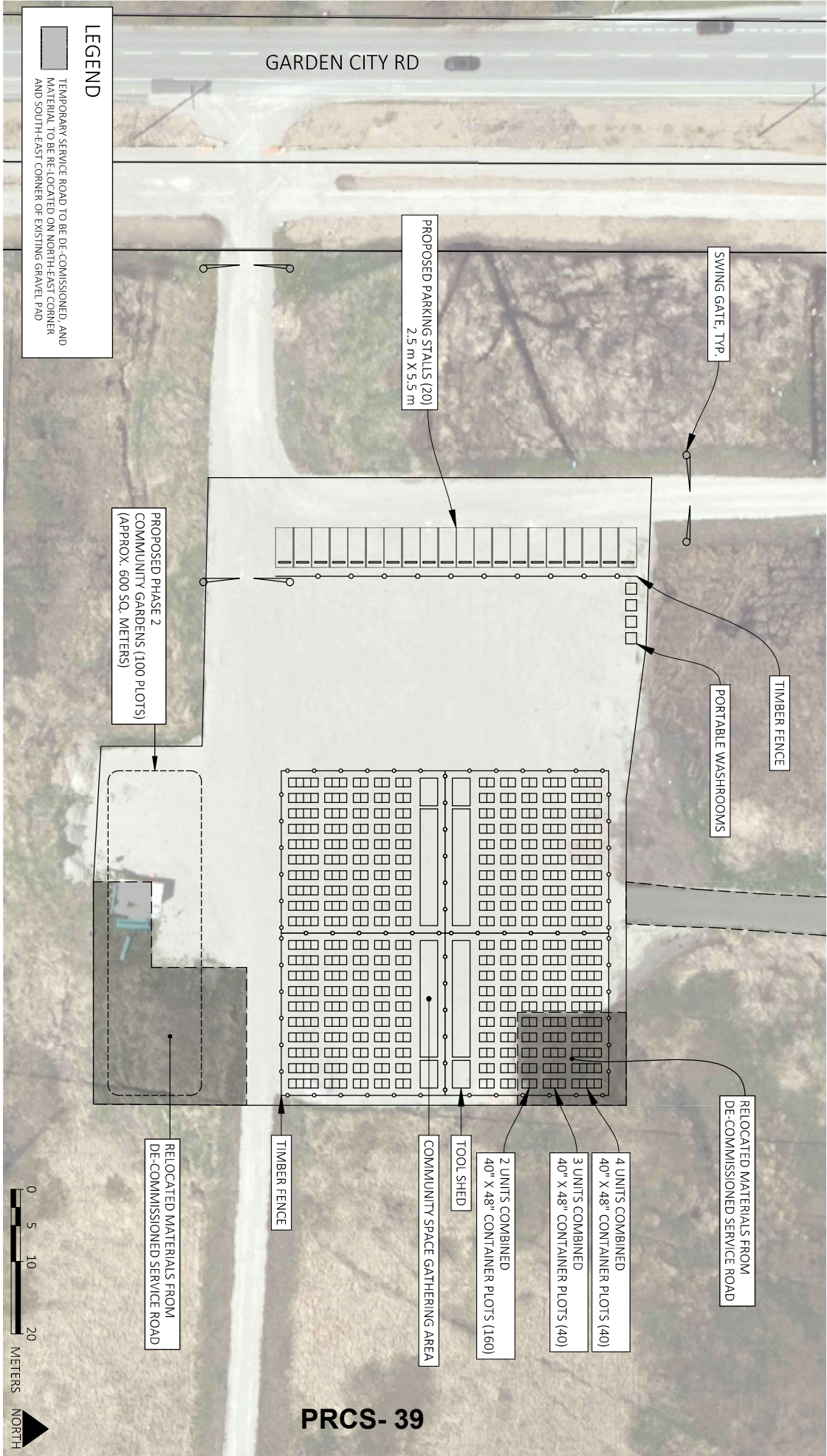
## **Conclusion**

Staff will continue to develop the Garden City Lands and provide periodic updates to Council as requested as work proceeds.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Kurnicki', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alexander Kurnicki  
Manager, Park Programs  
(604-276-4099)

- Att. 1: Garden City Lands Community Gardens Layout Plan  
2: Council Committee Meeting Minutes - December 14, 2020  
3: Garden City Lands Native Plant List





## Council Committee Meeting Minutes - December 14, 2020

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

4. FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES' GREEN MUNICIPAL FUND APPLICATION – CITY OF RICHMOND GARDEN CITY LANDS SOIL MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIATION STUDY

(File Ref. No. 06-2345-20-GCIT1) (REDMS No. 6543930 v. 17)

In reply to queries from Committee, by teleconference, Alex Kurnicki, Research Planner 2, provided the following information:

- there is low level contamination throughout the Garden City Lands as a result of the Lands' historical use, primarily a shooting range and Transport Canada communication towers;
- the proposed soil management and remediation study will identify areas of concentration and further characterize the contamination;
- imported soil was placed on the site to cap the underlying contaminated parent material and provide an uncontaminated rooting zone for the field crops for Kwantlen Polytechnic University's operations;
- sample taking and testing will be underway relatively quickly despite the full study work program taking approximately three years to complete;
- the actual management of contaminated material and remediation of the site will be part of a separate work-plan and remediation program; once completed, the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment will be updated; and
- the ultimate goal is for the City to receive a Land Remediation Section Certificate of Compliance from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

Discussion took place on prioritizing testing of the western half of the site in an effort to expedite the provision of community gardens and the Chair directed staff to provide a memorandum to Council on the provision of community gardens. Discussion further ensued on the need for regular updates on the proposed soil management and remediation study and as a result, the following **motion** was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

- (1) ***That the Garden City Lands Contaminated Soils Management and Remediation Study proposed within the staff report titled "Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund Application – City of Richmond Garden City Lands Soil Management and Remediation Study" dated November 18, 2020, from the Director, Park Services, be endorsed and a funding application to conduct the study be prepared and submitted to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund;***
- (2) ***That the Chief Administrative Officer and General Manager, Community Services, be authorized to enter into funding agreements with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities should the project be approved for funding and that the Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan (2021-2025) be amended accordingly; and***
- (3) ***That staff provide regular updates on the Garden City Lands Contaminated Soils Management and Remediation Study.***

**CARRIED**

# Garden City Lands Native Plant List

## Plant List

### Garden City Lands

All Zones - Phase 1

Denotes native species

ID	Qty	Botanical Name	Common Name	Scheduled Size	Spacing
<b>Trees</b>					
ACR	64	Acer circinatum	Vine Maple	2.4 m ht. (8'-0" ht.)	As Shown
AGL	81	Acer glabrum	Rocky Mountain Maple	3.0 m ht. (10'-0" ht.)	As Shown
AMC	35	Acer macrophyllum	Big Leaf Maple	3.0 m ht. (10'-0" ht.)	As Shown
AAL	95	Amelanchier alnifolia	Saskatoon Serviceberry	3.0 m ht. (9'-0" ht.)	As Shown
CNW	48	Cornus 'Eddie's White Wonder'	Eddie's White Wonder Dogwood	5 cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
CMA	18	Cornus mas	Cornelian Cherry Dogwood	5 cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
CCO	32	Corylus cornuta	Beaked hazelnut	2.4 m ht. (8'-0" ht.)	As Shown
CDG	26	Crataegus douglasii	Black hawthorn	5 cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
HMM	24	Hamamelis mollis	Chinese Witchhazel	3.0m ht. (9'-0" ht.)	As Shown
MHC	10	Malus 'Honeycrisp'	Honeycrisp Apple	5 cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
MLI	10	Malus 'Liberty'	Liberty Apple	5 cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
MAF	28	Malus fusca	Pacific Crabapple	5 cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
MPF	26	Malus x 'Prairie Fire'	Prairie Fire Crabapple	5 cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
PSC	35	Picea sitchensis	Sitka Spruce	2.4 m ht. (8'-0" ht.)	As Shown
PAL	4	Prunus avium 'Lapins'	Lapins Sweet Cherry	5 cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
PAS	3	Prunus avium 'Stella'	Stella Sweet Cherry	5 cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
PCE	5	Prunus cerasus	Sour Cherry	5 cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
PRB	5	Prunus domestica 'Blue Damson'	Blue Damson Plum	5 cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
PRD	5	Prunus domestica 'Italian'	Italian Prune Plum	5 cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
PRM	3	Prunus mandshurica	Manchurian Apricot	5 cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
PRN	2	Prunus nigra	Canada Plum	5 cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
PMZ	41	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	2.4 m ht. (8'-0" ht.)	As Shown
PBA	7	Pyrus communis 'Bartlett'	Bartlett Pear	5 cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
PBO	4	Pyrus communis 'Bosc'	Bosc Pear	5 cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
RHP	12	Rhamnus purshiana	Cascara	5cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
SSI	6	Sorbus sitchensis	Western Mountain Ash	5 cm cal. (2" cal.)	As Shown
TPL	77	Thuja plicata	Western Red Cedar	2.4 m ht. (8'-0" ht.)	As Shown
THT	8	Tsuga heterophylla	Western Hemlock	2.4 m ht. (8'-0" ht.)	As Shown
<b>Shrubs</b>					
CSR	328	Cornus sericea	Red-osier Dogwood	#1 pot	90cm (36")
GSH	894	Gaultheria shallon	Salal	#1 pot	60cm (24")
MGA	40	Myrica gale	Bog Myrtle	#1 pot	90cm (36")
OEM	117	Oemleria cerasiformis	Indian Plum	#1 pot	90cm (36")
PAX	916	Paxistima myrsinites	Oregon Boxleaf	#1 pot	60cm (24")
PHL	471	Philadelphus lewisii	Interior Mock Orange	#3 pot	90cm (36" o
PHC	1200	Physocarpus capitatus	Pacific Ninebark	#1 pot	90cm (36")
PRE	49	Prunus emarginata	Bitter Cherry	#1 pot	90cm (36")
RSA	1333	Ribes sanguineum	Flowering Currant	#1 pot	60cm (24")
RGY	637	Rosa gymnocarpa	Baldhip Rose	#1 pot	60cm (24")
RNT	1878	Rosa nutkana	Nootka Rose	#1 pot	60cm (24")
RBI	213	Rubus idaeus	Red Raspberry	#1 pot	60cm (24")
RPR	639	Rubus parviflorus	Thimbleberry	#1 pot	90cm (36")
RSP	363	Rubus spectabilis	Salmonberry	#1 pot	60cm (24")
SAN	779	Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea	Blue Elderberry	#1 pot	90cm (36")
SRC	536	Sambucus racemosa	Red Elderberry	#1 pot	90cm (36")
SPB	772	Spiraea betulifolia var. lucida	Shinyleaf Spiraea	#1 pot	60cm (24")
SDG	1207	Spiraea douglasii	Douglas Spiraea	#1 pot	60cm (24")
SYM	1224	Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry	#1 pot	60cm (24")
VMY	1109	Vaccinium myrtilloides	Velvetleaf Blueberry	#1 pot	60cm (24")
VOL	781	Vaccinium ovalifolium	Alaska Blueberry	#1 pot	60cm (24")
VOT	999	Vaccinium ovatum 'Thunderbird'	Thunderbird Evergreen Huckleberry	#1 pot	60cm (24")
VPR	752	Vaccinium parvifolium	Red Huckleberry	#1 pot	60cm (24")
VBE	66	Viburnum edule	Highbush Cranberry	#1 pot	60cm (24")