

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER

**Meeting of the Multicultural Community Festival Task Force  
Held at City Hall, 141 West 14th Street, North Vancouver, BC  
In the Conference A Meeting Room on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022**

---

**MINUTES**

---

<b>Present:</b>	N. Cottingham Powell Councillor Girard A. Hazfi S. Ischenko L. Lawry B. Ng M. Rezaei T. Sun E. Xie
<b>Staff:</b>	R. Fish, Administrative Coordinator L. Orr, Acting Director K. Pighin, Cultural Services Supervisor, NVRC L. Stirling, Community and Partner Relations Specialist
<b>Regrets:</b>	O. Bornik A. Goel-Stevens R. Greene C. Soriano

---

**1. Call to Order**

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm. The meeting minutes of September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 were approved as circulated.

**2. Group Presentations**

Group 1 and Group 2 presented on their findings. The main points included but were not limited to the following:

**Group 1**

- Water and energy themes represent North Vancouver
- Share living experiences
- Show off art, dance, performances, music, craft shows, food, kids activities
- Include community, sponsors and volunteers with a variety of venues
- Take place in the summer, beginning of summer break, lower, central and upper Lonsdale included
- Recommend a two full day event
- Include small businesses, City, banks, private organizations, school, youth groups, community police

- Online applications on City website and social media
- Folklorama – Winnipeg
  - Marketing, organization, service, culture, art, celebration, promotion
  - Social media is strong and effective
  - Well organized with signage and ATMs
  - Official partners and sponsors
  - Child admission is free
  - General admission is around \$7
  - Dinner reservations at different pavilions
  - Large pavilions to represent each culture
  - Cycle groups and bus tours
  - Accessibility guides and tours for people with limited mobility
  - Dietary accommodations
  - Evening shows
- Nova Multifest - Nova Scotia
  - Smaller scale and more personal
  - Performances, demonstrations and exhibits
  - Private city celebration
  - Local unity, family only
  - Three day long welcome pack
  - 5-6 large sponsors
  - Partners and organizations can apply online
  - Performances, vendors and volunteers can apply online
- Find a balance in-between the two

*Dinner was served at 7:10PM while Group 2 presented.*

## **Group 2**

- Want to mix cultures as much as possible
- Language lessons, food and drink
- Shows and performances, seminars and workshops
- Films and books
- Various locations around the City, including churches
- Stream performances online
- Generate a deep understanding of the cultures
- Bring a mosaic culture to the festival, focus on integration
- Cultural Passport, collect stamps from different locations
- Welcome Ottawa Week
  - 365 days, 100+ discoveries, a million ways to connect
  - Event is held over a week and all year online
- Annual North Shore Folkfest Festival
  - First Multicultural Society in Vancouver
  - Dance and performance from various groups
  - Held at Centennial Theater in June
- Canadian Multiculturalism Day – Turtle Island
  - Cultural fusions and collaborations, film screening, book reading and art activities
  - Food crawl, panel discussions
- Key takeaways include experience, understanding and respect, reflection and onmichannel (online presence)

### 3. Group Presentations

Group 3 and Group 4 presented on their findings. The main points included but were not limited to the following:

#### **Group 3**

- The World Multicultural Festival – Ottawa, ON
  - Diversity and inclusion
  - Values and heritages
  - Includes a Committee of different representatives and cultures
  - Team of First Nations and sponsors from public and private sectors
  - Judges, panelists, media partners, workshops and performances
  - Two day event with opening ceremonies and speeches
  - Music and dance performances, art and craft workshops
  - Single venue space
  - Online and in person, inclusive, educational and entertaining, welcomes volunteers
- Edinburgh Multicultural Festival – Scotland
  - Music, dance, storytelling, poetry and theater
  - Single sponsor, City of Edinburgh Council
  - Three nights of professional performances
  - Creative writing workshops and panel discussions
  - Indoor and outdoor experiences
  - Pros: online and in-person, educational and entertaining, represents various art forms, free admission
  - Cons: art-focused events, single sponsorship, not welcoming for volunteers
- Toronto Diversity Festival
  - Main focus is inclusion of all
  - Celebrate the spirit of oneness
  - One day festival
  - Art, music, food, dance, children activities, heritage, local businesses
  - Competitions, games, panel discussions, vendors, cooking demonstrations, clothes, jewelry, crafts
  - Sponsorship from Immigration Canada private sectors
  - Inclusive, art and cultural performances, interactive learning opportunities, public-oriented, kid friendly, supporting local businesses

#### **Group 4**

- Vancouver Moving Theater - The Big House
  - A downtown eastside theatrical feast
  - About how we interact and find commonalities between our cultures and ourselves
  - Opportunity for host venue to offer up a space and participate, offer other communities into their space
  - Multi-generational, contributing expertise and skills through cooking, arts, crafts
  - Eight distinct cultural groups participated
  - Walking tours, performances, story telling
  - Organized as a community based arts project by the Vancouver Moving Theater alongside community organizations
  - Invitations were sent out to express interest

- Event ran for approximately 2-3 hours
- No fee required
- Audience and market is small and local but could grow to accommodate more
- Moonlight Events – International Folklore Festivals
  - Organizes festivals around the world in collaboration with municipalities and local city associations
  - Primarily an international dance festival and competition
  - Venues and sometimes accommodation and transportation for visiting performers are organized by the event coordinator and a fee is paid by the participating groups

#### 4. Next Steps

- Explore having a facilitator at the next session.
- Consider what the event looks like as a combination of entertainment and cultural learning.
- What we want to focus on; primary goal and purpose.
- Consider what's local, what is in our immediate environment.
- Bring ideas for next meeting. When and where these events are taking place. City calendar events are accessible online.
- Consider pros and cons about hosting in June.

It was regularly moved and seconded

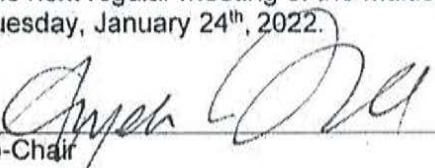
THAT the Multicultural Community Festival Task Force recommends to Council that a formal request be made for representation from the two local First Nations to sit on the Task Force.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**


#### 5. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10PM.

The next regular meeting of the Multicultural Community Festival Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

  
Co-Chair

May 18/23  
Date

  
Co-Chair

May 19, 2023  
Date