

The Corporation of the City of North Vancouver

Meeting of the Multicultural Community Festival Task Force
Tuesday, April 4th, 2023 at 6:00pm
Held at City Hall, 141 West 14th St, North Vancouver, BC
Conference Room A

M I N U T E S

Present: J. Bevan, Lower Lonsdale Business Improvement Area
N. Cottingham Powell, North Van Arts
Councillor Girard (Co-Chair)
A. Hazfi, North Vancouver City Library
S. Huang, North Shore Folk Fest (Alternate)
S. Ischenko, City Representative
L. Lawry, North Vancouver Museum and Archives
M. Rezaei, City Representative
Councillor Shahriari (Co-Chair)
C. Soriano, City Representative
Y. Xie, City Representative

Guests: P. Huntsman, Facilitator
J. Dantes, Facilitator

Staff: K. Pighin, Cultural Services Supervisor, NVRC
J. Spitale, Community Development Coordinator
V. Webb, Administrative Coordinator I

Regrets: O. Bournik, Impact North Shore
A. Goel-Stevens, North Shore Folk Fest Society
R. Greene, School District No. 44
B. Ng, City Representative
L. Orr, Deputy Director

1. Call to Order

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:00PM. The meeting minutes of February 9th, 2023 were approved.

2. Welcome / Land Acknowledgement / Introductions

The Community Development Coordinator provided a land acknowledgement and commenced introductions between Task Force members, new staff, and Facilitators

from Patricia Huntsman Culture & Communication. Patricia reviewed the committee agenda.

4. Facilitation Session

Review of Previous Session and Presentation of Updated Work Plan

Patricia conducted a brief review of the lead festival concept developed in the last committee meeting, summarizing the purpose, programming elements, model, time of year, and length proposed. Key takeaways were as follows:

- **Purpose:** learning, celebrating, and showcasing various cultures
- **Elements:** culinary arts, performing arts, and visual arts
- **Model:** an accessible, stand-alone event with multiple indoor and outdoor locations
- **Time of Year:** spring, between March, April, and May
- **Length:** one weekend (2-3 days)

The Community Development Coordinator and Patricia presented an updated work plan developed in a prior meeting with City Staff and Council. The work plan entails engaging Patricia Huntsman & Co. to continue facilitation, interview local stakeholders and partners, and identify potential funding and resources for the Multicultural Community Festival. Patricia Huntsman & Co. will share their findings with the Multicultural Community Festival Task Force at the next scheduled meeting, and the feedback will be incorporated into a draft Multicultural Festival report; the report will be presented for final review to the committee before being presented to Council before the end of 2023.

Brainstorming Session

Patricia led the committee through a terminology review and presented the committee with the session objective: to refine the lead festival concept. Task Force members were asked to provide their input on the following six topics: Culinary Arts, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Places and Spaces, Partnerships and Stakeholders, and Catch-All/Other/Big Ideas. Participants were asked to consider various perspectives when contributing their ideas to improve consideration of the festival user experience.

Staff and the Facilitators set up a collaborative sheet for each topic, and members spent approximately 30min putting down their ideas on sticky notes. Following a short break, members returned to the stations and indicated their support for ideas by checkmark on the corresponding sticky note.

The Facilitators reported back on the findings for each category and discussed each with members, focusing on aggregating ideas into themes.

Culinary Arts:

A popular theme was participatory experiences, such as learn to cook classes, tastings, and non-alcoholic drink or food shows or workshops. Ideas relating to a

festival food format, such as food trucks, potlucks, and beer garden, were also presented. Other upvoted themes included highlighting Coast Salish cuisine, showcasing cuisines from different cultures, and highlighting diverse local restaurants and food businesses.

Performing Arts

Emerging themes included highlighting Indigenous performing arts, combining cultures with cultural fusion performances, and a variety of dance, musical, audio/visual, and fashion shows with a balance of local artists and one or two headlining performances. Participatory art experiences, such as lessons, shows, and games, were also upvoted.

Visual Arts

Hands-on visual arts experiences, such as crafts or cultural workshops, games, and friendly competitions, were proposed along with kids' activities, large scale outdoor activities or artworks, and exhibits showcasing Indigenous visual art forms and other diverse mediums such as paintings, photos, pottery, carvings, murals, and street art.

Partnerships, Collaborators, Stakeholders

Emerging themes included collaboration with Indigenous groups, such as the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and the Squamish Nation, partnership with local cultural, heritage, and arts groups, and support from local governmental and educational organizations. Potential private sector sponsors were also brainstormed.

Places and Spaces

Popular areas included the Shipyards, Waterfront Park, Mahon Park, Victoria Park, Central Lonsdale, and streets adjacent to Fun Alley. The team discussed less central locations for an earlier launch of the festival or future festival iterations, but the focus of the Festival was narrowed down to Lower Lonsdale.

Other Discussion and Summary:

The Task Force members refined the festival period to end of March to May due to the skate rink occupying the Shipyards until end of March.

Patricia and the committee noted a prevalent theme of participation amongst various categories and suggested focusing on this aspect as a defining point for the Festival.

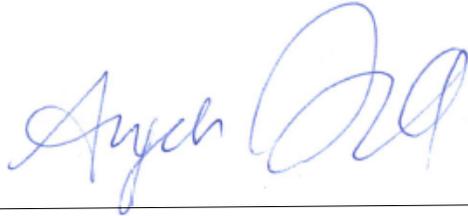
Next Steps & Action Items

Patricia Huntsman Culture & Communication were tasked with carrying out interviews with City Staff, stakeholders, and potential partners to obtain estimates on logistics, resourcing, and other Festival aspects to further determine the Festival brief.

Next Meeting Date

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:59PM.

The next regular meeting of the Multicultural Community Festival Task Form will be in June 2023, with the specific date to be determined at a later date based on the timeline of Facilitator interviews.



Co-Chair

October 12, 2023

Date



Co-Chair

October 12, 2023

Date