

CITY OF BURNABY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: DISCOVERY DAYS 2000: AN ARTS CELEBRATION

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council approve the Discovery Days 2000: An Arts Celebration program.

REPORT

The celebration of the Year 2000 is a time for the whole community to get together and share memories, dreams and good times. It is a year wherein community groups, individuals, families and businesses can create events for residents and visitors. The City has a role to play as well, and the Executive Committee of Council has reviewed and approved a program proposal and received the approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission for a "special edition" of the annual Discovery Day festival for Year 2000.

The "Discovery Days 2000: An Arts Celebration" (Attachment #1) features three themes for the three day festival in July 2000: "Homecoming Burnaby"; "Arts Celebration 2000"; and "Sister City Salute".

The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra performance will feature some local young talent in beautiful Deer Lake Park in the proposed new pavilion in the enhanced concert bowl. As a fitting tribute to the millennium capital project and community celebration, fireworks will crown the evening event.

Over many years, Burnaby has developed relationships with "sister cities" in other parts of the world, and has exchanged delegations of dignitaries, professionals, artists and others. Learning and sharing are a part of the exchanges. For Year 2000, the celebration includes welcoming performers and artists from Kushiro, Gatineau and Mesa to join local talent to entertain and create in Burnaby. A focus will be on using clay as an art form. Citizens attending, guided by professional artisans, will create mural tiles fired in a special wood-burning kiln for an international exchange of clay creations. Dancers and singers will perform on the "world stage" at Discovery Days followed by a "Night of 2000 Lights" event

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with candle lantern processions, illuminated sculptures and community "orchestra" performances.

The Sunday will feature the "Deer Lake Blues Festival" with performers from BC and North America for a whole day of great music.

Planned as well are art exhibitions from the sister cities, and an art-in-the-park fair with amateur and professional artists exhibiting their creations. With corporate sponsorship, an "Artmobile" is proposed to help bring art experiences to neighborhoods in Burnaby for years to come.

Families and visitors are encouraged to organize homecoming get-togethers and to treat the July 21, 22 and 23 dates as the celebration weekend of the summer of 2000.

With a special Year 2000 Burnaby allocation, existing annual budget funds, sponsorships and earned revenues, the "Discovery Days 2000: An Arts Celebration" promises to be an unforgettable event. To launch the new millennium in grand style in a new outdoor facility is a very rare opportunity, and one in which the whole community can participate.

For detailed work to begin now for Burnaby's feature Year 2000 event, Council approval of the program proposal is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. R. Corrigan,
CHAIR

Councillor D. G. Evans
Member

Councillor C. Redman
Member

YEAR 2000 BURNABY

DISCOVERY DAYS 2000:AN ARTS CELEBRATIONPROGRAM PROPOSAL

1999 July 15

1. BACKGROUND

The key community celebration event sponsored by the City of Burnaby for Year 2000 has been determined to be an enhanced Discovery Days weekend on 2000 July 21, 22, and 23. In addition to existing annual budget funds for event components, a further \$90,000 has been allocated to support this special event in 2000.

2. THEMES

The event weekend will incorporate the general theme of Year 2000 Burnaby:

" To help make Burnaby a better place in the Year 2000 by celebrating our history and our vision of the future; by building bridges between our neighborhoods and amongst our neighbours; by honouring our seniors and encouraging our youth; by creatively recognizing we are achievers and we are changing."

In addition, the following themes will also give the event weekend its character:

- 2.1. **"HOMECOMING BURNABY":** *An opportunity for people who have lived or worked in Burnaby to come home to visit and party with family, friends, colleagues or classmates at beautiful Deer lake Park.*
- 2.2. **"ARTS CELEBRATION 2000":** *A focus on local and visiting artists, (especially youth), with performing arts events, visual arts displays, interactive community involvement and legacy projects.*
- 2.3. **"SISTER CITY SALUTE":** *A welcome to "sister city artists" from Kushiro, Japan; Gatineau, Quebec; and Mesa, USA featuring performers and ceramic artists, and exchanges of art exhibitions.*

3. DISCOVERY DAYS 2000 WEEKEND EVENTS

In the past the City has added a special focus to the community's largest public festival to help celebrate years such as Burnaby's Centennial, the Commonwealth Games, Burnaby BC Summer Games, etc. By building on the tradition, Year 2000 Burnaby can come to life on the July weekend which is a familiar time for family fun and community excitement.

The key event components are:

3.1: FRIDAY, 2000 JULY 21: 7:30pm-11:00pm:

"SYMPHONY IN THE PARK"

In addition to the excellent annual program of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in the free admission event co-sponsored by the City of Burnaby and Trans Mountain Pipe Line Company Ltd., it is proposed that an assembled youth choir perform a specially commissioned symphonic movement created by BC composer Michael Conway Baker.

3.2: SATURDAY, 2000 JULY 22: 10:00am- 5:00pm

"DISCOVERY DAY FESTIVAL"

Featuring a "world music" theme, performers from sister cities Kushiro, Gatineau and Mesa will be invited to bring the mainstage to life with an array of cultural expressions from across Canada, North America and the Pacific Ocean. The community (featuring youth) will be led by visiting ceramic artists in creating a commemorative ceramic mural in the "clay stomp" event to be fired on site in the proposed "Anagama kiln". And the dozens of community group displays and "hands-on" activities will be there again.

3.3: SATURDAY, 2000 JULY 22: 5:00pm-10:00pm

"NIGHT OF 2000 LIGHTS"

Through community workshops for three weeks before the event, and at the event, Public Dreams Society will coach families in creating candle lanterns for processions in the evening at Deer Lake Park, featuring entertainers, fireworks and "illuminated sculptures". Community "orchestras" are also created spontaneously to add to the participatory excitement, superbly placed in this urban park.

3.4: SUNDAY, 2000 JULY 23: 12:00noon-9:00pm

"DEER LAKE BLUES FESTIVAL"

This premiere ticketed event will feature blues performers from across the Lower Mainland and musicians from across North America in an all day blues festival at Deer Lake Park. By attracting yet another audience on this celebration weekend, it is hoped that the Deer Lake Blues Festival could become an annual event at this unique outdoor concert venue.

As well, visitors will be encouraged to bring picnics, have family get-togethers and enjoy the whole park setting for conversation, play, walking tours as well as the many cultural activities scheduled for the weekend. The central location of the park will give all residents equal access and the cultural facilities in the area will offer support services and additional display and activity areas indoors.

4. VISUAL ARTS PROJECTS AND EVENTS

To provide for a balance with the many performing arts events that are planned, a variety of visual arts events and projects are also proposed. They will provide opportunities for active or passive involvement on the Discovery Days 2000 weekend and also contribute to community legacies with value for years to come.

4.1: ***"ART IN THE PARK"***

Community amateur and professional artists will be offered an opportunity to show and sell their works in Deer Lake Park on the weekend in the first "Art in the Park" event hosted by community visual arts groups and Visual Arts Burnaby. This will offer exposure to the many talented artists in Burnaby to the thousands expected to attend the festivities. Artists will be encouraged to illustrate the themes for Year 2000 Burnaby.

4.2: ***"SISTER CITIES ART EXCHANGE"***

An exchange of a sampling of prints from Kushiro, Gatineau and Mesa and some from the City of Burnaby Permanent Collection is proposed. This will add color to the performances by visiting dancers and musicians, and it will offer exposure to Burnaby's art collection. Exhibitions will occur at Ceperley House and other community venues.

4.3: ***"COMMUNITY CLAY STOMP AND MURAL PROJECT"***

Visitors will be invited to come to Discovery Days to take part in a "clay stomp" where they literally pound and knead clay into small molds using their feet and then, with the guidance of ceramic artists, each creates a clay tile following a theme composed for a community mural. Tiles are then dried, fired (in the "Anagama Kiln") and assembled into a large wall mural to be displayed as a visual art legacy for Year 2000 Burnaby.

4.4: ***"COMMUNITY KILN BUILDING PROJECT"***

Burnaby is well-known for its ceramics facilities and program, and building on that success is what this project does. The proposal is to construct, in a two week period, a 30 cubic foot "Anagama Kiln", which is a traditional Japanese wood-burning kiln, at Deer Lake Park involving an expert kilnbuilder, local ceramic specialists and youth. It would be used to fire the Year 2000 Burnaby mural tiles and also remain as another clay kiln for use into the future. It is fortunate that the City of Mesa is the site of one of the largest wood-fired kiln facilities in the United States as this can add a special dimension to the artists' exchange.

4.5: ***"STILL CREEK HERITAGE ART AND ENVIRONMENT PROJECT"***

This proposal is a collaboration with BCIT Environmental Studies Program, Visual Arts Burnaby, Burnaby Village Museum and the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts involving artists' documentation of Still Creek and historical and environmental interpretations on the theme of saving the creek for the enjoyment of future generations.

4.6: **"MILLENNIUM ARTMOBILE"**

Like "bookmobiles" of the past, the proposed "artmobile" was conceived as part of the outreach focus of community arts development initiatives like "Artswave" and in line with the mandate of Visual Arts Burnaby. This van would be properly equipped for accommodating visual arts supplies, displays and support materials for interactive activities and scheduled to visit community facilities and schools accompanied by trained artist-facilitators. As the program evolves the van would also visit seniors centres and homes, hospitals and later be integrated with outdoor summer programs in Burnaby's parks. This project would require corporate sponsorship for both the vehicle and the program.

5. CONCLUSION

It is recommended that approval be granted for the program as presented so that planning can commence immediately on all the components to allow for proper event management for the Year 2000 Burnaby celebrations.