

CITY OF BURNABY
COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: REQUEST FOR SPACE AT THE BURNABY HEIGHTS RESOURCE CENTRE

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council approve the allocation of the former Industrial Education workshop at the Burnaby Heights Resource Centre to the Burnaby Theatre and Film Acting Society.
2. **THAT** Council authorize staff to undertake the necessary lease arrangements between the City and the applicant.
3. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to James Purcell, Executive Director, #4-3726 Hastings Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5C 2H5.

REPORT

The Community Issues and Social Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 2001 September 26, received and adopted the *attached* report presenting a proposal for the allocation of the former Industrial Education (I.E.) workshop at the Burnaby Heights Resource Centre.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor N. Harris
Vice Chair

:COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
- DIRECTOR FINANCE
- DIR. PLNG. & BLDG.
- DIR. PARKS, REC. & CULT. SERV.
- CHIEF BUILDING INSPECTOR
- CITY SOLICITOR

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
COMMUNITY ISSUES AND
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

2001 September 26

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

OUR FILE: 10.121

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SPACE AT THE BURNABY HEIGHTS RESOURCE CENTRE

PURPOSE: To present a proposal for the allocation of the former Industrial Education (I.E.) workshop at the Burnaby Heights Resource Centre.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Committee recommend to Council that the former Industrial Education workshop at the Burnaby Heights Resource Centre be allocated to the Burnaby Theatre and Film Acting Society.
2. **THAT** upon Council approval, staff be authorized to undertake the necessary lease arrangements between the City and the applicant.
3. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to James Purcell, Executive Director, #4-3726 Hastings Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5C 2H5.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 2001 September 21, staff received a request from the Burnaby Theatre and Film Acting Society to lease the former I.E. shop at the Burnaby Heights Resource Centre to operate its new acting school. Burnaby Theatre and Film Acting Society has recently been registered as a non-profit society and is seeking space to offer training in theatre and film acting.

2.0 THE APPLICANT

The Burnaby Theatre and Film Acting Society is a new non-profit society founded by James Purcell, a local actor with considerable experience in television acting. He and the directors of the society wish to create a local acting school to give Burnaby and other lower mainland residents an opportunity to train in theatre and film acting. It is the Society's intent to offer a variety of full and part time acting classes. The Society will operate on a non-profit basis in order to provide a supportive and educational environment in theatre and film acting with a view to developing a local talent base for the performing arts industry.

The Society will initially be funded by the Board of Directors and through student fees. It also intends to pursue grants with various government agencies and private arts foundations. It will advertise its programs in Burnaby's community newspapers, local high schools and an internet site.

3.0 REQUEST FOR SPACE

The Society was initially interested in leasing space in the basement of the Burnaby Heights Resource Centre. Upon viewing the space however, it was determined that noise from the gymnasium (located directly above the basement), would interfere with their acting classes. The Society then expressed interest in the former I.E. shop. As of 2001 July, the I.E. shop has been used by the Greater Vancouver Food Bank one morning a week to distribute food to their Burnaby clients. For the remainder of the time, the I.E. shop has been made available to community groups on an ad hoc basis for meeting or events. To date, there have been no bookings of the space by community groups.

The Burnaby Theatre and Film Acting Society would like to lease the I.E. shop on a full-time basis. The Food Bank has been allocated the use of the space one morning a week with the understanding that for the remainder of the time, the room could be booked on an ad hoc basis by community groups. (The Food Bank is being charged a flat storage/utility fee of \$200 a year for the use of the space one morning a week). The Burnaby Theatre and Film Acting Society is prepared to accommodate the continued use of the space by the Food Bank one morning a week. If desired by the Food Bank however, the Food Bank could be offered the use of vacant basement space located directly across from the I.E. shop which also has direct access to the outside and would be visible to Food Bank clients. (It would also continue to be charged a flat fee of \$200 per year.) If the space is allocated to the Burnaby Theatre and Film Acting Society, these alternatives will be discussed with the Food Bank to reach a mutually agreeable arrangement.

The Burnaby Theatre and Film Acting Society initially intends to offer classes from the I.E. shop. Depending on the growth of the school, it may eventually wish to stage small productions in the space. If the Society proposes to stage any productions from the space, the Society would be requested to contact city staff to ensure any proposed productions comply with planning, fire, building and licensing regulations.

4.0 PROPOSED ALLOCATION

In 1990 July, Council adopted guidelines that provide for the allocation of space at the Resource Centre to non-profit groups that provide services of benefit to residents. The space

at the Resource Centre has focused on accommodating social and community service agencies. That said, the Burnaby Theatre and Film Acting Society's intent is to offer programs that would promote the social well-being of Burnaby residents which would satisfy the guidelines for space allocation at the centre. It is therefore proposed that the former I.E. shop be allocated to the Society.

The annual 2001 lease rate for the I.E. shop is \$5.96 per square foot, the same rate that is charged for basement space at the Resource Centre. Depending on the number of Burnaby residents enrolled in their classes, the Burnaby Theatre and Film Acting Society intends to apply for a lease grant to off-set the cost of leasing the space.

5.0 CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Burnaby Theatre and Film Acting Society be allocated the I.E. shop to run its acting school. With the Committee's and Council's approval, staff would undertake the necessary lease arrangements with the applicant. Consistent with Council direction, staff will also undertake to advise the prospective tenants that the Centre has an expected life span of 5 to 10 years. If the space allocation is approved by Council, a lease grant application, if appropriate, would be forwarded to the Executive Committee-Grants for its consideration.



I.S. Belhouse, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

BWSI,
MM/sa

cc: City Manager
Director Engineering
Director Finance
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
City Solicitor
City Clerk