



MEETING OF THE NORTH VANCOUVER RECREATION & CULTURE COMMISSION

Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 5:00 pm

Marine Room (2nd floor), Lions Gate Community Recreation Centre
1733 Lions Gate Lane, North Vancouver

MEETING AGENDA

I. Call to Order - Indigenous Acknowledgement

Director calls the meeting to order.

II. Election of Officers for 2024

Director conducts the election:

- a) Chair
- b) Vice-Chair

III. Approval of the Agenda

IV. Adoption of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Attachment

V. 2024 Arts & Culture Operating Assistance Grant

Attachment

**VI. Indoor/Outdoor Recreation and Sport Facility
and Amenity Plan Prioritization Framework**

Presentation
and report

VII. Sport & Recreation Travel Grant Application

Attachment

VIII. Director's Update

Attachment

IX. Other Business

- a) Review of April 19, 2024 workshop

X. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 5:00 pm.

XI. Adjournment



Meeting of the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission

Thursday, November 16, 2023, 5:30 pm

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Commissioner Franci Stratton (Chair)
Commissioner Dave Wilson (Vice-Chair)
Commissioner Holly Back
Commissioner Mary Carmichael
Commissioner Angela Girard
Commissioner John Moore
Commissioner Lisa Muri
Commissioner Kate Smyth
Commissioner Antje Wilson

Staff: Heather Turner, Director of Recreation & Culture
Michael Hunter, Deputy Director
Howard Kiang, Manager, Maintenance & Engineering Services
Pamela Rooke, Manager, Finance
Karen Pighin, Cultural Services Supervisor
Neil Scott, Centennial Theatre and Events Supervisor
Veronica Labrosse, Executive Assistant

Regrets: Commissioner Catherine Pope

Note: *One District of North Vancouver citizen representative position vacant*

I. Call to Order – Indigenous Acknowledgment

Chair Stratton called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm and provided the following Indigenous Acknowledgement:

“On behalf of the Commissioners and those present, I would like to acknowledge the Coast Salish people on whose traditional territory we work and reside. I express my gratitude to the Squamish Nation, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and the Musqueam Nation, and I value the opportunity to learn, live and share experiences on this traditional territory. North Vancouver Recreation & Culture is committed to building relationships with First Nations and this acknowledgement is one small step in honoring their culture, history and stewardship of the land.”

II. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Commissioner D. Wilson; **seconded** by Commissioner Back

THAT the meeting agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

III. Adoption of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Back; **seconded** by Commissioner A. Wilson

THAT the minutes of the September 28, 2023, meeting be adopted.

Carried

IV. Director’s Report

Director Turner and staff spoke to items in the report.

V. Items for Discussion/Decision

a) 2024 Arts & Culture Grants

Chair Stratton introduced Karen Pighin, Cultural Services Supervisor, and Stacie Graham, Arts & Culture Grants Review Committee Chair, who were in attendance to answer questions.

Moved by Commissioner A. Wilson; **seconded** by Commissioner Carmichael

THAT the Commission approve Arts & Culture grants in the amount of \$123,500 comprised of \$78,500 for Programming and Projects grants and \$45,000 for Celebrations and Events grants, as set out below:

- Kleine Compagnie: \$2,500
- Ruby Slippers Theatre: \$2,500
- Dance//Novella: \$3,500
- Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra (VICO): \$2,500
- Gordon and Marion Smith Foundation for Young Artists: \$16,000
- Griffin Art Projects: \$16,500
- Lamondance Arts Society: \$14,000
- Lions Gate Sinfonia: \$10,000
- Vancouver Chamber Music Society: \$11,000
- Hong Kong House Cultural Society: \$5,000
- Philippine Days Festival Society: \$10,000
- Rotary Club of Lions Gate North Vancouver: \$7,500
- Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival Society: \$11,500
- Blue Shore Financial Centre for the Performing Arts: \$11,000

Carried

b) 2024 Fees and Charges

Chair Stratton introduced the report and a brief discussion occurred.

Moved by Commissioner Back; **seconded** by Commissioner Muri

THAT the Commission approve the 2024 Fees and Charges (Attachment 1).

Carried

c) Sport & Recreation Travel Grant Application

Chair Stratton introduced the report.

Moved by Commissioner Moore; **seconded** by Commissioner D. Wilson

THAT the Commission approve a Sport & Recreation Travel Grant of \$400 for the NorWesters Track and Field Club in support of participation of two of their athletes in the National Legion Youth Athletics Championships hosted in Quebec in August 2023.

Carried

The Commissioners suggested promotion of the experience in the competition.

d) 2024 Provisional Operating Budget Submission

Moved by Commissioner Back; **seconded** by Commissioner Carmichael

THAT the 2024 Provisional Operating Budget Submission as outlined in Appendix 1 be approved for submission to the City and District of North Vancouver.

Carried

e) Capital Plan 2024 and Capital Financial Model 2024-2033

Moved by Commissioner Back; **seconded** by Commissioner Moore

- 1) **THAT** the NVRC-City Capital Plan 2024 Funding Requests, in the amount of \$1,443,000, be approved by the Commission and recommended to City Council for approval (Appendix A);
- 2) **THAT** the NVRC-District Capital Plan 2024 Funding Requests, in the amount of \$4,323,000, be approved by the Commission and recommended to District Council for approval (Appendix B);
- 3) **THAT** the NVRC-City Capital Financial Model 2024-2033 be approved by the Commission and recommended to the City Council for approval (Appendix C); and

- 4) **THAT** the NVRC-District Capital Financial Model 2024-2033 be approved by the Commission and recommended to District Council for approval (Appendix D).

Carried

VI. Item for Information

- a) Centennial Theatre Update

Director Turner introduced the report and advised that Neil Scott, Centennial Theatre and Events Supervisor, was in attendance to answer questions.

VII. Other Business

- a) Report from School District #44

Commissioner A. Wilson provided her report.

- b) 2023 Declarations of Related Party Transactions

Director Turner advised that an email on behalf of Pam Rooke, Finance Manager, will be sent by the Executive Assistant with instructions for Commissioners on completing their 2023 declaration; Commissioners had the option of completing hard copies provided at the meeting that evening.

Chair Stratton asked if there was further business and there was none.

VIII. Next Meeting

Chair Stratton stated the next meeting will be scheduled in 2024.

As this was the last meeting of the current Commission, Chair Stratton thanked Director Turner, Deputy Director Mike Hunter and senior staff for their work. Director Turner and others thanked the Commissioners for their contributions.

IX. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Back; **seconded** by Commissioner Muri

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Carried

Approved:

Recorded by:

Franci Stratton, Chair

Veronica Labrosse, Executive Assistant

Date

Unadopted

Commission Meeting:

April 4, 2024

Report Author: Karen Pighin, Cultural Services Supervisor

Subject: 2024 Arts & Culture Operating Assistance Grant

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Commission approve a three-year Operating Assistance grant in the amount of \$200,000 annually (plus approved inflationary increases in year two and year three) to support the operations and programming activities of the British Columbia Photography and Media Arts Society (also known as Polygon Gallery).

BACKGROUND:

The Arts and Culture Grants Program includes four different grant streams:

- Operating Assistance grants
- Programming and Project Assistance grants
- Celebrations and Events grants, and
- Community Public Art grants

Operating Assistance grants may be approved for up to three years to provide stable funding for the organizations receiving the funds. There are five organizations that have not submitted funding requests for 2024 as their funding for this year was approved previously (i.e. they are either in the second or third year of their three-year funding).

This report outlines funding recommendations from the Arts & Culture Grants Review Committee (ACGRC) in response to a request for an Operating Assistance Grant from Polygon Gallery.

The purpose of Operating Assistance grants is to:

- a) identify, support the work of groups and organizations that play a leadership role in the arts in North Vancouver; and,
- b) provide a reliable baseline of support at the local level that enables groups to leverage funding from other levels of government.

In accordance with the Arts and Culture Grants Policies, the ACGRC is appointed by the Commission to provide an independent assessment of funding requests submitted to the Arts and Culture Grants Program; it consists of volunteers who are North Vancouver residents with experience and expertise in various areas of arts and cultural programming and the non-profit sector.

DISCUSSION:

The British Columbia Photography and Media Arts Society was founded in 1976 as Presentation House Gallery and is now doing business as Polygon Gallery. It has become one of the largest public photography galleries in Canada, focusing on camera-based practices (photography, film, video and digital art works) with programming that supports national and international exhibitions.

Polygon Gallery designs and delivers access to inspirational and powerful art exhibitions and public programs year-round including child-friendly art activities, regular film screenings, live performances as well as educational talks and tours. These programs facilitate community connection and highlight equity-deserving communities and partnerships.

With a commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, along with Indigenous staff experience and knowledge, Polygon Gallery strives to ensure a culturally-sensitive and safe environment during programming for Indigenous participants, and provides opportunities for local Indigenous emerging filmmakers to benefit from mentorship and skill-building activities.

Polygon Gallery has received Operating Assistance grants for several years. Their current funding request is for a three-year grant of \$200,000 in 2024, \$225,000 in 2025 and \$250,000 in 2026 (Table 1). The 2024 request represents a \$15,329 increase from the one-year grant awarded in 2023.

Table 1. Summary of Polygon Gallery Grant Requests

Year	Grant Request	Recommended
2021	\$400,000	\$177,500
2022	\$400,000	\$181,050
2023	\$184,671	\$184,671
2024	\$200,000	\$200,000
2025	\$225,000	\$200,000*
2026	\$250,000	\$200,000*

**plus approved inflationary adjustment*

Arts and Culture Grant Review Committee recommendation

The Committee’s recommendation is based on funding and evaluation criteria as per the Arts and Culture Grants Policy; it reflects the assessed merit, impacts and benefits of the proposed activities, the capacity of the applicant and the financial need as presented.

The evaluation recognizes the quality of Polygon Gallery’s exhibition, publication and education programs, citing a high level of curatorial and exhibition practice, and a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. The ACGRC appreciates the organization’s expanded reach through partnerships and initiatives, and a focus on seniors, youth and marginalized groups including the 2024 planned launch of a new

Indigenous youth program in partnership with Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

The Committee recognizes the request for funding is to help sustain staffing levels that were increased over the past few years, and applauds the organization's successful efforts in fundraising and in maintaining a budget surplus given the discontinuation of the Provincial COVID-19 emergency funding in 2024. The ACGRC recommends an increase in funding of \$15,329 as requested, to \$200,000 in 2024 with a three-year grant term (2024-2026) to provide stability and continuity. The request for an additional \$25,000 in 2025 and \$50,000 in 2026 is not recommended.

Each year, NVRC requests an inflationary increase to the grant budget and, if approved, Polygon Gallery's funding will be increased accordingly.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The 2024 provisional Arts and Culture Grants budget is \$944,072, which includes a 5% inflationary increase from 2023. For 2024, \$639,030 has been allocated to previously approved multi-year Operating Assistance grants, Programming and Project Assistance grants and Celebrations and Events grants. With the recommended \$200,000 Operating Assistance grant for Polygon Gallery there would be \$105,043 remaining for the fall intakes for Programming and Project Assistance Grants, Celebrations and Events Grants and Community Public Art Grants (awarded Q2 and Q4). This amount is in line with previous years.

CONCURRENCE AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:

The Arts and Culture Grants Program and funding requirements are communicated through the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission (NVRC) website, arts newsletter and social media channels as well as at the bi-monthly North Shore Arts and Culture roundtable. NVRC staff also hosts workshops and individual meetings with prospective applicants on the grant application process.

The ACGRC adjudicates applications and makes recommendations to the Commission. Upon Commission approval, applicants are notified within five business days, provided with a Notice of Award and required to submit a signed Grant Acceptance Form. Applicants have the option of appealing any decision. All grant recipients must comply with the terms and conditions of the grant program and use the awarded funds as outlined in their application.

The City and District of North Vancouver Councils are advised annually of the organizations, services and initiatives funded through the Arts and Culture Grants Program.

POLICY/AUTHORITY:

The authority to allocate funding in accordance with the Arts and Culture Grants Policy is delegated to NVRC.

CONCLUSION:

Polygon Gallery delivers high quality experiences to residents and visitors. The recommended grant is based on their planning, proven ability to deliver, impact and demonstration of financial need.



Jennifer Wilson
Manager of Strategic Initiatives



Heather A. Turner
Director of Recreation & Culture

Commission Meeting:

April 4, 2024

Report Author: Mike Hunter, Deputy Director

**Subject: Indoor/Outdoor Recreation and Sport Facility and Amenity
Plan Prioritization Framework**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Commission approve the proposed Framework for Planning the Future of North Vancouver Recreation and Sport Facilities and Amenities, as outlined in this report.

AND THAT staff report back with a summary of the first phase of the community engagement process for the Indoor/Outdoor Recreation and Sport Facility and Amenity Plan along with draft recommendations.

SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on the Indoor/Outdoor Recreation and Sport Facility and Amenity Plan and seeks the Commission's endorsement of a proposed framework that will be used to develop recommendations on recreational infrastructure investment priorities for the City of North Vancouver (CNV) and District of North Vancouver (DNV).

BACKGROUND:

The Indoor/Outdoor Recreation and Sport Facility and Amenity Plan will provide updated data on current and future community needs, and make recommendations on capital infrastructure investment priorities to inform the City's and District's planning processes for the next 10 years.

As North Vancouver grows, it is important to understand current service levels for recreation and sport, and predict the future needs of the community. This Facility Plan will provide the foundational data, prioritization framework and recommendations to address these needs.

An experienced consultant team comprised of RC Strategies and HCMA Architecture has been retained to complete the plan and they are supported by a project Steering Committee comprised of North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission (NVRC), CNV and DNV staff.

The planning process includes the following components:

- Best practices review and trends analysis;
- Needs assessment and gap analysis; and
- Recommendations for indoor and outdoor capital infrastructure.

The needs assessment comprises qualitative and statistically significant quantitative data that will provide the foundation for a defensible prioritization framework. The analysis will consider public and interest-group feedback; current service levels; use of indoor and outdoor facilities relative to emerging trends; changing demographics and population projections to identify areas of anticipated service growth or decline, and any resulting gaps. Based on the results of the assessment, the Facility Plan will provide prioritized recommendations on recreation and sport facility and amenity needs for the next decade and beyond.

Equity, access and inclusion are important considerations, with a particular focus on those who would benefit most including youth, those who are underserved, and others with barriers to accessing recreation and sport opportunities.

Community engagement is a critical part of the information-gathering process, and the initial efforts were focused on understanding the leisure preferences of residents, the community's utilization of existing infrastructure in North Vancouver, barriers to participation, feedback on the quality and quantity of facilities currently available, and opportunities for enhancements.

The engagement process to date has included a random survey of North Vancouver households; an open survey (the same survey as the random survey though open to anyone wishing to share thoughts and opinions); a survey of organized groups that rent recreation and sport facilities; and discussion sessions and interviews with a variety of individuals and groups in the community including service partners and representatives of equity-deserving members of the community.

The surveys were initiated in June 2023 and supported by a social media campaign as well as the City's Let's Talk Engagement Expo. There were 963 random household surveys received with statistically valid representation to the neighbourhood level. There were also 1,478 general public survey responses received and 41 submissions from community groups.

In addition, six in-person discussion sessions were convened to provide the opportunity to hear the perspectives of individuals and organizations in a more comprehensive manner including:

- Lower-income participants;
- Newcomers;
- Seniors;
- People with disabilities;
- Youth; and,
- Community service partner agencies.

NVRC has also convened meetings with recreation staff from the Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation to learn more about the recreational needs of the communities, barriers to participation, planned infrastructure enhancements and identify further opportunities for partnerships.

The results of the surveys and the first phase of the community engagement process will be presented in a "What we heard" report, and shared with the Commission, Councils and the public. The report will be accompanied by draft recommendations on infrastructure priorities, and the community will then have the opportunity to provide

feedback through the second engagement process. More information on next steps is provided in the conclusion of this report.

DISCUSSION:

In order to provide a principle-based approach to assessing community recreational needs and identifying existing and new infrastructure investment priorities, the Project Team has developed a four-step prioritization framework. This approach is a further refinement of the methodology used in the City's 2020 report "A Healthy City for All: The Role of Community Recreation".

The framework for the Indoor/Outdoor Recreation and Sport Facility and Amenity Plan includes the following four steps:



Step #1: Assessing service levels: Does North Vancouver currently have the right quantity and quality of indoor and outdoor recreation and sport amenities?

The intent of this first step is to assess whether there is enough (or too much) of an amenity type both now and to meet projected future needs. Assessing amenity service levels based on specific criteria and metrics will help determine whether the amenities that are currently invested in are meeting needs. This would include public and user group feedback, utilization data, participation trends and demographics, and supply. This assessment renders a preliminary indication of whether or not existing service levels should be changed or maintained.

Step #2: Prioritizing limited resources: Which amenities warrant investment over others, whether for life-cycle reinvestment or the introduction of new amenities?

This step provides guidance regarding where limited resources should be directed assuming that there is not sufficient funding to do all of the service level adjustments that are identified in Step #1. Step #2 uses the metrics from Step #1 and then adds criteria such as equity and inclusion, financial impact, adaptability and resilience to help determine relative importance of one amenity over another. This results in a prioritized list of amenities that offer the best value and have the most impact for the community.

Step #3: Asset management practices: How do we invest in sustaining service levels where warranted?

With an evaluation of existing service levels (Step #1) and a ranked list of amenities (Step #2), the City and District, with the support of NVRC, can review the state of existing amenities and the facilities that house them and reinvest through capital maintenance, renovation or replacement to ensure they remain sustainable and relevant. It is important to assess the physical condition (structural, mechanical and electrical) of facilities as well as the relevance and attractiveness of the spaces within them.

Step #4: Amenity Action Plans: How do we achieve desired service level outcomes based on prioritization, our current geographical provision of facilities and expected growth in new areas?

Once direction is set related to Step #1 service level assessment, Step #2 prioritization of amenities and Step #3 outlining protocols for how and when investment is made in existing and new facilities, action plans can be developed for each amenity type that can support the City and District's short, mid and long-term capital planning.

Each amenity is reviewed to determine the investment required to enhance or maintain existing facilities and the development of new facilities. In the event that new facilities are warranted and sites are not yet secured, guidelines can help to identify where development might ideally occur.

The intent of the Amenity Action Plans is to provide enough guidance for City and District decision-makers to be able to plan for the future while still leaving enough flexibility in timing and project definition so that more detailed concept, feasibility and business case planning can inform final decision-making through the financial planning process.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications directly associated with the recommendation.

CONCURRENCE & COMMUNICATION PLAN:

This report and the framework have been prepared in collaboration with the Project Steering Committee. With the Commission's endorsement of the recommendation, staff will prepare information reports for the CNV and DNV Councils with updates on the project and the framework.

POLICY/AUTHORITY:

The North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission Delegation Bylaws identify specific powers, duties, and functions of the Commission. This includes delegated responsibility to make recommendations to the District Council and the City Council with respect to:

- (i) requirements for additional grounds, Facilities or services associated with the provision of the Recreation Services and Arts Services;
- (ii) requirements for capital expenditures in respect of existing recreation grounds, Facilities or services associated with the provision of the Recreation Services and Arts Services; and
- (iii) strategic direction and policy changes to meet recreation and arts needs of both District and City residents.

City Council and District Council have the authority to determine where capital funds are invested within their municipalities.

CONCLUSION:

The proposed prioritization framework provides a principle-based approach that will allow for the provision of recommendations on capital infrastructure investment priorities for consideration. Going forward, the framework provides a standardized approach that staff can use when providing recommendation on future recreation amenity requests or when new data or updated condition assessments are completed. The framework also makes the decision-making process more transparent to the user groups and general public who may question why some amenities or facilities are ultimately prioritised over others.

With the Commission’s support for the framework, the Project Team will proceed with developing draft recommendations. Staff will then report back to the Commission in Q2 with a summary of the initial community engagement process and the draft recommendations for consideration. Reports can then be prepared for the City Council and District Council to provide updates on the project prior to re-engaging with the community.

The resulting “What we heard” report and draft recommendations can then be shared with the community and user groups for feedback. The information will also be presented to the District’s Parks and Natural Environment Advisory Committee, and additional sport-specific meetings with user groups will be convened as needed.

At the conclusion of the second phase of community engagement, the Project Team will refine the draft recommendations and prepare a report for the Commission’s consideration in late Q2/early Q3. With the Commission’s support, the final recommendations and report will then be presented to the City Council and District Council for final adoption.



Heather A. Turner
Director of Recreation & Culture

Commission Meeting Date:

April 4, 2024

Report Author: Janet Rerecich, Area Recreation Manager

Subject: Sport & Recreation Travel Grant Application

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Commission approve a Sport & Recreation Travel Grant of \$200 for Kianna Darbyshire in support of her participation in the World Kendo Championships to be held in Milan, Italy on July 4-7, 2024.

BACKGROUND:

The North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission (NVRC)'s Sport & Recreation Travel Grant Program (SRTG) encourages the efforts of those who pursue excellence in sport and recreation by supporting individuals and teams who have achieved championship status and are advancing to interprovincial, national or international championship competition.

NVRC staff review sport and recreation travel grant requests from North Vancouver residents and make recommendations to the Commission for approval.

DISCUSSION:

The Sport & Recreation Travel Grant application and verifying documentation was received on behalf of North Vancouver resident, Kianna Darbyshire. She is a member of the Team Canada Kendo that qualified for the World Kendo Championships to be held in Milan, Italy on July 4-7, 2024. Kendo is a modern Japanese martial art.

The applicant submitted supporting documentation verifying the event qualifications and the applicant meets the criteria of the SRTG guidelines.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

Funding of this program is provided through NVRC's operating budget. The 2024 budget for the Sport & Recreation Travel Grant Program is \$5,000 and this is the first application this year. As a result, \$4,800 would remain available for allocation in 2024.

CONCURRENCE & COMMUNICATION PLAN:

The Commission's decision will be communicated to the applicant. This grant program description, application forms and guidelines are available on the NVRC website.

POLICY/AUTHORITY:

The Commission has delegated authority from City and District Councils for sport and recreation travel grants, and applications must meet the SRTG guidelines.

CONCLUSION:

The recommended grant is the maximum allowable under the guidelines.



Christine Walker
Acting Manager of Recreation Services



Heather A. Turner
Director of Recreation & Culture

Commission Meeting Date:

April 4, 2024

Subject: Director's Update

Optimizing Human, Fiscal and Physical Resources and Systems

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA)

- Building on the training offered to all staff in fall 2023, 55 leaders, managers and supervisors completed training in January on inclusive leadership skills through the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion.
- In February, a full-time IDEA and Employee Engagement Coordinator was hired. The next step is to develop an action plan for 2024-2025.
- NVRC contributed to the District of North Vancouver Accessibility Implementation Plan, which outlines actions NVRC will take to adhere to and exceed the BC Accessibility Act over the next three years and beyond.

Youth Leadership Committee (YLC)

- The YLC is a group of youth volunteers who, with the support of NVRC staff, help to organize and lead youth activities and provide input about youth services NVRC offers.
- The committee members plan to attend local community events and visit the youth lounge drop-ins twice a month starting in April to gather ideas from the youth on what they want to see offered.

Arts & Culture Strategy: Staff have met with City staff, District staff and key arts organizations in North Vancouver to gain insight into the scope and focus for the Arts & Culture Strategy. This information will be presented at a future meeting for the Commission's review to ensure it aligns with its intended outcomes. Once this is done, a Request for Proposals will be issued.

Proactively Respond to Recreation and Culture Needs

Karen Magnussen Community Recreation Centre Youth Events: The Nearly New Year's event held December 29, 2023 drew 174 participants aged 20-14 years. The vibrant atmosphere featured a DJ in the arena during skating, big waves in the pool, gaming on the big-screen Nintendo Switch, and a captivating photo booth.

Trail Trekkers is a hiking program that has been running for over 30 years. Three hikes per week (two mornings and one evening) are programmed on the North Shore and average attendance is 15-20 participants.

- A recent review of this program identified two needs that staff are addressing this spring in order to broaden accessibility and inclusivity:
 - Creating a hiking program catered to individuals with little or no hiking experience; and
 - Expanding the program to include weekend offerings and locations accessible by transit.

Studio Workouts are being launched at Lions Gate Community Recreation Centre (LGCRC). In response to community feedback regarding desired fitness options at LGCRC, staff have created an opportunity for participants to pre-register for a 75-minute timeslot in one of the multipurpose rooms at LGCRC for self-directed workouts. Some equipment will be available to use in the space and participants will be provided with a kit containing fitness accessories and workout cards.

- There will also be Studio Workout Workshops offered on how to use the space, get the most out of workouts and use proper technique. Studio Workouts are included with the Active Pass or participants can pay a day-visit fee.
- The plan is to also offer this type of service at Lynn Creek CRC when it opens this year.

AMPs at Centennial Theatre: In March, Centennial Theatre Presents hosted the fourth in the series of six AMPS (Aspiring Musicians Performance Series) concerts. This series offers early career musicians the opportunity to perform in a fully equipped venue with the support of professional theatre and marketing staff. The performances have been outstanding and the audiences are increasing.

Artist Residency Program: The program's purpose is to support emerging and established artists to produce artistic works and engage the community through workshops, talks, performances and other activities. Following a Call for Artists, 20 applications were received. The number of applicants is high and the quality of proposed projects is exceptional. There will be four to six artists funded in 2024. Applications being considered include music, visual arts, dance and environmental arts.

Family Day 2024: A variety of programs and events were held for families across seven facilities over Family Day weekend. The 35 programs and events were either free or low-cost to community members. Approximately 1,665 people participated in the family-focused programs and events such as art workshops, dance classes, fitness classes, sports and games, swimming, skating, broomball, and a Winter Wonderland special event.

Extended our Effectiveness through Collaboration

Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation:

During meetings with senior staff from Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation regarding the Indoor/Outdoor Recreation and Sport Facility and Amenity Plan, relationships were strengthened and some additional ideas emerged:

- A potential recreation career pathway for Nation-members in aquatics, fitness and skating. Further conversations will be held.
- Coordinating program schedules with Tsleil-Waututh Nation transportation resources, and discussing ways to support sharing the Nation's history with the broader community.
- NVRC attendance at Tsleil-Waututh Nation health and wellness fairs to build awareness of programs and services

First Nations-led programming:

- NVRC hosted a new youth drama program at LGCRC led by a Squamish Nation member. The program was well attended by youth, including Indigenous youth, and it had a waitlist. Similar programs will be offered in the future.

- Two Red Cedar Weaving workshops were offered, led by an Indigenous-owned and operated company. The workshops (one for families and one for adults) taught the importance of cedar in Indigenous culture. This workshop was fully subscribed with 30 participants and had a waitlist of 60. Similar workshops will be offered throughout the year.

2024 community events plan:

- In 2023, NVRC delivered 63 events including Live & Local concerts, plaza pop-ups, artist sessions and Big Games. In 2024, there are 12 new events planned. The Special Events team also supports community events by coordinating external and internal event requirements. In 2023, 120 special event permits were issued.

Joint project with Presentation House Theatre:

- On April 20, Centennial Theatre will be presenting Belle Spirale Dance Projects' *assemble* in collaboration with Presentation House Theatre. Belle Spirale is set to take this dance piece on tour and they will have a performance beforehand at Centennial Theatre. This collaboration will benefit the dance company, both theatres and the community.

Partnership with School District 44:

- A new initiative is being offered starting in October 2024 to connect high school students with their local recreation centres. All Grade 9 Physical Education (PE) students will have the opportunity to attend NVRC Fitness Centres and fitness classes.
 - Each PE class of 30 students will attend four sessions at the NVRC facility closest to their school. Students will rotate between two components:
 - Fitness Centre component – focusing on safe use of equipment, centre etiquette, proper form and creating an individualized program for students to use when they visit outside of class time; and
 - Fitness class component – participating in fitness classes such as Spin, Zumba, Yoga and Circuit Training.
 - Each component will be a mix of theory and practical work to meet the BC Curriculum learning outcomes for Grade 9 PE students.
 - Each student will purchase an Active Pass for the four weeks of their PE sessions which they will also be able to use outside of school time.

Emergency overnight municipal warming centre at John Braithwaite Community Centre:

- A temporary emergency overnight shelter was set up at JBCC during a period of extreme cold from Thursday, January 11 to Sunday, January 14, 2024, from 9 pm to 7 am. This service was coordinated by North Shore Emergency Management on behalf of the three North Shore municipalities. This was a great learning opportunity for all involved and NVRC staff will continue to work with all parties regarding future planning for similar services.

Enhance Understanding of the Scope and Impacts of our Services

Newsletters:

- A weekly event email newsletter and a monthly Centennial Theatre events listing email were launched to promote community and NVRC events. Four regular email newsletters are provided: Rec News (bi-weekly to 25,750 people); Arts News (bi-weekly to 11,175 people); Events Listing (weekly to 13,504 people); and Centennial Theatre Events Listing (monthly to 8,979 people).

North Shore News Readers Choice Awards:

- Delbrook Community Recreation Centre was voted "Favourite Recreation Centre" for the seventh year in a row and again received a special Platinum Award for being the favourite for five consecutive years. Karen Magnussen Community Recreation Centre was one of the top three in the category.
- Centennial Theatre was voted "Favourite Performing Arts Theatre" for the fifth year in a row. It has been the category winner since the Performing Arts Theatre award was first given out in 2020.

Celebrating partnership at Lions Gate Community Recreation Centre:

- A new window wrap was installed at Lions Gate CRC that celebrates the partnership and collaboration between Capilano Community Services, North Vancouver District Public Library and NVRC in providing programs and services that help community members lead healthy, connected lives. Similar wraps light up the windows of John Braithwaite Community Centre and Parkgate Community Centre to mark their respective partnerships with North Shore Neighbourhood House and Parkgate Services Society.



Heather A. Turner
Director of Recreation & Culture