



Attachment #1

Report Back Spreadsheet, February 2025

Report Back: Community Advisory Assembly Recommendations on Connecting and Belonging

Short: up to 2 years
Medium: 2-5 years
Long: More than 5 years

\$: up to \$10,000
\$\$: \$10,000-\$100,000
\$\$\$: More than \$100K

Assembly Theme: Animating the Public Realm: For many residents, the streets, parks and other outdoor spaces are places where belonging and connection happens. The public realm provides no-cost opportunities for the full diversity of residents to share space together, to bump into each other, and to have various forms of interaction. The Assembly recommends that the City:

	Assembly Recommendation	Identified Actions	Department(s) / Division(s) Responsible	Partners	Status	Estimated Timeline (short, medium, long)	Estimated Cost Level (\$, \$\$, \$\$\$)	Dependencies
1	Increase opportunities for interactive music and visual arts to make the public realm inviting, interesting and engaging	<p>Mural Pilot Program In 2023, the Public Art Program launched a new mural pilot program to explore how best to support artists and community organizations in implementing large-scale murals and to create more mural opportunities. Staff are formalizing a process to review and respond to community-initiated murals. The Program goal is to facilitate 1-2 new murals on an annual basis.</p> <p>Artist in Residence Pilot Program As part of the residency, artists are invited to explore and experiment in response to a specific site. Residency activities include artist-led workshops and other opportunities for the community to engage with the artists well as the creation of temporary public art interventions. The pilot was launched in 2023 at Irving House; a new pilot is being developed for 2025.</p> <p>Public Art Plan A 10-year public art plan is in development and will be completed in 2025. The Public Art Program will continue to provide supportive processes and low-barrier opportunities that build capacity such as banners and design-only projects and will also look for new ways to ensure accessibility.</p> <p>Busking Pilot Project Many years ago, the City of New Westminster offered business licenses to buskers who would then play in whatever public location they wished. In 2016, the City paused offering permits for buskers. In 2024, the Economic Development division conducted a busking pilot project to consider ways to bring back City-endorsed busking. The pilot was generally quite successful, with positive feedback received by buskers, members of the public, and businesses. Recommendations are currently being reviewed by staff.</p>	Art Services / Community Partnerships	Parks Planning, Library, Public Art, Recreation Services	In progress	Short Public Art Plan: Short-Medium-Long	\$\$\$	Budget approval for the Busking Pilot Program, as it represents an enhancement
2	Transform physical infrastructure through thoughtful, people-oriented, inclusive design.	<p>The City takes a multi-faceted approach to enhancing public spaces and physical infrastructure. For example, the People, Parks and Play plan, currently under development, will guide the creation of diverse and inclusive parks and open spaces, including a new "urban spaces" classification within City rights-of-way. This means we can expect to see more innovative uses of our streets, such as park-like streets, parklets, and plazas (as already defined in the Downtown Building & Public Realm Guidelines).</p> <p>The City is already actively working to improve the public realm through several initiatives, including: developing a city-wide strategy for public washrooms, replacing the Fourth Street stairs from Columbia Street to Front Street, constructing a permanent Uptown Plaza, and updating the streetscape on Sixth Street in the heart of Uptown. The City is also implementing Bold Step #7 for Climate Action, which prioritizes the reallocation of road space from private vehicles to sustainable transportation and public spaces.</p>	Parks Planning / Transportation	Integrated Services, Crises Response Team, Public Art, Civic Buildings and Properties, Public Works	In progress	Short-Medium-Long	\$-\$\$\$	Council approval of policies and plans, budget enhancements for additional maintenance staff and costs, community support
3	Revitalize year-round festivals incorporating layers of culture and history.	<p>The Events Office within the Community Partnership division, as well as the City's Communications Office, provides some of the work related to City-led events as a part of their core function. The recommendations from the Assembly on Cultural Observances may impact this work further. The majority of festivals and events in New Westminster are organized by outside agencies, and the City has little control over their growth and development. However, for City-led events, the Special Events Office is able to incorporate some of the Assembly's suggestions into their work planning, and capitalizing on opportunities as they come up. A request for additional grant budget can also be made to Council for the 2026 year. Overall, however, the more detailed recommendations provided by the Assembly on Cultural Observances require more staff investigation. Staff are working together across several departments to continue to investigate how to achieve this, and further reporting back is planned on Cultural Observances.</p> <p>Commemoration Framework City Heritage Services staff are drafting a Commemoration Framework that will support the deeper cultural and historic values of the City. While the Commemoration Framework will not directly see to the presentation of City events and festivals, its intent is to inform the City on where to support activities that uplift the heritage of New West. New staffing resources have been added to the 2025 budget that will help make progress on this work.</p> <p>Ongoing Heritage Exhibition and Programming Development and Delivery Heritage Services oversees the City museums and archives. The mandate of which is to enhance knowledge and deepen understanding of New Westminster and its diverse peoples by illuminating past events, exploring current issues and facilitating conversations around future possibilities.</p>	Community Partnerships / Cultural Services	Various event organizers, Community Partnerships, Museum and Heritage Services	In progress	Short-Medium	\$\$-\$\$\$	Council approval of budget enhancement, community support

4	Expand sports and recreation amenities in Queensborough.	Ryall Park identified as one of two potential sites for one new artificial turf field; neighbourhood consultation is taking place currently (February 2025). Field is included in capital budget; construction currently anticipated for 2026/2027. Continued development is underway for People, Parks and Play Plan, which will guide parks and recreation investments across New Westminster for the next 10 years. Plan is expected to come forward to Council in mid-2025 and will identify gaps and needs for additional amenities.	Parks Planning	Public Engagement, Engineering Operations, Urban Systems	In progress	Short-Medium-Long	\$\$\$	Completion of People, Parks and Play Plan; Future capital budget requests and approvals
Assembly Theme: Expanding Facilities and Civic Spaces: Municipally-owned and operated spaces are key to community belonging and connection. They provide a destination, a place to go to participate in activities and be with others. The Assembly recommends that the City:								
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5	Focus on offering and facilitating more access to free or low-cost indoor spaces and activities:							
5a	a) offering more and actively promoting grants to support organizations that are delivering events and programming that support belonging and connecting	Council has approved a new Grants Coordinator staff position, whose role will include actively promoting grants, and overseeing the entire Community Grants Program. Their role will also include making recommendations to Council about potential increases to the total amount of money available for grants for community groups to apply for.	Community Partnerships	TBD	In progress	Short-Medium	\$\$\$	Successful recruitment for Grants Coordinator, Council approval of additional grant funding
5b	b) offering free/low-cost space use in City facilities for these activities, and improving the booking policies and processes to prioritize access for New Westminster community groups to access City-owned spaces	The Parks and Recreation Department has a Facility Allocation Policy that prioritizes City facility rentals for community events that are hosted in partnership with a user group. New Westminster-based groups also receive priority over other bookings. At Anvil Centre, New Westminster-based community groups also receive booking priority. Complimentary space is provided to community groups and associations that have partnered with a City department or are working in collaboration on a City initiative. The Parks and Recreation department is planning to recruit a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism Supervisor this year (2025). As part of its responsibilities, this position will help advance work related to this recommendation. As part of the Anvil Centre 10-year Review, in 2025 staff will be reviewing additional opportunities for discounts and complimentary space in Anvil Centre. Parameters around eligibility, available dates, type of use, and goods and services required will be considered	Parks and Recreation / Anvil Centre	Other City departments	In progress	Short	Dependent on level of complimentary space and impact on rental clients	Council approval of budget impact/enhancement required
6	Encourage developers to prioritize spaces for community gathering in amenity contributions for new developments, either in the immediate neighbourhood or in other neighbourhoods of New Westminster where there is greater need.	Financing Growth: In response to new Provincial housing legislation, the City is undertaking a comprehensive review of how development contributes to amenities throughout the City. The new legislation is comprehensive and has a number of components. One of the new tools created through the recent Provincial legislation is the ability for cities to charge developers set contribution towards achieving identified amenities, such as community centres and libraries. The City is in the process of developing a new bylaw to collect Amenity Cost Charges. The City is also working with a group called the Hey Neighbour Collective to develop Social Connectedness Guidelines for new developments, to encourage better social connectedness between neighbours. This year, staff will seek direction from Council about which amenities to prioritize, within the guardrails that have been put in place by the Provincial legislation.	Planning and Development	Other City departments, development industry	In progress	Medium	No direct budget implications but would affect ACC program and funding of other amenities	
Assembly Theme: Protecting Renter Communities: Renters are an important part of the community, but their sense of belonging and connection can be fragile because they can be forced to move. Large redevelopment projects tend to displace many renters. Displacements impact tenants' sense of belonging and their connections to the broader community, such as schools, daycares, businesses, places of worship, community spaces, and cultural clusters. While some other protections that can increase housing security for tenants, such as rent protection, lie outside of municipal jurisdiction, the City can play a role. The Assembly recommends that the City:								
	Assembly Recommendation	Identified Actions	Department(s) / Division(s) Responsible	Partners	Status	Estimated Timeline (short, medium, long)	Cost Level (\$, \$\$, \$\$\$)	Dependencies
7	Prioritize the update to the City's tenant protection policies to provide greater support for tenants who may be displaced from their homes, including through redevelopment. Consider others' tenant protection policies, with the City of Burnaby's Tenant Assistance Policy as a starting point.	The City currently has a Tenant Relocation Policy, approved in 2015. However, other municipalities have since developed policies that offer greater assistance and compensation, and in some cases, replacement housing. Staff are currently doing research to develop a strengthened Tenant Relocation Policy, and have concluded initial engagement with City of Burnaby staff to better understand their Tenant Assistance Policy. Staff are now preparing an analysis based on this research, and expect to return to Council in the spring with an update and plan to update the City's policy. An updated policy is expected to come forward for Council's consideration later in 2025.	Planning and Development	Other City departments, development industry, rental housing advocates, housing providers	In progress	Short	\$\$	Council direction related to staff recommendations.

8	Prioritize diverse housing types in zoning, including coop housing, independent living facilities and other alternative housing forms	<p>Infill Housing Acceleration Program: Work has been launched on a program that exploring pre-zoning to permit up to six residential units in single detached dwelling zones. Community consultation is planned for spring 2025. The work aligns with the direction set by the Province through new housing legislation.</p> <p>Townhouse Acceleration Program: Work has been launched on a program that is exploring pre-zoning lands to make it easier to construct new townhouse units. Community consultation is planned for spring 2025.</p> <p>Affordable Housing Acceleration Program: In February 2025, Council approved an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw to allow affordable housing projects of up to six storeys, without a rezoning, when the property is owned by a non-profit housing provider, and the Official Community Plan already envisions this land use. Non-profit co-cooperatives also qualify for this program. As a next step, changes to the Official Community Plan will be considered in order to better enable affordable housing. Community consultation is planned for spring 2025.</p> <p>Inclusionary Housing Policy: To better reflect current market and development conditions, work is underway to update the City's Inclusionary Housing Policy, which requires private developers to provide a percentage of affordable housing units in market-rate housing developments.</p> <p>Family Friendly Housing Acceleration Program: Work was completed in 2024 to amplify the existing Family Friendly Housing Policy by mandating a larger number of family friendly units be provided in new projects to create more housing choices for families.</p> <p>Housing Needs Report: The report recently endorsed by Council, identifies the housing need by housing type as well as by population, which can be used by staff and developers to inform decision making.</p> <p>Official Community Plan Update: Work is underway to align the City's Official Community Plan with new Provincial housing legislation, which aims to increasing housing supply and expanding housing choice. Community consultation is planned for spring 2025.</p>	Planning and Development	Other City departments, BC Housing, CMHC, non-profit housing providers	In progress	Short	\$\$\$	Council approval of policies and plans, community support
<p>Assembly Theme: Strengthening Outreach and Communications: A sense of belonging and connection is increased when residents know what is going on in the city. It is important that the information shared by the City reaches everyone, particularly residents who are already somewhat isolated. The Assembly recommends that the City:</p>								
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9	Develop a community ambassador program, recruiting residents This could involve: identifying diverse members of the community with strong social links, running workshops and training sessions to build their skill, knowledge and capacity, and developing the ambassadors as informed touchpoints of the City in the community - to let residents know what is going on, and to let the City know what residents feel or need	The idea of hiring community members with diverse backgrounds to help the City reach under-represented groups in its public engagement processes has been on the Public Engagement division's radar for a few years. Staff capacity is needed to explore potential models, develop an ambassador program proposal, and then hire, train and supervise the ambassador team. Additional budget would be required to pay ambassadors for this work.	Public Engagement	Corporate Communications, HR, Community Partnerships	Not started	Medium	\$\$	Staff and budget increase
10	Send welcome letters/packages to new residents to introduce City events, opportunities and available resources and where to find further information.	A challenge with sending information directly to new residents is that the City does not have a complete and accurate list of new residents. Anti-spam legislation also restricts the type of information the City can send to residents directly without their permission. The City will continue to develop and update documents and resources for newcomers and can expand distribution options with increased funding.	Corporate Communications	All City departments	Not started	Long/not feasible; alternative options would be Medium	\$\$	Staff and budget increase
11	Maintain a mix of print and online City information, recognizing that not everyone depends on or prefers digital media and online resources for information	Corporate communications currently utilizes, and is committed to maintaining, a variety of mediums to share information with the public. In addition to digital and online platforms, the City also produces posters, flyers, postcards, mail-outs, printed notices, and displays information on digital monitors located at City facilities and digital billboards located throughout New West. With additional staff and budget resources, the Communications division can work to expand the amount of printed materials produced.	Corporate Communications	All City departments	In progress	Currently underway. Short-Medium timelines for implementing new initiatives.	\$\$	Staff and budget increase