



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: April 29, 2006
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Meeting Date: May 16, 2006

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Jill Davidson, Senior Planner, Housing Centre
SUBJECT: Grant Request - World Planners Congress (Planning Institute of BC)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve a grant of \$5,000 to the Planning Institute of BC for the World Planners Congress that is being held in Vancouver June 17-20, 2006; source of funds being the 2006 Operating Budget.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services recommends approval.

COUNCIL POLICY

Council policy is to provide grants to conferences where senior staff is involved in presenting or organizing the conference and the conference is relevant to City business.

In 1994, Council set a limit of \$5,000 for grants to conferences. Funding for conferences has typically been provided from Contingency Reserve.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to provide a grant to the Planning Institute of BC for the World Planners Congress being held in Vancouver June 17-20, 2006.

DISCUSSION

The Canadian Institute of Planners and the Planning Institute of British Columbia are holding their joint annual conference - the World Planners Congress - in Vancouver June 17-20, 2006. The Congress takes place immediately prior to the UN Habitat World Urban Forum 3. The conference is expected to be a unique "once-in-a-career" conference, attracting hundreds of planning professionals and others from across British Columbia, Canada and the world.

The overall theme for the 2006 World Planners Congress is "Sustainable Urbanization: Turning Ideas into Action." The conference theme seeks to explore the dimensions of sustainable urbanization for a diverse variety of communities and environments, including those facing challenging rates of growth, migration, and decline. The Congress also seeks to work in partnership with allied professional planning associations around the world, to contribute to the preparation of a Declaration of Principles and Best Practices for Sustainable Urbanization. The conference theme also includes four sub-themes:

1. Planning for More with Less - Planning for the Basics
2. Planning for the Unplanned - The Natural World & the Unexpected
3. Planning for Creative Change - Diversity & Social Change
4. Planning Connects - Governance, Process & Professionalism

The Housing Centre has organized a breakout session with the GVRD's Homelessness Unit entitled "Combating Homelessness in a World of Plenty: A Comparative Approach to Action" within the conference sub-theme of "Planning for More with Less." Homelessness has proven to be a major challenge even in industrialized countries with significant financial and human resources. Unfortunately homelessness is an indicator of unsustainable development, as basic human needs are not being met and whole communities are affected both financially and socially.

Building on the City's *Homeless Action Plan*, the session will focus on how three major world cities are translating their policy approaches into actions. This breakout session will examine how New York, London and Vancouver are tackling the issue of homelessness, what actions are underway in their cities, what has proven effective, and what lessons can be learned that can assist other communities

Our panelists include:

- Terrie Alafat, Director of the Homelessness and Housing Support Directorate, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, London, England
- Fran Winter, Commissioner, New York Department of Homeless Services
- Becky Kanis, Director of Innovation, Common Ground, New York
- Jill Davidson, Senior Planner at the Housing Centre, City of Vancouver

The session will be moderated by Michelle Ninow (manages the GVRD Homelessness Unit).

If approved, the \$5,000 will help offset the some of the costs incurred by our panel participants.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report seeks approval to grant the Planning Institute of BC \$5,000 for the World Planners Congress that is being held in Vancouver June 17-20, 2006; source of funds being the 2006 Operating Budget.

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