



CITY OF VANCOUVER
ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A7

Report Date: May 18, 2006
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Meeting Date: May 30, 2006

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Director of City Plans

SUBJECT: World Urban Forum 2006: City Program and Budget

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the City of Vancouver's 2006 World Urban Forum Budget of \$225,500, as detailed in Appendix A, with the source of funding being the 2006 Operating Budget, as approved by City Council on April 6, 2006, and further that the remaining \$104,500 set aside for the World Urban Forum be allocated back to the 2006 Contingency Reserve.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

- On June 11, 2002, Council supported the World Urban Forum (WUF) being held in Vancouver in 2006.
- On September 11, 2003, Council authorized City officials to engage with other governments and agencies in preparations for the 2006 WUF. Council agreed that, given limitations on City grant programs, groups seeking funding for WUF-related activities should approach federal agencies (Western Diversification) for support. Council has received subsequent memoranda on City activities.

- On April 6, 2006, Council authorized one-time funding of \$330,000 to be added to the 2006 Operating Budget for City participation in WUF including \$70,000 for policing and Council further authorized the City Manager to transfer up to a maximum of \$250,000 from Contingency Reserve to police WUF if unforeseen security issues arise. Council directed staff to report back with details on the City's WUF program and budget.

PURPOSE

This report outlines City involvement in the 2006 World Urban Forum and provides budget details as requested by Council. The proposed budget is within the amount already approved by Council.

BACKGROUND

In 1976 the first in a series of United Nations conferences on cities and urbanization was held in Vancouver. The Habitat I conference theme was "Improving the Quality of Human Settlements". The 1976 Conference had two parts -- formal sessions downtown and a lively public/non-government event at Jericho Beach.

Habitat had a profound effect on the way in which cities are viewed nationally and internationally. It led to the formation of the United Nations Program for Human Settlements and a variety of initiatives to improve urban livability including World Urban Forums (WUF).

World Urban Forums are bi-annual international think-tanks on cities and urbanization. They are organized by the United Nations. The UN is responsible for determining WUF themes and the formal program. Countries offer to host World Urban Forums. Canada is the host for the WUF which will take place in Vancouver from June 19- 23, 2006. The theme of the 2006 WUF is: "Our Future: Sustainable Cities - Turning Ideas into Action". Sub themes focus on Urban Growth and Environment, Partnership and Finance, and Social Inclusion.

Participation in WUF is open to all interested persons. There is no registration fee. To date over 8,000 people have registered to attend WUF 2006. Registrants are from around the world representing governments, universities, research institutions, civil society, non-governmental organizations, private sector, and the media.

OVERVIEW WUF PROGRAM June 19 - 23, 2006

The World Urban Forum starts on Sunday June 18 evening with a reception hosted by Canada. Mayor Sullivan will participate in the opening ceremonies on June 19 welcoming delegates to Vancouver. A variety of Dialogues, Networking Sessions and other activities occur during the week with closing ceremonies on Friday June 23. Exhibitions will showcase urban success stories.

In addition to the formal WUF program there are a variety of conferences and activities being planned under the umbrella of WUF. Example activities include:

- United Council of Local Governments (UCLG). Meetings of the UCLG, involving Mayors and senior officials from around the world, will discuss the interests of cities and local governments.

- World Youth Forum, 16-18 June 2006, will provide a forum for young people to air their views and showcase youth-led projects and best practices.
- International Earth Festival June 18 - 25 at the Great Northern Way University Campus. This is a UNESCO designated festival including contributions from over 25 countries which, through arts and culture, explore issues of global sustainability and social justice. The festival is the culmination of a two-year project.
- Professional Meetings
 - International Planners Congress June 17-20.
 - Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Conference and Festival of Architecture June 14-17.
 - Landscape Architects Conference June 14-17.
 - Planners, Architects, and Landscape Architects are convening an event on June 17 called 'Super Saturday' which will showcase best practices.

CITY OF VANCOUVER CONTRIBUTIONS TO WUF

On September 11, 2003, Council authorized City officials to engage with other governments and agencies in preparations for WUF 2006. The City has participated in WUF planning through the WUF National Advisory Committee, Vancouver WUF Working Group, and the Vancouver WUF Project Funding Review Committee.

While WUF is happening in Vancouver, the Canadian Government, rather than the City of Vancouver, is the official host. Indeed, Vancouver has had limited opportunities to influence the formal program.

During the past year, the City has considered a variety of options for involvement in WUF, both in hosting delegates and engaging the broader public. Initially, it was thought that participation in WUF would be limited to official country delegations or accessible for a registration fee. In these circumstances, staff considered a number of options to engage Vancouver citizens in thinking about cities.

Options ranged from information displays to an event of the scale of the very successful Ideas Fair held in 1993 when over 10,000 people participated in a three day discussion of the city's future. Since 1993 a lot of new initiatives have happened in Vancouver without much public fanfare. Holding an activity of the scale undertaken in the Ideas Fair would likely to be very popular with Vancouver citizens and WUF delegates. However, the Ideas Fair net cost was about \$270,000 in addition to staff time. Concern was expressed that an event of this scale would be a significant addition to the 2006 budget.

Subsequently, WUF concluded that there would be no charge for registration. This meant that interested Vancouver residents could participate in the WUF program. Given the open registration policy, and recognizing City budget constraints, the City's WUF initiatives have focused on:

- Showcasing and sharing City of Vancouver best practices with WUF delegates;
- Providing an opportunity for City Council and staff to attend events and build networks to assist with ongoing work; and
- Enhancing, not duplicating, programming provided by the UN or other agencies.

Example activities involving the City of Vancouver include:

- **Providing information about Vancouver** to be available at WUF Registration, from a booth in the Exhibition Hall, and from a mobile booth located at various events:
 - Brochures and CD Disks on City Governance, Planning, Infrastructure, and Social Services have been prepared. The brochures provide an overview of Vancouver and links to City web sites for more information. Staff from Planning, Communications, Graphics, City Clerk/External Relations, Sustainability, Police, Library, Social Planning, Equal Opportunities, Cultural Services, Corporate Services, Parks, Housing Centre, Fire and Rescue Services, and Engineering participated in developing City materials.
 - Improved Web Access: In an effort to minimize waste paper, people interested in copies of reports and other information will be directed to the web. The City's web site is being reconfigured to include a new feature through which readers can directly access a menu of policy reports and program information ("www.Vancouver.ca/ourcity").
- **Networking Sessions:** The City is already receiving many requests for meetings with City officials to discuss how we manage and plan Vancouver. Vancouver is participating in several Networking sessions. The City Manager, Co-Directors of Planning, and General Manager of Engineering Services will be presenting information about City programs and policies. Other Networking Sessions involving City staff include discussions on the Vancouver Agreement, the Accessible Inclusive Cities Project, sustainability, urban agriculture, homelessness, and youth.
- **City Tours:** Staff have prepared self-guided tours of Coal Harbor, False Creek, Downtown/Downtown East Side, and sites outside the Central Area for visitors to experience the city. TransLink has arranged for all delegates to receive free transit passes. The self-guided tours are designed to showcase Vancouver best practices by foot, bike, and public transit.
- **United Council of Local Governments:** Mayor Sullivan has been invited to participate in a Roundtable of visiting mayors. A reception (by invitation) for international and local mayors and councillors, hosted by the City of Vancouver and the GVRD, will follow the Mayor's Roundtable.
- **World Youth Forum:** Social Planning staff are assisting with planning and program activities for the World Youth Forum. The Vancouver Public Library is providing meeting and display space to the World Youth Forum.
- **UNESCO Earth Festival:** The City has participated in the development of the UNESCO International Earth Festival through the Cultural Grants Program. The Vancouver Learning City initiative will be launched during the Earth Festival.
- **Other City Support for WUF:** The City is working with the UN and Canadian government to provide security and event support services.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Appendix A outlines the proposed budget for City involvement in WUF. Funds required from the 2006 budget amount to \$225,500. On April 6, 2006, Council authorized one-time funding of \$330,000 to be added to the 2006 Operating Budget for City participation in WUF. Council also authorized the City Manager to transfer up to a maximum of \$250,000 from Contingency Reserve to police WUF if unforeseen security issues arise.

The proposed 2006 budget falls within the amount set aside by Council. The difference in funds allocated and the proposed budget reflects a change in program activities. The Canadian WUF organizers had considered an additional event to provide displays and presentations geared to a local audience. Had this occurred, staff would have recommended the City participate and contribute to the cost. Given that registration is open to all interested persons, a separate local event was not pursued. Consequently, the report recommends that the remaining difference of \$104,500 be allocated back to the 2006 Contingency Reserve.

A portion of the costs of producing the Brochures and Tours (\$11,000) was paid from the 2005 budget. Combining 2005 and 2006 expenses, the cost of City involvement in WUF will be in the order of \$236,500 plus staff time.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

A number of staff are participating in WUF and associated conferences. Involvement has been either voluntary outside regular working hours or focused on opportunities for staff to learn and share information through participation in WUF activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

WUF is about sharing ideas to improve the environmental, social, and economic circumstances of cities.

INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS LEGACY

Staff have prepared information for distribution at WUF and related conferences. Separate from WUF, City Councillors and staff spend a considerable amount of time on an ongoing basis providing tours and information to visiting officials. Preparation of the information brochures and self guided tours will both enhance the experience for WUF delegates and provide a legacy of information for future use including the Olympics.

CONCLUSION

Much as Habitat 76 and Expo 86, the principle legacy of 2006 World Urban Forum will be the attention it draws to Vancouver as a livable city in which to live, work, and play. This report updates Council on City activities related to the World Urban Forum. Mindful of the many pressures on the City's budget, City WUF initiatives have been focused on sharing information about Vancouver with delegates and providing, as a legacy, information which can be used on an ongoing basis to respond to inquiries about the City of Vancouver.

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APPENDIX A

WORLD URBAN FORUM CITY BUDGET

2006

CITY INFORMATION

- 4 Brochures & 5 Walking Tours
 - Preparation, translation, printing
 - CDs including brochure information, key City reports

\$47,500

CITY EXHIBITION & INFORMATION BOOTHS

- Main Exhibit
 - Design, preparation
 - Furnishings, electrical, displays
 - Staff setup, support
- Mobile Exhibit(s)

38,000

HOST CITY RESPONSIBILITIES

- United Council of Local Governments City-GVRD Event*
- Host City and City of Vancouver Pins, gifts

37,000

COMMUNICATIONS

- Print Advertising
- Press Kits
- GVTV Coverage/photographs

8,000

POLICE SERVICES

70,000

ENGINEERING SERVICES

5,000

CONTINGENCY

20,000

TOTAL

\$225,500

* The amount for the City-GVRD hosted event for visiting Mayors, Councillors and key officials is an estimate requiring approval from the GVRD. Staff are pursuing additional sponsorship for the event which may further reduce costs.