



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: August 31, 2006
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Meeting Date: September 12, 2006

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager of Community Services in consultation with the General Managers of the Vancouver Park Board and Vancouver Public Library; and the Vancouver School Board

SUBJECT: Youth Politik Program (formerly Youth Days in Council)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. THAT Council approve the proposed Pilot 2006 Youth Politik Program for a total budget of \$64,300. Funding of \$31,300 is from carry-forward funding previously approved by Council, with the balance of \$33,000 to come from a combination of in-kind donations, community partnerships and sponsors and Community Services Group's 2006 Budget.
- B. THAT Council approve seeking funding partner(s) to offset costs;
- C. THAT Council request the endorsement and participation of the Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Park Board, Vancouver Library Board and Vancouver Police Board.
- D. THAT Council direct staff to report back as soon as possible regarding the program's evaluation and defer the decision for future years funding to the 2007 budget process.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager supports this initiative to develop youth through partnerships geared to building individual and community capacity.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services supports this initiative as it enhances the Civic Youth Strategy and is consistent with the City's approach to engaging youth. This program will provide youth with an opportunity to learn about how civic government works and ways in which they can become more active in their City and communities.

COUNCIL POLICY

Vancouver Civic Youth Strategy, 1995

On March 28, 1995, Council approved the Vancouver Civic Youth Strategy (CYS). The CYS commits the City to work in partnership with youth and the larger community to:

- ensure youth have a PLACE in the City;
- ensure strong youth VOICE in decision-making;
- promote youth as a RESOURCE to the City;
- strengthen the SUPPORT BASE for youth.

It also commits to involve youth and youth-driven organizations as active partners in the development, assessment and delivery of civic services having direct impact on youth, and to include youth in broad spectrum consultations.

PURPOSE & SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed Youth Politik Program plan and budget for the Pilot year (2006). This report also includes a progress report of the program to date.

BACKGROUND

On February 14, 2006, Council approved a motion supporting the development of a "Civic Youth Council" (herein to be called "Youth Politik"). Youth Politik is an initiative from the Mayor's Office with the goal to involve 500 youth through to 2010. The program has been jointly created and implemented by a Steering Committee, which includes representatives from the City's Social Planning Department, Vancouver Park Board, Vancouver Public Library and the Vancouver School Board.

On July 18, 2006, Council approved this initiative in principle and also approved one-time carry-forward funding of \$31,300 for an Auxiliary Youth Coordinator and Temporary Part-time Social Planner I to further develop the program and budget.

The Steering Committee has undertaken to fund the remaining balance of the Pilot through in-kind donations, community partnerships/sponsors and the Community Services Group's 2006 budget.

DISCUSSION

Overview of the Youth Politik Program

The Youth Politik program will provide an annual opportunity for 100 young Vancouver Citizens (ages 15- 19) to learn about municipal government and how it works. By September, 2006, approximately 15 young people will be recruited to join the Youth Politik Working Group to work in partnership with "adult allies", including staff from the Social Planning Department and the Park, School and Library Boards and the Mayor's Office to develop and implement this annual program. Youth Working Group members will take on responsibilities including:

- Outreach: presentations, youth survey, poster campaign;
- Communications: material development, media relations;
- Logistics: create event program schedules, coordinate supply lists, equipment and venue booking;
- Program development: plan program activities and socials, design and facilitate workshops;
- Closing ceremony event planning: create program, recruit youth performers, design material (i.e. slideshow), and work with the City's Protocol Office.

In October, 2006, 100 youth will be selected to participate in the Program. Participants will take part in a series of eight workshops where they will learn about civic government and work together to identify the issues that are important to them in their city. The program culminates in a two-day Council event, where the youth participants will be matched with City Councillors and elected officials from the Park and School Boards, to study and debate important issues and to create their own opportunities for youth to become more involved in those issues. Youth Politik will bring together youth who are passionate about becoming involved in civic issues and making a positive change in their community.

Progress Report

The staff Steering Committee has been meeting to lead the early vision and implementation of the Program. Two part-time Youth Coordinators have been hired and are currently working with Social Planning staff as support to the Steering Committee to further shape and implement the program by December, 2006. See timelines below:

Youth Politik Program Timeline

Date	Action
July 10, 2006	Council approves one-time staffing cost of \$31,300
July 27, 2006	Two part-time Youth Coordinators hired. Create youth working group parameters and program development.
August 30, 2006	Recruitment for Youth Working Group
September 8, 2006	Selection of Youth Working Group
September 12, 2006	Report to Council
September 13, 2006	Youth Working Group first meeting: sub-committees established: 1) outreach; 2) communications; 3) logistics; 4) program development; 5) closing ceremony event planning
September, 2006	Program applications complete, Communications materials complete, Outreach
Mid-September, 2006	Secure participation commitment from elected officials. Survey youth community on what civic issues are most important to them
End of September, 2006	Youth Working Group to present to Steering Committee and to elected officials interested in becoming involved
October 9, 2006	Participant application forms due, Selection committee to meet
October 10, 2006	Youth participants notified
October, 2006	Youth Working Group to continue with program development and event planning
October 26, 2006	Workshop series begins with eight workshops@ four hours each
November 24 & 25, 2006	Youth Politik two-day event: 1) debate; 2) youth and elected official teams; 3) action projects; 4) closing ceremony; 5) reception
December 15, 2006	Final report and evaluation complete
Early 2007	Report to Council on Pilot Youth Politik Program and updates for 2007 program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**Youth Politik Proposed Budget 2006**

Item	Cost	Funding source	Funds still needed
Program Staffing	\$31,300	\$31,300 One-time carry forwards funds -Social Planning budget	
Youth Working group Costs (e.g. honoraria, bus tickets, food)	\$5,000		\$5,000
Participant Costs (e.g. program materials, food, bus)	\$16,000		\$16,000
Communications and printing	\$2,500	\$1500 from Communications Dept.	\$1,000
Training	\$2,000	\$1000 from other City Depts.	\$1,000
Closing Ceremony	\$7,500	\$7500 City Manager/Protocol Office to fund & organize	
Total Program Budget	\$64,300		
Total funds and In-kind contributions secured to date		\$41,300	
Total Outstanding Costs			\$23,000

As noted in the above table, the total proposed budget for the program is \$64,300. Council had approved on July 18, 2006, the initial program funding of \$31,300 from previous carry forward funds related to Youth Engagement Initiatives, which were no longer required. The Steering Committee is seeking to fund the remaining balance of \$33,000 from a combination of in-kind contributions, community sponsors for the program and the Community Services Group's 2006 budget. Thus far, \$10,000 of in-kind contributions has been identified, leaving a balance of \$23,000.

CONCLUSION

The 2006 Youth Politik Pilot project will provide an opportunity for youth to learn about and become further involved in civic government. A number of youth will be directly involved in developing and implementing the program itself. Program participants will be introduced to a variety of City initiatives, and be connected to the City's Youth Outreach Team, whose mandate is to provide meaningful opportunities for youth to become involved in civic issues. Program outcomes include: youth identifying that they have a better understanding of the mandate and workings of civic government; committing to being more active through direct participation in future City and community programs and consultations; and learning about the importance of voting in elections held at all levels of government. Feedback from the participants will help to shape the Youth Politik program through to 2010. Youth Politik is a program where young people will gain experience in local politics and most importantly, it is a program that recognizes youth as leaders of today, leaders who are capable of making a positive impact in their city and around the world.

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