



# A9

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 29, 2010  
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Meeting Date: December 14, 2010

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: Managing Director of Cultural Services  
SUBJECT: Capital Grant to Museum of Vancouver for Vancouver 2010 Legacy Collection Care

### ***RECOMMENDATION***

THAT Council approve a capital grant of \$585,000 to the Vancouver Museum Society as outlined in this report which will enable the Museum of Vancouver to house, preserve and make available the Vancouver 2010 Legacy Collection on the City's behalf. Source of funds is the Olympic Legacy Reserve Fund.

### ***GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS***

The General Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

### ***CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS***

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

### ***COUNCIL POLICY***

Approval of grants requires eight affirmative votes.

### ***PURPOSE***

This report seeks Council approval for a capital grant to the Vancouver Museum Society that will enable the Museum of Vancouver to house, preserve, and make accessible the Vancouver 2010 Legacy Collection on the City's behalf.

## **BACKGROUND**

The planning and realization of the Vancouver 2010 Games was a significant event in the history of Canadian athletics, the City of Vancouver, the Municipality of Whistler, the Province of British Columbia, and Canada as a whole. In addition to providing the desired information transfer, the Vancouver Olympic Committee (VANOC), City of Vancouver, and the other Partners identified the need for a “lasting stories and legacy collection” as a valued tangible result that can continue to support the individual and collective vision of the endeavour.

The Vancouver 2010 Legacy Collection was created to support this mission and vision through the preservation of material culture – objects, memorabilia, and ephemera – that enables the telling of the stories of Vancouver 2010. As a lasting legacy, these stories go far beyond athletic achievements to include the total transformative effects of Vancouver 2010: sustainability, including social, economic, and environmental stewardship; culture; aboriginal participation; accessibility, including social inclusion; partnership; and national and international recognition.

At its meeting on 6 January 2010, the Multiparty Agreement Partners formed the Vancouver 2010 Legacy Collection Steering Committee, whose member partners included VANOC, the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC), the Canadian Paralympic Committee, the City of Vancouver, the Government of British Columbia, the Regional Municipality of Whistler and the Four Host First Nations (FHFN). In January 2010, the Vancouver 2010 Legacy Collection Steering Committee retained a consultant to develop a collections strategy which resulted in the report *Lasting Stories and Legacies: The Artifacts*. The report was asked to:

- Prepare a high-level definition of the artifact collection purpose and parameters, based upon past documentation and input from Partners, and to secure general agreement to this concept among partners;
- Develop a framework for creation of the collection including support from Partners/related associations (specifically sports) to contribute to the collection during and immediately after the games; this framework is to be supported by guidelines distributed to collecting Partners concerning selection plus minimal documentation;
- Outline a plan for the physical assembly and interim storage of artifacts (and accompanying documentation) during and immediately post-Games, including estimates as to costs; and
- Provide high level direction for a post-Games process to provide for medium and long term maintenance of the collection and access to the collection for the Partners.

In developing the Vancouver 2010 Legacy Collection strategy, the report identified various themes and recommended acquiring any objects, memorabilia, and ephemera that would help tell the story of Vancouver 2010. As generally agreed by the Partners, the principles which shape the Vancouver 2010 Legacy Collection are as follows:

- The full spectrum of Vancouver 2010 stories should continue to be told after the Games are over;
- A collection of objects, memorabilia, and ephemera associated with the breadth of stories should be acquired and preserved (in addition to the required provision of material to the IOC and the safeguarding of documents and images in the City of Vancouver Archives);
- The collection should reflect the Vancouver 2010's distinctive themes – sport, culture, sustainability, aboriginal participation, accessibility, partnership – through both representative objects and iconic artifacts;
- The collection should be entrusted to the City of Vancouver under the stewardship of the Museum of Vancouver on behalf of the Partners;
- While under the professional management of the Museum of Vancouver, elements of the collection should be available to Partners and other interested parties to support their telling the stories of Vancouver 2010.

Under the leadership of VANOC in promoting the importance of the Vancouver 2010 Legacy Collection, the recommended approach for acquisition was to be inclusive, and to invite contributions from as wide a spectrum as possible. Staff from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Museum outlined their usual practice of requesting signed memorabilia from winning athletes, and agreed to request a duplicate for the Vancouver 2010 Legacy Collection. An innovative acquisition program was conducted through the National Olympic Committees (NOC) and the International Sports Federation (ISF) participating in Vancouver 2010. Through communications from the COC, all NOCs were asked to contribute artifacts, memorabilia, and ephemera that represent their team's experience of Vancouver 2010; all ISFs were asked to donate similar material representing noteworthy achievements in their sports at Vancouver 2010. Finally, the broader community was contacted to get a broader representation of artifacts.

Those who will use the collection to tell the stories include the Partners, as well as a number of interested parties, such as the BC Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, other venue cities, public and sports historians, and the educational sector. For the COC, there is an interest to reflect Vancouver 2010 in the Olympic and Paralympic Gallery in the new Canada's Sports Hall of Fame (CSHF), scheduled to open in Calgary's Olympic Park in June 2011. The Executive Director of the FHFN has also expressed the desire to use the Vancouver 2010 Legacy Collection both within BC and internationally. The Municipality of Whistler also wants to use artifacts from the collection to reinforce the historic nature of Whistler's participation in the Games. Among other interested parties, the BC Sports Hall of Fame and Museum (BCSHFM) has indicated its desire to develop its Olympic gallery to reflect the accomplishments of BC athletes at the Games. Further potential uses for the collection would include educational programs, which might be developed with a range of partners from the public realm, including the BCSHF, the CSHF, the FHFN, and 2010 Legacies Now. The

Legacy Committee Partners have requested that this collection be flexible in its lending mandate to enable mobile exhibitions that are accessible to citizens throughout BC, and where possible, citizens in other Canadian provinces.

There is also the potential that this collection offers for future research. Particularly when used in conjunction with the Vancouver 2010 material held by the City of Vancouver Archives, the collection would provide opportunities for research in a wide range of subjects, from athletic history to urban planning to aboriginal studies.

### *DISCUSSION*

Within the Steering Committee and as recommended by the consultant's report, there was general consensus that the Museum of Vancouver is the most logical institution to assume responsibility for the care and long-term preservation of the collection, as entrusted by the City of Vancouver and in the spirit of partnership that has characterized Vancouver 2010. Given the expertise resident within the Museum, the consultant's report recommended that the collection should be situated at the Museum of Vancouver, and the collection's long-term housing provided by new compact storage rather than securing additional resources and expertise to care and house the collection elsewhere. There was also recognition that this responsibility is in addition to the Museum's operational work load, and that additional resources would be required to enable the Museum to fulfill appropriate curatorial and collections management functions.

The size of the Vancouver 2010 Legacy Collection is now approximately 2,000 items, ranging in size from very small artifacts to a number of large objects. Museum of Vancouver staff have assisted with the acquisition of artifacts and will be responsible for processing, inventory and cataloguing, as well as storage of this collection. The Vancouver 2010 artifacts are currently located in an interim storage facility until such time as the Museum reorganizes and installs the required new shelving units in its collection storage areas. With reorganization and new shelving, the Museum projects that it will be able to accommodate the Vancouver 2010 Legacy Collection within its current facility. (Oversize artifacts will be housed in an adjacent building in Vanier Park.)

Capital grant funds for the first phase of this project will be used to purchase and install approximately 1800 sq. ft. of compact storage units, which will allow for maximum utilization of the existing storage area, as well as shallow trays for very small objects (such as Olympic pins and medals), hanging storage for textiles (such as volunteer's and athlete's uniforms), art racking (for framed art pieces and signs), and over-sized heavy duty racking for very large pieces (such as the Opening Ceremonies canoe and Musqueam welcome figure head). This was determined to be the optimal solution for the collection, ensuring appropriate professional care and security plus relative ease of access, at a cost which is considerably less than any other means of providing purpose-built space.

Subsequent phases of this project entail moving the collection from temporary storage at the Manitoba Yards to the Museum, preparing the artifacts for storage, making temporary storage mounts and supports, lining drawers and shelving. The artifacts from the collection will be then accessioned, catalogued, and digitally photographed. The catalogue records and digital images will be made available to the public on the Internet.

### *FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS*

The consultant retained by the Vancouver 2010 Legacy Collection Steering Committee projected general cost estimates of approximately \$628,000 to house and preserve the collection based on 1,000 artifacts. The Museum has obtained quotes for the shelving ranging between \$399,269 and \$456,580 based on 2,000 artifacts. The budget for related equipment, archival materials, and human resources to execute this project is \$132,977 for a total of \$585,471 including a 10% contingency for completing the first phase of the project.

The capital grant to the Vancouver Museum Society recommended in this report will be funded through the Olympic Legacy Reserve Fund.

Additional funds for subsequent phases will be requested in the 2011 Capital budget, which will encompass preparing and moving the collection from its temporary location at Manitoba Yards once the shelving has been installed at the Museum, and then accessioning, cataloguing and digitizing the collection in preparation for future exhibition and loan. The total cost for these subsequent phases is anticipated to be approximately \$145,000.

### *CONCLUSION*

The spirit, collaboration, and achievements of Vancouver 2010 should be documented for posterity in a way that is meaningful for participants and the wider community, and the legacy of an Olympic collection of artifacts is a significant component of such preservation and future learning. Such a collection is a lasting legacy which ensures that the stories will be told in perpetuity, or, as described in the Code of Ethics of the International Council of Museums, it constitutes "a significant public inheritance."

In order for the Museum to house and care for this collection, a capital grant will cover the costs of the collection's appropriate management, preservation, and long-term care. Assembling a museum collection of objects and memorabilia from the 2010 Winter Olympic Games will represent our individual and collective experiences during this exciting time in the City's history. On behalf of the Partners, the City of Vancouver will preserve this collection within the Museum of Vancouver, and will make it accessible across Canada through exhibitions and loans.

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