



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: May 9, 2018
Contact: Tim Stevenson
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RTS No.: 12599
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: May 15, 2018

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Chief of External Relations and Protocol
SUBJECT: Year of the Queer Proclamation and Launch

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT in recognition of 15 significant anniversaries celebrated this year by local LGBTTO organizations, and in recognition of the contributions these organizations have made to Vancouver's social, cultural and artistic landscape, the City launch a "2018 - Year of the Queer" Proclamation and Launch event.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to utilize funds designated for the Council approved annual "Pride Week" event at the end of July, and redirect those funds to support a one-time "2018 - Year of the Queer" event at Vancouver City Hall on May 23, 2018.
- C. THAT Council authorize the 12' X 24' Pride Flag and 12' X 24' Trans Flag to fly on the north lawn of City Hall from May 23, 2018 - August 19, 2018 as a public acknowledgement of these significant anniversaries.

REPORT SUMMARY

Vancouver has been enriched by the social, economic, cultural and artistic contributions of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Two-Spirited, Queer (LGBTTO) community.

Twenty-eight marks significant anniversaries for 15 local LGBTTO arts, cultural, community and health organizations, all of which have made substantial contributions to Vancouver's artistic, social and cultural landscape.

In recognition of these anniversaries, it has been recommended that an event at Vancouver City Hall be held from 11 am - 1 pm on Wednesday, May 23 to kick-off the anniversary season on behalf of the celebrating organizations. The event will include a panel discussion in the Council Chamber, followed by a launch event on the Helena

Gutteridge Plaza which will feature LGBTTO community information booths, the Pride and Trans Flags and the reading of the "2018- Year of the Queer" Proclamation by Mayor Gregor Robertson.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Vancouver City Council approved "PRIDE WEEK" as an official National and International Event on December 1, 2006 (RTS 6438). In that same report, further Council approval is required for events that are held for special reasons such as a marker anniversary for an annually funded event or an event that is not annually recognized. As per the report, staff are seeking Council's permission to host this special one-time marker anniversary event.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager RECOMMENDS approval of A, B and C.

REPORT

Background/Context

The City of Vancouver celebrates and supports the LGBTTO community by hosting a "Pride Week" kick-off event, which is a Council approved annual event hosted in partnership with the Vancouver Pride Society and typically includes a panel discussion in the Council Chamber, and the raising of the Pride and Trans on the north lawn of City Hall for the duration of Pride Week;

Twenty-eight is a particularly special year in the LGBTTO community because it marks the anniversaries of 15 local arts, cultural, health and community organizations that do important work on behalf of Vancouver's LGBTTO community, including:

- 40th Anniversary of Vancouver Pride Society's Pride Parade and Sunset Beach Festival
- 40th Anniversary of Qmunity - BC's Queer, Trans, and Two-Spirited Resource Centre
- 35th Anniversary of AIDS Vancouver
- 35th Anniversary of Little Sisters Bookstore
- 30th Anniversary of Out on Screen's Vancouver Queer Film Festival
- 25th Anniversary of LEGIT - Canadian Immigration for Same Sex Partners
- 20th Anniversary of Pride in Art Festival
- 20th Anniversary of Rainbow Refugee Society
- 20th Anniversary of Monsoon - Asian Lesbians, Bisexuals and Trans in Vancouver
- 15th Anniversary of Vancouver Dyke March
- 10th Anniversary of The Queer Arts Festival
- 10th Anniversary of The Frank Theatre Company
- 10th Anniversary of Sher Vancouver
- 10th Anniversary of Zee Zee Theatre
- 10th Anniversary of Health Initiative for Men

Strategic Analysis

Collectively these organizations have provided 330 years of service to the city's LGBTTO community, and continue to make significant contributions to the social, cultural and artistic landscape of Vancouver.

The Executive Directors of the Vancouver Pride Society, The Frank Theatre, Out of Screen and Pride in Art Festival approached the City to request that the City celebrate these anniversaries with a special Proclamation and Launch event at City Hall on May, 23, 2018 to mark the beginning of the anniversary celebrations starting on June 2, 2018 with Out on Screen's 30th birthday event.

The "2018 - Year of the Queer" Proclamation and Launch will include a panel discussion in the Council Chamber, and an outdoor event on the Helena Gutteridge Plaza. The event will also be marked with the raising of the 12' X 24' Pride and Trans Flag which will fly on the City's largest flag poles on the north lawn of City Hall from May 23, 2018 to August 19, 2018 as a public acknowledgement of the City's support of Year of the Queer.

The City typically partners with the Vancouver Pride Society to launch "Pride Week" with a community kick-off event at the end of July. However, given the significant anniversaries and year-long celebrations in the local LGBTTO community, Vancouver Pride Society is supportive of the City forgoing its typical annual "Pride Week" kick-off event in July, and redirecting those event planning resources to a "2018 - Year of the Queer" event at City Hall. A "Pride Week" Proclamation by Mayor Gregor Robertson will still be issue and read at a Vancouver Pride Society led event during Pride Week 2018.

Financial

There are no financial implications.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommend that in recognition of 15 significant anniversaries celebrated this year by local LGBTTO organizations, and in recognition of the contributions these organizations have made to the Vancouver's social, cultural and artistic landscape, the City host a "2018 - Year of the Queer" Proclamation and Launch event at Vancouver City Hall on May 23, 2018. Staff also recommend that funds designated for the Council approved annual "Pride Week" event be redirected to support this one-time event; and that the 12' X 24' Pride and Trans Flags fly on the north lawn of City Hall from May 23 - August 19, 2018.

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