

## The Mayor's Task Force on the Riverfront and the Public Realm

### Terms of Reference

#### Mandate:

The role of the Mayor's Task Force on the Riverfront and the Public Realm is to provide recommendations and strategic advice to City Council on enhancing the public realm in the City and advancing the City's Riverfront Vision:

*The Riverfront is the City's most significant cultural, economic and natural asset. It is home to vibrant and diverse public spaces, high-quality recreation, business and housing, and significant natural features. It is an integral component of the local economy, providing employment, services and tourism opportunities while providing a living link to the city's past.*

*Our Riverfront Vision is to seamlessly connect our riverfront - while respecting existing industry - through a continuous system of greenways and parks that run the length of the city and provide improved connections from our neighbourhoods to the river for residents, businesses and visitors alike. Along with enhanced access and facilities, the Riverfront's recreation and tourism potential will be realized through public spaces and activities that generate widespread interest and are welcoming for all ages and abilities at all times during the year.*

#### Purpose:

The Task Force will establish and oversee a fully-costed implementation plan that identifies and prioritizes short- and long-term initiatives with measurable results and outcomes that can be monitored over time and supports the creation of a more interesting and animated public realm within the City and the timely achievement of the three goals of the Riverfront Vision:

1. **Continuity.** Creating a continuous network of attractive Greenways and parks.
2. **Connectivity.** Providing both physical and social connections from all neighborhoods to the river.
3. **Activity.** Programming and animating the Riverfront with an active, engaging and dynamic series of experiences that entice visitors and local residents to explore its many destinations and adjacent amenities.

#### Scope:

For the purpose of defining a scope for this Task Force, public realm and public spaces in the City include not only parks, plazas and greenways, but also:

- Public spaces surrounding civic buildings;
- Streets (commercial and residential);
- Street corners;
- Back lanes;
- Surface parking lots;
- Pedestrian/ cyclist crossings;
- Transit hubs;
- Views;
- The Esplanade; and
- Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS).

In addition to creating an implementation plan, initial Task Force deliverables will include:

1. Reviewing and updating existing and proposed projects that support the Riverfront Vision;
2. Examining Pedestrian and Bicycle connections between Quayside and Queensborough;
3. Completing the Brunette Fraser Regional Greenway, including the Riverfront connection between Westminster Pier Park and Sapperton Landing Park;
4. Providing multiple accessible pedestrian and bicycle linkages between the City's neighbourhoods and the River;
5. Advancing the Experience the Fraser initiative within New Westminster and the region;
6. Advancing and promoting "The Riverfront" brand;
7. Identify opportunities for additional parklets and other innovative public realm elements;
8. Identify external partnership opportunities to help activate, operate and maintain public spaces; and
9. Developing an expanded animation program that builds upon current programming.

In considering the opportunity to animate the Riverfront, thought should be given both to potential programmed activities and the design and servicing of public spaces.

### **Task Force Members**

Three members of Council will sit on the Task Force. The Mayor will chair the meetings. The Task Force will be supported by an interdepartmental team from the Office of the CAO, Development Services, Engineering, and Parks and Recreation.

It is anticipated that direct liaison will be required periodically with agencies such as Metro Vancouver, TransLink, the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Transport Canada, Port Metro Vancouver, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Council of Marine Carriers, railways operating within the City, neighbouring municipalities as well as with other key Riverfront stakeholders, including Tourism New Westminster.

Input may also be sought from other Advisory Committees to City Council, including the Access Ability Advisory Committee, Active Transportation, Bicycle and Pedestrian (ACTBiPed) Committee, Economic Development Advisory Committee, the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Public Art Advisory Committee.