UNA Bylaw Review Forum: Another Step to Spring Resolution

“The remarkable thing about the drafting of the bylaws...at least 98% of the work was done solely by Bill Holmes,” says Chair of the UNA Bylaw Review Working Group John Tompkins

“Amending the UNA bylaws has a long and, in many respects, frustrating history,” said Terry Mullen, UNA Board Chair and Chair of the UNA Bylaw Review Working Group (WG), in his opening remarks at the UNA Presentation and Open Forum on proposed bylaw changes on March 12.

“The low point was probably the January 2018 AGM, when comprehensive bylaw amendments were soundly defeated. A significant majority of UNA members sent an unmistakable message to the UNA Board that any amendments that did not address the matter of appointed Board members were not going to be passed,” said Mr. Mullen.

“The WG recommendations were adopted by the Board in January 2019, and soon after, the task of drafting revised bylaws began. Commenting on this work – completed in about one week – Mr. Mullen said:

“Amending the UNA bylaws has a long and, in many respects, frustrating history,” said Terry Mullen, UNA Board Chair and Chair of the UNA Bylaw Review Working Group (WG), in his opening remarks at the UNA Presentation and Open Forum on proposed bylaw changes on March 12.

“Amending the UNA bylaws has a long and, in many respects, frustrating history,” said Terry Mullen, UNA Board Chair and Chair of the UNA Bylaw Review Working Group (WG), in his opening remarks at the UNA Presentation and Open Forum on proposed bylaw changes on March 12.

“The remarkable thing about the drafting of the bylaws was not the speed at which this rather complex task was completed, but that at least 98% of the work was done solely by Bill Holmes. His skill as a legal draftsman is exceptional. His willingness to take on such a task is both impressive and admirable.”

Joyce Murray Appointed Federal Minister

Joyce Murray, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Quadra, has been appointed the President of the Treasury Board and Minister of the Digital Government.

Joyce Murray was first elected to Parliament in 2008. Minister Murray served as a Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Treasury Board from 2015 until 2019.

Vancouver Quadra is a federal electoral district in the Metro Vancouver region of British Columbia.

The University of British Columbia, University Neighbourhoods, University Endowment Lands and Musqueam Indian Reserve are within the boundaries of Vancouver Quadra.

Musqueam Flag Now Flies Permanently on UBC Campus

The flag of the Musqueam Indian Band has been installed permanently on UBC campus – acknowledging the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of the Musqueam people where UBC Vancouver campus is located.

At the flag-raising ceremony which took place on February 25 and was attended by UBC and Musqueam communities, UBC President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Santa J. Ono said:

“This event represents a long-term commitment to the Musqueam Indian Band and our vision of solidarity moving forward.

“Musqueam people have inhabited the same territory for millennia. We are acknowledging this past history, but we are also recognizing our present relationship with Musqueam and our responsibilities for future actions with Musqueam and other Indigenous communities in Canada and worldwide.”

The presentation and forum took place at the Old Barn Community Centre. The forum was moderated by Hailey Graham, a graduate of UBC Law School.

The five voting members of the WG – all residents – sat at the table: Laura Cottle, a UNA Elected Resident Director; Mike Feeley, a UNA resident at large; Bill Holmes, a UNA resident at large; Ying Zhou, a UNA Elected Resident Director; and Mr. Mullen, a UNA Elected Resident Director.

Though chairs had been arranged for 75 people at the forum, only 15 people showed up. After Mr. Mullen opened proceedings, Ms. Graham invited comments and questions about current bylaws and proposed new bylaws.

BYLAWS continued on Page 3

Governance on University Neighbourhoods

Joyce Murray at her swearing in ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on March 18. Photo credit Adam Scotti.
Rising Costs Continue to Challenge UNA

The UBC Community Services Grant will provide up to $500,000 in 2019-2020

The UNA continues to face challenges due to rising costs associated with a growing population, said the 2019-2020 Operating Budget online discussion paper which was made available to residents in February-March.

Within the 2019-2020 Operating Budget, 97 per cent of expenses are related to operational, non-discretionary expenses required to provide services for residents.

Here are some budget highlights:

Engineering and Operations expenses have increased 8 per cent from projected actual 2018-2019 to budgeted 2019-2020. The Storm Water Levy has increased by $47,000 due to the increased number of buildings in the Wesbrook neighbourhood and increased City of Vancouver water rates. The Fire Services Fee is budgeted to increase by $56,000 due to increased City of Vancouver rates.

Total Recreation and Culture Services costs have increased by approximately 15 per cent. Contributing factors are:

• Increase in Athletics Fees which provide UNA residents access to UBC Athletics services.
• Increase in Wesbrook Community Centre (13%) and Old Barn (9%) building maintenance costs.

General Operation Services costs have increased by 15 per cent.

One of the most significant items is the communications budget. It has increased to $240,000 for 2019-2020. These costs will support new and ongoing projects, including continued improvement of the UNA website and UNA Events Calendar, marketing and promoting programs and services, and other communications to residents.

Administrative Salaries and Wages have increased by $215,000 (30 per cent). This increase is primarily attributed to increases in non-management salaries and wages.

Recreation Salaries and Wages have increased by $219,000 (46 per cent). The increases are due to higher salary and wage rates for non-management employees, and staff promotions.

An external market review of management and non-management salaries indicated that UNA staff salaries were below market. The increases in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 aim to bring all staff into the market range.

UBC committed to further financial support for the UNA and will provide the UBC Community Services Grant up to $500,000 in 2019-2020. The funds will come from land development proceeds.

The Neighbours Levy – the primary source of funding for the UNA – is projected to increase from $3.5M in 2018-2019 to $4.2M in 2019-2020.

Public consultation on the Operating Budget is over. It will be approved by the Board of Directors by March 30, 2019.

The Musqueam Chief, Wayne Sparrow, said: “The permanent installation of Musqueam flag is another important milestone in our relationship with UBC, who has been working hard to acknowledge that this is our traditional, ancestral and unceded territory.

“The flag is a powerful visual reminder for students and visitors, and especially for our people, who I hope are reminded that this is their traditional homeland.”

Flying alongside of the UBC and British Columbia flags, the Musqueam flag joins other symbols and landmarks on UBC campus, recognizing the history and ongoing partnership with Musqueam people:

• Bilingual signs, installed in April 2018, on nine major campus streets supplementing English names with names in hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓, the traditional language of the Musqueam people.
• The Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre opened in April 2018.
• The Reconciliation Pole carved by James Hart, a Haida master carver and Hereditary Chief Tl’odenaisu, and installed in April 2017 to honour the time before, during and after Canada’s Indian Residential Schools.
• A Musqueam Welcome Pole or qeqən, carved by Musqueam artist Brent Sparrow Jr. and installed in April 2016 to mark the hundred-year anniversary of UBC.
• The House Post of qiyǝplenǝxʷ (‘Capilano’) by Musqueam artist Brent Sparrow Jr. installed in March 2012 symbolizing the “historic and ongoing relationship between the Peter A. Allard School of Law and the Musqueam people in the pursuit of Aboriginal justice and education.”
Change That Does Not Serve Well the Future

Andrzej J. Wroblewski
Hampton Place Resident

Having lived in Hampton Place for nearly 20 years, I have witnessed the dramatic change within the UNA community. When we first moved into the area in the late spring of 1999, it was populated mostly by residents with some affiliation to UBC. In the early days, the cost of strata units was still within the range that at least some staff and faculty could afford, and most of those who purchased units actually resided within the community, re-developing commuter traffic to UBC. A considerable number of new UBC hires, active employees and retiring faculty who were downsizing from detached homes and many of whom remained involved with UBC activities offered a community with shared interests and social connections.

Over time, with the dramatic increase in the housing cost in Vancouver and with the neighbourhood steadily raising in its profile, living on campus has become prohibitively expensive for most of the university employees and the expansion of residential units on campus has safely turned into an investment opportunity for off-shore buyers and wealthy speculators who flip properties for profit. Ironically, the connection with a world-class university has been used to build the prestige of the neighbourhood which, combined with access to good schools in the catchment, has served as an effective attractor for external buyers further limiting on-campus housing affordability.

Although I understand that market forces over which the university has no control may account for much of the change, I wonder what is the role and responsibility of UBC for ensuring that the UNA community is not just a source of income for the University, but that it also remains aligned with its values and potential to continue to attract world class talent to UBC? With so much market housing available to external buyers already in place, it seems that time has come to consider slowing down the pace of new development that continues to serve ultra-rich and fuels real estate speculation. It seems that it would serve UBC well to focus at this time on providing more affordable housing options for its own employees and to pay more attention to maintaining the quality of life for the existing residents, ensuring adequate access to the services that they need in their daily lives.

Looking at the plan for the future development of Wesbrook Village and the new Stadium Road neighbourhood, it appears that only about one-third of the expected inhabitants of the future UBC town currently reside within the UNA. One is then left to wonder, how this huge increase in resident numbers will be accommodated with respect to simple activities such as grocery shopping, considering that even now the local Save on Foods often has long line ups at the checkout. And what will be the impact of the additional thousands of residents on the local traffic, never mind on a possible evacuation of the neighbourhood in case of an emergency? With the exception of one elementary school, I did not see any plans for the proportional growth of the common utilitarian infrastructure relative to the increase in the expected residential occupancy.

Finally, this indiscriminate growth of UNA neighbourhoods that invites more people who do not work or study at UBC to live on campus will have a significant impact on UBC’s ability to meet its sustainability objectives. It seems disingenuous to profess commitment to mitigating climate change while at the same time actively encouraging more car traffic and congestion.

I urge UBC to postpone the aggressive community development until, at least, the promised Skytrain connection to Vancouver is completed and to include in the development plans expanded retail services and facilities for the residents that the projected growth will undoubtedly require in order to ensure a reasonable quality of life within the UNA.

BYLAWS continued from Page 1

An early comment from a member of the audience came in support of the WG proposal that “the provision limiting the number of directors from any neighbourhood to three be removed.” The speaker referred critically to a provision in the current by-laws limiting the number of UNA directors from any neighbourhood to three. To the administrator of the WG members, he said the University neighbourhoods (Hampton Place, Hawthorn Place, Chancellor Place, Wesbrook Place and East Campus) were not so different from each other that they could not be represented as a whole. “All directors are elected on the basis that they are representative of the UNA as a whole,” the speaker said.

The next comments referred to the UNA Board composition and WG proposal to remove all appointed directors – two directors appointed by UBC and one director appointed by Alma Mater Society (AMS).

A resident wondered how wise it would be not to have a student representative from AMS on the UNA Board. “Students have different perspectives that could benefit us,” this speaker said.

“Appointed directors are not accountable to residents,” another resident said at the forum. This raised discussion about democracy at UBC. Many residents have been known to support the idea of a UNA Board made up wholely of elected residents who are UNA members. A speaker said that while on the one hand, the idea of a UNA Board made up solely of democratically-elected residents is fine, on the other hand, UBC has “big stake in making the UNA work.”

Meanwhile, the discussion of democracy at UBC led to a comparison between property taxation at UBC and taxation in Vancouver. A panelist argued that tax money raised by UBC (the Services Levy) for local expenditure goes farther than property taxes go for residents of Vancouver – in other words, UBC residents enjoy a better property ownership deal than Vancouver residents.

The UNA Board will consider further changes to the draft by-laws, following the wishes of UNA members expressed in the forum and in an online confidential survey, and engage with UBC to “make such amendments to the Neighbours Agreement as are necessary to harmonize the by-laws and the agreement.”

The UNA Chair said: “Since an agreement is being amended, the parties must reach agreement on each issue, on some of which they may have different views. In the course of such negotiations, it is common that compromises will have to be made. The amendments to the agreement relate primarily to the issue of replacing UBC-appointed board members with persons without a vote but who have the status of observers.”

The final version of the revised by-laws will be voted upon at a Special General Meeting of UNA members expected to take place in the late spring. The vote on the amendments to the by-laws will be in the form of a special resolution that must be passed by a 75% majority of the UNA members who attend the meeting.

Message from Director Mike Feeley, Metro Vancouver Electoral Area A

On February 13, 2019, Justin LeBlanc resigned from his position as the Director for Electoral Area A on the Metro Vancouver Regional District Board. Mr. LeBlanc had been acclaimed to this position during the October 2018 B.C. local government elections and appointed me, Mike Feeley, as his Alternate Director.

After Mr. LeBlanc resigned, I agreed to step in as Director for Electoral Area A until the by-election, which is expected to take place by summer 2019.

While this role comes unexpectedly, I am thrilled with the chance to serve as Director for the next few months.

I have lived and worked on the UBC campus for 22 years and served for a time as chair of the University Neighbours Association. And so, I feel that I understand my neighbourhood fairly well. But, I certainly have a lot to learn about other parts of the area and about Metro Vancouver and TransLink, the regional organizations on whose Boards I now represent the Electoral Area A community. There are many regional issues that impact us including transportation, recycling and waste management, and the operation of Pacific Spirit Park, including Wreck Beach, to name a few.

I look forward to hearing your views and I pledge to do my best to represent our interests with Metro Vancouver and the TransLink Mayors’ Council. And, I will, of course, continue the tradition of providing the monthly report, with the help of Metro Vancouver staff, to keep you informed of regional developments as well as the upcoming by-election.

Mike Feeley
Director Metro Vancouver Electoral Area A Member; TransLink Mayors’ Council on Regional Transportation
Email: mikefley@cs.ubc.ca
Phone: 778-889-4299
Rewarding Musical Journey: Mozart School Concerto Competition

Students were especially inspired by the ways we can share our stories through music and the power of music to move our emotions.

Jee Yeon Ryu
Assistant Director,
Mozart School of Music Vancouver

On February 24, students from the Mozart School of Music Vancouver (MSMVan) and the community participated in the second annual MSMVan Piano and Strings Competition. This year, we had 17 pianists, 3 violinists, and 1 guitarist who shared their wonderful music with us. Our guest adjudicator for piano competition was Alana Chan, an active music educator, pianist, and conductor. Jonathan Der, a violinist, conductor, chamber musician and church organist, was our guest adjudicator for the strings competition.

Our Director, Olga Lockwood, started our Annual Concerto Competition in Spring of 2018 with a vision to encourage and support students in our community to gain more experience in ensemble playing and to learn new repertoire, develop musicianship, and strengthen meaningful connection and appreciation for the music that they are learning to play. Young students rarely have opportunities to explore and perform a concerto, and our aim is to introduce the importance and value of ensemble playing – who are devoted to writing music that offers enriching ensemble playing experiences for young musicians.

In creating new opportunities to learn and perform concerto literature, we wish to provide young musicians with one of the most rewarding experiences as a developing musician. For many of our students in the Junior Competition, it was their first time playing a concerto, and performing together with their teachers and accompanists as a two-piano ensemble has been a wonderful learning journey.

From our adjudicators, our students learned about the importance of musical expression, playing techniques, and strategies for developing stronger communication and collaboration with the accompanists. Students were especially inspired by the ways we can share our stories through music and the power of music to move our emotions. We discussed about the different possibilities for interpreting the music and the musical ways that we might be able to express our ideas through our playing. All the students, teachers, and parents learned greatly from the stories, suggestions, and questions that our guest adjudicators have shared with us.

For us, performing together with our students and sharing our music with one another has been a wonderful way of building a musical community. We were thrilled that the students and teachers from the other music schools and private studios have joined us. Many of the participants are also members of our UNA community.

Thank you to all the students for sharing your music with us. We are very proud of you! Thank you also to our amazing guest adjudicators for their insights, inspirations and wisdom. To all parents, families, and teachers, our gratitude to you for your continued support, encouragement, and dedication to creating more meaningful music learning experiences. We hope that this unique opportunity in preparing a concerto will inspire more beautiful playing and a deeper appreciation for the music from many of our young musicians in our community.

Editor’s Note: The Mozart School of Music Vancouver (www.msmvan.com) is located at UBC in Wesbrook Village. On Sunday, May 26, at The Chan Centre of the Performing Arts, the Mozart School of Music Vancouver in collaboration with the Vancouver Chamber Orchestra presents a special afternoon of piano concertos with nine young gifted artists.

The winners of the annual Piano and Strings Competition at Mozart School of Music Vancouver were celebrated at the Awards Concert on March 3. Photo credit Jee Yeon Ryu.

Katie Teed
Senior Manager of Marketing and Communications,
UBC Botanical Garden

It is one of my favourite times of year at UBC Botanical Garden with blooms starting to pop up all around the garden. A personal favourite, the magnolias, have just started to appear with beautiful showy flowers filling the air with colour.

We are in the middle of spring break tours with themes of pollinators, native trees and exploring Japanese culture at Nitobe Memorial Garden. If you didn’t have a chance to attend one of our tours, please stay tuned for more tours as the season progresses.

Our admission desk officially opens at both Nitobe Memorial Garden and UBC Botanical Garden on April 1.

On that date, the Greenheart TreeWalk will officially open for the season, and our Shop in the Garden and Garden Centre will switch to longer hours. The Shop will be open from 10 am to 5 pm every day. We have already received large shipments of plants to the Garden Centre and are expecting more over the coming weeks. Check back often for the best selection of unique plants, many are hard to find elsewhere.

We are thrilled to announce a special spring performance of Magnolia Musings with Celeste Snowber, our former artist in residence, celebrating our magnolia collection. This has been a popular and well-received event in past years, so register early to avoid disappointment.

Don’t forget that UNA residents have free access to UBC Botanical Garden and Nitobe Memorial Garden with their community access card. We look forward to welcoming all of our UNA neighbours to the Garden.

For more information on our events, programs, hours and more, visit us online at www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca

Magnolia campbellii ‘Borde Hill’ blooms at UBC Botanical Garden in a previous season. Don’t miss this stunning sight this year. Photo credits Daniel Mosquin.

Spring at UBC Botanical Garden

The winners of the annual Piano and Strings Competition at Mozart School of Music Vancouver were celebrated at the Awards Concert on March 3. Photo credit Jee Yeon Ryu.

Katie Teed
Senior Manager of Marketing and Communications,
UBC Botanical Garden

It is one of my favourite times of year at UBC Botanical Garden with blooms starting to pop up all around the garden. A personal favourite, the magnolias, have just started to appear with beautiful showy flowers filling the air with colour.

We are in the middle of spring break tours with themes of pollinators, native trees and exploring Japanese culture at Nitobe Memorial Garden. If you didn’t have a chance to attend one of our tours, please stay tuned for more tours as the season progresses.

Our admission desk officially opens at both Nitobe Memorial Garden and UBC Botanical Garden on April 1.

On that date, the Greenheart TreeWalk will officially open for the season, and our Shop in the Garden and Garden Centre will switch to longer hours. The Shop will be open from 10 am to 5 pm every day. We have already received large shipments of plants to the Garden Centre and are expecting more over the coming weeks. Check back often for the best selection of unique plants, many are hard to find elsewhere.

We are thrilled to announce a special spring performance of Magnolia Musings with Celeste Snowber, our former artist in residence, celebrating our magnolia collection. This has been a popular and well-received event in past years, so register early to avoid disappointment.

Don’t forget that UNA residents have free access to UBC Botanical Garden and Nitobe Memorial Garden with their community access card. We look forward to welcoming all of our UNA neighbours to the Garden.

For more information on our events, programs, hours and more, visit us online at www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca

Magnolia campbellii ‘Borde Hill’ blooms at UBC Botanical Garden in a previous season. Don’t miss this stunning sight this year. Photo credits Daniel Mosquin.

Spring at UBC Botanical Garden

The winners of the annual Piano and Strings Competition at Mozart School of Music Vancouver were celebrated at the Awards Concert on March 3. Photo credit Jee Yeon Ryu.

Katie Teed
Senior Manager of Marketing and Communications,
UBC Botanical Garden

It is one of my favourite times of year at UBC Botanical Garden with blooms starting to pop up all around the garden. A personal favourite, the magnolias, have just started to appear with beautiful showy flowers filling the air with colour.

We are in the middle of spring break tours with themes of pollinators, native trees and exploring Japanese culture at Nitobe Memorial Garden. If you didn’t have a chance to attend one of our tours, please stay tuned for more tours as the season progresses.

Our admission desk officially opens at both Nitobe Memorial Garden and UBC Botanical Garden on April 1.

On that date, the Greenheart TreeWalk will officially open for the season, and our Shop in the Garden and Garden Centre will switch to longer hours. The Shop will be open from 10 am to 5 pm every day. We have already received large shipments of plants to the Garden Centre and are expecting more over the coming weeks. Check back often for the best selection of unique plants, many are hard to find elsewhere.

We are thrilled to announce a special spring performance of Magnolia Musings with Celeste Snowber, our former artist in residence, celebrating our magnolia collection. This has been a popular and well-received event in past years, so register early to avoid disappointment.

Don’t forget that UNA residents have free access to UBC Botanical Garden and Nitobe Memorial Garden with their community access card. We look forward to welcoming all of our UNA neighbours to the Garden.

For more information on our events, programs, hours and more, visit us online at www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca

Magnolia campbellii ‘Borde Hill’ blooms at UBC Botanical Garden in a previous season. Don’t miss this stunning sight this year. Photo credits Daniel Mosquin.
**What Music Means to Me**

I was speaking to some students the other day and one of them asked, “What does music mean to you? Is it just entertainment?”

I was nonplussed for a moment. It was quite the question, and I wasn’t really sure how to answer. After a moment’s thought, I replied that music meant everything to me. “Without it,” I said, “I feel empty, I feel lost. It goes far beyond entertainment... Nothing quite captures the entire palate of human emotion. Give me an emotion,” I said to the students, “any emotion.”

The student replied, “How about pain?”

To which I responded, “Listen to Mahler’s 9th Symphony. I still cry when I listen to it!”

Another student chimed in, “How about love?”

“Elgar’s Serenade for Strings,” was my response.

“How about feeling powerful?” said a third student.

“Sibelius – Symphony No. 5, listen to the French horns,” I said.

“And what’s amazing,” I went on, “is that nothing can change the mood of a person and unify a room of people, like music.”

As I said to the students, the next time you go to a concert, just sit back and observe. Watch the thousand or more people filling into the concert hall. There’re all kinds of chatter. You will see all kinds of emotions on the faces of those coming to listen. But after the conductor has tuned the orchestra, you can hear a pin drop, you can feel the anticipation. All eyes on the orchestra.

And then look at the faces of those listening as the music begins. You will see eyes darting back-and-forth as the music darts back and forth between the violins and celli. Smiles and frowns as it moves through the development. You’ll see people moving in their seats. And you will see people jump to their feet in thunderous applause, if the performance has moved them.

And you can feel a connection between the musicians on stage – especially the soloists and the audience. It’s a connection resulting from everyone resonating to the same musical experience.

But for me personally, it’s even more. Imagine the power of a great book. What music does is even more powerful. It picks up where words stop and transports you to another level of human experience. It elicits an almost psychedelic experience, really. If you close your eyes you can actually imagine the scene the composer imagines. Listen to Saint-Saëns’s Carnival of Animals. You can imagine royal guards marching and huge elephants, lions roaring and exotic birds soaring, roosters pecking and tortoises plodding along in the mud or a beautiful, lone swan gliding across a shimmering lake.

When I finished describing this sensation, a student asked why she didn’t feel this way. I replied, “It only happens if you really listen and let yourself imagine. If you treat it as background music, it won’t happen. You really have to listen intently.”

“Then there is playing music,” I went on. “You become one with your instrument. And sometime you feel like the music is coming from inside your brain or directly from your heart. And after you play, you reach a place of calm, of Zen. Whatever worry you might have. However bad your day might have been. Well, as Bobby McFerrin would say “Don’t Worry, Be Happy.”

That’s what music means to me.

Best wishes

Professor Santa J. Ono.

President and Vice-Chancellor

---

**Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences Is Coming to UBC – and You Are Invited**

Hosting Congress 2019 provides an opportunity to engage and inspire the UBC community, says UBC news release

This summer, the University of British Columbia will host Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences—a unique event that brings together academics, researchers, policy-makers, and the public for a full week of presentations, workshops, panels, public lectures, cultural events, receptions and discussion of big ideas important for Canada’s future.

The University’s theme for Congress 2019 is “Circles of Conversation.”

Jointly organised by the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences and UBC, the Congress will take place on June 1-7 attracting over 8,000 attendees. It is the largest interdisciplinary conference in Canada and one of the largest in the world.

“The Federation is thrilled to be working on Congress 2019 with UBC, to bring about the 88th edition of this great event,” said Federation President Guy Laforest. “Congress is an important moment in Canada each year – both as a showcase and a celebration of the scholarly and intellectual excellence, creativity and leadership in the humanities and social science community.”

Lots of Congress programming is open to the community. “Whether your interests lie in history, literature, politics, poetry, sociology, media, film or fine arts, there’s bound to be something for you,” says the Congress website www.congress2019.ca.

Congress 2019 is currently recruiting 1,000 volunteers in varying roles. This opportunity is open to everyone – including University Neighbourhoods residents – who wants to play a vital role in the success of this event.
City of Vancouver Starts Jericho Lands Site Planning

Millennia ago, Jericho Lands was a small native village on the Point Grey Peninsula. Vancouver City planners now envision this land as the site of “an urban village of the next century.”

John Tompkins
Editor

The next chapter in the rich history of Jericho Lands – in what is now the leafy Vancouver neighbourhood of West Point Grey with spectacular view of city, mountains, and ocean – is about to be written.

This history began with the Musqueam Indian Band and other aboriginal bands living in the area 10,000 years ago. With the 20th Century came use of the land by the Canadian military.

Now, the proud partnership of the Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation – known as MST Development Corporation – owns the land along with Canada Lands Company (CLC), and on March 2, the owners and the City of Vancouver welcomed the community to celebrate the launch of the planning process for the project Inspire Jericho: Hearts and minds together planning a great neighbourhood. (Please see Page 7.)

In the words of City of Vancouver planners during the welcoming ceremony, these 90 acres of choice real estate are about to be developed into “an urban village of the next century.” This village should one day house about 10,000 people.

The solid turnout of up to 1,000 people for a welcoming ceremony, and two Open Houses following it at the Jericho Hill Gymnasium on 4th Avenue, spoke to the high level of interest in this project which has been years getting underway.

The launch celebration included speeches, refreshments, rounds of drumming, dancing and singing by Indigenous musicians. Representatives of Canada Lands Company – which has served as a custodian of the land since its transfer from the Canadian military - sat on stage with the chiefs, band members, City of Vancouver Mayor Kennedy Stewart and Vancouver Quadra Member of Parliament Joyce Murray.

Wayne Sparrow, Chief of the Musqueam Indian Band, said how imperative it was that the three bands had been well consulted by Canada Lands and the City of Vancouver prior to the launch of this ambitious initiative. “Full consultation” has made the project work, Chief Sparrow said.

Councillor and Spokesperson Khelsilem – who represented the Squamish Nation at the launch ceremony gave a brief but detailed history of his family back to the days when they lived on Jericho Lands.

“Many of our members are connected to this land,” Khelsilem (who uses only one name) said. “We are connected back to our territory. It’s historical, and now we must do the next historical thing.”

Speaking of how members of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation feel about the proposed development of Jericho Lands, Chief Mau-reen Thomas said: “We are open about the project. We are excited about the project.”

The planning process is led by the City of Vancouver. It’s anticipated that a comprehensive redevelopment plan – with policies on reconciliation, land use, density, height, built form, transportation, infrastructure – will be ready in two years.

A new vision for Jericho Lands will be developed with the feedback from the community and stakeholders.

Deana Grimnell, Vice President of Real Estate (B.C. & Ontario), Canada Lands Company, said approximately 600 people attended the first Open House on March 2 and 300-400 attended the second event on March 7.

In an interview with The Campus Resident, Jordan Mott, who lives on Main Street, said he had come to the Open House hoping to protect the Disc Golf course he uses on Jericho Lands. This course is one of only three Disc Golf courses in Vancouver. Mr. Mott, a modeller by profession, said that parks and open spaces serve to provide the health and wellbeing of a city, and they have to be protected.

Mike Guiness, who lives at 33rd Avenue and Quilchena Park, also argued for the protection of green space in the development of Jericho Lands. “Let’s keep as much green space as possible,” he said. A landscape gardener, Mr. Guiness said the high turnout of people at the Open House was good to see. “It shows people care about what is happening in the community.”

A resident of West Point Grey, John Peters hoped the City will not be tempted to over-build Jericho Lands. Over-building (or over-taxing) would not be in the public interest, Mr. Peters said.
The Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations (collectively the MST Partnership) came together in 2014 to form a unique joint-venture partnership with the Canada Lands Company (CLC).

Historic Partnership

Musqueam Indian Band

The xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) people have been here as long as there has been land to live upon. Our traditional territory occupies what is now Vancouver and surrounding areas, and we have lived in the area of our present location for thousands of years. The name Musqueam relates back to the flowering plant, məθkʷəy̓əm, which grows in the Fraser River estuary. There is a story that has been passed on from generation to generation that explains how we became known as the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) – People of the məθkʷəy̓əm plant. “It was noted that in some periods the məθkʷəy̓əm plant flourished, and in some periods, it could scarcely be found. It was also noted that in some periods our people would flourish and in some periods the population would dwindle, perhaps by plague or war. It was in this way that we became known as xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam).” We are traditional hən̓q̓əmin̓əm speaking people, descended from the cultural group known as the Coast Salish. Our people moved throughout our traditional territory using the resources the land provided for fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering, to maintain their livelihood. Today, the Musqueam people still use these resources for economic and traditional purposes.

Although a metropolitan city has developed in the heart of Musqueam territory, our community maintains strong cultural practices and traditional beliefs. Our community historians and educators teach and pass on our history to our people, which has always been the way of our people, to keep our culture and traditions strong.

Today, our population flourishes and we are a strong community of over 1,300 members. We live on a very small portion of our traditional territory, known as the Musqueam Indian Reserve, located south of Marine Drive near the mouth of the Fraser River.

“This project is a great example of the growing role of First Nations in Vancouver and as active participants in all social, economic, cultural, and political activities that take place on our lands and waters. Our vision is to once again put the Tsleil-Waututh face on our traditional territory, to be active participants in all social, economic, cultural, and political activities that take place on our lands by building strong relationships based on trust and mutual respect.

The Tsleil-Waututh Nation owns and operates several businesses that range from recreational facilities, real estate endeavors, to a forestry company, and a cultural tourism operation. These businesses strengthen our community through capacity building, revenue generation and employment opportunities. We believe in thinking big and acting decisively to care for our lands and waters. Only through this approach can we sustain and enhance our own culture and contribute the wealth of knowledge we have to the broader community.

“We’re excited about the prospect of what these lands hold for future generations, not only for our Tsleil-Waututh people, but also for the Squamish and Musqueam and all Canadians. We look forward to working with our partners, the City of Vancouver and the local community to outline a vision and contribute to the dynamic growth of our city.”

Chief Maureen Thomas, Tsleil-Waututh Nation

www.twnation.ca

Squamish Nation

The Squamish Nation is a vibrant and dynamic Coast Salish Nation, comprised of the descendants of the Squamish Language-speaking Indigenous peoples who have resided in, and governed, their territory – covering the areas known today as Vancouver, Howe Sound, and the Squamish River watershed – since time immemorial. Squamish Nation is one of the largest First Nations in BC, with over 4,000 members. The majority of Squamish Nation members reside on several urban reserves in the cities of Vancouver, North and West Vancouver, and the District of Squamish, BC. We acknowledge our Squamish Nation ancestors, whose legacies and teachings have been shared from generation to generation.

Our people are intrinsically connected to the lands and waters. The place referred to today as Jericho Beach is known to the Squamish Peoples as Ylul'mexw (meaning “good land”), which was one of many seasonal Squamish villages along the banks of the Burrard Inlet and beyond. The contemporary name comes from Jericho Charlie, an Ylul’mexw resident and prominent community figure in the early days of Vancouver.

“This is an exciting time, and a great opportunity for everybody involved. The Jericho lands project is a way for our Nations to rebuild from the decades of harm done to our communities. Our work with the MST Partnership, Canada Lands and the Jericho community is encouraging for the future. We look forward to seeing the opportunities that are created in terms of housing, jobs, cultural revitalization, and community-building – not only for our community, but for all communities.”

Khehsilem, Councillor and Spokesperson, Squamish Nation

www.squamish.net

Canada Lands Company

Canada Lands Company is a self-financing, federal Crown corporation that specializes in real estate, development and attractions management. The company’s goal in all it does is to produce the best possible benefit for Canadian communities and the Government of Canada. Canada Lands Company works to achieve its mandate with industry leading expertise; the company prides itself on its consultation-based approach to pursuing community-oriented goals, environmental stewardship and heritage commemoration with all its projects across Canada.

“This property is a tremendous opportunity to integrate an inclusive and innovative project while further enhancing an established community. This is our chance to achieve something unique. We always aim to set new standards; we’re very excited to engage the community.”

Robert Howald, Executive Vice President of Real Estate, Canada Lands Company

“We aspire to work with the City and community to create an innovative and high-quality new neighbourhood that reflects our partnership and enhances this evolving part of Vancouver. We look forward to very thoughtful conversations to help inform our planning process.”

Deana Grinnell, Vice President of Real Estate (B.C. & Ontario), Canada Lands Company

Canada Lands Company

Canada Lands Company is incredibly proud of the work underway with our joint venture partner, the MST Partnership. This historic relationship demonstrates capacity for collaboration between a federal Crown corporation real estate company and Aboriginal partners, not only here in Vancouver, but right across Canada.”

John McBain, President and CEO, Canada Lands Company

www.clc.ca

Source: Canada Lands Company, Inspire Jericho www.inspirejericho.ca
Every day is an opportunity to celebrate the gifts children and youth bring to the world, but it’s not every day that youth are given the stage and the public attention to speak on a panel and voice their perspectives about the realities they live in.

To celebrate Family Day at the Museum of Anthropology (MOA) this year, seven young panelists from across Metro Vancouver joined together for a meaningful discussion in front of an audience of up to 50 people.

The panelists came from three distinct leadership programs – the University Neighborhoods Association UTown@UBC Youth Leadership Program, the SOYL Youth Program offered by Fresh Roots, as well as MOA Native Youth Program (NYP). Growing up in Vancouver and beyond, they were connected to the lands and cultures – and this led to a truly enriching debate.

Exploring topics ranging from climate change and sustainability to cultural belonging to Indigenous rights and politics, the youth panelists put themselves forward on this special day to share personal truths and opportunity to critically reflect on what really mattered to them regarding culture and social issues. It was also a practice of communicating and listening and learning from their peers.

As one panelist shared later, his experience at MOA that day opened his eyes to issues going on in his very own city, motivating him to think more critically and seek out more opportunities for meaningful discussion.

The experience proved to be in demand: at the end of this Youth Panel, young audience members approached the moderator begging the question, “When is the next one? I want to apply!”

Young people have the biggest stakes in the world all of us are co-creating. If they are going to invest and work towards solutions of tomorrow, they deserve proper consultation and a stronger public voice.

Editor’s Note: The Youth Panel at the Museum of Anthropology was part of the annual Kids Take Over UBC event celebrating Family Day weekend.

---

Youth Tackle Meaningful Discussion on Family Day at MOA

Olive Shaw
MOA Public Programs Assistant, Youth Panel organizer and moderator

Panelists (from left to right) Kabir Hundal, Ben Torry, Maria Gesualdi, Gabbi Villarica, Aramis Hanuse, Chandelle Fraser, Morris Ling, and Youth Panel organizer and moderator Olivia Shaw.

UNA University Mentorship Program: One-To-One Peer Support

Diana Marinescu
UBC Sauder School of Business, Marketing Co-op, UNA University Mentorship Program mentor

High school senior year rolls around, and it often brings an influx of mixed emotions. First, a sense of relief and accomplishment thinking “I’ve made it, look how far I’ve come”; on the other hand, however, comes the stress that roots itself from uncertainty of the future.

Students ask questions, and often they do not have a reliable source to retrieve accurate answers.

Should I go to university or college? Do I pursue program X as it is in my interest or do I pursue program Y because it’s what parents/counsellor/friends tell me? Are courses in post-secondary institutions hard? Which university, college and program are best for me? Should I go to a university that is far from home? How is student life? Will I make any friends? Will my life consist of studying days on end and constantly pulling all-nighters? What if I can’t easily afford tuition, what can I do? Is taking a gap year a good idea?

If you or anyone you know has ever asked any of these questions, you’re in luck. The UNA University Mentorship Program was created to guide senior high school students to answer these exact questions. Any student can register for the program and schedule a one-on-one session with a mentor of their choice.

The mentorship team is a group of dynamic, caring, compassionate university and college students who are dedicated to providing impeccable guidance, knowledge and insights to senior high school students.

Once a mentee of the program, students can book sessions with mentors in their fields of interest and pertinent topics such as course planning, application processes to different universities, building a well-rounded profile, academia, high school to post-secondary transitions, campus and residence life, maintaining balance as a post-secondary university and college students who are dedicated to providing impeccable guidance, knowledge and insights to senior high school students.

The program strives to provide the right combination of guidance and information to help high school students not only uncover the common misconceptions about post-secondary education but also to encourage them to become proactive and efficient while maintaining a positive outlook on their future.

The leader of the UNA University Mentorship Program is Fatemeh Khounsarian – a third-year student majoring in honour intensive science at UBC. With a great passion for increasing community engagement among students, Fatemeh established this program.

Created in conjunction with members of the UTown@UBC Youth Leadership Program, the UNA University Mentorship Program takes place at the Wesbrook Community Centre every Thursday after school.

For more information, please contact: Taylor Scott, UNA Youth Program and Volunteer Coordinator: Taylor.Scott@myuna.ca

Fatemeh Khounsarian, UNA University Mentorship Program Leader: fatemeh.khounsarian@alumni.ubc.ca