

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

DATE: 2017 November 09

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 3520 20
Reference: "Migration Stories Project"

SUBJECT: HERITAGE BURNABY – "MIGRATION STORIES PROJECT"

PURPOSE: To outline a new partnership project with Simon Fraser University for the creation of a digital project for Heritage Burnaby.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Community Heritage Commission approve the "Migration Stories Project" as outlined in this report as a partnership project with Simon Fraser University to enhance Heritage Burnaby.
2. **THAT** Council be requested to approve an expenditure of \$10,000 towards Phase One of the "Migration Stories Project", as outlined in this report.
3. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to Dr. David Kaufman, Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University.

REPORT**1.0 BACKGROUND**

In 2015, the City initiated the Burnaby Digital Storytelling Project, which resulted in more than 50 Burnaby seniors participating in workshops to create short films about important life events. Several of those films have been collected by the Burnaby Village Museum for inclusion on the Heritage Burnaby website. Following a presentation to the Community Heritage Commission (CHC) at their meeting of 2016 February 04 by representatives of the Burnaby Digital Storytelling Project, City staff were directed to update the CHC on future opportunities for collaboration that would further advance the project as a key educational initiative to promote Burnaby's multi-cultural heritage.

Building on the success of the recent "Burnaby Then and Now" heritage marker project, the City has pursued further opportunities to highlight Burnaby's significant multi-cultural heritage. Since that time, the CHC directed staff to create a series of heritage markers to commemorate Burnaby 125. As part of that project, an outreach strategy was developed to collect and interpret stories reflecting the community's cultural diversity. Significant momentum has been created, in particular with long-time Chinese Canadian residents of Burnaby.

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This effort was to build on the Burnaby Social Sustainability Strategy and the key Strategic Priority of “Celebrating Diversity and Culture”. A goal of the Commission is to enhance digital resources available on the City’s Heritage Burnaby website and provide more access to the history of the City’s ethnic communities and citizens.

The proposed new initiative of the “Migration Stories Project” aims to expand on the success of previous partnerships with Simon Fraser University (SFU), while increasing the City’s capacity to collect stories reflecting the diversity of Burnaby’s population, both past and present.

2.0 MIGRATION STORIES PROJECT

2.1 Project Outline

The goal of the “Migration Stories Project” is to collect short, “digital stories” representing Burnaby’s diverse cultural communities. Digital stories are short films that incorporate images, video, and sound to tell a story. They are created in collaboration between a person who lived the experience (the storyteller) and a facilitator who helps with the production.

The “Migration Stories Project” will focus on collecting personal stories of people who have come from elsewhere to make Burnaby their home. It will include stories from recent migrants, as well as long-time residents. It will include people of many cultural groups, and explore common themes of migration, adaptation to a new community, and integration. The stories will be shared with community agencies and educators, to help build cross-cultural understanding. It is expected that the project will assist the City and its partners to educate and create wider knowledge and interest regarding how Burnaby has responded to successive waves of migration, and create opportunities to share Burnaby’s success as a place that welcomes diverse newcomers into the community.

Key deliverables of the project will be the short films to specifically enhance the City’s Heritage Burnaby website, and use in other media, with content that builds on the resources available for education of cultural diversity and the rich history of the City.

2.2 Project Partnership with Simon Fraser University

To pursue the goals of the CHC in advancing the digital storytelling initiative, staff have initiated further discussions and collaboration with the City’s existing partnership at SFU, through Dr. David Kaufman with the Faculty of Education. It is noted that the CHC has successfully worked in the past with Dr. Kaufman and his students and staff to complete work within the City including the “Freeman Legacy Project” (2006) and the “Burnaby Digital Storytelling Project” (2014-2016).

To enhance the project, Dr. David Kaufman has submitted an application to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) on behalf of the project being sponsored largely by SFU. If supported by the CHC and Council, the City would serve as a project partner with a recommended contribution of \$10,000, and staff in-kind support valued at \$5,000.

The total funding being requested at this time is for Phase One of a multi-year project. Phase One involves collecting digital stories, as well as bringing community members, educators, and members of the not-for-profit sector together to develop a plan to ensure the project’s success in future years. The deliverables for the City will include videos that will supplement the existing Heritage Burnaby online content.

It is proposed by SFU that a conference-style event will be held to bring stakeholders together to share information and develop a more detailed framework for future phases. Future phases will be dependent on the success of funding applications.

2.3 City Financial Contribution

A summary of the overall budget funding for Phase One being proposed by the project partnership is provided below:

INCOME		
City of Burnaby cash contribution	\$10,000	
City of Burnaby in-kind contribution	\$ 5,000	
SFU cash contribution	\$26,000	
SFU in-kind contribution	\$ 7,000	
Funding requested from SSHRC	\$48,000	
TOTAL:	\$96,000	
EXPENSES		
Project staff (SFU students)	\$70,000	
City staff (in-kind staff support)	\$ 5,000	
Project supplies and services	\$21,000	Includes technology costs, venue rentals, food and hospitality, honoraria, and advertising.
TOTAL:	\$96,000	

The City’s contribution is proposed to be \$10,000 towards the project, as outlined in the submitted budget. Sufficient funds would be available in the 2018 operating budget of the Commission. Release of City funding would be contingent on securing the outlined grants and approvals from both SFU and external funding agencies.

3.0 NEXT STEPS

As outlined in this report, the “Migration Stories Project” builds on the City of Burnaby’s Strategic Goal to be an Inclusive Community that celebrates diversity, and is welcoming to all community members to create a sense of belonging. The project will further enhance the City’s effort to build a more inclusive history of the community by collecting and sharing stories

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through Heritage Burnaby of the diverse cultural communities who have made Burnaby their home.

With the approval of the Commission and Council, staff will confirm the City's financial commitment to the project in order to partner with SFU and in support of its funding applications. Notifications for award of the federal funding are expected in January 2018. Should the partnership be successful in securing the funds required, Phase One of the project would be completed in 2018.


Lou Pelletier, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

JW:sa/sla

cc: City Manager
Deputy City Manager
City Clerk