

In Your Neighbourhood

Branch Chipping

The branch chipping program is a service the City offers residents each year to help turn unwanted branches into fantastic mulch for Victoria's gardens and flower beds. Residents are asked to place branches on their boulevard from February 1 to 14, or drop them off at the Public Works Yard every Saturday (excluding statutory holidays) from 7 am to 2 p.m. Check the City [website](#) for more information.

Crystal Pool Change Rooms

Bids for a project to renovate the change rooms at Crystal Pool came in higher than expected. At their [February 2 meeting](#), Council will be asked to approve funds from the 2016 capital projects allocation (surplus) to allow the project to be completed by the lowest bidder during the fall pool maintenance shutdown.

Great Neighbourhoods Grant

In preparation for the 2017 [Great Neighbourhoods](#) grant program, City staff have invited grant recipients and neighbourhood groups to discuss any suggestions they may have to improve the program. The meeting was held Wednesday February 1, from 2:30- 4 p.m. in the Antechamber at City Hall. The intention is to compile the feedback received to share internally with the Interdepartmental working group and then subsequently put forward recommendations to Council in the interest of both updating and improving the My Great Neighbourhood Grant funding program. We will do our best to address your concerns and reflect your ideas in our suggested improvements!

If you were unable to attend and wish to lend us your opinion on the four topics discussed, please feel free to email or call your Neighbourhood Advisor at your earliest convenience.

Developing Social Enterprise

The Mayor's Task Force on Social Enterprise and Social Procurement would like community input into its draft [action plan](#) to help employ Victorians who are out of work and help grow a strong, inclusive economy. The draft plan includes recommendations to strengthen the City's procurement practices and maximise benefits to the community, small business and social enterprise.

You can provide feedback by completing the online survey, emailing comments to economicchange@victoria.ca or tweeting @CityofVictoria #EconomicChangeVic by Sunday, February 12, 2017. Public input will help inform a revised draft action plan that will be presented to City Council for consideration in March.

Public Engagement Roadmap

The City would like to know when you'd like to be involved in City decision-making and how you would like to be engaged. Join us as we share all of the initiatives we have planned for the next two years and tell us how much say you would like in shaping your city.

The workshop will be held on Saturday February 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Royal BC Museum. Please [RSVP](#) by Monday, February 12 so we know how much coffee to make. We will have creative activities for kids, should you wish to bring your children. The [Roadmap](#) workshop agenda can be viewed [here](#).

Create Victoria

In consultation with the community, the City of Victoria is developing a Cultural Policy and an Arts and Culture Master Plan branded *Create Victoria* to guide the City's investment in arts and culture over the next five years. From mid-February to the end of March, the City will be inviting stakeholder groups and

the public to provide input on their vision for arts, culture and heritage in Victoria, which will help inform the Cultural Policy. More information will be available soon at www.victoria.ca/create

Centennial Square Pop Up Design Competition

Calling all urban designers, industrial designers, architects, landscape architects, contemporary artists and creative types! Apply to create a playful pop-up installation for kids of all ages in Centennial Square, in the heart of Victoria's vibrant downtown.

Prizes: The jury's choice will receive a \$5,000 award and up to \$50,000 for the design, build and install an imaginative creation in Victoria's signature public square. The People's Choice will receive a \$1,000 award.

Location: Centennial Square is located downtown next to Victoria's City Hall, at Douglas Street and Pandora Avenue.

Submission Deadline: Design packages must be submitted online by 4 p.m. PST on March 30, 2017.

Creative Programming Proposals Call

The call for creative programming proposals is now open. The City is seeking creative proposals to program activities at Centennial Square and the Beacon Hill Band Shelter on an ongoing basis from May to September 2017.

Focus areas can include art, culture, wellness, culinary, children's or recreation programming. Examples of previous activities are ballroom and salsa dancing, board games, markets and fitness classes. Activities can be weekly or on a monthly basis and be anywhere from one to five months in duration. All programs must be free and open to the public. A small budget will be available to cover costs associated with materials, production and instruction fees, which are to be outlined in the submission. Event programmers are invited to submit the fillable application form available online and email it to culture@victoria.ca with samples of their work by **midnight on Monday, February 20, 2017**.

Training Opportunities

[Leadership Victoria](#) is a voluntary organization with a mission to develop leaders with a passion for building a vibrant community. In addition to a nine month Community Leadership Development program and sponsoring annual Victoria Leadership Awards event, they offer workshops and symposia for developing leadership skills. [Upcoming workshops](#) are three hours long and the cost is \$10.

- *Engaging Skilled Volunteers* – Wednesday, February 15 at 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- *Making Decisions to Make Progress: Improving Board Effectiveness* – Wednesday, March 8 at 9 a.m.
- *Board Governance: Being a Really Good Board Member* – Wednesday, March 8 at 1 p.m.

As part of [Volunteer Victoria's](#) mission to "inspire everyone to volunteer", they offer training and networking opportunities that advance the quality of volunteer programs and build capacity in the non-profit sector. [Upcoming workshops](#) are three hours long and the cost is \$40-60.

- *Governance Series: Clarifying Your Purpose* – Wednesday, February 8 at 1 p.m.
- *The New BC Societies Act: The Basics* – Tuesday, February 21 at 2 p.m.
- *What Now that the BC Societies Act is in Force?* Thursday, March 2 at 4:p.m.

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole will meet February 9, 16 and 23 at 9 a.m. and Council will meet February 9 and 22 at 6:30 p.m.