



Spirit Square Concept will Revitalize Victoria's Civic Square

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Final design concepts for a proposed Spirit Square development have been approved by City Council giving the green light for improvements to begin in Centennial Square.

“Every dynamic city has a great public square where people of all ages gather,” said Mayor Alan Lowe. “This project is an important step in our overall plan to rejuvenate the north end of downtown. With increasing numbers of people moving downtown, this public gathering space is even more critical now than it was five years ago.”

Designed to make Centennial Square more inviting to the general public and increase opportunities for celebrations and events, the design includes a turn-key performance stage and infrastructure (water, power, seating) to host small to medium size performances as well as markets, a drinking water feature in the shape of a First Nations inspired ladle, a sustainable garden of native species, the preservation of existing and addition of new trees.

Years ago, Cormorant Creek ran through what is now Centennial Square and served as a water source for the traditional Songhees community. The ladle water feature and spirit poles highlight the historical presence and contributions of the Songhees people.

“Striving to realize Council’s vision for more public use of the square, we incorporated several new public amenities that would increase pedestrian activity, support events and make the square safer and more visually appealing. Artful, playful and useable describes our design approach,” added consultant Landscape Architect Joe Daly.

A design charette was held in April to solicit input from a variety of stakeholders and design professionals which informed the final design concept. Construction is planned to begin early in the New Year.

Lowe added, “This is the first phase of what I hope will be a complete reinvention of this critical downtown block. Every great city has a public square, and next summer, thousands of people will enjoy ours.”

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY:

Mayor Lowe is available to speak on this matter today. Design consultants, Joseph Daly and Bill Pechet, will be available for interviews at City Hall from 10 a.m. – 12 noon today. A scale model, illustrations and additional electronic files are available.

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For More Information:

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