



Steering Committee Members Wanted for Youth Participatory Budgeting

Date: Tuesday, December 18

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The City of Victoria and the City of Victoria Youth Council are seeking 12 volunteers to serve on the Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee for 2019. After a successful pilot last year, the City has committed to Participatory Budgeting funding for three more years. The focus for 2019 will be youth, followed by newcomers in 2020 and neighbourhood spaces in 2021.

The City of Victoria Youth Council will oversee the program this year. The focus will be on empowering the Victoria community to allocate up to \$60,000 in funding for projects or events that benefit youth in the City of Victoria.

Participatory budgeting is an innovative, democratic process that gives the entire community the opportunity to participate and decide how to invest a portion of the City budget. Once the Steering Committee is appointed, they will work with residents to develop ideas and proposals. Community voting will determine the top projects for funding.

“It was great to see the success of the Participatory Budgeting pilot project last year,” said Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps. “I’m thrilled that this year we’re turning our attention, energy and resources to youth. We look forward to learning from the process they develop and the projects the community chooses to fund.”

“After the Steering Committee is formed, we’ll be out asking the community for amazing project and program ideas for youth in Victoria,” said Tara Skobel, Youth Programs Coordinator at the Quadra Village Community Centre, host of the City of Victoria Youth Council. “Once the ideas are collected, we encourage everyone to vote for the program or project they feel will have the greatest impact on our community. This is an incredible opportunity to invest in our youth and to increase participation in an exciting form of democracy.”

Last year 28 proposals were submitted, eight ideas went out for community voting, over 4,300 residents cast their vote and three projects were funded. The Next Steps Employment Program run through Our Place, the Urban Alive Pop-Up Native Bee Apiary in the Yates Street Community Garden and the Learning Garden at the Greater Victoria Public Library’s downtown branch are now all up and running.

Steering Committee applications are available at www.cvycc.ca/pb and can be submitted until Friday, January 11 at 4 p.m. A “Meet and Greet Information Session” for all interested applicants will be hosted at Quadra Village Community Centre (901 Kings Road) on Wednesday, December 9 from 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Participant diversity is a central concept in Participatory Budgeting. All Victoria residents, including youth, are invited to apply for a one-year term on the Steering Committee. Interested residents can email Tara Skobel at tara@quadravillagecc.com with any questions.

For More Information:

Tara Skobel
Youth Programs Coordinator
Quadra Village Community Centre
250.388.7696 ext 224

Bill Eisenhauer
Head of Engagement
City of Victoria
250.858.1061