



NORTH PARK

My Great Neighbourhood Grants

Staff presented a report on the grant program to Council on January 5. The City supported 36 Great Neighborhood grants in 2022 bringing the total since the inception of the program to 272. The 2023 intake period will begin on April 1. New for this year will be an increase in available matching funding for the Placemaking and Community Resilience categories to \$7,500, and to \$1,500 for Activity grants. If you are interested in pursuing a project idea through this program, staff are available to assist you with preparing an application.

Neighbourhood Association Primer

Join the City of Victoria Neighbourhoods team and community members on Wednesday, January 18 from noon to 1:30 p.m. to learn about the role of neighbourhood associations in our community and how you can get involved and make a difference in your neighbourhood. Topics will also include the role of Community Association Land Use Committees (CALUCs) and community centres. If you can't make this session, a recording will be posted as a resource for anyone wanting to become involved in neighbourhood associations or to learn more.

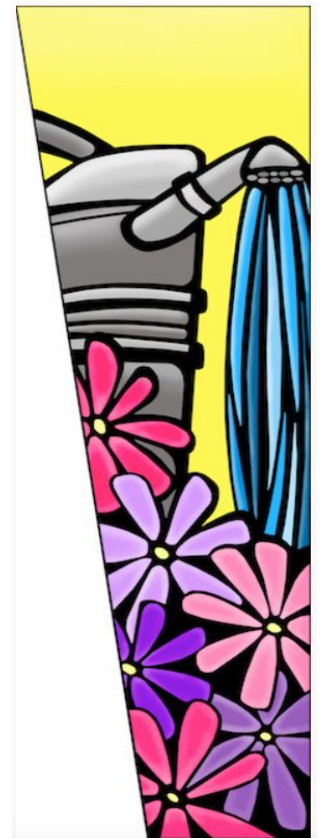
[Learn more and register here.](#)

Summer Banner Program

Regional digital artists and designers are invited to apply to showcase their work through the City of Victoria Summer Banner program. The summer banner program has been running since 1970 to help enhance the City's streetscapes and contribute to the downtown core's vibrancy. The successful applicant will have the opportunity to have their original art displayed on banners for the summers of 2023/2024 and will receive an award of \$2,000. They will supply five original designs to be installed in up to 400 locations in the downtown core and in James Bay.

To learn more, visit our [Artist Opportunity](#) page. Interested persons can also attend an online information session on Thursday January 12 at 5:30 p.m.

[Please register via Eventbrite here.](#)



MY GREAT Neighbourhood

From Around the City...

North Park Artists in Residence

A tiny, sea-foam green building in North Park's Vancouver street plaza has become an artist studio for the next four months as the North Park Neighbourhood Association begins its artist residency program. Felt and fibre artist Noah Crowder, aka Monster Boy, will be North Park's first artist in residence from December 1 until January 8. The North Park Neighbourhood Association will be introducing more artists in the coming months. The hub will continue to serve as a bulletin board and a neighbourhood food pantry.



New Social Enterprise in Burnside Gorge

Congratulations to the Burnside Gorge Community Association on the grand opening of the Burnside Boutique, their neighbourhood thrift store. The store offers quality, well-curated clothing as well as jewelry, small household items, books and specialty items. You can find the store at 350 Burnside Rd East.



From Further Abroad...

Planning Events for Inclusivity

A recent [article in World Leisure Journal](#) suggests that neighbourhood associations in Waterloo Ontario could improve their effectiveness when it comes to inclusivity. The study found that though the leaders in these organizations sought to engage residents in neighbourhood-wide activities, little effort was spent ensuring that those attending the activities represented the diversity of cultures and ages in their communities. In [an article](#) on the study, the researchers commented that it was not that the neighbourhood organizers were *excluding* various types of residents, it was that there "...was no intentional effort to reach out to them." Who lives in your neighbourhood? Are all groups included in your activities?

MY GREAT Neighbourhood

Placemaking in London



Whether in the middle of a small town, or a neighbourhood in a large city, it is important to have gathering spaces for people. Finsbury Avenue Square, in London England, recently received a massive makeover and is now a welcoming neighbourhood feature that is host to a multitude of community events. The square was initially laid out in 1777 as a planned quadrangle of terraced townhouses surrounding the central garden. Starting at the end of the 19th century, the houses began to be demolished to make way for large-scale commercial properties. Over the years it became a featureless patch of grass amidst unwelcoming office buildings. Destined to be demolished, it was instead revitalized through a new commercial development. This is a great example of what can happen when community and development work together to re-energize what was an eyesore for many years.

Water-Activated Street Murals



A few years ago, the PANTONE corporation collaborated with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's designers and art directors to transform Seoul, Korea's streets during the dreary monsoon season. The appropriately titled [Project Monsoon](#) began with the creative team

painting murals on Seoul's streets with hydrochromic paint – a type of paint that changes from transparent to opaque when it gets rains and gets wet. [Rainworks](#) offers an affordable option for paint and stencils to try this type of artwork here in Canada.

Resources...



Your Neighbourhood Liaison
Michael Hill mhill@victoria.ca

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt people.

MY GREAT Neighbourhood

Vital Signs for Quality of Life

Vital Signs is an annual report on quality of life in the Victoria region. The infographic format helps make a wealth of public survey information accessible and informative. Several articles about community are also included. It's an excellent resource for stimulating a conversation about what's missing for you in your community and how you might address it. The 2022 report can be found [here](#).



CRD Spring IDEA Grants

Here's another funding opportunity for your neighbourhood projects. The CRD is offering [IDEA grants](#) of up to \$3,000 for new, innovative or developmental art projects and events. Applications must be from not-for-profit organizations. Projects must be completed between June 1, 2022 and 2023. The application intake period opens January 24, 2023, when the application form and guidelines will be posted. Applications are assessed by the CRD Arts Advisory Council and may take up to 10 weeks to review. The deadline for grant applications is Thursday March 16 at 4:30pm.



Looking for more ways to stay in touch? Sign up for our [City e-newsletter](#) for monthly updates on City programs and initiatives. Find the latest issue of [Connect](#) here or check out recent new items [here](#).

Looking to stay engaged? Register with our [Have Your Say Engagement Portal](#). You'll get a monthly update about current engagement opportunities to participate in surveys and other online engagement opportunities.



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