

NO: R089

COUNCIL DATE: May 13, 2019

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **May 13, 2019**
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **0290-01**
SUBJECT: **UBCM 2019 Community Excellence Awards Submissions**

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information;
2. Endorse the City's applications for 2019 Union of BC Municipalities ("UBCM") Community Excellence Awards for:
 - a. The Parks, Recreation & Culture Strategic Plan 2018-2027 (the "PRC Strategic Plan"), in the Excellence in Governance award category; and
 - b. The Integrated Sustainability Education Program, in the Excellence in Service Delivery award category; and
3. Instruct the City Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the UBCM Awards Program in support of the City's applications.

INTENT

The intent of this report is to obtain a Council resolution supporting the submission of two projects for two 2019 UBCM Community Excellence Awards, which is a newly instituted requirement for submission. The awards will be announced and presented at the 2019 UBCM Convention.

BACKGROUND

The UBCM Community Excellence Awards are an annual event, recognizing and celebrating excellence in local government projects or programs which can serve as "best practices" for other local governments.

For 2019, awards will be given in four categories:

- Excellence in Governance;
- Excellence in Service Delivery;
- Excellence in Asset Management; and
- Excellence in Sustainability.

Local governments in BC can put forward up to one application in each of the following four award categories:

1. The Excellence in Governance category recognizes governance processes and policies that are outcomes-based and consensus oriented; that encourage citizen participation in civic decision-making; are inclusive, open and transparent; and exemplify best practices in accountability, effectiveness, and long-term thinking.
2. The Excellence in Service Delivery category recognizes services to the community that are delivered in a proactive manner, demonstrate benefit to the community, and utilize performance measures, benchmarks and standards to ensure sustainable service delivery.
3. The Excellence in Asset Management category recognizes effective management of existing and new infrastructure in order to maximize benefits, reduce risk and provide satisfactory levels of service to community users in a sustainable manner.
4. The Excellence in Sustainability category recognizes projects or programs that incorporate a long-term sustainability lens by considering the four pillars - cultural, social, economic and environmental issues - in planning, policy and practice.

The City of Surrey has been successful in the annual UBCM awards program in the past, winning several Community Excellence awards. Since 2011, the City of Surrey has been successful in receiving the following awards:

- The 2011 “Overall Excellence” award for local governments across BC;
- A 2011 “Best Practice, Website” award for the surrey.ca website re-design;
- A 2012 “Best Practice, General” award for the Safe and Active Schools Program;
- 2012 “Excellence in Partnerships” award for the Kensington Prairie Community Centre;
- A 2013 “Best Practice, Social Media” award;
- A 2014 “Best Practice, Operations” award for the Erosion and Sediment Control Permit On-line Reporting tool;
- The 2015 “Excellence in Action” award for the Street Light Copper Replacement program;
- A 2015 “Best Practice, Community Connections” award for the MySurrey App; and
- A 2016 “Excellence in Leadership and Innovation” award for the BioPod Initiative.

The criteria for awarding a project in each of the four categories include the degree to which the project or program demonstrates organizational leadership, innovation, partnerships, public engagement and financial best practices, and the degree to which the outcomes of the project or program are transferable to other UBCM members.

Award applications are required to be accompanied by a Council resolution indicating support for submitting each project for a UBCM award.

Awards will be announced and presented at the 2019 UBCM Convention in September, 2019.

DISCUSSION

Following inter-departmental discussion on the status of various City initiatives that could be considered for an award and a review of the UBCM awards categories and criteria, staff have developed applications and supporting material for two recent initiatives that are a good fit for the UBCM Community Excellence awards. Each of these projects meets the requirements of the awards program and are complete or at a stage where outcomes have been demonstrated.

These applications are:

- PRC Strategic Plan, in the Excellence in Governance category; and
- Integrated Sustainability Education Program, in the Excellence in Service Delivery category.

The PRC Strategic Plan provides a 10-year vision and implementation strategy for ensuring that greenspace, sport and recreation facilities and cultural opportunities keep pace with the growth of Surrey. The PRC Strategic Plan is rooted in an extensive and interactive public engagement process where Surrey residents were able to articulate priorities for investment and program delivery. The PRC Strategic Plan has received multiple awards already for its clarity and comprehensiveness, and for the community engagement involved in its creation.

The Integrated Sustainability Education (“ISE”) Program is delivered to over 16,000 students in Surrey schools each year by staff from the Sustainability Office and the Engineering Department. The program integrates energy, water and waste concepts across grade levels from Grade two to ten, and to adult English language learners as well, aligned with the Provincial curriculum. The grade two program focuses on no litter, the grade four program includes water and energy conservation, while the grades nine and ten programs integrate water, waste and energy topics. The program encourages sustainability and connected thinking for students and provides a tangible way for students to become engaged with the issues that concern local government.

Staff believes that both projects are strong candidates for an award, and that they meet the intent of the UBCM Awards program.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The UBCM 2019 Community Excellence Awards Submissions supports the objectives of the City’s Sustainability Charter 2.0. In particular, this work relates to Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Inclusion, Built Environment & Neighbourhoods, Ecosystems, Education & Culture, Health & Wellness and Infrastructure. Specifically, this project supports the following Desired Outcomes (“DO”) and Strategic Directions (“SD”):

- Inclusion DO18: Children and youth have opportunities for engagement, leadership and having a voice in their community;
- Inclusion SD16: Enhance the opportunities available for residents to be meaningfully engaged in civic issues;
- Built Environment and Neighbourhoods SD6: Provide a range of community amenities including culture, recreation, health and education facilities in each Town Centre;

- Ecosystems DO1: Parks, natural areas, urban forests and habitat corridors are interconnected throughout Surrey and the region, creating healthy places for people and wildlife;
- Ecosystems SD9: Continue to acquire Surrey's Green Infrastructure Network as determined in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, including through a financial strategy;
- Education and Culture DO2: Surrey children and youth have access to a high quality comprehensive and inclusive educational system, and opportunities that include experiences in and out of school;
- Health and Wellness DO6: Residents participate in a wide range of recreation and leisure opportunities; and
- Infrastructure SD12: Continue to explore, develop and implement policies and tools to support water conservation and recovery.

CONCLUSION

The projects selected for submission for a 2019 UBCM Community Excellence Award meet the criteria of the awards program, and each is an exemplary project worthy of an award in the relevant category. The General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture is seeking a Council resolution supporting the submission of the PRC Strategic Plan and the Integrated Sustainability Education Program for two UBCM awards in the relevant categories. Such a resolution is a requirement of the submissions.

Laurie Cavan
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Parks, Recreation & Culture