

VICTORIA DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MARCH 22, 2022, HELD BY ZOOM

MINUTES

Present:

Sandra Severs, President
Doug Boyd, Vice President/Treasurer
Dianne Flood, Secretary
Michael Demakiling, Board Director
Ian Sutherland, Board Director
Nicholas Harrington, Board Director
Cathy Brankston, Member
Wendy Bowkett, Member
Maureen Cain, Member
Terry Simms, Member
Jordan Royer, Member

Invited Guests:

Geoff Young, City Councillor
Mike Hill, City Neighbourhood Liaison
Joaquin Karakas, Senior Urban Designer, City of Victoria
Darragh DeGroot, former DRA Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator

1. Welcome and Introductions

Sandra Severs assumed the role of chair and welcomed all attendees.

2. Establish Quorum and Approve the Agenda

Quorum was confirmed and the agenda was approved as presented.

3. Guest Speaker

Joaquin Karakas, Senior Urban Designer, City of Victoria, presented a video and slide show and provided additional information and an update on the City's proposed Refresh of Government Street, from Humboldt to Pandora.

The Refresh is intended to recognize the iconic nature of Government Street and reflect an expression of what the Street means and represents to Victoria's citizens and visitors. It will take advantage of the information learned from the City's "Build Back Better" initiative to address the Covid-19 impacts and is to be implemented gradually, as part of the City's infrastructure renewal and repair program. The project is divided into zones, which will be undertaken in phases, with plazas proposed at either

end. One zone will have a time limited vehicle access, reflecting the City's plans for "People Priority by 2022".

Consultation has been on-going, with a stakeholder working group that included the DRA, the business community, place-making groups, and the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations, followed by the recent public survey, which garnered over 1,000 responses. The concepts and designs will now be refined and submitted to Council, likely in late May, 2022.

In response to questions, Joaquin advised that there is no present intent to extend the project to Chatham Street (as per the Official Community Plan). Also, the plaza proposed at Pandora will combine a green space and a meeting place, with possibly a public washroom and some room for an extended restaurant area. That area also presents a good opportunity for in-ground tree planting. While Centennial Square - opposite the proposed plaza at Pandora - needs some upgrading of its aging infrastructure, that is outside of the scope of this project.

To view the link to the video that Joaquin presented at the AGM, [click here](#).

4. Approval of the Minutes of the 2021 AGM

The minutes were approved as submitted.

5. DRA 2021-in-Review and the Strategic Plan for 2022

Darragh DeGroot presented the attached slide show, highlighting some of the DRA's 2021 activities and plans for 2022.

Sandra Severs spoke briefly to the plans for 2022.

6. Review of Financial Report & Budget

Doug Boyd presented the attached financial statements.

Moved by Dianne Flood and seconded by Ian Sutherland, that the financial statements be approved. Approved.

7. Questions Regarding Executive and Committee Reports

The Executive and all Committee reports were accepted as submitted.

8. Special Resolution: Amendment to the Bylaws

On notice being given to the membership, a resolution proposing to amend the Bylaws (as attached) was moved by Dianne Flood and seconded by Doug Boyd.

Dianne spoke to the By-law, explaining that the effect of the proposed by-law change is to allow a limited number of Non-Voting Members (those who do not reside in the Downtown Neighbourhood) to stand for election as a Director, while providing that the majority of the Directors of the Board

shall be Voting Members (who do reside in the Downtown Neighbourhood).

The intent of the proposed by-law change is to allow for broader Board diversity, while retaining the nature of the Association as representing the interests of those persons who actually reside in the Downtown Neighbourhood.

The expansion is necessary because the work of the Board is becoming more complex and demanding as the City, and the significant population increases, impose more and more expectations upon the Association. People have expressed interest in joining the Board, but could not be accepted because they live on the periphery of the neighbourhood.

Any Non-voting member that may be duly elected as a Board Director will not be entitled to vote at meetings of the Association - nothing in the proposed new by-law changes that. They will, however, be entitled to vote at Board meetings, the same as all other duly elected Board Directors. It is by virtue of their election as Directors of the Board that all Board Directors vote at meetings of the Board, and they do so as members of the Board, not as members of the Association.

No members of the Association (Voting or Non-voting) are entitled to vote at Board meetings, only Board directors vote at those meetings.

All Board directors are subject to the Board's policies, which call for them to act in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Association.

Only Voting members can vote for Board Directors, so any Non-voting members elected as Directors can be elected by Voting members only.

Sandra called for the vote, and the amendment as presented to the membership was approved.

9. Election of New Board Members

Michael Demakiling introduced Colby Young, a member of the Urban Liveability Committee, who had consented in writing to standing for election to the Board but was unable to attend the meeting.

Ian Sutherland introduced Jordan Royer, a member of the Land Use and Urban Liveability Committees, who also had consented to standing for election to the Board and who was present at the meeting.

No other person present indicated a willingness to let their name stand for election.

There being a number of vacancies on the Board, both Colby Young and Jordan Royer, were elected as Directors of the Association, for a term of three years.

10. New Business

No new business.

11. Meeting Adjourned

Special Resolution: Notice of DRA By-Law Change

It is proposed:

1) That Section 5.5 “Nominations of Directors” of the Bylaws of the Victoria Downtown Residents Association, which reads as follows:

Nominations of Directors

5.5 Only Voting Members of the Association shall be allowed to be Members of the Board.

be deleted and replaced with the following:

Nominations of Directors

5.5.1 A person must be a Member of the Association in order to be nominated for election as a Director of the Board.

5.5.2 A maximum of three Non-Voting Members may be elected as Directors of the Board at any time, which number includes any Non-Voting Members that may be appointed as Directors under 5.7, and providing that at all times the majority of the Directors of the Board shall be Voting Members.

5.5.3 If the number of Non-Voting nominated exceeds the permissible number set in 5.5.2

(a) only the permissible number of Non-Voting Directors may be elected, even if a Non-Voting nominee receives more votes than a Voting Member nominee, and

(b) the permissible number of Non-Voting nominee(s) who receive the most votes will be declared elected.

2) That the amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Association be registered in accordance with the Societies Act, SBC 2015, c. 18.

The effect of the proposed by-law change is to allow a limited number of Non-Voting Members (those who do not reside in the Downtown Neighbourhood) to stand for election as a Director, while providing that the majority of the Directors of the Board shall be Voting Members (who do reside in the Downtown Neighbourhood).

The intent of the proposed by-law change is to allow for broader Board diversity, while retaining the nature of the Association as representing the interests of those persons who actually reside in the Downtown Neighbourhood.

The full text of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association is available on the Association's website at:
<https://www.victoriadra.ca/mission-statement>

Bio for Colby Young

Colby Young was born and raised in Victoria and the surrounding neighbourhoods, where he continues to reside and work. He has been a resident of the Harris Green neighbourhood since 2019.

Colby is employed as the Program Lead for the Vancouver Island Construction Association's (VICA) new harm reduction initiative, The Tailgate Toolkit, which seeks to address overdose fatalities within the construction and trades sector. Colby is a recent graduate of the University of Victoria's Bachelor of Social Work program and holds a diploma in Public Sector Management. Prior to his work with VICA, he was employed for a number of years with the Victoria Cool Aid Society, leading and developing social-recreational programming for adults facing barriers such as homelessness, mental health disorders, and addiction.

Colby is new to the Victoria Downtown Residents Associations, having joined as a volunteer for the Urban Livability Committee in November, 2021. Colby has since been named the lead of the Sub-Committee to Support the Unhoused and has taken on the role of co-chair of the Urban Livability Committee.

Colby comes to the VDRA with a desire to build community and equity among the residents of Downtown Victoria and the Harris Green neighbourhood, and hopes to provide another voice on the board for his neighbours, both housed and unhoused.

Bio for Jordan Royer

Jordan Royer grew up in Calgary and then went to university at the University of Western Ontario for Engineering/Business. After graduating, he spent time at Infrastructure Ontario on the project delivery team, specifically on the Waterloo LRT project. He then moved to BC to work in real estate development. In this capacity he's worked on residential and industrial projects throughout BC, though mostly focused in the lower mainland and Vancouver Island.

In his current position with Omicron, he takes properties from the feasibility stage (which requires interpreting planning documents to understand allowable densities and forms) through entitlements, construction and turnover. As part of an integrated team - with designers and construction professionals in the same office - this gives him a perspective on the current construction trends that is an asset to the Land Use Committee.



AGM 2022

2021 REVIEW



EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Alleyway Comedy Night

Virtual Tea Ceremony

Blossom Your Pride

Keeping It Human

How To Be An Ally

Wicked Victoria

Bastion Square Market

+ More





ALLEYWAY COMEDY NIGHT

+200 Visitors
8 Local Comedians
5 Art Displays
17 Market Vendors
1 Beer Garden

+70 Visitors
+200 Flowers
Cupcakes!

**BLOSSOM
YOUR PRIDE**



WICKED VICTORIA



+160 People Engaged
+200 DRA Awareness
84 At PhotoBooth
Pumpkin Password
Dog Costume Contest

YSCG PROGRAMS

Get Growing Victoria X2
Palenke Plant Owrkshop
Pollinators Week



GOALS MET IN 2021

15 Programs/Events

8 New programs/events

4 Learning Opportunities

11 Community Partnerships

21 Local Businesses Supported

800

PEOPLE
ENGAGED
IN 2021

COMMUNICATIONS

Launch New Website

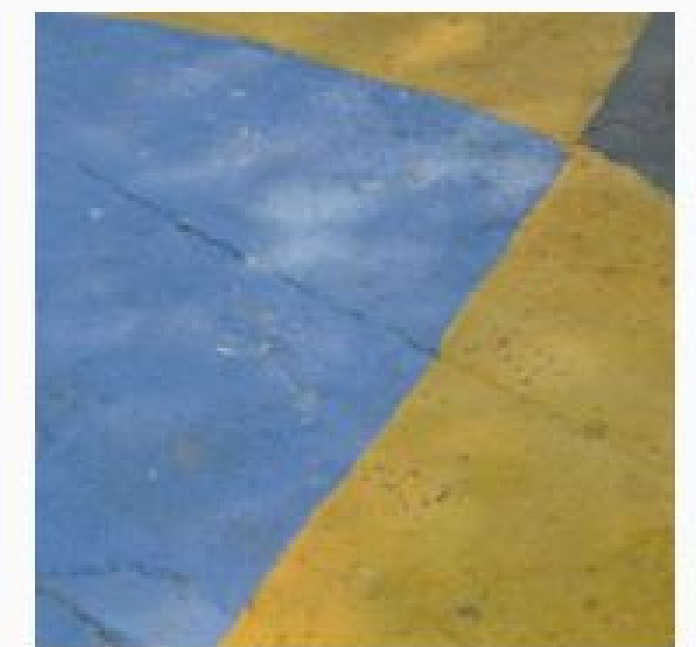
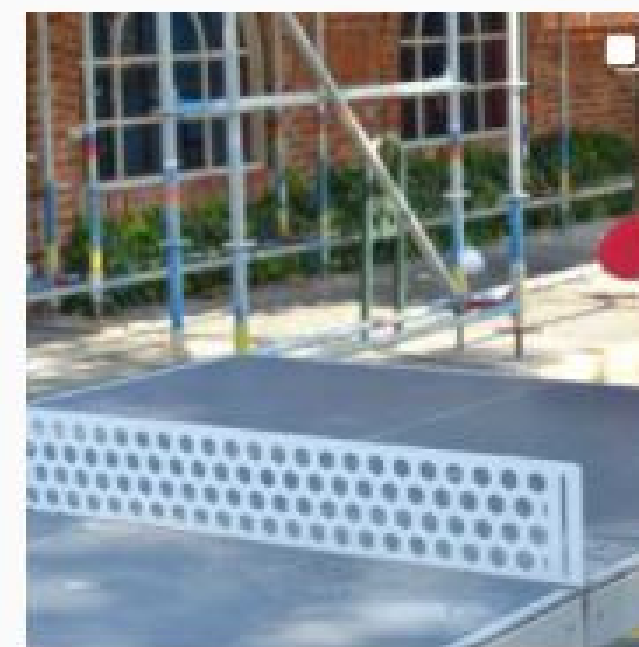
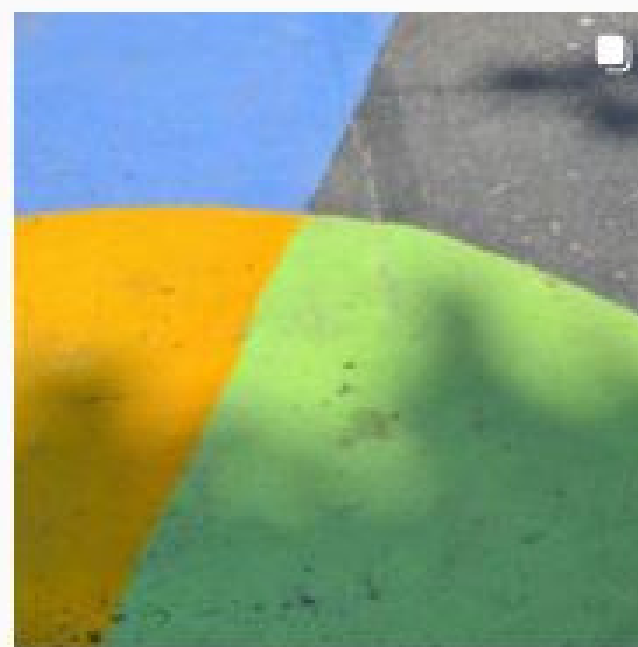
Launch Instagram

Updated E-Newsletters

Increased Subscriptions

Increased Followers

More Social Media Content



NEW WEBSITE

Want to get involved? [Volunteer](#), become a [member](#) or [renew](#) your membership today!



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[YATES COMMUNITY GARDEN](#)

[CONTACT](#)

VICTORIA DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Voice of *Your* Neighbourhood

LEARN MORE





11 E-Newsletters

+100 Newsletter Subscribers

+100 Facebook Followers

358 Instagram Followers (June 2021)

1,991 Website Views



PROJECTS

Portable Bike & Trailer

New Staff

Work Space At The Dock

2022 PLANS



1. Engage Downtown Residents

2. Inspire a sense of community downtown and promote downtown as a good place to live

3. Increase Awareness of the DRA and DRA activities in the community

4. Collaborate and partner with the downtown community

5. Sustainable Growth of the DRA

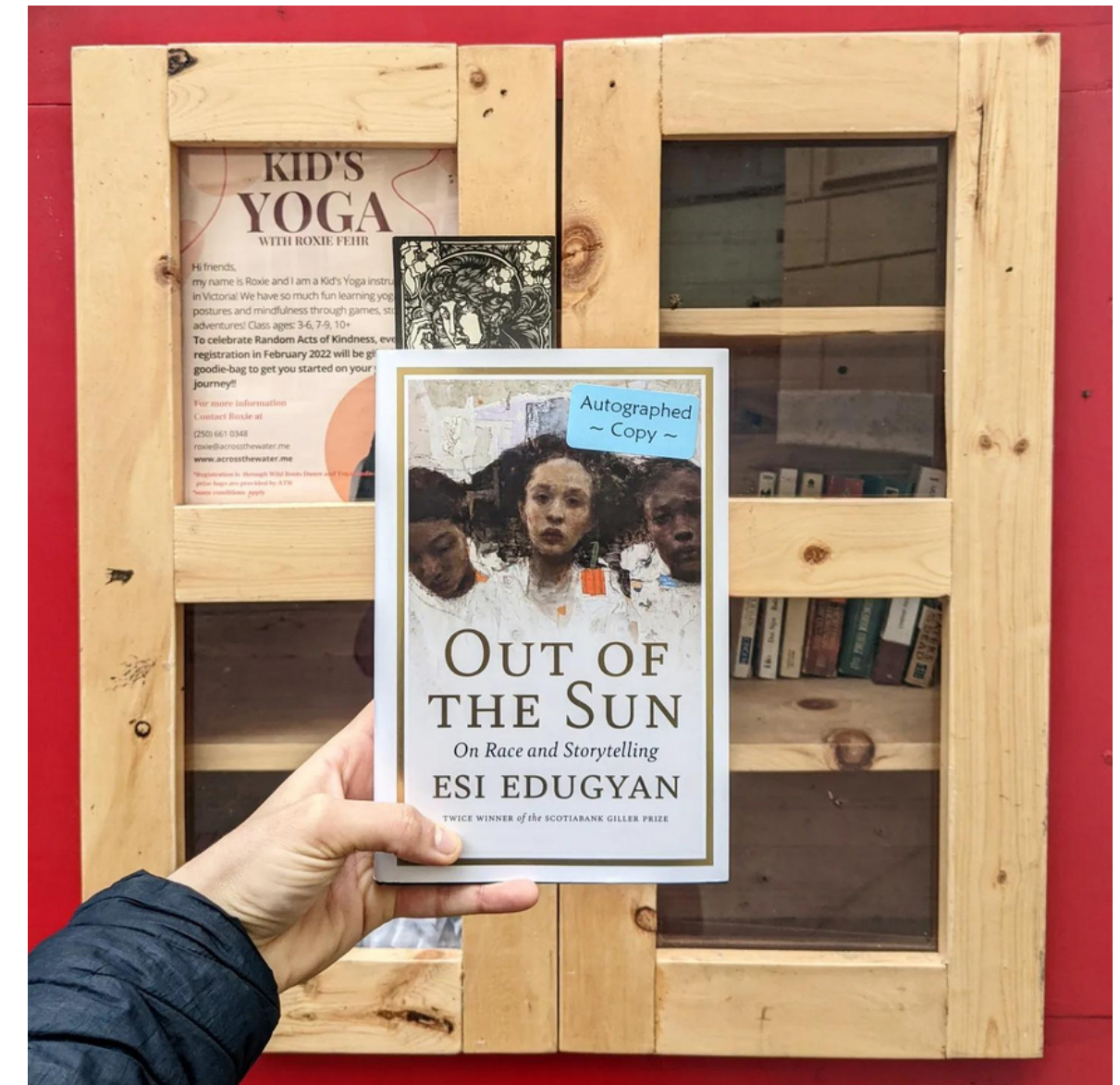
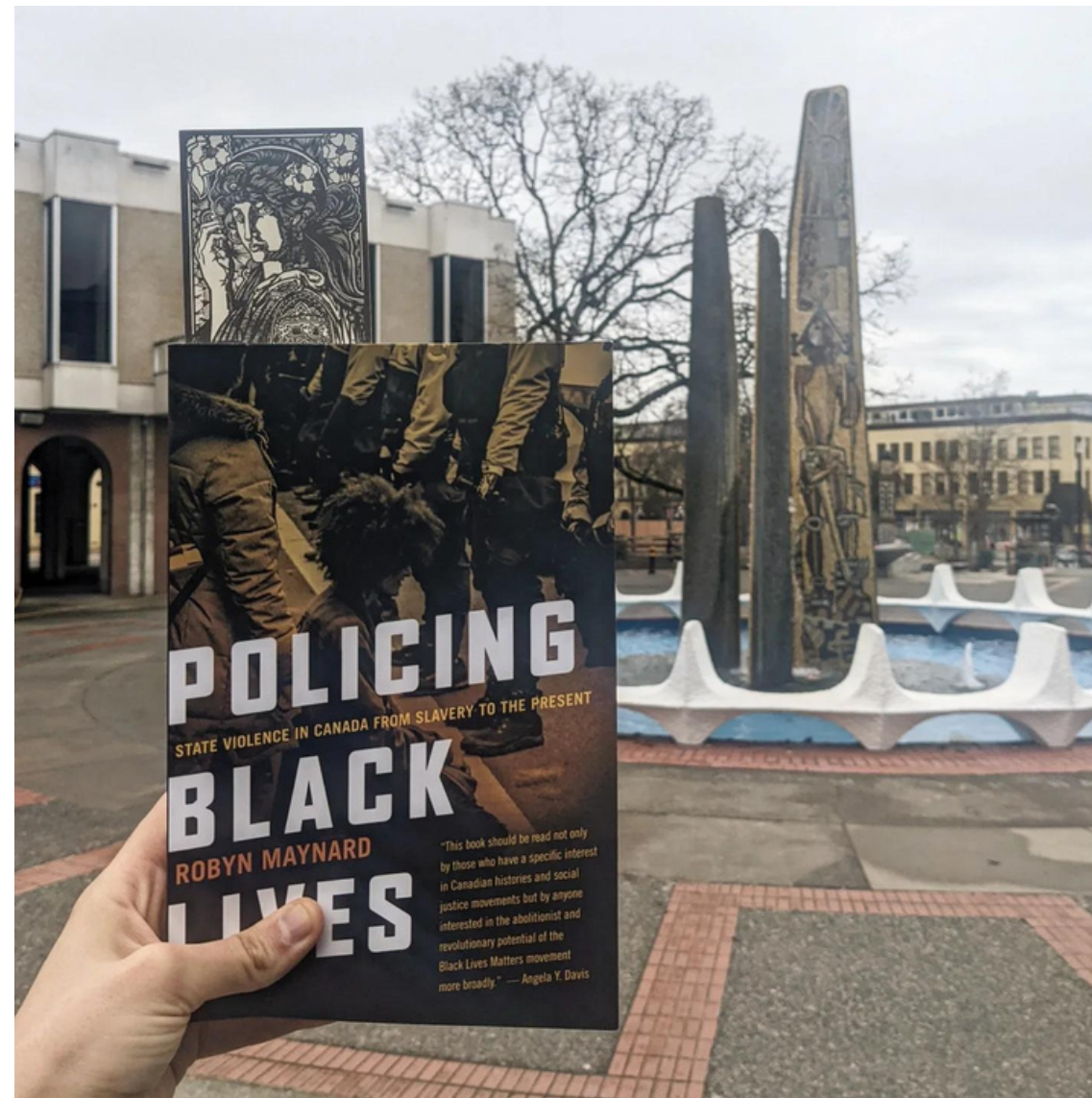
Share Your Voice

Monthly Questions to Get to Know Downtown Residents

New Staff and new ways to get involved!



Books to celebrate and encourage community learning



MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

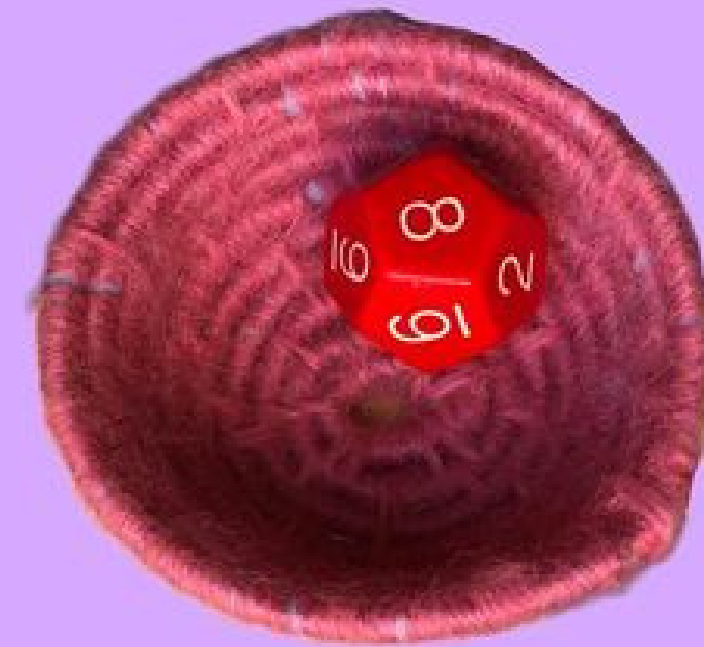
GOALS

- Deliver X10
- Community Connections
- Deliver relevant workshops to community needs



CREATIVE REUSE WORKSHOP

Basket Weaving
with Ethernet Cords



**SUPPLY
VICTORIA**
CREATIVE REUSE CENTRE



Wed, April 6 | 6:00pm-7:30pm | Neighbourhood Hub | By Donation

HOW DOES IT FEEL?

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11
6PM - 8PM | THE DOCK



DID YOU KNOW WHEN A
PERSON IS IN SURVIVAL
MODE, THEIR BRAIN
LITERALLY CANNOT THINK
AHEAD TO MAKE A PLAN?



ATTEND COMMUNITY EVENTS

GOALS

- Attend X5
- DRA Bike & Trailer
- Create A Sense of Community

Communications and Membership Committee Report – 2022 AGM

- **Newsletter / Other Communications to Members and Subscribers:**
 - o Newsletter were issued on a monthly basis. Statistics from Mail Chimp indicate that they were opened by an average of 46.6% of subscribers in 2021. Mailchimp reports that the average open rate of organizations in our peer group is 40.3%.
 - o We also sent 11 communications, including event reminders and notices. These were opened by an average of 46.7% of subscribers.
 - o 26 new subscribers were added in 2021.
- **Membership:**
 - o 27 new members and 14 renewals in 2021. Our membership growth has been limited by the reduced number of public events where we participated, due to Covid restrictions.
- **Web site**
 - o The CMC assumed responsibility for continuing to develop our new web site in May 2021. The new site was launched in July.
 - o Since the launch of the new site, we continued to add content, the most recent being a Share Your Voice feature, the purpose being to know what residents want and what their concerns are for the Downtown and Harris-Green neighbourhoods. This input will help the DRA develop relevant programming, events, and service.
 - o The latest analytics report for our site shows 520 monthly unique visitors, as compared to 118 for August, the first full month since the new website was launched.
- **Social Media**
 - o We continue to actively post on social media and the number of followers on our accounts continues to increase. In July we launched a new Instagram account.
 - o The current number of followers for each account are:
 - Facebook - 881 followers, vs. 689 at the start of 2021
 - Instagram - 399 followers
 - Twitter - 1133 followers, vs. 1024 at the start of 2021
 - o You can help grow our social media presence by sharing our posts with your social media followers.

We wish to express our thanks to Darragh De Groot, our Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator, who with her graphic skills created a more colourful and lively newsletter, and made a very substantial contribution to developing and updating our website, creating our Instagram account and posting updates on our social media platforms.

Submitted by
Doug Boyd
Chair, Communications and Membership Committee

**Victoria Downtown Residents' Association
Treasurer's Report
January 1 to December 31, 2021**

**Prepared and Presented by Doug Boyd, Treasurer
Presented at the AGM on March 22, 2022**

In accordance with the Victoria Downtown Residents' Association (DRA) Constitution, the following Report, Financial Statement and Budget have been prepared for the Annual General Meeting for the review of the Membership. The details are attached following the report.

This is the 17th reporting year for the DRA since the Society became a financial entity on November 1, 2004. Our fiscal year end is December 31.

Total revenues in 2021 were \$31,821. City of Victoria grants comprised \$31,559 of this total and memberships \$270. Revenues were significantly higher than in previous years due to the Engagement Coordinator grant and higher Base Grant due to the population increase in the Downtown.

Total expenses in 2021 were \$36,898. Admin and operating expenses were the largest category at \$23,425, of which the Engagement Coordinator contact payment was the major item. The Kiosk Project, which included the e-bike, trailer and related items, totalled \$5,158. This was funded through a My Great Neighbourhood Grant of \$5,000 that we received in 2018. We also completed the development of a new website, and expenses for this item in 2021 totalled \$3,449. Events expenses totalled \$4,866. The excess of expenses over revenue was funded from cash reserves from prior years in our bank account.

For the 2022 Budget, forecasted revenue of \$88,078 consists of \$9,778 in Base Grant funding and \$78,000 in Supplemental Grant funding from the City, and \$300 in Membership Fees.

Forecasted expenses for the 2022 budget are \$91,211. Major items include \$65,000 for two contact positions, \$1500 for developing a welcome package, and \$1,500 for a community needs survey, all made possible by the Supplemental Grant. We have also budgeted \$4,000 for a strategic planning project. Other major items include \$10,000 for events and \$5,796 for desk and storage space at the Dock. As per the 2021 year, the excess of expenses over revenue will be funded from cash reserves from prior years in our bank account.

The balance in our bank account as of January 1, 2022 was \$24,100.

The Yates Street Community Garden (YSCG) has a separate bank account. While it is under the DRA umbrella, it is managed by the YSCG Steering Committee. The financial statements and budget presented in this report do not include the operations of the YSCG.

The Yates Street Community Garden continued to develop in 2021. Primary revenues for this project comprised a Community Garden Volunteer Grant from the City (\$10,000) and membership fees (\$3,120). Primary expenses were for contract services (\$10,000), garden projects/workshops & events (\$1,702.24), garden materials (\$1,296.06), miscellaneous expenses (\$361.09), and garden maintenance (\$254.41). The balance in the Yates Street Community Garden bank account as of January 1, 2022, was \$10,622.04.

Victoria Downtown Residents' Association
Income January 1 to December 31, 2021

Grants

City of Victoria Base Grant - initial + supplement	\$9,778.00
City of Victoria Engagement Co-ordinator Grant	\$20,000.00
City of Victoria My Great Neighbourhood grants (net amount)	\$1,772.89
	<u>\$31,550.89</u>

Other

Memberships	\$270.00
	<u>\$270.00</u>

Total Income	<u>\$31,820.89</u>
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Victoria Downtown Residents' Association
Expenses **January 1 to December 31**

Admin and Operations

Engagement Coordinator contract payment	\$21,232.50
Dock - desk space rental	\$483.00
Advertising for coordinator position	\$316.34
Zoom subscription	\$424.00
Volunteer Victoria & Volunteer Canada memberships	\$330.00
E-bike/trailer insurance	\$190.00
Dropbox subscription	\$162.82
Bank, Paypal, Eventbrite fees	\$117.16
Misc. Admin	\$169.15
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	\$23,424.97

Communications

website development + hosting	\$3,449.06
	<hr/>
	\$3,449.06

Bike and Trailer project

e-bike, trailer, lock purchase	\$3,434.89
trailer wrap design + printing	\$1,723.43
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	\$5,158.32

Events

Event Supplies	\$296.48
Alleyway Event	\$3,062.94
Tea party	\$272.89
How to be an Ally/Keeping it Human Workshops	\$393.77
Wicked YYJ	\$217.82
TRC Books	\$206.14
Yates Street Garden Blossom Your Pride Event	\$353.81
Bastion Square Holiday Event	\$61.80
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	\$4,865.65

Total Expenses

\$36,898.00

Victoria Downtown Residents Association - Budget 2022

Revenues

Base grant	\$9,778.00 * based on 2021 amount
Supplemental grant	\$78,000.00
Memberships	\$300.00
Total	\$88,078.00

Expenses

Contractor payments	\$65,000.00 * engagement coordinator & land use advisor
Events	\$10,500.00
Dock - desk rental	\$5,796.00 * \$483/month for 12 months
Strategic Planning	\$4,000.00 * estimate - for facilitator & media consultant
Welcome Package - design & printing	\$1,500.00
Community Needs Survey	\$1,500.00
Website, domain/email hosting	\$500.00
Advertising Expenses	\$400.00
Zoom subscription	\$240.00
Board Member Orientation & Training	\$400.00
Volunteer Victoria/Volunteer Canada memberships	\$330.00
Dropbox subscription	\$165.00
Bank, Paypal, Eventbrite Fees	\$150.00
BC Societies	\$90.00 * annual filing + bylaw change fee
E-Bike/Trailer insurance	\$190.00
AGM	\$250.00
Misc Admin Expenses	\$200.00
Total	\$91,211.00

* the excess of expenses over revenue will be funded from cash reserves from prior years in our bank account.

**Victoria Downtown Residents' Association
Land Use Committee Report
12 March 2022**

The DRA Land Use Committee (“DRA LUC”) continued to meet throughout 2021 and offered input into various rezoning and variance applications as well as several City-based initiatives within Downtown Harris Green. In 2021, the DRA LUC participated in the following:

- Development Applications with Rezoning and/or OCP amendments: 7
- Development Applications without Rezoning or OCP amendments: 2
- Liquor licence applications: 13
- Cannabis licence applications: 2
- City-led initiatives (Public Consultation Process, DCAP review): 2

Despite the continued global pandemic, the pace of new development applications continued throughout 2021. In all, twenty significant projects were presented to the public and/or reviewed by the DRA LUC. The development projects we've been asked to participate include:

- **780 Blanshard/BC Power Commission Building** – Reliance Properties – Rezoning to construct an 18-storey tower (17F residential + 1F amenity) above the existing 4-storey heritage registered building (hotel). The proposed height is 70.67m, above the 43.0 m permitted and a proposed FSR of 4.6:1 from 3.0:1 permitted. Heritage designation for the BC Power Commission Building is proposed to be concurrent with the Rezoning and the Heritage Alteration Permit approvals. No on-site parking is proposed but the applicant offered they may have access to 25 off-site spots. The pre-CALUC meeting took place via zoom on 15 Dec 2021. The CALUC meeting will be a hybrid meeting with concurrent in-person and online attendance on 21 March 2022.
- **1124 Vancouver:** J. Gordon Enterprises – Rezoning and Development Permit with Variance to construct a 6-storey market rental apartment building with an FSR of 3.62:1, 1 level underground parking, 162 units, 46 parking spots (100 required), 202 bike spots (186 required) and no ground floor commercial. Alternative CALUC process for public comment closed 30 May 2021. Approved by Council on 10 Feb 2022.
- **1030 Fort** – Jawl Properties w Cascadia Architecture – Rezoning for a 6-storey (22.28m) market rental project with commercial units at grade and 30 residential units (20 x 1BD+den and 10 x studio) above with FSR of 4:1. No onsite parking is proposed (24 req) with 56 bike parking spots (44 req). An online community meeting was held on 31 Aug 2021. Revised plans were posted to the City’s Development Tracker on 09 Feb 2022.
- **1221 Blanshard/Capital Six** – Jawl Properties with D’Ambrosio –Rezoning & Development Permit applications for 15,792 sqm total commercial floor area with an FSR of 5.89:1, 48.9 m (10 storeys), 144 onsite parking stalls, and 117 bike spots. An online alternate CALUC meeting took place on 13 July 2021. Revised plans were submitted to the City on 13 Jan 2022. On 01 Feb 2022, Council approved the application for Public Hearing.
- **975 Pandora (Seventh Adventist Church)** – Townline – Rezoning and Building Permit for 121 residential rental units in 4-storey podium and 15-storey tower at 5.46:1 FSR with ground floor commercial. Vehicle parking at 116 meets and exceeds requirements as

does bike parking at 301. There are also 53 storage lockers. Approved by Council on 13 Jan 2022.

- **937 View St** – Nelson Investments w de Hoog & Kierulf – Development Permit with Variance to build an 19-storey, with 266 studio and 1 bdrm market rental units with zero vehicle parking but 317 bikes spots on R48 land and located in the Fort St Heritage Corridor. The proposed FSR 7.97:1. The applicant is not proposing to rezone away from the R48 zone but is requesting a height variance. Revised plans were posted to the City's Development Tracker on 11 Jan 2022 and are under Staff review.
- **Yates & Johnson Sts Mid-Block Walkway** - these applications, combined, will effectively remove all or part of the pre-existing mid-block walkway that was presented with expansion and improvements as part of the application for Chard's development at 848 Yates St and identified in DCAP as part of the pedestrian network.
 - a. 836 Yates – Heritage Alteration w Variance for approval of fence and gates, variance for height of the fence. New Application Received on 04 Mar 2022 for the HAV but no plans posted on the Devt Tracker to date. Council declined the previous HAV on 09 Dec 21.
 - b. 845 Yates – Chard – Development Permit with Variance application for modifications to the through-block walkway and the terms of the Statutory Right-of-Way. A Variance to the Fence Bylaw is required to increase the height of the gates from 1.83m to 2.59m. Application Received and under Review by City 22 July 2021. With the understanding that there was new information from applicant, it was referred to a future meeting. No update on the status of this application.
- **749-767 Douglas, Apex Site** – Telus with Aryze – Rezoning and an OCP amendment to increase density to construct a new office building with ground floor commercial uses. Proposal is for a 51.03 m office tower with 126 parking stalls (below the required 205) and 142 bike spots (136 required). Currently the OCP prescribes a maximum density of 4.0:1 on this site. The applicant is seeking an increase in permitted density to 5.2:1 and an increase in permitted height from 45m. Approved by Council on 16 Dec 2021.
- **1900 Store St** – Reliance Properties w D'Ambrosio – Rezoning application to permit residential uses, retail, commercial, arts and cultural facilities, high-tech, office, assembly, studio, small-scale commercial agriculture, parks and open space, and designate two heritage-registered buildings. An OCP amendment is required for the addition of residential uses and for height. Proposal includes buildings with 2-6F podiums and 3 towers of 10F, 13F and 17F with a density of 3.0:1. Heritage buildings will be preserved and adapted for reuse. Project primarily within Burnside Gorge borders with a small portion within Downtown. Online CALUC meeting took place on 21 Sept 2021. The Application Review by the City is complete and it is with the applicant as of 01 Dec 2021.
- **504 Herald St, Herald St Brew Works** – Mike and Lee Spence - Development Permit with Variance to construct a rooftop patio with an occupancy of 99 additional unlicensed seats (bringing total occupancy to 277 from the previously approved 178) and exterior stairs to an existing building for use as a brew pub. Approved at Council on 25 Nov 2021.

- **1106 Blanshard St, Montrose Winter Garden Hotel** – David Fullbrook with D'Ambrosio – Rezoning for Site Specific Zone and Official Community Plan (OCP) amendment for Core Business area density. Proposal is to develop NW corner of Blanshard and Fort. Project proposes 20-storey tower for Airbnb-style hotel. Density requested 6.16:1 from 3.0:1 and requested height of 65.5 m from 43.0m. The density calculation for this application is unconventional in that it will include the separate adjacent property to the north, The Montrose Building, which will be designated heritage but not seismically upgraded. The Montrose will be maintained with residential above small Commercial Retail Units (which are being renovated as vacancies arise). Approved by Council on 04 Nov 2021.
- **579-585 Johnson St** – Hartwig Industries w Studio 531 Architects – Heritage Alteration Permit with Variance to construct a new mixed-use building while retaining the heritage building at 579 Johnson in 2 phases. The proposal includes three buildings (new 4F on Johnson, existing 2F heritage on Johnson and new 5F behind others) with one storey below grade. The existing 1F building on Johnson will be demolished. Total number of residential units is 25 with a mix of 1 bdrm and 1 bdrm+den. No vehicle parking is required or proposed and 48 bike parking is required and proposed. Proposed density is 2.63:1. The Application Review by the City is complete and it is with the applicant as of 01 Nov 2021.
- **1205 Quadra/911 Yates** – Starlight – Rezoning and OCP Amendment and Devt Permit for two sites on the south side of Yates between Quadra & Cook: 1.35 hectare full 900-block Yates and the 0.63 hectare eastern half of the 1000-block Yates, 1045 Yates. Proposal includes: 5-storey podium with 28, 29 and 32 storey towers with a 6:1 FSR. On 28 Oct 2021, Council approved the project to proceed to Public Hearing.
- **1045 Yates St, Harris Chrysler (Phase 1)** – Starlight – Development Permit with Variance concurrent with a Rezoning Application related to area of 4.9 acres over two sites. Proposal includes: 5-storey podium with 20 & 21 storey towers with a 6:1 FSR. Rental for 510 residential units, including 6 (3BDRM) townhouses and 436 onsite parking stalls & 654-bike parking. Project is ongoing.
- **1312 Broad, Duck Block** – UVic Properties/Chard – Rezoning, Development Permit and Heritage Alteration for 6-storey 139-unit hotel with ground floor commercial with FSR 4.0. Includes an OCP amendment for a very significant increase in density offside of the Official Community Plan maximum densities for Old Town and best practices of Heritage Conservation but Staff has relieved the applicant of the requirement for an OCP amendment for this application. Approved by Council on 23 Sept 2021.
- **611 Chatham St – Nicola Wealth Real Estate** – Development Permit with Variances for proposed 5-floor, 278-unit market rental residential with 85 parking spots & 148 bike spots with ground floor commercial on 1.5 acres over 9 lots facing Chatham, Herald and Government Sts. Variance for height requested from 15m to 21.07m for Herald St and 16.18m for Chatham with a density of 3.0:1. Approved by Council 09 Sept 2021.
- **1314 Wharf St, Northern Junk** – Reliance Properties – Rezoning for the redevelopment of existing heritage buildings and 47-unit residential with ground floor commercial, mixed use addition, concurrent Heritage Alteration with FSR 3.36:1. Approved by Council 05 Aug 2021.

- **1244 Wharf St, Yates Block** – Robert Fung & Cascadia Architects – Rezoning to allow for hotel use. No additional storeys requested for this Heritage Designated building. Also, Heritage Alteration with Variance application for substantial rehabilitation of the site through the preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of exterior and extensive reno of interior. Proposed renos include creation of 22 residential units on the upper two levels with related storage uses below Wharf St, reno of the existing commercial retail units at the Wharf St level, and the creation of new harbour facing commercial retail units at the lower two levels. Staff review of revised plans as of 24 Jun 2021.
- **1150 Cook St, Pluto's** – Dan Robbins & Fraser McColl – Development Permit with Variance for a 16-storey (47.57m) over the 10-storey (30m max) market rental building with an FSR of 7.78:1. The proposal includes 129 residential units above ground floor commercial space, 41 parking spots, and 143 bike spots. Approved by Council 08 Apr 2021.
- **550 Pandora** – Chinese Freemasons Housing Society & M'akola Devt Services with Architect Alan Lowe – Rezoning with an OCP Amendment for a 5-storey, 36-unit affordable rental apartment building with 2 ground-floor commercial retail units. Proposed FSR 3.62 above 3.0 permitted with height of 16.17m above 15m permitted. Creation of affordable housing units will be funded by BC Housing but operated by Chinese Freemasons Housing Society. Staff Review of the application is complete and is with the applicant as of 15 Jan 2021.

In addition to these projects, there are approximately another 25 projects or applications that are ongoing and active. Despite the large number of development applications, the DRA LUC also focused on major City of Victoria initiatives relevant to land use, including:

- **Bike Lane Public Consultation Process** – 2020 Project Designs and Network Update relevant to Government Street North route. On 09 Jul 2020, staff assured mayor and council that the design plans for Govt St North bike lanes will be complementary to any future extension of the Government Street Pedestrian Mall north to Chatham Street as pledged by the OCP.
- **Downtown Core Area Plan Review** – Many of the DRA LUC concerns regarding gaps and priorities focus on livability shortcomings in the existing DCAP including increased tower separation, increased rear yard setbacks, limits to the number of towers per city block and minimum lot parcel sizes for towers. Approval processes are continuing in 2022, including a Public Hearing for related Official Community Plan amendments related to DCAP changes.
- **New Downtown Playground** – Reported on 01 Nov 2021 by Parks Director, Thomas Soulliere, during the 2022 Draft Financial Plan discussions that a deliverable in 2022 by the Parks Department is the development of a new playground in the Downtown area, although no site has been identified.
- **City of Victoria Noise Bylaw Review** – Staff report sharing Staff's preliminary review and seeking Council direction on the next steps. Staff evaluated enforcement challenges and noise-related complaints at daytime Council 09 Dec 2021.

The DRA LUC also reviews Liquor License and Storefront Cannabis applications. To guide the response to all Liquor License applications, the committee applies the DRA LUC Late Night Food

Primary and Liquor Primary Policy that was developed and ratified in February 2020. On this topic, the committee provided input on the following applications and initiatives:

- 1234 Wharf – The Regent Hotel
- 1515 Douglas – Toptable Victoria
- 531 Yates – Sonara Bar & Grill (1)
- 531 Yates – Sonara Bar & Grill (2)
- 1245 Wharf – JR Slims
- 726 Johnson – The Vicious Poodle
- 715 Yates – Yates Haunted Manor
- 768 Yates – Cenote
- 510 Pandora – Swans
- 714 Cormorant – Tora Tiki
- 1140 Government – Churchill
- 560 Johnson #27 – Artemis
- 560 Johnson #63 – Whistle Buoy
- 1150 Douglas – Seed & Stone Cannabis
- 568 Yates – Jima Cannabis
- The City-led creation of a Municipal Alcohol Policy for Downtown Liquor and Late Night that was deliverable in 2019 remains outstanding and the LUC awaits its completion and approval by Council.

For the duration of 2021, the bimonthly DRA LUC meetings to discuss Land Use Policy, current land use applications, and City-initiated projects were discontinued in person due to the pandemic. Committee participation continued remotely but for site meetings that were capable of maintaining Public Health Order protocols. The DRA LUC appreciates the involvement of members and residents in the process during the past year, and we encourage all residents to attend the public consultations when possible and relay their concerns or support, as the feedback obtained really does find its way into the built form.

Residents with an interest in urban planning are encouraged to learn more about the DRA's Land Use Committee.

Ian Sutherland
Chair, Land Use Committee

Urban Livability Committee Report – 2021

In October 2021, Michael Demakiling took over the Chair of the Urban Livability Committee. Prior to that date, the ULC was not active in 2021. Since becoming Chair, Michael participated in the Downtown Service Providers monthly meetings and the Neighbourhood Solidarity with Unhoused Neighbours bi-weekly meetings. Michael took the opportunity to learn from other service groups and focused on the remainder of the 2021 year on gaining volunteers to support the committee's activities for the 2022 year.

Neighbourhood Solidarity with Unhoused Neighbours (NSUN)

Michael participated in a Pandora St. walkabout with Heather Murphy, one of the founders of the NSUN group. The walkabouts provided a firsthand experience of learning our unhoused community's many challenges.

In December, the committee was introduced to the Conestoga Hut Project. The Conestoga Hut Project was started by a group of housing advocates in Victoria. The huts are micro homes to provide viable temporary shelter solutions for the unhoused people in the city, while a more permanent solution is worked on. The group has built their pilot hut in the Shelbourne Street Church Parking Lot.

New Volunteers

The committee welcomed two new volunteers to the Committee, Colby Young and Jordan Royer.

Walkrollmap.org

In November, Michael met with Karen Laberee, the project manager for walkrollmap.org. Walkrollmap.org is a crowdsourcing tool for mapping micro-barriers to accessible walking and rolling. The crowdsourcing tool will be helpful for the residents of Downtown Victoria, as they navigate around the city.

Conclusion

Michael is looking forward to revitalizing the Urban Livability Committee and, with the help of the two new volunteers, engage in a diverse set of activities that will enhance the livability of the residents of the Downtown Victoria and Harris Green neighbourhood for 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Demakiling, Chair

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The Governance Committee was formally adopted as a DRA standing committee in March, 2021, with the mandate to support the Board and its Committees in furthering the DRA's mission and goals. The Committee is responsible for developing, reviewing and supporting the DRA's policy framework, including its Bylaws and Strategic Plans, so that the Board, Directors and Committees can operate effectively. The Committee is also responsible to develop key policies to help define and govern the way the Board, the Directors and the Committees function.

The Governance Committee is comprised of the Board Executive — the President (Sandra Severs), Vice-President (Doug Boyd), Secretary (Dianne Flood) and Treasurer (Doug Boyd)), the past-President (vacant), and a Board Director who acts as Committee Chair (Dianne Flood).

The Committee's activities in 2021 included:

- **Updating and streamlining the Board's policies.** The Committee updated and streamlined the existing Board policies. The revised policies were adopted by the Board and posted on the Board's website for easy access by Board Directors and DRA members.
- **Building Board Diversity:** To build broader diversity and inclusion, the Committee undertook a number of outreach efforts, including contacting downtown organizations to identify residents who might be interested in joining the Board and Committee. Work on this continues.
- **Bylaw Amendment to Limit the Restriction on Board Members Residency:** The Committee prepared the special resolution that is being presented at the AGM to amend the DRA Bylaws to permit a limited number of non-residents to be elected as Board members. The effect of the proposed by-law change is to allow a limited number of Non-Voting Members (those who do not reside in the Downtown Neighbourhood) to stand for election as a Director, while providing that the majority of the Directors of the Board shall be Voting Members (who do reside in the Downtown Neighbourhood). The intent of the proposed by-law change is to allow for broader Board diversity, while retaining the nature of the Association as representing the interests of those persons who actually reside in the Downtown Neighbourhood.
- **2022 AGM:** The Committee undertook the planning for the 2022 AGM.
- **2021 strategic grant application for a pilot outreach project:** The Committee prepared and submitted an application and supporting documentation for a grant to support an outreach program, but unfortunately was unsuccessful. Other outreach opportunities will continue to be explored.

Community Engagement Committee - 2021 Annual Report

The Committee was chaired by Dale Dearing from January to May. Dale resigned in June due to other obligations and, at the request of the Board Executive, Dianne Flood assumed the role of Committee Chair in June.

The other members of the Committee are Denise Nicholls, Allan Miller and Doug Boyd. The Committee received excellent support from Darragh DeGroot, the DRA's Neighbourhood Engagement Co-ordinator. As Committee chair, I'd like to thank the Committee members, Darragh and all the other DRA volunteers for their support and input.

Only a very few committee meetings were held in 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions. Despite being only able to meet virtually for most of the year, in 2021 the Committee was able to undertake and complete some exciting initiatives.

- **The DRA Website Re-fresh:** The DRA website was given a substantial re-fresh to update its look and the content, to provide more easily accessible and up-to-date information in order to better engage with our members and others. Begun by the Community Engagement Committee, in June responsibility for this work was transferred to the Communications and Membership Committee for completion.
- **The e-Bike and Trailer:** Delayed in 2020 by supply chain issues, this outstanding project has now been completed by the selection of an e-bike and trailer — finally delivered, insured and secured — and now ready to go! The bike is a Milano Plus and the trailer is a very cool Wike Vending trailer. The trailer is covered with an engaging, colourful wrap featuring the DRA logo, specially designed by Committee member Denise Nicholls and chosen by DRA members using the newsletter and social media. Now that the Public Health Orders permit public gatherings, watch for the bike in use at various downtown events. Thanks to the City of Victoria for My Great Neighbourhood grant funding to support this innovative way for the DRA to engage with Downtown residents.
- **“Feeding” the Little Libraries:** We initiated a program to purchase specialty books from various downtown bookstores to “feed” the Little Free Libraries located in our Downtown neighbourhood. Our first purchase was of books related to Indigenous issues, to recognize and support the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- **Virtual Events:** Despite, and respecting the Covid-19 protocols and limits on public gatherings, the Committee was able to hold a number of virtual events:
 - **Asian Heritage Month Celebration Tea Party** – To celebrate May as Asian Heritage Month, we partnered with the well-known downtown tea shop, Silk Road Tea, and its delightful tea master Daniela Cubelic, to present a workshop on the Chinese tea drinking ceremony, followed by Councillor Charlayne Thornton Joe providing some interesting facts and insights about Victoria's Chinatown, located here in our Downtown neighbourhood.

- **How to be an Ally:** In support and recognition of the very first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30), we were pleased to sponsor a workshop presented by Gordy Bear, an Indigenous community leader, on how we as individuals and as a community can undertake and support reconciliation with Victoria's indigenous community. Key takeaways included the need to do your own research and learn about your local indigenous community and to reach out in a sincere and thoughtful way, and to be ready to listen and learn from the community.
- **Keeping It Human Community Workshop:** In an effort to recognize and put a face to the plight of unhoused persons in our neighbourhood, in partnership with the Downtown Victoria Business Association we supported this workshop presented by The Existence Project. The workshop provided an important opportunity to hear directly from someone who has experienced homelessness, and the challenges and issues that presents, and to reflect on what is happening in our neighbourhood, and discuss some tangible next steps toward addressing solutions for our community.
- **In-person Events:** In accordance with the Covid-19 protocols, the Committee was able to partner with various organizations and hold a number of outdoor events:
 - **Blossom Your Pride:** We joined with the Yates Street Garden in celebrating Victoria Pride Week by co-hosting an event in the Garden, presenting residents the opportunity to create colourful Pride floral bouquets and enjoy a Pride cupcake.
 - **Alley Way Comedy Night:** We celebrated the re-fresh of Commercial Alley by collaborating with the Bastion Square Revitalization Association and the Francophone Society of Victoria to present a fun night of comedy, art, and musical entertainment in Bastion Square. Thanks to the City of Victoria for contributing grant funding for this event as part of the City's Build Back program and also to Mike Hill, Community Development Coordinator and our staff liaison with the City, who helped make this event happen.
 - **Wicked Victoria:** We again participated in the Greater Victoria Festival Society's Wicked Victoria street celebration, with a booth and children's games and candy, and a very successful photo opportunity, to welcome downtown residents and visitors.

A number of events are planned for 2022, including the upcoming April 6, 2022 Creative Reuse Workshop: Basket Weaving with Ethernet Cords, to be held in celebration of Earth Day – check out the DRA's March newsletter for details.

Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee Report

Downtown Residents' Association

Annual General Meeting, March 22, 2022

Introduction

During 2021, the efforts of the DRA's Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee were to:

- Promote urban agriculture and urban ecology by providing residents with a safe opportunity to celebrate community and knowledge through various garden workshops and summer events.
- Hear from Yates Street Community Garden (YSCG) gardeners and those on the waitlist why a community garden is important to those living in Downtown Victoria and Harris Green Neighbourhood and its impact on an individual social perspective.
- Propose the idea for a second community Garden.

YSCG Activity & Garden Highlights

Annual Members Meeting (AMM)

The Annual Members Meeting was held on Sunday, October 03, 2021. The meeting was held at the YSCG garden. All garden members were invited to attend the meeting. A total of 24 participated in the meeting. Of the 24 were 19 gardeners and five steering committee members (including 2 DRA board directors who were also steering committee members). The AMM reviewed the prior year's activities had an open discussion about challenges, an opportunity for gardeners to come together, socialize, and renew garden memberships.

New YSCG Garden Coordinator

At the AMM, Laura Fraser announced that she would be stepping down as the YSCG Garden Coordinator. On September 27, 2021, the Yates Street Community Garden advertised the job opportunity ad on the DRA newsletter, usedvictoria.com, and YSCG social media platforms. A hiring committee was formed, which consisted of a steering committee member and a DRA board director. Out of the applicants, three strong candidates were selected for an online interview. On October 17, 2021, the hiring committee offered the position to Michael Demakiling, who accepted the position and is the new YSCG Garden Coordinator.

Registered Gardeners and Waitlist

The garden this year had 80 registered gardeners and two trug beds by the Our Place and Victoria Immigrant Resource Society. The current waitlist on December 31, 2021, was 149.

Event Partnerships with Pollinator Partnership Canada

On Saturday, June 26, 2021, the YSCG and Pollinator Partnership Canada hosted a YSCG Open House. The residents were invited to tour the garden and learn about pollinators from Dr. Lora Morandin. On Saturday, October 9th, the garden also hosted a workshop with Dr. Lora Morandin and the Youth Pollinator Team to talk about the pollinators of the new boulevard pollinator garden.

Palenke Garden Workshop

In the summer of 2021, the Yates Street Community Garden invited Ariel from Iyé to host a workshop on building palenke gardens. Palenke gardens are an alternate vertical garden technique that uses burlap sacs to grow various vegetables.

Get Growing, Victoria! Seedling Distribution

The YSCG was one of the hosts for two Get Growing, Victoria! Seedling distribution events on Sunday, May 30, 2021, and August 29, 2021. The event was successful with positive feedback on connecting many new and experienced gardeners and motivating them for the spring/summer and fall/winter gardening seasons.

Blossom Your Pride Event

To celebrate diversity and inclusion, the YSCG and the DRA hosted the garden's first pride event on Sunday, July 4th, 2021. Participants of the event had the opportunity to create their prideful bouquet supplied by Poppies Floral Art. The participants were also treated to pride donuts and received a garden tour.

Medicine Garden Project

In May 2021, the YSCG introduced the Native Plant & Medicine Garden. This garden bed features native plants, which are important in sustaining local ecosystems and highlights their Indigenous roots and uses here on Vancouver Island. Plants include Salal, Salmonberry, Black Cap, Red Flowering Currant, Broad Leaf Shooting Star, Coastal Sage, Yarrow, Miner's Lettuce, Slim Leaf Onion, and Great Camus.

This project is a part of our reconciliation efforts at the garden and is in partnership with the Victoria Downtown Residents Association.

A special thanks to John Harris, the knowledge keeper who helped guide the plant selection, to the students at Central Middle School who collaborated to build and plant the bed, and our garden volunteers who helped purchase lumber and plants for this project to come together.

Open Conversations with Gardeners and Survey

In the summer of 2021, the Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee had open conversations with various gardeners and residents on the waitlist. The main topic of discussion was why they feel community gardens are important and their impact from an individual and social level. Three main themes emerged:

- Community gardens provide an opportunity to learn about urban ecosystems, pollinators, and growing food for individuals and families.
- Community gardens promote a sense of pride and well-being among the gardeners, being a part of the community, and provide new opportunities to form new friendships with people of similar interests.
- Community gardens promote the idea of being environmentally friendly and one solution to local food security issues.

In late July 2021, the Urban Ecology and Agriculture, with the help of the DRA Engagement Coordinator, released a survey to the members of the DRA on their input on green space downtown. Forty residents responded to the survey. The highlights of the survey include:

- 85.7% of the respondents would like to see more green space in the Victoria Downtown or Harris-Green neighbourhoods.
- 90% would like to see a new community garden with the Downtown and Harris Green Neighbourhood.
- Out of the 17 choices for preferred green space in the Downtown and Harris Green Neighbourhoods, 74.4% would choose a community garden, 35.9% a children's playground, 38.5% a dog park, and 59% recreational space.

The conversations with the gardeners and data from the survey prompted the idea to propose a second community garden. The proposal is in the works and will be reaching out to residents and seeking volunteers to determine its feasibility.

Conclusion

The community garden continues to be an important part of the Downtown Victoria and Harris Green community. The YSCG has continued to bring a diverse group of Downtown-Harris Green residents together with the common goal of gardening and creating community. In 2021, that mission was extended to the community through various workshops and events.

On behalf of the Urban Ecology and Agriculture Committee and the Yates Street Community Garden, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the financial and operational support we continue to receive from the City of Victoria and its staff.

Please visit the YSCG website at www.yatescommunitygarden.ca and our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Demakiling

Executive Report -Victoria Downtown Residents Association – 2021

The Executive Committee of the DRA consists of: Sandra Severs (President), Doug Boyd (Vice-President/Treasurer/Chair of Communications and Membership) and Dianne Flood (Secretary/Chair of Community Engagement Committee/Chair of the Governance Committee). After their election at the 2021 AGM, the Executive met at least bi-weekly, typically by Zoom, throughout most of the year.

The primary role of the Executive over this past year has been to develop, and as approved by the Board, implement action plans and initiatives in response to various issues as they were identified and as they arose. In addition, the Board directly supported the work of the Association by retaining, directing and monitoring the work of contractors, liaising with the City on a number of issues, applying for grant funding to support the work of the Association and reporting on that funding to the City, preparing materials for Board meetings, writing letters in response to and on behalf of residents, and drafting a strategic plan for 2022.

Some of the Executive's 2021 activities included:

Contract positions: The successful grant application to the City (\$20,000) made it possible for us to engage a Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator (from May to December), who was selected after applying a rigorous RFP process. The Coordinator expanded our social media presence, developed and delivered programming, built relationships with Downtown organizations, and undertook outreach activities to serve neighbourhood residents better. The Executive provided on-going oversight and direction to the Coordinator and worked collaboratively with the Coordinator and various Committee Chairs in supporting those activities.

Our report on the successes achieved by virtue of that funding, and by requesting the application of an equity lens, resulted in additional funding for 2022 (for a total of \$78,000) that will allow us to continue the activities of the Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator and also to contract with a Land Use Planning Advisor to support the Land Use Committee in responding to the high number of development and planning applications within the Downtown neighbourhood, and to assist in responding to broad issues of urban liveability.

Physical Presence: With an increase in our 2021 base grant funding (revised to reflect the substantial increase in the neighbourhood's population) we secured a meeting, desk and storage space at "The Dock" on Cormorant Street — co-locating with a number of other non-profits — as well as locating programming space, on an as-needed basis, at the Neighbourhood Hub at Crystal Gardens on Douglas Street. Work on locating a community centre will be on-going.

Boundary Changes: A Council-directed conversation on proposed changes to the boundaries of neighbourhoods prompted the DRA to explore the geographical limits of our neighbourhood. We assessed the appropriateness of the current boundaries in light of the Downtown Community Area Plan (DCAP) and potential future development proposals and, with Land Use Committee, consulted with the affected neighbouring associations. A copy of our letters to

Council on this subject can be found on the DRA website. Council's final decision on certain aspects of the boundaries remains outstanding at this time, and once made, will be implemented by the DRA as may be required.

930 Pandora: A City initiated proposal for a joint community centre for the Downtown-Harris Green and North Park neighbourhoods in the ground floor space within the proposed BC Housing development at 930 Pandora occupied a significant amount of Executive time over the summer and fall. Many meetings and discussions were held with the North Park Neighbourhood Association and a pro bono project manager was retained to assist in the on-going discussions with City staff, which were being moving forward on an expedited schedule.

After much consideration and deliberation, both neighbourhood associations advised Council that in our view the location at 930 Pandora was not an appropriate site for a community centre for the two neighbourhoods, given the current challenges presented by the 900 Block of Pandora and the lack of clarity on the part of the City and Province about how and when those challenges would be addressed.

In November, a letter was received from Mayor Helps. She wrote:

I'm writing on behalf of Council to thank you and members of the DRA and NPNA for your engagement to date on the potential for a community centre at 930 Pandora Avenue to be co-operated by the Downtown Residents Association and the North Park Neighbourhood Association. Council received an update on the project today in a closed meeting with respect to the real estate and intergovernmental aspects of the project.

At that meeting, Council gave direction to staff to bring back for Council's consideration plans for the ground floor of 930 Pandora that makes room for some or all of: community use space, a gymnasium, a community kitchen, childcare, and space to achieve some of the aims in the Create Victoria Arts and Culture Master Plan. Council is proceeding directly with this approach in order to ensure that the potential for 220 new units of much-needed housing – with significant provincial government funding preliminarily committed – moves forward for public consideration through a rezoning process as quickly as possible.

An operator or operators for the community use space, the childcare, and the arts and culture space will be determined later in the process.

In a subsequent email Mayor Helps expressed Council's ongoing commitment to finding an appropriate site for a community centre for the Downtown neighbourhood.

External Committees: In addition, members of the Executive Committee represent the DRA on external bodies such as the Victoria Community Association Network (VCAN), the Late Night Advisory Committee (LNAC), the Greater Victoria Harbour Association's Community Advisory Group (GVHA) and the Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA)'s Clean and Safe Committee. We monitor the minutes of the Downtown Service Providers network as well as attend, where possible, the 900 Block Pandora Community Group meeting.

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

Sandra Severs
President