



**Community Representation Framework  
Council Innovation Fund Application**  
Submitted by: Councillor Gian-Carlo Carra

PFC2016-0910  
ISC: UNRESTRICTED

**Date:** 2016 November 8

**Name of Project:** The Community Representation Framework Project

**Sponsor:** Councillor Gian-Carlo Carra

**Internal Sponsor:** Director, Calgary Neighbourhoods

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**Affected Business Unit(s) and/or Departments:**

- Department of Community Services - Parks, Recreation, Calgary Neighbourhoods, Calgary Housing
- Department of Planning & Development – Community Planning, Calgary Growth Strategies, Calgary Building Services

**Amount of Funds Requested:** \$250 000, please see details in Attachment 1

**Summary Description of Project (Max 1 page): (Please attach all relevant information)**

The Community Representation Framework project will re-define and strengthen how Calgary communities participate in civic decisions around the land, development, amenities and social recreation in their neighbourhoods. It will seek to bring about a 'made for Calgary' solution to community representation and, through the development of an adaptable and future-minded framework, will encourage innovative and citizen-driven approaches to ensuring that our communities are providing maximum public benefit at all stages of their evolution.

As put forward in CPS2016-0393, the cost of undertaking the initial phase of this project (the work carried out in Q2 and Q3 2016) is within existing operating budgets of participating business units. As the project advances into Q4 2016 and beyond, we are seeking resources from either the Council Innovation Fund or a one-time budget request. Additional funding is critical to ensuring the project's progress and success.

A broad spectrum of internal and external stakeholders will be engaged throughout the project, and the project will include a Task Force with representatives from umbrella organizations such as the Federation of Calgary Communities (FCC), Urban Land Institute – Alberta District Council, Calgary Home Building Association – Urban Development Institute Calgary Region Association (CHBA-UDI), the University of Calgary, City Council and 'organized community groups' (i.e. community associations and residents associations).

This Task Force will provide direction and recommendations to an internal network of cross-corporate partners and subject matter experts as they work to develop a framework for decision-making that supports the planning, development and re-development of communities that look after the needs of today's citizens, as well as those to come.



This work will include:

- a current state assessment of the involved and impacted stakeholders, relationships, policies and practices
- extensive stakeholder engagement, strengthened by in-depth best practice research and inquiry
- the identification of a suite of options and potential solutions for collaborative community-building
- the development of decision-making framework to support all Calgary's communities through the many stages of their evolution and community building efforts.
- an implementation program to support the realization and adoption of the decision-making framework

**Proposed Timeline (including proposed date of final report):** 18 months, proposed date of final report is 2018 Q1.

**How does this project meet the criteria of the fund as set out in the Terms of Reference for the Council Innovation Fund?**

The Community Representation Framework project is strategically aligned with a number of The Corporation's and Council's goals and imperatives. It will result in an innovative and tailor-made approach to how The City works with organized community groups to ensure our communities "look after the needs of today's citizens and those to come" (excerpted from imagineCalgary).

It will explore our citizens' connection(s) to their community and by extension to The City, and encourage meaningful participation and interaction.

It will consider new ways of **inspiring neighbourhoods** that invite participation into civic life. Specifically, it will contribute to the strategic actions of:

- Revitalizing the role and ability of community associations and use of community facilities. (N4)
- Managing and promoting growth to achieve the best possible social, environmental and economic outcomes within financial capacities. (N6)

Develop a new funding framework to provide for infrastructure in new and redeveloping neighbourhoods. (N7) The Community Representation Framework will contribute to Calgary as **a well-run city** by:

- Informing and intersecting with the work happening on the new City Charter (W1)



- Re-imagining how to regularly collaborate and engage citizens to encourage participation in City decision-making (specifically on matter relating to land, development, amenities and recreation in communities) (W5)
- Supporting the work to effectively manage The City's inventory of public assets, optimizing limited resources to balance growth and maintenance requirements. (W6)
- Increasing collaboration across the organization, specifically between Community Services and Planning & Development. (W8)

In addition to the above, the project has the potential to change city-wide policies and procedures as it will better define and clarify the voice of the community in civic decision making and may open the door to a more innovative and progressive approach to the possibilities that exist related to land, development, amenities and social/recreation opportunities in our communities. The wide range of internal and external stakeholder groups who have committed their interest, enthusiasm and support to the project speaks to its importance, timeliness and profile. The carefully considered governance structure – including co-executive champions from both Community Services and Planning & Development - will help to ensure the greatest level of collaboration and efficiencies in managing the project.

#### **What does success look like and how will it be measured?**

Through extensive stakeholder engagement, including the formation of the CRF Task Force, the CRF project will identify a suite of options and potential solutions for collaborative community-building. Themes to be considered are who speaks for the community, how organized community groups can work better together and what guidelines should be considered around meeting complete community needs.

The CRF project will develop a framework for community inputs into decision-making – a systems approach – that can be customized and/or adapted to individual situations. This framework will support all Calgary communities through the many stages of their evolution and community building efforts.

In order to align with the project timeline as outlined in CPS2016-0393, a report back detailing both how the CIF funds have been used and the outcomes of the CRF project will be presented to the SPC on CPS in Q1 2018.