

Community Services Report to
Executive Committee
2022 May 17

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
EC2022-0574
Page 1 of 4

Council Innovation Fund (CIF) Report Back - Heritage Calgary Naming, Renaming and Commemoration Process Design

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Executive Committee recommend that Council defer reporting back on PFC2021-1342 Reporting on Re-examination of City Asset Names Process, from Q2 2022 to the end of Q2 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This report presents the final results of Heritage Calgary's *Naming, Renaming and Commemoration Process Design Project* funded through a 2021 Council Innovation Fund grant (PFC2021-0096). The results of the project include *Naming, Renaming, Commemoration and Removal Handbook* (Attachment 2) and a Final Report for the project (Attachment 3). The recommendation requests deferral of reporting back on PFC2021-1342 Reporting on Re-examination of City Asset Names Process to Q2 2023 will provide the time required for Administration to consider adjustments to City policies, practices and resources in a number of areas related to the Final Report's recommendations.
- **What Does this Mean for Calgarians?** The Handbook is a practical resource for community groups undertaking naming, renaming, commemoration, and removal projects. It outlines key principles and an eight step process to help project proponents undertake meaningful community engagement and the research required to gain a thorough understanding of the historical and contemporary context of their project. The recommendations in the Final Report will help inform the evolution of the community support and resources available for this work, and adjustments to The City's *Municipal Naming, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy*.
- **Why Does it Matter?** Naming, renaming, commemoration and removal projects are often complex, and the Handbook will help guide community-led projects, and the Final Report's recommendations can help inform future City policies and processes to support intentional, inclusive and enduring decisions that reflect our shared history, values and norms.
- Administration is reviewing the Final Report's recommendations and will identify any required adjustments to City policies, practices or programs.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A city of safe and inspiring neighbourhoods
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION

Heritage Calgary is a City of Calgary Civic Partner that operates under the *Calgary Heritage Authority Act* (Alberta) with a mandate to recommend to Council appropriate expenditures, improvements or acquisitions to promote public interest in heritage resources; manage historic resources owned by The City; advise Council on matters related to historic resources; maintain The City's inventory of historic resources; and advise the City on restoration, alteration, and demolition of sites in the inventory.

In 2021 March, Council approved \$162,000 in Council Innovation Funds for Heritage Calgary to design a new process based on leading practices and broad community input to support The

**Community Services Report to
Executive Committee
2022 May 17**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
EC2022-0574
Page 2 of 4**

Council Innovation Fund (CIF) Report Back - Heritage Calgary Naming, Renaming and Commemoration Process Design

City and other stakeholders, including community organizations, to make intentional, inclusive and enduring decisions around naming, renaming, commemoration and removal of names, commemoration installations, assets or spaces that reflect our shared history, values and norms.

The community-driven project had two streams of work. The research stage explored leading best practices and reviewed The City's current policies, plans, projects, and initiatives. The engagement work included outreach to a broad range of individuals and organizations across the community, government and business sector resulting in over 500 touchpoints, including an Indigenous Sharing Circle. Once the research and engagement analysis were completed, the findings from both streams of work were brought together to inform the development and testing of the *Naming, Renaming, Commemoration, and Removal Handbook* (the Handbook) (Attachment 2).

The Handbook is a practical guide that outlines 12 key principles and related questions, and provides an eight-step process to help guide project proponents through the complex decisions related to naming, renaming, commemoration, and removal. Each step includes a checklist of activities, discussion questions, key terms and tips from the field. Additional tools, resources and publications are posted on Heritage Calgary's website.

A second project result is *The Naming, Renaming, and Commemoration Project Final Report* (Attachment 3) that provides a summary of the research and engagement results, key principles and process included in the Handbook, and seven recommendations for the community and City's consideration. The recommendations are detailed starting on page 27 of Attachment 3 and relate to:

- increased access to training in anti-racism, bias, Indigenous history and culture, cultural and historical research practices, and resources to increase understanding of Indigenous protocols;
- development of a community strategy to better protect Calgary's historical records, artifacts and archives;
- consideration of amendments to The City's *Municipal Naming, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy* to include references to the Handbook and its principles; require projects to demonstrate research, community engagement and support for The City's commitment to reconciliation; new processes for renaming; and that requests for naming, renaming, commemoration or removal demonstrate that community engagement has included those affected, and reached diverse voices including the Indigenous community;
- The City seeing naming, renaming, commemoration and removal activities as an opportunity for The City to stand in reconciliation, and consider new funding, resources, and training for this work;
- funding for Heritage Calgary and other organizations to meet community needs; and
- delivery of community workshops based on the Handbook's principles and process.

Administration continues to assess the recommendations and consider next steps, including changes to City processes, policies, or practices including possible amendments to the *Municipal Naming, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy* (CP2016-01). Deferring reporting back on the related PFC2021-1342 Reporting on Re-examination of City Asset Names Process to Q2 2023 will provide the time required for Administration to undertake this work.

**Community Services Report to
Executive Committee
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**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
EC2022-0574
Page 3 of 4**

Council Innovation Fund (CIF) Report Back - Heritage Calgary Naming, Renaming and Commemoration Process Design

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)

- Public Engagement was undertaken
- Public Communication or Engagement was not required
- Public/Stakeholders were informed
- Stakeholder dialogue/relations were undertaken

Attachments 2 and 3 were developed by Heritage Calgary's project team through a process that included broad consultations and engagement with the community and key stakeholders. This report was prepared by Administration in collaboration with Heritage Calgary.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

Naming, renaming, commemoration, and removal practices reflect a community's shared history, and evolving values and norms, including reconciliation, and can have a significant impact on racialized communities that are seeking equity and the health of the broader community. Implementing specific processes based on community needs combined with leading practices supports naming, renaming, and commemoration that is enduring and inclusive.

Environmental

Naming and commemoration work helps people understand their relationship with place, human activities, and the land. This collective understanding provides communities with historical and social context when thinking about the long-term impacts of development and the relationship between people and the land in urban environments where these connections might be less visible.

Economic

Clear, inclusive, and intentional processes for naming, renaming, commemoration and removal support economic development by contributing to the development of a healthy, vibrant, and diverse community that attracts and retains business and creates a city with a strong sense of belonging.

Service and Financial Implications

No anticipated financial impact

RISK

The request to defer reporting back on PFC2021-1342 Reporting on Re-examination of City Asset Names Process will delay changes to City policies and the introduction of a new renaming process. However, the deferral will provide the additional time required for Administration to complete a fulsome review of the Final Report's recommendations and consider any further policy or process amendments.

**Community Services Report to
Executive Committee
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**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
EC2022-0574
Page 4 of 4**

**Council Innovation Fund (CIF) Report Back - Heritage Calgary Naming, Renaming
and Commemoration Process Design**

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Previous Council Direction
2. Naming, Renaming, Commemoration, and Removal Handbook
3. The Naming, Renaming and Commemoration Project Final Report
4. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform