



JUBILEE

City Budget

The draft [budget](#) has now been approved in principle and public consultation has been completed. A total of 685 individuals participated in the online survey (see survey respondents' priorities table), 77 feedback emails were received and 238 people attending the live webcast.

10 Core Services Ranked by Age						
15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84
Transportation	Housing and Community Development	Parks and Recreation	Public Safety	Public Safety	Public Safety	Public Safety
Housing and Community Development	Transportation	Transportation	Transportation	Transportation	Transportation	Transportation
Public Safety	Parks and Recreation	Housing and Community Development	Residential Services	Residential Services	Residential Services	Housing and Community Development

Council has discussed a need for investment in the downtown extensively and adopted resolutions on [March 16](#) to both extend the paid on-street and parkade periods and to direct the additional revenue "...to re-invested in the downtown core towards beautification and maintenance, cultural opportunities, new public parks and amenities, and investigate programs to support downtown safety."

Childcare in Victoria

On March 2, Council considered [staff recommendations](#) to advance changes in land use bylaws and permit processes intended to support, promote and ensure the availability of early learning and childcare. Consultation with stakeholders including neighbourhood association CALUCs was included.

Staff also recommended advocating to the provincial government for increased funding and resources for childcare projects and an improved standard wage for early childhood educators. The recommendations were made as part of the Childcare in Victoria Implementation Plan.

Single Use Products

On March 9, Council reviewed a [staff report](#) and directed staff to establish a Single-Use Items Reduction Bylaw "...to reduce single-use items and encourage the use of reusable products." The bylaw is to include provisions to distribute disposable items (e.g. stir sticks) only when requested, to not use disposal serving items when food and beverages are consumed on site and for staff to look at ways that use of disposable cups and containers can be effectively reduced.

Crystal Pool

On February 9, Council approved [several resolutions](#) reinitiating the Crystal Pool replacement project. The report recommends that "...staff report back to Council on the implications and procedures (for) reviving the process of planning and budgeting..." as well as organizing a referendum for Victoria voters. On March 9, Council further approved that City staff include approximately \$1.8M into the 2023 Financial Plan for initial studies for the Crystal Pool Replacement Project with funding from the Buildings and Infrastructure Fund.



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IDEAS FROM AROUND THE CITY

My Great Neighbourhood Grants

Opening April 1, this program helps residents animate public space, develop and enhance a sense of community and leave a positive legacy in our neighbourhoods. For 2023, the City will match up to \$7,500 for placemaking and resiliency projects and up to \$1,500 for activities. The projects funded by these grants are initiated and implemented by local residents and require matching equivalent contributions (including volunteer time and in-kind donations). Placemaking projects create inviting, vibrant places for people to connect and share unique place-based experiences. Community building and resiliency projects create opportunities to build relationships and support City programs like food security, zero-waste and emergency preparedness. Read all about the program [here](#) and reach out to your neighbourhood liaison if you have ideas you want to discuss.



Get Growing Victoria!

Get Growing, Victoria! 2023 is back and staff have already been distributing soil-building materials to Victoria residents and preparing to distribute food plant seedlings. The seedlings are grown in the City nursery in Beacon Hill Park and are distributed in partnership with community organizations. This year the spring distribution will provide vegetable and herb seedlings including tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, collard greens, swiss chard, kale, lettuce, basil, chives, nasturtiums, calendula and shiso. Late summer distribution of fall/winter crops will include broccoli, pac choi, swiss chard, kale, radicchio/ endive, kohlrabi, cabbage, lettuce, and parsley. The program started in 2020 and last year, over 100,000 seedlings were distributed in partnership with 67 community organizations. For more information, visit our [webpage](#) which is packed full of great information and helpful links to support residents in having a successful growing season. Mark your calendars for our spring distribution across the city May 15 - June 4, 2023.



IDEAS FROM FURTHER ABROAD

Music in Public Spaces

Active and accessible public spaces are vital for helping people, even strangers, connect and communicate with each other—something we need now more than ever. Music is an effective way to activate public spaces. This might include a singer with an acoustic guitar, a jazz trio, a DJ, or built-in speakers with a playlist. In Indianapolis, a team from Big Car Collaborative and WQRT FM created a [308-song, 22-hour playlist](#) of music designed for



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MY GREAT Neighbourhood

public spaces. It's nearly all music without vocals, which makes conversation easier. This is everything from piano songs by Satie, to jazz, to world music, to Eno's style of electronic ambient. You're welcome to use it or stream their station at your space.

Great Public Spaces

Located on a dark pathway, Electric Moon is a permanent art installation that creates a fun, vibrant and low-cost lighting solution in the heart of Bristol in the United Kingdom. Electric Moon was created by UK artist Zoë Power, who along with many other former students at the University of the West of England, frequently took this unlit path—a national cycling route—as part of her daily commute. After seeing cyclists and pedestrians collide, Zoe approached the university for funding with an idea: to light up the path with an art installation.

Using LED lights, faces of the moons glow at night lighting the way for pedestrians and cyclists, while the moons' eyes glow and flicker, giving the illusion of movement as they follow the viewer down the path. The materials used had to be extremely durable, particularly in the wet and cold UK weather. The total construction cost was approximately \$3,000 materials, plus \$5,000 for labour and an annual cost of \$300 for electricity. The project took two months, including two weeks of fabrication and installation.



MAKING IT HAPPEN

The Power of Tiny Interactions

As you're going about your day, you likely interact with family, friends and coworkers. These relationships can help you feel cared for and connected. But what if there's a whole category of people in your life whose impact is overlooked? In the second episode of their "Relationships 2.0" series, psychologist Gillian Sandstrom reveals some simple ways to make your life a little more joyful and maybe even a little less lonely. From the Hidden Brain podcast, listen to this recording [here](#).

HIDDEN BRAIN™

Hey Neighbour!

Did you know that during an emergency your neighbours are your first responders? Your strongest resource during an emergency event, large or small, is your neighbours. Building relationships with your neighbours will help you form strong networks and cope during an emergency. Strong and connected neighbourhoods and communities are more resilient and recover more quickly following emergencies. The Hey Neighbour Collective, in partnership with the Building Resilient Neighbourhoods Team has created a video about their program explaining how social connections increase resilience to



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emergencies. Hey Neighbour Collective (HNC) brings together housing providers, non-profits, researchers, local and regional governments, housing associations and health authorities to experiment with and learn about ways of building community, social connectedness and resilience in BC's fast-growing multi-unit housing communities. Check out their [website](#) for more great resources.

Volunteer Victoria March Training



Check out the offerings from Volunteer Victoria for the [March training](#).

Essentials Of Succession Planning

Thu, Mar 30, [2023](#) 9:30 AM \$36.00

How To Write A Social Media Strategy

Mon, Apr 3, [2023](#) 10:00 AM \$23.00

Volunteer Management (6-Weeks on-line)

Wed, Apr 5, [2023](#) 10:00 AM \$335.76 (bursaries available for members)

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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