

DISTRICT OF MISSION

INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY CULTURE, SENIORS AND YOUTH

JUNE 14, 2010



FINAL REPORT



P E R C

Professional Environmental Recreation Consultants Ltd.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DURING THE LAST DECADE, THE DISTRICT OF MISSION has undertaken a number of studies and initiatives related to planning and developing facilities and services in the areas of parks, recreation, and culture.

Early in the decade (in 2001-2002), the District commissioned Professional Environmental Recreation Consultants Ltd. (PERC) to undertake the development of a Cultural Master Plan to guide the District's activities in the area of culture in the coming decade and beyond.

During the same 10-year period, the District made substantial improvements to the Mission Leisure Centre, resulting in the addition of a second ice sheet, improvements to the local curling facility, enhanced multi-purpose spaces and a new aquatic centre. Although these new amenities have been very well received by local residents, there is a feeling in the community that the need for cultural, youth and seniors facilities should also be addressed.

Early in 2008, Mission District Council selected five areas of focus as goals for their 3 year term. One of these related to planning for future municipal infrastructure:

- **To provide for cultural infrastructure needs in Mission: cultural infrastructure includes physical space for culture, seniors, and youth**

The goal was established in recognition that although the traditional recreational infrastructure needs of the community had largely been addressed through the expansion and renovation of the District's Leisure Centre, the infrastructure needs of the cultural sector, seniors, and youth remained to be clarified and addressed.

OBJECTIVES

The following four specific objectives were established within the context of the goal.

- To establish the principles that will guide the provision of cultural services and their use
- To undertake a space and needs assessment for the various cultural, youth and seniors groups in Mission
- To provide the most appropriate space in either existing facilities or new multi-use spaces, if necessary, based on the principles and the space and needs assessment
- To utilize electronic technology to inform the general public of community events, including such initiatives as creating a Hall of Excellence

METHODOLOGY

In the spring of 2009, staff reviewed options for undertaking the necessary community consultation, research, and analysis to complete Council's goal. In June, Council approved a recommendation to engage Professional Environmental Recreation Consultants Ltd. to undertake the first two objectives within the overall goal on behalf of the District. The consulting team included one of the firm's partners, Bill Webster, Warren Sommer (of Legacy Heritage Consultants), and Erin Moore (of Liveable Region Consultants).

The consultants began work on the project upon the award of the contract in order to meet the District's intended objective of having it completed by the end of the year.

The study itself took place throughout the summer and fall, and included the following tasks:

- Meetings with District officials, senior staff and the Cultural Resources Commission to discuss the process, gather related studies and reports, and determine the timeframe of the study.
- A visit to major facilities in the District, and a review of the current inventory of all facilities in Mission that could be used for cultural, seniors and youth activities.
- Contact with a number of communities to discuss current trends and best practices in the provision of facilities and programs in the area of culture, seniors and youth.
- Prepare the information collected for discussion with Mission officials in order to review the findings and determine whether or not additional research was necessary.
- Prepare a draft report, including an inventory of facilities that could address cultural, seniors and youth interests, discuss the draft with the client and make necessary revisions.
- Amend the draft as required for submission to District Council as the project's final report.

REPORT ORGANIZATION

The report was prepared in several sections, and included the following key areas of interest:

- A review of the study methodology
- Community demographics
- Current services and facilities
- Issues relating to services and facilities
- Trends and best practices
- Principles for facility development
- Recommendations for cultural, seniors and youth facilities

- Implementation

In addition, several appendices are included providing details related to the consultation process, information from interviews with other municipal jurisdictions, and an inventory of rental spaces available for cultural and other activities.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are intended to address the major concerns and areas of interest expressed by the organizations and individuals with whom the consultants met during the data collection phase of the study.

YOUTH FACILITIES

1. That the District provide the financial resources to ensure that youth services and programs are available at the Mission Leisure Centre at least six days each week and during prime operating hours.
2. That the District enhance the space available for youth at the Mission Leisure Centre by adding activity space adjacent to the existing youth lounge area.
3. That the District replace the existing skateboard park, and add an outdoor sport court, either at the current site of the skateboard park, or a highly visible location in the community.

SENIORS FACILITIES

4. That the District ensure that the Mission Community Activity Centre is dedicated for use by District seniors, as required, six days each week, between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm throughout the year; and that late afternoon and evening space is available for seniors, as well as other age groups in the community.
5. That the District improve the entrance to the Mission Community Activity Centre and convert space that is currently used to accommodate District and non-District staff into a seniors lounge.
6. That the District improve the outdoor space immediately adjacent to the Mission Community Activity Centre, adding plant materials, benches, picnic tables and a sheltered, open-air seating area.
7. That the District initiate the construction of one or more open-air shelters in District parks in order to accommodate social activities for seniors and other residents.

CULTURAL FACILITIES

8. That the District work with the Mission Heritage Association and Fraser River Heritage Park user groups to initiate improvements to the park's electrical, water, and staging facilities.
9. That the District work with the Mission Arts Council and the Museum to explore the development of an interim arts and museum facility with shared administrative, exhibition, and programme areas.

10. That the District work with the Mission Archives and Museum to explore the acquisition of more appropriate space for the storage of historical artifacts.
11. That the District work with the Mission District Historical Society to provide a cold storage facility for the collection of historic photographs held by the Mission Community Archives.
12. That the District work with School District No. 75 and the University of Fraser Valley to continue upgrades to the Heritage Park Centre's cafetorium, including the removal of now-redundant steel railings and improvements to the space's sound and lighting systems.
13. That the District work with the private sector and other potential partners to plan and develop a studio theatre and arts instructional and workshop areas, in conjunction with the proposed waterfront Civic Centre, or as an addition to the Heritage Park Centre, or as a component of a downtown revitalization strategy.
14. That the District review the current operating agreement for the Heritage Park Centre to ensure increased community use of the facility.
15. That the District initiate discussions with the owners of halls and other programmable spaces in the community to determine the potential of facilitating additional recreational and cultural use within them.

GENERAL

It should be noted that in 2008, PERC completed a Long Term Needs Analysis for Leisure and Community Facilities for the District. The study focused on amenities in the Silverdale area, and also commented on future requirements for aquatic and arena facilities. A brief summary of community centre, pool and arena requirements is presented below.

- **Silverdale Community Centre.** It was suggested that when the population of Silverdale reaches approximately 5,000 people, that the first phase of a community centre should be planned and built, including a gymnasium, multi-purpose space, day care space, social space, a fitness area and office space. The size of the building would likely be 10,000 – 12,000 square feet. A second phase of the building, also 12,000 sq. ft., would include additional multi-purpose and fitness space, as well as areas for arts and crafts and social service agencies.
- **Arena.** It was suggested that a third sheet of ice will likely be needed within the next 10 to 15 years, and that a new ice facility should be built at that time, that could attract a variety of events, including concerts, performances and trade shows. The facility would, ideally, be located in the downtown area, and would include one or two meeting rooms.
- **Swimming Pool.** The report also suggested that in approximately 20 years, the District will likely need to consider the provision of additional indoor swimming pool space. The consultants suggested that first consideration should be given to adding on to the existing indoor pool, rather than building a new aquatic centre.

While population growth in the Silverdale area has been slower than anticipated, these amenities are being considered as part of the District's long range planning process, and should be considered as decisions are made regarding the proposed amenities arising from the current report. It is the consultants' understanding

that the various spaces could potentially change between now and the time that building would occur, depending on community demand, trends and other factors.

IMPLEMENTATION

The recommendations included in the report are presented on the following page, along with information regarding estimated size of each building or improvement, capital costs, and a suggested timeline for implementation.

The following information is intended to assist in reading the table.

- **Annual Cost** Refers to the annual operating cost of addressing each recommendation; in some cases, there is no cost associated with a recommendation
 - Low (up to \$5,000 / year)
 - Medium (\$5,000 to \$20,000 / year)
 - High (more than \$20,000 / year)
- **Size of Building / Improvement** Estimates are based on approximate square footage
- **One Time Capital Costs** Refers to the cost (in 2010 dollars) of improving an existing facility or building a new facility
- **Cost / Square Foot** Refers to the cost of construction (in 2010 dollars)
- **Suggested Timeline** There are three periods of time in which the recommendations should be implemented:
 - Short term (year one to year three)
 - Medium term (year four to year seven)
 - Long term (year eight and beyond)

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	ANNUAL OPERATING COST	SIZE OF BUILDING / IMPROVEMENT	COST / SQ.FT.	CAPITAL COST	TIMELINE
	YOUTH					
1	Increase operating hours for youth at the Leisure Centre	Medium	NA	NA	NA	Short
2	Increase activity space for youth at the Leisure Centre	Low	800 sq.ft.	\$ 400	\$ 320,000	Short
3	Replace skate park / add sport court	Low	Various options	Depends on design	\$ 525-75K	Medium
	SENIORS					
4	Ensure dedicated space for seniors at MCAC	Low	No expansion	NA	NA	Short
5	Improve entrance/ensure multi generational use of MCAC	Low	No expansion	NA	\$ 2,000	Short
6	Improve outdoor space adjacent to MCAC	Low	NA	NA	\$ 10,000	Short
7	Build one or more open air shelters in District Parks	Low	400 sq. ft.	NA	\$ 25-30K	Short
	CULTURE					
8	Initiate improvements to Fraser River Heritage Park utilities/stage	Low	No expansion	NA	\$ 25,000	Short
9	Explore development of interim arts/museum facility	High	2,500 sq. ft.	\$ 500	\$ 2-300K	Short
10	Explore acquisition of space (rental) for storage of artifacts	Medium	2,000 sq. ft.	NA	\$2,000	Short
11	Provide cold storage facility for collection of historic photos	Medium	40 cubic feet.	NA	\$ 25,000	Short
12	Upgrade Heritage Park Centre cafetorium	Medium	No expansion	NA	\$ 25,000	Short
13	Plan and develop a studio theatre & arts instructional/workshop area	High	7,500 sq. ft.	\$ 600	\$ 4.5M	Long
14	Review current operating agreement for HPC to increase community use	Low	NA	NA	NA	Short
15	Explore alternate programming space with local halls/buildings	Low	NA	NA	NA	Short

1. INTRODUCTION

DURING THE PERIOD 2000-2010, THE DISTRICT OF MISSION undertook a number of initiatives designed to provide better parks, recreation, and cultural facilities services for its growing population. One of these initiatives was the development of a Cultural Master Plan to guide the District's activities in the area of culture in the coming decade and beyond.

1.1. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

Although progress in implementing the District's Cultural Master Plan has not been as rapid as some members of the cultural community had hoped, the District and its partners have achieved a number of notable milestones. The operation of the Clarke Foundation Theatre has been placed on a firm foundation and, a decade after its opening, the theatre now ranks among the more heavily used community theatres in the province. Other significant successes include the development and adoption of a municipal Cultural Policy and the formation of a Cultural Resources Commission, whose members include representatives of the community's cultural organizations, a member of Council, and residents at large. The Commission has in turn begun to work on a number of projects, not the least of which include work on an art in public spaces programme, research into cultural services and facilities in Mission, and the hosting of a cultural forum.

Early in 2009, Mission District Council selected five areas of focus as goals for their 3 year term. One of these related to planning for future municipal infrastructure:

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The goal was established in recognition that while the traditional recreational infrastructure needs of the community had largely been addressed through the expansion and renovation of the District's Leisure Centre, the infrastructure needs of the cultural sector, seniors, and youth remained to be clarified and addressed.

Four specific objectives were established within the context of this goal:

- To establish the principles that will guide the provision of cultural services and their use
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In the spring of 2009 staff reviewed options for undertaking the necessary community consultation, research, and analysis to complete Council's goal. In June, Council approved a recommendation to engage Professional Environmental Recreational Consultants Ltd. (PERC) to undertake *the first two* objectives within the overall goal on behalf of the District. The consulting team included one of the firm's partners (Bill Webster), Warren Sommer (of Legacy Heritage Consultants), and Erin Moore (of Liveable Region Consultants). The consultants began work on the project upon the award of the contract in order to meet the District's objective of having it completed by the end of the year.

1.2. SPACE INVENTORY

The District of Mission is home to a range of services for youth, seniors, and culture. These are housed in a diverse set of facilities, whether purpose-built, multi-purpose, or adapted. Few of the spaces used for services for youth, seniors, and culture are dedicated exclusively to use by a single population or to a single type of use. Facilities range from highly sophisticated buildings with specialized equipment and specialist staff, such as the Clarke Theatre, to multi-purpose spaces in civic and school district facilities such as the Mission Leisure Centre and the Heritage Park Centre, to older, humbler community and church halls that have served a variety of needs for several generations.

During the last year, the District's Cultural Resources Commission undertook considerable research into the facilities available for community use, and cultural use in particular, in the District of Mission. The Commission's findings have been reviewed by the consultants, supplemented with additional research, and compiled into an inventory that identifies the name of the facility, its principal characteristics, its capacity, equipment available within it, and the cost of its rental.

The inventory reports data on 81 spaces available in 42 facilities in the community. These facilities include 3 owned and operated by the District of Mission, 14 facilities owned and operated by School District 75, 2 private sector facilities, 1 facility owned and operated by a crown corporation, and 22 facilities owned or operated by the not-for-profit sector (including faith-based organizations). This *Inventory of Community Spaces Rentable for Cultural and Other Activities* is presented as Appendix "C" to this report.

It should also be noted that a planning document was prepared for the District in 2008 that addressed the need for additional recreation facilities in the community as a result of population growth in the Silverdale area. This study, entitled "District of Mission Long Term Needs Analysis – Leisure and Community Facilities" concluded that a new community centre should be planned and built in the Silverdale area when its population reaches 5,000. The first phase of the suggested facility would include a gymnasium, multi-purpose space for all ages, day care space, space for social activities, and the possible inclusion of space for fitness activities. A second phase could include additional multi-purpose space, as well as areas dedicated to the arts and fitness.

The study also suggested that a third ice sheet will be needed, perhaps within the next 10 to 15 years, and that swimming pool expansion will likely be necessary within the next 20 years.

Recognizing that many demands are being made on the municipality's resources and that the growth of its tax base has slowed, the District has developed an amenity program that is designed to collect funds from the development community for the provision of municipal facilities, including recreation and culture. Council and staff have included the development of a new Civic Centre on the Mission waterfront as a possible addition to the District's infrastructure. This facility, if built, could include a new City Hall, an arts centre, a new museum, a library, and space for seniors and youth.

2. METHODOLOGY

THE METHODOLOGY USED IN THIS STUDY combined background research, discussions with District staff, research into practices in other communities, site visits, and extensive public consultation.

The project began with the consultants undertaking discussions with the District's Director of Parks, Recreation, and Culture and then participating in a start-up meeting with the District's Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation, and Culture. These discussions served to finalize the methodology, identify key stakeholders for the public consultation process, receive written background information, establish key dates, and deal with the administration of the project. A briefing meeting with several members of the Cultural Resources Commission was also held early in the project.

Written information received from the District included its Cultural Master Plan (2002), the Heritage Park Centre Operating Agreement (2002), current seasonal recreation programme brochures, and survey data on facilities available for cultural purposes collected by the District's Cultural Resources Commission. A number of organizations interviewed during the study provided written briefs or information, which was also reviewed. Where necessary, the consultants also accessed the websites of a number of community organizations to obtain additional information. These materials were referred to throughout the project and proved particularly useful as the consultants developed optional responses to the community's perceived facility needs and as they developed recommendations for consideration by District Council.

As one of the central questions within the study related to the municipality's current inventory of usable facilities suitable for cultural uses (and potentially, for services for youth and seniors), the consultants have developed an inventory of facilities that is attached to this report as Appendix "C". The inventory includes much of the work already done in this area by the District's Cultural Resources Commission as well as considerable additional research. The inventory is intended to assist individuals and organizations seeking rental space and will assist the District in understanding whether new facilities are required or whether existing facilities can be enhanced or better used. It may also assist community organizations in finding space suitable for their own programs and activities.

The bulk of the consultants' work, however, focussed on meeting with representatives – both service providers and consumers – of the three populations that are the subject of this report: youth, seniors, and the cultural community. With the assistance of the District's Parks, Recreation, and Culture staff, a series of 90-minute interviews were held with youth and youth programmers, seniors organizations, and a comprehensive set of individuals and organizations involved in providing services in the area of culture, including the visual and performing arts, heritage, and multiculturalism.

The interviews were designed to collect information on each of the organizations and individuals involved in providing services for one or more of the subject populations. The information collected related to the services offered by each organization, numbers served, trends in membership and participation, facilities used (including strengths and challenges), and perceived future facility needs. Participants were also asked to comment on facilities located in other jurisdictions that the District of Mission might find instructive. Finally, they were given the opportunity to comment on the type of principles that decision-makers might take into consideration as they set priorities for municipal spending.

The interviews used a common set of questions. Several organizations sent multiple representatives or attended more than one meeting, thereby providing additional perspectives for consideration.

A representative of the consultant team attended a meeting of the District's Cultural Resources Commission as the interest group consultation was nearing its conclusion to orient the Commission to the project's methodology and to provide it with preliminary observations from the community consultation. A summary of the main findings identified during each of the interviews undertaken is provided in Appendix "A" to this report. A list of organizations that provided information to the consultants is included within Appendix "A".

Although recognizing that, like other communities, the District of Mission has its own unique character, strengths, challenges, and opportunities, it was also determined that the consultants should undertake research into services and facilities for seniors, youth, and culture in four other communities. Four communities were accordingly selected, taking their population, socio-demographic characteristics, tax base, and level of service into account. It was also felt that looking at communities whose services may be exemplary, despite their size or economic limitations would be useful. The consultants accordingly undertook interviews with senior staff in municipal parks, recreation, and cultural departments in Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows, New Westminster, Port Coquitlam, and the Township of Langley, primarily because of their reputations for service delivery, and their somewhat similar populations. The notes of each of these interviews are included as Appendix "B" to this report.

The consultants have met as a team on several occasions throughout the course of the project to refine the methodology, to share information, to analyze the evolving data, to discuss optional responses to the community's needs, and to develop their recommendations.

The Draft Report was presented to District Council in November 2009, and it was determined that the organization of the document should be reviewed and adjusted, and that the capital costs of new or improved facilities be included in the report.

3. COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

UNDERSTANDING PATTERNS OF POPULATION GROWTH is a key consideration in planning for services and facilities in the future. Census data for the years 1996 to 2006 indicate that the population of the District of Mission grew significantly during the last census decade, especially during the last half of the census decade. The data further indicate that the District's population is an aging one, and that the number and percentage of the population who are either teens or seniors is growing. The census does not provide data on participation in or consumption of cultural services, but it does demonstrate that the community is becoming increasingly culturally diverse as the number and proportion of residents who identified as members of visible minorities and aboriginal people is growing.

According to the census, and indicated in the adjacent information, the District experienced considerable growth in the early 1990s, reduced growth in the early 2000s, and renewed growth in the period 2001-2006.

<u>Population Growth (1996 – 2006)</u>	
1996 Population	30,519
Change – 1991-1996	+ 16.5%
2001 Population	31,272
Change – 1996 - 2006	+ 2.5%
2006 Population	34,505
Change – 2001 - 2006	+ 10.3%

Census data also indicate that the median age of the District's population (37.5) is increasing, though it remains somewhat lower than the median age of the population in the province as a whole (40.8).

<u>An Aging Population (1996 – 2006)</u>	
Median Age (Mission) – 1996	33
Median Age (BC) – 1996	36.3
Median Age (Mission) – 2001	36.4
Median Age (BC) – 2001	38.4
Median Age (Mission) – 2006	37.5
Median Age (BC) – 2006	40.8

Further evidence that the District's population is aging is provided by data related to the median age of the population. According to the census, the median age in the District is increasing, just as it is elsewhere in the province.

An Aging Population (1986 – 2006)

Pop. 15+ (Mission) – 1996	74.2%
Pop. 15+ (BC) – 1996	80.2%
Pop. 15+ (Mission) – 2001	77.2%
Pop. 15+ (BC) – 2001	81.9%
Pop. 15+ (Mission) – 2006	79.8%
Pop. 15+ (BC) – 2005	83.5%

Census data also provides information on the number of older adults in the community and the number of older adults as a percentage of the total population. As seniors' centres generally cater to retirees, the data presented below relates to the population aged 65 and older. As the data indicate, the number and percentage of seniors residing in Mission declined somewhat in the early 1990s (according to data from BC Stats), grew in the later 1990s, and grew again, at an even greater rate, in the early 2000s. The population aged 65 and over is now one of the fastest growing cohorts in the District.

Older Adults (1996 – 2006) 65+

Pop. 65+ (Mission) 1996	3,015
Change (Mission) 1991-1996	-7.4%
65+ (Mission) 2001	3,280
Change (Mission) 1996-2001	8.8%
65+ (Mission) 2006	3,700
Change (Mission) 2006	12.8%

Statistics Canada reports its census data using standardized age-based categories. Some of the categories have changed over time. The proportion of the population in Mission over the age of 15 is also increasing, although it still remains lower than the Provincial average. The overall proportion of residents who are teens is now about 11.6% of the total population, compared to 9.1% in 1996.

Youth (1996 – 2009) 15 – and over

Pop. 15-19 (Mission) 1996	2,240
Change (Mission) 1991-1996	9.1%
Pop. 15-19 (Mission) 2001	2,450
Change (Mission) 1996-2001	9.4%
Pop. 15-19 (Mission) 2001	2,735
Change (Mission) 2001-2006	11.6%

As noted at the outset of this section of the report, the census does not provide data on participation in or consumption of cultural services. The Canadian Arts Consumer Profile, a study undertaken in the early 1990s, indicated that the likelihood of Canadians participating in cultural activity increases with age, education, and income. However, the applicability of these observations to Mission in the latter 2000s may be questionable.

Although the proportion of residents who are seniors, and theoretically more likely to engage in cultural activity, is increasing, and although the median family income of residents of the District (\$60,938) is only marginally lower than that for the province as a whole (\$62,346), levels of educational achievement among District residents are somewhat lower than the provincial average (24.8% of the population of Mission aged 15 and over lacks a secondary school certificate, compared to the provincial rate of 19.9%).

The usefulness of the Canadian Arts Consumer Profile's findings is further compromised by its more limited definition of the term "culture" as well as by public perceptions of its definition, many perhaps limiting the term to "high brow" activities and opportunities, to the detriment of more populist activities and opportunities (such as rock, folk, and country & western music festivals), many of which are heavily attended by area residents.

Although the census does not provide data on residents' participation in cultural activity and although its ability to provide insights into residents' likelihood of participating in cultural activity is problematic, the census does provide information on the ethnicity of the population. This information can be of use in understanding a number of social concerns as well as in planning a range of multicultural services.

According to the census, the number and percentage of the District's population who self-identify as visible minorities is increasing. In 1996, just 6.4% (1,920 people) of District residents identified themselves as members of a visible minority. By 2006, the rate had grown to 10.4% (3,315 people). In 1996, 58.6% of those who identified as members of a visible minority were South Asians (Indo-Canadians). By 2006, the percentage of people who identified themselves as members of a visible minority and who described themselves as South Asian had grown to 63.2% of the visible minority population, i.e. 2,220 people in a total visible minority population of 3,315 people. Despite the recent growth of its South Asian and other visible minority populations, the District's rate of 10.4% remains well below the provincial average of 24.8%.

<u>Visible Minorities (1996 – 2006)</u>		
1996 (Mission)	1,020	6.4%
1996 (BC)	550,545	17.9%
2001 (Mission)	2,550	8.4%
2001 (BC)	836,445	21.6%
2006 (Mission)	3,515	10.4%
2006 (BC)	1,008,855	24.8%

The District of Mission is also home to a large aboriginal population, i.e. people who self-identify as having First Nations, Inuit, or Metis origins (it should be noted that aboriginal people do not generally consider themselves as members of a visible minority and that Statistics Canada does not include aboriginal people in its count of visible minorities).

The District's aboriginal population is diverse, containing many people from elsewhere in the province as well as from other areas of Canada. Of the 1,995 aboriginal people recorded as living in Mission in 2006, 1,165 were First Nations, 760 were Metis, and 15 were Inuit. The remaining 55 reported multiple or other aboriginal origins.

<u>Aboriginal Population (1996-2006)</u>		
1996 (Mission)	1,310	4.4%
1996 (BC)	139,655	3.8%
2001 (Mission)	1,490	4.8%
2001 (BC)	170,025	4.4%
2006 (Mission)	1,995	5.9%
2006 (BC)	196,070	4.8%

During the period 1996 to 2006, the percentage of the District's population who were aboriginal remained consistently higher than the provincial average: 4.4% in 1996, compared to the provincial average of 3.8%; 4.8% in 2001 compared to the provincial average of 4.4%; and 5.9% in 2006 compared to the provincial average of 4.8%. Further, although the aboriginal population of the province is growing rapidly, having increased by 40% in a decade, the aboriginal population of Mission has increased at an even greater rate: by 52% during the same period.

The overall growth of the District of Mission will be heavily influenced by a number of factors, not the least of which will relate to the development of new, medium density residential communities such as that proposed for Silverdale, an area of the District that is currently largely rural in character. B.C. Stats, a provincial agency responsible for compiling statistics for the Government of British Columbia, has taken such factors into account as it develops population projections for each of the province's local health areas. BC Stats predicts that the population of the Mission Local Health Area will grow from its current (2009) estimate of 42,379 people to 46,681 in five years' time, and to 50,999 in a decade. The agency's projections extend to 2036, when a population of 62,945 is predicted. Population growth will result in an increase in the residential tax base, and potentially, in a commensurate growth in the commercial and industrial tax bases, all of which may increase the corporation's ability to maintain, enhance, and expand its services and facilities for youth, seniors, and culture.

4. YOUTH SERVICES / FACILITIES

THIS CHAPTER FOCUSES ON FACILITIES AND SERVICES for youth, and addresses existing amenities, issues related to services and facilities, trends and best practices in other communities, and concludes with several recommendations, in addition to potential costs and implementation.

4.1 FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR YOUTH

In 2010, the youth of Mission have access to a wide range of services and venues specifically aimed at young people. With the age of technology, the community's youth can take advantage of exploring activities and facilities in Mission that best suit their individual needs and interests. With the newly launched Mission On-Line Teen Space website www.moltspace.ca, hosted by Mission Parks, Recreation and Culture, and administered by the 40 Development Assets Committee, youth can access information on opportunities in Mission ranging from special events, volunteer opportunities, and employment opportunities; to things to do, community involvement opportunities, and personal support services; to links to other youth pages and more. With this new service youth from "all walks of life" will be able to access information on several facilities serving youth in Mission, such as: The Mission Leisure Centre Youth Lounge, the Aboriginal Youth Friendship Centre, Station X, and the ARC Youth Centre.

The Mission Leisure Centre Youth Lounge affords the community's youth the opportunity to socialize with their friends on Tuesdays through Fridays (playing Chex Dome Hockey, playing Ping Pong and Foosball, using the Pro Billiards Table, accessing computers with high speed internet, enjoying contemporary music via a sophisticated sound system, and so forth). Some youth may choose to visit the Aboriginal Friendship Youth Centre where activities include movie nights, sports outings, culture nights, potluck Birthday Celebrations, pool tournaments and camping trips (in July and August). Station X is a program run by Youth Unlimited that reaches out to those on the farthest fringes, from street youth to those in addiction. Station X focuses on fostering long-term relationships. Youth meet at Station X (located in downtown Mission) on Monday nights for free dinners, chess, checkers, cards, foosball, videos, PLAY Station, "hanging out," spiritual talks, and meeting people who care and who can assist youth to find help when they need it.

The ARC Youth Centre, provided by Mission Community Services Society, is a safe place that aims to meet the social needs of young people ages 11 to 16 in Mission, while providing resources that promote positive growth. The facility is an alcohol and drug-free environment, offering positive entertainment and activities, a life skills program, and alternate recreational activities, open Monday to Thursday. Most programs of the centre are run from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm with some afternoon hours of service also being provided. To complement these facilities in Mission, there are various churches that offer evening drop-in programmes.

Many of these services work together partner to improve access to activities and facilities for youth in Mission. The Leisure Centre staff are committed to enriching the lives of youth by encouraging their active involvement in the development of programs and services.

4.2 ISSUES RELATED TO SERVICES AND FACILITIES

During the course of the study, the consultants undertook extensive research into the services offered for youth in Mission, and more particularly, an analysis of the facilities in which the services are offered. The individuals and groups consulted raised a number of issues with respect to the facilities used. A number of systemic and logistical issues were also raised. The following discussion outlines the principal issues raised.

4.2.1 Public Transportation Schedule

Several individuals who were interviewed during the community consultation process (both youth themselves and advocates working on behalf of youth) reported transportation to be the biggest concern relating to youth access to services and facilities in Mission. Comments were made about infrequent bus service to the Leisure Centre (half-hourly, with the last bus leaving the centre at 6:15 pm Monday through Saturday, with no bus service on Sundays). Inadequate bus services constitute a challenge if youth are registered in a program that does not fit within the bus operator's schedule or if youth wish to stay later into the evening at the Leisure Centre. The bus service to and from other youth facilities in the area is also problematic. Several routes have schedules where buses run every hour and all the routes (save for West Heights) features schedules where the last bus finishes at 6:30 pm (at the latest).

4.2.2 Leisure Centre Youth Lounge Operating Hours

During the public consultation process, many users of the Leisure Centre's Youth Lounge commented on the inadequacy of its operating hours. The Youth Lounge currently operates Tuesday to Friday evenings. The main issue that was voiced by many interviewees was the need for the Youth Lounge to be open later on Friday evenings and for the Lounge to have operating hours in the evening on Saturdays.

4.2.3 Size and Configuration of Youth Lounge

The community's youth and Leisure Centre staff are both pleased that the District has provided dedicated space for the youth population. There is, however, considerable concern that the Youth Lounge is small. The lounge is located in a renovated racquetball court with a lowered ceiling. Youth and staff are challenged with having many youth in the lounge at one time wishing to do many different activities at the same time. Examples of incompatible activities include users playing pool, hosting a girl's only meeting, and playing video games on the big screen television while other youth are hoping simply to "hang out" and socialise with friends while watching a movie.

4.2.4 Skateboard Park Renovation

Several youth raised concerns that the skateboard park is in need of renovation. The park was built for the needs of residents who were young at the time and who preferred a specific type of facility. Space configurations and features have changed in the sport of skateboarding, rendering the current skateboard park somewhat obsolete. There is a willingness among area youth to work with Parks, Recreation, and Culture staff and other community members to upgrade the skateboard park.

4.3 TRENDS AND BEST PRACTICES

As noted earlier, the consultants identified four communities – Maple Ridge, New Westminster, Port Coquitlam and Langley – each of which have well-developed services in the areas of youth, seniors and culture, and gathered information specific to the study. This step in the process was primarily intended to provide Mission officials with an indication of a number of successful initiatives. Information was also collected from the Campbell River, but proved to be less specific than anticipated.

4.3.1 Youth Space within Larger Community Centres

A common theme of trends and best practices shared amongst the four communities that were researched was a move away from stand alone, isolated purpose built youth centres. Instead, the current practice is to provide youth with their own safe, comfortable space in larger facilities where they can “hang out” with friends. There, they are empowered to plan and participate in their own programmes and activities, such as fitness classes, leadership opportunities, and creative arts activities.

With youth centres finding space within community centres or being added onto existing facilities, there are more opportunities to undertake intergenerational events and programming so that various population groups can become more familiar with one another. The youth centres of today not only address the needs of youth for dedicated space, they also connect the generations, resulting in benefits for both youth and older adults. This concept has developed into greater awareness and understanding of each other's needs and provides a model for service delivery for today and into the future.

4.3.2 Partnering Among Youth-Serving Agencies

Many parks and recreation departments are recognizing that addressing the needs of youth in isolation is no longer effective and that it is important to work closely with other community partners such as school districts, social service agencies, health services, the business community and community service clubs. Together, such organizations are better positioned to undertake research, to identify strengths and determine needs, and to combine or integrate resources to respond to grant opportunities.

Today's centres for youth increasingly partner with social service agencies and health service providers. Through their joint efforts, they are in a better position to offer services such as counselling, health services, and outreach services for youth who may be experiencing difficulties.

4.3.3 Youth Parks

When youth parks featuring skateboard facilities, climbing walls, basketball courts, and street hockey space were first developed, it was feared that such facilities would be a short-lived trend. History, however, has demonstrated that what was once feared to be a short-lived trend is now considered to be a best practice.

4.3.4 Youth Voluntarism

A final trend relates to increased voluntarism among youth. There is a definite increase in interest on the part of youth in volunteering in the community – partly due to the interest of youth on impacting their own future and in part a result of secondary school graduation requirements. Service providers increasingly understand that it is ineffective to provide services for youth without a process of consultation and collaboration in which the youth population is an integral and equal partner.

4.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the District provide the financial resources to ensure that youth services and programs are available at the Mission Leisure Centre at least six days each week during prime operating hours.
2. That the District enhance the space available for youth at the Mission Leisure Centre by adding activity space adjacent to the existing youth lounge area.
3. That the District replace the existing skateboard park, and add an outdoor sport court, either at the current site of the skateboard park, or at a highly visible location in the community.

5. SENIORS FACILITIES / SERVICES

THIS CHAPTER FOCUSES ON FACILITIES AND SERVICES for seniors, and addresses existing amenities, issues related to services and facilities, trends and best practices in other communities, and concludes with several recommendations, in addition to potential costs and implementation.

5.1 FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR SENIORS

The typical senior citizen of today is nowhere near ready to slow down, and has more opportunities than ever before to continue enjoying life to the fullest. Mission has many organizations committed to enriching the lives of seniors.

The Lifetime Learning Centre Society promotes active living and healthy aging for older adults and others by providing opportunities to continue their intellectual pursuits through community and general interest adult education and wellness programmes. These programmes enhance quality of life, improve general knowledge, and provide opportunities for the citizens of Mission to remain mentally and physically active.

The Mission Community Services Society is a professionally oriented group of caring people with a vision of helping and empowering individuals to grow and develop. The types of activities and services seniors can expect to receive include friendly visitor programmes, meals on wheels, income tax clinics, medical transportation services, and so forth.

The Mission Senior Centre Society is a dedicated and well-organized group of advocates whose goal is to establish a home for seniors' activities that will benefit all seniors of Mission. The group has undertaken research into centres for seniors elsewhere and is currently lobbying for a dedicated facility for seniors in Mission.

An active group of seniors currently use PLAY Station (a multi-use space provided by the District of Mission), a facility which the District has recently re-named the Mission Community Activity Centre, and houses the Mission Seniors Activity Centre. This highly committed group of seniors work in partnership with the Leisure Centre staff in determining and developing their programmes each season.

The Leisure Centre's staff are committed to enriching the lives of seniors by encouraging their active involvement in programmes and services designed to foster health and wellness.

5.2 ISSUES RELATED TO SERVICES AND FACILITIES

During the course of the study, the consultants undertook extensive research into the services offered to seniors in Mission, and more particularly, the facilities in which the services are offered. The individuals and groups consulted raised a number of issues with respect to current facilities and services. The following discussion outlines the principal issues raised.

5.2.1 A Facility for Seniors

The single most compelling issue raised by the groups of seniors interviewed related to a perceived need for a dedicated senior's facility. The vision presented was for a space that is dedicated to seniors – a place that seniors can call their own. The Mission Senior Centre Association is the prime advocate for a dedicated senior's facility. During discussions with the association's representatives, preference was expressed for a facility resembling the Dogwood Senior's Centre in Coquitlam, the Wilson Centre in Port Coquitlam, the Maple Ridge Senior Centre, or Century House in New Westminster.

Interviewees spoke of a place where seniors could congregate during the day to enjoy social recreation with refreshments in a very comfortable, warm environment, utilized by individuals of a similar age and with similar interests. The vision for the space also included opportunities to participate in drop-in activities, and the opportunity to enjoy lunch prepared from an in-house kitchen. Several individuals mentioned how disappointed they were when the community's seniors lost their commercial kitchen at the Leisure Centre at the time of its renovation and expansion. Interviewees also voiced their concerns for more storage space in the PLAY Station kitchen and in the meeting rooms for all the different senior user groups that frequent the facility.

5.2.2 Shelter for Seniors

Two interviewees from the South Asian community expressed the need for a safe, dry place for elder Punjabi community members to gather and engage in social recreation. Many spend their days outdoors, and transportation in general is an issue for many of these men. It was noted that many feel uncomfortable going either to the Leisure Centre or to the Mission gurdwara, feeling that there were no appropriate activities for them at the Leisure Centre and feeling that the gurdwara should strictly be a place of worship. Other communities with large Indo-Canadian populations, such as Surrey and Abbotsford, have built shelters with picnic tables in local parks to accommodate this need.

5.2.3 Transportation

The groups interviewed cited transportation and accessibility as major concerns among seniors. Currently, the transit system lacks a route that drops off passengers at the Mission Community Activity Centre. The closest bus stop has been described as being a lengthy up-hill walk from 7th Avenue. Lack of bus transportation to and from the Clarke Theatre on Saturday nights (prime theatre-going time) was also cited as a concern.

5.3 TRENDS AND BEST PRACTICES

As with the previous chapter, the consultants made use of information provided by Maple Ridge, New Westminster, Port Coquitlam and Langley as comparatives, with reference to the delivery of services for seniors.

5.3.1 Programming for Diversity

Community service organizations and government are increasingly recognizing that seniors are no longer a single, clearly definable group of people. "Young" senior citizens (or newly termed the "older adult") are a population with needs and aspirations quite distinct from those of older seniors. Programmes involving

considerable physical and mental activity are starting to supplement or replace the more traditional sedentary programmes once aimed at older adults. Seniors are more health-conscious and are making health-wise decisions characterized by a shift towards more integrated programmes and services as compared to senior age-specific programmes and services.

Another trend relates to the age of those who use traditional seniors' centres. Users of seniors' centres tend to be older (i.e. 75 to 85 years of age, versus the 60 to 70 year-old users of the past). Stand-alone centres or fully dedicated seniors' centres tend to serve the population aged 75 and over. Younger seniors tend to prefer to use non-age defined facilities where they can recreate with the general population.

5.3.2 Seniors Space within Larger Community Centres

The trend in facilities is a move away from stand-alone, purpose built centres fully dedicated to seniors in favour of spaces that can be used by different populations at different times of the day, with only limited times or spaces dedicated to a specific population. Seniors' space is being integrated into the larger leisure facilities that serve an entire population, and although there may be a space dedicated to seniors within them, there is multi-use space for everyone to use that result in benefits to all groups, including seniors.

5.3.3 Seniors' Advisory Groups

A best practice in the four communities researched is that of parks, recreation and cultural departments working in partnership with seniors' advisory boards and/or associations. Such groups typically consist of an elected group of senior-aged individuals who have gained society status as a non-profit organization. Under this model, elected seniors' groups work in an advisory capacity to their local parks, recreation and culture departments to program facilities and to develop services to meet the needs of those in the community who are 50 years of age and older. Such groups often work as fundraising organizations which assist in the purchase of equipment and supplies for the facilities they use. Part of the mandate of such organizations may include the provision of volunteers for required support services. This provides the organization with a sense of ownership of the services and programmes, thereby fostering greater commitment to the organization.

5.3.4 A Partnered Approach

A popular concept is that of a "one stop shop" for seniors, where seniors can participate in programmes and activities promoting healthy active living principles and have access to information and referrals to meet their needs in the community in which they reside. By forming partnerships, maintaining effective communications, and working directly with other service providers, the potential for duplicating services and programs is reduced considerably.

5.3.5 Increased Voluntarism

Another best practice in the seniors' population is that of modeling social commitment in the "third chapter" of life. By volunteering in their community, many seniors experience a renewed sense of self-worth while giving back to other seniors and participating in intergenerational activities.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4. That the District ensure that the Mission Community Activity Centre is dedicated for use by District seniors, as required, six days each week, between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm throughout

the year; and that late afternoon and evening space is available for seniors, as well as other age groups in the community.

5. That the District improve the entrance to the Mission Community Activity Centre, and convert space that is currently used to accommodate District and non District staff into a seniors lounge.
6. That the District improve the outdoor space immediately adjacent to the Mission Community Activity Centre, adding plant materials, benches, picnic tables and a sheltered, open-air seating area.
7. That the District initiate the construction of one or more open-air shelters in District parks in order to accommodate social activities and other residents.

6. CULTURAL FACILITIES / SERVICES

THIS CHAPTER FOCUSES ON FACILITIES AND SERVICES that address cultural needs in the community, deals with existing amenities, issues related to services and facilities, trends and best practices in other communities, and concludes with several recommendations, in addition to potential costs and implementation.

6.1 FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR CULTURE

Mission is home to a wide range of organizations facilitating or providing services in the area of culture. The *Cultural Master Plan* completed for the District in 2002 noted that the community had good access to dance and music instruction and local performing artists, as well as to an impressive range of festivals and special events. Indeed, the *Master Plan* observed that the community had been awarded the “Best Town for Cultural Events” designation by *Canadian Living* magazine in its third annual (1999) Best Towns contest. The *Master Plan* also noted that residents had little access to visual arts from outside the community, a moderate level of access to professional touring performances and visual artists, and that its archival interests were better served than its museum or built heritage.

The situation in Mission has changed somewhat since 2002. The Clarke Theatre, for example, has done much to raise residents’ levels of attendance at performing arts (including music and live theatre) events as well as to broaden the range of opportunities available in the community. The facility is now on a firm footing and is booked to near capacity. Its renters include the Mission Concert and Recital Society, a not-for-profit organization that brings internationally known classical soloists and ensembles to the community.

In the area of heritage, the Mission District Historical Society’s inauguration of a Heritage Places initiative has taken heritage services beyond the four walls of the museum and out into the community. The development of the Power House at Stave Falls; and pit houses and a longhouse at the Xa:ytem Longhouse Interpretive Centre have also furthered community access to heritage experiences.

As in 2002, the community’s museum services continue to be delivered from a pre-fabricated former bank building (with offsite artifact storage located in rented premises elsewhere) while the community’s archives continue to co-habit the same building as the Mission Library. Access to visual arts exhibitions and visual arts instruction remain via the Mission Arts Council’s Mission Arts Centre and Art Gallery, a modest facility occupying a converted period house just east of the downtown core. The community’s “little theatre” organization occupies two rented stores on North Railway Avenue. As is the case in many communities, instruction in dance and music is offered through the private sector in privately owned and operated studio facilities. The majority of the community’s visual artists work from home studios. Multicultural services, such as the annual Multicultural Festival and Diwali, are offered in school district facilities. Festivals are presented out of doors, mainly at Fraser River Heritage Park.

With the exception of events in the Clarke Theatre and the Heritage Park Centre, most of the cultural activity in Mission takes place in facilities that are neither purpose-built nor dedicated exclusively to cultural activity. This results in mixed success and in mixed levels of satisfaction both for participants and audience members.

6.2 ISSUES RELATED TO SERVICES AND FACILITIES

During the course of the study, the consultants undertook extensive research into the various cultural services offered in Mission, and more particularly, the facilities in which the services are offered. The individuals and groups consulted raised a number of issues with respect to the facilities used to serve the needs of the cultural community. A number of systemic and logistical issues were also raised. The following discussion outlines the principal issues raised.

6.2.1 Systemic and Logistical Issues

Several participants in the interview process observed that although the District had commissioned its Cultural Master Plan in 2002, progress in implementing its recommendations had been slow. The adoption of a Cultural Policy and the creation of a Cultural Resources Committee were welcomed and hopes were expressed that the committee would be a strong advocate for culture. A minority of participants questioned the inclusion of culture under a Parks and Recreation department, wondering if there was a better fit with Economic Development.

A number of interviewees noted that despite the 2002 report recommending the “creation of additional capacity for cultural development within its Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department” or within a cultural coalition or commission, that there was still no staff person within the municipal structure dedicated exclusively to community cultural development and to fostering cultural opportunities and services. It was also suggested that for many residents, the term “culture” was not well understood, and that cultural activity was all too often viewed as something other than a pursuit that was integral to their lives.

Although the Heritage Park Centre was originally envisioned as a facility where the community would make extensive use of college (now university) and School District spaces when classes were not in session, few of those spaces are extensively booked by community organizations. The two great exceptions are the Clarke Theatre and the Community Gymnasium, which is extensively used by the District’s Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department, as well as by other community organizations. That current levels of community use of the Centre’s facilities are lower than originally hoped for appears to be a result of public perceptions of the cost of space rental being high (which is sometimes valid, if custodial fees are applied in addition to space rental charges), “territoriality” on the part of some teaching staff (resulting in some spaces becoming less available for community use), and the absence of active marketing or programming of the spaces available for community use.

As with seniors and youth, several interviewees also noted that inadequacies in the public transportation system often rendered participation in and attendance at cultural performances and events highly problematic for many residents, especially seniors and youth (as noted above, there is no bus service to and from the Clarke Theatre on Saturday evenings, a time when many theatrical performances are scheduled).

6.2.2 Facility Issues

The 2002 *Cultural Master Plan* noted a number of issues relating to the improvement or development of cultural facilities in Mission. The resultant recommendations were for upgrades to the Heritage Park Centre Cafetorium and community performance spaces in the short term (1 to 5 years), for the development of a new museum in the medium term (5 to 10 years) and for the development of an arts centre in the long term (10 or more years). The *Master Plan* noted that Mission’s relatively small population and limited tax base required that major capital expenditures not be immediate, and that the construction of new facilities be subject to the acquisition of additional sources of funding, much of which might accrue to the District as a result of future development. Insofar as the development envisioned for Silverdale has yet to occur, insofar

as financial support from senior levels of government is uncertain, and insofar as the world is now recovering from a major recession, the development of any major facilities now seems unlikely for several years.

The consultations undertaken with the cultural community in 2009 nonetheless indicate that the community feels that there is still a need for the same facilities identified in 2002, as well as a need for some others. Although the community possesses considerable space that the cultural community might use (81 spaces in 42 facilities), little of it is purpose-built, rendering it less than ideal for many of the cultural purposes identified. For example, although a performance could take place in a community or church hall, the nature of the space (lacking raked, upholstered seating; characterized by poor sight lines; lacking sophisticated sound and light systems; and without appropriate front of house and backstage facilities) renders the experience less satisfying both to the audience and the performer. Analogies from sport might be a curling rink with a post in the middle of the ice, a swimming pool with non-regulation width lanes, or a baseball stadium with seating at ground level only.

Discussions with the cultural community have resulted in the following facilities being identified as needed in Mission.

6.2.3 Upgrades to Outdoor Performance Spaces

Discussions with user groups indicated a need for upgrades to the electrical, water, lighting, and stage facilities at Fraser River Heritage Park. These observations are similar to those identified during the community consultation in 2002. The interviews undertaken in 2009 indicated that although one user group has installed its own electrical system in the park, that the system is not accessible to other users. It was further noted that the existing bandstand and the community stage are not appropriate for a full range of performances, and that a portable stage capable of accommodating dance could be used not only at the park, but also at other venues elsewhere in the community. Finally, it was suggested that the District explore using Centennial Park for smaller festivals and special events, noting its proximity to the heart of the community and more intimate scale.

6.2.4 Administrative Space

Several of the community's cultural service providers (the Mission Museum, the Heritage Places initiative, and the Mission Arts Council) commented on how lack of administrative space hampers their ability to provide services. One solution to this would be to provide an office space that could be shared by various groups, though this might be inefficient as it might require agency staff to leave their own facilities to use a common office area.

6.2.5 Museum and Archives Storage Space

The Mission Museum currently stores its reserve (un-displayed) collections in the museum building and in rented facilities located elsewhere in the community, the latter currently costing \$2,500 per year to rent. While having offsite storage is not fully efficient, the procedure does result in greater (albeit still modest) space being made available at the museum for exhibition purposes.

Historical artifacts should generally be stored in environments with a temperature of 20 degrees Celsius \pm 2 degrees and a relative humidity of 50% \pm 2 percent, 24 hours per day. None of the Museum's storage space, whether onsite or off, meets these standards. Artifacts stored in the Museum (itself a combustible building) are located in a damp basement where flooding is also a potential issue, and on the second floor, where significant daily temperature fluctuations in the summer result in potentially destructive variance in

relative humidity levels. Although the bulk of the facility's reserve collections are stored offsite, the building in which they are stored is on a floodplain and is not equipped with appropriate heating, cooling, and humidity controls. The acquisition of more appropriate offsite storage would enable the Museum to make still better use of the limited space available to it within the museum building and ensure the long-term survival of the community's collections of historical artifacts.

Unlike the Museum, the Mission Community Archives possesses sufficient environmentally controlled space within its premises for the safe storage of the bulk of its collections (it should be noted that temperature and relative humidity levels required for the preservation of archival materials differ from those required by historical artifacts, archival storage requirements generally being cooler and drier than storage requirements in museums, though constancy in environmental conditions is a consideration shared by both). The storage requirements of the Archives' collection of historic photographs, however, differ from the storage requirements of other components of the Archives' collection.

Given the inherent instability of historic photographs (which have traditionally been produced using chemical processes), archives are increasingly turning to cold storage (i.e. refrigeration) to ensure the long-term survival of their photographic collections (digitization of collections is not a viable alternative for preservation, due to the inherent impermanence of digital media). The Archives estimates a need for a cold storage facility encompassing about 40 cubic feet to accommodate its photographic collections, with additional space being required to accommodate growth in the collection. Such a space could be located in the facility's existing vault, if one set of the current document storage shelving was replaced with compactable shelving. Although a walk-in storage unit might be the preferred solution, some institutions (such as the City of Surrey Archives) have successfully used a series of vertical deep freezers for photographic storage. The purchase of a series of vertical deep freezers would cause less disruption in the archives storage vault and would be more cost effective than the construction of a walk-in deep freeze unit.

In addition to lacking appropriate facilities for the safe, long-term storage of historic photographs, the Mission Community Archives also lacks appropriate space for the storage of non-archival materials, including audio-visual equipment, consumable supplies, and exhibition materials and furniture. Archives staff estimate that the provision of about 180 to 200 square feet of additional storage space would address this need.

6.2.6 Exhibition Space

Neither the Mission Museum, the Mission Community Archives, nor the Mission Arts Council possesses space of sufficient size or quality (not to mention the preparation and workshop space required) to enable them to reach a larger or a broader audience. Their exhibitions are necessarily small and limited in complexity. Further, none of these entities appears to possess the organizational strength required to plan, finance, and develop the sort of highly sophisticated facilities found in larger communities. Having said this, there is potential for the three organizations to jointly use a common, dividable exhibition and programming facility, alternating their exhibitions or presenting them on a collaborative or partnered basis. The 6,000 square foot Reach Museum Gallery in Abbotsford is an example of such a facility, albeit on a much larger scale than would likely be possible or viable in Mission.

In Mission, a shared exhibition facility might encompass 1,500 square feet of exhibition and programming space, with an additional 500 to 700 square feet of support space (for washrooms, administrative space, exhibit preparation, and the storage of display furniture and equipment). Although various locations and configurations are possible, such a facility might be built in conjunction with a studio theatre and studio/instructional space for the visual arts as part of the new civic facility envisioned for the Fraser River waterfront. An alternate location might be the parking lot currently located between the Museum and the Archives (with parking at one-level and the exhibition/programming space at the other level).

6.2.7 Small (150-250 Seat) Studio Theatre

With 702 seats, the Clarke Theatre is one of the largest performing arts venues in the Fraser Valley. Although the theatre enjoys an enviable number of bookings, many of the performances that it accommodates would be far better suited to a smaller venue. The Mission Concert and Recital Society's classical music series is one example of this: the Society's concerts attract audiences ranging in size from 50 to 250 members. With a large stage and a large number of empty seats, performances lack intimacy and warmth, and in some cases, despite the use of acoustical devices, the subtlety of the music is lost up the fly tower. The theatre's management confirm the need for a smaller, purpose-built performance space in the community in the medium to longer term, but note that the rental costs would likely be equivalent to those for the larger, existing facility.

One example of a suitable facility may be the 130-seat Studio Theatre at the Surrey Arts Centre. With compactable, pull-out raked theatre seating, and a fully sprung linoleum floor, the Studio Theatre is a versatile space adaptable to a variety of flat floor uses including: dance, meetings, receptions, banquets, lectures, workshops, and the like. Because it is located within the Surrey Arts Centre and adjacent to the facility's older main stage, users of the Studio Theatre have access to a number of support spaces, including a lobby, washrooms, dressing rooms, a green room, pianos, and audio and lighting equipment. Were a 150 to 250-seat studio theatre to be built in Mission, locating it within the Heritage Park Centre complex and having it managed by Clarke Theatre staff would result in considerable capital and operating efficiencies (than would be the case if it were located elsewhere).

Until such time as the construction of a studio theatre is warranted, performances with smaller audiences will likely continue to use the Clarke Theatre (or just its stage), area churches, and similar venues. The theatre's management has noted that the Heritage Park Centre's "cafetorium" has been upgraded in recent years to make it a more usable space for meetings, lectures, and performances. The cafetorium is now a single-level space and improvements have been made to its sound and lighting systems. Additional improvements could make the space increasingly appealing for performances with smaller audience numbers.

6.2.8 Visual Arts Studio / Instructional / Programming Space

Participants in the public consultation process also pointed toward the need for instructional facilities both for heritage and the visual arts. At present, much of the visual arts instruction in Mission takes place in far from optimum space at the Mission Arts Council's Mission Arts Centre, in community halls, and in the District of Mission's Mission Leisure Centre. A small number of classes take place at the Mission Clay Works Studio. Lack of suitable on site programming space is also a challenge for the Mission Museum (there is no programming space other than the exhibition space).

Purpose-built facilities for visual arts instruction typically possess moderately high ceilings, both natural and artificial light, hard surfaced floors, ample counter space, good ventilation, sinks, and generous storage space. The multipurpose rooms at the Mission Leisure Centre possess some of these qualities but are heavily booked for other programmes at times when arts programmes might be held in them. The specialized classrooms in the Heritage Park Centre, however, are reported by Clarke Theatre and municipal staff as not being heavily booked by community organizations. Low levels of community use of these facilities is reported to be in part to be due to the University of the Fraser Valley and School District making them less available, lack of storage space for community groups, and a perception that the rental costs of Heritage Park Centre facilities are high.

6.2.9 Large Banquet and Exhibition Hall

Several organizations referred to the need for a large banquet space in Mission, which they envisioned as accommodating a range of uses such as conventions, trade shows, and exhibitions, as well as large wedding receptions (such as the large wedding receptions that are a tradition among residents of Punjabi origin and which now take place in communities such as Surrey and Abbotsford). It should be noted that although some municipalities (such as Langley Township) have built large halls capable of holding up to 500 people, these are unusual and that the development of reception facilities (often conjoined with catering facilities) is generally undertaken by the private sector. It would be difficult for the public sector to develop such a facility in Mission in the foreseeable future, given the community's small population base, funding considerations, and a lack of an appropriate number of hotel rooms to serve potential users.

6.3 TRENDS AND BEST PRACTICES

Recognizing that municipalities may have much to learn from experiences in other jurisdictions, the consultants undertook research into trends and best practices in the delivery of services and the provision of facilities in five other communities. The communities researched were determined after consultation with District staff and were chosen on the basis of size similarity to Mission, socio-demographic similarity to Mission, similarity of tax base, and similarity of youth, seniors, or cultural service opportunities. Efforts were also made to locate communities that were contemplating or undertaking services that might be considered leading edge in the sphere of municipal parks, recreation, and culture. Interviews were accordingly conducted with directors or delegated senior staff in Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows, Port Coquitlam, New Westminster, and Langley Township.

6.3.1 A Growing Appetite for Culture

Canadians' – and British Columbians' – appetite for cultural services is growing, whether as participants (creators of cultural products and experiences) or as consumers (audience members or purchasers of other cultural products). Research undertaken by Statistics Canada indicates that the percentage of Canadians participating in cultural activity generally grew between 1992 and 2005, especially with respect to the performing arts, classical music, cinema, videos, music listening, and attendance at festivals, art galleries, museums, and historic sites.

6.3.2 A Broadened Role for Municipal Parks and Recreation

The majority of British Columbia's parks and recreation departments were established in the 1960s and 1970s in response to post war population growth and increased urbanization. The initial focus of such departments was often quite literal, encompassing parks planning, development, and maintenance; and a somewhat narrow view of recreation that focussed largely on physical activity. The first recreation facilities built by the province's parks and recreation departments thus often featured indoor or outdoor swimming pools, ice arenas, gymnasiums, and multipurpose rooms. Recent decades, however, have seen municipal recreation departments taking a greater interest in including cultural activity within their mandates. Many, like Mission, have recently moved to include the word "culture" in their names.

6.3.3 Engagement of Cultural Practitioners within Municipal Parks and Recreation

Levels of cultural services and levels of expertise in cultural services vary considerably between jurisdictions. Indeed, the majority of municipal parks and recreation departments assign responsibility for cultural services to staff with training and experience in other areas of leisure services. A few departments are being proactive in increasing their staffs' expertise in cultural services through training and attendance at specialist conferences and through membership in organizations such as the Creative City Network of Canada. Cultural specialists tend to be found mainly in larger, more urban jurisdictions, such as Vancouver, Richmond, Surrey, and Burnaby. Exceptions exist, however, such as in Port Coquitlam, where cultural specialists have been engaged for over a decade.

6.3.4 Planning for Cultural Services and Facilities

Parks and recreation master plans have long been guiding documents in municipal parks and recreation departments. Such documents generally involve considerable public consultation and serve as road maps for the development of municipal parks and recreation services and facilities for periods encompassing a decade or more. Recognizing that communities' cultural aspects also require specialized planning, many of the province's parks and recreation departments (including Mission's) have commissioned separate cultural master plans. Indeed, a few such departments may have commissioned their second cultural master plan, or may have sought ways to include culture in updates of existing parks and recreation master plans.

6.3.5 Art in Public Places

Recognizing that building awareness of the arts and increasing participation in cultural activity is a prerequisite for building public support for greater municipal involvement in cultural services and facility development, municipalities are increasingly becoming involved in fostering policies and procedures to encourage art in public places. Such programmes can encompass both *public art* (generally commissioned works) and *community art* (art proposed and created by community members, often under the mentorship of professional artists). A few communities (especially those where significant development is occurring) are also requiring developers to devote a percentage of project costs (e.g. 1%) to art in public places programmes.

6.3.6 Facility Development

Although municipal parks and recreation departments have begun to embrace culture as part of their mandates, many have been slow to plan and develop the specialized (and sometimes quite sophisticated) facilities that many cultural activities require. Much of the province's professional and non-professional cultural activity continues to take place in less than optimum spaces such as community halls, church sanctuaries, and multipurpose rooms. The situation is changing, however. Fraser Valley communities such as Surrey, Coquitlam, and Richmond built their initial cultural facilities a decade or more ago. Port Coquitlam's, Maple Ridge's, and Abbotsford's are more recent. A new arts centre is currently under construction in Chilliwack.

Some municipalities (such as Surrey and Coquitlam) have adopted a comprehensive cultural centre model for facility development (with a variety of spaces within a single structure), while others (such as Abbotsford) have adopted a campus approach to facility development. A few jurisdictions, such as Vancouver, have developed a more integrated approach to facility development (the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre being a prime example) where arts activities and traditional recreational services are offered in the same building.

Although part of the cultural spectrum, heritage services and facilities have often been among the last services to receive significant municipal attention. As many museums are operated at arms-length from local government (by not-for-profit societies) and offer modest services in modest buildings, municipalities do not always feel a strong sense of ownership in them. Funding for new museum facilities can be difficult to acquire. The decade-old Campbell River Museum and the three-year-old Surrey Museum are two of the very few new museums built in British Columbia in recent years.

6.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are intended to address the major concerns and areas of interest expressed by the organizations and individuals with whom the consultants met during the data collection phase of the study.

8. That the District work with the Mission Heritage Association and Fraser River Heritage Park user groups to initiate improvements to the park's electrical, water, and staging facilities.
9. That the District work with the Mission Arts Council and the Museum to explore the development of an interim arts and museum facility with shared administrative, exhibition, and programme areas.
10. That the District work with the Mission Archives and Museum to explore the acquisition of more appropriate space for the storage of historical artifacts.
11. That the District work with the Mission District Historical Society to provide a cold storage facility for the collection of historic photographs held by the Mission Community Archives.
12. That the District work with School District No. 75 and the University of Fraser Valley to continue upgrades to the Heritage Park Centre's cafetorium, including the removal of now-redundant steel railings and improvements to the space's sound and lighting systems.
13. That the District work with the private sector and other potential partners to plan and develop a studio theatre and arts instructional and workshop areas, in conjunction with the proposed waterfront Civic Centre, or as an addition to the Heritage Park Centre, or as a component of a downtown revitalization strategy.
14. That the District review the current operating agreement for the Heritage Park Centre in order to ensure increased community use of the facility.
15. That the District initiate discussions with the owners of halls and other programmable spaces in the community to determine the potential of facilitating additional recreational and cultural use within them.

7. PRINCIPLES FOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

PRINCIPLES RELATED TO THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES were mentioned in the Terms of Reference for the project and have been included in this chapter. In preparing this information, the consultants have addressed the importance of these statements for District Council, appointed committees and staff, cost efficiencies, and possible resistance to unsubstantiated demand versus need. (It should be noted that the principles, service priorities, and funding were discussed in interviews with community groups, and with other jurisdictions researched. Insights may also be drawn from previous planning documents.)

7.1 RECOMMENDED PRINCIPLES

Facilities developed and enhanced for use by youth, seniors, and cultural purposes should:

- **Address Demonstrated Needs.** There is a difference between perceived need and actual need, and public demand and perceived need. When new or improved facilities are being discussed it is of great importance to ensure that need is thoroughly explored prior to decisions being made.
- **Promote Public Health and Safety / Minimize Barriers.** It is important to ensure that public health and safety are considered as a high priority in determining facility needs and requirements for all age and interest groups. Consideration should also be given to the needs of individuals requiring assistance, including those with barriers of various kinds.
- **Ensure Financial Capability.** The District should ensure that everything is done to ensure that the District's financial capacity is appropriate to build and operate facilities, and that all sources of potential funding and/or partnerships are explored. Operating costs, in particular, are in the long run far more significant than capital costs, but can be less than the alternative (health care, referral of offenders to justice system, vandalism, and the like).
- **Promote Balance in Services and Facilities.** There is a history of municipalities supporting sport to the detriment of culture, and a need to be fair in facilitating services and facilities for all activities and services in the community. It must be remembered, as well, that all ages within a community should have appropriate opportunities to access public amenities.
- **Focus on Benefits to the Community more than the Individual.** A key role of public investment in leisure services is to promote community development. The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association has focused a great deal of effort on the values and benefits of "recreation" in recent years, and many communities promote benefits in the marketing of leisure services.
- **Develop Facilities in Partnership with other Jurisdictions and the Private Sector.** This is not necessarily the easiest principle to follow, however, there are numerous successful examples in British Columbia and Canada of agreement between local governments, and agreements with non-profit and private agencies.
- **Complement, rather than Compete with existing Facilities.** Maximizing the use of existing facilities is more cost efficient than duplicating them - but recognize that existing facilities may not be capable of meeting all community needs.

- **Foster and Protect the Environment and Address Economic Sustainability.** It is important to ensure, to the extent possible, that every effort is made to ensure that all municipal facilities are built to ensure the greatest protection of the natural environment.
- **Enhance a sense of Social Connectivity / Support Cross Cultural and Intergenerational Connections.** It is important to make every effort to prevent the development of “solitudes” in society, fostering awareness and understanding among diverse populations, and creating a more cohesive society.
- **Be Multi-purpose where appropriate, Dedicated where appropriate, Purpose-built where appropriate.** Recognize that multipurpose spaces are cost efficient to build and operate, recognize that dedicated spaces may be appropriate for some uses, and recognize that in some cases, purpose-built facilities are the only ones that can meet a particular need (e.g. youth lounge, theatre, archives).
- **Emphasize Community Input.** There is no question that public input, if undertaken in a thorough and thoughtful manner, helps to ensure that facilities meet community needs and are treated with respect by local residents.
- **Promoting Effective and Efficient Services.** This tends to be a design consideration and suggests that architects and planners with appropriate experience with community facilities should work with staff and the community to ensure that effective research is done and best practices are explored prior to the initiation of construction.
- **Provide Geographically Equitable Services wherever possible.** Some services are best delivered at the municipal level (e.g. the most specialized, such as museum and archives, or an aquatic centre) and that others can be delivered at the neighbourhood level, where numbers warrant (e.g. many dry floor activities for children and families).
- **Support Community Organizations in Achieving their Goals.** Facilities should do more than provide a venue for municipally sponsored activities, they should be available for use by community organizations, providing their activities meet municipally approved priorities.
- **Promote Voluntarism among Community Members.** Voluntarism builds a sense of community, builds skills and capacity within individuals and organizations; reduces operational costs to the municipality, and enhances the community as a place to live and work.

8. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

THIS CHAPTER INCLUDES A LISTING OF EACH OF the recommendations included in earlier chapters of the report. In total, there are 15 recommendations, 3 of which are related to youth, 4 of which are related to seniors, and 8 of which are related to cultural amenities and services.

The recommendations are presented in summary form, along with the following information.

- **Annual Cost** Refers to the annual operating cost of addressing each recommendation; in some cases, there is no cost associated with a recommendation
 - Low (up to \$5,000 / year)
 - Medium (\$5,000 to \$20,000 / year)
 - High (more than \$20,000 / year)
- **Size of Building / Improvement** Estimates are based on approximate square footage
- **One Time Capital Cost** Refers to the cost (in 2010 dollars) of improving an existing facility, or building a new facility
- **Cost / Square Foot** Refers to the cost of construction (in 2010 dollars)
- **Timeline** There are three periods of time in which the recommendations should be implemented:
 - Short term (year one to year three)
 - Medium term (year four to year seven)
 - Long term (year eight and beyond)

A summary of each of the recommendations is presented on the following page.

Please note. The consultants have suggested the development of an interim arts and museum facility, with an estimated renovation cost of \$2-300 K. This suggests that an existing facility be improved, as opposed to building a new facility. While a new building would be preferable, the cost would be significantly higher.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

NO.	RECOMMENDATION	ANNUAL OPERATING COST	SIZE OF BUILDING / IMPROVEMENT	COST / SQ.FT.	CAPITAL COST	TIMELINE
	YOUTH					
1	Increase operating hours for youth at the Leisure Centre	Medium	NA	NA	NA	Short
2	Increase activity space for youth at the Leisure Centre	Low	800 sq.ft.	\$ 400	\$ 320,000	Short
3	Replace skate park / add sport court	Low	Various options	Depends on design	\$ 525-75K	Medium
	SENIORS					
4	Ensure dedicated space for seniors at MCAC	Low	No expansion	NA	NA	Short
5	Improve entrance/ensure multi generational use of MCAC	Low	No expansion	NA	\$ 2,000	Short
6	Improve outdoor space adjacent to MCAC	Low	NA	NA	\$ 10,000	Short
7	Build one or more open air shelters in District Parks	Low	400 sq. ft.	NA	\$ 25-30K	Short
	CULTURE					
8	Initiate improvements to Fraser River Heritage Park utilities/stage	Low	No expansion	NA	\$ 25,000	Short
9	Explore development of interim arts/museum facility	High	2,500 sq. ft.	\$ 500	\$ 2-300K	Short
10	Explore acquisition of space (rental) for storage of artifacts	Medium	2,000 sq. ft.	NA	\$2,000	Short
11	Provide cold storage facility for collection of historic photos	Medium	40 cubic feet.	NA	\$ 25,000	Short
12	Upgrade Heritage Park Centre cafetorium	Medium	No expansion	NA	\$ 25,000	Short
13	Plan and develop a studio theatre & arts instructional/workshop area	High	7,500 sq. ft.	\$ 600	\$ 4.5M	Long
14	Review current operating agreement for HPC to increase community use	Low	NA	NA	NA	Short
15	Explore alternate programming space with local halls/buildings	Low	NA	NA	NA	Short

APPENDICES

- "A" Notes from Community Consultation Process
- "B" Notes from Interviews with Other Jurisdictions (Trends and Best Practices)
- "C" Mission Facility Inventory

Appendix "A"
Notes from Community Consultation Process

(Note: The comments provided by representatives of community organizations interviewed may in some cases reflect the views of single representatives rather than of the organization as a whole)

Mission Youth Unlimited

Current Services

- Division of Youth for Christ
- Need to raise their own support.
- At Station X downtown they have a youth drop in every Monday from 6-10pm where they watch videos, do music, art, have presentations
- Also offer a Parent and Teen Retreat in a home of a family – try to do this twice a month where they work on communication and trust through activities such as kayaking, rock climbing. The families pay what they can to participate.
- They do EPIC youth adventures in the summer – MYU shares their van with Mission youth services in partnership
- Help with the Skate Board Competition with P&R
- They partner a lot by offering staffing resources and the van
- They are in the schools doing coaching, drop-in floor hockey, restorative justice program
- MYU assists the Ministry of Family development by offering one to one counselling to young people

Facilities Used

- Address is 33129 North Rail Way – have been in the building since 2001
- Office in Station X as well the youth drop in is held in the front part of the building
- Storage is in the office as well as the snack bar. They pull out video games and TV
- Basement of home for Parent and Teen adventures
- Borrow space from P&R and schools
- Work very collaboratively with many groups

Future Facility Needs

- MYU would like to grow but because of funds and staffing size it is not possible. Currently with the number of staff and youth programs and attendance they do not have future facility needs, only if they get the funds to grow they will need more space.
- Could expand at Station X on other nights but staffing is an issue
- Space is currently good Just renewed the lease for 3 more years

Facilities in Other Communities

- The Greg Moore Youth Centre. – recognizes the municipality is much larger than Mission but loves the facility and all that it has to offer

Principles for Facility Development and Further Comments

- Even more partnering
- More funding would allow more staff for more programming
- Mission needs more youth focused facilities such as a bowling alley, laser tag
- Facility needs to be near a bus route that runs regularly
- Skate park needs to be rebuilt it is old and needs a face lift
- Not a lot of places to go and just hang out for youth
- A place that is safe, supervised maybe a coffee bar

Mission Aboriginal Friendship Centre

Current Services

- Youth Centre – open to ages 10-29 years, Tuesday to Saturdays 12pm – 8pm
- Funded by Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centre Program
- Has a pool table, darts, Nintendo, Wii, Big Screen TV, Movie nights, Youth Council Meets monthly most programs listed are offered on a drop in basis
- They offer Life Skill courses
- Video workshop services
- Cultural Nights – drumming, history, herbs, songs and stories
- Traditional Dance/Singing and Drama
- Guitar Lessons (registered)
- Counselling Services
- Self Defence courses, Martial Arts and Mixed Martial Arts Training
- Youth Dances once a month. At 4pm they do youth counselling then the dance is from 7pm-Midnight – 45-50 youth attend
- Youth do not need to be aboriginal to attend any activities, most active at the centre are teenage girls, 12-20 youth attend a day. No distinction between any cultural group that attends just gender.

Facilities Used

- 33150 1st Avenue
- All programs are hosted in their building
- Youth Centre is downstairs, one office, one music room, functions and martial arts take place in the main hall which is a very large room, has it own separate entrance
- Currently do not have any partnerships with the district

Future Facility Needs

- If there was a more regular attendance in youth they may need more space
- Currently not needing any more space or facilities

Facilities in Other Communities

- Loves the Mission Leisure Centre.

Principles for Facility Development and Further Comments

- A clear policy that drugs and alcohol will not be tolerated
- Violence unacceptable

Fraser House

Current Services

- Drug and Alcohol Prevention Organization
- Funded by Fraser Health
- Have been operating for 22 years
- Offers one on one counselling, group and psycho educational workshops – all counselling is free
- They do prevention work in the schools grades, 4, 6, 7,8, 9, 10, in the community by offering forums for the public to attend, in their office they do one on one counselling and have pizza nights to draw in the younger crowd
- They do parent education

Facilities Used

- Located at 33063 4th Ave - downtown in an old house. The bedrooms were converted into offices and meeting rooms
- They have a kitchen
- They have access to gyms in the schools
- Used to do Pizza nights in the community centre.
- They do share resources with P&R partnering together for the youth summer out trips. Fraser house offers the youth, MY offers the van and staff and P& R offers insurance, registration

Future Facility Needs

- Currently their facility needs are covered
- This organization feels youth are asking for places to hang out that are safe and supervised such as a bowling alley and all ages club-a club where young people can go and listen to music, dance if they want, play pool, socialize get special drinks that are non-alcoholic, and appetizers at a reasonable price. Lights are dimmed and the atmosphere is adult oriented.

Facilities in Other Communities

- Greg Moore Youth Centre but recognizes they are a much larger municipality

Principles for Facility Development and Further Comments

- Facility needs to be a good location where all teens can access easily
- Transportation is an issue for the youth in Mission – currently location of the Rec Centre is not on a bus route
- If you travel 15 min east or West from the Leisure Centre, these youth can not access the community centre.
- Idea would be to have a bus that drops kids off twice, once after school and once after dinner and then 2 pick up times just before dinner and then again around 8pm.

Xyolhemeylh Child and Family Services

Current Services

- Work with Child Protection and Child Removal, they are an extension of the Ministry
- Work on partnerships and relationship building with other organizations
- Have been in existence for 16years
- They do parenting programs
- In the summer they run three different camps for the youth – Puberty camps- about growing up and their culture and heritage, do a family conference and then a large conference for everyone

Facilities Used

- Located in St Mary's old residential school
- They have offices, social workers work out of this building, youth workers. This is not a public building
- Two reservations the staff from Xyolhemeylh travel to do work right on the reservation. Due to transportation issues for clients Leq'a,mel and Scowlitz

Future Facility Needs

- Not in need of any new facilities because of partnerships

Facilities in Other Communities

- The Reach because of the cultural aspect, interpretive whether First Nations or not, traveling exhibition

Principles for Facility Development and Further Comments

- Transportation a barrier
- Inclusiveness of First Nations
- Reaching First Nations go out and ask them how they wish to be included
- Need more cultural aspect

Aboriginal Culture and Liaison Coordinator

Siwal Siwes Aboriginal Department

Mission Public Schools

Current Services

- Offer support in the schools
- The BC Government targeted Aboriginal Students - offering mental health counselling such as anger management, mentoring by partnering with Big Brothers/Friendship Centre.
- Do liaison work in and outside of the school for the child including transportation if needed

Current Facilities

- Erica is a Coordinator of the department for all the schools both elementary and secondary school.
- They run cultural programs such as drum making, moccasin making after school, weekends and pro-d-days

Future Facility Needs

- Need a Pow Wow Hall – in the past they have held this cultural event in the ice arena there were 700 in attendance.
- Need a long house/smoke house

- Would love to see something more for youth, something during the day. The kids she is involved with mostly are 11, 12, 13 – those who are transitioning from grade 7 to grade 8. One of the hardest transitions for children. If nothing to go to in the day maybe something that could be brought to them in the day time.

Facilities in Other Communities

- Chilliwack has a smoke house downtown
- Hatzic Rock – The Interpretive Centre on Hatzic Lake

Principles for Facility Development

- Fee for service is hard to manage
- Need in-kind services for projects/partnership with no cost attached
- Babysitting for aboriginal parents
- Aboriginal people do not feel a part of the community – need to feel connected, cost reduces/free programming
- Need to offer small steps of First Nations culture – cultural person/carver/resident

Mission Community Services Society

Current Services

- ARC Youth Centre
- The purpose of the centre is to provide a safe place that will meet the social needs of the young people of Mission, while providing resources that promote positive growth.
- Target population is youth between the ages of eleven and sixteen years (ages may vary for specific programs).
- The Youth Centre (ARC) provides an alcohol and drug-free environment, positive entertainment and activities, life skills programs and alternate recreational activities. The centre is located on the corner of 2nd Ave and James St.
- Programs are offered every evening from 6:30pm-8:30 pm and include such programs as Girls Night Out, G.E.N.I.U.S., Star G.E.N.I.U.S., Guys Night Out, and MORE. Registration is available through MCSS.
- After-school programs include *Youth Network Computer Drop-in*, Mon/Thurs 3:00pm-5:00pm

Current Facilities

- Currently out of the church basement , Saint Anglican Church
- With new ED and staff coming on board will revamp the youth programming and space

Future Facility Needs

- MCSS is closing the ARC in the church basement and bringing it the main office. Currently the organization pays for rent on the use of the church. The idea is to omit rent, lower the costs
- There is a house on the MCSS property and the organization will give it to the Youth Centre services

Facilities in Other Communities

- Friendship Centre

Principles for Facility Development

- Doing business differently to free up funding
- Partnerships are necessary/there is great potential
- Need come up with more efficient ways of doing things/space/cost of space and utilities
- Would like to open the ARC until 8pm during weekdays and be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 6-10pm

Mission Parks, Recreation and Culture **Children and Youth Staff**

Current Services

Club Kids Program Grade 1 to 7

- Funded by the Ministry of Child and Family Development, P&R provides the staff
- Recreation based after school program in 8 elementary schools, participation, leadership, play
- Partnered with the school board – they offered the space
- Older youth mentor the younger youth

Peer 10-12

- 10-12 year olds, focus in recreational leadership
- Held at the Mission Leisure Centre.
- The children need to get to the program on their own – challenging
- Transportation a problem

Current Facilities

- The program has use of multipurpose space, gym, music room, playground outside
- School provides great storage for all the programs in each school

Future Facility Needs

- Schools work great, licensing is restricting – limited because of the element of risk. Purchased rolling bulletin boards to protect some areas in the school
- Peer 10-12 works well in the Centre as it offers a variety areas in the facility for the youth to participate – Gym, Fitness area, swimming, skating, tennis, outdoor play space.
- Having a Van to pick up the children after school and bring them to the program would be great.

Facilities in Other Communities

- Have not seen any other facilities

Principles for Facility Development

- Transportation for youth to get to and from the Mission facility

Mission Parks, Parks, Recreation and Culture Program Staff

Current Services

- At the Mission Leisure Centre the youth served are from the ages 12-18 years
- All youth are welcome
- The centre offers swimming, skating (Friday night is youth skate only), youth allowed in the weight room M-F 3:30-5:30pm only. All activities other than the youth lounge cost money to use. Open gym on Friday nights are included in lounge drop in (free to use this night only).
- Youth lounge is very popular, it is free, open Tues-Thurs 3:30-9:00pm one staff on, Fri 3:30-10pm 2 staff on
- Skate park – lit at night
- Offer registered programs – dance, floor hockey, golf

Current Facilities

- Dedicated youth space in the Leisure Centre

Future Facility Needs – in priority

- Skate park needs improving – more advanced, larger space
- Open more hours – Saturdays **this would be a preference over larger space
- Bigger youth space for the lounge
- Have used the lobby in the past for events and art displays/used racquet ball court A space for cultural performances/displays

Facilities in Other Communities

- Abbotsford Youth Centre – it is new and has new furniture/big screen TV space/very spacious
- Maple Ridge Youth Centre. – has indoor rock climbing and indoor skate boarding

Principles for Facility Development

- Separate entrance would be nice but not a major issue
- Longer hours and more days open for the youth lounge
- Hard surface Flooring vs. carpet (kids can not bring in food)
- More computers
- Staff area so storage and security is better
- Coat rack for kids to hang jackets
- Lockers for youth to feel their things are safe
- Skateboard lock up
- Bigger space needed for the ability to have two different activities i.e. Movie and pool

Mission Parks, Recreation and Culture Staff

Future Facility Needs

- More space for the youth would be great. Creating their own entrance. Using the staff parking as space for the youth to have a lit outdoor space, Basket Ball etc. Social recreation should be seen as a priority for the age group of 14 years and up. The concept of “hanging out” is much more popular than planned activities for this age group.

Facilities in Other Communities

- PLAY Station is ideal for the youth. Able to access schools and we should be using them more from afterschool into the evening. Why build infrastructure when already available through the schools. Need to start an agreement. Heritage Park School-this is a community school. Gym is available and open 7-days a week.

Principles for Facility Development and Further Comments

- Important that youth are aware they are welcome in the Centre but it is not a right to be in the Centre.
- Good behaviour is required
- Kids hanging around need a place to go
- It is important that the youth have people they can trust and are consistent in their life - staff

Mission Parks, Recreation & Culture Youth Participants

In attendance: There were 17 young people in attendance, represented by ½ female and ½ male. Ages were ranging from 9-17. Average age was 12 years old. One youth staff member in attendance.

1. When asked the question: how many of you have been to another youth location where young people hangout and you absolutely loved what you saw, liked and/or participated in? The response was zero. The group was provided ideas of places they may have visited but not one youth could provide feedback in this area.

2. What do you the youth like about coming to the Mission Youth Lounge or being involved with Mission Parks, Recreation and Culture?

- The use of the squash and racquet court for free
- Movie nights on Friday nights
- The pool table
- The fact the youth do not have to pay
- Computer usage
- The neon lights
- The mural
- The Wii
- On- line radio – music all the time
- Lots of activities in the summer to get involved in
- The staff
- The youth loved the basketball shoot and greatly miss it. They hope a new one is purchased as it is popular with the youth

3. What do you the youth dislike or wish was different at the Mission Youth Lounge or with the Mission Parks, Recreation and Culture?

- The Mission Youth Lounge is not open late enough
- The MYL needs to be open more days
- Our own entrance and exit
- An area where we enter the MYL but we have a field or basketball court close by so we can still be outdoors and not miss what is going on inside
- The MYL is too small, need more space for playing games and more space for hanging out
- It would be great to have a girls only section
- The rules are pretty rigid
- The MYL needs more computers, most of the time one out of two computers are out of order
- Colours of the walls could be different.
- Make the youth area 12 years and older, be tight on this rule
- Better food choices at the concession
- The food rule is hard, youth would like to be able to have food in the youth room
- The screen and projector for movies are great. The youth miss having just a TV with cable option to come and just watch TV somewhere other than home
- Wii is fun but other game ideas would be XBOX 360, offers more variety and other options other than just Wii.

4. What do you the youth think could be done to improve, solve some of the concerns be creative about the concerns you have raised about things that you dislike or wish was different?

- What seemed to be a theme is when something is offered or provided it is very exciting to the youth and can last a while before they need something new and different again
- Add in space above the Youth Centre. The space the Mission Leisure Centre used to be a racquet ball court therefore it is a possibility to add a second level with stairs going up from the bottom where the games are to the lounging area
- Take on the squash court next door to increase the space.
- Put in a Juke box so the kids have the option of their music rather than it coming from the radio
- Youth liked the billiard hall space and offerings, food and play in the same space with tables to sit at
- More seating options including bean bag chairs
- Add a 'bowl' to the skate park
- A games table where you can play cards or chess or checkers at
- Stand alone games such as a pinball machine/game

4. Program offering ideas

- Hair cuts for girls
- More theme nights such as "80's" night
- Have a recreational sports team – such as touch football, floor hockey, soccer, all sports if possible
- Karaoke nights
- Laser tag
- Jam sessions
- Bowling
- Band night

Recommendations:

- Purchases need to be of quality due to the usage and the user.
- Side door entrance/back gated area/lit space/field access

MISSION

FACILITIES FOR YOUTH

Name of Facility	Description of Facility & Uses	Users	Owner	Operator	Dedicated/Non-Dedicated
Mission Leisure Centre Youth Lounge	Youth Lounge, used to be a racquet ball court. Equipped with pool table, couches, 2 computers, big screen television, office desk.	Youth aged 12 to 18 years	District of Mission	Mission Parks, Recreation and Culture	Dedicated Youth space
Mission Leisure Centre (multipurpose rooms, arena, and pool)	A community centre built and programmed to accommodate registered and drop-in programs for all ages	All ages welcome to use all spaces. Youth lounge is dedicated for youth only.	District of Mission	Mission Parks, Recreation and Cultural Department	Centre is Non-dedicated. Youth space is dedicated
Elementary School Gymnasiums	Classroom and gym space in elementary schools in the school district used for the District of Mission's <i>Club Kids</i> Program	Children in Grades 1 to 7	Mission School District	Mission Parks, Recreation and Culture	Non-dedicated Youth space
Station X Street Centre	A location that hosts space for Youth Unlimited, a programme that offers a youth a safe place to hangout, watch movies, play games, eat some food and meet new friends.	Youth aged 11 to 21 years	Union Gospel Mission	Youth Unlimited	Dedicated Youth space
Mission Aboriginal Friendship Centre Youth Centre and Activities	The Youth Centre plans activities on a monthly basis. Some of the activities are: Movie Night, Sports Outing, Culture Night/Potluck, Birthday Celebrations, Pool Tournaments, Camping Trips (July and August only), and Picnics.	Youth aged 10 to 18 years	Mission Aboriginal Friendship Centre	Mission Aboriginal Friendship Centre, an organization that operates with a board of directors and staff, who work closely together to carry out their shared vision.	Dedicated Youth centre
Mission Community Services Society ARC – Adolescent Resource Centre	Partners with All Saints Anglican Church to provide youth space. A safe place that aims to meet the social needs of young people ages 11 to 16 in Mission, while providing resources that promote positive growth. Offers an alcohol- and drug-free environment, positive entertainment and activities, life skills program, and alternate recreational activities. Open Monday to Thursday; most programs run 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm with some afternoon hours.	Youth aged 11 to 16 yrs	Mission Community Services Society	Mission Community Services Society (a registered non-profit society, a fully independent organization with its own board of directors and staff, who provide social services to people of all ages)	Non-Dedicated

Mission Community Services

Future Facility Needs

The Play Station would be suitable for a senior's Centre.

Facility needs more space to have classroom time, large activity going on in the hall, lounge space for coffee and a muffin and a space to serve lunch, it is still a fire hall. Need to look at the projection of seniors.

Facilities in Other Communities

- They liked Coquitlam – has a large kitchen, dining area, computer lab, wood working shop, large hall for rent and usage, likes the model that district staff run it and have a senior's advisory. Yes the seniors should share the space when not using it. The Sr's group should not run it because that is too much ownership. District need to run

Principles for Facility Development

- Need to ensure accessibility, more benches around the area to sit after walking
- Parking is a problem, need to have enough, spaces need to be large
- Need to ensure there is a large loading and unloading space near the door
- For different cultures such as indo Canadian need to offer covered space outside in the parks, high population are outside
- Currently bus access is very limited
- Need to look at sharing and partnering more

Lifetime Learning Centre Society

Current Services

- Is a registered non-profit society established in 1986
- Lifetime learning programs enhance quality of life, improve general knowledge and provide opportunities for the citizens of Mission to remain mentally and physically active through active living and health and healthy aging

Current Facilities

- All programs are held at the Lifetime Learning Centre located in the old Fraserview Elementary school, 32444 Seventh Avenue

Future Facility Needs

- Would like to have use of the gym in the school

Facilities in Other Communities

- Port Coquitlam, Wilson Centre – liked that this facility was dedicated space for seniors
- Coquitlam, Dog Wood – provided enough rooms for so many activities such as woodworking in one room and a computer room and a sewing room etc.
- Maple Ridge Senior Centre – this is an excellent example of a one stop shop for senior resources. Senior living above centre.
- West Vancouver – brand new facility dedicated to seniors.

Principles for Facility Development

- Fraserview location is excellent location for a senior's Centre.

Mission Senior Centre Association

Current Services

- The goal is to establish a home for senior's activities, that will benefit all seniors in Mission

Current Facilities

- The District of Mission has offered the Play Station as a place for seniors to host their activities and meetings
- This group would like the city to give them a piece of land such as the play Station and they will do all the fundraising necessary to build the building for a senior Centre and seniors housing. They would also like to own and manage this building. They feel they will need operational funding from the city and tax forgiveness.

Future Facility Needs

- A senior centre should ideally be located near retail, health and recreation facilities, including parks. It should be at a bus stop and have adequate parking. It is essential to address the broad planning principles to be observed when making recommendations for locations of a senior's facility. The use of suitable publicly owned property for a centre is reasonable economic expectations.
- Rooms needed for the following: meetings, offices and storage areas, volunteer lounge, rooms for the following clubs to meet: book ,poetry, quilting, stamp, lawn and bowling, photography, cycling, walking, hiking. Golf. Gardening, bridge, computer room, games room for billiards/snooker, table tennis, darts, exercise room, dance classes and socials, language class, ESL, Spanish, French, German, Food Court/Cafeteria

Facilities in Other Communities

- Port Coquitlam, Wilson Centre
- Coquitlam, Dog Wood
- Maple Ridge Senior Centre
- West Vancouver

Principles for Facility Development

- A centre that is accessible and affordable
- Activities that promote health and wellness
- A location where information and resources are available to seniors
- Seniors have a sense of belonging
- Place to hang out and just feel good
- Plenty of storage of all the different groups involved

New Horizon Lawn and Bowling

Current Services

- This group offers carpet bowling all year around
- In the summer they offer lawn bowling too
- This not just a senior's club, but it is primarily seniors that attend
- There is an executive that advises, 10 directors all volunteer
- The membership is down, approx 25 members
- The municipality owns the land
- This group pays the fire, liability insurance, hydro, electricity, gas
- This group rents this building about 8-10 times a year and collects the revenue such events as B-Day parties, anniversaries up to 60 people in the rental.

Current Facilities

- The building is like a portable, location is 7560 Hurd St, Mission
- It has a wide open room, a kitchen, bathrooms, storage, good parking and good lighting

Future Facility Needs

- Currently the group is satisfied with the location and the building. However if they grow their membership the space will be too small.

Facilities in Other Communities

- Maple Ridge, Port Coquitlam, Coquitlam

Principles for Facility Development and further comments

- Hope to see this facility used more

Mission Community Services Society

Current Services

- Friendly visitor program – seniors visiting seniors in their home
- Meals on Wheels 3 days a week
- Congregate Meals
- Tuck shop
- Senior Connection – info referral , help them fill out forms, govt benefits, income tax clinic, medical transportation, shopping program, banking help, group shopping

Current Facilities

- CSS has five buildings all over Mission
- For the seniors they have space for meetings, a large room, 2 staff offices, storage for inventory for Tuck shop

Future Facility Needs

- This organization is currently reviewing this – rent is a cost
- Need to look at sharing space
- Partnering with a church, school, senior residences
- Considering a Senior Centre as a one stop shop for senior resource information
- Mission needs to offer a place for seniors to go. They need a place to belong to, the older population have a plan and that is to be with people alike

Facilities in Other Communities

- Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, Port Coquitlam and West Vancouver
- Port Coquitlam – has their own kitchen for functions and rentals
- As a community we are great at recruiting the younger generation and they are very responsive.

Principles for Facility Development

- Senior's need ownership – ie. a senior's advisory board
- Parking
- Loading and unloading zones, enough parking spaces for handicap
- Transportation needs to be improved in Mission
- Ability to walk to and from the Centre
- Storage is of great need/it is un-billable space
- Ensure there is not a union issue i.e. bringing in volunteers/need to be okay with seniors delivering service
- Sustainability of operating
- Fund it appropriately city 60%/\$0% fee for service

Senior Advisory Committee to the District on issues related to seniors

Current Services

- A strategic plan for seniors was completed for Mission and senior centre was one of the top three, transportation is one of the issues as well as age friendly communities, housing services. The seniors have hosted forums and have written letters
- Many of the senior groups are represented on this committee, they meet and do updates of each group, they do recommendations to the district

Future Facility Needs

- Senior centre is what this group would like to see in Mission
- A need for programs and services is crucial vs. a facility

Mission Parks, Recreation and Culture Program Staff

Current Services

- Have attempted to add registered programs for the defined age of a senior in Mission 50 years and up. Mission P&R have experienced a lack of interest by the defined age of the senior population for registered programs. The younger age choose to register in adult programs or do general programming and drop in at the facility.
- The older senior population prefer their own drop in programs away from the leisure Centre in their own space for older seniors.
- Have hosted a successful registered bridge lesson course in the evenings, adults welcome too
- Senior's complain prices are too high at the leisure Centre., need seniors pricing and discounts
- P&R feel they are not promoting enough

Current Facilities

- The senior's have use of the Play Station on a regular basis for their programs
- The pool offers senior's early bird swimming
- Seniors enjoy the weight room

Future Facility Needs – in priority

- They need a social space that they can just enjoy relaxing have a snack, coffee, lunch

Facilities in Other Communities

- Coquitlam – Dogwood facility – separate building but close to all the other Centres so they still feel included. They have their lunch's daily and separate meeting rooms.

Principles for Facility Development

- Seniors like to have their own space and do activities on their own time
- Wheelchair accessible
- Storage is a big issue
- Kitchen space
- Comfortable environment with couches/lounge
- The ability to control the heat
- Private/public partnership lunches – available to the public
- Parking needs to be addressed – ensure large spaces and good lighting for safety

Mission Parks, Recreation and Culture Staff

Current Services

- MCSA is a group that only meets at the Play Station
- OAP only meets
- Bridge-one day a week
- Ray Johnson a senior/past Legion member – runs the following programs; bingo – 1 day, crib 2 days a week and lunch, line dancing
- Seniors communicate their facility needs through Booking Clerk at leisure ct.
- Wendy meets with the group regularly, traditionally seniors program themselves

Current Facilities

- New Horizons Club
- Play Station-seniors pay 50% of community rate
- Leisure Centre. – water aerobics, swim time
- The Play Station is getting a sign on the front of the building 'Senior Activity Centre', \$25,000 is being dedicated to the Play Station to create a storage room for each group to have their own locked space, and build a larger kitchen, could get a commercial dishwasher but not stove and there will be lots of refrigeration

Future Facility Needs

- Need a place to gather
- Socialize and meet others
- If they could attract more seniors out during the day they could have more time in the Play Station
- Offer the office so the seniors can use as a resource Centre, central phone resource
- Currently have the two civic staff that work out of two spaces in the Play Station moved somewhere else and then this would free up a small office and a small classroom

Facilities in Other Communities

- In Mission there is a government building on 7th Avenue that maybe needs to be looked at and considered

Principles for Facility Development

- Currently no money
- Unfortunately it is not a number one priority
- Need to consider the tax base
- Do not have a great commercial tax base
- Residential tax base
- Need to look at how Mission is growing
- There is new senior's housing built. This group has been invited to come and do all their programs out of their building and work in partnership.
- They do not want to go as they will not have the control
- This group can help but can not be left alone to assume all responsibility
- Seniors do not believe the new Civic Centre will be built in their time and they do not want to be inside this building, do not like elevators and underground parking

Business, Dance, and Lifetime Learning Representatives

Fraser Valley Academy of Dance Arts Ltd.

Current Services

Instruction:

- Like most dance studios, the organization is privately owned business
- Instruction in various forms of dance, including: classical ballet, contemporary dance, lyrical dance, jazz dance, hip hop, musical theatre for students from age 3 to adults.
- Population served is 15% preschoolers, 40% elementary school students, 35% secondary school students, 10% adults

Presentations and Performances:

- Annual production of Nutcracker at Clarke Theatre (1 performance for elementary school students, plus 3 public performances), 75% of house is always filled
- End of year junior and senior student shows (story-based productions, not the typical recital)
- Participates in Celebration for Community special event
- Etudes: mini-performances on request, in the community
- Backing out of the dance competitions typical of other dance schools in the region, as they take too much work, and organization prefers to treat dance as an art, not as a competitive activity.
- Offers 2 to 3 annual scholarships for financially challenged students

Facilities Used

Dance Studios:

- Has own leased premises in downtown Mission, in the old Masonic Hall, comprising 2 studio spaces with sprung floors, each up to 2,000 square feet in area
- Each studio can hold a maximum of 20 students, though 18 is preferable, 12 for younger students (figures are based on optimum class size by age group)
- Services are limited by the number of studio spaces available to the school
- A multi-site operation would not be efficient or promote relationships with families
- The school has designed a building with 4 studios, but financing has yet to be finalized

Clarke Theatre:

- Also uses Clarke Theatre for Nutcracker and year end performances
- The facility is deemed excellent, with optimal stage and back of house facilities, access to other school spaces (dance studio and band room) is valued. Rows 1 to 10, however, have sight line issues, the floor being more flat than raked

Lifetime Learning Centre Society

Current Services

- Society promotes active living and healthy aging for older adults and others by providing opportunities to continue their intellectual pursuits through community and general interest adult education and wellness programmes
- Programmes include community forums, educational lectures, field trips, fitness/health/wellness programmes (including peer support), aural histories, arts and heritage programmes

- Society is also an advocate for older adults in the community
- Programmes are provided on a fee for service basis, in addition to modest annual membership fees

Facilities Used

Lifetime Learning Centre:

- Recently moved from space in a church to the former Fraserview Elementary School, on 7th Avenue
- Currently has use of 2 classrooms and library, but would like access to gymnasium for physical activities (currently used for School District storage)
- One of the classrooms houses office space
- The classroom used for programmes has a capacity of about 30
- The Centre has a 2 ½ year lease at the school as the School District may need to reopen the school at some time in the future

Carrington House

- Some of the Society's programmes are offered at Carrington House (32679 6th Avenue), a three-floor "retirement community" complex for seniors
- Locating programmes at the facility makes them more accessible to less mobile seniors in the community

Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce

Current Services

- The Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce supports entrepreneurs in their efforts to partner in business-related education, communication and representation.
- Its monthly meetings permit members to network, and include talks on business by guest speakers
- The Chamber's "Business After Business" programme provides exposure through an open house format to businesses seeking to improve their profiles and to link with other businesses
- The Chamber's main involvement in cultural activity is its organization of the annual Candlelight Parade, held at night, outdoors, in December

Facilities Used

Mission Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Centre

- 2-storey building east of downtown Mission on Highway 7
- Houses Chamber offices and visitor information centre

Future Facility Needs

Lifetime Learning

- Access to gymnasium at Fraserview Elementary School (for osteo fit and other classes involving physical activity for seniors)

Fraser Valley Academy of Dance Arts

- 2 additional dance studios, each up to 2,000 sq. ft., at same site as existing facility, are desirable.

- Portable stage for dance activities (sprung modular units transportable to various community venues)

Chamber of Commerce

- Meeting space/black box theatre with retractable seating for audience of 250
- Meeting/instructional/seminar space about 1,000 square feet, possibly attached to small theatre space above
- Ballroom/meeting halls space to accommodate large assemblies, receptions, public meetings, and trade shows (look at Vancouver's Italian Cultural Centre model, Punjabi wedding halls, consider Public-Private Partnership model for development)

Principles for Facility Development and Further Comments

- Recognize education, health and safety of community must receive priority in public spending
- District can borrow on long-term basis for large capital projects
- District should endeavour to address community well-being and health and focus on prevention
- Facilities should yield a return on investment, whether in financial or social terms

Professional Artists Representatives

Current Services

- Mission is home to a large number of professional and semi-professional visual artists
- Most work from home studios, some from studio space in the Mission Arts Council's building
- Rents in Mission are relatively low, enabling artists to occupy larger spaces than would be possible were they to live or work in the Greater Vancouver Regional District
- Licences for cottage industries/home businesses are easier to obtain in Mission than in other communities
- Several are well-known internationally, less recognized in their own community
- Residents are less interested in the arts than in some other communities and do not buy quality local art
- Local media does not always understand or promote professional calibre visual art
- Prices obtainable for art in Mission are low compared to other communities
- Art may be displayed at community venues (e.g. coffee shop) but does not sell there
- Some artists have much better luck selling at Granville Island and other more urban venues
- Mission Arts Council membership includes many older people less well versed in contemporary visual arts and does not attract or hold younger, professional artists in its membership
- Mission Arts Council activities are more focussed on traditional, representational visual art than on contemporary, issues-oriented art
- Mission is divided into "silos" of sector-based organizations that do not communicate or collaborate one with the other (e.g. social services, arts, education, health, etc.)
- There are also silos within silos (arts organizations not working with one another)
- A new initiative, "This Diamond Community," is interested in bringing about positive community change by linking interest groups and helping them to bring their dreams to reality

Current Facilities

- Mission Arts Council display space is small, poorly located, lacks atmosphere, present parking issues, and has poor HVAC systems
- Downtown shop windows: some display the community's art
- Leisure Centre: offers limited opportunities for the display of community art
- There is no larger financial institution (such as HSBC's gallery space on Georgia Street in Vancouver) able to display art
- Mission Arts Council's basement workshop/instructional studio space is "too intimate," too small, with a low ceiling, no ventilation, and poorly lit. It does have a counter and sink, tables, and limited storage space. The studio space upstairs is a "garret."
- Visual artists would prefer to be using purpose-built space. Sports organizations get purpose-built space while the arts have to "make do."

Future Facility Needs

- Mission Arts Council has sent a proposal to the District for a new facility with studios, shop, gallery, and office space, between 1st and 2nd Avenues
- There should also be a place for the exhibition of art in the Junction
- Priorities should include exhibition and sales space, plus an adjacent meeting and workshop space, with someone to operate it, and office space
- A new facility could host artists-in-residence programmes and more arts education activities

- A new gallery would be well-used, currently, some artists are boycotting the Mission Arts Council gallery
- An online gallery could be developed to “start discussion” about a vision for a new gallery for the community
- Artists would use publicly provided spaces for instruction, less so for creation, as creation is a more private, individual activity, requiring uniquely outfitted facilities
- Any new gallery should be able to host travelling shows, to bring excellence to the community, to create a tone that will draw in professional artists from Mission who currently avoid the Mission Arts Council’s space
- A new gallery should be a place where art issues and social issues can be explored, where community can be built, involving people who may not see themselves as part of the “arts scene.”
- A new instructional space should be open, visible (lots of glass), have “artists on display,” have “students on display,” and possess appropriate equipment, support spaces, and finishes
- An arts facility could also include space for dance

Facilities in Other Communities

- The new Reach gallery in Abbotsford is a good example of a contemporary purpose-built space. It has high ceilings, good lighting, is spacious, has sophisticated HVAC system, with support spaces and space for social activity

Principles for Facility Development and Further Comments

- New facilities should be purpose-built for the arts, but within that proviso, should be adaptable, flexible, and promote sustainability
- New facilities should inspire individuals and instil creativity in community members
- New facilities should get more people involved in the arts, promote working together, regardless of their backgrounds, interest groups, or silo
- District should recognize that arts skills are life skills
- Art should be non-competitive
- Facilities and programmes should foster a sense of value for local creations
- Facilities should assist and support people addressing addictions, foster life skills and well-being, combine rehabilitation and the arts
- Facility development processes should instil ownership among residents, access local ideas and talent

Multicultural Representatives

Current Services

- Mission's Multicultural Festival takes place annually at Heritage Park Secondary School, an event done with and for the broader community, largely co-ordinated by Mission Community Services
- The Multicultural Festival is hampered by the high cost of building rental, including rental and janitorial services: \$300 in 2008, and \$1,200 in 2009
- A Diwali festival is also presented, largely under the auspices of Mission Community Services
- Mission Community Services would also like to put on a Chinese New Year event
- Recreation is not necessarily part of the culture of immigrant populations whose lives have been totally focussed on work and family
- Many immigrants cannot afford recreational activities and the format in which they are offered may not be culturally appropriate to the target populations
- There is a dearth of services for elderly male Indo-Canadians
- Older male Indo-Canadians may lead lonely and geographically circumscribed lives
- Transportation to facilities may be problematic for some immigrants
- There is a dearth of things for youth to do in Mission
- A focus on prevention would address the needs of dysfunctional families

Current Facilities

- The Multicultural Festival currently uses Heritage Park Secondary School. The festival has grown in size and complexity, resulting in the need to use spaces throughout the school, including gymnasium space and the Clarke Theatre.
- The festival might have more impact if it could be presented in one large space, rather than spread throughout the school.
- Elderly Indo-Canadian males go to the gurdwara for social recreation, others don't, seeing the gurdwara as a purely religious space in which other activities are less appropriate

Future Facilities

- There is a need for a large meeting/banquet/trade show space in Mission
- Such a facility should also have an outdoor dimension, so that activities can take place inside and outside
- Indo-Canadian wedding receptions are held outside the community, since there is no space large enough in Mission with sufficient capacity or support facilities: weddings with 1,000 to 1,500 guests are common in the Indo-Canadian community in the Lower Mainland
- A large hall with a platform or dais, sound system, dressing rooms with showers, and a production or catering kitchen would address this need
- Such a facility could be used by the entire community for large meetings, receptions, and trade shows, as well as indoor festivals such as the Multicultural Festival.
- The community's seniors see a need for a senior's centre, with dedicated spaces for seniors to sit, relax, socialize, read, participate in talks and other programmes, learn, and take part in age-appropriate physical activity
- Facilities should be programmed with gender-sensitivity in mind. Indo-Canadian women will not swim, for example, with men. Ladies-only/women and children-only times and classes should be considered.

- There is also a need for an appropriately located space for older male Indo-Canadians to engage in social recreation
- Older male Indo-Canadians may lead lonely and geographically circumscribed lives
- Transportation to facilities may be problematic for some immigrants
- There is a need for more space for youth in the community and things for them to do: physical activities, social recreation in a safe environment, and arts activities
- A multi-purpose room is needed for immigrant arts instruction, with low rental costs

Facilities in Other Communities

- The Abbotsford campus of the University of the Fraser Valley and Abbotsford's Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department have numerous facilities for ice sports, aquatics, photography, summer day camps, fitness, etc.
- In Abbotsford, Grade V students get recreation programmes free of charge. Grade V is seen as a time of transition, when young people may be more at risk

Heritage Representatives

Current Services

- The *Mission District Historical Society* operates both the Mission Museum and the Mission Community Archives, with two independent supervisors, as well as Heritage Places
- The *Mission Museum* collects, preserves, and makes accessible the portable heritage of Mission. Its activities include exhibitions, school tours, and public programmes
- The *Mission Community Archives* collects, arranges and describes, preserves, and makes accessible, the written and recorded community records of Mission, excluding civic records, which are managed by the District of Mission. Its services include research assistance in response to onsite, telephone, postal, and E Mail queries; public programmes, a school archives programme, and the storage of private records on a fee for service basis.
- The *Heritage Places* initiative focuses its activities on the development of aural histories, developing profiles of historic places (including landscapes), and outreach activities at special events in the community. A winter Heritage Fair is also presented.
- BC Hydro and Power Authority operates the *Stave Falls Power House* museum. The facility's activities include passive displays and active historical interpretation. School tours, special events, Charity events, weddings, and film productions are all provided for by the facility.
- The *Mission Community Heritage Commission* advises District Council on matters relating to the built and natural heritage of the community, as mandated under the provisions of the Community Charter
- The *Mission Heritage Association* manages Fraser River Heritage Park, the site of the former Oblate Mission, residential school, and cemetery, on behalf of the District of Mission. The site is owned by the Fraser Valley Regional District. The Society's activities include heritage interpretation, conservation and reconstruction, and making the site accessible for passive recreation, arts-related festivals, and other appropriate activities. Festivals using the park include Folkfest, the summer Twilight concert series (26 performances per year), Celebration of Community, an annual car show, a Heritage Tea, a Children's Festival, Suburban Swing, and Women's Boot Camp. The association is currently developing a series of interpretive signs for the park, intends on undertaking an historical archaeological project, restoring the site's historic orchard, and developing an amphitheatre onsite.

Current Facilities

Mission Museum

- Some within the Mission District Historical Society believe that the museum is more appropriately housed within an historic building than in a purpose-built facility.
- The current site is near schools and seniors housing, two major user groups
- The current site is also close to two complementary facilities: the library and the community archives
- The building, however, is small, lacks appropriate environmental controls, and cannot house even modest numbers of people at a single time
- Space for exhibitions, collections storage, and programming is all at a premium
- The Heritage Spaces initiative is based in the museum and has minimal space for its office, files, and stored display materials

Mission Community Archives

- The archives are housed in the same building as the library and is outgrowing its space
- A space currently used for computer stations, volunteers, collections processing, and public access is too small to accommodate each of these functions comfortably at a single time
- The facility's vault – where collections are stored – is adequate at present, but space currently devoted to private collections stored on site for a fee, may ultimately be needed for the community collections that are central to the facility's mandate.
- Space for the storage of archival exhibits is also at a premium
- Climate controls are inconsistent in the building, resulting in periodic discomfort to the occupants of the archival space and in potential damage to the collections
- Were the facility open for additional hours or days, the volunteer schedule could be amended to reduce pressure on the work space

Heritage Places

- The Heritage Places initiative is based in the museum and has minimal space for its office, files, and stored display materials
- Heritage Places uses community venues for the most part, and is satisfied with those that are used

Fraser River Heritage Park (Mission Heritage Association)

- Mission's Community Stage, a covered and partially enclosed trailer, is housed in the park from May to September
- The park is used extensively for festivals and concerts, as well as for passive recreation, with over 100,000 visitations per year
- The park contains electrical services that need to be upgraded

Future Facilities

- Mission needs a better space for exhibitions: museum, archives, historic places
- The community also requires a smaller theatre, of about 250 seats
- Other needed facilities include purpose-built space for instruction/workshops, and artists' studio space

- Any new facilities could perhaps be developed as a complex, to reduce capital costs, to improve operating efficiencies, and to promote synergy between elements and cooperation and collaboration among service providers
- Fraser River Heritage Park's future development plans include: interpretative signage, a pond, an amphitheatre, and a performance platform

Facilities in Other Communities

- Maple Ridge has a complex of civic facilities: RCMP, District offices, recreation centre, library, arts facilities, retail facilities
- Campbell River has an art gallery combined with a tourist information centre
- Italian Cultural Centre in Vancouver has a campus of complementary spaces, including revenue-generating spaces (restaurant, large hall)

Principles for Facility Development and Further Comments

- Development of facilities for a complete community
- Equity for arts and heritage with recreation
- Promotion of quality of life
- Social development
- Development of sense of community and interdependent citizens
- Partial cost recovery
- Transportation is part of it

Music, Foundation, and Arts Council Representatives

Current Services

Mission Folk Music Festival Society

- The Society has presented a folk music festival in Mission for 22 years
- Audience is drawn from across North America
- In terms of calibre, the festival ranks about 5th among similar festivals in Canada
- Festival focuses on quality of performers, rather than on numbers of performers
- Performers originate from elsewhere in Canada, from B.C., and internationally
- Society assisted with establishment of a classical music series, community choir, and dance school in the past
- Students from Mission Secondary School derive revenue from working at the festival (e.g. assists with parking)

Mission Arts Council

- Functions as an umbrella organization representing specialized arts organizations and individual artists
- Serves as a resource to the community
- Runs workshops and classes in support of arts education
- Services are for all age groups and skill levels
- In recent years has placed additional focus on developing new audiences, not just artists but also family groups and seniors
- Programme fees are kept “rock bottom” to permit universal access
- Provides registration services for individual instructors
- A meeting place for literary groups, Philosophers Café,
- Presents a Christmas Craft Market, Art Escape (for primary schools)
- Supports an artists-in-residence programme at the Mission Library
- Presents the Mission Children's Festival in June, Camp MAC in July and August
- Presents Arts Alive, which includes studio tours, gallery activities, in conjunction with Downtown Business Association
- Supports Mission Secondary School's haunted house in October

Music Language Studios

- Privately owned music school offering instruction for a range of age groups: from very young inexperienced students to more advanced students
- Aims to get entire families involved in learning musical instruments
- Places an emphasis on ensemble (i.e. group) playing
- Employs 3 teachers offering instruction on piano, ukulele, cello, recorder; does referrals for students interested in learning strings

Mission Foundation

- Mission Arts Council disburses grants from B.C. Arts Board to smaller community arts organizations
- Contributors can give to specific interest-based funds under the auspices of the foundation
- Gives quarterly grants to dance-related and other arts organizations in Mission
- Parents of children learning dance will attend their children's performances, but will not attend professional dance performances brought into the community. This is an ongoing issue

Current Facilities

Mission Arts Council Building

- Arts Council currently occupies an older leased house on Lougheed Highway, east of downtown
- Facility features Mission Arts Council office space, a public art gallery, workshop space in basement, a small gift shop, and leased studio space on upper floor
- Facility cannot be expanded
- Arts Council is currently dealing with upgrades and repairs to building
- Lack of sufficient and appropriate space limits programming
- There is some possibility that the facility may be lost to the Arts Council

Clarke Theatre

- District of Mission has a fund of \$12,000 per year to assist community groups with rental fees at the Clarke Theatre
- Community groups may receive up to 50% of the cost of booking the theatre from this fund
- Facility is a good one, but its infrastructure is aging: equipment such as lighting needs attention
- 75% of the facility's bookings are from the community
- The theatre is now exclusively a rental facility and has not initiated its own productions for over 10 years
- The facility is well used with few dark nights now
- Half of the month of May and most of the month of June feature year-end recitals and the like

Best Western Hotel Ballroom

- Community lacks an alternative to this space, which can hold about 400 people
- Facility is expensive to rent
- Users must use the hotel's catering, it is not possible to make alternate arrangements
- Parking at the site is problematic

Community Halls

- Community halls are outlying, too far from centre of town, and too small for many cultural events

University of the Fraser Valley

UFV has stopped renting its facilities to community user groups, could result in a space shortage in the community

Fraser River Heritage Park

- Site of various arts-related festivals
- Continues to be well used by the community but requires upgrades
- Having a live-in caretaker on site helps with security
- Mission Folk Festival has been “grandfathered” into the park
- There is a perception that District Council does not want the park to be used extensively by single users such as festivals, feeling that the park should always be fully accessible by other users.
- There is no municipal policy governing the use of the park

Governance and Staffing for the Arts

- Need to identify community’s space needs and arts programme activities first
- Human infrastructure needs to be in place – someone to programme, coordinate and advocate for the arts
- The current model hasn’t worked

Future Facilities

- Facility development goes hand-in-hand with service development
- There are no District-funded arts facilities in Mission
- There is no champion for the arts in the District administration
- There is no systematic arts programming done by the District
- Space for culture has been promised to the community, but has never materialized (e.g. the expanded and renovated Leisure Centre has no culture-specific spaces)
- Gymnasium space at the Leisure Centre has poor acoustics and lacks the ambiance required for cultural programming
- Perhaps culture should be in the District’s Economic Development department, rather than Parks, Recreation, and Culture
- Clarke Theatre is good, but very large – too big for many events. A theatre with a smaller number of seats is required
- A large hall for meetings, dances, trade shows, and social events is required, as an alternative to the Best Western facility
- Large hall should seat 250 to 400 people, with a raised platform at one end to act as a stage or speaker’s platform
- Community needs a multi-use arts centre, with attractive purpose-built spaces
- Arts centre should include office and workshop space, small theatre with support spaces (dressing rooms, green room, storage space, etc.)
- Arts centre should also include a rental hall/art gallery/meeting room/banquet space
- Arts centre should also incorporate outdoor programmable space, connected to indoor spaces

Early Childhood and Chamber of Commerce Representatives

Current Services

General

- Early Childhood Development Committee endeavours to look at children holistically and to bring the voice of children and the interests of children to a wide range of tables and discussions in the community
- As most parents are working, their children's interests are sometimes not represented in discussions
- Parents are interested in discussions, but lack the time to get involved and be heard
- Families can't "do meetings" or serve on committees, due to pressures of work and parenting
- Early Childhood Development Committee representative helps with Diwali, Multicultural Festival, and Canada Day committees
- Community Services has a Multiculturalism department and a Multicultural Festival. It also deals with settlement, legal, citizenship, forms, and language issues

Diwali

- Diwali is offered one evening and is a three hour event
- It has grown in size, necessitating its move from the Library to the cafeteria at the University of the Fraser Valley facility at Heritage Park School
- Diwali celebrations at the University feature Punjabi food, dance, henna demonstrations, music, and crafts
- Intent is to bring all residents, regardless of background, to a common celebration
- Attendees are 25% white, 75% Indo-Canadian
- Gurdwara has provided some of the food
- Total attendance ranges from year to year, but is a generally growing event

Multicultural Festival

- Multicultural Festival is a day-long event at Heritage Park School, with entertainment provided in the community gym from 1:00 to 4:00.
- The festival features dance and music, and global food (10 menu items representing 10 ethnicities)
- Entertainment comes from both within and outside the community
- The event also features multicultural games and displays
- There is an issue of overcrowding, with 400 to 500 people in attendance at any one time, with perhaps 1,000 over the day
- The event is presented in mid-February

Ukrainian Dance Festival

- Ukrainian Dance Festival is held in May
- It is a one-day event, with an element of competition, plus a paid performance
- Psanky (Easter egg decorating) and traditional foods form a core element of the festival
- The festival is held at Heritage Park School and uses the Clarke Theatre, the foyer, and the cafeteria

National Aboriginal Day

- National Aboriginal Day is recognized with an event towards the end of June, organized by the Friendship Centre
- The event features speakers, crafts, performances
- The event is presented at the Friendship Centre or Matsqui Park

Celebration of Community

- Occurs in the 3rd week of September
- Was originally intended to showcase community organizations, but now also features cooking demonstrations, vendors, entertainment
- Started by Mission Association for Community Living, now has a broader organizing committee
- Wraps up with Illuminaria at Fraser River Heritage Park
- Illuminaria includes lantern making workshops and a parade

Current Facilities

Heritage Park School

- Heritage Park School is used for most multicultural events
- Cost of rental is high, due to add-ons for setup, booking, cleanup, all on top of basic rental fees
- The community should contribute to offsetting the costs of these events
- Community gym at Heritage Park is not large enough for the events
- Heritage Park is a good facility, but is not central to residents, and has poor bus service
- Stage is small
- Circulation is problematic, area of festival is often crowded
- A special mat is required on the gym floor to protect it from damage
- Although designated a community school, it does not provide the level or ease of access users expect of it
- Facilities for Aboriginal Day are inadequate

Festival Sites

- Festival sites are lacking in a number of ways, including electricity, washrooms, transportation, water, covered areas
- Fraser River Heritage Park is expensive to book
- Fraser River Heritage Park is not easy to access, being off to one side of the community with poor public transportation
- Too many events at Fraser River Heritage Park, hard to book a space/time for other events
- 3 of 8 electrical outlets at Fraser River Heritage Park actually work, problem has existed for 3 years
- Electrical system used by Folk Festival are that society's own property, installed by them
- Fraser River Heritage Park lacks a water feature on which to float the lanterns used in Illuminaria
- Fraser River Heritage Park is popular with casual users, not just festival-goers
- Centennial Park was used for festivals in the past, but washrooms were vandalised and the practice ceased
- Centennial Park is now overlooked by residences and may be suitable for smaller, quieter, festivals
- Traffic and parking may be an issue for residents near Fraser River Heritage Park and Centennial Park

Leisure Centre

- Has no purpose-built arts spaces
- There is no really large indoor space available for community events
- Arena is not in dry floor mode at the right time of year (winter-spring-fall)
- Gym at Leisure Centre is same size as community gym at Heritage Park School, and is already well used

Churches and Community Halls

- Churches such as United Church on Grand Boulevard and St. Andrew's have small halls or assembly space, generally with less than 200 seats
- Rural community halls such as those at Stave Falls and Silverdale are remote and small

Future Facilities

- Consideration should be given to adding a water feature to Fraser River Heritage Park to float lanterns
- Community needs a large banquet hall/community hall with 1,000 person capacity for banquets, trade shows, public meetings, etc.
- Should have outdoor space adjacent for indoor-outdoor events
- Such a hall need not be as big as Tradex in Abbotsford
- Should be capable of being subdivided into smaller spaces for smaller events, two or three events at once
- Support spaces should include a kitchen, washrooms, storage (for tables and chairs), plus audio visual equipment, and built in variable lighting
- Rental fees should be on a sliding scale, depending whether renters are for-profit groups or not-for-profit groups, etc.
- Rental rates should recognize that renters can do set-ups and cleanups
- Hotel capacity needs to grow by threefold before a convention centre could be justified

- Festival areas need a flat floor covered area that permits movement by those assembled, not like a theatre with fixed seating
- Cultural Facilities should be served by better transit or shuttle services

Facilities in Other Communities

- Chilliwack's Heritage Park: includes a number of large roofed and enclosed spaces, including one measuring 150,000 square feet. Some spaces have dirt floors, others are concrete.
- Langley Events Centre: includes community centre, banquet hall, private spaces, arena
- Italian Cultural Centre: includes classrooms, meeting spaces, seniors spaces, restaurant, with space for field sports adjacent
- Consider Public-Private Partnership options

Principles for Facility Development and Further Comments

- District should develop facilities for a complete community, with a complete range of interests served
- Fairness and equity should be stressed
- A complete community attracts development, business, and residents
- Should aim for as much cost recovery in operation as is feasible
- Should emphasize multi-use (youth, business, arts, etc. using same spaces at different times)
- Should be designed to work for all users
- Should be purpose-built, not make-do
- But should also be adaptable in recognition of change
- Should emphasize sustainability in design and operation

Theatre and Literary Arts Representatives

Clarke Theatre

Current Services

- Strictly a rental facility
- After a dozen years of use is now heavily used and hosts 210 to 240 events per year
- About 10% of the theatre's uses are by schools
- Demand for facility is largely on a first come, first served basis, though historical users are given considerable consideration in bookings
- Is now forced to decline bookings due to demand for facility
- Facility is owned and operated by the School District, the initial operating model involving Fraser Valley College (University) and District of Mission having been abandoned

Facilities Used

- Clarke Theatre is a 700-seat proscenium arched theatre, with balcony, and significant backstage facilities located in the Heritage Park Centre
- The Centre's cafetorium and drama can be used to support the theatre, and are also rentable spaces
- The theatre endeavours to replace equipment on an annual basis, to ensure the facility remains fresh and does not deteriorate

Opening Nite Theatre

Current Services

- Operates as a community theatre under the Opening Nite Theatre Society
- Founded in 1993
- Has approximately 15 life members and 15 other members, plus many supporters who are not members
- Membership is not stressed, services and audience are
- Society offers three major productions per year, each receiving about 10 performances, for an audience of up to 1,500
- The Society also provides acting classes for children, and shows based on their learnings
- Also does play readings

Facilities Used

- The Society's theatre space is in a commercial store in downtown Mission
- Its current seat configuration, which is raked, allows for an audience of approximately 50
- Handicapped and other seating is available at floor level
- The facility has a very small lobby
- A second commercial space, next door to the theatre, is rented for use as dressing rooms, green room, storage, and workspace
- Both spaces are rented on a month-to-month arrangement and their rental may cease at any time

- The Society requires a dedicated space of its own, as it must construct and install its sets in place and leave them standing for several weeks. This renders it difficult for the space to be shared with other uses, unless they can ignore the sets already installed.

Literary Arts

Current Services

- At present there is no literary society in the District of Mission
- Readings of poetry, novels, etc. are held on an occasional and irregular basis, and are generally arranged by interested individuals, as the Mission Arts Council focuses more on the visual arts
- Examples of public events include "slam poetry nights" offered by individuals and by secondary school teachers
- Events can attract about 50 participants, though internationally known writers doing presentations can attract upwards of 100 people

Facilities Used

- Readings appear to work best in informal, intimate and comfortable settings
- Atmosphere is key
- With work, some spaces can be dressed up to elicit the desired mood: "a space is what you make it"
- Bad Dog Bistro has been used in past
- Facilities with ready availability to food and drink work well, such as restaurants and other licensed premises
- There is some disagreement about the likelihood of audience members wanting to go to a secondary school for such presentations
- Some members of the arts community appear to be less aware of what facilities exist, how to book them, and what the attendant costs may be

Future Facilities

- Clarke Theatre needs only maintenance, has appropriate front of house and backstage facilities
- Opening Nite Theatre needs a self-owned space, with long-term tenure guaranteed
- There is a misconception in the community that a new, large arts centre is the only solution to the community's space needs
- The existence and availability of some spaces is not generally known (Cedarbrook Chateau being one example, the stage at the Clarke Theatre being another)
- Developing a list of spaces and ensuring its circulation would be a major help
- However, a staff person is needed to advise and support potential users, to broker relationships among groups and between groups and space owner/operators
- Some new purpose-built facilities are required, however: heritage facility, art gallery, and smaller theatre space
- A 250-seat theatre would be well-used and could house the performances for which the Clarke Theatre is too large
- All new facilities should be welcoming, possess ample storage space
- A new space with about 250 retractable seats is desirable and would fill a void in the community. Such a space could be multi-use, open to people with a variety of interests (i.e. both the visual and

performing arts), have an ample lobby, be subdividable, and able to host visual arts displays in a lobby space

Systemic Issues

- Organizations in Mission need to coordinate their events schedules better, to avoid multiple events being offered at the same time
- Partnering should be fostered among organizations, each has unique gifts and resources (human and financial) to bring to the table
- Exposure to the arts results in the arts being valued as an integral part of life, rather than an optional extra
- Mission lacks the population and the history of Europe, where the arts are more accepted as being central to everyday life
- Leadership has been lacking at the District level, despite a position devoted to culture having been recommended several years ago

Facilities in Other Communities

- The Act in Maple Ridge features both a theatre and an art gallery, has a good sized lobby, and has ample parking
- Access to the theatre's delivery area, however, is awkward
- The Act receives a \$500,000 annual subsidy from the District of Maple Ridge
- Large cultural centres are not always the best solution, smaller, funkier spaces can be appropriate to the arts

Principles for Facility Development and Further Comments

- Public Health and Safety are a prime concern
- Creating a healthy and active downtown area: walkable and vibrant
- Leverage tax dollars to access funds from other sources
- Support services and facilities that enhance the quality of life of residents
- Provide services and facilities to the more vulnerable people in the community
- District should provide balance in its services and facilities to ensure that all types of interests areas in the community, including the arts, are served
- Cultural services and facilities should serve the goal of building community
- Cultural services and facilities should serve the goal of fostering a range of skills in individuals
- Cultural services and facilities should serve the goal of promoting people working together, supporting each other, crossing interest groups, and promoting interdisciplinary activities

Classical Music Representatives

Mission Concert and Recital Society

Current Services

- The Mission Concert and Recital Society is a registered not-for-profit organization established ca. 2000
- The Society has about 100 members and about 100 subscribers. Membership is declining due to the aging of the population and their inability to reach the site of the Society's performances
- Seniors have difficulty in getting out at night, when the concerts are scheduled, due to transportation issues. As many performers are part of a circuit (which keeps fees and ticket prices down), it is difficult to schedule them at other times.
- The Society presents about five concerts per year. Audience size ranges from about 50 for lesser-known performers up to 250 for well-known performers. Special performances for school students have attracted about an audience of about 500. Excluding students, the Society's audience totals about 900 per year.
- Performers emanate from elsewhere in British Columbia and North America, as well as Europe. Some are "world class."
- Performers tend to be instrumental soloists and small ensembles (trios, quartets, and quintets) with the occasional larger act.
- In the past, the Society has received 50% of its budget from the province's Gaming Funds, a source that is now in doubt. Subscribers and ticket purchasers account for about 25% of the Society's budget. The Society is also the beneficiary of a few donations.
- Single ticket prices are about \$28. The Mission audience is sometimes hesitant to pay this amount, feeling that because a concert is in Mission (rather than the Orpheum or another Vancouver theatre), that the experience and the performer do not warrant the expenditure.

Facilities Used

- The Society first offered its concerts at St. Andrew's United Church. Although intimate, the facility has a flat floor, resulting in poor visibility, pews (which are not comfortable for the audience), and lacks back stage and lobby facilities. The church can hold no more than 200 people. Lack of resident grand piano required one having to be acquired, moved, and tuned each time one was required.
- The Society now offers its concerts exclusively at the Clarke Theatre, which has 450 seats on the main level and 250 seats in the balcony.
- The Clarke Theatre has several advantages: a box office, professional staff (manager, technician, ushers, etc.), comfortable seating, raked seating (with good sight lines), a reasonable acoustic, a resident grand piano, a lobby, and good back stage facilities. All of this has the capacity to foster an appropriate ambiance for both performers and the audience, were the theatre to be filled.
- The theatre's management is most supportive of the Society's efforts.
- The dance warm-up room is used as a green room
- A design flaw at the Clarke (stage is too high) results in front row seats not being occupied (due to sight line issues).
- The Clarke is also too big for almost all of the Society's performances, and the balcony is never used. The rate of use of main level seats ranges from 11% to 56%. Having so many empty seats is not conducive to a fully positive theatrical experience, either for performers or the audience.
- Unlike non-purpose-built spaces, the Clarke Theatre has full sound and light capability.

- The theatre is generally, though not always, available when required. The needs of the school or the School District may take priority.
- Rental rates at the facility are reasonable, with the District paying 50% of costs, and the theatre itself providing a discount. The Society pays about \$200 per rental, where the real cost of a rental may be \$500 to \$750.
- The purchase of acoustical shells has improved the facility's sound, but having a fly tower still results in "fine sound" such as that produced by chamber ensembles, being lost
- The theatre's location is not ideal, as bus transportation is imperfect, and the theatre is not centrally located, or located near seniors' housing.
- The Society cannot serve wine, which is generally a part of the theatre experience, due to the Clarke Theatre being run by the School District.
- The Clarke Theatre's pluses outweigh its negatives.

Future Facility Needs

- The Society will likely remain at the Clarke Theatre, given that its advantages outweigh its disadvantages.
- Future population growth may result in larger audiences, but it seems unlikely that audiences will ever exceed 450.
- Were a smaller theatre to become available, the Society would "jump at" the chance to use it
- A purpose-built theatre of 250 seats would be ideal. A smaller house, with just 150 seats, would require higher ticket prices, and would therefore be counterproductive.
- Were such a facility to be built, it would require its own grand piano, storage, back stage facilities, a lobby, and appropriate equipment (lighting and sound systems, fixed raked seating, or comfortable, movable chairs)
- Having the new facility as part of a "destination", such as a larger complex, or a revitalized downtown, would be ideal.

Facilities in Other Communities

- Rose Gellert Hall in the Langley Community Music School has a capacity of 250. Although possessing a flat floor, its acoustic is good and its uses are flexible. At present, the facility lacks lighting and sound systems. Its lobby space can be used for receptions and at intermissions, and has a kitchen/servery adjacent for beverages and snacks.
- The "black box" theatre at the Surrey Arts Centre has retractable seating (upholstered and raked) and can therefore also be used for flat floor functions. It does lack an optimum space for musicians playing in support of vocalists on the flat floor stage.
- The new Chilliwack Arts Centre will feature both a 500 seat and a 150 seat recital hall.

Principles for Facility Development and Further Comments

- The District of Mission should ensure equity in its services. Sports have been well served and similar attention needs to be provided to the cultural sector.
- The arts scene thrived in Mission 30 to 40 years ago, but has now waned. More municipal support (facilities, staffing, and governance) is required.
- The arts will always require subsidies, so local government should plan for it.

Appendix "B"
Notes from Interviews with Other Jurisdictions
(Trends and Best Practices)

**Interview with Sue Wheeler,
Community Service Director
Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows Parks & Leisure Services**

1. What trends do you see in the way *services* are delivered by municipalities and others to:

b) youth

- Programming in collaboration with School Districts and other community partners
- Target age groups (0 to 5 years, 6 to 12 years, 13 to 18 years and young adults)
- Joint research projects between UBC, United Way, and Recreation to conduct age specific research and compile data by neighbourhoods in communities. Data collected so far using EDI (Early Development Indicator) and the MDI (Middle Years Development Indicator) currently being developed by UBC and in pilot research phase in Vancouver. Basically, research is being developed to determine development of children and then reported by Neighbourhood allowing recreation depts, working in collaboration with other community partners to target specific resources in target neighbourhoods. Research conducted every 2 years provides feedback on impact of targeted resources and services.
- Some communities are using the Development Asset survey tool to determine strengths and gaps in resources
- The overall approach that we are taking, and I see other communities beginning to, is to recognize that addressing the needs of children and youth in isolation is no longer effective and it is important to work closely with other community partners (ie School Districts, Health, etc) to work in partnership; to conduct research, identify strengths and determine needs, and to combine or integrate resources to respond.
- A move towards meaningful youth engagement in community life- engaging youth to identify assets, determine needs/solutions, and to have meaningful input to decisions that impact them. Two examples in our community are the Greg Moore Youth Centre and the Thomas Haney Youth Action Park. Youth determined the need for these facilities, developed the vision for each facility, and were engaged in the entire planning processes from choosing the locations and designing the facilities, as well as building the operation rules and guidelines and programs that inspire youth to take ownership. The results are two facilities in which the youth feel ownership for and take responsibility for. Both facilities experience next to none in vandalism.
- Community Asset Mapping - that utilizes a youth engagement model
- Co-location of youth service providers, and developing relationships/structures that allow trust between service providers to grow and proceed through the continuum towards effective service delivery (cooperation - coordination - collaboration - integration)
- Municipalities clearly communicating and demonstrating that youth are valued, contributing members of the community

2. What trends do you see in the way *facilities* are provided by municipalities and others for:

b) youth

- From what I have seen, many municipalities are building "youth" specific spaces within their community recreation facilities. This would be much like the current "youth centre" in the Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre that our dept operates. The Greg Moore Youth Centre, although it is physically attached to the Leisure Centre, operates more like a "stand-alone" facility with separate entrances, etc. The GMYC is 15,000 square feet and was designed by an extensive consultation process with youth. It began in about 1994 with a community youth visioning process and then continued in 1999 when the core of the community was being redeveloped. A community group had formed in '94 to support the youth vision for a youth centre that brought all services for

youth together under one roof and offered comprehensive programs and services for youth. Today there are a number of partners that have leased space and/or offer their programs from the GMYC, ranging from Big Brothers and Sisters, to a Youth Health Clinic (offered by a collaborative team of service providers), to a School District operated outreach school, to all the recreation opportunities offered by our dept. Each partner offering services from the GMYC is required to participate on the Teen Resource Network which work together to ensure all the needs of youth are met and to share information, resources and problem solve together. Many municipalities from all across BC have visited the Youth Centre to learn about how the model was developed and works

- In both youth centres that we operate, we support the development and participation of youth on Youth Councils. The Youth Councils usually each have close to 30 to 40 members at any one time. The Councils provide opportunities for youth to be engaged in program planning (ie youth dances, out-trips, etc), community special events, operation guidelines of the facility. In the GMYC the Maple Ridge Youth Council operates the Concession. Under the guidance of youth staff, they are responsible for all aspects of operating the business from maintaining inventory, hiring and training staff, etc. Many local business owners have donated their time to conduct business related training sessions and several businesses have supported the development, for example the computerized operational system that was donated is the same system used in many local businesses. Youth working in the concessions gain valuable work experience designed to support their development and employability.

3. What best practices are utilized *in your community or elsewhere* to provide services and facilities for:

b) youth

- An approach of utilizing research, community consultation (meaningful youth input), and best practices approaches.
- Youth program is built on a philosophy that we designed through consultation with youth, community and partners many years ago. This philosophy was "pre-developmental assets" but has similar principles. It is established on the basis that to be successful youth programming youth must have meaningful input from youth in identifying needs, priorities and then that youth can gain valuable skills under the guidance of staff in being involved in implementing program plans. The basis of our programming recognizing that all recreation programming should ensure that youth have opportunities to:
 - Build Self Esteem
 - Build Sense of Competence
 - Build Sense of Belonging
 - Be empowered to contribute to decisions that effect them

Youth Workers go through extensive in-house training to learn to facilitate opportunities for youth participating in recreation programs have these opportunities

4) What principles or strategies does *your municipality* use to prioritize how it delivers services and provides facilities for:

b) youth

- Priorities are determined in consultation with community/youth. The Master Plan is developed through consultation and this provides the overall vision/guidance/direction of delivery of services. Community based research, trends, community consultation and direct youth consultation processes (surveys, focus groups), and research on best practices/trends, etc all contribute to the processes in prioritizing and designing services. Some levels of program services are determined in consultation with community partners (the Community Network now has 50+ agencies

represented) and other levels of programs are determined by neighbourhood/school, but all have opportunities for youth to contribute.

5) What purpose-built facilities, including shared multi-use space, do you have in your community for:

b) youth

- Greg Moore Youth Centre - 15,000 sq ft facility that includes: Active Area, Teach Kitchen and Concession, Multi-purpose Room (can be closed off as a stand alone room), Youth Lounge/Games area, Counselling/Meeting Room, Laundry and Shower Facilities, and 6 lease partner spaces.
- Pitt Meadows Youth Centre - a small centre that is designed beside the gymnasium in the PM Family Recreation Centre. The Youth Centre has it's own entrance and access to an outdoor active area (currently under construction with a new active outdoor multi-use space that will replace the skate park and basketball and volleyball areas that have been removed)
- Thomas Haney Youth Action Park - 12,000 sq ft Community Level skate board park that is designed for BMX and Skateboarding and allows for all skill levels from beginner to advanced.

6) Who owns and operates each of those facilities?

Youth:

- Each facility is owned by the community where it is located (ie. GMYC is owned by District of Maple Ridge - capital is not shared under the Parks and Leisure Services agreement)
- Each facility is operated by Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Parks and Leisure Services Commission under the Joint Services agreement. Operating costs are shared between the two communities on a per capita basis.
- In all cases the facilities include opportunities for youth to have meaningful input to the operations.
- The Youth Centres both have Youth Councils that provide input to programming, etc
- Partners like the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Youth Centre Society also contribute to the operation of the Centre by supporting the work to meet the needs of youth (ie supporting grant applications, fund raising, etc)
- The THSS Skate Park operates under the guidance of the THSS Leadership Advisory Committee made up of a variety of community partners (i.e. School District, RCMP, other youth service providers, local youth oriented businesses, interested citizens, youth). This committee will be guiding the development of future Youth Action parks including the one planned for Pitt Meadows in 2011.

Youth Name of Facility	Owner	Operator	Dedicated/Non- Dedicated
Greg Moore Youth Centre	District of Maple Ridge	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Parks and Leisure Services Commission	Dedicated
Pitt Meadows Youth Centre	Pitt Meadows	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Parks and Leisure Services Commission	Dedicated
Thomas Haney Youth Action Park	District of Maple Ridge	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Parks and Leisure Services and the Commission THSS Leadership Advisory Committee	Dedicated

Interview with Mike Murray
General Manager: Community Development, Parks & Recreation Services
Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows Parks & Leisure Services

1. What trends do you see in the way *services* are delivered by municipalities and others to:

a) seniors

In our own situation we have been encouraging seniors organizations to form committees to deliver services to Seniors. We currently provide funding in the form of a fee for service agreement to a seniors organization who use that funding to hire staff to operate facilities and programs. They also have a lease with us for the only purpose built seniors facility in our system and a small lounge area in a multipurpose centre. This arrangement has been in place for ten years and has been successful to the extent that number of seniors involved in the organization has grown over that time.

Another recent initiative (likely a trend) is the development of a Seniors network which is a network of senior serving organizations who identify gaps in the community and the best approach to meet those unmet needs. We are facilitating that network and have just participated in the network hiring their first coordinator. Of course all of this goes along with the integration of services (health, recreation, advocacy, peer counselling, fall prevention, etc.)

c) the cultural community

With respect to our Cultural Community we have entered into a long term relationship with our Arts Council to operate our Arts Centre and to run programs in both Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. They are also managing the Municipality's Artist in Residence Program and the Maple Ridge Public Art Program. There are several staff involved in the Arts Council operation so the fee for service agreement is fairly large and is co-funded by Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows proportionate to their respective populations as is the Seniors Fee for Service Agreement. We don't see this relationship changing anytime soon since it has been in place and providing service successfully for over ten years as well.

We also have fee for service agreements with two Historical Societies (in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows). These groups operate Museums in each of our two communities which are themselves historic locations. Both have professional curatorial staff.

2. What trends do you see in the way *facilities* are provided by municipalities and others for:

a) seniors

With respect to seniors facilities we have not necessarily been following the typical and more recent model of full integration of seniors activities into multipurpose recreation centres. While that certainly is currently the case in the Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre and will continue to be we have also been negotiating with a developer who would construct a Senior's residence on Municipal Land and include a 10,000 sq. ft. public seniors recreation centre within the building to serve both residents and seniors who don't live in the building. That centre would be operated by the Seniors organization noted above and would be located adjacent to the Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre which would continue to be used for Seniors activities requiring larger spaces etc. Unfortunately that deal collapsed last year and is currently being reviewed to see if it can be duplicated.

The Maple Ridge Seniors Activity Centre is a similar situation with a 25,000 sq. ft. seniors centre located on the ground floor of a 119 unit apartment building. That facility just enjoyed its 10-year anniversary.

c) the cultural community

We opened the ACT, eight years ago which is a 45,000 sq. ft. multipurpose arts centre with

- a 500 seat main stage (with a balcony to allow for smaller audiences to feel “full” on the 350 seat main floor)
- a flat floor studio theatre for 150 immediately adjacent allowing concurrent performances events to take place (excellent sound separations)
- an Art Gallery and gift shop (both of which enjoy much increased traffic at performance times)
- a large lobby which adds significantly to the programming flexibility of the over all space
- Arts and Crafts Studios (for general and clay based activities)

The trend this facility represents in terms of its many facets is, we believe, continuing in terms of design which allows for many concurrent and mutually supportive activities.

With respect to Museums our latest design is for a new 12,000 sq. ft Maple Ridge Museum which would be purpose built adjacent to several historic buildings. The combination would represent a destination Museum. We are currently not there and haven't been able to move the project onto the Municipal Capital list and into the operating plan given budget limitations and other priorities.

3. What best practices are utilized *in your community or elsewhere* to provide services and facilities for:

- a) seniors
- b) youth
- c) the cultural community

Please note the descriptions above. We do provide training opportunities for Board members in the organizations we work with to help them with organizational management (meeting management, Board-Staff relations, Financial Management for non profits, fundraising, etc.) and we often assist with the development of annual business plans (we help out about 20 of these organizations every year with their business planning. This all fits with our Community Development Model of service delivery.

4) What principles or strategies does *your municipality* use to prioritize how it delivers services and provides facilities for:

- a) seniors
- b) youth
- c) the cultural community

The first principle is to involve our citizens in the prioritization process. Our Seniors and Youth need to be heavily involved in prioritizing anything we are considering, in fact it is unlikely we would consider anything that didn't come from an exercise involving the groups involved.

Our second strategy is to focus on our collective vision and values which emphasize such things as community development, sustainability, partnerships and accessibility to name a few.

Finally we prioritize within our overall Municipal planning based on the two Council's strategic plans.

5) What purpose-built facilities, including shared multi-use space, do you have in your community for:

- a) seniors
- b) youth
- c) culture

6) Who owns and operates each of those facilities?

Described above. We own the facilities; our Seniors and Cultural Groups operate them within the terms of our fee for service agreements and our lease agreements.

Seniors Name of Facility	Owner	Operator	Dedicated/Non- Dedicated
Maple Ridge Senior's Activity Ctr	District of Maple Ridge	Seniors Group	Dedicated
Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Ctr.	Pitt Meadows	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Parks and Leisure Services Commission	Non-dedicated

Cultural Name of Facility	Owner	Operator	Dedicated/Non- Dedicated
The ACT	District of Maple Ridge	Cultural Groups	Dedicated – multi-purpose Arts Ctr.
Maple Ridge Museum	District of Maple Ridge	Maple Ridge Historical Society	Dedicated (in former house)

**Information provided by Glenn Mitzel and Jill Lawlor,
Area Recreation Managers, and Yvonne Chui, Arts and Culture programmer
City of Port Coquitlam**

1. What trends do you see in the way *services* are delivered by municipalities and others to:

a) seniors -

- Services that are interactive and involve the community in the development and delivery have been found to be very successful. Seniors in Port Coquitlam enjoy volunteering and giving back to other seniors. Active programs are starting to replace the more traditional sedentary programs. Seniors are more health conscious and are making health wise decisions with a shift towards more integrated programs/services as compared to senior age specific program/services.

b) youth

- Resources for offering programs and/or outlets that meet a variety of needs and interests.
- Programs that target specific age groups (11-12) (13-16) (17-18).
- Engagement of youth at-risk as part of the scope of services offered.
- A fundamental shift to offering social recreation – asset development and building relationships.
- Working in collaboration with outside youth agencies, (i.e. in youth centre, out in the community or referral).

c) the cultural community

- A key trend in this area is more toward increased granting stream (capacity building) from municipalities to groups to provide cultural services themselves; less municipal involvement in operating facilities but that requires strong leadership and sustainable planning on the part of non-profit partners and enough partners to select from.

2. What trends do you see in the way *facilities* are provided by municipalities and others for:

a) seniors

- The City provides a public facility that is operated by City staff in cooperation with an Advisory Board. There has been a local trend for Cities to build facilities for the public. This trend is encouraged with Federal infrastructure grants like RInC or the BC Build Canada Fund.

b) youth

- Building youth the appropriate space (size and youth friendly/safe) adjoining a larger facility providing youth with their own space (eg: West Vancouver, New Westminster, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows).
- Youth take ownership of facility in return will treat with more respect.
- Important to allow youth to be a part of the planning and facilitation.
- Building space for outside youth agencies to utilize to provide integrated services.

c) the cultural community

- Still important for municipalities to build dedicated cultural space as this is a milestone marker in a livable city that's attractive and competitive. NPO's and private business have limited access and resources but trend for unused storefronts or old buildings to be made useful for arts/cultural purposes in key areas of a city.

3. What best practices are utilized *in your community or elsewhere* to provide services and facilities for:

a) seniors

- The Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department, works in partnership with the Wilson Centre Seniors' Advisory Association. The WCSAA is a group of elected members who have gained society status as a non profit organization. The WCSAA works in an advisory capacity to the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department for programs and services to meet the needs of those in the community who are 50+. The WCSAA works as a fundraising group to raise funds to purchase equipment for the food services program operating out of the Wilson Centre. Part of the mandate of the society is to provide the volunteers to support the food service program under the direction of the City's Food Service Worker. This provides the organization with a sense of ownership for the services and programs thus fostering the process that if a person has a vested interest they will be more committed to the organization. One of the goals is to provide a one stop shop where people can participate in programs and activities promoting healthy active living principals and have access to information and referral to meet their needs in the community they reside. By forming partnerships and working directly with other service providers in the area and maintaining effective communications with them, prevents and reduces the opportunity of duplication of services and programs.

b) youth

- Relationship/asset building have been the key to our success.
- Allow youth to give back to their community through activities that provide a positive experience.
- Reward and profile positive accomplishments to the public.
- Support perception of positive engagement you have in the community.
- Best practices in providing in house training ensuring staff have the capacity to engage all youth.

c) the cultural community

- Our best practices include establishing a Community Cultural Development Committee that advises us on arts/culture/heritage policy issues and grant adjudication and the Friends of Leigh Square, a non-profit and soon to be charity as a partner at Leigh Square; a public art policy for the city to adopt is in progress; a consultant report on the development of a heritage strategy; review and update of the heritage property inventory; graffiti prevention strategy with Community Policing and Youth Services focusing on the creation of murals .

4) What principles or strategies does *your municipality* use to prioritize how it delivers services and provides facilities for:

a) seniors

- All programs and services are prioritized based on an annual business planning session that ties back to our City Strategic Plan and Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

b) youth

- Opportunities for youth to be heard and involved in the programming process.
- Does it meet youth needs – if not then do not implement.
- Is it accessible for at-risk youth – must be part of the consideration.
- Does the program create ownership, sense of belonging, trust and respect?
- Flexibility to match staff with programming, (eg: sports specific, gender specific).

c) the cultural community

- The Arts Village's mission and vision determine how we prioritize and deliver services along with our annual business plan and division's strategic goals. Most of our programs are evaluation based and services are determined based on feedback from audiences and partners.

5) What purpose-built facilities, including shared multi-use space, do you have in your community for:

a) seniors

- Wilson Centre - Recreation Facility primarily for those 50 years + housed as part of the Port Coquitlam Recreation Complex with arenas, youth centre and multipurpose space. The City also provides a variety of programs in arts and culture that provide seniors programs. Hyde Creek Recreation Centre is a 50,000 sq. ft. facility with multi-purpose space, weight room, fitness studio, swimming pool and spa

b) youth

- Hyde Away – Hyde Creek Recreation Centre.
- Offside – Port Coquitlam Recreation Complex.
- RailSide Skate Park and Sports Court – Open for all ages but constructed as a “youth park”.
- Shaughnessy Bike Park - Open for all ages but constructed as a “youth park”.

c) culture community

- Leigh Square Community Arts Village is a purpose built cultural facility but we can also use and share space at all the other community centres and public parks to present cultural programs/events.

6) Who owns and operates each of those facilities?

Seniors Name of Facility	Owner	Operator	Dedicated/Non-Dedicated
Wilson Ctr	City	The Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department, works in partnership with the Wilson Centre Seniors' Advisory Association	Dedicated during the day, shared at night

Youth Name of Facility	Owner	Operator	Dedicated/Non-Dedicated
Hyde Away	City	Parks and Rec	Dedicated
Off-side	City	Parks and Rec	Dedicated
Railside Skate park and Sports Court	City	Parks and Rec	Constructed as a youth park and is shared
Shaughnessy Bike Park	City	Parks and Rec	Constructed as a youth park and is shared

Culture Name of Facility	Owner	Operator	Dedicated/Non-Dedicated
Terry Fox Theatre (seats 336)	School Board	Port Coquitlam Theatre Society	Dedicated for Theatre and multi-use functions
Leigh Square Community Arts Village	City	Parks and Rec	Dedicated primarily as a cultural facility

**Interview with David Leavers,
Director, Recreation, Culture and Parks
Township of Langley**

1. What trends do you see in the way *services* are delivered by municipalities and others to:

a) Seniors

- The term, "seniors," is being redefined to differentiate between younger and active seniors, older and less active seniors, and the frail elderly. Municipalities are no longer programming for seniors as a single unit, due to early retirement and longevity. Programmes are increasingly related to ability and mobility.
- Younger seniors are less likely to attend programmes in a seniors centre, but may use it as a point of connection with others of their generation.
- Langley struggles with providing services to seniors as a result of its geography (120 square miles, several dispersed population nodes)
- There is a trend toward integrating facilities and programmes for seniors into multi-purpose and multi-generational recreation centres.
- Langley would like to be the broker or the facilitator, rather than the direct service provider for this population. In Richmond, Parks, Recreation, and Culture staff provide supports to societies that provide the services.
- Langley hasn't had the discussion on where it might go with such services, this is part of a master planning exercise.
- The Walnut Grove and Aldergrove Seniors Networks founded one and one-half decades ago no longer exist.
- There is also a trend toward community hall associations, formerly run by community elders, being dissolved, with municipalities inheriting the facilities.

b) Youth

- There are no dedicated spaces for youth in the Township's recreation centres.
- Neither are there dedicated youth programmers. The function is part of the larger portfolios of programmers at the Walnut Grove and WC Blair Recreation Centres, and is also shared by a recreation leader.
- The community as a whole is very successful in providing services for youth, particularly in the areas of sports and the arts.
- Unconnected youth often fall to Parks, Recreation, and Culture to support.
- There is a trend to locate dedicated space for youth in or very near larger recreation centres, such as in Abbotsford, where youth facilities are attached to a recreation centre but are governed by another agency.

c) The Cultural Community

- Municipalities have been slow to respond to the cultural needs of their residents.
- A few municipalities have built purpose-built, centralized cultural centres.

2. What trends do you see in the way *facilities* are provided by municipalities and others for:

a) Seniors

- Seniors centres generally respond to the needs of older seniors. Seniors aged 55 to 80 and who are in good health do not relate to the stereotypical seniors centre.
- Coquitlam's Dogwood Centre is an example of an older, traditional seniors centre with activity-based spaces within it. The Glen Pine seniors' facility in the town centre is newer and was developed as the result of a strong political lobby: the community's older seniors wanted what the Dogwood Centre had. The City was able to influence the design of the facility so that its spaces were flexible, so that other populations could use them, and so that space dedicated exclusively to seniors could be minimized. As seniors recreate in the morning and afternoons, the facility is able to be open to all populations in the evenings.
- Langley's large landmass and distinct communities make the provision of facilities problematic. Centralization is difficult, and decentralization is expensive.
- Transportation is an issue both for youth and seniors.
- There is a trend for municipalities to provide the facilities and arms-length organizations to undertake the programming.
- There is also a trend toward retirement communities having their own facilities: recreation halls, exercise rooms, and swimming pools. Seniors who use these facilities may not connect with the wider community.
- Transportation is an issue for many populations, including seniors and youth. Some centres respond by providing mini-bus services.

b) Youth

- Contemporary youth display the best and the worst: many are self-motivated, creative, and contribute well to society. Others require considerable support, monitoring, and intervention. The former don't need Parks, Recreation, and Culture services; the latter need them desperately, but may not choose to access them.
- Facilities are now being designed with the needs of youth in mind, and may include colours, furnishings, equipment, and programmes altogether different from those provided to other populations (e.g. multi-media spaces, access to technology).
- Again, the trend is toward providing smaller dedicated spaces adjacent to larger space used by the general population.

c) The Cultural Community

- Municipalities, recreation departments, and the Township have been slow to respond to the cultural needs and aspirations of their communities.
- Politics have intervened to prevent the construction of facilities for culture in Langley.
- Given the cost of building and operating facilities, both recreational and cultural, it may be appropriate for municipalities to partner. Politics, however, may render this a challenge.
- A new museum has been discussed in Langley but planning is stalled.
- In the case of Langley, given its challenging geography, the question is, where should cultural facilities be located?

3. What Best Practices are utilized *in your community or elsewhere* to provide services and facilities for:

a) Seniors

- Langley is striving to recognize and respond to the needs of seniors as it develops facilities: e.g. cushioned walkway at the Langley Events Centre, warmer water at the WC Blair Pool, adjustable weight machines, rather than free weights in exercise rooms.
- Glen Pine Centre in Coquitlam, accessible by other populations when seniors are not using it, is demonstrating a best practice.

b) Youth

- Langley has no best practices relating to youth.
- Other communities demonstrate the value of partnering in the provision of both facilities and services, and some may be involved in integrated case management.

c) The Cultural Community

- In Langley, the municipality is not providing significant services to the cultural sector. Although the museum enjoys a positive reputation in the province, little is being done for the arts. There is no programme to facilitate art in public places.
- Performing arts activities can be characterized as “slim pickings.”
- The faith community plays a limited role for its own adherents.
- The heritage community enjoys some partnerships with the Township and has done considerable preservation work.

4) What principles or strategies does *your municipality* use to prioritize how it delivers services and provides facilities for:

a) Seniors

b) Youth

c) The Cultural Community

The Township's Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan contains a number of principles to guide the development of services and facilities. These include:

- Enhancing a sense of social connectivity
- Fostering community input
- Promoting economic sustainability
- Promoting effective and efficient services
- Promoting environmental sustainability
- Providing geographically equitable services
- Maximizing available resources
- Ensuring public benefit
- Minimizing barriers (physical, financial, gender, transportation)
- Protecting natural and man-made infrastructure
- Supporting community organizations
- Promoting voluntarism

5) What purpose-built facilities, including shared multi-use space, do you have in your community for:

- a) seniors
- b) youth
- c) culture

6) Who owns and operates each of those facilities?

Culture Name of Facility	Owner	Operator	Dedicated/Non-Dedicated
Langley Centennial Museum and National Exhibition Centre	Township of Langley	Township of Langley	Dedicated
Chief Sepass Theatre	School District 35	School District 35	Dedicated
Langley Community Music School	City of Langley	Langley Community Music School Society	Dedicated
Timms Community Centre	City of Langley	City of Langley	Non-Dedicated
Douglas Recreation Centre	City of Langley	City of Langley	Non-Dedicated
Walnut Grove, WC Blair, Aldergrove, Preston, and Willoughby Community Centres	Township of Langley	Township of Langley	Non-Dedicated
Langley Events Centre (Banquet/Meeting/Multipurpose Hall, 5,500 seat arena/concert bowl)	Society	Society	Non-Dedicated
Seniors Name of Facility	Owner	Operator	Dedicated/Non-Dedicated
Langley Seniors Recreation & Resource Centre	Langley Seniors Recreation & Resource Centre Society	Langley Seniors Recreation & Resource Centre Society	Dedicated
Youth Name of Facility	Owner	Operator	Dedicated/Non-Dedicated
Walnut Grove, WC Blair, Aldergrove, and Willoughby Community Centres (Multipurpose Rooms located in Township)	Township of Langley	Township of Langley	Non-Dedicated
George Preston Recreation Centre	Township of Langley	Private Contractor	Non-Dedicated

**Interview with Joanne Edey-Nichol,
Assistant Director – Parks, Culture and Recreation
City of New Westminster**

1. What trends do you see in the way *services* are delivered by municipalities and others to:

a) seniors

Continues to see the trend to have dedicated space for seniors. The trend also is the sharing of dedicated space. Senior's space is being integrated into the large leisure facilities and although there may be a space dedicated to seniors there is multi use space for everyone to use that has benefits to all groups including seniors. Another trend is the age of attendance in a senior centre is a much older crowd 75-85yrs vs. 60-70yrs in the past.

b) youth

Very similar to that of seniors, the trend is to have dedicated space for the youth population. Although in order to support the idea of youth space in a community the trend is to bring all the stakeholders together to have a say in the decision especially the youth themselves.

c) the cultural community

The trend is to develop an art strategy. Municipalities are getting 'into' the cultural field of doing business. Like municipalities did 50 years ago when they took on the Parks and Recreation field in both Direct service delivery and community development.

2. What trends do you see in the way *facilities* are provided by municipalities and others for:

a) seniors

The space dedicated to seniors is becoming a multi-use space at times of the day the seniors are not using it.

b) youth

Youth centers are being recognized as important for this population group. Particularly the older youth 14/15 years and up, need a place to go and "hang out".

c) the cultural community

Civic Centres with a cultural focus. A centre where culture is the norm, it is inclusive; culture is part of the planning and the building. Social space is being created inside leisure facilities like parks are in outdoor space.

3. What best practices are utilized *in your community or elsewhere* to provide services and facilities for:

a) seniors

intergenerational programming, combining youth space with senior's space and working together with many groups to come to a resolution and a solution.

b) youth

Lobbying for dedicated space for youth.

c) the cultural community

Developed a really good relationship with the Arts Council – offered them free space from which to operate from. This group will be integral partner in the building of the new civic arts building.

4) What principles or strategies does *your municipality* use to prioritize how it delivers services and provides facilities for:

a) seniors

Seniors provide the services to seniors; P&R provides the support and the facilities. The principle is to partner with the seniors.

b) youth

It is all about partnership. The youth, the community, the neighbours, the user groups everyone must be apart of the solution.

c) the cultural community

It is all about partnership. All stakeholders must be involved in making decisions. With the strategy, the city is to provide support and leadership, community arts development, awareness and promotion, gathering and performance spaces, public art and events and festivals . . . all in partnership.

5) What purpose-built facilities, including shared multi-use space, do you have in your community for:

a) seniors

b) youth

c) culture

6) Who owns and operates each of those facilities?

Seniors Name of Facility	Owner	Operator	Dedicated/Non-Dedicated
Century House	City	Century House Association/City Staff	Dedicated during the day, shared at night
Queensborough Community Ctr	City	City	Multi use space
Sapperton	Old Age Pensioners	OAP	Dedicated

Youth Name of Facility	Owner	Operator	Dedicated/Non- Dedicated
Queen Elizabeth Community School allocated space within the school	School District	City Staff	Non-dedicated
Lord Tweedsmuir and Connaught Heights Community School allocated space within the school	School District	City Staff	Non-dedicated
FW Howay Community School allocated space within the school	School District	City Staff	Non-Dedicated
New West Secondary School allocated space within the school	School District	City Staff	Non-Dedicated
Youth Centre at Moody Park (spring 2010this addition is being added to the back of Century House) includes: Youth social Lounge Multi-purpose room Computer lab Office space for community partners Shower/laundry facilities Fitness ctr Kitchen	City	Youth/City Staff	Only the youth lounge is Dedicated The rest is shared space at Century House.

Culture Name of Facility	Owner	Operator	Dedicated/Non- Dedicated
Massey Theatre (now threatened with demolition)	School Board	SD and Massey Theatre Society	Dedicated 1260 seats
Burr Theatre the future of this theatre is uncertain. The city wishes to sell the landmark as part of a plan to revitalize the building and downtown and the Save the Burr Coalition wants the city to hang on to the theatre to ensure the building to ensure the building is preserved.	City Owned	City	Dedicated 300 seats
Queens Park Outdoor Theatre	City Owned	City	Dedicated
Arts Council Office and Gallery	City	Art's Council	Dedicated
Douglas College Theatre	Douglas College	Douglas College	Dedicated 350 seats
Bernie Legge Theatre	City	Vagabond Players	Dedicated

Appendix "C"
Inventory of Community Rental Spaces available for
Cultural and Other Activities

INVENTORY OF COMMUNITY RENTAL SPACES AVAILABLE FOR CULTURAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Facility	Description	Capacity	Equipment	Rental Cost (2009)
Clarke Foundation Theatre	700 seat proscenium arched theatre	700	Rental theatre with front of house and technical staff, dressing rooms, wings, grand piano, etc.	Rates vary by morning, afternoon, and evening blocks of time and whether school, non-profit, or for profit: \$155 to \$1050 per block, with additional charges for rehearsals, extra cleanup, security, ticket printing, piano, etc.
Mission Arts Centre and Art Gallery	Art Gallery, multi-purpose room, and tea room/kitchen located in older heritage character house	60 max	Tables and chairs and access to kitchen are provided with rental	Rates vary by space and whether non-profit or commercial, as well as by duration of the rental: from \$16 to \$48 for a 3 hour block; from \$24 to \$92 for a 6 hour block; and from \$13 to \$48 for additional hours. Rental of the facility's grounds ranges from \$120 to \$438 depending on the number of facilities rented and the nature of the renter; for a 6 hour block. 10 hour blocks are proportionately more expensive.

Mission Leisure Centre	Multipurpose Room 1	150	Hardwood floor, gymnasium style room with audio-visual equipment; mainly used for sports and dances	\$33 to \$110 hr depending on nature of renter (seniors, minor sports, community organization, or commercial)
	Multipurpose Room 3	45	Used mainly for birthday parties and receptions, has access to exterior patio, tables and chairs available	\$6.60 to \$22 hr depending on nature of renter (seniors, minor sports, community organization, or commercial)
	Multipurpose Room 4	30-60	Space is dividable into rooms 4A and 4B, each with a capacity of 30, and each with access to exterior patio. Both rooms have hard surfaced floors, counter, and sink	\$5 to \$16 hr depending on nature of renter (seniors, minor sports, community organization, or commercial)
P.L.A.Y. Station	#1 Main Hall	50	Large, high ceiling space with "bounce floor" and mirrored wall, garage door entry and sound system	\$16.50 to \$55.10 depending on nature of renter (seniors, minor sports, community organization, or commercial)
	#2 Secondary Hall	30	Moderately large, high ceiling space with mirrored wall, suitable for meetings	\$6.60 to \$22 hr depending on nature of renter (seniors, minor sports, community organization, or commercial)
Heritage Park Centre	Classrooms A147, A154, and A 157	30 each	School classrooms with desks	\$4-\$10 hr depending on season and nature of renter (seniors, minor sports, community organization, or commercial)
	Classroom A 200	50	Large classroom for larger meetings with display boards for presentations and drop down screens for overhead projection	\$8-\$15 hr depending on season and nature of renter (seniors, minor sports, community organization, or commercial)
	Art Room B 106	30	Room features a complete photography	\$8-\$15 hr depending on

			darkroom, drawing tables, and sink	season and nature of renter (seniors, minor sports, community organization, or commercial)
	Community Gym	250	Gymnasium equipped with Sport-Tech fibreglass composite flooring with a no-slip texture. Space features a built in sound system	\$4 to \$32 hr depending on nature of renter (seniors, minor sports, community organization, or commercial)
	Staff Lounge D 108	50	Room equipped with beverage serving area, round tables, and ample space for presentation screens	\$1 to \$4 depending on nature of renter (seniors, minor sports, community organization, or commercial)
	Cafetorium D 110	250	Large multipurpose space with tables and chairs which can be booked in conjunction with the Clarke Theatre	\$4 to \$32 hr depending on nature of renter (seniors, minor sports, community organization, or commercial)
School District 75 Elementary School Gymnasiums	Albert McMahon Central Cherry Hill Christina Morrison Deroche Dewdney Durieu ESR Hatzic Hillside Silverdale West Heights Windebank		Elementary school standard-sized gymnasiums available for public rental, mainly with hardwood floors. Main rentals are for athletic or sport activities. Renters are required to provide their own equipment. West Heights Elementary School has a multipurpose room available only to Mission Parks, Recreation, and Culture	Rental fees vary according to the nature of the renter, whether youth, adult non-profit, or commercial; according to the season (school year or summer); and do not include custodial costs. Base rates thus vary from \$2 hr to \$16 hr plus custodial costs.
All Saints Anglican Church	Church Hall	120	20 tables, 122 chairs, some audio visual equipment	\$40 per hour
	Conference Room	25		\$25 per hour

St. Andrew's United Church	Sanctuary	200	Fixed seating in sanctuary; 180 chairs, 30 tables, but no audio visual equipment available	\$200 per use
	Gathering Room	50		\$15 per hour
	Lounge	20		\$10 per hour
	Gymnasium	180		\$25 per hour
Westminster Abbey Guesthouse	Conference Room	50	Tables and chairs provided	\$70 per day
Northside Community Church	Sanctuary	400	Fixed seating, public address system, technician, and piano included in rent	\$300 per 3 hr period
Mission Foursquare Church	Sanctuary	245-300	Flexible seating, in rows or with tables and chairs, audio-visual equipment and access to kitchen are available	\$125 for a 4 hr minimum rental
	Fireside Room	35	Meeting room with access to sink	\$25 per hour
	Classroom 106	25	Meeting room with tables and chairs	\$25 per hour
	Classroom 105	15	Meeting room with tables and chairs	\$25 per hour
Bellevue Hotel and Lounge	Banquet Room	100-120	Flexible table and chair seating; combined Banquet Room and Lounge accommodates 150	\$15 to \$40 per plate
	Lounge	45-50		
Best Western City Lodge	Banquet Room	100-300	Flexible table and chair seating	\$15 and up for lunch; \$30 and up for dinner
	Meeting Rooms		Flexible table and chair seating	Cost varies with season and demand
Camp Luther	Retreat Facility	86	14 bedrooms with kitchen and dining areas and 3 small meeting rooms	\$72 per person per day

	Main Camp	160	14 cabins with kitchens, 7 recreation vehicle sites, and full food service	\$60 per person per day
	Gymnasium			\$2 per person, minimum of \$30
Elks Hall	Hall with dance floor, stage and kitchen facilities	144	Tables and chair provided	\$375 per use of hall, catering extra
Eighteen Pastures	Hall			Rate varies with season and type of event; Catering form \$13 to \$35 per plate
	Meeting Room	40	Tables and chairs for 40	\$13 per person includes meal
Family Place	Meeting Room	20	Tables and chairs provided	Non-profit: \$15 hr, \$48 half day, \$95 day Business: \$20 hr, \$60 half day, \$120 day
Family, Youth, & Children's Centre	Variety of spaces occupying two floors			Non-profit: \$30 hr, \$48 for 3-8 hrs, \$95 for 8-12 hrs Business: \$40 hr, \$60 3-8 hrs, \$120 8-12 hrs
Fraser River Heritage Park	Gazebo, Bandstand, Picnic Area	Festival-sized crowds	None	\$125 for first 3 hours, \$30 for each additional hour
	Admin Bldg Board Room	Small meetings	Table and chairs provided	\$125 for 3 hr minimum; \$12 per additional hr, \$7 for non-profit groups
Hatzic Prairie Community Hall	Hall with dance floors, stage, kitchen	120 (150 max specified by Fire Dept)	Kitchen supplies provided in rental	\$400 per use

McConnell Creek Community Hall	Hall with small stage and smaller meeting room	110 (150 max specified by Fire Dept)	Access to kitchen and equipment included	\$300 per day, shorter periods negotiable
Mission Community Services	Conference Room	40-50	Access to fully equipped kitchen	Non-profit: \$20 hr, \$125 day Business: \$30 hr with a 2 hr minimum, \$160 day
	Board Room	15	Coffee counter available	Non-profit: \$10 hr, \$60 day
	Volunteer Lounge	25	Kitchen facilities available	Non-profit: \$11 hr, \$65 day
	Katimavik Room	20	Training/meeting room with blackboard	Non-profit: \$8 hr, \$45 day Business: \$10 hr, \$60 day
	Library Room	6	Lounge area with television and seats	Non-profit: \$8 hr, \$35 day Business: \$10 hr, \$40 day
Mission Library	Meeting/Conference Rooms	Large Room: 70 2-3 Smaller Rooms: 10 persons each	Use of overhead projector, screen, television, video/DVD player; Tables and chairs, access to kitchen	Non-profit: \$13 for 4 hrs, \$25 day Business: \$25 for 4 hrs, \$ 50 day
Royal Canadian Legion Hall	Hall	75-100	Tables and chairs provided, hall available until 2:00 pm only	
	Small Meeting Room			
Silverdale Hall	Hall with stage	200 seated in banquet configuration	Tables and chairs provided, must use hall's own catering	Cost varies with renter and nature of function
Silverhill Hall	Hall with stage	50-60	Tables and chairs provided, rental includes access to kitchen	\$20 hr, \$250 for 5 hrs
Ukrainian Hall	Hall with stage and covered verandah	93	Tables and chairs provided, additional rental fee includes access to kitchen	\$300 per use (+\$200 damage deposit)

				\$100 for use of kitchen
Whonnock Hall	Hall	160	Tables and chairs provided, rental includes access to kitchen	\$1350 per use (+\$400 damage deposit)
Xa:ytem Longhouse Interpretive Centre	Main Room, Weaving Room, & Pithouse	50-80 per space	Longhouse and Weaving Room are connected.	Main Room: \$250 Weaving Room: \$250 Pithouse: \$250 Damage Deposit: \$200
Kingsway Arms at Cedarbrooke Chateau	Dinning Hall (Main) Dinning Hall (Private) Theatre Class room Fitness Centre	100 45 80 50 - 60 40	Tables, Chairs, projector and screen, sound system, as above suitable for presentations will cater – mtg. room. Large room with a few pieces of equipment can be moved to the side	no charge for facility charge for meals. as above \$75.00 flat fee \$75.00 flat fee \$75.00 flat fee
Power House at Stave Falls	Historic powerhouse with "theatre" (large flat floored meeting room) and deck	300 on deck, 60 in theatre	12 long tables, 60 chairs, and several tents available on site	Deck rental: \$60 hr Theatre: \$85 half day, \$150 day