


CITY OF NANAIMO
THE HARBOUR CITY

Accessibility, Inclusion and Special Events

*Culture & Special Events section,
Parks, Recreation & Culture*

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With respect & gratitude, we acknowledge that our work is carried out on the traditional territory of the Snunemuxw First Nation, and that the Snunemuxw have stewarded these lands since time immemorial.

Community Events, Tournaments, Festivals & Gatherings

- Community events and gatherings are an essential part of how we celebrate who we are as a City.
- The work of the City's Culture & Special Events section connects to City Plan, Policy C4.8 – Community Events, Tournaments, Festivals and Gatherings.
- One of the desired outcomes of Policy C4.8 is: ***An open invitation to all members of the community to access and participate in events, festivals, tournaments and gatherings.***



Integrated Action Plan Connection

ONGOING ACTIONS (Ongoing & Repeated)

151 Maintain a Downtown Event Revitalization Funding Grant to support events and initiatives which attract residents and visitors to downtown. (C4.8.4; C4.8.11)

152 Work with Tourism Nanaimo and the Nanaimo Hospitality Association to attract shoulder-season and off-season events/gatherings, e.g. the BC 55+ Games. (C4.8.13)

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS (0 - 4 Years)

153 Work with First Nations, Team Nanaimo, Indigenous Sports, Physical Activity & Recreation Council, and other partners to develop a bidding plan to host the North American Indigenous Games. C4.8.1

154 Implement the Sport Tourism Strategy options which include focusing on Indigenous sport, all things cycling, paddling, individual/small sport disciplines, adaptive sport, and sport business. (C4.8.2; C4.8.8)

Connection to ACAI Workplan

ACAI WORKPLAN:	
The goal of the workplan is to reduce barriers and improve equity and access to City residents in alignment with City Plan, the Integrated Action Plan priorities, and the terms of reference of the ACAI committee.	
Topic	Overview
Accessibility in City Parks, Facilities & City Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise City staff on specific procedures and best practices for reducing barriers in facilities & infrastructure Advise City staff on specific projects as needed
City Plan: Nanaimo Reimagined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input on other Integrated Action Plan items as needed
Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serve as a resource for City of Nanaimo projects Receive presentations to advance awareness & share knowledge

Downtown Event Revitalization Funding

- Connects to Integrated Action Plan *Action 151* (Maintain a Downtown Event Revitalization Funding to support events and initiatives which attract residents and visitors to downtown.)
- Council has allocated \$250,000 to this fund annually. Funds can be used to assist with the costs of organizing/presenting public events and initiatives in downtown Nanaimo.
- The intention of the grant is to recognize the value that initiatives have in building vitality downtown and in enhancing Nanaimo's profile as a destination of choice.



Accessibility & Inclusion in Events

We encourage and support accessibility and inclusion in City-run and partner events. Examples include:

- Accessibility and Inclusion expectations stated in Culture & Special Events grant/artist contracts (The current language is drawn from City Plan and we will update to include the Statement on Accessibility, Equity and Inclusion when it is finalized and adopted.)
- Accessible parking
- Transit shuttles (partnership with RDN Transit)
- Bike valet services.



City of Nanaimo Events



- These events are fully operated by City Staff. Examples are Canada Day and the Concerts in the Park summer series.



Large-Scale Community Events

- Large Scale community events are operated by community organizations, boards or committees. Examples include Silly Boat Regatta, Pride Festival, Marine Festival, BluesFest, VIEX and the Dragon Boat Festival.
- Multi-Partner Community Events, such as the 2023 Junior All Native Tournament (led by Snuneymuxw First Nation) and the Commercial Street Night Market (led by the Chamber of Commerce) include significant City support from multiple departments.
- The Special Events Team coordinates pre-event meetings with event organizers and internal City partners to ensure relationships are strong, event support is cross-departmental and organizers and participants have a smooth, safe experience.




Independent Community Events

- These are the vast majority of events that happen in our community. Many of these occur annually and many receive funding from the City of Nanaimo through grants.
- The Allocations and Special Events team have built strong relationships within the community through supporting these independent events.
- The Special Events team has a role as “super-connectors” – we need to bring people together to be successful and we love working with the community and with other teams at the City to help events succeed.



Interdepartmental Collaborations

- **Transportation**
 - Bike Valet/ Transit shuttles
 - Road closures
- **Planning**
 - Community partnerships
- **Permits & Business Licensing**
 - Special Event Permits
 - Food trucks
 - Filming permits (TV / Movies)
- **Parks**
 - Parks maintenance staff
- **Community Safety**
 - Fire, Bylaw, Community Safety Officers, RCMP, and Community Program Manager
- **Sanitation**
 - Waste management / Sustainability / “Green” event designation
- **Communications**
 - Social media platforms
 - News releases



Community Collaborations

Organizations we work with include:

- Tourism Nanaimo
- The Nanaimo Hospitality Association
- The Downtown Nanaimo Business Association
- The Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce
- Cultural Partners operating from co-managed City facilities:
 - The Nanaimo Art Gallery
 - The Nanaimo Museum
 - The Port Theatre

Discussion

We are keen to learn from the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness about how we can improve the way we plan for events.

- What has your experience been with attending City-run events, large-scale events and independent community events in Nanaimo?
- If you do not typically attend, what barriers keep you from attending?
- From your perspective, how can we provide and support major events in a more accessible and inclusive way?

THANK YOU!

