

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 24, 2012

PROCLAMATION - MAY AS ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Recreation and Culture, recommends:

1. That Council proclaim the month of May as "Asian Heritage Month" in the City of Vaughan for 2012 and for subsequent years hereafter; and,
2. That the list of activities to be held in May 2012 in the City of Vaughan to commemorate Asian Heritage Month as found in this report be received, and,
3. That the City's activities be posted on the City's website and promoted at City facilities.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 4, and Objective 4.1:

- To foster a city with strong social cohesion, an engaging arts scene, and a clear sense of its culture and heritage.

Economic Impact

The cost of programs associated with Asian Heritage Month celebrations will be covered by the organizing/host group and agency. Some printing and promotional costs will be covered through the 2012 Cultural Services Operating Budget.

Communications Plan

The proclamation of May 2012 as Asian Heritage Month and the list of activities will be posted on the City's website, Council Calendar of Events, and promoted throughout the City and community centres and Vaughan Public Libraries.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to proclaim the month of May as Asian Heritage Month and to present an overview of the activities to be held in May across the City of Vaughan.

Background - Analysis and Options

In May 2002, the Government of Canada signed an official declaration to designate the month of May as Asian Heritage Month in Canada. Asian Heritage Month is a time to honour and celebrate the achievements of East, South, Southeast and Western Asian Canadians, their descendants and their contribution to the social, economic, cultural and political life in Canada. The 2006 Canada Census identified approximately 20% of Vaughan's population being of either East, South, Southeast, and Western Asian descent. This geographical area includes countries such as, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, The Philippines, Vietnam, China, Korea, Japan, Cambodia and Indonesia. This month provides an opportunity to learn about and experience the history and culture of Asian-Canadians.

In honour of Asian Heritage Month, there are a number of activities throughout Vaughan that are presented by local groups and organizations that showcases their culture through the arts and exhibits. The celebration of Asian Heritage Month supports the City of Vaughan's Diversity

Strategy, as approved by Council in 2010, which identifies the goal of “ to create opportunities for creative cultural expression and dialogue”, within the City.

List of Activities

o **Community Organizations exhibiting at City Facilities:**

Human Endeavour presents:

Epic Arts and Crafts

Display of traditional handcrafted South Asian crafts and textile banners.
May 18 – May 31, 2012, Vaughan Arts Space, Maple Community Centre

South Asian Wedding Costumes

Display of beautiful textiles, beading and styles of traditional wedding wear.
May 18 – May 31, 2012, Vaughan Arts Space, Maple Community Centre

First Chinese Seniors Association of Vaughan (FCSAV)

Chinese Paper Origami Sculpture

Display of beautifully handcrafted detailed origami sculptures depicting Koi fish, peacocks and butterflies created by FCSAV members.
May 18 – May 31, 2012, Vaughan Arts Space, Maple Community Centre

Federation of Chinese Canadians in Markham

Chinese Paper Landscapes and Scroll Paintings

Dyed paper pulp and collage landscapes and watercolour and ink scroll paintings.
May 18 – May 31, 2012, Vaughan Arts Space, Maple Community Centre

Vellore Village Community Centre – Room

Elspeth Hayworth Centre -Yoga for Seniors

Mondays and Fridays for the month of May, 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Open to all Seniors in Vaughan. The focus of the class involves quieting the mind throughout practice as well as during guided relaxation to encourage healing.

Human Endeavour –South Asian Heritage Day Celebrations!

Location/time: TBA

South Asian Heritage Day is a signature event of Human Endeavour that is celebrated every year with cultural performances, displays and an award ceremony in which Human Endeavour recognizes the individuals, groups and organizations who have made significant contributions to the community.

- o **Vaughan Public Libraries:** Each branch will have a variety of activities for all ages that include: cultural storytelling, art exhibit, guest authors, origami workshops, Chinese brush painting and more. Complete listings are found at www.vaughanpl.ca.
- o **York Regional Police:** Asian Heritage Month celebrations, performances and displays will be part of the festivities at the Safety Village.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, this report will provide:

- **STRATEGIC GOAL:**
Service Excellence - Providing service excellence to citizens.
- **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**
Preserve our heritage and support diversity, arts and culture.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council, and the necessary resources to implement this program have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

In celebrating Asian Heritage Month, the City reaffirms its effort to build an inclusive community. More so, it is an opportunity to highlight Vaughan's rich diversity and celebrate and learn about the traditions and culture of our East, South, Western and Southeast Asian community.

Attachments

None

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Respectfully submitted,

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