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**Needs Assessment & Feasibility Study for a**

**Multi-Purpose Arts, Sport, Recreation and Event Facility**

**For Salt Spring Island**

The community of Salt Spring Island is in need of community spaces for the performing arts and indoor recreational programming. The community based organizations that provide indoor sport or arts programming for children, youth and adults are managing or struggling to operate in inappropriate venues; the current model relies on community spaces that are dispersed, often unsuitable, expensive and or unavailable due to increasing demand for space.

A central community facility that was designed to accommodate both recreational and arts programming primarily but not exclusively for children and youth would create opportunity for families and adults in our community by increasing access to programming and offering the chance to our existing community based organizations to grow and develop their offerings.

Graffiti Theatre has received a grant from the Salt Spring Foundation to undertake a study to determine and describe the community needs for such a facility and possible solutions to the challenges of many overlapping groups.

For over 25 years, Graffiti Theatre has been producing and supporting the preforming arts on Salt Spring Island. It has been challenged by lack of rehearsal space, venue access and storage. Working with many other community groups has reinforced the widespread issues for other theatre groups, adult and youth music organizations and teachers, youth performance groups both school-based, and sport and recreational groups such as Saltspring Gymnastics Association and Tsunami Circus.

Graffiti Theatre Company is committed to supporting community arts programming and initiatives through helping to create shared community resources such as equipment, rehearsal spaces and venues and storage.

Graffiti is inviting your organization to participate in this study by committing to be interviewed about your current challenges and how a community facility of this nature could impact your programming, hear your perspective and vision about what our community needs in terms of performing and recreational spaces. and why. If you are unable to participate in the interview but wish to provide input, you can do so by way of an online survey.

Our goal is to create a study that can illustrate the need for this facility to our community at large but also specifically to the Capital Regional District (CRD) leadership, other levels of government, and potential funders. As debt repayment for the community pool facility is almost complete, we understand that there will imminent conversations at the community level about the direction of further development of the property where the pool is located.

In addition to defining facility requirements, this study will also provide a snapshot on the willingness and ability of the community to invest in the development of the facility, and to sustain its operations and programming.

This study is the result of years of passionate conversations between the overlapping boards and leaders in many community organizations. The enclosed facility concept plans you see and the ideas we are presenting and discussing are meant to be a starting point for conversations about our shared challenges, and what a new facility development could include. *(NOTE: the concept for such a facility, including its size and investment are preliminary estimates only, and is provided only to help guide this process.)* There are other facility options that could be considered including the repurposing of existing facilities no longer required for their intended purposes.

This process has been started with the intention of including everyone and hopefully what we learn in through this dialogue will lead to some progress in improving our community for everyone.

The findings and draft recommendations of this process will be made publicly available, and subject to further input before finalized as being fully representative for Salt Spring Island’s needs.

To assist with this process, tpb strategic counsel, a BC based company, has been retained to facilitate the information gathering process, and to prepare the report.

**To participate in this study or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rebecca Nygard rebecca.nygard@gma**

Attachments – For Discussion Purposes Only

* Conceptual Design of Salt Spring Island Arts, Recreation Centre (SPARC)
* Preliminary Cost Estimates for SPARC facility

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