



City of Delta
COUNCIL REPORT
Regular Meeting

To: **Council**

File No.: **8100-01**

From: **Parks, Recreation, and Culture
Department**

Date: **June 11, 2025**

2025 City of Delta Events Update

The following report has been reviewed and endorsed by the City Manager's Office.

▪ **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT *Ladders, Lights & Loaders: Delta Fire and Emergency Services, Delta Police, and Engineering Operations Open House* and *DIYAFest* be added to the 2025 City of Delta Events Program.

▪ **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's approval to add the *Ladders, Lights & Loaders: Delta Fire and Emergency Services, Delta Police, and Engineering Operations Open House* and *DIYAFest* events to the 2025 City of Delta Events Program. The report also provides an update regarding the development of a City of Delta Events Strategy that will provide a coordinated framework to support, manage, and grow events across the City.

▪ **BACKGROUND:**

At its Regular Meeting on November 4, 2024, Council adopted a motion requiring Council approval for all special events and a subsequent motion on March 3, 2025 to report back to Council with recommendations for events, specifically Diwali / Bandi Chhor Divas that would enrich the City's cultural programming.

▪ **DISCUSSION:**

The City Events Team is proposing two City-led events in 2025: *Ladders, Lights & Loaders: Delta Fire and Emergency Services, Delta Police, and Engineering Operations Open House*, an interactive open house that showcases Delta's Fire and Emergency Services, Delta Police, and Engineering Operations services through live demonstrations, hands-on exhibits, and family-friendly activities, and *DIYAFest*, a new event that blends South Asian culture and entertainment with community engagement in a colourful and welcoming celebration of light.

Proposed 2025 City Events

Ladders, Lights & Loaders: Delta Fire and Emergency Services, Delta Police, and Engineering Operations Open House

The City Events Team proposes to combine three popular open houses – previously hosted separately by Delta’s Fire and Emergency Services, Delta Police, and Engineering Operations – into a single, City-led community event titled *Ladders, Lights & Loaders: Delta Fire and Emergency Services, Delta Police, and Engineering Operations Open House* to be held on September 21, 2025, at Paterson Park. This family-friendly event aims to promote interdepartmental collaboration, increase public understanding of municipal services, and strengthen community engagement with the City’s operations teams. The event will include live demonstrations, interactive exhibits, main stage entertainment, and food and beverage service. The Open House will capitalize on shared infrastructure from the Barnside Harvest Festival to reduce logistical costs and resource demands. The estimated cost to produce this event is \$50,000.

DIYAFest

The City Events Team proposes a Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas celebration titled *DIYAFest* on Friday, October 17, 2025, from 5:00pm – 10:00pm at the North Delta Recreation Centre and North Delta Centre for the Arts. The family-friendly event would feature live South Asian dance performances and live DJ and include a variety of interactive art activities such as diya decorating stations, mehndi (henna) body art, community rangoli design making, photobooth, and 18 holes of illuminated mini golf. Cultural cuisine will also be a central element, with South Asian food trucks offering a range of traditional dishes such as samosas, sweets, and hot beverages. The evening will culminate with an outdoor laser light show and an indoor screening of a family-friendly Bollywood movie.

At its June 5, 2025 Committee Meeting, the Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Committee received a verbal update from staff regarding a proposed Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas celebration in Delta. The Committee passed a motion of support for the event. If supported by Council, staff will work with local South Asian community partners to produce *DIYAFest*. The estimated cost to produce this event is \$40,000.

Staff recommend that the *Ladders, Lights & Loaders: Delta Fire and Emergency Services, Delta Police, and Engineering Operations Open House* and *DIYAFest* be added to the 2025 City of Delta Events Program.

City of Delta Event Strategy Update

The City of Delta has experienced substantial growth in both the number and variety of events it hosts each year - from community festivals and cultural celebrations to business gatherings and civic project launches. These events play a significant role in bringing people together, supporting local businesses, and creating more fun and vibrancy in our community. As the City looks to expand Delta’s event landscape in the years ahead, there is an opportunity to enhance coordination by developing a comprehensive Events Strategy, supported by a more centralized events division with a clear mandate to plan, promote and deliver events in Delta. During Summer 2025, staff

propose to engage the community to help shape the vision and priorities of the Events Strategy as part of the broader Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan Engagement Program.

Event Strategy Engagement Plan

The City Events Team will undertake an engagement program in collaboration with Communications and Engagement to gather input from residents, businesses, event organizers, cultural groups and tourism partners to inform the creation of the Event Strategy. Through this process, the team aims to:

1. Better understand what types of events and experiences residents, visitors, and businesses would like to see in Delta—whether that means enhancing or retiring existing events, introducing fresh ideas, or filling gaps in the current calendar.
2. Identify City, community, and third party-led event permitting challenges and process gaps.
3. Seek community input on how to fund events including through potential partnerships, sponsorships, grants and / or new funding mechanisms.
4. Determine which City parks / venues should be used or enhanced to support City, community, and third party-led events.

The Event Strategy engagement plan will align with the planned activities to gather input for the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan. This includes online feedback forms and interactive maps on Let's Talk Delta, in-person pop-up at public events, and focused discussions with internal and external groups. Input gathered through this engagement process will guide the City Events Team in developing an Events Strategy for Delta, with a planned launch in early 2026.

Implications:

Financial Implications – The cost of the *Ladders, Lights & Loaders: Delta Fire and Emergency Services, Delta Police, and Engineering Operations Open House* event is estimated at \$50,000 and will be funded through the City Events budget with support from the Delta Fire and Emergency Services, Delta Police, and Engineering Operations budgets, who have individually funded these events within their existing budgets previously. The cost of *DIYAFest* is estimated at \$40,000 and will also be accommodated within the City Events budget; however, it is important to note that the current \$1.1 million special events budget, which includes staff salaries, event materials, permitting, and operational costs, is already allocated across a growing number of City-led and supported events, and may require review as part of the Events Strategy moving forward.

▪ **CONCLUSION:**

The proposed addition of *Ladders, Lights & Loaders: Delta Fire and Emergency Services, Delta Police, and Engineering Operations Open House* and *DIYAFest* to the 2025 City of Delta Events Program represents a strategic step toward diversifying

Delta's event offerings, strengthening community connections, and enhancing cultural representation.

In parallel, the development of a comprehensive Events Strategy—coordinated with the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan update—will ensure that Delta's approach to event planning is consistent, equitable, and responsive to the needs of its diverse population. Through upcoming engagement efforts, the City Events Team will gather valuable insights to shape both the strategy and the future of event delivery in Delta.



Josh Turner
General Manager, Parks, Recreation, and Culture

Department submission prepared by: Paula Kolisnek, Manager of Corporate Events and Initiatives

This report has been prepared in consultation with the following listed departments.

Concurring Departments		
Department	Name	Signature
Communications & Engagement	Deanie Wong	DW
Engineering	Steven Lan	SL
Finance	Navin Chand	NC
Fire & Emergency Services	Guy McKintuck	GM
Delta Police	Harj Sidhu	HS