

Report to Council



Date: May 27, 2019
File: 0115-10
To: City Manager
From: Michelle Kam, Sustainability Coordinator and James Moore, Long Range Policy Planning Manager
Subject: PIBC Gold Award for Excellence in Planning

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Sustainability Coordinator and the Long Range Policy Planning Manager dated May 27, 2019, with respect to the Planning Institute of BC Gold Award for Excellence in Planning.

Purpose:

To inform Council of the PIBC Gold Award for Excellence in Planning for the City of Kelowna's Equity and Inclusion in Housing Needs Assessments.

Background:

PIBC annually recognizes the professional work and individual accomplishments of members across British Columbia and the Yukon through their awards and recognition program. The Awards for Excellence in Planning honour the best in professional planning work undertaken by members.

The City of Kelowna and Urban Matters received a Gold Award for "Excellence in Planning – City & Urban Areas" from Planning Institute of BC (PIBC) for *Equity and Inclusion in Housing Needs Assessments*. The Excellence in Policy Planning category seeks to honour the development and application of leading-edge planning policy. Submissions include examples of effective initiatives and solutions that enhance the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities.

The work was completed by staff in the Policy and Planning and Social Development teams, in concert with Urban Matters, and represents an innovative and ground-breaking approach to understanding the housing needs of our community – both today and into the future. The award was presented at the BC Land Summit conference on Wednesday, May 8th, where the PIBC Evaluation Committee noted that this "project stood out as a great example for the planning profession."

The following summarizes the unique approach the Housing Needs Assessment team took to formulating the Housing Needs Assessment (HNA):

- **Housing Wheelhouse:** The wheelhouse introduces a new paradigm that conceptualizes the housing continuum from a linear to a circular continuum. The standard 'linear' approach implies the end goal is homeownership, however a healthy housing stock includes many diverse forms and tenures to meet varied needs of residents. The City's innovative "wheelhouse" promotes equity and inclusion, and instead of showing the end goal to be home ownership, it demonstrates the continually changing needs through different ages, stages and income levels as residents move around or across the Wheelhouse. (See attachment for complete Housing Wheelhouse).
- **Resiliency:** The topic of housing is acknowledged as a system, and this approach applies a resiliency lens to embed flexibility in the housing system's ability to respond to, adapt and recover from sudden or unexpected changes. This is critical since housing is influenced by a complex web of interconnected systems, and attempting to predict a single future scenario is unlikely.
- **Health:** The role of health in a housing system has a tremendous impact on community wellbeing. The City of Kelowna and Interior Health have a "Healthy City Partnership" which is a unique and impactful partnership and is one of only a handful in the Province. The collaboration with Interior Health recognizes housing as a key social determinant of health, and the corresponding role of the health authority in contributing to a diverse and healthy housing stock. Both the City and the Health Authority have recognized housing as essential to community well-being, an innovation in practice that is essential for communities to holistically address the housing crisis.

Housing is receiving renewed focus from all levels of government. The City of Kelowna's Wheelhouse innovation has pushed the traditional housing continuum forward, encouraging the planning profession to embrace equity and inclusion in responding to the housing crisis. Kelowna's HNA demonstrates the City's capacity to embrace innovative solutions to atypical planning challenges.

Other planning professionals have shown keen interest to date in Kelowna's equity approach including the unique Wheelhouse approach. Below are examples of how the Wheelhouse has been or will be incorporated into housing across the province:

- The City of Kelowna and Urban Matters staff presented "Transforming Housing Needs Assessments" at the BC Non-Profit Housing Association's Housing Central conference in 2018;
- PIBC's Planning West magazine, Winter 2019 edition, features an article by the City of Kelowna titled "Including Equity, Health and Resilience in Housing Needs Reports";
- The Wheelhouse and Healthy Housing Strategy are being showcased in the BC Healthy Community Healthy Housing Action Guide for Local Governments which will be released in 2019; and
- The Wheelhouse will be showcased in Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Housing Observer Online in 2019.

This work aligns with both the 2014-2018 as well as the 2019-2022 Council priorities. Equity and inclusion in Housing Needs Assessments is a demonstration of the new Council's Priorities:

- **Social & Inclusive** - goal of "*fewer people experiencing homelessness and inclusion and diversity are increasing*"

- **Vibrant neighbourhoods** - goal of “*affordable housing and higher density neighbourhoods*”

The work also aligns with new provincial legislation that requires all local governments to develop Housing Needs Reports. By adopting ‘the Wheelhouse’ and a resilience lens, local government planners will have an important opportunity to present information about housing needs in their communities through a story that includes equity, health and resilience.

The City of Kelowna would like to recognize Urban Matters, Interior Health and other key community stakeholders for their contributions to this project.

This Planning Excellence Gold Award will be displayed in the Office of the Mayor for a period of one year. This award will be communicated to the public through Council Highlights, digital media channels and the 2019 Annual Report.

For details on all the award winners, please see the attached PIBC 2019 Awards News Release.

Submitted by:

M. Kam, Sustainability Coordinator
J. Moore, Long Range Policy Planning Manager

Approved for inclusion:



Danielle Noble-Brandt, Policy & Planning Department Manager

Attachments:

Housing Wheelhouse
PIBC 2019 Awards News Release

cc:

Divisional Director, Community Planning & Development
Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture
Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services
Media Relations Manager
Social Development Manager
Communications Consultant
Urban Matters
Healthy City Strategy Steering Committee