

EQUITABLE RECREATION PROGRAMMING AUDIT

Recommendation

That the June 25, 2024, Office of the City Auditor report OCA02511, be received for information.

Report Purpose

Information only.

Executive Summary

This report presents the results of the Equitable Recreation Programming audit.

REPORT

In August 2022, City Council passed a motion that the City Auditor, as part of the proposed 2023 Office of the City Auditor Work plan, perform an audit of the City's equitable recreation programming.

The objective of this audit was to determine whether the Community Recreation and Culture Branch has an effective approach to providing equitable recreation programming for all Edmontonians. The audit did not conclude on the appropriateness of any specific program or resource allocation decision made by the Branch.

Overall, the Office of the City Auditor (OCA) found that the City and the Branch have expressed their commitment to equitable recreation programming in various guiding documents and through various activities. The OCA also found that the Branch developed numerous programs directed at increasing equitable recreation programming for all Edmontonians

However, the OCA found that the Branch does not have an effective approach to planning and providing equitable recreation programming for all Edmontonians.

The OCA found the following areas to improve the Branch's approach:

- Consistently reach out to the broader public to identify barriers and programming needs.

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- Develop an integrated plan that aligns, integrates, and coordinates the various activities. The plan should focus on equity concerns and set priorities for program development, partnership agreements, and resource allocation. In addition, the plan should include performance tracking and communication tactics to effectively support the overall vision for equitable recreation programming.
- Define and document program objectives and track if programs are meeting their objectives.
- Develop documents to guide staff through the process of planning recreation programming.

The OCA made the following recommendations to the Community Recreation and Culture Branch:

1. In collaboration with the Community Services Department's communications area, improve how it obtains information on recreation programming needs from the broader community to identify access barriers and inform equitable recreation program planning.
2. Develop and implement an integrated plan to assist with the development and delivery of equitable recreation programming. The plan should include:
 - A defined vision and goals
 - Performance measures and targets
 - Allocation model for rental of recreation facilities
 - Communications plan to increase awareness of recreation programming
3. Identify and track minimum objectives for each programming type (registered program, spontaneous use, drop-in) and individual programs to assess if they are meeting their objectives.
4. Develop documented guidance for how to consider concepts of equity, inclusion, and accessibility when planning recreation programming.

Policy

Bylaw 16097, Audit Committee Bylaw, section 14(d) states that "Committee will review all reports from the City Auditor dealing with completed audit projects."

Attachment

1. Equitable Recreation Programming Audit Report