

## **Summary of Britannia Community Services Centre Strategic Master Plan**

**By Levi Higgs**

The Britannia Community Services Society undertook a Strategic Master Plan process for the Britannia Community Centre (Centre) in 2011, in conjunction with site stakeholders, to show some of beneficial options that would be possible if the Centre went through a renewal/re-build. At that time, it was hoped that a well planned and supported Centre renewal process would lead to an increase in indoor and outdoor programming space, improvements to the accessibility, wayfinding, and community connections, and new view opportunities for the Centre.

The 2011 Strategic Master Plan, built upon the Facilities Master Plan that was prepared for Britannia Community Services Society in 2007, as well as other past City of Vancouver plans. One of the main drivers for the completion of a Strategic Master Plan in 2011 was the fact that most Britannia Community Centre buildings were rated as poor to fair condition, and were coming due to be replaced.

It was understood at that time that it was likely that any Centre renewal/rebuild process would be done in two or more phases, given City budget cycles and the need for broad and diverse consultation. Due to this likely phased approach, the 2011 Strategic Master Plan focused mostly on one area of the potential renewal, the re-development of the pool and fitness centre.

As part of the Strategic Master Plan process, extensive public outreach and consultation was conducted to inform community members of the on-going planning process, and to solicit community feedback to help shape and refine the Plan's design and site layout options.

A wide variety of potential renewal scenarios were explored for the Britannia site. These scenarios showed that a re-built pool and fitness space could also accommodate new space opportunities for other Britannia site partners (Britannia schools and library), as well as allow for flexibility for future renewal plans. Renewal scenarios also showed how there would be advantages should components of the school and recreational facilities be rebuilt at the same time, potentially enabling the creation of more open space.

At that time, it was thought that the 2011 Strategic Master Plan would help shape discussions with the City of Vancouver and site partners, by demonstrating that there was strong community support for the renewal of the Britannia site, and what viable renewal scenarios looked like. At the same time, it was understood that the on-going Grandview-Woodland Community Plan process would also shape the Britannia renewal discussions and would provide greater context for the future needs of the site.

After the completion of the 2011 Strategic Master Plan, the Britannia Board, its Planning & Development Committee, and Britannia staff sought as many opportunities as possible to present the Plan information to City Council and partner organizations. The Strategic Master Plan was used as tool to make the case for renewal at Britannia by demonstrating that the renewal was feasible, could be accomplished in a phased approach, could accommodate the needs of the multiple site partners, and enjoyed strong local support. This Strategic Plan helped set the stage for the current renewal process, and helped get in place the current funding commitments from the City.

The whole plan can be found in the Document Library at [britanniarenewal.org](http://britanniarenewal.org). Search for: *Britannia Community Services Centre Strategic Master Plan*