

Research project title

Conducting best practice research, economic sector analysis and workplace development program review to support development of the City's Social Procurement Framework.

Supports the following Greenest City Goal or Green Operations Plan goal area:

Healthy City Strategy – HCS Action 5

- Create a formal social procurement framework to guide the City's procurement practices

HCS Long term goal – making ends meet and working well

Outline scope of project and why it is of value to City and describe how and when the scholar's work will be actionable

Scope of Work:

The Scholar will have the opportunity to work on one or both of the following elements depending on skills and interest:

1. Conduct best practice scan of social procurement policies and programs in other jurisdictions focussing on social policy objectives (such as employment for people with barriers or supporting social enterprises) and practical procurement strategies and approaches to meet these objectives.
2. Conduct sector research, interviews and stakeholder engagement as follows:
 - a. Social enterprise sector in Metro Vancouver
 - i. Identify sectors where there are mature social enterprises operating and what products and services social enterprises might be capable of delivering to the City;
 - ii. Match these sectors to the City's spending in these same sectors;
 - iii. Expand and refine current list of social enterprises;
 - iv. Identify opportunities for pilots.
 - b. Private sector workplace development programs;
 - i. Conduct scan of private sector partnerships (private sector/government; private sector/non-profit) that deliver workplace development programs for people with barriers to employment (as defined by the City);
 - ii. Summarize results (what industries; what worked; what didn't; lessons learned; monitoring and reporting);
 - iii. Identify opportunities for pilots

Why this work is of value:

- Social procurement involves the use of procurement strategies to support social policy objectives. The City is currently piloting a procurement approach that encourages bids on City contracts from social enterprises and private businesses that hire and support people with barriers to employment;
- City staff is developing a formal Social Procurement Framework to be presented to Council in December 2017. Two social procurement priorities that have been identified are:

supporting social enterprises; and providing employment and training for people with barriers to employment. There are other social policy objectives that the City may wish to consider and include in its Framework;

- The findings of the best practice research and sector and program analysis will help inform the development of the Social Procurement Framework and support social procurement pilots to be undertaken in 2017/18 while the Framework is being developed. The sector analysis will be particularly useful in identifying opportunities that are practical and immediately actionable.

Deliverables

1. Summary report including:
 - Findings from best practice research on social procurement policies and programs with recommendations for the City's own Social Procurement Framework;
 - Overview of social enterprise sector in Metro Vancouver, including identification of products and/or services (spend categories) that social enterprises are capable of delivering to the City matched with the City's spending in these categories;
 - Overview of private sector workplace development programs including types of industries that lend themselves to this approach;
 - Support documentation (e.g. summary notes from stakeholder engagement activities and interviews).
2. A public facing final report (or executive summary) for the USI website

Time Commitment

- This project will take 250 hours to complete;
- This project must be completed between April 28 and August 11, 2017, with an objective to have a final summary report in July;
- The scholar is to complete hours between 9:30am and 4:30pm, Mon – Friday.

Skill set/background required/preferred

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Good communication skills and ability to engage groups
- Excellent technical and business analysis skills
- Understanding of economic sector analysis and Vancouver economy deemed an asset
- Experience conducting one-on-one stakeholder interviews and group consultations an asset