

Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Committee

Anniversary Commemorative Program

Program and Process Discussion



Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Committee


Anniversary Commemorative Program

The Municipal Commemorative Program*

5. HRM shall undertake a Municipal Commemorative Program to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion, consisting of three components:

- (a) A civic commemorative event led by HRM that will include elected officials from the governments of Canada, the Province, and HRM, as well as community leaders and members of the general public;
- (b) A legacy capital project; and
- (c) A designated grant program to fund non-profit organizations and registered Canadian charitable organizations located in HRM to deliver local projects in their communities in recognition of the significance of the 100th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion.

*From Explosion Anniversary Advisory Committee Terms of Reference



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Overview: Program Components


It is anticipated that HRM's annual commemorative events in Halifax and Dartmouth would remain the central focus of the Municipality's formal recognition of the tragic loss of life, personal injury, physical devastation, and recovery

1. Event

- (a) December 6th, 2017 Expanded Commemorative Ceremony
- (b) 100th Anniversary Commemorative Cultural Program

2. Grant Program

3. Capital Project



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Commemorative Cultural Program

WHY?

Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary
Commemorative Program Guiding Principles

Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Committee Anniversary Commemorative Program

1. December 6th, 2017

Expanded Commemorative Ceremony

1. It will be a solemn, respectful and reflective commemoration honouring the victims of the Halifax Explosion, the response, and the legacy.



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2. Grant Program

5. It will encourage community members participate through a variety of cultural and creative modes



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3. Capital Project

10. It's legacy projects will strive to be compelling, meaningful, evocative and an enduring commemoration



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Guiding Principles (cont'd)

2. It will acknowledge and tell the diverse personal, national and international story, which had a lasting legacy.

3. It will reflect diversity of all the communities impacted such as relatives of survivors, African NS and Mi'kmaq communities

4. It will educate and connect people, particularly youth, to the history and meaning of the Halifax explosion in different ways

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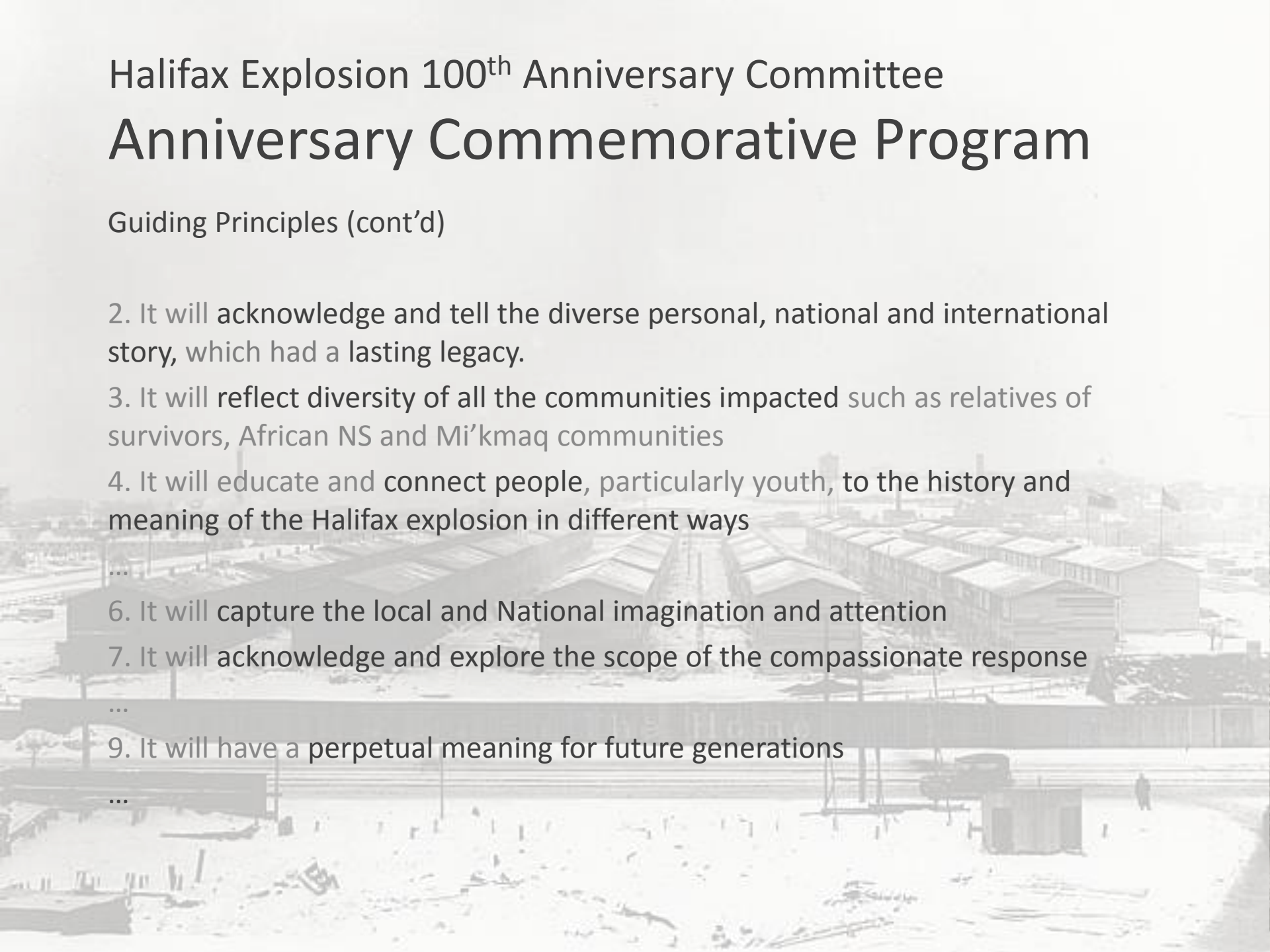
6. It will capture the local and National imagination and attention

7. It will acknowledge and explore the scope of the compassionate response

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9. It will have a perpetual meaning for future generations

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Commemorative Cultural Program

WHY?

- **Connection** defining and consolidating the anniversary program's directed, independent and community-initiated (grants), and capital (Needham) components
- **Impact** capture the local and National imagination and attention
- **Scope** telling the broader personal, cultural, national and international story
- **Legacy** compelling, meaningful, evocative and enduring commemoration



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Commemorative Cultural Program

HOW?

1. Signature Commissions
2. Presentation Platform
3. Technical Committee/Stakeholder Committee
4. Project Management

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Signature Commissions

Based on feedback from the Committee and from the level (and quality) of response to the Explosion Anniversary thus far, these would be higher order budgeted items of a high quality.

Possible Commissions Could Include:

- Interactive (centralizing) online platform/portal
- Defining musical composition (e.g. Requiem)
- Commemorative Publication
- Civic Presentations (e.g. temporary public artworks, artistic productions and cultural exhibitions, etc)
- Markers and Interpretation (e.g. alignment of explosion artefacts and places of significance to the Event with the Needham Memorial location)

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Presentation Platform

Based on the need to provide a consolidating framework to the events and initiatives taking place in relation to the Explosion Anniversary. Content would include those commissioned by the Municipality (Signature Commissions as well as grant-funded projects and programs, as well as those being undertaken through other means).

- Possibility of week-long presentation series spanning December 6th, 2017 and featuring all manner of cultural presentation: musical, literary, theatrical, visual art, etc.
- Possibility of engaging venues with resonance to the Explosion with small-and-medium scale productions, e.g. Maritime Conservatory, Halifax Armouries, Halifax Common, Citadel Hill, City Hall, etc.
- Possibility of broadcast partnership

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Technical/Stakeholder Committee

Based on an understanding that other stakeholder groups, particularly other levels of government and associated departments/institutions, are engaged in planning for Explosion Commemoration, e.g. NS Archives, Maritime Museum, Parks Canada, etc

The formation of a technical committee would allow for structured cross-talk between these groups, alignment of funding toward projects of mutual interest/benefit (and the possibility of increased impact), alignment of programs toward a centralized 'events calendar', sharing of strategic information and overall effective service delivery.

Also recognizes that some of the more critical 'memory institutions' that will serve as the content providers for any initiatives are structured outside of municipal government- will need to be engaged in the development of any RFPs for services needing to access this information.

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Project Management

Recognizes the Human Resource challenges at the Municipal staff level, and the possible added value of engaging professional curatorial and events management expertise.

Based on an understanding that the varied projects and initiatives need to be coordinated into a coherent cultural presentation for public presentation.

Understanding that the narrative aspects (e.g. ‘telling the broader story of the disaster’) need to be handled strategically and sensitively, and developed into a presentation program that carries the vision articulated by the Committee.

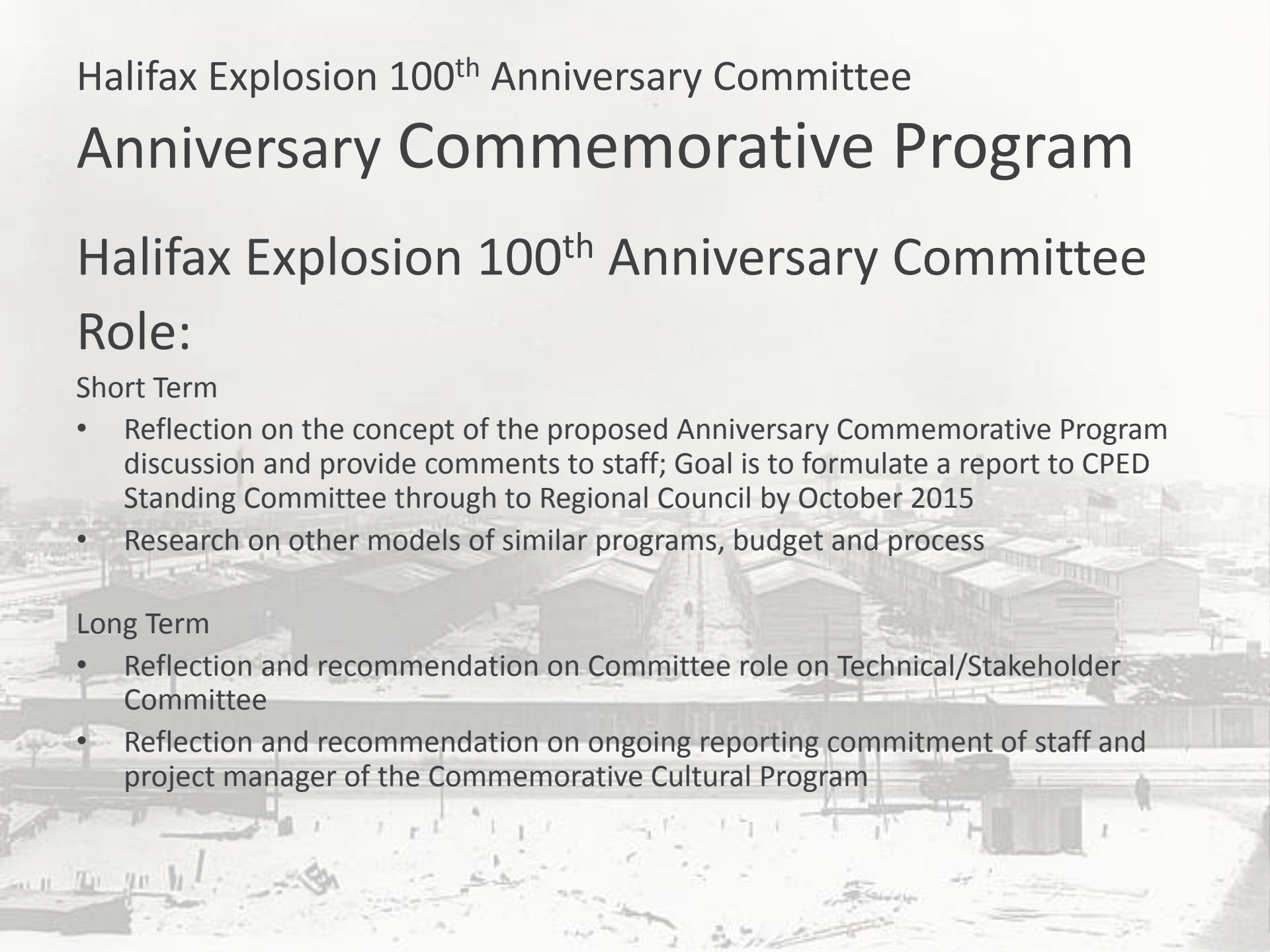
Possibility that this oversight could be handled internally by municipal staff (Culture and Events) in a consolidated way OR contracted to a third party (with oversight) through RFP.

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Dependencies

- Heritage Canada: Major Anniversaries Program, deadline for funding January 31st, 2016; total available funding is \$200,000
- HRM annual budget process: need to request any additional funds very shortly in order to be accommodated with the 16-17 budget planning process





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Role:

Short Term

- Reflection on the concept of the proposed Anniversary Commemorative Program discussion and provide comments to staff; Goal is to formulate a report to CPED Standing Committee through to Regional Council by October 2015
- Research on other models of similar programs, budget and process

Long Term

- Reflection and recommendation on Committee role on Technical/Stakeholder Committee
- Reflection and recommendation on ongoing reporting commitment of staff and project manager of the Commemorative Cultural Program