

VJLS-JH 2016 Annual General Meeting

Community Relations Committee Report

The Community Relations Committee (CRC) for Sept. 2015 – August 2016 was primarily attended by Steve Frost, Kazuho Yamamoto, Momoko Ito and Rika Uto, and operated mainly as an advisory body as no board members were involved in this committee.

Highlights of the year include working on ideas around VJLS-JH promotion via social media including website, facebook and e-news platforms to better engage existing members and to reach out to a wider audience.

The committee explored various neighbourhood-related issues such as the DTES Street Market, Port of Metro Vancouver Centerm Expansion, the Women’s Memorial March, and building and maintaining relationships with local organizations such as WePress, Oppenheimer Park, and the Powell Street Festival.

Hikari Rachmat, VJLS Alumni represented VJLS-JH in the University of Victoria Landscape of Injustice Spring Institute and gave the committee a presentation on his experiences. The project provided an update to partners (including VJLS-JH) on current research findings of the dispossessed properties of Japanese Canadians during WWII and the discriminatory legislation at the time that allowed for these actions. This project is slated to continue until 2021.

We participated in Central City Foundation’s Fair in the Square at Victory Square in May which showcased the various non-profit and charitable organizations who received funding from Central City. VJLS-JH set-up an info booth with Japanese games and toys, and shared the program offerings to the general public.

We also supported Japanese intercultural projects such as Interdisciplinary Artist, Cindy Mochizuki’s *Things on the Shoreline* which engaged VJLS students in a creative, hands-on project of art, storytelling in Japanese and using the imagination to transform everyday objects.

Overall, the CRC remained active with a committed member base and feel encouraged with the progress of the work achieved in 2015-16.