

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Presented by Vancouver Ultimate League (VUL) President Trisha Roberson

The change and uncertainty which defined 2021 for the Vancouver Ultimate League have been met with resilience, optimism, and teamwork from the community. The VUL has a strong staff team ready to offer fun, safe, and spirited ultimate in 2022, when conditions allow.

Major events in 2021 are the continued covid-19 pandemic and the departure of Executive Director Craig Woods (years of service 2008-2021). Craig was the VUL's executive director for over two decades and saw the organization through two strategic plans: the first growing the number of ultimate players in Vancouver to 10,000 players in 2016, and the second seeing regional growth throughout Metro Vancouver for youth and adult leagues, promoting inclusive values, and leading nation-wide partnerships with other Ultimate organizations.

Accomplishments

These challenges are accompanied by a number of accomplishments including:

1. offering ultimate during 2021 to youth and adult members.
2. welcoming new staff members Jeremy Quan, Shanna Rice, Kurtis Stewart, Thadeus Tang, and Tristan Brown, who all join the team from within the ultimate community. Together with William Arlotta, Allison Lambert, and Michael Dorsey, they have all the skills to bring you a great ultimate experience.
3. successful Executive Director search spearheaded by the Human Resources Committee. The board is pleased to announce the hiring of Diane St-Denis, who has a wealth of experience leading sport organizations.
4. engaging an accounting firm to review and update our financial systems and provide services, a deliverable of the 2019 capital fund ask.
5. maintaining financial stability throughout the pandemic despite decreased revenue due to restrictions on sport and ultimate throughout the pandemic.

Strategic Outlook

We present the VUL's Strategic Plan 2022, a 1-year extension to our previous 5-year strategic plan. This plan focuses on upholding key values of gender equity, sustainability, and inclusivity, while addressing foundational recovery from the pandemic disruption. This plan is about getting back to playing ultimate.

Pandemic disruption

In 2020, restrictions on playing adult ultimate began in March and lasted until modified sport activity was allowed beginning in June. Disruption continued with fall travel restrictions leading to the Provincial Health Authority suspending all adult play in December. Luckily, the province

prioritized youth sport activities and the VUL was able to offer youth skills series and spring break camps.

In Winter 2021, the province's restrictions on adult sports were extended and Winter Leagues were canceled. Team sports were not allowed to resume until the end of May, and summer league began again this year at the end of June, half of the regular summer season. Fall league for adults was supported through BC's Restart Plan. Our youth programming was successful throughout the year, continuing to provide healthy physical activity and social opportunities to our community. We look forward to playing youth and adult ultimate this winter.

Acknowledgments

Board

The 2021 Board of Directors are:

- Trisha Roberson, President 2016-2022
- Sarah Cawston-Stewart, Vice President 2016-2022
- Ken Su, 2000-2002, 2017-2021 (up for re-election)
- David Midgley, Treasurer 2019-2021 (up for re-election)
- Ari Metzger - Secretary 2020-2022
- Lisa Riddle - 2019-2021 (up for re-election)
- Zun Zhang - 2019-2021 (up for re-election)

Staff

Current Staff

- William Arlotta - Youth Programs Manager
- Allison Lambert - Social Media Coordinator
- Michael Dorsey - Web Systems Manager

New Hires

- Jeremy Quan - Regional League Coordinator & Merchandise Coordinator
- Shanna Rice - Community Engagement Manager
- Kurtis Stewart - Operations Manager
- Thadeus Tang - Administrative Assistant
- Tristan Brown - League Manager
- Diane St-Denis - Executive Director

Farewells - thank you for your years of service and contributions to the VUL

- Kristine Salzmann - Marketing Manager and Regional League Coordinator
- Katie Berezan - League Manager
- Craig Woods - Executive Director

Board Committees

The current board committees are:

Strategic Planning Committee

Trisha Roberson (chair)
Christa Hoy
David Midgley
Ken Su

Human Resources Committee

Zun Zhang (Chair)
Lisa Riddle
Sarah Cawston-Stewart
Ari Metzger

Hall of Fame Committee

Ken Su (Chair)
Anja Haman*
Edward Burnet*
Scott Lewis*

Governance Committee

Lisa Riddle (Chair)
Rob Adams*
Sarah Cawston-Stewart
Francine Chartier*

Finance Committee

David Midgley (Chair)
Ken Su
Zun Zhang
Craig Woods*
Rob Adams*
Kurtis Stewart*

* non board-member

Committee Descriptions and key 2021 success

Strategic Planning Committee - responsible for supporting the Board with strategic planning and advising the Board on long-term strategic direction. In 2021, the SPC facilitated the creation of a 1-year strategic plan for 2022 and next year will create a new strategic plan for 2023.

Human Resources Committee - oversee the human resources activities of the VUL, particularly related to the Executive Director (ED) of the VUL. In 2021, the HRC completed a successful ED search and performed a number of HR operational duties for the VUL which are typically handled by staff.

Hall of Fame Committee - oversee the governance of the VUL Hall of Fame and propose new inductees to the VUL Hall of Fame. Due to the pandemic, the annual awards banquet has not occurred, so Hall of Fame inductions have been postponed.

Governance Committee - solicit feedback from the board, provide guidance regarding the good operation of the board, facilitate its self-evaluation and encourage continuous improvement through the consistent exercise of best practices. In 2021, the Governance Committee improved board and committee onboarding processes as well as performing annual board self-evaluation reporting.

Finance Committee - support the Board in providing financial oversight for the society. In 2021, the Finance Committee made significant progress in the 2019 Capital Fund project to upgrade the VUL financial systems and processes. The VUL has engaged with a local accounting firm to improve our systems with a new chart of accounts and ability to provide more relevant and timely financial information