

# Vision Background

## **An Overview Of The Community Visions Program**

This Vision is based on *CityPlan: Directions for Vancouver*, which was adopted in 1995 as an overall vision for the city. In July 1996 Council approved the Community Visions Program as a way of bringing CityPlan's city-wide directions to the community level and reaching all communities within several years. The program Terms of Reference describe the ground rules and process for creating a Community Vision. The program asks each community to implement CityPlan directions in a way and at a scale and pace that suits the community. Dunbar and Kensington-Cedar Cottage (KCC) were selected through a public forum, and endorsed by Council, as the two pilot project areas for Visions.

## **What Is This Vision?**

This Vision describes the kind of community that people who live and work in Dunbar want it to become over the next 10 to 20 years, and how CityPlan directions should be implemented in Dunbar. It identifies what people value and want to preserve, what improvements are needed, and how change should occur. It will be used at City Hall to help set priorities for capital projects, direct City programs and services, and make decisions affecting this community. It is also an opportunity for community organizations and individuals to act on programs that the community has endorsed.

## **How Was This Vision Created?**

The Vision directions were developed by people who live and work in Dunbar. The program began in January 1997 with community outreach and a weekend Ideas Fair. The heart of the process was a series of intensive public workshops where over 100 people spent many hours developing ideas and options on a variety of topics. From these sessions, Vision directions were created and published in the *Community Vision Choices Survey*, distributed to all households, businesses, and property owners. Over 1600 people, from every block in Dunbar, responded to the survey, agreeing with the workshop proposals and selecting among options, to create a shared Vision for the future. In September 1998 the Vision directions that were supported by the community in the survey were approved by City Council.

A Community Liaison Group, which was composed of a wide range of community volunteers, provided continuity throughout the process, served as a “watchdog” of the process to ensure that community input was carried through, and advised staff on community outreach and other matters.



## **Making The Vision Happen**

The Community Vision sets broad directions for the future. Some of these directions will happen almost immediately, others over many years.

Implementing the Vision can be done without increases to the City budget. The City has a wide variety of tools and programs that can be used to implement the Vision, like capital plans, zoning, traffic calming, business improvement area assistance, bikeways and greenways. The Vision will help to set priorities and to direct funds to programs which achieve the Vision over time.

Continued community involvement will be necessary, to set priorities and translate Vision directions into actions and projects through more detailed planning — for example, to identify specific locations and design of new types of housing and to design improvements to community shopping areas. Combined action by the City and the community is needed to make the Vision happen.



### **CityPlan Directions In Summary — A checklist for Community Visions**

#### **Strengthen Neighbourhood Centres**

Provide shops, jobs, and services close to home, and safe, inviting public places to meet and socialize.

#### **Improve Safety and Better Target Community Services**

Identify ways to increase safety; to better provide community services; and to use arts and cultural activities to support community identity and participation.

#### **Reduce Reliance on Cars**

Make it easier to get around on foot, by bike, and by transit.

#### **Improve the Environment**

Suggest ways to improve air quality; conserve water and energy; and reduce waste.

#### **Increase the Variety and Affordability of Housing**

Find ways to help meet the housing needs of community residents of all ages and incomes.

#### **Define Neighbourhood Character**

Define what aspects of neighbourhood character, heritage, and appearance to retain, and decide the character of new development.

#### **Diversify Parks and Public Places**

Meet park needs, and identify a variety of designs, activities, and locations for all kinds of public places, from play areas to greenways and gathering places.

#### **Involve People and Redirect Resources**

Find new ways to involve people and to redirect resources to bring CityPlan directions and the Community Visions to life.