

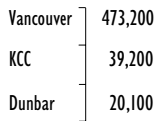


Community Involvement

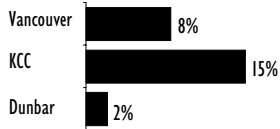
In many discussions to create this Vision, KCC residents noted the need for more community involvement in City decision making. They also felt that community residents could do a lot of practical work to make their neighbourhood better, if given some help.



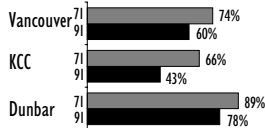
1991 Population



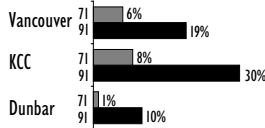
1971 - 91 Population Growth



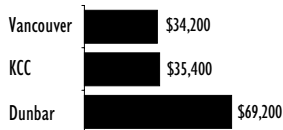
English Mother Tongue 1971 & 1991



Chinese Mother Tongue 1971 & 1991



1991 Median Income



Low Income Households 1991



Single Parent Families



1. Community Involvement In Decision Making

The City currently provides information to, and consults with, residents and groups on many different types of decisions, in many different ways. Examples include local improvement petitions for street improvements; Capital Plan referenda; public processes for planning programs and rezonings; special surveys such as the budget choices survey in late 1996; public task forces like the Urban Landscape Task Force; advisory committees to Council like the Bicycle Committee and the Seniors Committee; development notification letters; and the City's homepage on the Internet.

However, many people felt that consultation was often ineffective for a number of reasons: people don't know the opportunity exists or how to use it; the timing of input is not useful; or input does not seem to have enough influence on the decision made.

Approved Vision Direction

1.1 Community Involvement in Decision Making

Community residents should have more, and more timely, input into decision-making about changes in their community such as development projects, street and traffic changes, transit changes, and park design.

Support %: 89/9/2

People's ideas...

- neighbourhood council or similar group that meets regularly
- community design panel to review development proposals
- information on proposed development, street changes, etc., easily available in the community
- better community consultation processes
- "mini city halls" in the community to provide information

2. Community Development

Kensington-Cedar Cottage (KCC) residents and business owners speak many languages and have different cultural backgrounds. This makes it difficult for community groups to organize and reach out. As a result, KCC groups may have less effective access to programs and funds than other areas. At the same time, there seems to be a lot of potential community and volunteer energy, as currently shown in the number of smaller groups focussed on particular areas or interests.

In creating this Vision, KCC residents generated many ideas about what the community could do for itself — from community gardens to crime prevention to business promotion — with some support and organizational help.

Approved Vision Direction

2.1 Community Development Staff and Support

To help the community accomplish more with local volunteer efforts, there should be one or more paid "community development" workers available. There should also be support and funding available to help organizations with basic communication and translation needs.

Support %: 71/18/11

People's ideas...

- help organize community groups like business associations or greening groups
- put people in touch with city programs like greenways and public art
- help various service providers liaise with each other
- assist groups to access funding sources