

# SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP FOR NORTHEAST FALSE CREEK

October 14 2016

## Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to provide your input to help further sustainability for Northeast False Creek!

This summary document is intended to capture what was heard at the workshop and provide an additional opportunity for input for those who could not attend the workshop. We ask that you please provide any additional input by Monday, November 21, 2016.

If you have any additional questions, please contact [jason.hsieh@vancouver.ca](mailto:jason.hsieh@vancouver.ca) or 604-871-6814.



## We Have Come a Long Way

Since the adoption of the Greenest City 2020 Action Plan in 2011, a number of policies and strategies have been formed to support sustainability across the city. These policies provide a strong backbone to the development of the future Northeast False Creek neighbourhood:

- Greenest City 2020 Action Plan
- Vancouver Economic Action Strategy
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Transportation 2040
- Neighbourhood Energy Strategy
- Vancouver Food Strategy
- Healthy City Strategy
- Vancouver Bird Strategy
- Urban Forest Strategy
- Biodiversity Strategy
- Coastal Flood Risk Assessment
- Renewable City Strategy
- Integrated Rainwater Management Plan
- Zero Emissions Building Plan

While these policies will go a long way to laying the groundwork for a sustainable community, this workshop was designed to help identify key opportunities to push the envelope even further. What actions could the city take to make this an exceptional world-leading example of sustainability?

## Stakeholders

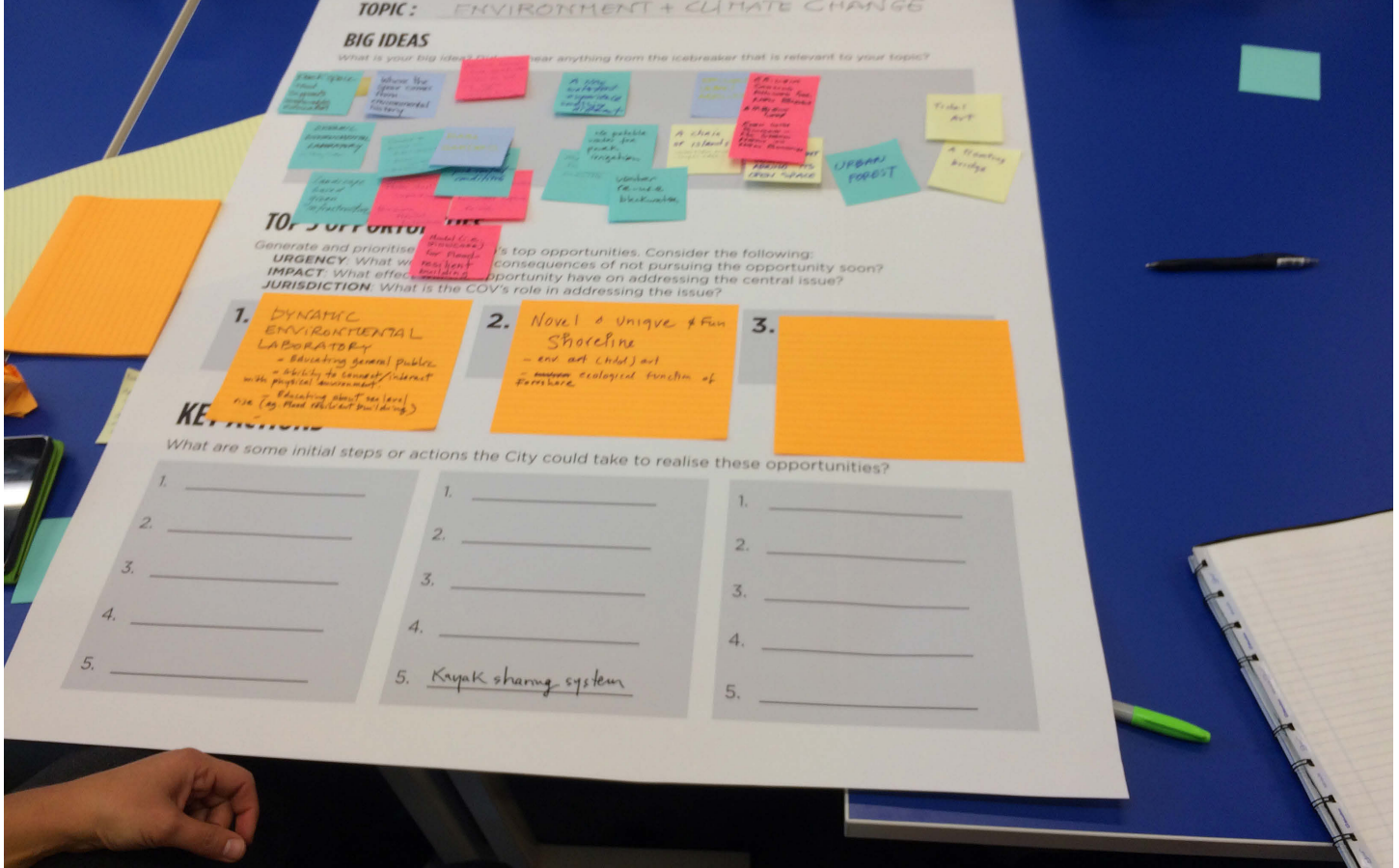
Experts from a number of disciplines related to sustainability were invited, including designers, researchers, programmers and artists. These stakeholders represent a number of agencies and organisations, and bring a wealth of expertise and experience to the table.

## Big Ideas

We asked our 27 participants to share their 'big idea' for NEFC with us in order to spark discussion. Ideas touched on the physical space as well as the social interactions, from the broad strokes of form and function to specific infrastructure proposals. Together, the diverse assortment of ideas set the tone for an ambitious vision forward on the role of the neighbourhood and its role in driving a new vision of the city.

Participants were then organised into areas of expertise or interest. Discussions occurred at three tables assigned with 3 broad themes:

- Environment and climate change
- Green transportation
- Green architecture and urban design



## Key Opportunities + Actions

At each of the 3 tables, participants narrowed down the big ideas to three key opportunities that the group collectively decided on. City and Parks staff facilitated table discussions to prioritise the key opportunities based on the following criteria:

- **Urgency:** What would be the consequences of not pursuing the opportunity soon?
- **Impact:** What effect will the opportunity have on addressing the central issue?
- **Jurisdiction:** What is the City of Vancouver’s role in addressing the issue?

Participants were then asked to identify some initial steps or actions that the City could take to realise these opportunities.



## What We Heard

### 1. Environment and Climate Change

Northeast False Creek's waterfront has seen many dramatic transformations over the past century. A key focus of discussion was on the integration of natural systems back into the landscape – not only to respond to sea level rise, but also as opportunities for education and community building.

#### OPPORTUNITY 1

*Dynamic environmental laboratory – showcase environmental history and efforts to promote shoreline restoration, climate change adaptation and resiliency.*

- Promote and integrate art in public spaces, including tidal art.
- Resiliency education centre that can inform public on flood adaptation, climate change and strategies.
- Comprehensive digital awareness (eg. bike counter on seawall).

#### OPPORTUNITY 2

*Innovative and fun shoreline – draw people to the shoreline.*

- Resolve jurisdictional issues over shoreline – dialogue with regulators, landowners.
- Restore and integrate biodiverse shoreline and seawall with park space – consider a chain of islands.
- Provide interface / access to the water, including a kayak-share system.

#### OPPORTUNITY 3

*Celebrate rainwater – improve the water quality of False Creek.*

- Encourage rainwater capture and reuse, especially in new buildings.
- Innovative and interactive rainwater installations, including play features.

#### OPPORTUNITY 4

*New and unique governance and funding for public space stewardship.*

- Establish endowment or other funding mechanism to promote community stewardship.
- Collaborative governance and structure of spaces.
- First Nations leadership, engagement, and participation on initiatives.

## 2. Green Transportation

With the planned removal of the Viaducts, a key theme was around how to reimagine transportation in the new neighbourhood – to be designed in a way that allows for a transition away from an automotive culture to accommodate and encourage modes of active and public transportation.

### OPPORTUNITY 1

*Reduce and modernise automotive infrastructure.*

- Stricter limitations to automotive access on streets and parking, eg. pickup/drop off areas, car-free zones.
- Change parking requirements and encourage better design for developments – consider maximum requirements (vs. minimum) spaces, promote car-share, electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- Consider transportation on water (eg. ferries)

### OPPORTUNITY 2

*Infrastructure that promotes active transportation.*

- Attractive, comfortable, and safe walking to schools and community centres - promote tree canopy, car-free areas.
- Access to public bike share, free bicycle parking services.
- Transportation hub to promote seamless integration of modes.
- Create an iconic active bridge through a design competition.

### OPPORTUNITY 3

*Flexible accommodation and connectivity along roads and paths.*

- Determine best routes through intuitive/desire lines, wayfinding.
- Work with agencies (eg. VSB) to support safer access to schools
- Flexible capacity to accommodate event parking.
- Integrate transit through neighbourhood – consider connections and dedicated lanes.





### 3. Green Buildings and Urban Design

The opportunities made available by replacing the viaducts will help connect neighbourhoods. An underlying theme in table discussions was to seize the opportunity to achieve something unique in design to generate a thriving civic life informed by the water and environment.

#### OPPORTUNITY 1

*Buildings that respond to the environment.*

- Architecture and design – exceptional and adapted to west coast climate, reflects how we live and use spaces – stays adaptable.
- Energy – performance criteria to meet net zero carbon, NEU pipe in the ground,
- Plan for healthier buildings – indoor air quality, access to natural light and nature.
- Capacity building – work with universities to innovate, with engineers architects, trades to build capacity.

#### OPPORTUNITY 2

*Spaces that promote neighbourliness, civic and public life*

- Parks that extend into surrounding fabric – not just large but small spaces that buildings can be oriented towards.
- Identity of space – sensitive to culture, affordable, small scale enterprises vs. big box, to be the neighbourhood’s third space.
- Amenity spaces that are landscaped and integrated to be socially connected.

#### OPPORTUNITY 3

*Tell the story of the water.*

- Naturalised edge that draws people to the water, reflects history and memory.
- Net zero water – efforts to recover, reuse, recirculate.
- Improve water quality – consider fountain to aerate False Creek, address pollution.



## Next Steps

Our team will be checking in with you over the next 12 months as the various aspects related to the design of the area are refined and finalized.

Additional outreach will be conducted this fall as we check in with various Council appointed advisory committees, the Northeast False Creek Stewardship Group and Park Design Advisory Group, and various other stakeholders with specific topic area interests and expertise.

This outreach will help our team develop Emerging Directions for Northeast False Creek which will be taken out to the public for consultation in early 2017.

Thank you again for taking the time to attend and provide your input at the Sustainability Workshop. For those of you who were unable to attend, please provide any additional input or feedback by **Monday November 21, 2016**.

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