



Building Opportunities with Business

Connecting Businesses with the Inner-City

Background

Based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Building Opportunities with Business (BOB) is a non-profit organization with the goal to support local business development and increase job opportunities for inner-city residents.

The inner-city communities encompass Vancouver's birthplace and include Chinatown, Strathcona, Oppenheimer, Victory Square, Gastown, Mount Pleasant and Downtown South. Rich in history, these important neighbourhoods offer numerous parks and public spaces, they contain creative and cultural districts and heritage structures and they offer infrastructure assets and a diverse and talented multi-cultural population. The downtown eastside has known prosperity but has seen economic decline over the years.

Today, revitalization and regeneration is occurring in the downtown eastside. Residents, businesses, community groups, governments and a myriad of organizations are working together to ensure that the local residents and businesses benefit from this renewed interest and investment in the area. BOB is working toward: *Revitalization Without Displacement*.

BOB's Purpose

To support a development model for Vancouver's inner-city that is inclusive of existing residents and businesses. BOB is committed to improving the business climate by:

- Strengthening the inner-city's community capacity;
- Identifying and building on untapped business opportunities in the inner-city;
- Improving employment opportunities for inner-city residents; and
- Increasing investment and visitors to the downtown eastside.

BOB's Programs

BOB is a connector, a resource and a facilitator.

BOB works to connect many different worlds with the goal of bringing together the right combination of businesses, investors and residents that will assist in the revitalization of the inner-city.

BOB offers a number of programs and services. Each of these programs is inter-connected and inter-dependant. Success in one program area will lead to success in another.

- **Investment Identification:** to increase the competitiveness and growth of inner-city businesses by applying business clustering strategies, creating networks and strategic partnerships and providing information and research to support investment in this important community.
- **Business Development:** to strengthen the capacity of inner-city businesses through the provision of information and advice on business issues, increased awareness and access to resources and the facilitation of partnerships, and cooperative agreements.



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- **Employment Programs:** to increase employment opportunities for inner-city residents including inner-city workforce development, employment readiness, skill development training, job postings, and job retention and support.

Why BOB?

It's not only an acronym for Building Opportunities with Business, but it personalizes the purpose of the organization. BOB, short for Robert or Roberta, could be a resident, a business owner or an investor in Vancouver's inner-city. People are the most valuable assets in our inner-city communities and BOB reminds us of that fact.

Sponsors & Partners of BOB

BOB is an agent in the delivery of the Vancouver Agreement's Economic Development Strategy. Its partners include:

- The Vancouver Agreement partners including the Federal Government, the Province of British Columbia and the City of Vancouver
- Bell Canada
- Vancity Capital Corp.
- Businesses, NGOs and the DTES Community.

BOB's Contact Information

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