

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE 2012

Kensington Community Centre
5175 Dumfries Street
Vancouver, BC V5P 3A2

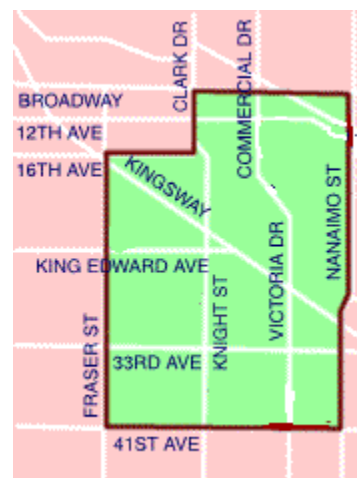
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2. Kensington-Cedar Cottage Neighborhood Description

Boundaries

Located in the heart of East Vancouver, Kensington-Cedar Cottage stretches from Fraser to Nanaimo Streets and from Broadway to 41st Avenue. The community is a combination of two historic neighbourhoods, Cedar Cottage, to the south of Trout Lake, and Kensington Heights, to the south of Kingsway. Kensington and Cedar Cottage have pleasant residential areas, spectacular views of the mountains, and many parks and schools. People in KCC have many different backgrounds, languages, and income levels.



The Kensington Community Centre is located adjacent to Kensington Park (5.84 hectares), which features large shade trees, inspiring views, playfields, playground and a skate park. It is positioned at the intersection of 37th avenue between Dumfries Street and Knight Street.

Historic Snapshot

The area remained unsettled until 1888 when Arthur Wilson bought 16 hectares (43 acres) of land that cornered on Knight and Westminster Highway (Kingsway) and began the Cedar Cottage Nursery. Within a few years, others bought large tracts of land around Trout Lake for farming. The interurban line built to link Vancouver with New Westminster in 1891 opened up the Kensington-Cedar Cottage area, drawing merchants who opened shops around the tram stop at 18th and Commercial, and more farmers.

Demographics

Based on the 2006 census, population of the Kensington-Cedar Cottage area is 44,665 with the majority being in the 20 to 64 year range closely followed by the 19 and under group. The majority of residences are detached homes (44%). The median household income is \$49,484 compared to Vancouver's \$47,299. 34.5% of residents

have English as their mother tongue, whilst the next predominant language is Chinese at 33.6%, followed by Tagalog 6.4% and Vietnamese 5.3%. There are many families living in KCC (11,955) with an average of 2.9 people per household, compared to the Vancouver average of 2.2.

3. Kensington Issues and Interests

It is important that the community project involve directly the Kensington-Cedar Cottage residents. The overall Artist in Communities experience should

- Build community ties through activity, and creativity, and inter-generational interactions.
- Engage people across cultural boundaries
- Enhance exposure to art as a means to achieve better health, both body and mind
- Improve the health and well-being of the KCC population

The interest lies in facilitating a project where Art meets Fitness. The end result could be an aquatic performance enhanced by a soundscape that is digitally captured. The aquatic performance could be a water choreography and the soundscape could be produced using the water, the collective's voices, musicians and more while playing off the echoes that are produced. The artist collective would capture the process and end result digitally for archival and presentational purposes.

There is currently a strong aquafit participant base that has organized potluck gatherings outside of class time on three separate occasions, which demonstrates a sense of community and friendship within the evening group. There is opportunity to involve the morning groups. Although, there is sometimes a language barrier between the participants, they seem to overcome this. It would be interesting to take their exercise experience further into the realm of the arts and across language barriers through movement and sound in the aquatic environment.

The census showed there is a slightly higher than average number of single family households. This sometimes causes financial and time constraints on the families and this project could help meet that need by being affordable and integrate all family members. Although the long term vision of this project is to improve the health and well-being of older adults as well as enhancing the community's perception of these seniors as active and valuable members of their community, the actual residency should focus on including participants across all age group and encourage inter-generational experiences.

4. Kensington Cedar Cottage' People, Resources, and Facilities

Kensington Community Centre is jointly operated by the Kensington Community Centre Association (KCCA) and the Vancouver Park Board.

People. The KCCA is committed to this project as is the community recreation supervisor and programmers. The pool has excellent lead hands and aquatic fitness instructors who would be great in assisting with the project. The staff person

interested in helping with project management and tasks is the Pool + Fitness Programmer.

Resources. The Kensington Cedar Cottage neighborhood has many resources to call upon:

- *Kensington Community Centre Association*
- *Happy Hearts Alliance (Cardiac Rehab in community) partnership w VCHA*
- *Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House*
- *MOSAIC (multilingual non-profit organization)*
- *Victoria Drive Business Improvement Association*
- *Cedar Cottage Business Association*
- *Kensington Library*
- *Local elementary schools (Tecumseh, Tecumseh Annex, Lord Selkirk Annex, Sir Alexander MacKenzie & Sanford Fleming)*
- *Local high schools (Gladstone, David Thompson, John Oliver and Charles Tupper Community School Teams)*

Groups that regularly meet at the centre and who might be interested in working with the artist or artist collective include (but are not limited to): Girls on the Move (10 to 15 year olds), Chinese Senior's Club, Badminton Club, regular aquafit patrons.

Facilities. Kensington community centre is a busy complex and has an area of 34,000 square foot and includes many unique amenities such as:

- *Gymnasium, dance room, senior's lounge & multi purpose room*
- *Fitness centre*
- *Irregularly shaped leisure pool that is small, warm and shallow.*
- *Patio garden off the pool deck*
- *Large windows to the patio*
- *Large flat fields*
- *Sloping fields*
- *Large exterior walls*

To view the facility contact Sophie.noel@vancouver.ca