

# West End Community Plan Phase 1 Consultation Executive Summary



## PHASE 1 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY VALUES

### Consultation Overview

Phase 1 consultation took place between May and October 2012 to identify the Core West End Community Values that will help inform directions and policy options to be developed in Phase 2.

Through a broad range of Phase 1 activities and events, using recommendations from the Neighbourhood Champions Network (NCN), the West End planning team:

- spoke directly with **over 2,800 people**;
- received **504 surveys**;
- had **59 Community Circle discussions**;
- had **39** people attend our **walking tours**;
- received **41 “great places and spaces” photos**;
- participated in **18 community events**;
- conducted **3 cultural asset mapping** sessions; and,
- began a process of sharing ideas at the **Ideas Fair**.

Additionally, the NCN helped the planning team reach out to many other West End organizations, associations, not-for-profits, local businesses, interest groups, ethnic groups, and other interested parties to ensure we achieved broad, inclusive and innovative engagement in the community.

Additional people were involved by sharing their ideas, interests and opportunities through the NCN, coffee shop dialogues and other meetings and discussions, and “Action While Planning” pilot projects such as the Cardero Street Mural.

### Core Community Values

By analysing and synthesising the feedback and data we received from a broad range of people, some common ideas, interests and opportunities for the West End Community Plan emerged as six Core Community Values:

1. Diversity
2. Villages
3. Green & Leafy
4. Walkable
5. Culture
6. Public Facilities

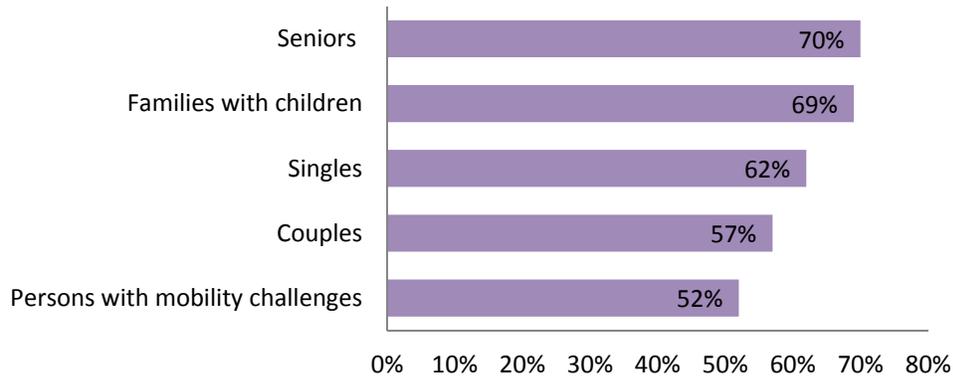
The following is a summary of the Values, and some of the key consultation feedback and comments we heard relating to them.

*Note: Bar charts with total values greater than 100% are for questions that allowed respondents to select multiple options.*

## DIVERSITY

The West End prides itself as a diverse community that includes people of all ages, incomes, ethnicities and sexual orientations, and that has an eclectic range of building ages, styles, tenures, heights and densities.

To better meet the diverse needs of the community, the West End needs more housing for:



Source: West End Community Survey 2012

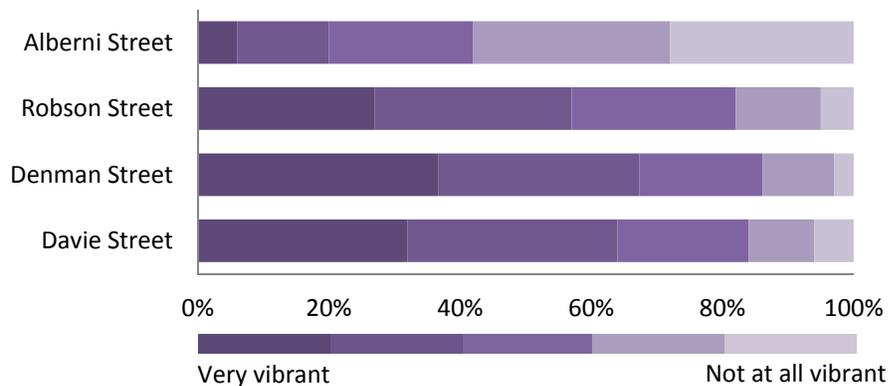
Some ideas we heard:

- “Appreciate the West End is a mix of all economic levels.”
- “Create affordable family-oriented and seniors housing.”
- “We are not Yaletown!”

## VILLAGES

Three distinct local business areas (villages) provide shopping, services, amenities and a vibrant experience for locals and visitors alike. These should be strengthened and celebrated!

How would you rate these streets in terms of offering an active, vibrant and engaging experience?



Source: West End Community Survey 2012

Some ideas we heard:

- “Support local, independent businesses.”
- “Sidewalks need to be widened and improved.”
- “Awnings could be wider and more consistent.”

## GREEN & LEAFY

The mature green, leafy residential streets provide a quiet, relaxing experience where neighbours converse, gardens flourish, and people regularly stroll by.



During our walking tours we heard that the mature trees, gardens and green spaces in the residential areas are highly valued.

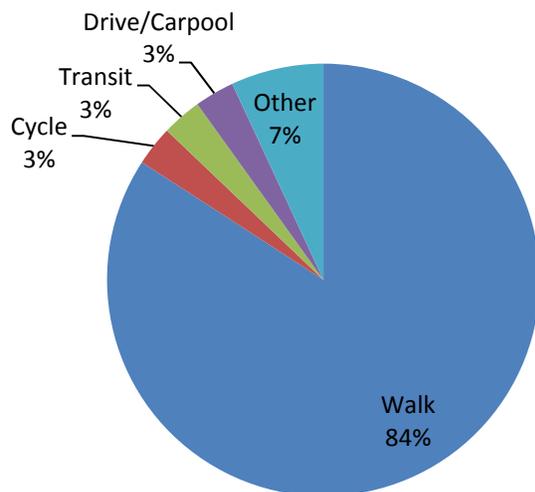
Some ideas we heard:

- “Transform laneways for growing, gathering and beauty.”
- “Explore opportunities for additional community garden sites.”
- “Protect the mature tree canopy and plant new trees where possible.”

## WALKABLE

West Enders love to walk! The community has the highest percentage of people in the city who walk to work, and the vast majority of people walk to get around locally.

How do you *usually* get around the West End?



Source: West End Community Survey 2012

Some ideas we heard:

- “More benches and public seating should be provided throughout the community.”
- “Improve pedestrian crossings in key locations on Thurlow.”
- “Create more space for pedestrians at Denman and Davie.”

## CULTURE

The West End enjoys a range of cultural places and spaces that add to the livability, character and identity of the community. They help meet creative, social and cultural needs and are valued as spaces that need to be maintained and upgraded as the community grows.

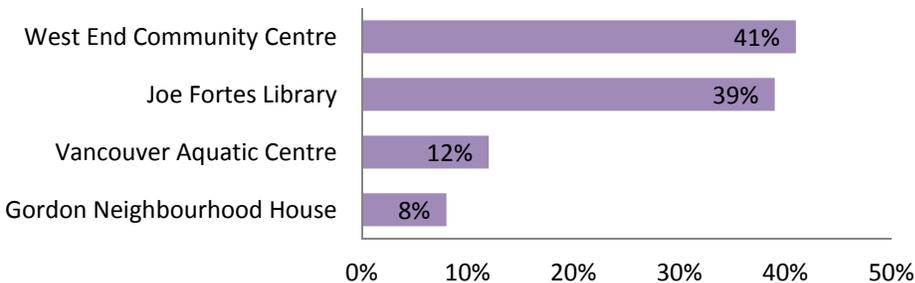
Some ideas we heard:

- “Build a world-class plaza.”
- “Turn the unused Gabriola Mansion into a cultural centre.”
- “Heritage buildings are a key cultural asset.”

## PUBLIC FACILITIES (Recreational & Community Facilities)

Public spaces and facilities such as Stanley Park, Barclay Heritage Square, the Seawall, St. Paul’s Hospital, the West End Community Centre, YMCA, Qmunity, the Aquatic Centre, and other parks and facilities are highly valued by the residents of the West End. These important places are viewed as being critical to ensuring livability, especially when space is at a premium in a high density community. These facilities will have to be maintained and upgraded to meet community needs.

### Which community facility do you use most often?



Source: West End Community Survey 2012

Some ideas we heard:

- “The Community Centre and Library need upgrading and expanding!”
- “A new LGBTQ centre should be built.”
- “More childcare spaces are needed.”