

Artists in Communities – Hastings Community Centre Profile

This Community Centre Profile will serve as a description for artists to use in developing a project framework specific to Hastings Community Centre.

Questions concerning this profile can be directed to:

Name of Centre: Hastings Community Centre

Address: 3096 E. Hastings St. Vancouver, BC V5K 2A3

Contact Person: Paul Biln

For further information refer to our website: <https://hastingscc.ca>

Neighbourhood Description

Until the 1850s, the shoreline of Burrard Inlet around New Brighton was known as *Khanahmoot* by the local Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh people, and was well-regarded for its abundant natural resources. For many centuries a trail linked the area to the rich berry grounds further inland around Burnaby Lake.

In light of this history we would like to rebuild community connections to the lands, indigenous plants, and other foods that once existed here. This relationship can help the Hastings community break down barriers to one other as they begin to participate and see themselves as part of a shared natural history. The learning garden connected to the community centre can be used to workshop some of these ideas throughout the residency.

In addition to New Brighton Park, the neighbourhood is also home to Hastings Community Park, directly adjacent to Hastings Community Centre, and the Hastings Park Sanctuary, just north of the Centre. Hastings Park is one of Vancouver's largest urban parks, and the Sanctuary within is ecologically rich, home to over 100 bird species and two ponds surrounded by meandering pathways. Our hope is to find connections to all of the green spaces in our neighbourhood and look at new ways of activating outdoor spaces to engage community.

The historic Hastings Community Hall was built on the site where it currently stands in 1936, thanks to collaboration between the Park Board and the newly established Hastings Community Association. The Association formed in 1934 in direct response to a growing need for recreation opportunities in the community. The residents of Hastings-Sunrise are characterized by a keen sense of community involvement and responsible advocacy that exists to this day.

From a demographic perspective, Hastings-Sunrise has a history of diversity and of being a community for new immigrants. Already in 1957, the community centre offered

“English for New Canadians” classes. Today, the community is home to a significant number of Chinese, Italian, and Vietnamese Canadians. The area also has a higher percentage of residents with indigenous identity than the city of Vancouver overall.

Today, the Hastings Community Centre offers a wide variety of both fitness and non-fitness related programming. There is an active youth group, well-attended pre-teen programming, ample children’s programming, a full preschool and out of school care. Seniors’ activities include dance, meals, and fitness, including some Chinese language programming. Our food and garden programming is growing, and nearby Templeton Park Pool hosts a number of clubs in addition to year-round swim lessons.

When surveyed, our local members expressed a preference towards enhancing and activating the natural spaces in our neighbourhood such as parks and community gardens. In terms of a lasting legacy, building relationships and adding to a sense of community pride were at the top of the list.

Celebration of diversity, multigenerational collaboration, bringing together disparate communities living in the same place, a legacy of sharing for the future, exploring our relationship to the land, creating open and safe spaces for celebration, and reconciliation with our indigenous history were some of the other goals expressed by our community members.

Community Interests & Issues

1. Bringing the community together, strengthening existing relationships and building new ones amongst populations who were previously disparate
2. Ongoing reconciliation with our Urban Indigenous population
3. Collaborating with our local schools and schoolchildren
4. Activating outdoor spaces in new and innovative ways to play, create, explore and share within our neighbourhood
5. Celebrating the diversity of language, belief systems, and culture that exists in Hastings-Sunrise
6. Encouraging projects that highlight our natural environment and bring people together
7. Engendering awareness, appreciation, and pride for the history of our community, as well as the sense of belonging that comes with those attributes.