



The Downtown Eastside Street Market

June 2014

What We Are All About

Did you Know?

- We are a social enterprise with up to \$300 revenue on any given Sunday.
- We provide over \$500,000 per year into the hands of the poorest most marginalized residents of the DTES.
- We remove more than 20 tonnes of waste annually from landfills.
- We are in our 5th year of operation with over 200 successful events held.
- We have over 28 volunteers per day (110 volunteer hours/day and 5,720 hours/year).
- We are Peer-Run and Peer-Governed (104 meetings/year).
- We are an established cruise ship attraction.
- Street markets are supported by municipalities all over the world and are often developed as a result of conflict over street vending.

The DTES Street Market runs every Sunday at Pigeon Park and supports hundreds of vendors to be more independent, less clientized, and to make much needed extra money for themselves to supplement their social assistance.

The DTES Street Market has grown into an essential community festival and social enterprise. We provide vending space to as many as 200 vendors every Sunday.

The market removes over 20 tonnes of waste destined for landfills, and provides a way for the vendors to better survive the pressures of gentrification.

The market was started by DNC and VANDU in 2010 as a response to the unregulated and criminalized street vending already taking place in the DTES. It now receives a small grant and a valid permit from the City of Vancouver.



"This market is so important to me and has gotten me through a lot of tough times. I also get to sell my famous homemade bannock here which has given me a lot of confidence."

Tracy Morrison—Vendor

Our Vendors

DTES Street Market vendors collect their items from the garbage bins all over Vancouver, and come from the most marginalized population in Canada. One third of our vendors are women, many current or former sex trade workers, roughly half are native, a significant minority are from the nearby Chinese retirement community, and a majority are either homeless or under housed in the surrounding infamous SROs. Vendors at the DTES Street Market must be residents of the DTES.

Our Customers

The DTES Street Market attracts a wide variety of customers every Sunday. Recent counts estimate 20 customers passing through the entrances every minute which adds up to thousands of daily visitors. On average, there are 50 children visiting on each market day and 15 dogs!

Our Principles

- Located in the DTES ■ DTES Residents-Focused ■ Inclusive
- Linked to inclusive local economic development and the DTES Local Area Plan
- Low-Barrier ■ Affordable participation ■ Community-led/driven ■ CoV supported

The DTES Street Market Society

We are a registered BC Society operated by the street vendors of Vancouver's DTES neighbourhood, and the same vendors and volunteers that run the market also govern its entire operation.

We meet every Saturday at 9:00am at 380 E Hastings (VANDU) for our regular operations and

planning meetings, and the DTES Street Market Board meets right beforehand on Saturday at 8:00am.

If you are a DTES resident and want to reserve a spot, or ask the volunteers to hold you a tent or table for Sunday, please come to our Saturday operations meeting and just let us know!



Credit: AHA Media

Partnerships



The DTES Street Market has cultivated several important partnerships over the last five years and hopes to find new ones all the time. We have strong partnerships with the City of Vancouver and Central City Foundation who support many aspects of the market. We host the HXBIA Tool Library which is a great joint initiative by the Street Market and the Hastings Crossing BIA. 62 East Hastings, our partner site, holds a set of tools and local businesses are able to borrow the tools for free. We have a gas pressure washer, two leaf blowers, lots of shovels and rakes and assorted power tools. John and Lee - the managers of the Nelson and Seagull recently told the market organizers that they were quite excited about a tool share library in the neighbourhood and had a number of tools that they no longer needed that they could donate to the cause. Please see the back page for more partnership information.

Social Enterprise

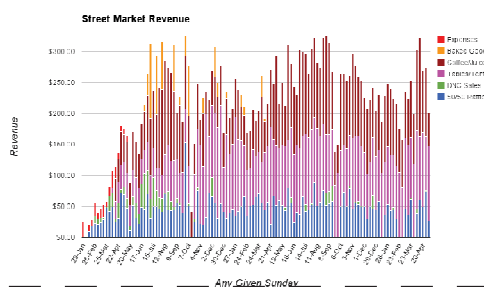
The DTES Street Market has a social enterprise component and plans to expand its sources and amount of revenue. As part of the normal DTES Street Market operations, we raise money by selling coffee, pop, by renting the tents and tables for a nominal fee, and by holding a

50/50 raffle every Sunday. This provides essential funds to replace equipment and to buy food and supplies for the volunteers. To date the market has raised more than \$25,000 in revenue from these sources. The DTES Street Market also strongly encourages

entrepreneurialism by micro lending to select vendors. In the past, we have purchased ingredients for bannock, muffins, and other baked goods for sale at the market, so low income vendors can gain revenue and diversify the products sold at the market.



Vending Cart Prototype



DTES Street Market Greenway Gallery

10ft by 6ft paintings displayed on our Street Market tents

GreenwayGallery.ca

AHAMEDIA.ca

Vision for the Future

The DTES Street Market Society has a vision for the future of the market and is working hard to build its capacity in order to expand and diversify its operations.

The following are components of our market that we are developing:

Our Space

We want to be a permanent part of the neighbourhood and to make our space work for everyone. We are working on installing proper space barriers, improving controls at entrances with screening and improved security. We are also developing plans for limited space allocation for individual vendors and policies and procedures for vendors who want more space. We would love to have an indoor component to the space, storage capacity and opportunity to expand.

Our Basic Operations

Ideally, we would like to run the market on more than one day per week. We want to keep it low-barrier and welcoming to the low-income community. We also want to be more family-friendly. We are developing membership policies and vendor badges for proper vendor screening. We want to improve our access to power, water, washrooms, garbage and recycling. We are also developing a prototype for vending carts in partnership with Tradeworks in order to be able to sell everything off of the ground (see photo on page 2). We want to be a highly visible, organized, inclusive market with adequate operational capacity. We also want to improve as a social enterprise and continue to generate revenue.

Our Governance

The DTES Street Market is run by a non-profit group of community residents and volunteers. We are supported by the City of Vancouver and through various community partnerships. We are also actively seeking out new consistent and adequate funding opportunities. It is important to us that our market be one where low-income community members are involved, invited and welcome. We provide many volunteer positions in the community and want to remain peer-governed and operated in a sustainable manner.



“We want this historic Downtown Eastside festival to be a tourist attraction and source of pride for the whole city .”

—DTES Street Market Society

Our Products

We are working on diversifying the types of things that can be bought and sold. In the future, we would like to sell, low-cost food, garden produce, arts and crafts and flowers. Some ideas we have are to have music at our market as well as education, art, performance space, rehearsal space, meeting space, animation for children, a toy exchange and advocacy/info tents etc. We want our product line to result in more employment opportunities. We would like to expand our vendor demographic and provide more opportunities for women, youth and local artists. We want to sell our items on tables and carts, not on the ground.

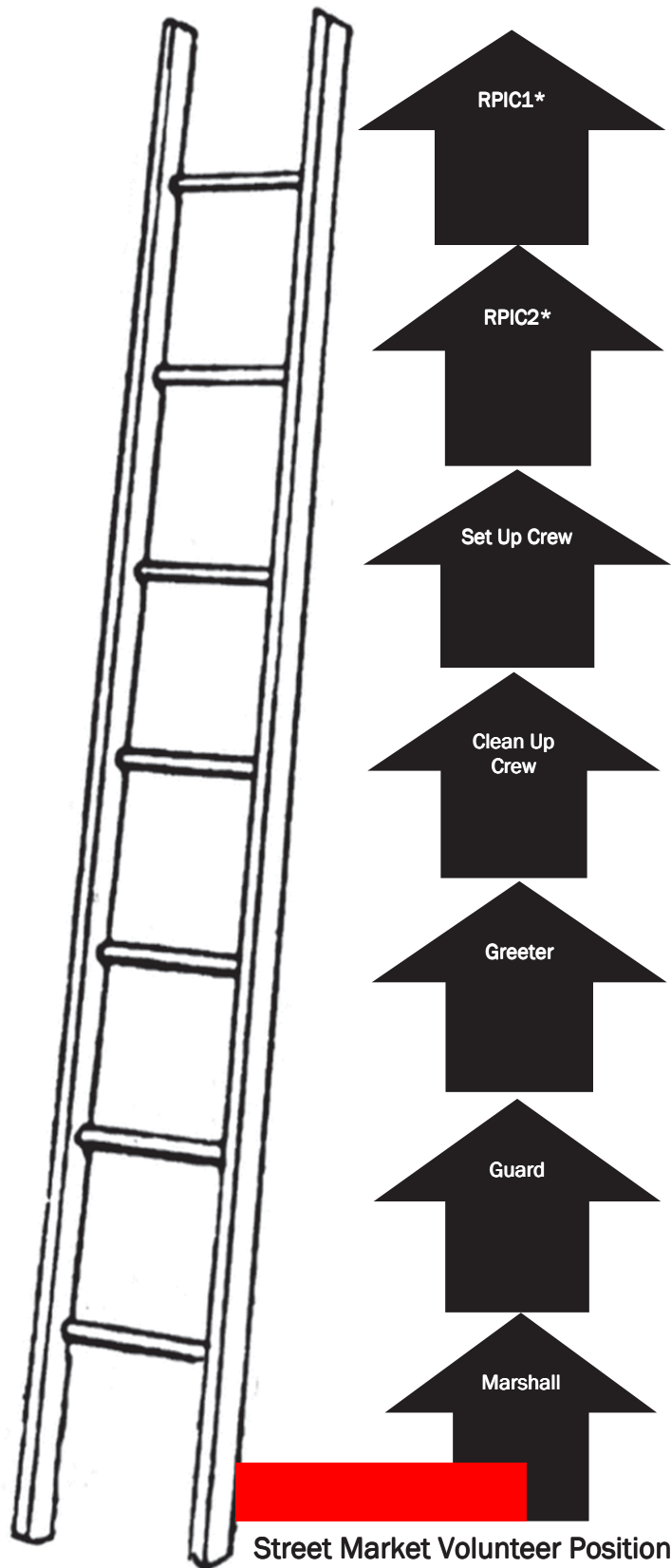
Our Security

We do not want stolen goods sold at our market and we do our best to keep them out. We are working on making our space less porous and having distinct entrance areas that are guarded. We are developing policies and procedures for ‘greeters’, to ensure vendors are local and to obtain vendors’ proof of residence upon entry. We are working on procuring our own private security and be less dependent on the VPD for assistance. We are also working on getting our volunteers and workers the training they need in safety, security and First Aid.

Our Image

We want to be a market supported by and for the DTES community. We are working on ending negative perceptions and stigma related to our market. We want to be recognized for our significant contribution to local livelihoods and our grander role in community economic development in the DTES. We are committed to holding neighbourhood meetings to improve relationships. We want to increase our community partnerships and work with neighbouring businesses and BIAs for the good of the entire neighbourhood. We want to be respectful to our neighbours and provide access to Pigeon Park for those who want it. We want to be respected by the VPD. We are working on our branding and acquiring DTES Street Market hats and vests for our workers.

DTES Street Market's Ladder of Employment Opportunities



Street Market Volunteer Positions

SKILLS ACQUIRED

- Training of RPIC 2s
- Experience and skills in every prior position

- Leadership
- Hiring/firing/supervising others
- Teamwork
- Public Speaking

- Dealing with fragile equipment
- Punctuality
- Responsibility
- Trust

- People skills
- Conflict resolution
- Physical labour/Use of power tools
- Responsibility

- Surveillance
- Working with public
- Customer service

- Site management/control
- Supervision
- Working with public/vendors

- Time management
- Responsibility
- Planning
- Stability

*Responsible Person in Charge



DTES Local Area Plan

The DTES Street Market is recognized as a key component in the local economic development of the neighbourhood for its contribution to local and survival livelihoods. Various actions in the plan are related to the market:

- Support a permanent location for the DTES Street Market for safer survival vending and opportunities for sale of locally produced arts and crafts
- Expand and validate market-selling in suitable and permanent premises to allow for safer survival vending
- Innovate opportunities for other market-selling opportunities for DTES residents including arts, crafts, local foods etc.
- Support and encourage local enterprise and growth of micro and small enterprise
- Identify, secure and maximize economic/business assets that serve the low-income community
- Create more demand for local products and services
- Continue to improve public realm to support business
- Facilitate green enterprise practices and innovative methods
- Support community-based social enterprise and business incubation
- Recognize the role and contribution of volunteers

A Healthy City for All

The Healthy City Strategy currently in development will be a long-term, integrated plan for healthier people, healthier places, and a healthier planet.

The strategy will be aligned with other key priorities of the City, and is based on our framework that identifies the building blocks of a healthy city for all.

The DTES Street Market is related to the Healthy City Strategy in its contribution to survival livelihoods, creation of job opportunities and income, diversion of solid waste, sense of community, connection and



belonging. In the future, the market has the potential to contribute even further to the Healthy City Strategy's goals around education and learning, arts and culture and food security.

"The DTES Street Market is a key component of the local shared economy and the recently approved DTES Plan strategically supports its transformation into a community economic development driver over the long term. This will be all the more effective through future partnerships with the BIAs and various funders in the neighbourhood." —Tom Wanklin, Senior Planner, CoV

Current location of the DTES Street Market



Special Thanks to Our Past and Present Partners:

AHA MEDIA
WWW.AHAMEDIA.CA



For More Info: <http://dtesstmkt.blogspot.ca/>