



Social Planning

Social planning involves community and government groups and organizations working together to address critical social issues facing a community. Social planning has also been referred to as community development or community social planning.

The goal of social planning is to create a healthy, equitable, socially sustainable city for all. Social planning goals include improving communities for populations such as children and youth, seniors, newcomers, LGBTQ+ communities, IBPOC (Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour), persons with disabilities, and others.

Did You Know?

Vancouver is located within the unceded, ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. It is also home to a substantial and diverse urban Indigenous population who identify with Indigenous communities across North America and beyond.

The City of Vancouver has had a Social Planning Department for over 50 years!

About 52% of Vancouver's population are members of a visible minority group, a steady rate since 2006 while the rate in the rest of the region has continued to increase. From 1996 to 2016 the absolute number of residents in a visible minority group grew by 40% in the City of Vancouver and 110% across all of Metro Vancouver

To ensure the continued sustainability and livability of our neighbourhoods, City staff work with community groups and other agencies to address critical social issues that affect us all, and to make sure that the needs of all residents are met.



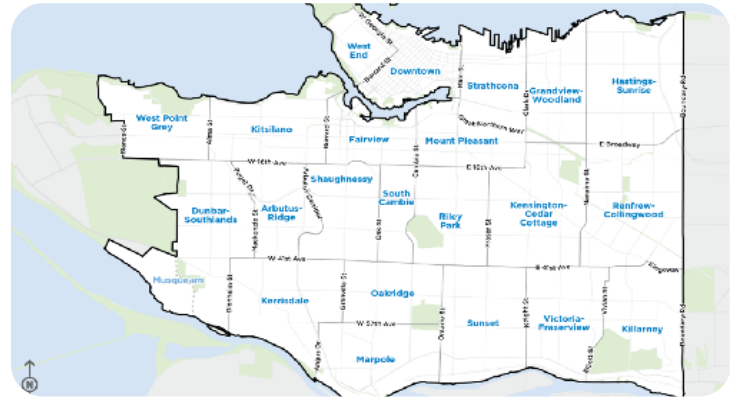
Vancouver's Neighbourhoods

The City of Vancouver has 22 local planning areas. These areas, identified in the 1960s, are the closest concept Vancouver has to “official” neighbourhoods.

Why do neighbourhoods matter for social planning? Put simply, they can help to identify social trends within the city. For example, neighbourhoods may have differences in age groups, housing types, languages spoken, family types, cultural origin and identity, Indigenous identity, income levels, and more. As a result, social planning programs are not uniform across every neighbourhood within Vancouver.

Social planning in Vancouver relies on a

strong foundation of research and data. A number of data sources are used to understand how change happens in the city, and how it is experienced by different individuals and groups. To find out more go to: <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/research-and-data-toward-a-healthy-city-for-all.aspx>



Community Service Grant Program

To help build strong communities in Vancouver, the Community Service Grant Program offers a range of funding for non-profit social service groups and neighbourhood organizations.

These Community grants are organized into several categories, with grants available for operating childcare centres, providing services to at-risk communities, small-scale renovations to facilities, and more.

For example, one of the Community grant programs is the Indigenous Healing and Wellness Grants program which supports projects that provide traditional, spiritual, and cultural healing and wellness activities

in Vancouver's urban Indigenous community.

In 2019, the combined total allocations through the City's social grants program exceeded \$9,000,000, reflective of Vancouver's ongoing commitment to supporting community-level programs and services that will help build a Healthy City for All.



Three Core Values Shaping Our City

We are always striving for improvement and to work towards a fairer, safer, more inclusive city. Three core values shaping our city include equity, decolonization and intersectionality.

Equity

Equity is a principle, process, and outcome. In principle, equity asserts everyone has access to what they need to survive and thrive. Equity identifies existing disparities between communities and attempts to amend imbalances by resources, funding or opportunities that are proportional to needs.

Decolonization

Decolonization works to dismantle unjust structures of power that were put in place by colonialism. It acknowledges that the City of Vancouver was built through the dispossession of Indigenous lands, and was

initially designed to represent the voices and values of a limited few. To decolonize is to dismantle the systemic barriers to the assertion of Indigenous sovereignty, inherent responsibilities, Indigenous truths and the reconnection to land, culture and family.

Intersectionality

Intersectionality is a framework that explores how different forms of systemic oppression, like racism, classism and sexism, intersect and create compounding negative effects.

Race is the strongest predictor of unequal access. A race-forward, Indigenous-centred, intersectional approach means that we recognize how white supremacy has informed all of the systems we participate in.

Equity Framework

At the City, work is currently underway to develop the Equity Framework, a City-wide initiative that will help us to transform our internal structures in order to equitably serve our diverse communities.

This work is grounded on the priority actions identified in the Healthy City Strategy and the City of Reconciliation Framework, and it takes an Indigenous-centered, race forward and intersectional approach to embedding equity in our policies, practices, and processes.

Be sure to keep up with the **'Shape Your City'** website for updates on the latest community engagement opportunities at www.shapeyourcity.ca

