



False Creek Community Association 2021 Artists in Communities Community Centre Profile

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

Questions concerning this profile can be directed to:

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The False Creek Community Centre is driven by a volunteer board of directors jointly operating in partnership with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation to provide recreational, educational, and social activities and services to residents and visitors of the False Creek Community. Our volunteer Board of Directors helps to ensure the Centre remains focused on delivering a safe, healthy and dynamic environment for all patrons of False Creek Community Centre.

False Creek Community Centre offers a vast array of specialty programs and services including canoeing, kayaking, tennis, performing arts, after school childcare, preschool, and a well-equipped fitness center. The Centre offers programming for individuals of all ages.

Mission Statement:

False Creek Community Association's (FCCA) mission is to provide and operate a Community Centre that serves the educational, cultural, recreational, athletic and social needs of the citizens of Vancouver, in particular the Fairview/False Creek community.

Neighbourhood Description:

False Creek Community Centre is located on Granville Island, which was originally used by the Salish, the Indigenous people of the area. The Salish people harvested clams, oysters, urchin, herring and cod, and hunted deer. Berries and a variety of wild plants such as cabbage and mushrooms were nurtured and harvested from the surrounding area by three local Nations for medicinal and early technology. With such a rich sand bar, the Salish people had a saying, “when the tide went out, the table was set,” meaning that when the tide went out, they could walk with the tide and have enough food for their families.

The sea and its abundance also brought the Squamish people to the area each season. There is some discrepancy over the date of permanent settlement, but most agree that the Squamish inhabited Seńákw, an ancient village in, what is now the False Creek area, as early as 1821 or possibly as late as the 1850s.

In 1863, the British Columbia Mill Company opened a sawmill on Burrard Inlet and what had been a seasonal settlement at the became more permanent as the Squamish people moved in large numbers to work at the sawmill along with the Musqueam. Many nations fished the Fraser River area. Due to sustained contact with white colonialists, the economy changed drastically, moving from one of traditional subsistence on the land, to paid labour.

Then, in the 1970’s, Granville Island began its successful transformation from an industrial wasteland to one of the most beloved public spaces in Vancouver.

Opened in 1980, the construction of False Creek Community Centre was one of several public facilities planned by the City of Vancouver who had developed this former industrial area located on the southern shore of False Creek. It’s prime location on bustling Granville Island coupled with its access to the waterfront provide additional and unique programming opportunities.

Today Granville Island is a hotspot for Vancouver tourism and entertainment. Granville Island provides amenities such as a large public market, an extensive marina, a hotel, various performing arts, fine arts galleries, and a variety of shopping areas. Granville Island is the central location of several annual festivals, including the Vancouver International Children's Festival, the Vancouver Fringe Festival, and the Vancouver Writers Fest.

Directly to the West of False Creek Community Centre is the Granville Island waterpark, which is the largest free splash pad in Canada. To the East you’ll find tennis and basketball courts, as well as the very busy, and publicly accessible Alder Bay Dock.

The Fairview community, like the rest of Vancouver, is located on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh nations. It is one of Vancouver's most densely populated areas and continued growth is expected. There is an increasing number of families, children and seniors in the neighbourhood, with seniors growing at the fastest rate. Most residents are English-speaking, but it is a diverse community with about 27% of the population having a first language that is not English, and with 26% of the residents identifying as members of a visible minority group.

Community Interests and Issues:

1. All activities should be undertaken with a lens on diversity and inclusion, being mindful of the unique make-up of the community we support.
2. Projects that bring different age and cultural groups together and encourage dialogue with the community.
3. A growing population that will need access to recreational opportunities. With plans for a new development near the south end of the Burrard Street Bridge that may house up to 9000 people alone, the community will experience a burst in residents, whom we want to be able to serve meaningfully and effectively.
4. Lack of current child care spaces to support families with young children.
5. Intergenerational social connection and collaboration.
6. Ensuring that the recreational needs of all residents are met, with a current emphasis on creating more opportunities for youth and seniors.

Also, as per the False Creek Community Association's strategic plan, the following principles are important to uphold:

1. The facilitation of strong COVID-19 Recovery, Mitigation and Re-engagement strategies that will bring the community back together. Creating social connection is of paramount importance.
2. A foundation of equity, diversity and inclusion.
3. Optimize physical spaces to stimulate and facilitate social connection
4. Encourage local relationships with other organizations