



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: April 15, 2025
Contact: Margaret Wittgens
Contact No.: 604.871.6858
RTS No.: 17706
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: May 7, 2025
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities

FROM: General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services

SUBJECT: Update on the Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy 2023-2026 and Building Safer Communities Program Sustainability Plan

Recommendations

- A. THAT Council receive this report that provides an update on the Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy and Building Safer Communities Program (BSCP) implementation plan 2023-2026 for information.
- B. THAT Council direct the Mayor to write a letter to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada requesting the extension of the Building Safer Community Fund contribution agreement to support the continuation of the Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy and implementation plan for 2026-2030.
- C. THAT Council approve the proposed approach to creating the required Building Safer Communities Program sustainability plan. This plan would prioritize using existing resources and incorporate an overarching approach for the City's work to engage and support children and youth in Vancouver.

Purpose and Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the *Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy*, including the Building Safer Communities Program (BSCP) implementation plan delivery, and to seek Council direction to report back on the sustainment of these activities beyond March 2026 when the federal funding is scheduled to end.

Through the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF), Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada provided funding to municipalities to develop youth violence prevention strategies including a coordinated and comprehensive approach to support community-based

interventions that address the risk factors associated with youth gun and gang violence. With this funding, the City has led, together with youth serving agencies, public partners and young people, a multifaceted program guided by the priorities outlined in the *Youth Safety and Violence Prevention (YSVP) Strategy* adopted by Council in November 2023. As part of the BSCP workplan the City established a \$2.7 million community granting program, coordinated a policy implementation and community mobilization process, including a youth engagement program to promote upstream early youth violence prevention efforts, and supported citywide strategic planning projects to strengthen sector capacity, promote network building and increase coordination of youth services.

Vancouver's BSCP program has positively influenced young people, the youth sector and the City's ability to lead upstream community safety initiatives. Through the BSCP, the City has achieved notable milestones including a renewed focus on youth policy and planning through the coordination of youth violence prevention programs, reestablished partnerships with community-based organizations and municipal public partners delivering youth services in the city, and tested a prototype for a citywide community safety approach to addressing violence.

Federal funding for this project ends in March 2026; the contribution agreement requires the City to provide a sustainability plan outlining what activities and current programming will be supported by the City and community partners beyond the period covered by current federal funding. Staff are recommending exploring the program's sustainability using existing resources and incorporating an overarching approach that considers how the City plans and delivers programs, designs amenities and engages children and youth in planning and policy in the city.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

On [October 31, 2023](#) Council approved Vibrant Vancouver: City Council's Strategic Priorities for the term 2023-2026 including a strategic objective of safety and security; and a specific aligned action to advance the City's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy.

On [November 14, 2023](#) Council adopted the 2023-2026 Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy and program plan to support city-wide youth violence prevention efforts including a granting program, community engagement, network building and sector capacity initiatives.

On [May 8, 2024](#) Council directed staff to begin the process to refresh the Healthy City Strategy – currently underway – to include a renewed upstream systems approach to the wellbeing of residents in the city.

On [March, 28, 1995](#) City Council adopted the The Civic Youth Strategy which outlined a policy statement to involve youth as active partners in the development, assessment and delivery of civic services which have direct impact on youth, and in broad spectrum community consultations and initiatives. On [April 23, 2002](#) City Council adopted a youth implementation model for the strategy.

On [March, 12, 1992](#) The Vancouver Children's Policy was adopted by Council outlining a commitment to the children of Vancouver including a Children's Policy, Statement of Entitlements and an Action Plan.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

Vancouver is home to nearly 141,000 children and youth under the age of 24, representing 21% of the city's population. A large percentage of youth experience socio-economic vulnerabilities and are directly impacted by youth violence, which negatively affects their healthy development and connection to community. Recent data¹ shows that youth in Vancouver experience poor mental health, gaps in supportive relationships, economic inequities, higher rates of discrimination, bullying, victimization and an uncertain future related to affordability.

Youth violence results from the interplay of individual, relationship, family, community and societal factors. The occurrence of violence in its many forms is strongly shaped by social determinants of health such as poverty, social exclusion, racism, unemployment, inadequate housing, crime and community disorganization². Exposure to such violence erodes the sense of safety, security and belonging youth need to thrive. Prevention and mitigation strategies require an organized effort across many sectors of society and disciplines to address the emotional, physical and environmental aspects of this problem.

Policy Context and the BSCP Program

The City of Vancouver has a long history of working with and investing in children and youth, through dedicated programs, policies and strategies including the Children's Agenda Policy (1992), the Vancouver Civic Youth Strategy (1995) and Making Strides: Vancouver's Childcare Strategy (2022).

The BSCF is a federal program that aims to address the risk factors associated with gun and gang violence and improve safety overall for the city's children and youth. It provided the City with the opportunity to renew its approach to working on citywide youth policy and planning in a more systematic and comprehensive way, providing a refreshed approach after the last policy direction developed nearly two decades earlier. In 2022, the City signed a contribution agreement with Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada to administer \$4,283,535 until March 2026 in accordance with the objectives of the Building Safer Communities Fund³. Subsequently, the City developed the YSVP which was adopted by Council in November 2023 to guide implementation of the City's work related to the BSCP program.

The City's YSVP strategy outlines a comprehensive approach to enhancing the safety and wellbeing of youth in Vancouver. It is guided by a vision of a city where youth feel safe, supported, connected, healthy and free of violence. In alignment with the objectives of the

¹ Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy: the state of child and youth safety and wellbeing in the City <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/bscp-youth-safety-violence-prevention-strategy.pdf>

² Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. "A Balanced Approach to Youth Violence" (2006). <https://www.camh.ca/-/media/files/pdfs---public-policy-submissions/a-balanced-approach-to-youth-violence-2006-pdf.pdf>

³ BSCF Objectives: 1) Support municipalities and Indigenous communities to develop a youth violence prevention strategy and a comprehensive approach to support community-based interventions that address the risk factors associated with youth gun and gang violence. 2) Increase the knowledge of the nature, scope and challenges of the identified recipients to tackle gun and gang activities. 3) Support recipients to develop a plan to sustain successful prevention and intervention activities on completion of the program.

federal program, the strategy aims to address the risk factors associated with gun and gang violence and identify community and public responses that effectively prevent youth violence more broadly. Focused primarily on upstream, community level, early violence prevention, the strategy includes guiding principles that centre community-based approaches and interventions. Grounded on a life course approach, the strategy promotes understanding children and youth's needs along critical developmental stages including early childhood, middle years, adolescence and transition to adulthood, in terms of how they experience safety and respond to related situations.

Discussion

The Building Safer Communities Program – Vancouver

Several key initiatives and projects have been undertaken to fulfill the objectives of the BSCP program:

Building Safer Communities Granting Program

The BSCP granting program was structured to operationalize the priorities outlined in the YSVP Strategy, allocating \$2.7 Million dollars in grants over the 3 years (2024-2026), to deliver early youth violence prevention programs, support community-based organizations to build the capacity of the sector and carry out youth-led action projects in alignment with the strategy.

Through a strategic granting approach, youth serving organizations were identified to lead early youth violence prevention initiatives within specific programmatic areas as outlined in the strategy. A community-based adjudication model that included a multisectoral review panel comprised of municipal public partners, young people and City staff guided the selection of program partners and project grant recipients.

To date, the BSCP-supported grant funding program has reached over 33,000 children and youth in Vancouver through its grantees and direct engagement efforts. A total of 9 program implementation partners were selected to receive three-year funding grants to deliver upstream early violence prevention programs that address risk factors associated with gun and gang violence until March 2026. To respond to local, neighborhood and community specific priorities, two one-time funding streams were available to youth groups and non-profit organizations to implement time-limited projects. To date, 11 unique projects have focused on sector-wide capacity building, reaching approximately 70 agencies. Over 24 youth led projects have contributed to promoting a sense of safety and belonging among children and youth in the city through neighborhood-based action projects and events. (Appendix 1: BSCP funded Youth Violence Prevention Programs and Projects 2024-2026). For the final year of implementation programs will continue to be delivered across sites and the final round of youth grants are anticipated to be adjudicated by the summer 2025.

Partnerships for Impact

The BSCP program has had an extensive reach due to the strategic partnerships that have been developed through the granting process:

City-wide programmatic reach has been facilitated by Park Board youth and community development staff in collaboration with 23 Community Centre Associations. BSCP funds have been used to increase equal and equitable access to youth programs and spaces across the city to bolster and solidify upstream youth violence prevention programming that is consistent across neighbourhoods.

Further, the BSCP implementation partners⁴ are now establishing an independent upstream youth service delivery collective called HYPE (Helping Youth through Prevention and Empowerment). As part of this partnership, non-profit organizations are together coordinating program delivery across the city and are collectively tracking and sharing program outcomes.

Based on preliminary findings from activities to date, young people that participate in BSCP upstream violence prevention program activities delivered through the program partners are showing statistically significant better outcomes than youth in the broader community, with regards to rates of sense of safety, belonging, ability to engage in different complex social situations, youth voice in decision making, and connection to positive role models and peer groups. (Appendix 2: BSCP Preliminary Findings Report March 2025).

BSCP Youth Engagement Program

A peer-to-peer youth leadership violence prevention program was created to support all BSCP youth engagement activities. Coordinated by Equitas Vancouver, 3 cohorts of Youth Community Developers have been hired and trained to plan and deliver an annual youth forum, lead youth projects and reach out to youth throughout the city. To date 15 youth community developers have been trained, and an additional 75+ youth have directly participated. Three annual youth forums have mobilized over 350 youth. A final youth forum taking place in Q1 2026 will mark the conclusion of the program and provide a platform to reflect on outcomes, share insights and summarize the program's achievements. (Appendix 3: BSCP Youth Engagement Program Overview and Achievements)

Community-based Action Research Projects

Youth serving agencies and academic partners have led research projects that explored critical questions and community-led approaches on safety and wellbeing, particularly related to upstream violence prevention in middle childhood and adolescence. Emphasizing prevention and early intervention, 17 projects integrated data-driven insights with community engagement, to highlight Vancouver strategies to enhance safety and belonging, reduce the impacts of gun and gang violence on children and youth, prevent youth sexual exploitation and promote wrap-around services. Research findings have informed neighborhood-based action projects and helped prioritize citywide youth programs. BSCP staff have also been invited to share Vancouver's early primary youth violence prevention approach, research findings and strategy at national community safety conferences and forums (Appendix 4 - BSCP CBR Projects Summaries Table)

BSCP Vancouver Youth Collective Networks Project:

To strengthen sector capacity and network building, the City commissioned a study to look at the current ways youth-serving agencies coordinate programs and interventions through existing networks, joint programs, service hubs, partnership agreements and co-location strategies. Connecting with 90 agencies that are part of over 25 youth service networks in the city, this research project provided a descriptive overview of these networks, including the number, mandate, and type of current partnerships. Findings highlighted trends and challenges

⁴ BSCP Program Implementation Partners: Cityhive Youth Engagement Society, Collingwood Neighborhood House Society, Dudes Club Society, M.O.S.A.I.C. Multi-Lingual Orientation Service Association for Immigrant Communities; Progressive Inter-cultural Community Services Society (PICS); Red Fox Healthy Living Society; South Vancouver Neighbourhood House; Thunderbird Neighbourhood Association; Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative Society.

for coordinating services, as well as a list of current integrated upstream and downstream supports for youth at risk. (Appendix 5: BSCP Youth Networks Project Final Report)

Keeping Youth Matters on the Table Planning Process:

As BSCP reinvigorated the City's work with children and youth, staff were enthusiastic to come together for a visioning planning process to discuss desired outcomes and the potential to increase the impact of existing municipal youth services (Appendix 6: BSCP Inventory of Municipal Youth Services). This process was designed in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health and facilitated by Cityhive Youth Engagement Society. Engagement consisted of three strategizing sessions to explore how teams from different City departments and agencies could establish mechanisms to better support collaboration to strengthen healthy and positive youth development, with strong participation from the Vancouver Public Library, the Vancouver Park Board, Vancouver School Board, the Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Fire and Rescue, Social Policy and Projects, Active Transportation, and the Sustainability office. It was the first time in two decades that staff had the opportunity to come together comprehensively to discuss how the City could embed safety and well-being into a youth-centered approach and through the coordination of municipal planning, policy, services and programs so that all youth in Vancouver can thrive.

Sustainability Plan

Per the terms of the contribution agreement, the City of Vancouver is required to submit a sustainability plan to Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada outlining the BSCP prevention and intervention activities that will continue beyond the expiration of the current funding term. At the time of negotiating the grant agreement, City staff were clear with Federal counterparts that sustaining the work at the levels supported by the federal grant program would not be feasible and that any sustainment plan would be framed within existing resources and balancing competing demands.

Staff recommend that continued work on violence prevention needs to consider the overarching context for how the City plans and delivers programs, designs amenities, engages children and youth in planning and other opportunities to meaningfully participate in municipal affairs. This approach is integral to ensuring that young people are safe, connected and healthy in their community.

Aligned with the Healthy City Strategy's life-course lens on social determinants of health and sustainable development goals, and aligned with the Older Persons strategic framework, the proposed future work would articulate a shared vision and goals to address the wellness needs of children and youth in Vancouver and establish a collaborative approach across City departments and with external partners.

This sustainability plan would seek to take into consideration learnings and program achievements from YSVP Strategy, the current funding landscape for youth violence prevention programs and the role of the City in community safety and youth wellbeing. It would consider:

Funding and financial sustainability of current BSCP Programs: In order to maintain the scale and reach achieved by the current BSCP programs, approximately \$1 million in annual grants funding would be required to sustain the delivery of upstream violence prevention programs and projects beyond March 2026, when the current federal funding expires. Some of this investment could be focused through the existing Social Policy grants program budgets should Council

support such prioritization for the grants program. Staff would further propose that the sustainability plan identify that the City program partners continue to explore external funding sources, and have made an initial recommendation in this report that Council advocate to the Federal Government to maintain current funding levels through an extension of the BSCF contribution agreement beyond 2026.

Supporting sector capacity and network building to enhance service coordination and strengthen youth supports: BSCP demonstrated that effective youth violence prevention requires coordination and collaboration among multiple sectors including social services, education, mental health providers, law enforcement and community organizations. Coordination of services and policies ensures that children and youth receive comprehensive and timely support rather than fragmented interventions. The plan will include options for how the City can, within existing resources, play a role in convening and facilitating sector-wide conversations that break silos, strengthen community networks and promote effective and efficient approaches to addressing the needs of children and youth in Vancouver.

Exploring community safety and community-based interventions to address public safety and crime: BSCP funded programs, research and activities are highlighting the impact of community-based efforts in reducing violence, building trust and providing crisis and emergency response alternatives by focusing on upstream prevention and interventions. The youth focused work through BSCP is demonstrating that violence prevention and community safety are not the responsibility of police alone. Addressing youth violence requires addressing structural conditions that create inequities, access to coordinated services and supports, a focus on prevention, and strategic community engagement efforts that foster a sense of safety and belonging. Staff would propose that the sustainability plan would set the stage for the City to continue this work internally and with community partners.

Financial Implications

The development of the BSCP sustainability plan can be funded out of existing 2025 Operating Budget and existing federal funds approved under BSCP. Should Council approve this approach, staff will return in Q2 2026 with an update on the sustainability plan and proposed next steps. Any financial implications related to the adopted recommendations will be brought forward for Council's consideration for future refocusing of existing resources.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with endorsement of the recommendations.

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Appendix 1

BSCP funded Youth Violence Prevention Programs and Projects 2024-2026



APPENDIX 1: BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES PROGRAM VANCOUVER YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Focus Area 1 of the City’s Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy - Create safer and protective community environments and public spaces for youth

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	KEY ACTIVITIES
Program Name: OurCity: Youth Spaces for a Safer City Program Lead: CityHive Youth Engagement Society	CityHive’s OurCity AKA CityShapers in Communities project works closely in collaboration with community groups (neighbourhood houses, settlement and employment programs, cultural groups) to deliver a hands-on workshop series that explores the intersections between our city, its public spaces, and youth safety. Rooted in CityHive's knowledge-to-action framework, this program focuses on building civic literacy, connection, and tangible skills for a youth-engaged community. This multifaceted approach supports equity- denied youth to enhance community safety and well-being.	- Over 60 youth across Vancouver participated in the workshop series, which was tailored to engage young people with varying levels of experience in civic engagement, particularly those facing systemic barriers to engage. - The workshops explored the intersections of government processes, civic participation, and public space design through the lens of equity and accessibility. - The project significantly enhanced youth understanding and capacity. A majority of participants reported notable improvements in key areas: 84% gained a better understanding of how fairness, equity, and social justice intersect with city decision-making; 82% felt they had strengthened their critical thinking skills and ability to consider diverse perspectives; and 87% developed greater confidence in using their voice to advocate for their beliefs. - CityHive collaborated with three local youth-serving organizations, including Red Fox, Movement and South Vancouver Neighbourhood House in 2024; and are currently securing new partnerships for 2025. Confirmed and prospective partners in 2025 include many neighbourhood houses (Marpole, Mount Pleasant, Little Mountain, Frog Hollow, Collingwood, Kits), Promise Vancouver, Urban Native Youth Association, and Migrante. By securing partnerships with other organisations, CityHive is able to deliver the four-part workshop series directly within existing youth programs. These collaborations were crucial to the success of the program and allowed us to tailor each workshop series to the specific interests and needs of the youth involved.

Focus Area 2 of the City's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy - Identify and strengthen community- based supports for healthy child development in the middle years.

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	KEY ACTIVITIES
Program Name: Safe & Sound Youth Violence Prevention Project Program Lead: Red Fox Healthy Living Society	The Safe and Sound: Vancouver Youth Violence Prevention Project offers equity-deserving youth aged 10-18 a sense of purpose and belonging as positive young leaders in their communities. Building youth capacity and resilience, fostering community, and providing recreation and mentorship provide youth with protective factors that decrease violence and increase safety.	• Safe & Sound has made progress in accomplishing four interconnected goals: helping youth feel safe, supported, and connected in their community; actively preventing youth from becoming involved with gangs; safeguarding youth against becoming victims of violence; and strengthening partnerships with other youth-serving community organizations. • Red Fox is working with 47 youth from Musqueam Reserve (12), Strathcona Elementary (18) Seymour Elementary (10) Ray-Cam Cooperative Centre (4) and Collingwood Neighbourhood House (3) and delivering a range of programs including: Indigenous cultural, Life Skills training; Safety workshops and activities - self-defence training, on-line safety workshops, transit safety; recreation outings - fitness, arts and culture, civic events; employment training - media skills including photography, interviewing and filming. • Red Fox is working with 12 youth ages 15 to 18 from Vancouver through their Youth employment training program. Youth help deliver physical literacy, life skills and cultural programs to children, and are mentored and supported by older role models who come from their communities to develop life and employment skills. • Reached an additional 1,500 at community special events throughout Vancouver, in partnership with Trout Lake, Hillcrest, Coal Harbour community centres and community organizations including HUB Cycling, Mom2Mom and Pacific Immigrant Resources Society. • Delivered Active Play programs to an additional 325 children and youth (ages 5 - 13). • Actively preventing youth from becoming involved with gangs: delivered preventative activities that promote a sense of belonging, helped youth learn new skills that boost their confidence and self-esteem, and showed them fun and accessible activities that they can do on their own through 24 recreation and cultural outings. • In March 2025, Delivered the first Safe & Sound Day at Seymour school with YoBro, YoGirl and Love BC, teaching 51 youth self-defence, online safety and bullying prevention; and took 6 youth on a three-day retreat to learn leadership skills, explore Indigenous culture and foster healthy, active living

Focus Area 2 of the City's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy - Identify and strengthen community- based supports for healthy child development in the middle years.

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	KEY ACTIVITIES
Program Name: Yo4Youth Hub Program Lead: Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative Society	The Yo4Youth Hub program aims to provide inclusive in and after-school activities for vulnerable youth in Vancouver, steering them away from risk factors and toward protective factors. Focusing on pro-social recreation, healthy communication, leadership, and decision making, this program connects youth with trusted adults in safe, supported, and caring spaces.	- Over the past year, the "Yo4Youth Hub" program has significantly impacted the communities they serve by connecting disconnected and under-served youth to healthier peer groups and vital community resources. - By identifying communities in need and working through local schools and community centres, Yo4Youth Hub have successfully fostered meaningful relationships and increased access to free programs that support youth development with over 105 youth. - Efforts have particularly focused on easing the transition from elementary to high school, a time marked by increased stress and vulnerability for many young people. By targeting elementary schools and their corresponding high schools, Yo4Youth Hub has supported smoother transitions for Grade 7 students moving into Grade 8. - Early work has concentrated on supporting students at the elementary school level, laying a strong foundation for future success. We are now in discussion with the VSB and the community to further engage the local high school and teen centre, with the goal of building a more comprehensive support system for youth as they navigate this critical transition. - Participating youth have reported feeling a stronger sense of belonging, improved access to enriching activities, and greater confidence in navigating social and academic challenges. Yo4Youth Hub staff have also observed an increase in engagement with community centre programs, demonstrating the effectiveness of our strategy in bridging the gap between youth and available resources.

Focus Area 3 of the City's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy - Improve the coordination and delivery of positive youth development services and programs

Program Name: Building Safer Communities Youth Voices Program Lead: Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society	Through a collaborative partnership this program will leverage organizational assets from three agencies to mutually benefit communities in strengthening the coordination and provision of positive youth	- The project has increased collaboration between sectors: community organizations, social service providers, schools, community policing, community health care centres, and law enforcement for community safety, well-being, and belonging. - Created a YAC (Youth Action Committee) comprised of youth who live in Renfrew-Collingwood/Hastings-Sunrise: consists of 20 members who meet weekly.
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PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	KEY ACTIVITIES
	development services and programs in the Hastings Sunrise and Renfrew Collingwood neighbourhoods	• Direct participation of over 40 youth in Youth Dance Drop-in with a3 District (former youth participants now dance instructors) and Youth Centre Recreation Drop-in with dedicated time for girls to increase participation rates. • MOUs in progress for improved coordination of services for YAC with Frog Hollow, newcomers/Filipino youth in collaboration with Mosaic, Mabuhay House (and Anakbayan BC, Benguet Society of BC, Sliced Mango) for 2025 onsite programming.
Program Name: MOSAIC Building Safer Communities Youth Voices Program Lead: M.O.S.A.I.C. Multi-Lingual Orientation Service Association for Immigrant Communities	MOSAIC's Youth Department will work with community organizations to increase free programming opportunities for vulnerable children and youth at risk of youth violence to engage with their peers and youth allies while participating in community-based programs and activities.	• Engaged over 129 youth in youth development programs including guided walk to provincial parks for newcomer youth and families, life skills, nutrition, disease prevention, food & financial literacy workshops, • Hosted the Welcome Studio for newcomer youth in partnership with Collingwood neighbourhood House. • Offered a range of training programs focused on financial literacy, success skills entrepreneurship and personal finance. • Coordinated professional development event in partnership with PLEA community services focused on Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth. • Strategic partnerships with : Collingwood Neighbourhood House (Youth Drop in activities), YMCA, Kiwassa Neighbourhood House, Broadway Youth Centre , South Vancouver Neighbourhood House, Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House and Vancouver SD SWIS workers
Program Name: Youth TEAM (Targeted Engagement & Anti-Violence Movement) Program Lead: South Vancouver Neighbourhood House	The TEAM program will strengthen and scale up the preteen and youth initiatives in South Vancouver and Mount Pleasant to provide upstream violence prevention, wrap-around services, and connect youth voices across at least four Vancouver neighbourhoods to create safer public spaces for healthy development and leadership.	• The program has made significant impact on the youth population in four Vancouver neighbourhoods (Killarney, Mount Pleasant, Sunset, and Victoria-Fraserview), allowing the Neighbourhood Houses to have stronger organizational capacity to work with the high volume of youth that are seeking safety and belonging in their immediate community outside of the school and family environments. • SVNH and MPNH collectively engaged approximately 300 youth this year: provided 20 unique programming for 6 days a week after school for youth to volunteer and drop-in. Through these programming, youth planned and delivered over 10 events and 100+ after-school program activities for younger children.

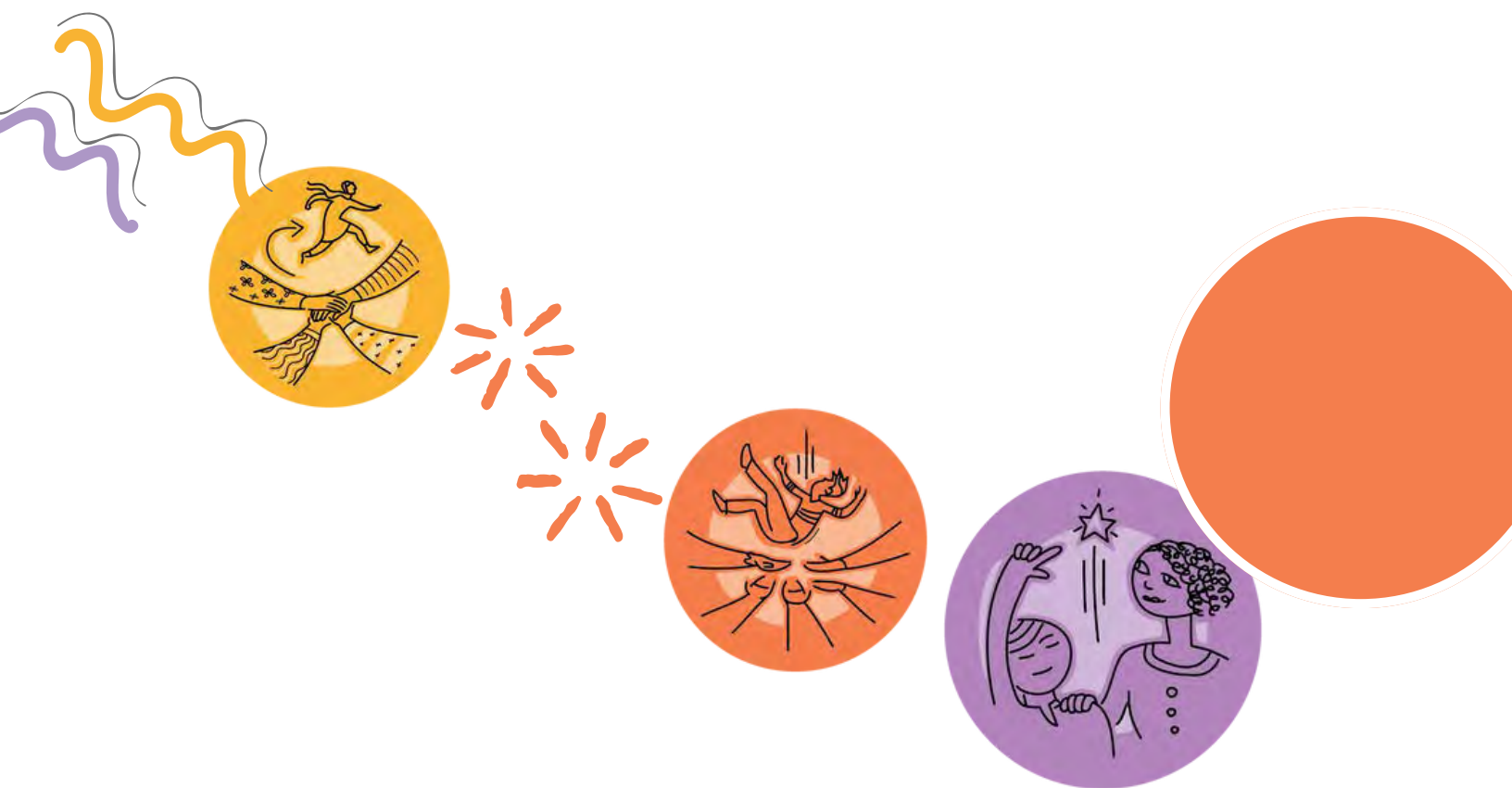


PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	KEY ACTIVITIES Page 13
		• Some outcomes from the program include an increased capacity to communicate, handle conflict and understand the behaviour of others. Participants shared that this program has helped them navigate through real world challenges • SVNH became a well-known gathering place where youth know they can also schedule one-to-one appointments to meet with our Settlement Counsellors (who are specialized in youth, young adult, and children work) to discuss further needs. • Youth involved in the program have shared that they are more comfortable in sharing and disclosing bullying or violence-related incidents to community youth staff because the relationship they built with neighbourhood house staff and these concerns come up in regular conversations. This is a different dynamic than youth going to a school-based adult ally to specifically report concerns. • Served over 50+ families this past year through these middle childhood programs and transition to high school initiatives.
Program Name: Community Youth Development Program Lead: Thunderbird Neighbourhood Association	The program will bolster and strengthen already existing Vancouver community centre programs for middle-years and teens, as well as introduce new opportunities for cross-facility integration of programming. Youth Workers and the local Community Centre Associations will coordinate, integrate, support, and enhance vital, yet underfunded, upstream violence prevention and social recreation programs for at-risk children and youth.	• Facilitated city-wide youth violence prevention programming across 23 community centre associations / societies reaching 30,000 youth from all neighbourhoods in the city. • Funding has bolstered and supported youth initiatives in underfunded areas reaching marginalized communities and engage youth at-risk. • The 23 Community Centre Associations/Societies led by the Thunderbird Neighbourhood Association came together for this grant in a historic first for cooperation. With the support of Park Board youth and community development staff the CCAs were able to increase equal and equitable access to youth programs and spaces across the city and bolster, enhance, support, and solidify programming that is consistent and ongoing. • BSCP funding supports work at community centres through a recreation based upstream prevention approach focusing on sport, recreation, arts, social inclusion, diversity, universal access, leadership, volunteering, and civic engagement. This kind of upstream, proactive approach appropriately casts a wide safety net for youth during vulnerable non-instructional school times such as after school, lunch breaks, evenings, weekends, summer holidays and winter breaks. • Youth Workers that identify deeper and more complex cases connect youth at risk back to their schools, refer youth to other appropriate services and link them to employment, education, counselling services.

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	KEY ACTIVITIES
Program Name: Providing Early Intervention & Safe Spaces Via KidSafe Break-Time Programs – 2023-2024 Only Program Lead: The Kidsafe Project Society – <i>Organization dissolved in October 2024</i>	Providing break time programs during Winter, Spring, and Summer, the program will implement upstream interventions that help youth overcome socioeconomic barriers, createsafe and nurturing spaces, and set positive foundations for the future generation of Vancouver.	• When schools close for Winter, Spring, and Summer break, KidSafe provides break-time programs that help marginalized children and youth overcome socioeconomic barriers, accessing safe and nurturing spaces. • Provided supports to 282 Children from 213 Households during the Summer Break-Time Program. • Provided an average of 22.5 days of service per participant for the summer 2024 Program. This works out to approximately 158 Hours per participant. A total of 7 school sites. • 160 out-trips across all 7 sites
Focus Area 4 of the City's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy - Connect youth to caring adults		
Program Name: NextUps Supporting Youth Program Lead: DUDES Club Society	NextUps decolonized model addresses prevalent issues through education and advocacy - particularly the historical context of colonization and the relationship with Indigenous peoples. Emphasizing the importance of educating youth about the true history of colonization and its enduring aftermath, NextUps enables a comprehensive understanding of the origins of violence faced today.	• Hosted and supported youth program gatherings, activities, and programming three times weekly across the year for marginalized Indigenous and racialized male-identifying youth, connect them to caring, supportive, mentors and adult figures, thus setting them on pathways to success in their formative years. • neXup allows male-identifying youth, a group that commonly has no safe, public space to gather, a non-judgemental and supportive space for convening, peer-to-peer support, and learning. Participants have learned and cultivated not only soft skills (such as problem solving, conflict resolution, facilitation, leadership, community organizing), but also vocational skills (such as hair cutting, driving workshops, FoodSafe workshops, First Aid training). Over 150 youth have been engaged in the program. • Youth report being better connected and better resourced to communicate about their needs and challenges in productive ways, and they have greater access to community-based services and resources.

Focus Area 5 of the City's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy - Lessen the impacts of serious violence and crime of children and youth.

Program Name: Intercultural Family Support Program (IFSP) Program Lead: Progressive Inter-cultural Community Services Society (PICS)	IFSP is specifically designed to support at-risk children or youth by culturally competent outreach counsellors. The main objective is to engage, support and empower youth by working with their families to identify their needs and connecting them with necessary services and support, reducing risk-taking behaviour and strengthening resiliency.	• Reached out and provided services to 16 families. • Provide a safe space for at risk youth at risk to share their struggles, build trust, and find hope, centering family connection. • Individualized sessions, counselors work alongside families to help navigate challenges, strengthen relationships, and access the resources they need. • Provided Culturally Responsive Counseling: Helping youth and families work through identity struggles, intergenerational conflicts, and trauma with understanding and care. • Sessions with youth focused on reducing risk-taking behaviors: Providing mentorship, guidance, and alternatives to unsafe choices, creating stronger, more resilient young people. Counselors teach coping strategies and life skills to help young people feel confident, supported, and in control of their futures.
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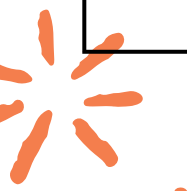


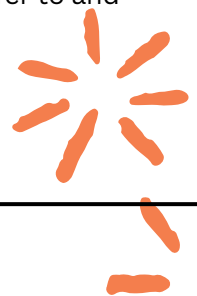
BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES PROGRAM VANCOUVER YOUTH -LED VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROJECTS

Focus Area 1 of the City's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy - Create safer and protective community environments and public spaces for youth

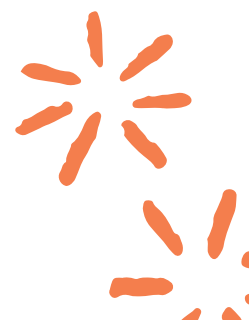
PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	KEY ACTIVITIES
Securikey Project lead Kerrisdale Oakridge Marpole Community Policing Centre	The Securikey initiative aimed to improve youth safety through educational workshops and distributing personal safety alarm keychains. The Leo Club collaborated with the Kerrisdale Oakridge Marpole Policing Center to create educational safety workshops, which we presented at various community events and at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Elementary School. These events distributed 400 safety alarms and hundreds of safety pamphlets with safety information and resources on them.	• 200 Securikeys distributed to children and youth • Presented safety workshops at a local elementary school and hosted information booths at six community events
Youth Empowerment Through Safe Spaces Project lead Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House (MPNH)	Youth from the neighbourhood house anti-violence program led a project to promote the importance of safe spaces, understanding boundaries and promoting a culture of inclusivity and respect within the community. Through a series of workshops and arts and sports based activities, youth were equipped with skills to navigate challenging situations, conflict resolution techniques, and effective communication strategies.	• 40 youth participants • In progress

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	KEY ACTIVITIES
PlaySafe Project lead Dunbar Community Centre Association	PlaySafe is a project that will teach youths about the significance of safety while having fun. The project will hold seasonal events around the Dunbar community that address topics such as bullying, social isolation, and new experiences versus harmful activities. The project will be led by Dunbar's youth council.	• Life-sized Snakes and Ladders game developed to discuss bullying and its impacts, as well as increasing awareness of resources • 2 events to be held • In progress
Renfrew-Collinwood Youth: For the Culture Project lead Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society	The Renfrew-Collingwood Youth Revival group will organize a youth-led Basketball tournament taking place at Gaston Park, Melbourne Park Basketball Court and Collingwood Neighbourhood house. The purpose of the project is to revitalize partnerships within the community and reclaim spaces affected by prevalent gang activity and gentrification.	• 7 youth leaders and 20 youth volunteers recruited • In progress
Program Name Youth Pride and Youth Pride Advisory Committee Project lead Vancouver Pride Society	The Youth Pride and the Youth Advisory Committee was an innovative effort prioritizing the voices of youth, specifically those who identify as Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (QTBIPOC) to inform Pride's programming. Youth organized a 3-hour youth-led event at Canada Price Celebration at Creekside Park as well as partnered with other agencies to visit schools and host events for 2SLGBTQ+ youth.	• 200 youth reached • Partnered with the It Gets Better Project to meet with school Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) groups • Partnered with Qmunity for Queer Prom • Partnered with UNYA for 2Spirit Pride BBQ
Focus Area 2 of the City's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy - Identify and strengthen community-based supports for healthy child development in the middle years.		
Bridges to Belonging Project lead Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House	Bridges to Belonging will be a peer-to-peer project that engages preteens ages 10-12 in a series of monthly sessions for building strong relationships, creating opportunities for mentorship, developing communication skills and creating an inclusive and welcoming spaces through nurturing interactions with peer mentors from Mount Pleasant's youth group.	• 72 anticipated participants • Host monthly pre-teen sessions and two large pre-teen events • In progress



PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	KEY ACTIVITIES
Artistic Atlas Project lead South Vancouver Family Place	Artistic Atlas was a series of week-long arts and crafts camps tailored for children 6-10, planned and delivered by youth and supported by the family place. Activities focused on hands-on activities to actively nurture creativity, explore diverse cultures through art, and foster curiosity in young participants with an overarching objective to impart valuable lessons on cultural tolerance and diversity. Throughout the week, the curriculum seamlessly integrates various cultural stories, myths, and legends, weaving an interconnected narrative into each activity.	• 70 participants attended 24 sessions over four program periods, producing 150 creative works that were showcased in an exhibit • Four youth leaders were supported to plan and implement the project • Partnering with Cedar Women Weaving Studios brought Indigenous storytelling and craft that not only enriched the children's learnings but strengthened ties between South Vancouver Family Place and Indigenous communities)
Kids in Africa Project Project lead African Friendship Society	KAP was a cultural immersion project that taught children of all backgrounds about Africa through arts and culture; promotes inclusion and wellbeing; and increases awareness and understanding of cultural differences. Youth from Sanfoka and Sound of Africa groups will have an opportunity to feel like experts in their own story, and gain a deeper sense of pride in their history and heritage. Youth will take back control of their own narrative preventing feelings of isolation, anger, and resentment.	• 12 children shared dance performance at community fair with approximately 50 attendees • 20-30 youth reached per singing/dancing/language lesson
Focus Area 3 of the City's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy - Improve the coordination and delivery of positive youth development services and programs		
Stepping Out: A Youth Helping Youth (AYHY) Project Project lead Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia (ISSofBC)	A Youth Helping Youth created a safe space for newcomer youth to access information and see guest speakers on subjects like online safety, gang violence, mental health, healthy relationships, youth rights in Canada, substance abuse, and more. Youth volunteers also created online brochures and handouts on these subjects called A Youth Helping Youth to support and inform newcomer youth	• 18 youth engaged in creating A Youth Helping Youth Handbook, which will be available to youth across the region • The Youth Helping Youth brochures and handouts will be available online for all to access and for staff to refer to and share with clients 

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	KEY ACTIVITIES
Bridges to Belonging: Youth Engagement and Community Safety Project lead Kiwassa Neighbourhood Services Association	This youth-led initiative will empower participants to provide insights on community needs, equity, safety, inclusion, and accessibility in the neighbourhood. Youth will participate in leadership development opportunities and contribute to the neighbourhood house strategic planning process.	• Youth Advisory Council to inform and update youth program offerings • 50 anticipated workshops • 25 youth to receive certificates for life skills and leadership trainings like First Aid • In progress
Focus Area 4 of the City's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy - Connect youth to caring adults		
Be Aware, Take Care Project lead Dunbar Community Centre Association	Be Aware, Take Care taught youth about the significance of safety while having fun. The project held seasonal events around the Dunbar community that address topics such as bullying, social isolation, and new experiences versus harmful activities. The project was led by Dunbar's youth council.	• 80 youth participants reached • Hosted numerous accessible and barrier-free out-trips for youth make friends and connect with supportive adults in their community
Bloom Project lead South Vancouver Neighbourhood House (SVNH)	Bloom was a female and non-binary youth project designed by youth for youth facing settlement barriers and needs. The project aimed to create a supportive space for them to foster connections and build friendships within the community to address topics important to their well-being. Project activities provided youth with the knowledge of how to respond when they come across incidences of youth violence in their community.	• 30 youth participants • Many participants later registered for SVNH's Newcomer Leadership Program following their participation in Bloom • Several participants later volunteered with City of Vancouver BSCP events and projects



PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	KEY ACTIVITIES
Youth Empowerment and Safety Initiative (YESI) Project lead Trout Lake Vancouver Community Centre Association	YESI was a youth-led initiative that aimed to promote youth leadership, educational opportunities, and programs for youth all across Vancouver at Trout Lake Community Centre. Activities included arts and sports programming, including bringing in guest speakers to speak on topics such as mental health, safety, and violence prevention.	• 350 youth participants • Youth Council group hosted an interactive workshop with gang and violence prevention organization Odd Squad • Provided additional workshops on mental health, addressing ADHD, anxiety coping skills, sexual health, and more.
Teen Adventures Project lead Thunderbird Community Centre	The Youth Council planned fun out-trips with youth throughout the city with the goal to make new connections, feel safe enough to explore new places in Vancouver and feel supported in the community. A sports tournament with 3 other community centers was organized to build relationships with new youth and staff.	• 67 youth participants • Six free and accessible out-trips • Sports tournament between 3 different community centres, fostering healthy competition and new friendships
Ascenders Youth Camp Project lead Hastings Community Association	Ascenders was an outdoor-based program planned and organized by the youth council that encouraged youth from different backgrounds to connect and meet while exploring nature. This program involved youth ages 14-18 to go for hikes, plan overnight camping trips, and geo-caching. This project addressed the lack of social connection and sense of belonging resulting from youth in the community spending more time indoors.	• 51 youth participants who wouldn't typically have the opportunity got to go kayaking, rock climbing, visit WildPlay, hike, and more.



BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES PROGRAM VANCOUVER ORGANIZATIONAL AND YOUTH SECTOR CAPACITY PROJECTS

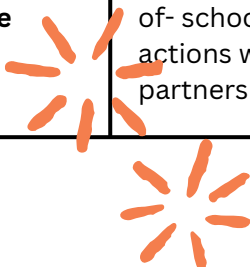
Focus Area 1 of the City's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy - Create safer and protective community environments and public spaces for youth

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	KEY ACTIVITIES
Indigenous Cultural Safety Project lead Family Services of Greater Vancouver	This project directly addresses the need for cultural competency and decolonization training for frontline youth workers, which is essential for organizations serving a diverse youth population. To build sector capacity, this project will include other youth serving agencies in the training.	• 6 organizations reached • 12 hour training program introducing concepts like decolonization, critical reflection on power dynamics, and organizational structures

Focus Area 2 of the City's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy - Identify and strengthen community- based supports for healthy child development in the middle years.

SAFE Minds: Upstream Violence Prevention Through Community Capacity Building Project lead ShEvalesco	The SAFE Minds program will provide upstream, trauma-informed violence prevention programming for pre-teens ages 9-12 while increasing the capacity of Vancouver-based youth-serving organizations to provide this critical programming. Community partners will be empowered with the training, resources and materials required to facilitate the SAFE Minds curriculum, fostering community, connection and impact.	• Over 200 youth anticipated to be reached via train-the-facilitator curricula, scripts, and toolkits • 10 organizations reached • In progress
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PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	KEY ACTIVITIES
Connected for Safety: Enhancing Youth Safety and Family Support Project lead Kiwassa Neighbourhood House Association	This project will expand staff expertise and engage families in early violence prevention efforts that foster healthier family dynamics and create a safer, more supportive environment for youth to thrive and develop positively. Training workshops and professional development sessions will focus on trauma-informed practice, non-violent communication for youth, and emotional regulation.	• 5 training workshops to be provided to staff and 11 partnering agencies • 25 families anticipated to participate in parent education programs • Resource package on communication, tween development, and positive family relationships to be developed and distributed to parents • In progress
Focus Area 3 of the City's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy - Improve the coordination and delivery of positive youth development services and programs		
Building Safer Communities Through Youth-Led Research Project lead McCreary Centre Society	The project brought together youth who had experienced victimization to work collaboratively to identify factors that can reduce violence, as well as factors that support those who have experienced victimization. Evaluation results showed that this proved to be impactful for the youth involved, as well as to the adults who attended presentations by the youth of their findings. For example, the BC Ministry of Education has requested to include resources created by the youth as part of this project on their erase (anti-bullying) website.	• 15 youth who had lived experience of victimization gathered and learned how to use data analysis software to research this subject and produce a high quality report • The report includes valuable information on risk and protective factors, and a current profile of Vancouver youth's experiences with violence.
Youth Council and Sharing Space Project lead The Writers' Exchange Society	The project seeks to include youth voices in governance and operational decision-making to improve program engagement and increase retention, especially among children in the middle years (ages 9 to 12) participating in the Writers' Exchange out-of-school programming. Learnings and actions will be shared with community partners and schools.	• 40 youth advised the project • 4 organizations partnered

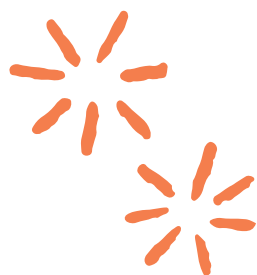


PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	KEY ACTIVITIES
Anti- Oppression Youth Worker Training Project lead Leave Out Violence (LOVE) Society BC	Training is designed to equip youth leaders, workers, and educators with the necessary tools to prevent violence and promote inclusivity. Through capacity-building sessions, participants will gain insight into understanding violence dynamics in youth contexts, anti-oppression practices, inclusion strategies, self-care techniques, boundary setting, and creative facilitation methods.	• 5 organizations reached and trained in anti-oppressive practice and sustaining inclusion frameworks • 272 youth reached • In progress
Supporting Our Youth Project lead Dudes Club	The project will host a series of virtual and in-person convened conversations and workshops for local youth- service organizations that work with underserved and marginalized youth. This project will bring together NexUp staff, elders, knowledge holders and younger staff from partner organizations.	• 25 organizations to be reached • In progress
Community Allies for Refugee Claimant Youth Project lead Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House	This project will bring together staff and agencies who work with refugee claimant children and youth to build connections, foster information and knowledge sharing, and coordinate services to provide better support (especially to unaccompanied minors).	• 6 meetings to be held with 25 participants per meeting, representing 30 organizations • Forum to be held to educate youth serving staff on refugee claimant youth and unaccompanied minors • In progress



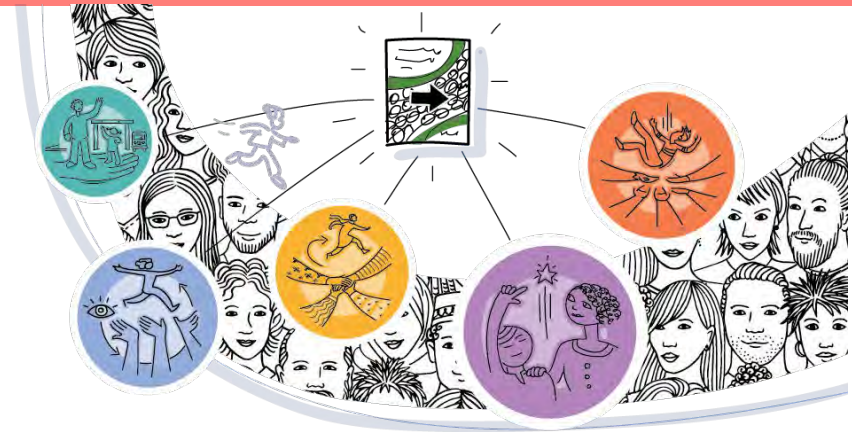
Focus Area 5 of the City's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy - Lessen the impacts of serious violence and crime of children and youth.

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	KEY ACTIVITIES
Prevention For Youth Means Safety For Youth Project lead Salal Sexual Violence Support Centre	The primary goal of our "Prevention For Youth Means Safety For Youth" project was to address climbing rates of sexualized violence, particularly among youth, who are the population that is most likely to experience this crime. Salal recognizes that while sexualized violence can be caused and experienced by anyone, cisgender men are statistically more likely to be perpetrators due to toxic masculinity and the expectations of patriarchy. The project targeted the specific role that cisgender men and those that embody traits of toxic masculinity, as the primary perpetrators of this crime, play in preventing sexualized violence.	• 100 youth participants • 7 workshops to youth and adult supporters • 8 digital recordings on gender-based violence and sexual violence for youth to learn more about media literacy, sexual violence, online safety, and healing from sexual violence
Vancouver Mobilization and Resiliency Table (VMART) Project lead Pacific Community Resources Society	This project will support coordination of service providers to mobilize immediate multi-agency response for acute crisis interventions that provide multiple pathways to care and support for youth in crisis.	• 21 organizations partnered • In progress

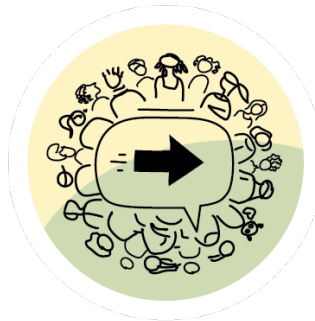


Appendix 2

BSCP Preliminary Findings Report March 2025



Building Safer Communities Program Vancouver Preliminary Findings Report



**Written by Students Commission of Canada,
March 2025**



METHODOLOGY

Research Question: Is the Building Safer Communities Program Vancouver (BSCP-V) having its intended impact on the youth in the City of Vancouver by supporting and creating safer spaces for them in the city?

Research Design: The BSCP-V and the SCC co-created a shared learning plan that utilized surveys as the key method to hear from youth and program partners. Questions were asked to understand the experience of community at the individual, social and system levels.

Level	Key Performance Indicators
Individual	BSCP Youth Survey Tool • Youth voice in decision making • Personal resilience • Youth voice in decision making • Responsible decision-making • Youth generativity
Social	BSCP Youth Survey Tool • Community Connectedness • Adult Support • Friendships • Safe Environment – Community • Features of positive developmental settings
System	Partnership Assessment Tool • Synergy • Leadership • Efficiency • Administration and management • Non-financial resources • Financial and other capital resources • Decision making • Benefits of participation • Drawbacks of participation • Satisfaction with participation

Tool: BSCP Youth Survey Tool

Process: The YEAR Team is a participatory action research group of 7 youth selected by program partners (grantees). The partners identified and selected a youth representative for the YEAR Team through a relationship-based approach to assist in gathering youth voice in the community.

The YEAR Team engaged in a relational approach to collecting youth voice in community. There were two groups of youth that the YEAR Team collected responses to the BSCP Youth Survey Tool.

- Group A: Youth connected to BSCP-funded program partners (Program Participants).
- Group B: Youth that are a part of the wider community, ex. a sibling, classmate, cousin (Youth in Community).

Data Collection Period: November 2024-February 2025.

Total Sample Size: N=421

- Group A (Program participants): N=202
- Group B (Youth in Community): N=219

Tool: Partnership Assessment Tool

BSCP Youth Violence Prevention Program Grant recipients (program partners) were requested to complete the survey as a part of their reporting for the funding. In addition to this program partners nominated a youth for the YEAR Team.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

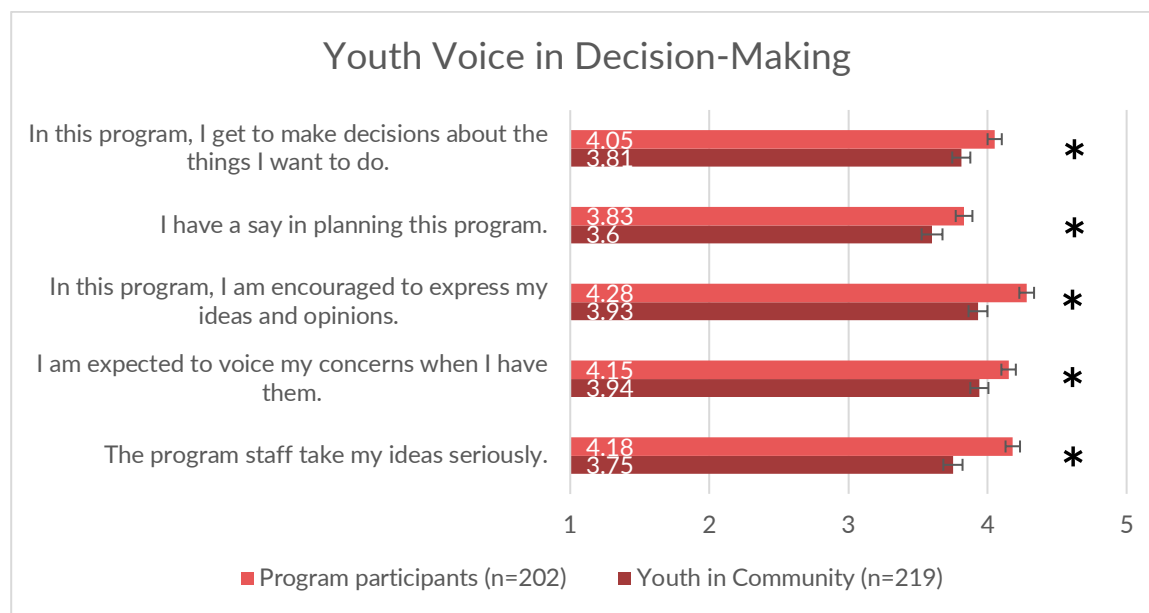
In its first year of shared learning and second year of funding, the Building Safer Communities Program (BSCP) is funding community programs and partners and advancing their mission of building and maintaining safer spaces for youth in the City of Vancouver. Across all of the preliminary data that was collected from program participants and youth in the community, program participants tended to score higher than youth in community. In some key performance indicators, there were even some meaningful statistically significant outcomes that were analyzed. There were three significant themes that emerged.

Building empowerment and personal growth

- Participants in BSCP-funded programs exhibited higher confidence in their ability to influence outcomes (+6.4%, $r = 0.11^1$), develop leadership skills (+6.3%, $r = 0.15$), and navigate social situations (+4.5%, $r = 0.10$) than youth in community. The program provided structured opportunities for youth to build resilience and critical thinking, fostering independence and self-efficacy.

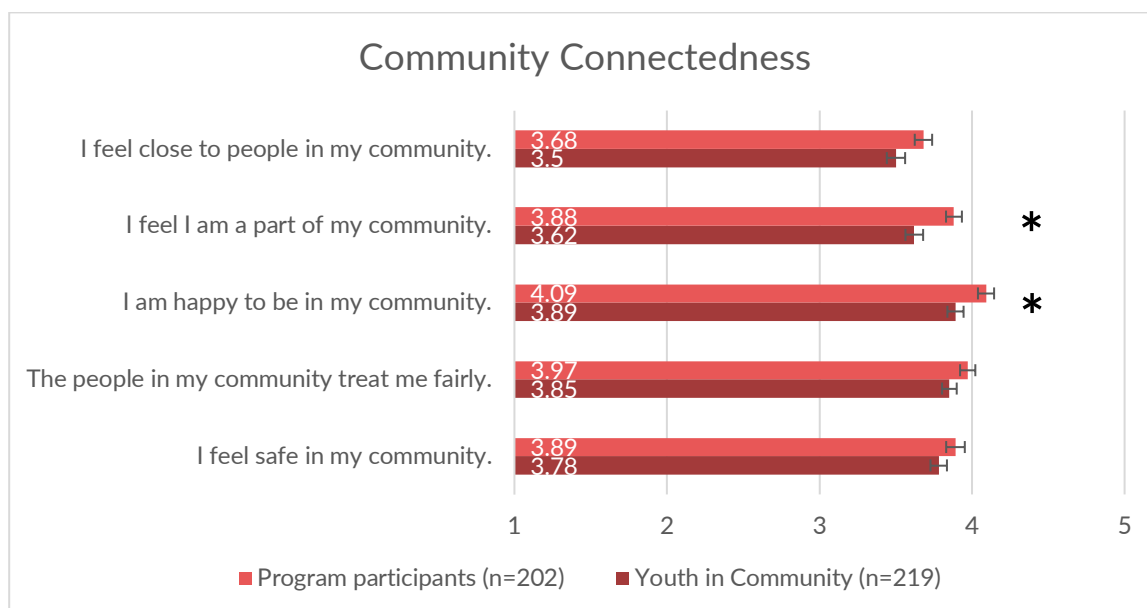
¹The effect size is an objective measure of the magnitude of the difference between two averages. Pearson's r was used for this report. An r of 0.1 generally indicates a small effect size or difference between the two groups, 0.3 a medium size and 0.5 a large size. Asterisks denote a statistically significant difference between the average responses of program participants versus youth in community.

- Their participation in BSCP-funded programs allowed youth to feel that their voice was heard and encouraged self-expression and agency by being included in the decision-making process.



Building belonging and connection

- BSCP-funded programs fostered a strong sense of belonging by creating safe spaces where youth felt 7.2% ($r = 0.14$) more welcomed than their peers in the wider Vancouver community.

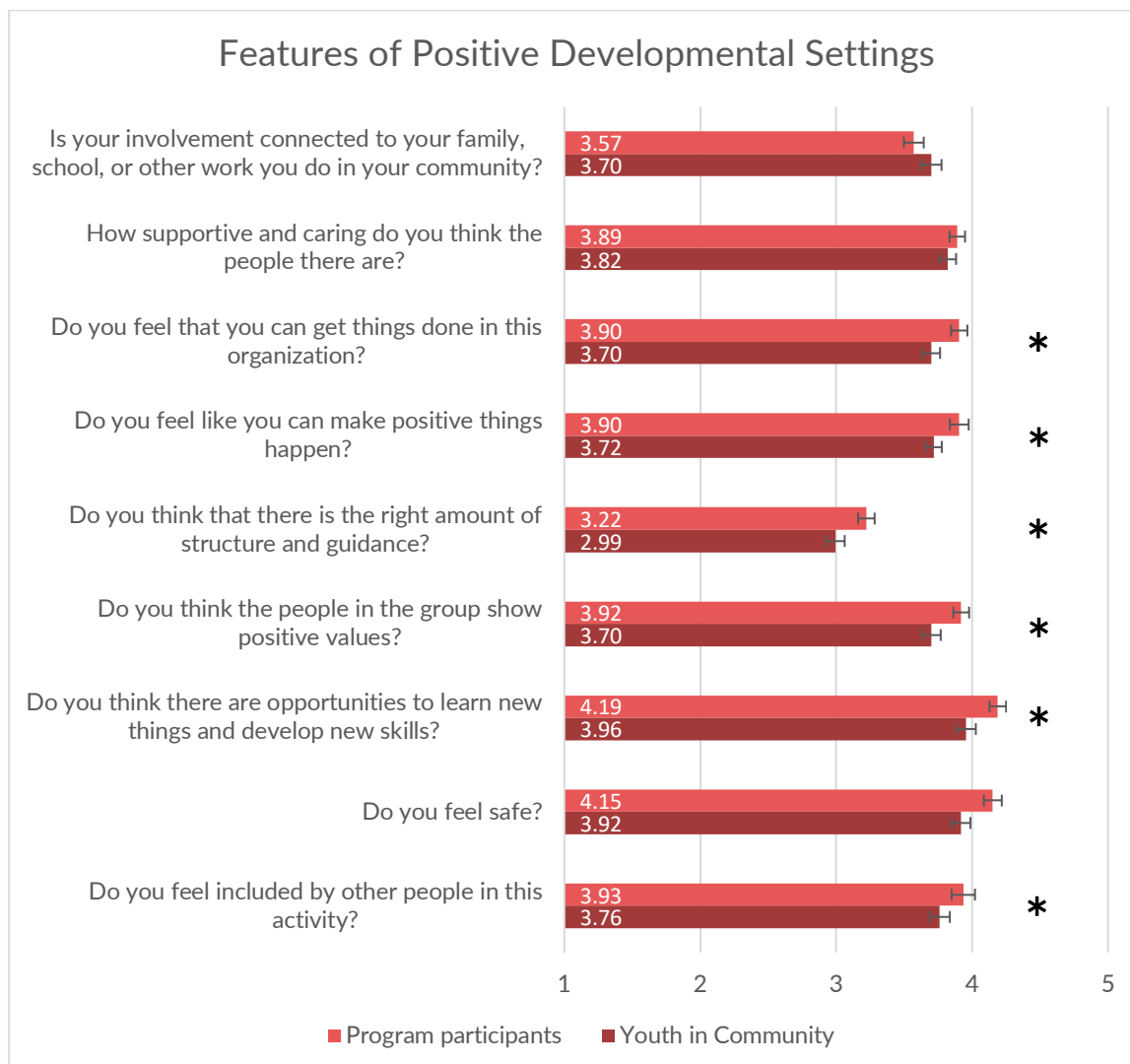


- Participants reported an 9.8% ($r = 0.21$) stronger sense of belonging in the program. They were also more likely to form meaningful relationships (+8.8%, $r = 0.17$) and feel that they had a place in the world (+5.0%, $r = 0.11$), reinforcing the program's role in building inclusive, supportive environments.

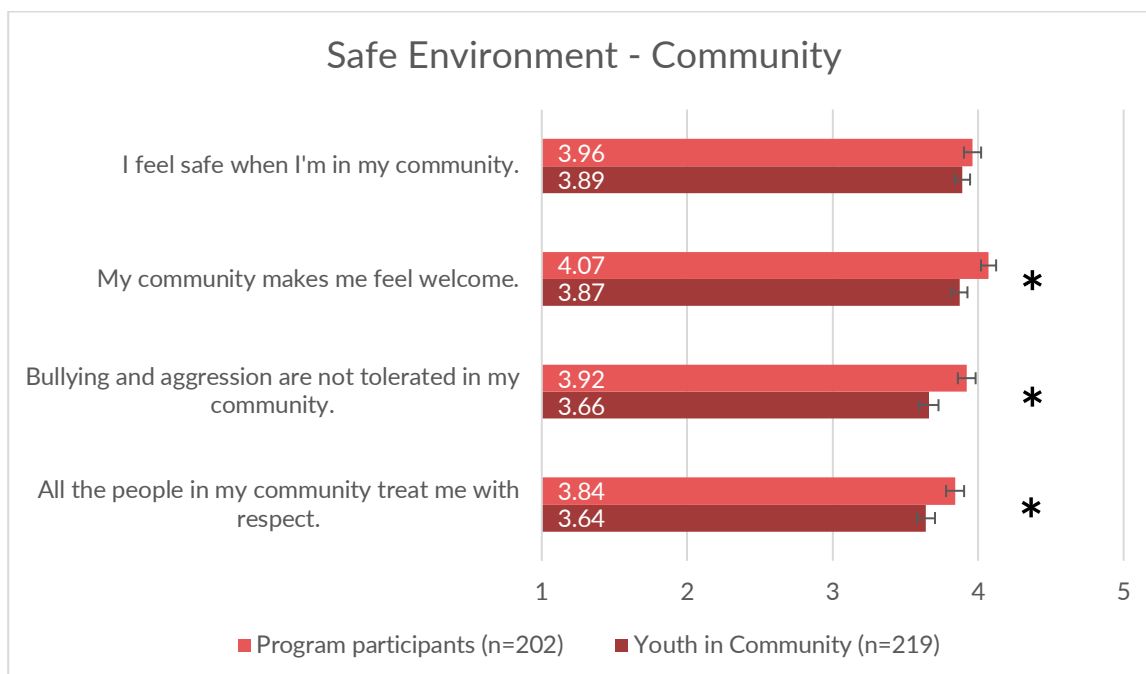


Building safety

- Program participants reported 6.0% ($r = 0.11$) higher feelings of safety (although this difference was not statistically significant, its effect size is comparable to that of the statistically significant differences shared in this report), having more access to trusted adults, and experiencing a 7.6% ($r = 0.17$) stronger sense of structure and guidance compared to youth in the wider community. This access contributed to a more positive developmental environment where young people could learn, grow, and feel secure.

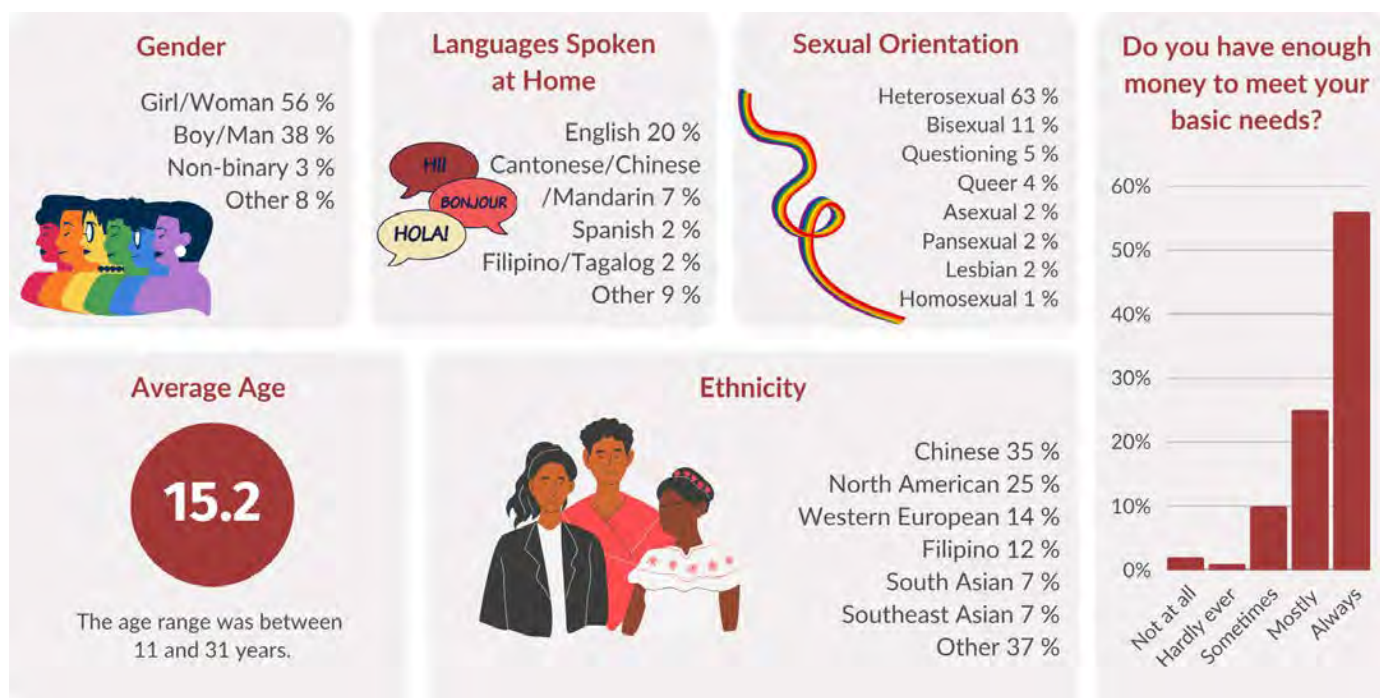


- Program participants agreed 7.1% ($r = 0.13$) more than Youth in Community that bullying and aggression are not tolerated in their community and 5.5% ($r = 0.10$) more when asked whether they're treated with respect in their community.



Overall, the BSCP-funded programs successfully met their intended impact by creating spaces where youth felt safer, more supported, and empowered to thrive. Through meaningful relationships, skill-building, and structured guidance, these programs provided a positive and secure environment that fostered personal and community growth.

DEMOGRAPHICS



The following graphic illustrates the identities and experiences shared by 511 participants (sample sizes varied by question from 127 to 511 participants) who responded to the About You survey.

*Note: 138 participants provided their birth dates used to calculate the average age.

The following sections discuss the results for each of the key performance indicators in more detail.

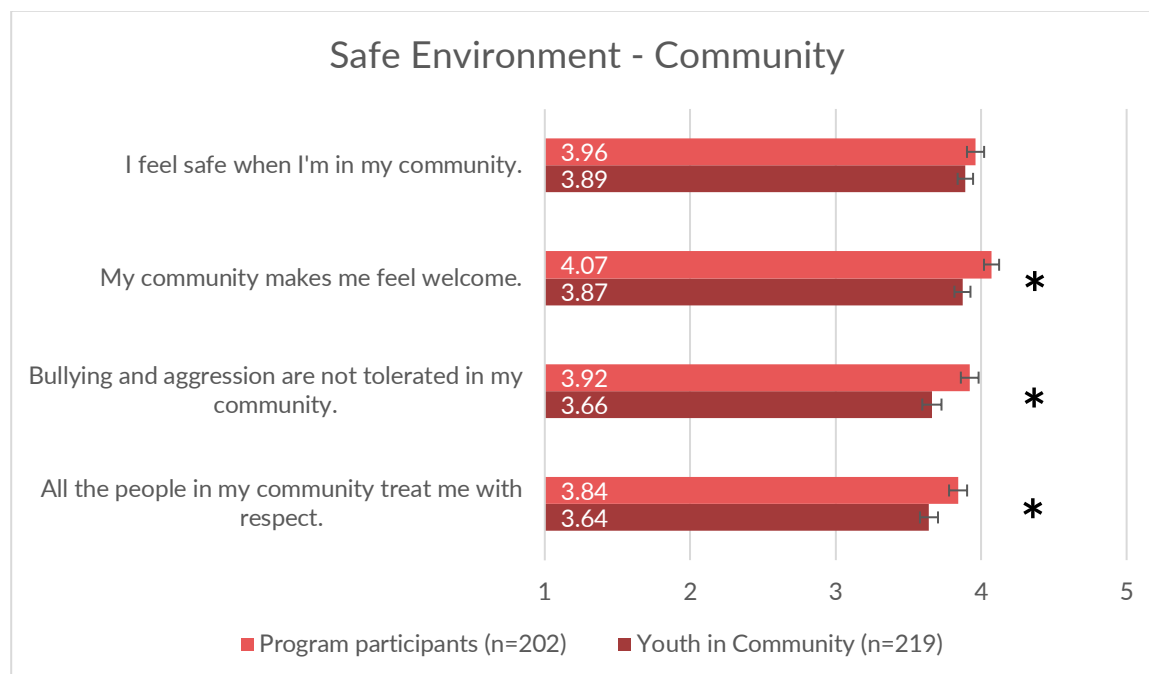
SAFE ENVIRONMENT - COMMUNITY

BSCP Logic Model

Indicator: % youth who feel safe in their community.

Outcome: Increase youth sense of safety.

Survey participants were invited to rate the statements from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Asterisks denote a significant difference between the average responses of Program participants versus Youth in Community.



Takeaways:

- Program participants agreed 7.1% ($r = 0.13$) more than Youth in Community that bullying and aggression are not tolerated in their community.
- Program participants agreed 5.2% ($r = 0.12$) more than Youth in Community when asked if their communities make them feel welcomed and 5.5% ($r = 0.10$) more when asked whether they're treated with respect in their community.
- These results suggested that both groups felt safe in their communities in Vancouver. However, youth who participated in the BSCP-funded programs felt an increased sense of safety relative to youth in the wider Vancouver community. This could be attributed to having more access to safer spaces and a better sense of community.

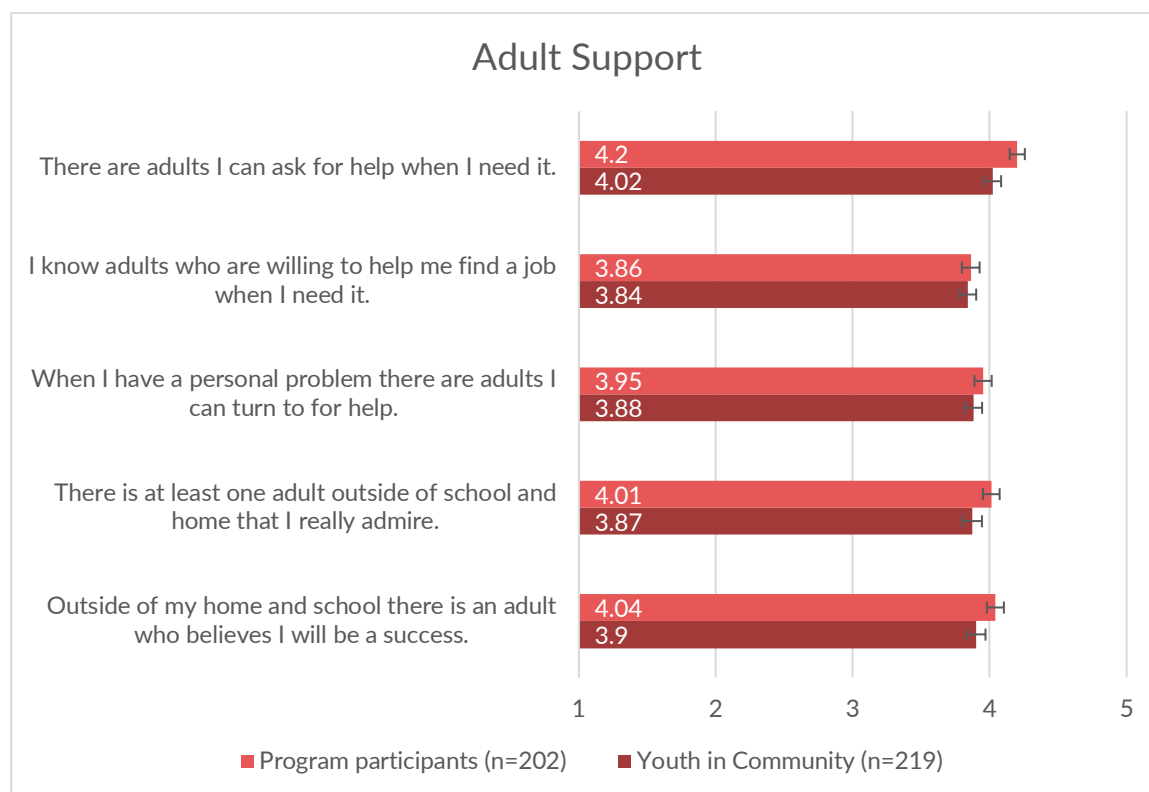
ADULT SUPPORT

BSCP Logic Model

Indicator: % of youth who feel a sense of belonging in their community.

Outcome: Increase youth sense of belonging/connection to community.

Survey participants were invited to rate the statements from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).



Takeaways:

- Program participants and Youth in Community had similar responses for all of the statements in this survey. Both groups provided moderately high scores.
- These results suggested that Vancouver youth have adults who support and believe in them, regardless of their participation in BSCP-funded programs. This could indicate that having trusted adults can increase youth's sense of belonging and connection to community.

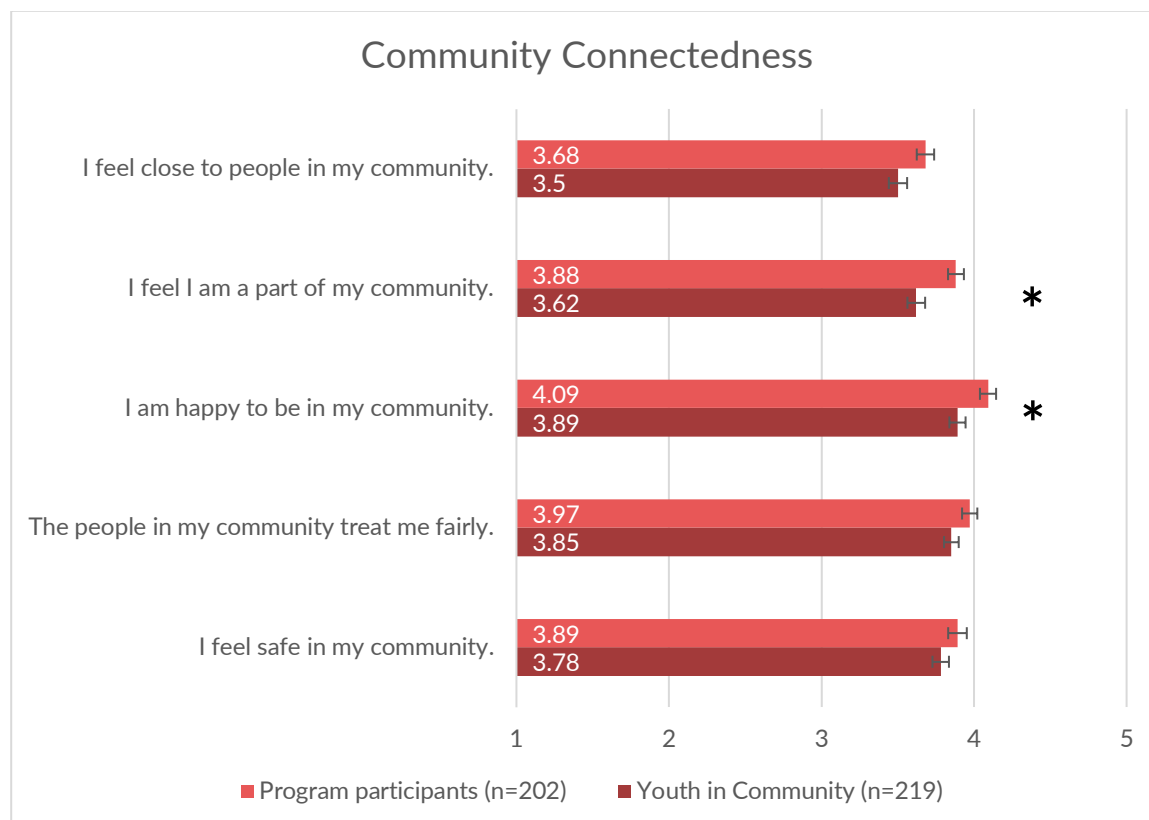
COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS

BSCP Logic Model

Indicator: % of youth who feel a sense of belonging in their community.

Outcome: Increase youth sense of belonging/connection to community.

Survey participants were invited to rate the statements from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Asterisks denote a significant difference between the average responses of Program participants versus Youth in Community.

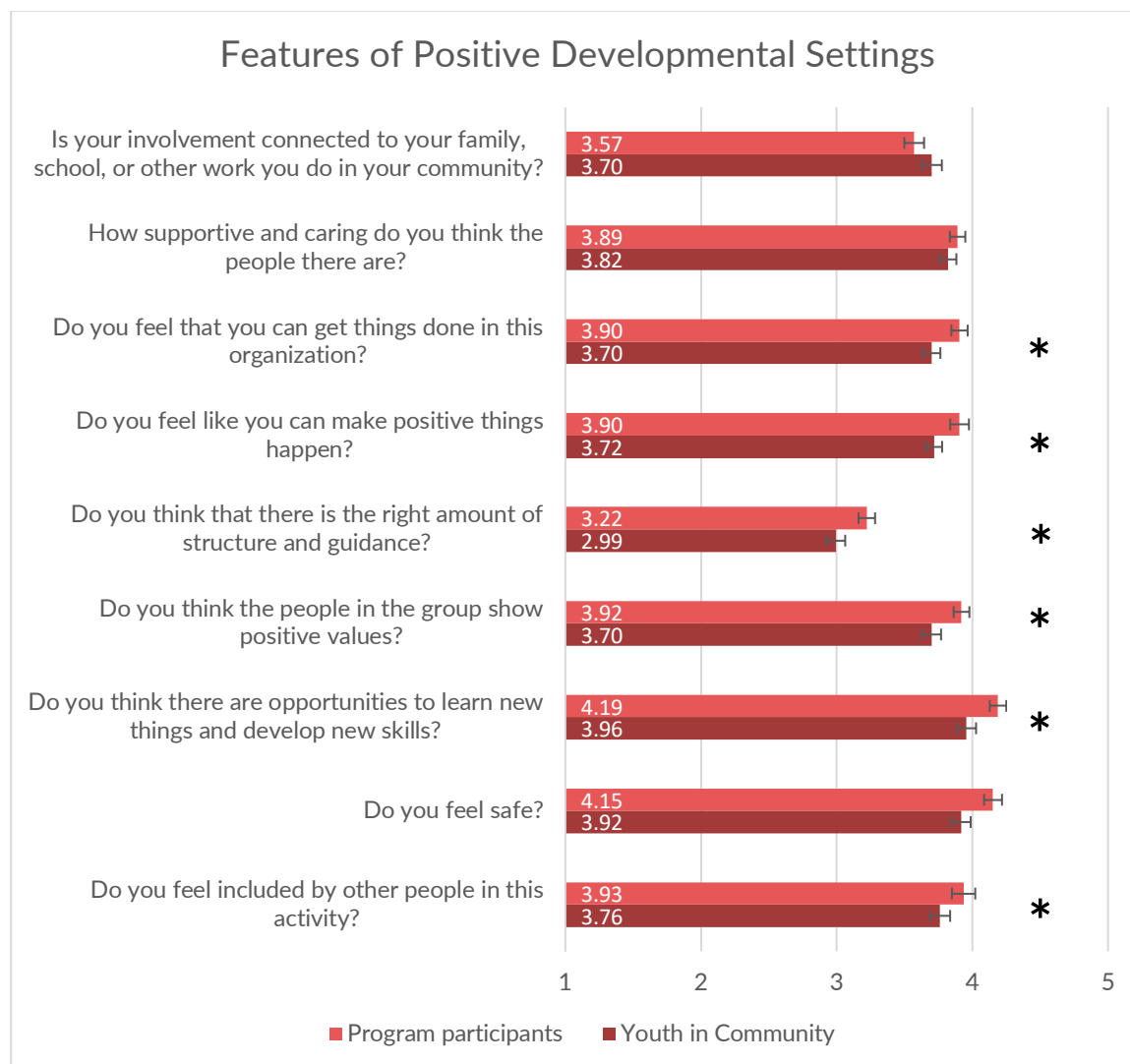


Takeaways:

- Program participants agreed 7.2% more than Youth in Community to the statement, “I feel I am a part of my community” ($r = 0.14$) and 5.1% for “I am happy to be in my community” ($r = 0.14$).
- These results suggested that while Vancouver youth felt generally connected to their community, youth who participated in BSCP-funded programs had a greater perception of belonging in their community than youth outside the programs.

FEATURES OF POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTAL SETTINGS

Survey participants were invited to rate the statements from 1 (not at all/way too little) to 5 (completely/way too much). Asterisks denote a significant difference between the average responses of Program participants versus Youth in Community.



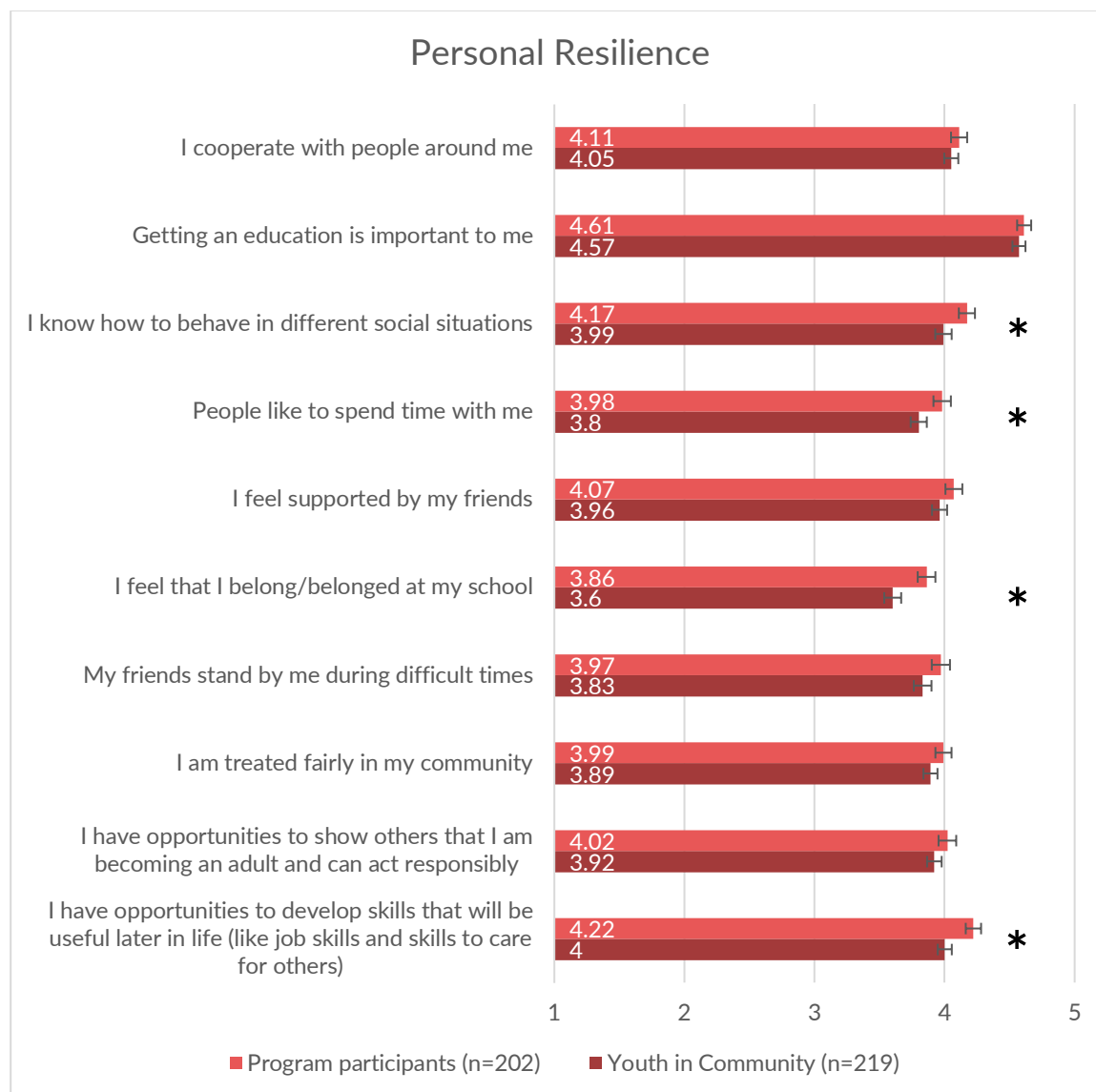
Takeaways:

- Program participants scored 5.6% ($r = 0.15$) higher than Youth in Community when asked about their capacity to get things done and 5.0% ($r = 0.12$) higher when asked if they feel that they can positively affect outcomes.
- Program participants scored 7.6% ($r = 0.17$) higher than Youth in Community when asked about their perception of structure and guidance from people around them and 6.0% ($r = 0.14$) higher when asked if people around them show positive values.

- Program participants reported having 5.9% ($r = 0.14$) more opportunities to learn new skills and knowledge than Youth in Community.
- Program participants felt 6.0% ($r = 0.11$) safer than Youth in Community. Although this difference was not statistically significant, the effect size of the difference is comparable to that of statistically significant differences highlighted in this report.
- In general, youth participants reported higher levels of features of a positive developmental environment. However, youth in BSCP-funded programs tended to have more access to organizations and people to go to for guidance, exercising positive values and learning new skills and knowledge. These results could be attributed to an increase in wellbeing and feeling of safety among youth engaged in the BSCP.

PERSONAL RESILIENCE

Survey participants were invited to rate the statements from 1 (not at all) to 5 (a lot). Asterisks denote a significant difference between the average responses of Program participants versus Youth in Community.



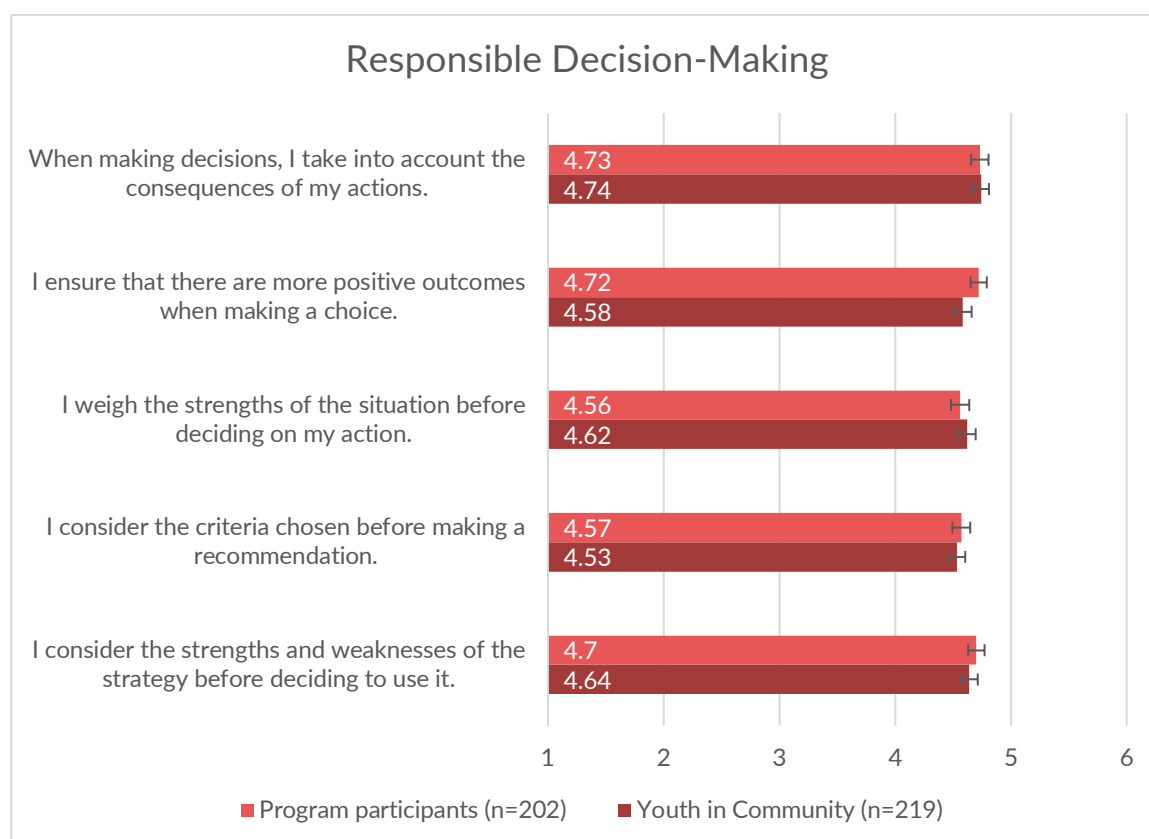
Takeaways:

- Program participants agreed 4.5% ($r = 0.10$) more than Youth in Community to the statement: “I know how to behave in different social situations.”
- Program participants agreed 4.7% ($r = 0.11$) more than Youth in Community when asked about whether people like spending time with them. Even more so, Program participants felt that they belong in their schools 7.2% ($r = 0.13$) more than Youth in Community.

- Program participants agreed 5.5% ($r = 0.16$) more than Youth in Community to the statement: “I have opportunities to develop skills that will be useful later in life.”
- These results suggested that youth participants have a high personal resilience. However, youth in BSCP-funded programs seemed to be more adept at handling different social situations, feel a greater sense of belonging and have more access to opportunities for professional development compared to youth in the wider Vancouver community.

RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

Survey participants were invited to rate the statements from 1 (not at all true of me) to 6 (very true of me).



Takeaways:

- Program participants and Youth in Community had similar responses for all of the statements in this survey. Both groups provided moderately high scores.
- These results suggested that youth participants generally weighed their choices and outcomes before deciding, demonstrating good critical thinking and decision-making skills.

FRIENDSHIPS

Survey participants were invited to rate the statements from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Asterisks denote a significant difference between the average responses of Program participants versus Youth in Community.

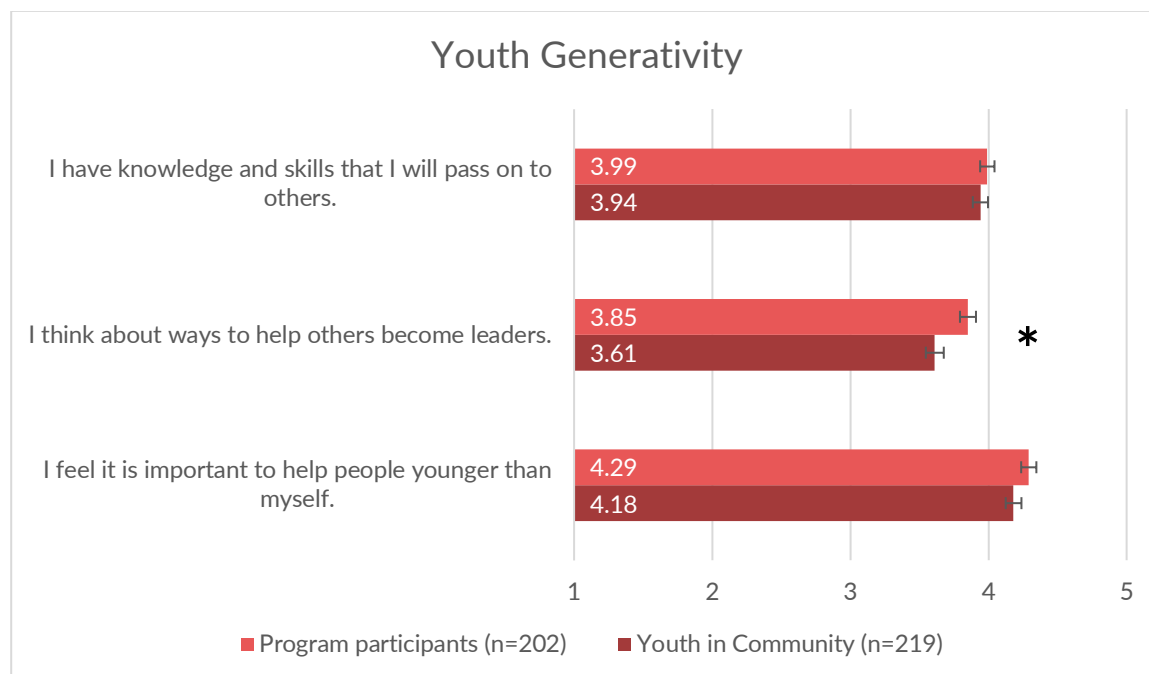


Takeaways:

- Program participants agreed 9.8% ($r = 0.21$) more than Youth in Community when asked if they feel like they belong in the program and 5.0% ($r = 0.11$) more when asked if they feel like they have a place in the world.
- Program participants agreed 8.8% ($r = 0.17$) more than Youth in Community to the statement: "I have made friends in this program."
- These results suggested that BSCP-funded programs provided youth more opportunities to form meaningful relationships and feel a greater sense of belonging.

YOUTH GENERATIVITY

Survey participants were invited to rate the statements from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Asterisks denote a significant difference between the average responses of Program participants versus Youth in Community.



Takeaways:

- Program participants agreed 6.6% ($r = 0.13$) more than Youth in Community to the statement: “I think about ways to help others become leaders.”
- These results suggested that youth in BSCP-funded programs exhibited high youth generativity. Specifically, these young people were more likely to be adaptive to effectively help others become leaders than youth in the wider Vancouver community.

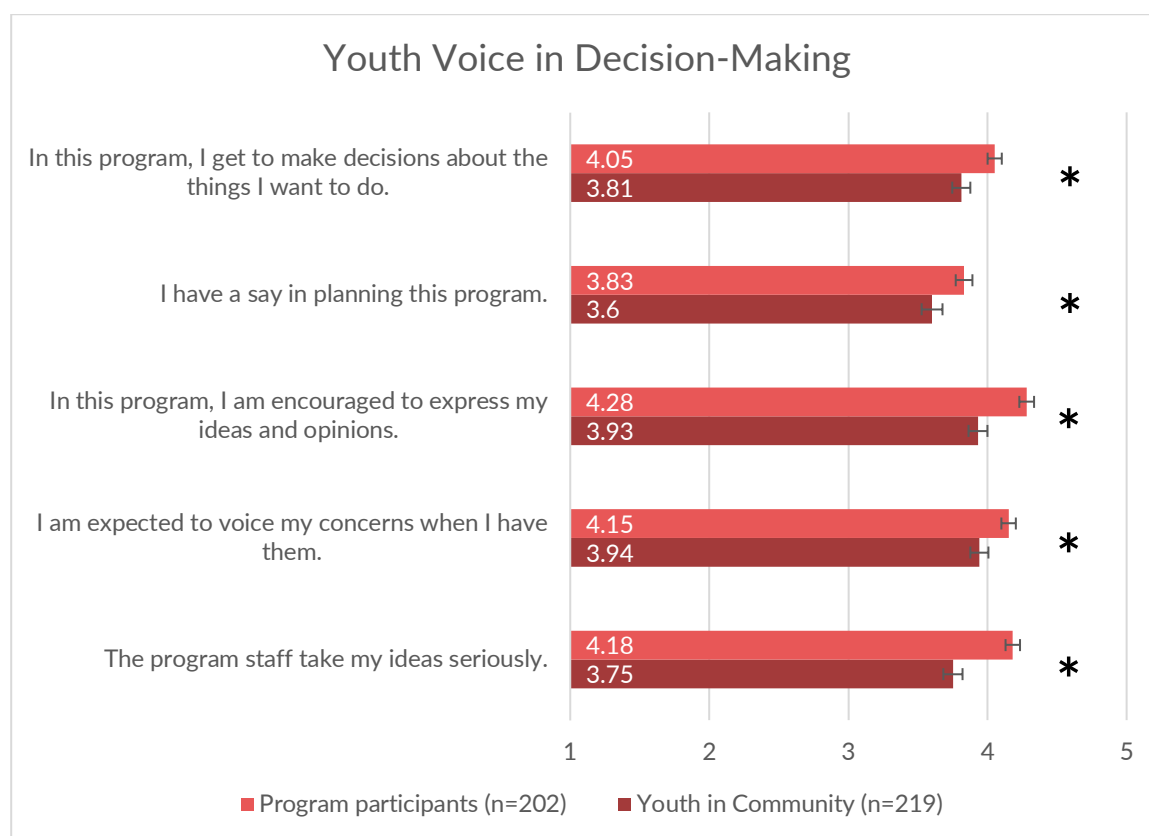
YOUTH VOICE IN DECISION-MAKING

BSCP Logic Model

Indicator: # and % of youth engaged directly in BSCP activities (Forum, Youth Action Team...) who express themselves/ feel voice is heard.

Outcome: Youth engaged in the BSCP feel that their voice is heard by participating in the program.

Survey participants were invited to rate the statements from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Asterisks denote a significant difference between the average responses of Program participants versus Youth in Community.

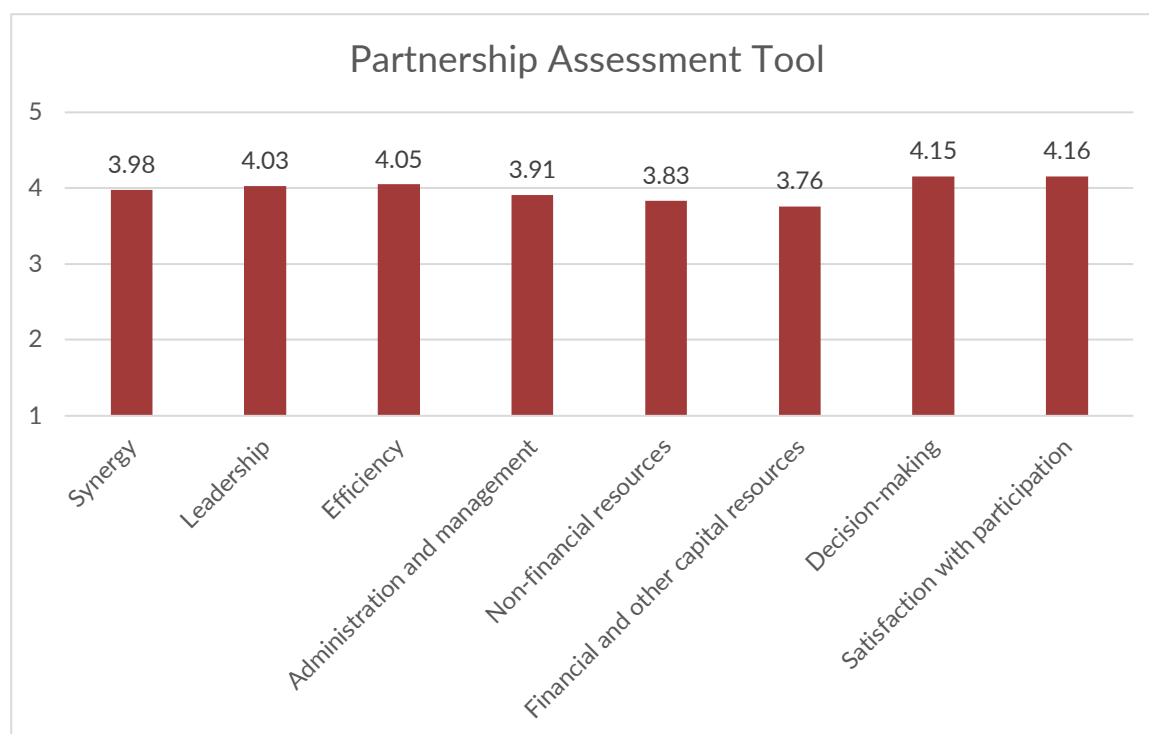


Takeaways:

- Program participants provided significantly higher scores for all the statements than Youth in Community.
- This suggested that participation in BSCP-funded programs supported youth to feel that their voice was heard and encouraged self-expression and agency by being included in the decision-making process.

PARTNERSHIP ASSESSMENT TOOL

Partners (n=13) of the City of Vancouver filled out the Partnership Assessment Tool (PAT) which evaluates their experiences with the partnership across different components, including: synergy (the partners' ability to work together to address various aspects of the partnership), leadership (the efficacy of the partnership's leadership), efficiency (the partnership's use of resources), access to non-financial and financial resources, administration and management (the effectiveness of the partnership in carrying out various administrative and managerial duties), decision-making (the inclusiveness and effectiveness of the decision-making process), and satisfaction with overall participation in the partnership. Partners were asked to rate their level of agreement with various statements regarding these components of the partnership on a five-point scale. The following graph illustrates the average score for each component.

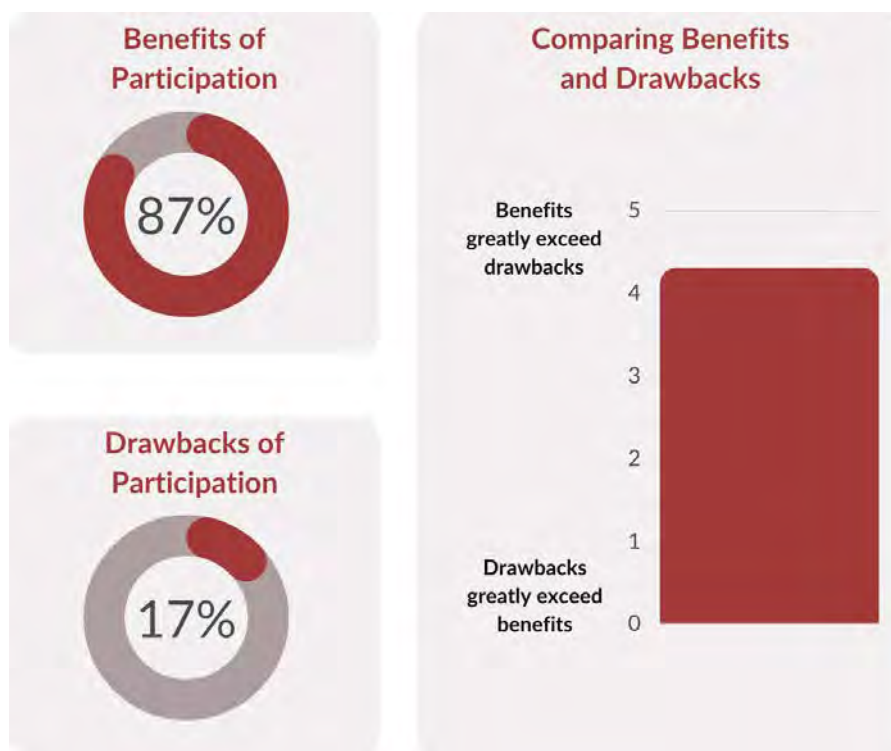


Takeaways:

- Partners were overall highly satisfied with their partnership with the City of Vancouver on the Building Safer Communities Program.
- Partners expressed a high level of agreement with the effectiveness of leadership in terms of fostering a positive, diverse partnership with a common goal. Partners showed high alignment with, and involvement in, the decision-making process.

- Partners reported moderate to high levels of agreement with the quality of the administration and management of the partnership, expressing the most satisfaction with internal meeting and activity logistics and the lowest satisfaction with the evaluation of the progress and impact of the partnership. Sharing back the findings of the Building Safer Communities Program evaluation with partners could help mitigate this challenge, to showcase youth outcomes to demonstrate this impact both directly (through youth directly involved in the program) and indirectly (through their peers).
- Scores were also high for the synergy and efficiency of the partnership, signaling that partners felt that they worked well together and made good use of their combined resources to more effectively address needs in the community. Partners felt that the partnership had most of what it needed to work effectively, including non-financial (e.g., connections) and financial/other capital resources.
- Partners reported feeling that their role and influence in the partnership was satisfactory, and that the partnership was effective in developing and implementing plans to achieve its goals. This resulted in the highest level of agreement with their overall satisfaction with their participation in the partnership.

PAT also assesses partners' perceptions of the benefits and drawbacks of participation in the partnership, both separately and weighted against each other. Partners (n=13) indicated whether they had experienced a series of benefits and drawbacks to participation on a Yes or No scale. They then reflected on the overall balance between the benefits and drawbacks of participation on a five-point scale, with 1 indicating that the drawbacks greatly exceeded the benefits and 5 indicating that the benefits greatly exceeded the drawbacks. The following graphic depicts the percentage of "Yes" responses to the various benefits and drawbacks presented, as well as partners' comparisons of the benefits versus the drawbacks.



Takeaways:

- Partners reported several benefits to participation in the partnership including the enhanced ability to address an important issue, the development of valuable relationships, and the ability to make a contribution to the community and have an impact outside of the self.
- Partners expressed some drawbacks to participation including the diversion of time away from other, competing priorities in order to focus on the partnership, but ultimately expressed that the benefits greatly exceeded the drawbacks overall (with an average of 4.3).

Appendix 3

BSCP Youth Engagement Program Overview and Achievements

BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES PROGRAM: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT 3-YEAR SUMMARY



The **Building Safer Communities Program** youth engagement component plays a vital role in the City of Vancouver's Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy in promoting community well-being, safety, and belonging. Over the three years of the program, youth have taken on various leadership roles, including as community developers, researchers, grant adjudicators and experts in their own lived experiences. Their contributions have helped shape policies and programs that promote authentic youth engagement.



At the center of this program is peer-to-peer support, where youth uplift and guide one another with the support of adult allies who create space for them to explore their full potential and creativity and provide guidance along the way. This ensures that youth voice remains central to the project and its activities such as youth forums, reference groups, digital story production, and research and fostering genuine leadership and ownership. The "for youth, by youth" approach also contributes to youth guiding meaningfully systemic change in their city.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

Equitas worked alongside City of Vancouver staff to lead the BSCP Youth Engagement project. Equitas uses a human rights-based approach with youth that encourages active, meaningful, and voluntary participation. This method recognizes all individuals as rights-holders with dignity, and promotes youth empowerment to claim their rights and advocate for social change.

A human rights-based approach to community safety emphasizes that safety involves more than just reducing crime; it also ensures that all individuals, especially youth, live in environments that support their well-being and can thrive. Meaningful youth engagement in decision-making and community development helps address root causes of youth violence, including social exclusion, discrimination and lack of access to resources. Equitas' human rights education created meaningful engagement opportunities for youth to provide valuable feedback and lead actions. Ultimately, the program aims to create inclusive and empowered communities where youth feel valued and heard.

TRAINING TOPICS INCLUDE:

Trauma
Informed
practices

Interview
Skills &
Digital
Storytelling

Public
Speaking

Peer
Allyship

Engaging
Decision
Makers

Human
Rights

Facilitation
Skills

Authentic
Youth
Engagement

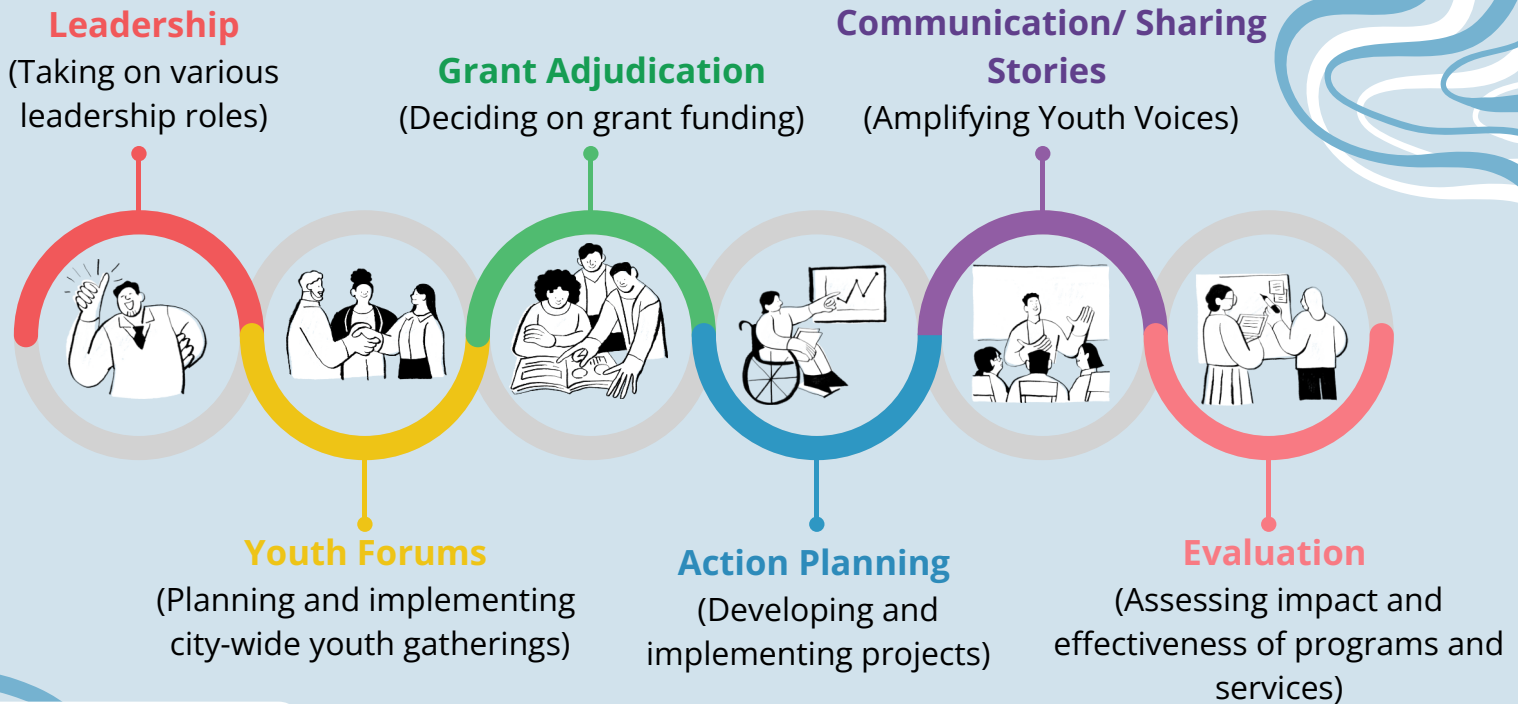
Equity &
Identity

equitas
educate. empower. change.

**CITY OF
VANCOUVER**

WAYS YOUTH WERE ENGAGED IN THE PROGRAM

Page 49



YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

86 diverse youth in leadership roles contribute to this program. As a city with growing diversity ensuring that diverse youth are engaged now will contribute to a safer city in the future.

YEAR 1

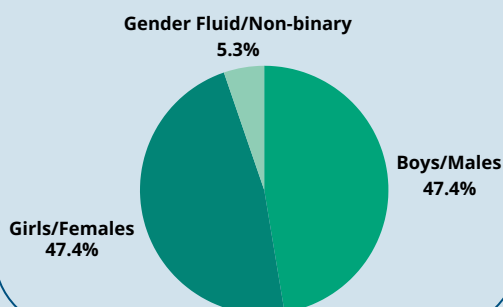
28
YOUTH LEADERS

ROLES:

- 8 Youth Community Developers
- 20 Youth Reference Group Members
- 5 Grant Adjudicators

DEMOGRAPHICS:

- 87% of youth identified as BIPOC



YEAR 2

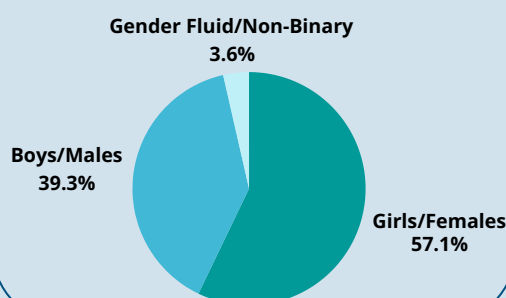
38
YOUTH LEADERS

ROLES:

- 3 Youth Community Developers
- 30 Youth Action Committee Members
- 5 Grant Adjudicators

DEMOGRAPHICS:

- 81.3% of youth identified as BIPOC



YEAR 3

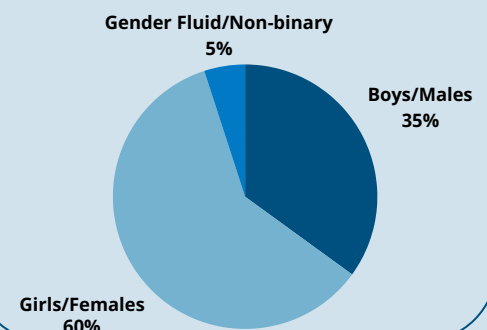
20
YOUTH LEADERS

ROLES:

- 3 Youth Community Developers
- 5 Youth Ambassadors
- 8 Youth Researchers
- 4 Grant Adjudicators

DEMOGRAPHICS:

- 85.7% of youth identified as BIPOC



13 neighborhoods represented including the following: Hastings-Sunrise, Champlain Heights, Marpole, Killarney, Sunset, Dunbar Southlands, West End, Collingwood, Victoria-Fraserview, Kensington-Cedar Cottage, Yaletown, Downtown Vancouver, Strathcona

YEAR 1

Gathering youth voice from across the city on community safety and shaping the direction of the project and strategy.

YEAR 2

Developing ideas for action, including implementing one project on a safe bus stop design contest for youth and sharing with City planners.

YEAR 3

Producing five digital stories that showcase the program's core focus areas and principles, demonstrating youth engagement and storytelling as tools for change. The youth research team collected and shared findings on the project's community impact.

ANNUAL YOUTH FORUM

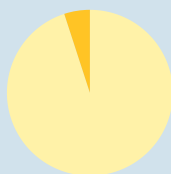
Every March during spring break, the Youth Community Developers supported by Equitas, the Students Commission of Canada, City Staff, and other youth volunteers, organize a youth forum —a dedicated space for young people to gather, share insights, provide feedback and access information and resources. For some of the youth leaders, this is their first opportunity to engage in public speaking. Each year, the forum had a distinct focus:

YEAR 1

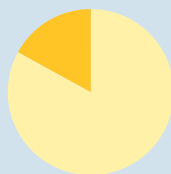
This forum was used to gather youth feedback on safer communities and service gaps, which helped inform the direction of the program and the Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy.

- Forum Attendees: 82
- Youth Facilitators: 20

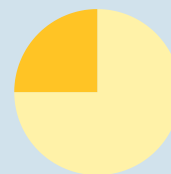
Feedback Highlights:



95% Agreed or strongly agreed they felt heard at the Forum



83% would like to see more opportunities similar to the Forum



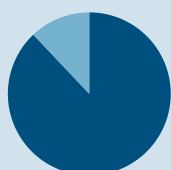
75% of respondents feel more connected to other youth / community as a result of attending the forum

YEAR 2

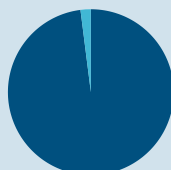
This forum introduced the strategy's focus areas to youth, gathered their input, and facilitated direct engagement with decision-makers. It emphasized the importance of youth perspectives in city initiatives that directly impact them. Youth also offered valuable insights on the program's next steps and areas for improvement.

- Forum Attendees: 102
- Youth Facilitators: 12

Feedback Highlights:



87.5% of youth facilitators felt that they contributed meaningfully to this project



98% of youth facilitators gained valuable work or life experience by joining this forum and program



YEAR 3

This forum focused on impact; highlighting the progress made and sharing it with youth and community. This included workshops from community organizations, sharing findings from data collections and showcasing digital stories created by the Youth Voice Ambassadors, which reflected the program focus areas and community spaces supported by the BSCP.

- Forum Attendees: 112
- Youth Facilitators: 12

Feedback Highlights

- *"The fact that the presenters were grade 10 amazed me. Their public speaking skills were top-tier! As a 10th grader, I am definitely inspired."*
- *"I enjoyed the opportunity to network and educate myself on topics that affect more than just myself. It was nice to know the resources for me to use when I need them."*



"A moment that made me feel really proud was when a youth came up to me afterwards and complimented my presentation skills. It was unexpected but super encouraging, and it reminded me that even though I was nervous, my message and delivery made an impact."

-VCD, 2025



HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUTH LEADERS

"The one thing I am most proud of is how much my research and leadership abilities have grown through writing reports and planning, promoting, and leading conferences. I think that this will not only serve as a valuable asset in the workforce, but also in my university studies going forward."

-VCD, 2024



"One thing that I'm most proud of throughout these few months is the opportunity that I got to be a meaningful contributor to part of our community and it's safety. It's an honour to have been able to participate in a project that will work to create a safer city. I hope my peers are involved next year"

-VCD, 2023



Appendix 4

BSCP CBR Projects Summaries Table

**Building Safer Communities Program Community
Based Research Project Summaries Table**

Lead	Research Title	Description
McCreary Centre Society	Building Safer Communities through Youth-Led Research	This project engaged youth with lived experience of violence in research and secondary data analysis of the 2023 BC Adolescent Health Survey related to violence prevention and safety for youth.
SFU	Taking Stock of Youth Serving Programs in Vancouver	This project identified and described violence prevention initiatives, took stock of youth-serving community programs in Vancouver, and discussed synchronicity and gaps between evidence-based prevention initiatives and programs being offered in Vancouver.
Vancouver Youth Community Action Team	Exploring opportunities for youth-led health promotion strategies in the context of mental health and substance use policy and planning in Vancouver	The Vancouver Youth Community Action Team explored what factors are needed to enable a stronger sense of belonging and safety among youth in Vancouver by using surveys, engaging youth who had lived or living experience with using substances in focus group discussions, as well as holding a Youth Overdose Prevention Gathering where youth heard from a panel of youth and two keynote speakers with live experience.
Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society	C.R.A.V.E. (Collingwood-Renfrew Anti-Violence Education) Project	C.R.A.V.E. explored what factors are needed to enable a stronger sense of belonging and safety among youth in Vancouver as well as what supports could build the youth sector's capacity to implement effective wraparound services in Vancouver by holding three focus group interviews and 1-1 discussions with youth between the ages of 10-24.
Gordon Neighborhood House	By Us, For Us: Advancing Youth-Driven Violence Prevention Strategies in the West End-Downtown Peninsula	By Us For Us explored what supports could build capacity for the youth sector to implement effective wraparound service delivery by holding three Appreciative Inquiry Workshops with youth in the community to discuss what community services are working well, what could be improved, and what is missing.

Hastings Community Association	Hastings Youth Skateboarding Committee (HYSC)	The Hastings Youth Skateboarding Committee explored factors are needed to enable a stronger sense of belonging and safety among youth in Vancouver by going out to different skateparks in the City to observe and connect with youth in the community to discuss how to maintain safe and inclusive spaces, as well as debrief after outings as a group to process what was learned and what can be applied to further services.
M.O.S.A.I.C. Multi-Lingual Orientation Service Association for Immigrant Communities	Youth Projects – Explicit Youth Dialogues	Explicit Youth Dialogues trained youth to survey and hold dialogue sessions with other youth to explore six subjects: mapping connections between youth experiences of violence and broader systems of inequities, what factors can enable a stronger sense of safety and belonging in the city, how youth violence prevention programs can be integrated into broader interventions to support healthy middle-years child development, what culturally and identity specific strategies can be developed to prevent gun and gang violence, what strategies are needed to prevent child and youth sexual exploitation, and what supports could build capacity for the youth sector to implement effective wraparound service delivery models in Vancouver.
Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society (PICS)	Progressive Data	This project explored factors are needed to enable a stronger sense of belonging and safety among youth in Vancouver through five focus group interviews with 50 youth ages 16-18, as well as surveying 100 youth. Youth were engaged as participants as well as research assistants to support discussions and the production of the final report.
Red Fox Healthy Living Society	Red Fox Middle Years Mentorship Pilot Project	This project delivered training and recreation activities that engaged youth 11-13 who are at risk of violence due to various factors, including multi-generational trauma, poverty and institutionalized oppression and conduct research to document the impact of the targeted activities on the youth. 1-1 interviews were held with participants who were new to the program and with those who had been in the program for years.

SCY Society for Children and Youth of BC	Safety Circles: Deep Listening with Youth	This project explored what factors are needed to enable a stronger sense of belonging and safety among youth in Vancouver through listening circles and in-person quantitative data collection. Young people were engaged to discuss their perceptions of safety and experiences of unsafe incidents.
South Vancouver Neighbourhood House (SVNH)	Deep Dive Dialogue	This project explored the connections between youth experiences of violence and broader system inequities, fostering belonging and safety in the city, middle years programming, and building the capacity of wrap-around support systems by hosting a two-series engagement program. Participants explored their neighbourhoods and took photos of areas that have personal meaning or experience associated with them and then held focus group discussions to explore what made those places safe or not. For their second series, focus group discussions explored youth and middle years programming needs, strengths, and gaps.
Thunderbird Neighbourhood Association	Youth Incentive Program	This project explored what factors are needed to enable a stronger sense of belonging and safety among youth in Vancouver through pre- and post-program surveys for activities such as community clean-ups, outings, workshops, and special event planning.
Britannia Community Services Centre Society	Youth Creating Safer Communities (YCSC)- “From the Youth, For the Youth”	Youth Creating Safer Communities explored what factors are needed to enable a stronger sense of belonging among youth in the city as well as how youth violence prevention can be integrated into broader interventions that support healthy middle years development. YCSC held 9 violence prevention education workshops with research discussions and community mapping activities to engage middle years youth on the subjects of bullying, racism, gang involvement, dating violence, safety and safe places, online safety, and more.
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society	Indigenous Youth Recreation	Project will study the ways in which the revitalization of indigenous culture and resilience through land based physical activity programs, medicine walks, and sharing circles to explore what wrap around supports can best facilitate violence prevention within Vancouver's urban Indigenous, middle-childhood population.

The KidSafe Project Society	KidSafe Project BSCF Initiative	The KidSafe Project Society's BCSF Initiative explored youth safety and belonging in the city, specifically what factors enable stronger belonging and safety, as well as how youth violence prevention can be integrated into broader interventions that support healthy middle years development. KidSafe did this using impact surveys, dialogue meetings with referring partners and organizations with similar mandates.
UBC Sustainability	Capacity Assessment of Youth Focused Organizations in Vancouver	This project aimed to provide a high-level assessment of the Vancouver non-profit youth sector. Recognizing the profound issues impacting youth today, the City is entering a new era of engaging with youth and the non-profit youth sector. This project helped City staff to understand the scale of the sector, organizational strengths, factors impacting organizational capacity, and collaboration efforts in the sector.

Appendix 5

BSCP Youth Networks Project Final Report



BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

2024 Vancouver Youth Collective Networks Research Project Final Report

Project Summary

In the development and implementation of the Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy, program partners have identified the need for collaboration, community mobilization, and the sharing of updated resources. The City of Vancouver Building Safer Communities Program commissioned a study to look at the current ways youth-serving agencies coordinate efforts through established service networks, joint programs, service hubs, partnership agreements and co-location strategies. This research project includes an overview of youth networks in the city, current trends and challenges, and reflections by sector experts and network leaders on how to promote collaboration and coordination of services for children and youth in Vancouver. The second part of the report includes an inventory of service networks and multidisciplinary teams and youth hubs currently providing services to youth in the city.

Objectives of the study:

The purpose is to identify and map the current state of youth service networks and hubs that provide coordinated services and interventions for children and youth.

Research questions:

What are the current collaborative partnerships and networks working in the Vancouver youth services sector? What types of partnerships, services and interventions are these networks coordinating? What brings them together and how can their impact be strengthened?

Inclusion criteria:

- Vancouver BC Youth Serving Networks & Hubs
- Upstream violence prevention & intervention supports
- Partnerships involving community partners, government Agencies

Exclusion Criteria:

- Arts, cultural, sports-based programs
- Fee for service programs / For-profit
- Not established during time of project

Key Definitions:

YOUTH NETWORK

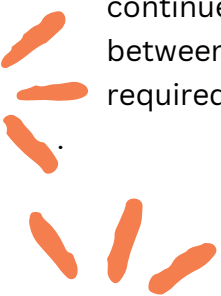
A Youth Network involves a multidisciplinary approach to providing support for a young person. Youth networks can also have collective community and systems level objectives that look at improving the capacity and impact of the sector overall. Through collaborative efforts involving multiple agencies, stakeholders come together for information sharing, service planning, case management, policy development and advocacy and / or coordinated direct service provision and interventions.

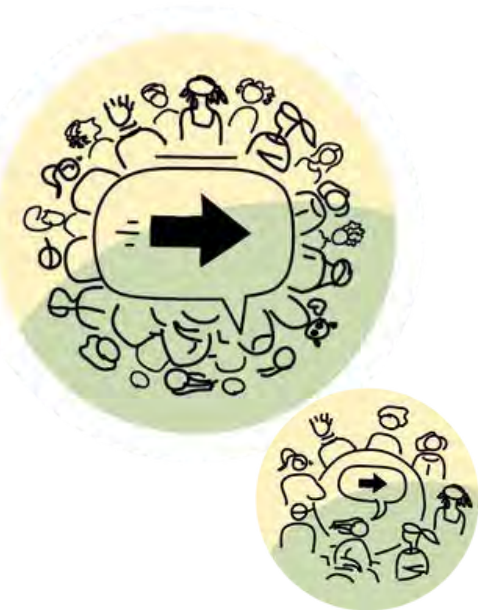
YOUTH HUB

A Youth Hub is a placed-based, multi-tenanted non-profit that provides integrated services for youth including social, educational, employment and health services and supports.

Preliminary findings: Trends and Challenges

- Vancouver has a large concentration of services with an estimated 195 community-based youth serving agencies located within the city boundaries. The study identified 25+ networks and interdisciplinary partnerships that involve approximately 70 youth agencies. Public bodies including the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Coastal Health, the Vancouver Police Department, the Vancouver School Board, the Ministry of Children and Families Development and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General play a key role in supporting the ongoing operations of some of these collaborative efforts.
- Over half of the networks identified address acute elevated risk and operate in crisis response, focusing primarily on adolescent youth and youth transitioning to adulthood. The study identified a need to focus more on providing support for children in the middle years and strengthen upstream service coordination focused on prevention and community connections.
- Many neighborhood-based, city-wide and regional networks focus on information sharing and policy and advocacy efforts. These types of interactions promote service planning, connection and capacity building across the sector.
- Despite identifying over 25 collaborative initiatives, lack of impactful community partnerships and collaboration is a widely discussed challenge in the youth sector. Services continue to be offered in silos, and broader integration between networks, youth hubs and public initiatives are required.





- Collaboration takes time, resources, trust, and common goals. Competitive funding structures, identifying and securing continuous lead agency(s), staff turnover and overlapping services create strain and impact partnerships within the sector.
- COVID closures impacted the sector and significantly amplified existing challenges within community-based non-profits. Many organizations and networks are re-envisioning their mandate, structure and purpose for youth services, in response to the complex needs and challenges faced by children, youth and the sector. Current challenges include the capacity to meet the service needs of a large wave of newcomers and refugee youth in the city, the toxic drug crisis, and increased complexity in the social and mental health challenges experienced by children and youth.
- Findings indicate an overlap in network memberships and mandates, both historic and current. This is reported to create meeting exhaustion and loss of interest and/or availability given similarity in agenda items, topics discussed, approaches, program objectives and meeting attendees.
- Frontline staff report that agencies and multidisciplinary programs have varying criteria and access requirements which can result in difficulties determining where to send referrals or how to meet the requirements for network support. This issue is compounded by misalignment between network mandates, service boundaries, program criteria, and funder driven priorities. Similarly, lead agencies report that challenges such as staff turnover, funding streams ending, and leadership changes affect the sustainability of networks and vital connections.
- The landscape of youth services, programs and networks is ever changing. It is difficult to keep up with the amount of program information, changes in agencies priorities and roles, who is doing what, what universal resources are available, how to navigate service pathways for youth, etc. Centralized inventories that are updated regularly, opportunities to build connections across sectors and setting priorities for strategically convening youth serving agencies are key practices that need to be maintained in order to support network building.



Strategies to make collaborative interventions more effective.



Collaboration is a dynamic and intentional process where diverse organizations and individuals come together to achieve a common goal, with a focus on empowering youth. It goes beyond individual organizational benefits to create collective impact, closing gaps and breaking down barriers through trust, shared responsibility, and mutual information exchange. At its core, collaboration involves building relationships based on respect, equality, and humility, with a commitment to understanding each other's perspectives. It requires openness to learning, a willingness to stretch mandates, and a focus on both the complexity and the magic that arises from combining different strengths.

Collaboration fosters shared ownership, accountability, and reciprocal support, with the ultimate goal of achieving outcomes that are greater than the sum of the parts, leveling the playing field, and improving lives. The following are key areas of strategy for enhancing collaboration among youth serving networks and multidisciplinary teams:

- Defining Roles and Coordination Structures:** Clear role definitions are essential for collaboration. Each participant needs to know their specific responsibilities and who is responsible for coordinating the collective effort. Establishing a central point of coordination or leadership can streamline decision-making and reduce confusion. Having structures in place to manage the collaborative process ensures that actions are aligned, and tasks are properly assigned.
- Enhancing Communication and Networking:** Effective communication is the backbone of successful collaboration. Regular, structured meetings or check-ins allow partners to exchange information, identify challenges, and celebrate successes. Networking events, shared learning opportunities, and digital platforms for communication can help ensure that all partners stay informed, reducing barriers to collaboration and strengthening relationships.
- Integrating Services and Reducing Silos:** Breaking down silos and integrating services across organizations can help create a seamless support system for youth. This may involve co-locating services, sharing resources, or jointly managing programs. Streamlining referral pathways between agencies and collaborating on service design ensures that youth have easy access to the full range of support they need.
- Advocating for Policy and Funding Changes:** To enable collaboration, there may be a need to engage with funders and policy makers to align funding priorities with the goals of the collaboration. Advocating for flexible funding that focuses on outcomes rather than outputs can create a more supportive environment for long-term collaboration. Additionally, influencing policy decisions to remove barriers and support the collective work is crucial for sustaining collaboration.

- **Centering Youth and Equity:** Ensuring that youth remain at the center of the collaboration is essential for achieving meaningful outcomes. This means creating services and strategies that are flexible and responsive to the needs of youth. An equity-focused approach ensures that marginalized groups, including youth from diverse cultural backgrounds, have access to the resources and support they need. Ensuring youth participation in the design and evaluation of services ensures that the collaboration is relevant and effective.
- **Strengthening Organizational Capacity:** Organizations involved in the collaboration must be prepared and equipped to work together. This includes investing in staff training on collaboration skills, providing tools to support cross-organizational work, and ensuring that staff have the resources needed to engage in the collaborative process. Additionally, supporting staff well-being, addressing burnout, and maintaining continuity through leadership and staffing strategies is essential to sustaining collaboration.

Vancouver Youth Hubs Inventory

A Youth Hub is a placed-based multi-tenanted non-profit that provides integrated services for youth including social, educational, employment and health services and supports. There are 6 Youth Hubs in Vancouver

1. Broadway Youth Resource Center (BYRC) 2455 FRASER STREET
(<https://pcrs.ca/our-youth-hubs/broadway-youth-resource-centre/>)

2. Urban Native Youth Alliance (UNYA) 1618 E. HASTINGS
(<https://unya.bc.ca/>)

3. Directions (FSGV) 1138 BURRARD STREET
(<https://www.directionsyouthservices.ca/>)

4. South Van Youth Centre, Milieu (SVYC) 4908 FRASER STREET
(<https://www.svycyouthhub.com/>)

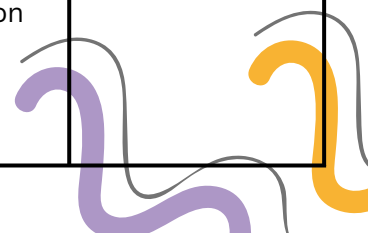
5. Covenant House 1280 SEYMOUR STREET
(<https://www.covenanthousebc.org/>)

6. Foundry 1260 GRANVILLE STREET
(<https://foundrybc.ca/who-we-are/>)



Vancouver Youth Networks Inventory

NAME OF NETWORK	PURPOSE	AGES SERVED
BC Coalition of End Youth Homelessness (BCCEYH) Lead Agency: A Way Home (POLICY + ADVOCACY)	The BC Coalition to End Youth Homelessness (BCCEYH) seeks to magnify the voices of young people with lived expertise to inform a provincial plan to end youth homelessness. This coalition of organizations meets regularly to work toward the development of the plan, to discuss current youth homelessness issues and to develop reports on various Provincial ministries' roles and priorities related to youth homelessness. These reports are used to work collaboratively with the Office of Homelessness Coordination and the Province to work towards their goal of preventing, reducing and ending youth homelessness.	13-25
BC First Call, Child and Youth Alliance Coalition Lead Agency: First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Society (POLICY + ADVOCACY)	BC First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Society's purpose is to create a greater understanding of and advocacy for legislation, policy, and practice so that all children and youth have the rights, opportunities and resources required to thrive. First Call's work is guided by the 4 Keys to Success for Children and Youth: 1) A Strong Commitment to Early Childhood Development 2) Support in Transitions from Childhood to Youth and Adulthood 3) Increased Economic Equality 4) Safe and Caring Communities. These keys were developed by First Call through extensive research and focus groups across the province and reflect the scope of what is necessary to ensure the healthy development and well-being of BC's children and youth. Bi-monthly meetings are hosted on Zoom from 9:15 – 11:30 am on the second Wednesday of the month from September to June. Everyone is welcome to attend.	ALL AGES
Building Safer Communities Prevention Network (BSCP) Lead Agency: City of Vancouver (SERVICE PLANNING/ POLICY)	BSCP supports and convenes program and project partners involved in implementing the priorities of the Youth Safety and Violence Prevention Strategy. As part of this network, ten youth serving agencies were funded to design and implement upstream youth violence prevention programs across the city targeting primarily children in the middle years and adolescence and their families. The BSCP prevention network also works with agencies that lead projects that enhance the ability of community organizations to successfully address youth violence through staff development, strengthening collaboration between youth-serving agencies and/or improving processes and systems to help ensure equitable access to early youth violence prevention services and programs.	6-18



NAME OF NETWORK	PURPOSE	AGES SERVED
Britannia Youth Community Meeting Lead Agency: Community School Coordinators, Teen Centre Staff (INFO SHARING / SERVICE PLANNING)	The Vancouver School Board's Community School Coordinators (CSC) and staff from the Britannia Hub organize seasonal hub meetings with partners, community youth-serving organizations, and VPD School Liaison Officers to maintain consistent connections and discuss the community's needs. The goal is to improve collaboration and support for the youth in the area.	12-18
Car 86 Lead Agency: Vancouver Police Department (DIRECT SERVICE / INTERVENTION)	Car 86 consists of a partnership between the Vancouver Police Department and the B.C. Ministry for Children and Family Development that deals with child protection issues of kids from birth to 12 years of age. Teams consist of an officer and a social worker, and they respond to child welfare matters where violence is an issue, such as domestic disputes and family violence. Car 86 works with community partners in a collaborative and coordinated effort, to ensure kids get the help they need.	0-12
Child and Adolescent Response Team (CART) Lead Agency: Vancouver Coastal Health (DIRECT SERVICE / INTERVENTION)	The Child & Adolescent Response Team (CART) provides an urgent response (within 72 hours), and short-term mental health service to school-aged children and youth who are experiencing acute psychiatric or emotional crises. This multidisciplinary team can consist of community staff, school-based staff, ministry, and health care. Case management involves 6-8 weeks of acute stabilization, then transfer to an ongoing team or best-suited service.	5-18
Child Protection Services Unit (CPSU) Lead Agency: BC Children's Hospital (DIRECT SERVICE / INTERVENTION)	The Child Protection Service Unit (CPSU) is a multidisciplinary team of professionals at BC Children's Hospital that evaluates the most serious cases of child abuse from across the province. They provide medical assessments for suspected physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and serious neglect. The CPSU serves as the suspected child abuse and neglect (SCAN) team for the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and is a provincial resource through the Provincial Health Services Authority, able to assess children from the entire province. Referrals from professional partners are required. The unit is staffed by a team of professionals with expertise in child abuse issues, consisting of pediatricians, social workers, a nurse clinician, psychologists and administrative support staff.	0-18

Vancouver Youth Networks Inventory

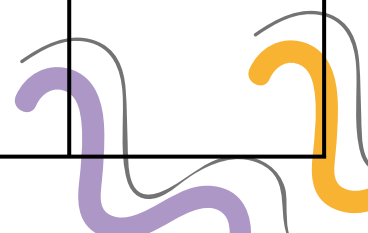
NAME OF NETWORK	PURPOSE	AGES SERVED
CSC COMMUNITY MEETINGS Lead Agency: Vancouver School Board (INFO SHARING / SERVICE PLANNING)	Vancouver School Board's Community School Coordinators (CSC) meet regularly to discuss trending items and service gaps. The CSCs organize seasonal hub meetings with community organizations, VPD SLOs, and key partners to touch base and discuss needs in their assigned community to further collaboration and support of youth provided within their hubs. Each CSC works out of a high school and provides support and oversight to programs and services within the elementary schools feeding into their assigned high school catchment.	5-18
Eastside Planning Table (EPT) Lead Agency: Vancouver Coastal Health (DIRECT SERVICE / INTERVENTION)	The purpose of the eastside planning table meetings is to provide a space for service providers to identify youth at risk and connect with each other to better support them. These meetings are confidential, password protected and only shared and discussed with authorized service providers. Members are asked to be mindful of the confidentiality and privacy of youth that are discussed, bringing up matters which are critical/pertinent, avoiding oversharing information that youth may be uncomfortable having shared widely.	13-25
Integrated Child and Youth Team (ICY) Lead Agency: Vancouver Coastal Health (DIRECT SERVICE / INTERVENTION)	The Integrated Child and Youth Team (ICY) provides community-based assessment and treatment for children and youth ages 6 to 19, who are affected by moderate to severe mental health concerns. ICY consists of a multi-disciplinary team of psychiatrists, family therapists, social workers and mental health clinicians that can help children and youth with service also help to coordinate care and services with other community resources. Each ICY team supports children and youth within a school district area from early years to age 19 (possibly up to age 21, case dependent)	6-19
Local Action Team (LAT) Lead Agency: Vancouver Division of Family Practice (INFO SHARING)	The Vancouver Local Action Team (LAT) focuses on improving mental health and substance use care and support for children and youth in Vancouver, with a particular focus on concrete actions that strengthen the connection between community resources and the healthcare system. Vancouver LAT works together on action-oriented projects that help children, youth, and their families find and access timely and relevant local services and supports. This collaborative table has a co-chair model, where co-chairs represent the community, the school system, and the healthcare system. The Secretariat function hosted by staff from the Vancouver Division of Family Practice. LAT was created from the Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use (CYMHSU) Collaborative.	All ages

NAME OF NETWORK	PURPOSE	AGES SERVED
Rapid Response Table (RRT) Lead Agency: MCFD (DIRECT SERVICE / INTERVENTION)	Rapid Response Table brings together service providers and representatives from various government ministries and numerous community agencies to strengthen services for high-risk youth who can be found in Downtown Vancouver. The table aims to connect high-risk youth with appropriate available services to meet their individual needs, to remove systemic barriers and to address any identified service gaps. The Rapid Response Model includes the Core Members of the Rapid Response Table and a tiered collaborative advisory structure so that all levels - service delivery, management and funding - are invested in the process.	13-19
ReConnect / Vancouver Planning Table (VPT) Lead Agency: MCFD (DIRECT SERVICE / INTERVENTION)	Reconnect, also known as Vancouver Planning Table, is a meeting for community partners who are working with or may meet vulnerable youth in Vancouver. Agencies represented are MCFD, VPD, Outreach Services (Directions, UNYA, IRAYL, Covenant House), Mental Health, Substance support, group homes, youth transition workers, workers supporting sexually exploited youth. Those partners working in the community may overlap clients, so continuity of support is critical when working with young people. The sharing of plans and support services allow a more wrap around experience for youth. Supports may include referrals to education, substance use services, housing support, trauma/crisis counselling, sexual health, safety support, and employment. Meetings have been going on since 1992.	11-19
RICHER Table Lead Agency: BC Children's Hospital (INFO SHARING / DIRECT SERVICE / INTERVENTION)	The RICHER network consists of a team of physicians, nurse practitioners, and nurses collaborating with multiple partners and organizations to deliver quality care to structurally marginalized children, youth and families. The RICHER Program (Responsive Intersectoral Child and Community Health Education and Research) is a place-based, equity-focused, interdisciplinary team of healthcare providers at BC Children's Hospital co-located in Vancouver's inner city. Established in 2006, the RICHER Program seeks to address disparities in health care access experienced by many marginalized children, youth and families. Providers aim to provide relational, trauma-integrated care. RICHER is committed to a continual process of learning regarding best practices in anti-oppressive, anti-racist and decolonized care models to best serve our populations. Quarterly community of practice meetings with other health providers in the area serving children, youth, and families.	All ages

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NAME OF NETWORK	PURPOSE	AGES SERVED
Transition in Resources, Relationships, and Understanding Support Together (TRRUST) Lead Agency: McCreary Center Society (INFO SHARING / ADVOCACY / POLICY)	TRRUST is a Collective Impact initiative which began in April 2014. TRRUST is a shared effort, now composed of over 90 organizations and 400 members, including non-profit organizations, government agencies, and young people with lived experience in care. The common interest of all TRRUST members is to achieve system-wide improvements in the outcomes for youth transitioning out of government care in Vancouver, British Columbia.	19+
Vancouver Child & Youth Advocacy Center Lead Agency: Treehouse (DIRECT SERVICES / INTERVENTIONS / POLICY + ADVOCACY)	Child and Youth Advocacy Centres (CYACs) are collaborative services designed to provide a coordinated response to child abuse and crimes against children and youth. There are over 11 CYACS in the Province, BC. Treehouse Vancouver Child & Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC) is a Multi-Disciplinary Team that works together to intervene in and prevent child abuse and violence. Through coordinated services and partnerships, Treehouse builds networks and community support systems that promote safe and sustainable environments for children, youth and their families. CYAC's coordinates a multi-disciplinary response in a safe, friendly facility to support the investigation and intervention of child abuse, to minimize trauma, and to enhance the community's ability to protect children, youth, and their families.	0-18
Vancouver Mobilization and Resiliency Table (VMART) Lead: Covenant House and the City of Vancouver (DIRECT SERVICE / INTERVENTION)	The Vancouver Mobilization and Resiliency Table (VMART) collaborates as an integrated multi-agency team to build safer and healthier communities through rapid mobilization of resources to meet the immediate needs of youth experiencing acutely elevated risk in Vancouver. Youth may be brought forward by member organization if they present with Acutely Elevated Risk (AER) and require a multi-agency offer of service. The table is privacy compliant and supported by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Situation Table network, connected to 30+ tables across BC. This collaborative is not a case management table, and instead provides triage for cases brought forward by applying the four-filter approach. Members need to sign a Common or Integrated Program Agreement (CIPA) and complete an online training on the situation table model.	13-27

NAME OF NETWORK	PURPOSE	AGES SERVED
Vancouver South Central Hub (Commercial Broadway Network) Lead Agency: Trout Lake Community Centre / Vancouver Park Board. (INFO SHARING / REFERRAL)	Community partners meet to identify youth in need and/or at risk in the community. Members share resources available, collaborate and develop action plans for youth, and follow up on cases with the care teams. At the hub meetings partners also share information on educational workshops, support systems and other available youth resources. There are opportunities to identify service gaps and problem-solve collectively. Terms of Reference and confidentiality agreement provided to all members.	8-18
Vancouver Youth Services Provider Network (YSPN) Lead Agency: BGC South Coast – NEXUS (INFO SHARING)	The Vancouver focused Youth Services Provider Network is a colleague connection network that provides a space to share updates, trends, and connections among youth serving staff in the city. Virtual meetings take place quarterly. Open intake.	all
Youth Worker Service Hub Meetings (YWAT) Lead Agency: Vancouver Park Board (INFO SHARING /SERVICE PLANNING)	Vancouver Parks Board Community Youth Workers hub meetings are regular standing meetings that vary on agenda items. They identify resources available, collaborate and develop action plans for youth and youth programs. Identify service gaps in the community. Problem-solving to address service gaps as a collective. Split between West Zone, East Zone, South East Zone, Downtown / Central Zones	8-18
Youth Connect Lead Agency: MCFD (DIRECT SERVICE / INTERVENTION)	Youth Connect is part of the Ministry of Child and Family Development Services high risk youth team. They provide collaborative interventions for elevated risk youth working with CYMH, Yankee10, Yankee 20, Health Services, and key partners that include outreach services and referrals.	13-19



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NAME OF NETWORK	PURPOSE	AGES SERVED
Youth Intensive Case Management Team (YICMT) Lead Agency: Vancouver Coastal Health (DIRECT SERVICE / INTERVENTION)	The Youth Intensive Case Management Team (YICMT) is a multidisciplinary team that provides innovative, client-centered, and culturally sensitive services to youth with complex needs (i.e., substance use, homelessness, mental health challenges). Goals consist of increased continuity of care and youth engagement in their own care and improved communication between youth care team members. Services offered include access to primary care, access to Opiate Agonist Therapy, cultural and spiritual support and services, outreach in the community, referrals and help to connect with services including longer term community supports, harm reduction supplies and education, Occupational Therapist (OT) assessment and support, treatment planning, and connection with pro-social supports.	13-24
Yankee 10 Lead Agency: Vancouver Police Department (DIRECT SERVICE / INTERVENTION)	The role of Yankee 10 is to monitor youth who are in conflict with the law. They work in teams of police officers and youth probation officers to find and identify high-risk youth and work with other agencies to connect them to services and help keep them on track. The Yankee 10 teams also can provide curfew checks and enforce bail and probation conditions when needed, and work with community partners in a collaborative and coordinated effort.	12-18
Yankee 20 Lead Agency: Vancouver Police Department (DIRECT SERVICE / INTERVENTION)	Yankee 20 provides intervention teams to work with high-risk and exploited youth aged 12 to 18. Police officers and Ministry for Children and Family Development outreach social workers pair up to provide a coordinated response. The Y20 teams work with many partners and agencies in the community to help ensure the kids receive the resources and services they need. Y20 works with partners such as Covenant House, Directions, SEY, ONYX, WATARI, UNYA, VACSSS, the Raycam Community Centre, and alternative school programs in a collaborative and coordinated effort.	12-18
Youth Matters / Our Place Previously Led by: RayCam & Alive Society (DIRECT SERVICE / POLICY + ADVOCACY)	Youth Matters coalition began as a response to youth at risk in the Grandview Woodlands neighborhood in 2012 where a disproportionate number of children and youth were Aboriginal and involved with the Ministry or in government care. Youth Matters took a collective impact and place-based approach to address issues faced by vulnerable youth. The coalition included over 30 organizations and public partners that met quarterly to coordinate efforts to help address the support gaps for inner city youth at risk.	n/a

Appendix 6

BSCP Inventory of Municipal Youth Services

Inventory of Current Youth Municipal Services and Programs as of April 2025		
City of Vancouver: ACCS Social Policy and Projects		
Program Name	Target Group	Description
Building Safer Communities Program (BSCP)	Ages 6-18	Time-limited project funded by Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada to support community-based youth violence prevention programs and projects in the city. BSCP works with youth serving agencies and youth by providing grants, research and sector development opportunities to address the risk factors associated with gun and gang violence. BSCP also coordinates a peer-to-peer youth leadership in violence prevention program to support all youth engagement activities. Youth are hired and trained to plan and deliver an annual youth forum, lead youth projects and reach out to youth throughout the city. The program runs until March 2026.
City of Vancouver: Engineering – Community Transportation Branch		
Program Name	Target Group	Description
School Streets	Grades K-7	School Streets are car-free blocks beside schools open to walking, biking, and rolling during pick-up and drop-off (30 to 60 minutes) on school days. The program aims to create safer environments for children, encourage active travel to school, and promote independent mobility.
Play Streets	Grades K-7	Play Streets are offered at select School Street locations to provide opportunities for play through simple programming and resources. They are designed to encourage safe, active outdoor play for children and families and to promote community connection.
Walk Bike Roll Mini Grants	Grades K-7	Annual Walk Bike Roll Mini Grants offer up to \$500 to Vancouver public elementary and secondary schools. Grants support projects and activities that encourage and promote students walking, cycling, or rolling to school.
School Travel Planning	Grades K-7	This initiative works with school communities by consulting 3-6 schools per year to identify challenges and opportunities to improve safety and increase the number of children walking, biking, rolling, or taking transit to school. An action plan is developed to implement a variety of infrastructure, encouragement, and education initiatives over the course of two to three years.
School Active Travel Education	Grades 6-7	Each year, grade 6 and 7 students receive active travel education through our support of the Ride the Road education course offered

		by HUB Cycling. The course is delivered at up to 37 schools annually, making the program available to all grade 6 and 7 students in Vancouver public schools over each two-year period.
Kid Commute: Walking School Bus	Grades K-7	Partnering with the Vancouver School Board, TransLink, and the Society for Children and Youth, the Walking School Bus is an organized group of students who walk to and from school with the support of one or more adult leaders. The group walks along a designated route, stopping to pick up more students, and can take shape in various program models.
City of Vancouver: City Clerks Office		
Program Name	Target Group	Description
Civics Toolbox	Grades K-12 (All Ages)	The Civics Toolbox is for all interested individuals, schools, groups, and organizations wanting to know more about their city and how to get involved. It's a free downloadable toolkit with presentations, activities, and worksheets democratic participation, City government, policy and planning issues, and how to get involved.
Civic Advisory Committees: Children, Youth, and Families Advisory Committee	Ages 10+	Civic Advisory Committees help communicate community perspectives to Council and staff while advising on City priorities, projects, and initiatives. The mandate of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee (CYFAC) is to advise Council and staff on matters that relate to children, youth and families.
Vancouver Fire Rescue Services (VFRS)		
Program Name	Target Group	Description
Camp Ignite	Ages 16-19	Camp Ignite is a 4-day camp that educates and inspires young women to follow their dreams and gives them an introduction to the world of firefighting. Aside from firefighting, each participant will learn about fitness, nutrition, health, and teamwork.
Youth Community Engagement	Grades K-12	VFRS works with other community partners like community centres, ICBC, community policing centres, and more to engage with children and youth and discuss fire safety, career opportunities, and build relationship.
Children's Firehall Tours	Grades K-12	VFRS provides firehall tours to children and community groups interested in learning more about fire rescue services.
Fire Safety House	Grade 3	VFRS educates children on general fire safety including smoke alarms, CO alarms, learn not to burn, and home escape plans.
Vancouver Public Library (VPL)		
Program Name	Target Group	Description
Social Groups & Clubs	Ages 12-18	VPL locations offer friendly and welcoming teen spaces to meet peers with shared interests like Dungeons and Dragons and K-Pop.

Teen Art Hive	Ages 12-18	Teen Art Hive holds weekly meet-ups to connect with other teen artists, discuss projects, and learn new techniques from guest artists.
Ink, a teen journal for writing and visual art	Ages 12-18	Ink is an annually published journal of all types of writing and visual art, made by and for Vancouver teens. Ink showcases the incredible creativity and diversity of youth in the city. Youth can also join the Ink Teen Advisory Group to support the full publishing cycle from selecting pieces, designing the magazine and layout, and planning the launch party.
Teen Advisory Group	Ages 12-18	The Teen Advisory Group advises librarians on programs and services, develop and lead teen programs, and promote the library and youth programs.
Teens Read it First	Ages 12-18	In Teens Read it First, Vancouver youth get to read and review new teen books before they're released.
STEAM Buddies for Teens	Ages 12-18	STEAM Buddies pairs teens with kids in grades 2 to 4 for fun and informal STEAM learning. Big Buddies help kids experiment with different aspects of STEAM using lego, Osmos, Spheros, and more.
Reading Buddies for Teens	Ages 12-18	Reading Buddies pairs teens with kids in grades 2 to 4 who would like to improve their reading. Teen role models help children connect with the library and develop a love for reading and learning.
Work Experience Program (WEX)	Ages 12-18	In partnership with the Vancouver School Board, teens can be paired with a library branch for a week-long work experience placement to gain practical hands-on skills while experiencing what it's like to work in a library.
Teen Summer Challenge	Ages 12-18	Teen Summer Challenge invites teens from across the city to come together for free weekly programs and summer long reading and creative challenges.
Tween Book Clubs	Ages 10-12	Tween Book Clubs provides space for pre-teens to connect with each other and discover new books.
Write Now	Ages 6-12	Write Now invites kids to start writing and thinking creatively with fun writing activities that will have them writing stories and poetry in a fun and supportive environment
Get Your Book in the Library	Grades K-7	Kids in grades K to 7 can drop by the library to write and illustrate their own book that will be made available for other kids to read in the library.
Kids Read it First	Grades K-7	Kids Read it First gives kids the chance to read and review Advance Reading Copies of new children's books before they hit the shelves.

Reading Buddies for Kids	Grades 2-4	Reading Buddies for Kids pairs children in grades 2 to 4 with teen mentors to practice reading aloud, storytelling, and games that make literacy fun
STEAM Buddies for Kids	Grades 2-4	STEAM Buddies for Kids pairs children in grades 2 to 4 with teen mentors for fun and informal STEAM learning using Lego, Osmos, Spheros, and more.
Vancouver Police Department		
Program Name	Target Group	Description
ENCORE (Envisioning New Connections: Outreach Recreation Engagement)	Ages 12-18	Supports intentional engagement through food, providing refreshments/snacks during school and community-based events for the purpose of building relationships.
Engagement Through Art	Ages 12-18	Engagement Through Art provides outreach opportunities for youth with varying interests, strengths, and passions. The program partners with community centres in the city, offering classes in different art mediums.
Full Court Press	Ages 12-14	Youth basketball camp for grade 8 students during Spring Break, with Vancouver Bandits professional basketball team coach and police officers completing drills and games alongside youth participants.
Full Court Support	Ages 12-14	Select participants from Full Court Press will be selected to take part in this special event, attending a Vancouver Bandits game together with police members.
Gang Tackle	Ages 12-18	This event brings together professional athletes, UBC Thunderbird alumni, police officers, and at-risk youth to play flag football. Following the games, athletes give strategic talks, and former gang members discuss the myths and realities of gang life. The goal is to show students the consequences of poor choices, and to build bridges with kids who rarely talk to police or participate in school activities.
Iron Bulldogs Health Club	Ages 12-18	Participants learn the importance of motivation, hard work, and perseverance by working toward individual goals and personal bests, rather than promoting unhealthy comparisons to others.
New Kids Vancouver: Youth Police Academy	Ages 12-18	Funded by the Vancouver Police Foundation, New Kids focuses on supporting newcomer youth by educating and creating awareness around law enforcement through peer and police mentorship to prevent the risk of gang recruitment or criminal involvement, or kids falling victim to bullying or harassment.
Out on Patrol Peer Support Program	Ages 12+	Presentation series delivered to high school or post-secondary students in B.C. that addresses topics such as bullying, 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion, and positive role models in policing

Paul Sanghera Soccer Tournament	Ages 12-18	Since 1983, the VPSSC has supported the VPF and the Masonic Lodges of the Lower Mainland, in coordinating the annual Paul Sanghera Soccer Tournament to honour a fallen VPD police officer who tragically lost his life in a fatal car crash while on duty. In 2023 and 2024, in lieu of the annual tournament, members of the Youth Services Section and the VPSSC played a friendly match against the VPD Cadets. A gathering was hosted after the event that included the Sanghera family.
Pee Wee Soccer Camp	Ages 6-9	The camp occurs over four days in July, providing an essential summer program for youth between the ages of six to nine years.
SAFARY (Supporting Activities for At-Risk Youth)	Ages 12-18	SAFARY supports youth with individual athletic, recreational, artistic, or resilience-based programming needs — from tutoring and driving lessons to volleyball camp and acting lessons.
Safety City	Ages 12 and under	Safety City educates elementary school kids about road safety.
Share-a-Meal	Ages 12-18	This program promotes informal relationship building between police and at-risk youth through the simple act of sharing a meal and getting to know each other.
Strathcona Bike Smart Program	Ages 12 and under	A community bicycle program based in McLean Park to teach bicycle safety to youth 12 and under
Strathcona Noon-Hour Games	Ages 12 and under	A weekly lunch hour recreational drop-in program, providing youth with positive engagement interactions through sports and arts-based activities
Turning Point	Ages 12-18	This anti-gang program provides education and strong alternative choices for at-risk youth who are vulnerable to becoming involved in the drug trade or gangs.
Vancouver Police Athletic League (PAL)	Ages 12-18	This youth crime prevention initiative uses athletic, recreational, and educational programs to foster positive rapport and trust between police officers and youths. Current VPD Police Athletic League activities throughout Vancouver include basketball games, soccer camps, running clubs, and rugby camps.
Vancouver Police Basketball Association	Ages 12-18	These events help to foster a positive relationship between police officers and youth, and include weekly lunch-hour games at local elementary schools, the BC Wheelchair Basketball Hoopfest, the Strathcona Hoop-A-Thon, and the Night Hoops program.
Vancouver Technical Youth Boxing Club	Ages 12-18	This program was a creative response to an unsafe situation after several unsanctioned boxing matches took place on school property. It is a means to support youth interest in combat sports by providing onsite supervision and skills development.
VPD Archery Academy	Ages 12-18	This program provides archery lessons and practice to youth participants at Magee Secondary School
VPD Cadets	Ages 12-18	Funded by the Vancouver Police Foundation, the VPD Cadet Program is a year-long mentorship program aimed at helping youth build the skills necessary to handle conflict and become a leader in their community.

VPD D.R.E.A.M. Hockeyball Classic	Ages 10-12	This one-day community event will see 240 grade 6 and 7 students from across Vancouver take part in a round robin street hockey tournament, alongside a friendly match between VPD SLOs, other first responders, and Canucks alumni. Specialty units including K-9 unit and Emergency Response Section will also be onsite supporting.
VPD Judo Club	Ages 12 and under	Offers specialized workshops, alongside after-school youth judo program, which provides free classes to youth in the Strathcona community
VPD Running Club	Ages 12-18	This club provides a supportive and welcoming running environment for Grade 8 to 12 students from six different schools across the city.
VPD Titans Swim Club	Ages 12-18	The VPD Titans Swim Club recognizes that many youth grow up without learning the necessary swimming skills to full enjoy aquatic activities. Club members learn and practice swimming techniques, stroke proficiency, and endurance.
You Matter program	Ages 12-18	To prevent sexually-based crimes, and ultimately empower youth to build healthy relationships with their peers, the goal of the You Matter program is to educate youth about consent and personal safety, including cyber safety.
COMMUNITY AND INTERAGENCY INITIATIVES (with VPD Involvement)		
Blue Eagle Community Cadets Program	Ages 12-15	Supports 20 youth between the ages of 12 and 15 years. The participants have an opportunity to develop leadership skills while learning about Indigenous culture and policing.
Langara Challenge Basketball Tournament	Ages 12-18	The Vancouver Girl's Basketball Association has partnered with Langara College Women's Basketball, Vancouver Secondary Schools Athletic Association, the Lower Mainland Independent Secondary Schools Athletic Association, the Vancouver Police Foundation, and the Vancouver Police Department to host the Langara Challenge each January. The top eight teams from the senior and junior leagues are invited to participate, where the focus is on development of basketball skills and the importance of gender equality and representation in youth sports and athletics. Competitors also have a chance to receive scholarships.
Musqueam Youth Canoe Club	Ages 12-18	VPD supported the re-invigoration of the Musqueam Canoe Club after 35 years of being inactive. Musqueam youth are now able to participate in the annual Pulling Together Canoe Journey in their own Nation's canoe
Night Hoops Basketball	Ages 12-18	At-risk youth are offered a chance to grow and learn in a supervised and supportive environment, taking part in late-night basketball programming. VPD officers volunteer to participate in the games and mentor the youth.
Pulling Together Canoe Journey	Ages 12-18	The Pulling Together Canoe Journey is a program that aims to eliminate prejudice and stereotypes between government agencies, including the VPD, and Indigenous Peoples. The annual

		summer canoe journey aims to recognize the past and enhance understanding by having participants “pulling together” along traditional highways, strengthening future relationships.
Streetfront Alternative	Ages 12-18	Alternative education program for youth, emphasizing physical education and running as a component of curriculum.
Vancouver School Board		
Program Name	Target Group	Description
Community Schools	Grades K-12	Community Schools are an initiative of the Vancouver School district Community Connections department to provide evidence-based programming which supports asset development of children and youth enrolled in Vancouver schools. Programs are developed in collaboration with school staff and community organizations. https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5052/community-schools
Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS)	Grades K-12	The SWIS Program is a school-based settlement service for immigrants, refugees, and other eligible clients to meet their immediate settlement or ongoing needs after their arrival in Canada. SWIS workers provide information on services available, conduct orientation workshops on various areas of settlement in Canada, assist in filling out forms for services, provide referrals, service linking and accompaniment to community resources, help in the adjustment and transition process, and provide culturally sensitive services, etc. free of charge. https://www.vsb.bc.ca/nwc/page/11350/settlement-workers-in-schools
Multicultural Liaisons	Grades K-12	Multicultural Liaison Workers (MCLWS) are cultural and linguistic resource staff of the Vancouver Board of Education, under the ELL support services of the Newcomer Welcome Centre. They are available to support students, families, and school personnel by facilitating communication despite linguistic or cultural differences. https://www.vsb.bc.ca/nwc/page/11347/multicultural-liaison-workers
**Supporting And Connecting Youth (SACY)	Grades 8-10	"SACY enhances the education, prevention and brief intervention infrastructure in VSB schools and surrounding community to prevent substance use, delay substance use and reduce substance use related problems. **this program is a collaboration between the VSB and Vancouver Coastal Health https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5152

*Leadership and Resiliency Program (LRP)	Grades 8-12	Led by Vancouver Coastal Health, LRP provides weekly programming, outings, and adventure to youth who may be struggling or at risk. Participants volunteer, learn socioemotional skills, and step outside their comfort zones. Older youth volunteer as peer-mentors to support the junior youth. *this program is staffed and managed by Vancouver Coastal Health in collaboration with the VSB
Vancouver Park Board		
Program Name	Target Group	Description
Recreation Programs delivered through Community Youth Workers	Ages 5-18	There are 19 Community Youth Workers based at VPB Community Centres across Vancouver. Each Community Youth Worker manages a portfolio of diverse youth and pre-teen programs, on behalf of Community Centre Associations, including but not limited to: youth open gym, sports programming, leadership and employment readiness programs, youth council, day and overnight camps, social programs, outreach, and more.
City-Wide Youth Council	Ages 12-18	Comprised of youth from each of the Vancouver Community Centres' Youth Councils, the City-Wide youth council discusses the support needs of youth and families in Vancouver and plans initiatives to support youth engagement in their city.
Daycamps	Grades K-12	Community Center Associations offer daycamp during out-of-school periods for children, pre-teens, and teens. Camps provide active, engagement, and leadership activities during school breaks such as winter, spring, and summer breaks, and on professional days. Additionally, they provide volunteer and work opportunities for youth.
Camp Sasamat	Ages 13-18	Overnight camping experience provided in collaboration between Park Board and Community Centre Associations where youth are able to experience outdoor activities like canoeing, kayaking, high ropes courses, swimming and other skill and team building activities at Camp Sasamat.
Leadership and Volunteering	Ages 12-18	Each community centre, through Community Centre Associations, offers opportunities for youth to develop their skills and confidence in leadership and community involvement, including often participating in planning and facilitating large community events. This is done through Youth Council, Committees at the Community Centre, and in ad hoc or program-based opportunities such as daycamps.
Skateboard Hosts	Ages 8-18	Park Board provides staffing at selected skateboard parks during summer months to support community engagement, and to offer learn to skate experiences for people new to skateboarding.
Swimming and Skating Lessons	Swimming Age 3-16+ Ice Skating Ages 3-18+	Park Board offers learn to swim, advanced aquatics and ice skating lessons across the network of swimming pools and ice rinks in Vancouver. Junior Lifeguard Club through National Lifeguard is offered as training for youth.

Introduction to Fitness	Ages 13+	Fitness staff through Community Centre Associations and Park Board guide participants through a 4-week program teaching exercises to cover all components of a complete fitness program.
Playground Programs	Ages 6-18	During summer months, Park Board provides recreation opportunities at 22 playgrounds across Vancouver where children and youth can engage in park programming and activities to build skills and peer relationships. Many parks have wading pools or spray features.