



Phase One Engagement Results & Emerging Strategic Themes

2017



Official Launch Event at
Robson Square

Contents

1. Context
2. Overview
3. Public Space Survey Feedback
4. Asset Mapping Results
5. Emerging Public Space Themes & Opportunities
6. Next Steps

Appendix

Context

Places for People

Vancouver's public spaces — plazas, squares, streets, laneways, pathways, parks and waterfront — are where public life happens. These places and spaces are where we interact with the city on a daily basis, as we work, play, create, explore and connect with each other.

Places for People proposes an approach to public space planning that starts with an understanding and appreciation of public life and the people who use public space on a daily basis.

Great public spaces are Places for People!

A strategy for public life and public space in Downtown Vancouver

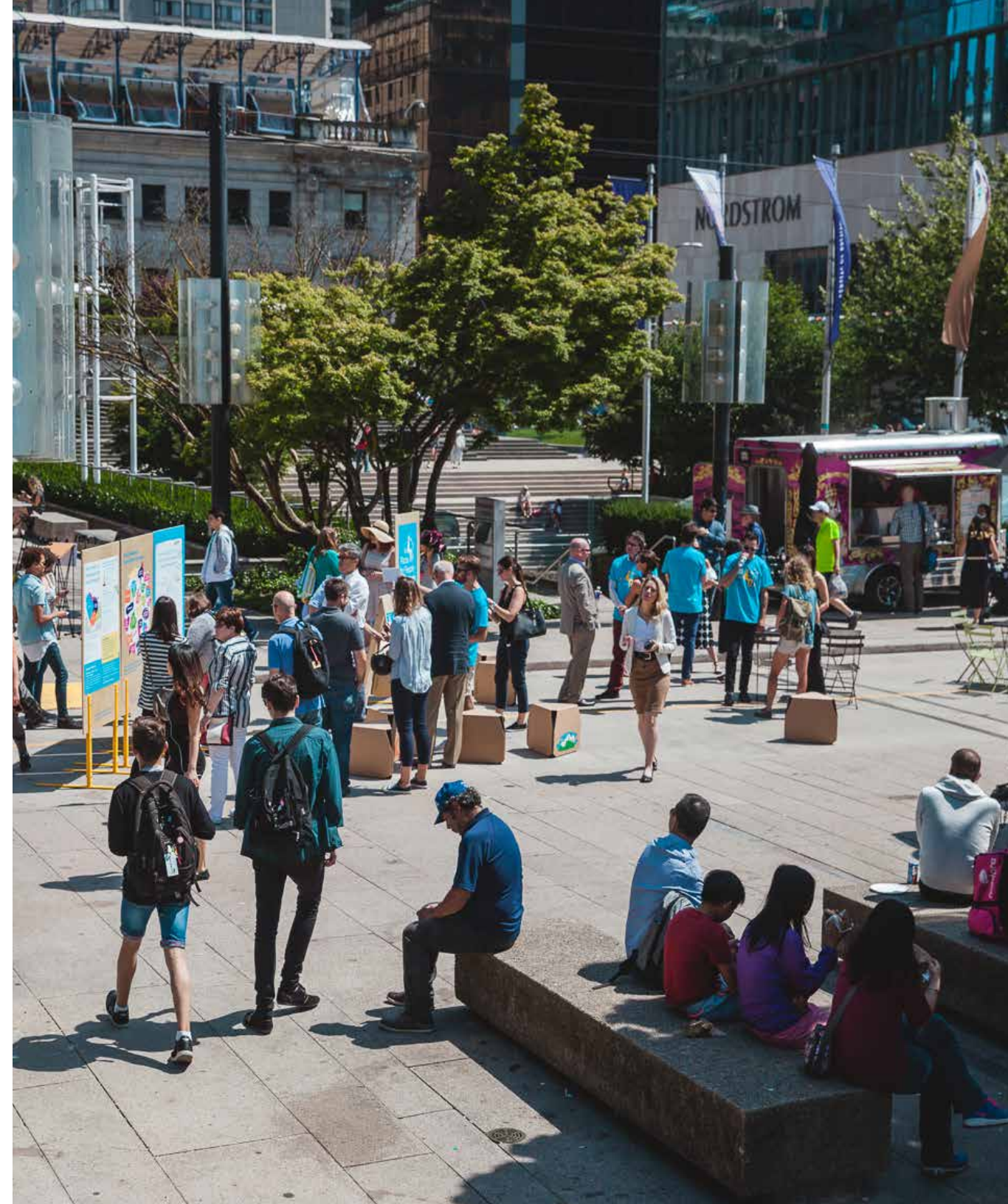
Downtown is the heart of the city, and home to some of the most popular public spaces in Vancouver. It's also an area that's growing with more residents, businesses and visitors each year. This means increased demand on the existing public space network in the future. Since space and opportunities are limited in the Downtown core, we need to be creative and strategic in how we deliver public space.

Through Places for People | Downtown we will create a comprehensive strategy to coordinate and deliver Downtown public space over the next 30 years.



Downtown Study Area

The strategy will cover the each neighbourhood area on the downtown peninsula, including: the West End, Yaletown, Coal Harbour, Central Business District, and Northeast False Creek (ongoing planning process: vancouver.ca/nefc)



Project Timeline

The 18-month planning process consists of four main phases:

- 1 **SUMMER 2017**
Launch: Vision, values & favourite places
- 2 **FALL 2017**
Public space/public life study & policy testing
- 3 **WINTER /SPRING 2018**
Strategic directions
- 4 **SUMMER/ FALL 2018**
Draft strategy & report to council



2

Overview

In June 2017 the City of Vancouver’s Department of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability launched Places for People: Downtown, a planning process to create a strategy that will shape the future of public space and public life in Downtown Vancouver over the next 30-years.

Throughout summer 2017 there was a great deal of interest and input from a variety of people at a series of public events and online forums, as part of the first phase of the planning process and public engagement. Over the span of six weeks, the Places for People team installed the engagement kiosk in public spaces and special events throughout the Central Business District, Yaletown, Coal Harbour and the West End, and partnered with local community and business groups, to learn what people thought about Downtown Vancouver’s public spaces.

We connected with over 4,500 people through this process. Additionally, an online survey and asset mapping exercise were launched that received 1,925 responses. Participants provided feedback on the issues that need to be addressed for a successful strategy, as well as the ideas, opportunities and values that will help guide its delivery.

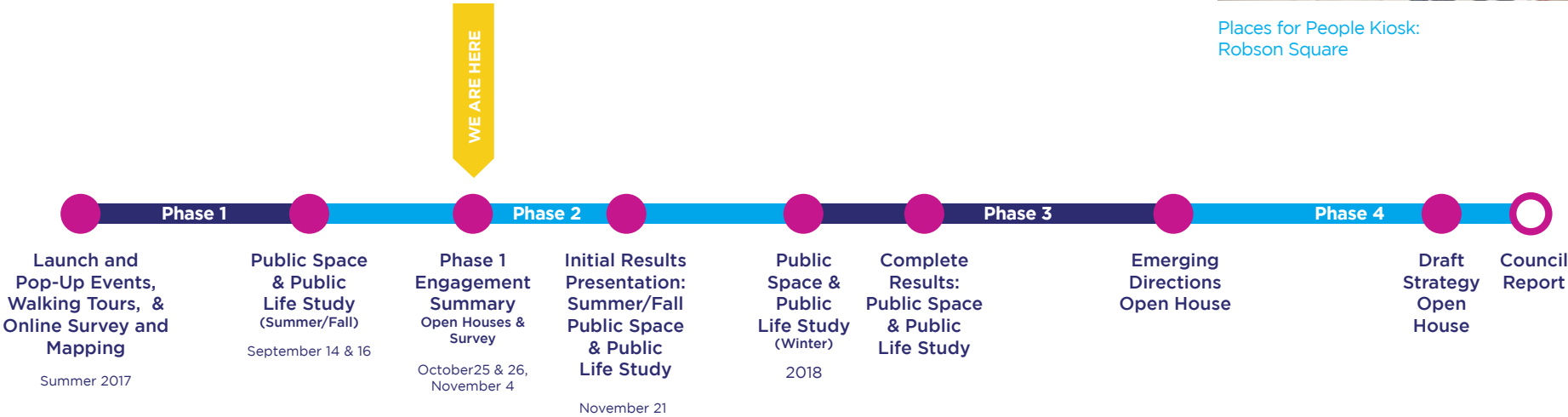
This document outlines what was heard through the process so far, and will help frame the focus of the planning work as the process transitions to the next phase of our public engagement, and look to deliver a compelling vision for the Downtown that fosters public life through an attractive public realm for all - where we work, play, create, explore and connect with each other.

Feedback from Public Engagement

The results from this Phase 1 Engagement Summary, combined with the findings from the Public Space and Public Life Study and technical planning work conducted by City of Vancouver staff will inform the strategic directions which will come forward as part of phase 3 in 2018. Together, these elements will inform the Downtown Public Space Strategy due in 2018.



Places for People Kiosk:
Robson Square



Places for People Launch
Event: Robson Square

Launch Events

On June 29, Places for People Downtown kicked off its summer engagement campaign in Robson Square, followed by launch events in Coal Harbour, Yaletown and the West End. Designed to be friendly, colourful and welcoming, the engagement kiosk was designed with the help of local illustrator Jeff Kulak, with seating provided by FSOARK.



Gathering ideas, opportunities and issues



Kaleido

Made from a single piece of recycled craft cardboard, FSOARK's Kaleido is portable, ready-to-assemble furniture that can be folded into shape as easily as a paper box. The structure is derived from investigating the elemental form of the equilateral triangle.

Kaleido can be used singularly or in numbers, creating patterns of seating and open surfaces for large gatherings. Featuring illustrations by Jeff Kulak, Kaleido was commissioned by the City of Vancouver's Places for People Downtown as multipurpose, temporary street furniture that is environmentally conscious, versatile and economical.

The word "kaleido" is a combination of the Greek words "kalos", meaning "beautiful", and "eidos", meaning "form."

Custom panels of the Kaleidos (below)



Customized Places for People Engagement Kiosk



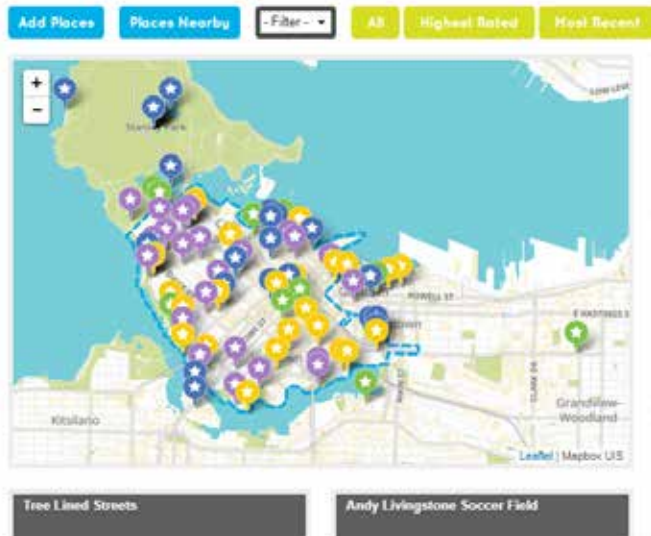
Online Survey

Between June 28 and August 7, an online survey for Places for People Downtown was launched through Talk Vancouver. The purpose of the survey was identify issues and opportunities to improve the Downtown public realm, while testing a set of values and gathering feedback and ideas that will help shape a vision for public space and public life in the Downtown.



Asset Mapping

Asset mapping was conducted with an online format in addition to the mapping exercise at the launch and pop-up events. The asset mapping was used to collect information on favourite and challenged spaces in the Downtown, specifically asking: “What are your favourite public spaces in Downtown Vancouver, and why?” and “If you could change or add a public space in Downtown Vancouver, where and what would it be?” A total of 225 people participated in the exercise.



Street Photography Competition - Archive Magazine

Places for People partnered with local photography magazine, Archive Vancouver, as part of a street photography competition that features photos of Downtown public spaces and public life - in the October 2017 issue.



Pop-Ups & Collaborations

Places for People Downtown connected with a variety of organizations and popular summer festivals to “pop-up” at various community events over the summer, including collaborations with the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, Tourism Vancouver, Vancouver Farmers Market, The Drum is Calling, Vancouver Pride Festival and VIVA Vancouver.



Social Storytelling

Supported by photographer Alison Boulter and illustrator Jeff Kulak, a Places for People social storytelling campaign was launched to showcase Downtown Vancouver's public spaces and celebrate the community of public space activators helping to animate these spaces.



Public Space Walking Tours

Through July and August, a series of public space walking tours were conducted throughout Downtown Vancouver's neighbourhoods. Led by the City of Vancouver's Planning staff, the events were designed to familiarize participants with Downtown Vancouver's existing public spaces, while engaging in a dialogue to receive their feedback, ideas and opportunities for improvements, and shared experiences of the Downtown, as well as self-guided tours.



Stakeholder Meetings

The Downtown Public Space Champions, a diverse group representing a variety of interests and community organizations throughout Downtown Vancouver and citywide will convene at key moments in the process to provide advice and a stakeholder's perspective on related issues and champion opportunities for public space in the Downtown.



Phase One Engagement Highlights

From June to August 2017 over 6,400 people were engaged at a series of events throughout the Downtown.



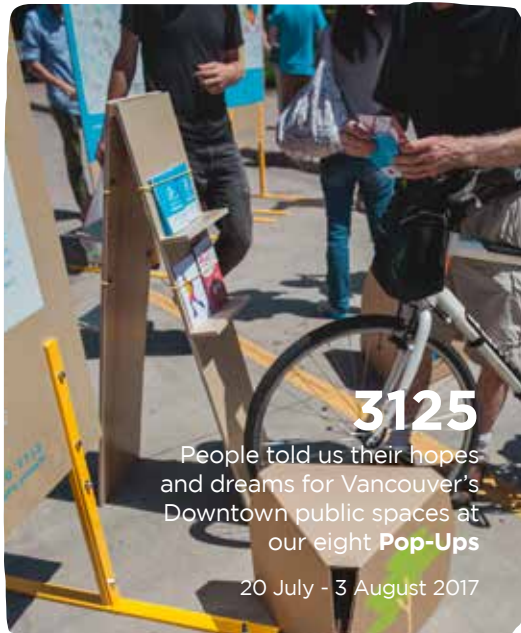
500
people attended the **official launch** in Robson Square
29 June 2017



850
people were informed about the process at one of our four project **Launch Events** and provided feedback and ideas on a variety of issues
6 - 13 July 2017



1700
people provided feedback through the online **Public Space Survey**.
June 28 to Aug 7



3125
People told us their hopes and dreams for Vancouver's Downtown public spaces at our eight **Pop-Ups**
20 July - 3 August 2017

40

representatives from a diversity of stakeholder organizations have been invited to participate in the **Public Space Champions stakeholder meetings**

First meeting - 5 July 2017



66

people participated in five **Walking Tours** that covered Coal Harbour, the West End, Robson & Alberni Streets, Yaletown and the Central Business District

20 - 22 July 2017



Social Storytelling

A Places for People social storytelling campaign was launched to showcase Downtown Vancouver's public spaces and celebrate the community of public space activators helping to animate these spaces



225

people participated in the online **Asset Mapping Exercise** identifying favourite and challenged spaces

June 28 to Aug 7



3 Public Space Survey Summary

At a high level, the public space survey illustrated a desire for more public spaces that support public gathering, social connections and conversations. Participants also highlighted a strong desire for public art, natural features, community markets, enhanced eating and drinking options, and increasing patios in the public realm.

Improving weather protection, to ensure comfort year round and ensuring accessibility to all spaces were also mentioned regularly throughout the survey. The “BIG (or little) ideas on public space in Downtown Vancouver,” highlighted several responses to make sections of Downtown car-free or pedestrian only streets - including Granville Street and Robson Street, which were the clear preferences.

The following section provides a summary of the responses from each of the questions from the survey that was conducted between June 28 and August 7.



Survey Highlights

Many big ideas for downtown involved sitting & gathering, and pedestrianized streets.



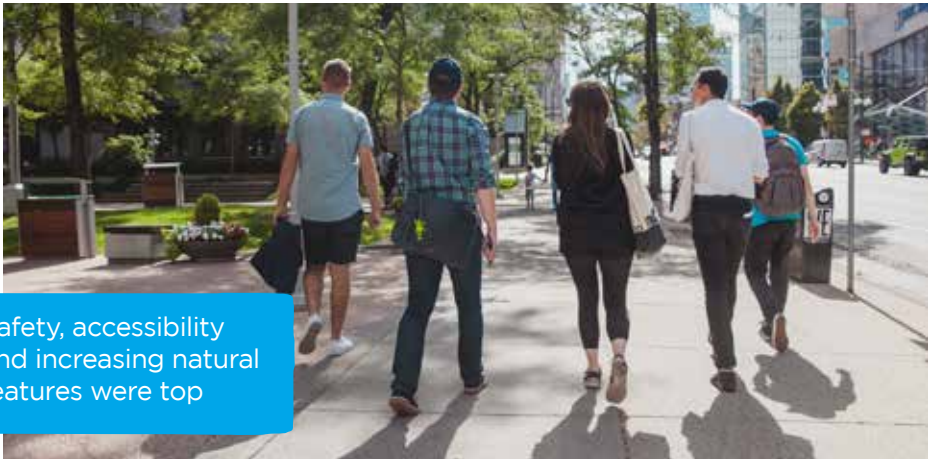


Weather protection should be prioritized at public space edges





Provide ways to connect to one another



Safety, accessibility and increasing natural features were top

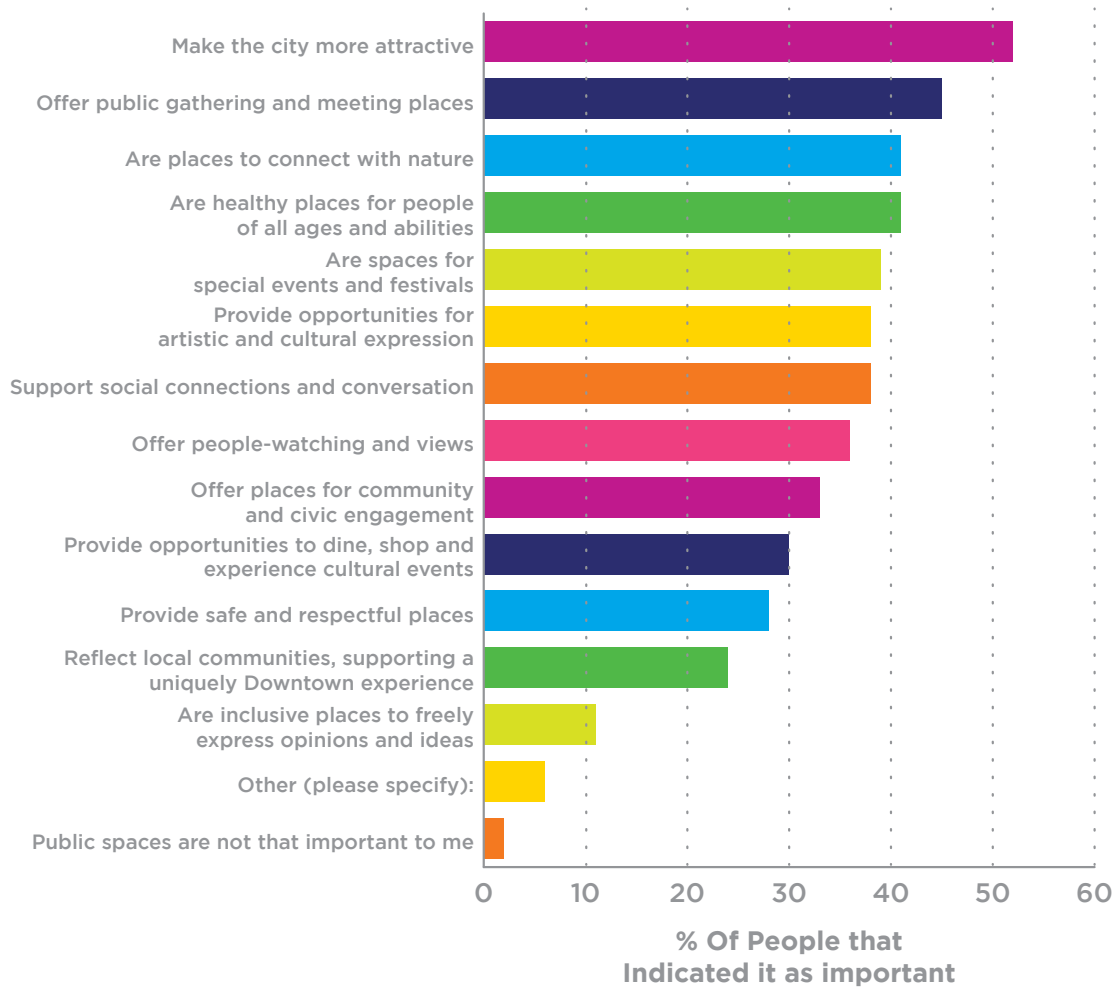


>50% Of people who responded to our survey want more public art, natural features, markets and eating / drinking options in our downtown public spaces.

Why is Public Space important to you?

Understanding why public space is important as it provides insight into the values people hold in regard to these spaces and how they experience the downtown. Feedback to this question highlighted:

- Making the city more attractive as most important, followed by places for gathering and meeting, and places to connect with nature
- Overall, there was a general balance in the responses to the public space values that were highlighted



Top Responses



To make the city more attractive or connect with nature.



Cultural and artistic events, dining & shopping.



Support safe, equitable spaces.



Community engagement & space to freely express oneself



Support public gathering, social connections & conversation

What would you like to see more of and do in public spaces generally?

Public spaces must respond to a wide range of needs and demands from vibrant activity, to passive recreation to quiet enjoyment. A mix of responses to this survey question demonstrates the diversity of uses required in Downtown public spaces and the importance of building flexibility into these spaces.

The majority of respondents identified a strong desire for public art, natural features, community markets, enhanced eating and drinking options, and spaces for festivals and special events.

Top Four Responses

1



Public Art

2



Natural Features

3

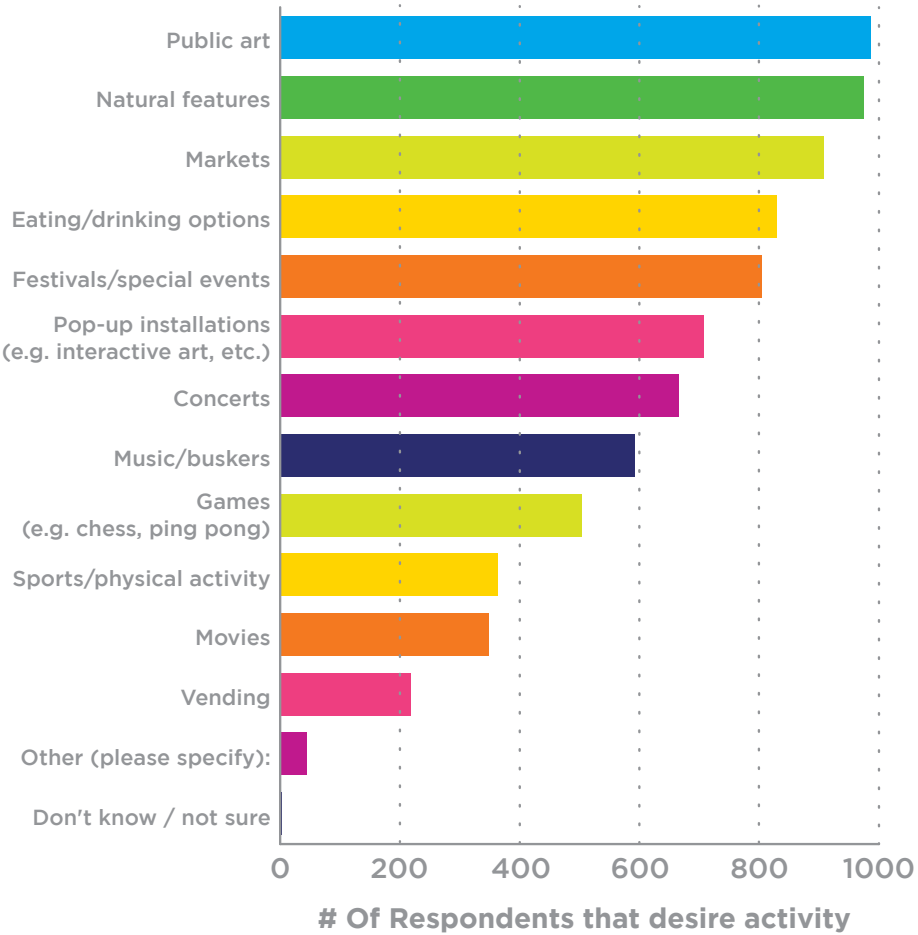


Markets

4



Eating/Drinking Options



In the Downtown, do you have a space to...

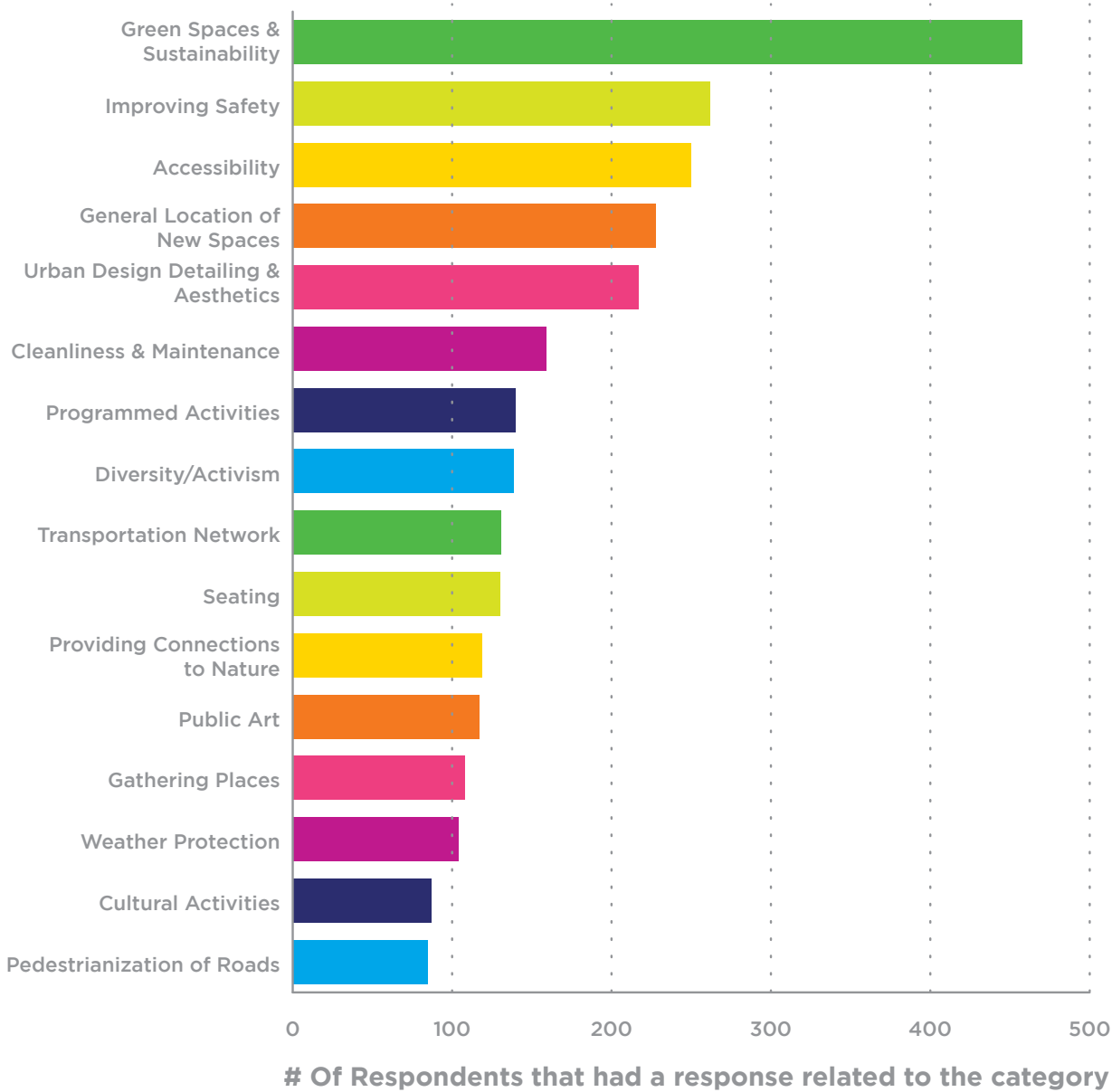


Responses and ideas to these questions and others will help us plan the right space and places for everyone to enjoy Downtown life to the fullest!

Notable ‘Other’ Responses

- Plazas**
- “I love the pop up park on Bute at Robson, built in a day, and full of people immediately. We clearly need more of this form.”
 - “Just space to be sitting down, like the benches on Bute and Robson near Breka. I love that!”
- Places for Fun**
- “Places for people to sit and interact, e.g. the urban beach that they did one year - chairs and tables are boring.”
 - “Playful elements for children.”
- Places for Quiet**
- “Relaxation. A backyard feeling of being able to use it for your own quiet enjoyment.”
 - “Quiet events - there is already too much noise it the West End/downtown area.”

What are top three priorities to consider when planning Downtown Vancouver’s public spaces over the next 30 years?



What we heard:

Visually compelling! Use a variety of colours and textures and materials to not just be useful, but be interesting as well.

Make sure they are environmentally conscious. Adding more greenery everywhere is great. Creating regulations for new buildings to keep it green not only keep it quick!

Arts and culture. The cost of living here has put unsustainable pressure on the arts community and public spaces should be structured to facilitate arts and cultural life.



Ensuring that public spaces are safe and pedestrian-friendly - ensuring that no cyclists or skate-boarders or drivers of other sorts of vehicles are kept out of such public places, so that people feel safe and welcome and able to circulate freely there, socializing with other Vancouverites or tourists.

Create more all-weather spaces and kid-oriented outdoor spaces especially where residential spaces are small and dense (West End, Gastown, Yaletown).

Accessibility. A lot of public spaces (like the beaches or parks in the west) are pretty hard to get to. Impossible in car (no parking) and little to no transit that runs out there.

... Public spaces should be accessible to all people, regardless of their physical ability. Likewise, spaces should be open to people of all class, race, cultural, and economic backgrounds.

More a community space, plazas or squares that are widely accessible and multi-purpose, only for people. Latin America and Europe have figured out the value of car-free spaces that foster community, why can't we?

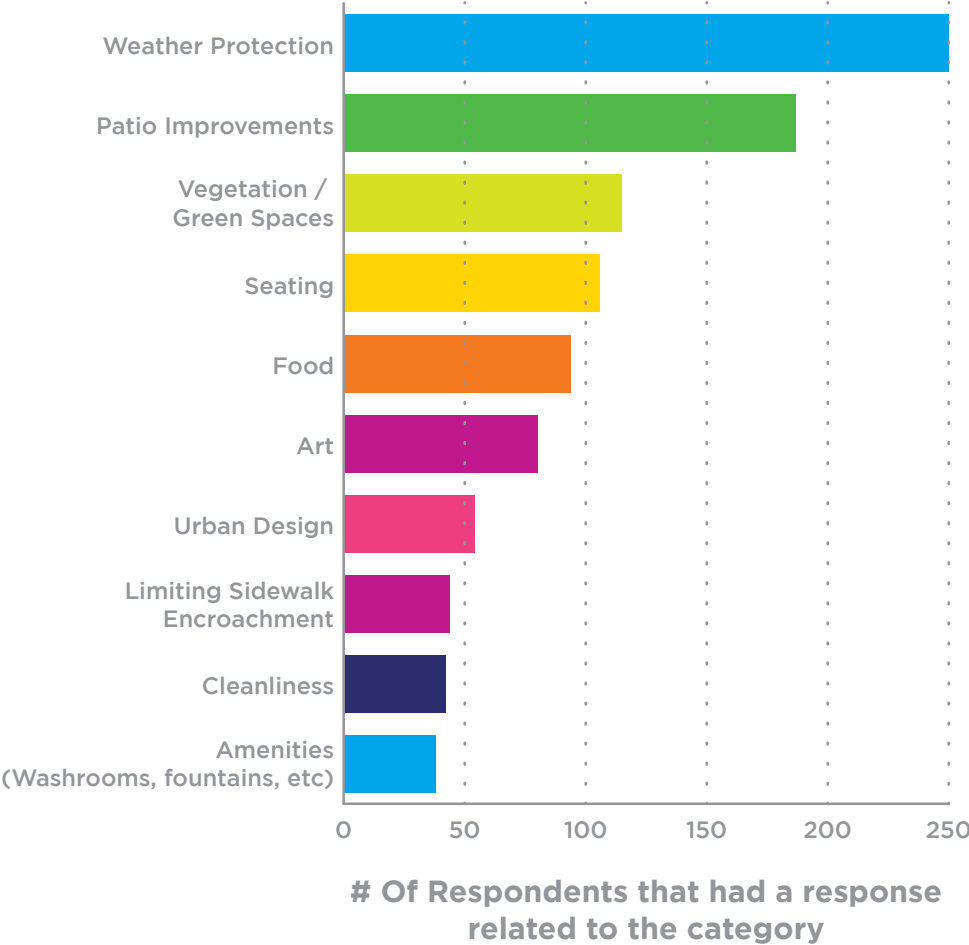
Make it easier for smaller food and drink vendors to thrive in these spaces: some of the lowest hanging fruit is reducing alcohol regulation, have shared patio space for multiple vendors, shared stages for music

More 'dead blocks' should become plaza space (like Jim Deva Plaza and the new temporary space at Robson and Bute). I'm sure we have dozens of these odd roads that are more useful as plazas.



What are your ideas for how adjacent buildings, businesses, or other ‘edge features’ could enhance your experience in Downtown public spaces?

- A large number of responses dealt with comfortable long stays for eating, sitting, and interactive art
- 27% of respondents wanted more weather protection
- 20% wanted more patios
- 13% wanted more nature or more shade at public space edges



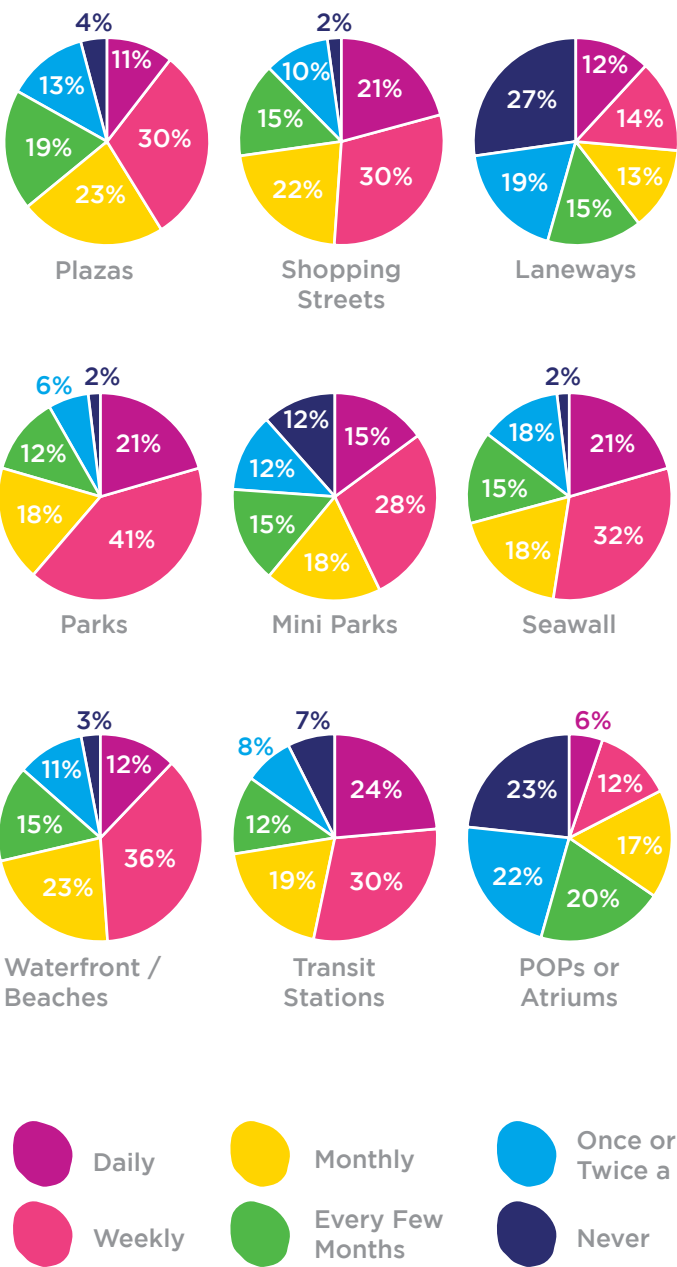
How often did you visit these Downtown Vancouver public spaces over the last year?

“ Sidewalks where live music is played, along Granville St. (between West Georgia and Nelson Street).

“ [...] I spend time in the plaza at the Woodward's complex daily or almost-daily, and work nearby Victory Square; that park seems to me a poster child for a public space which reflects its local community.

“ The problem with Vancouver is it doesn't have enough good public spaces besides the waterfront. I struggle to come up with good examples.

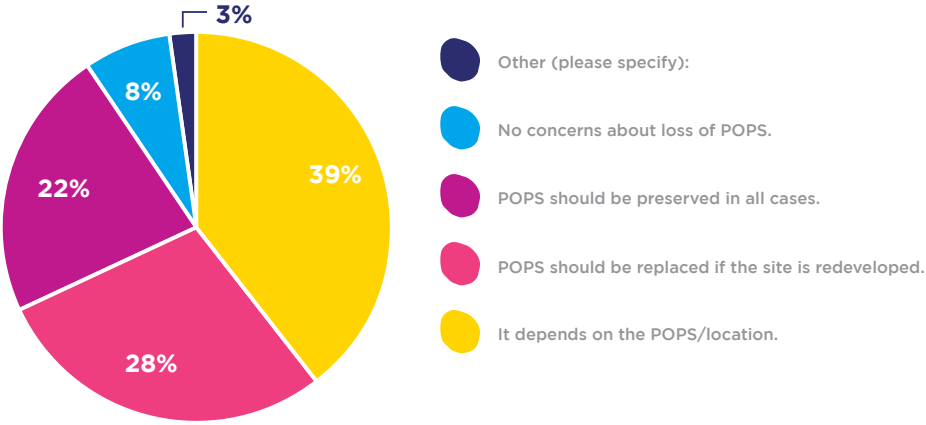
“ VPL indoor atrium. HSBC Georgia indoor atrium (which I was delighted to discover is a public space). Pacific Centre glass dome where Take 5 Cafe is, beside 4 Seasons Hotel. Art gallery grounds.



What are your thoughts about POPS retention?

Privately-owned public spaces (POPS) are publicly-accessible open spaces primarily found in front of office buildings and retail in the Downtown’s central business district. In some cases POPS are being lost because they are used to accommodate new development, such as retail or office buildings.

Fifty percent (50%) of respondents recommended that POPS should be preserved or replaced in some form, and 39% of respondents claimed that retention of these spaces ought to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.



General POPS Comments

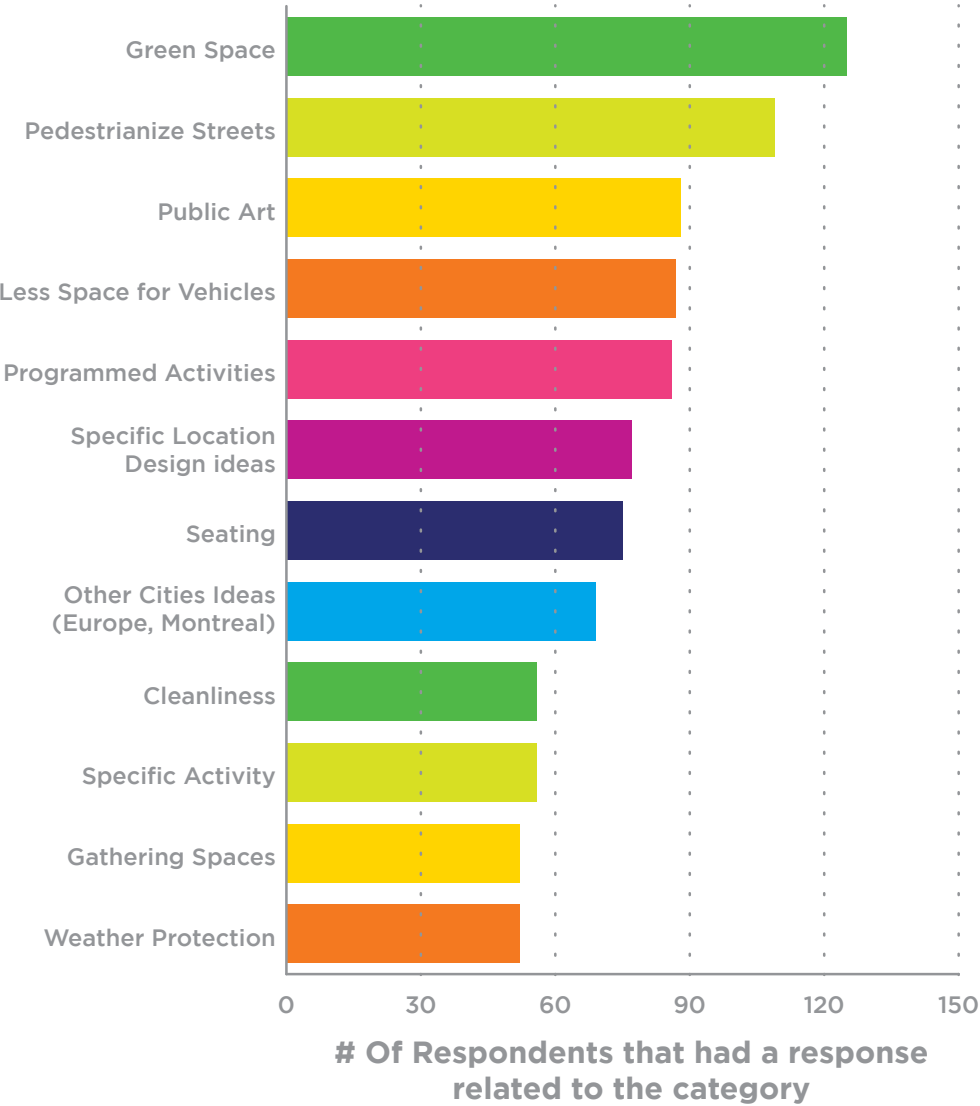
- I work downtown, but never think to go downtown on weekends. Downtown spaces are bustling on week days, but seems pretty dead on weekends. This seems especially true for all the POPS, like all the plazas around the Bentall Centre. Maybe there are alternative uses for weekends in these spaces that could attract people downtown.
- Cafes, restaurants and bars with patios on the edges of POPS would increase the use of these spaces. Patios encourage people to enjoy these outdoor spaces more frequently. Awnings to protect against rain (or sun) would help as well.
- POPS, once created, should never be built on. The developer obtains concessions for creating these spaces
- Create more POPS - public spaces aren't the only solution.
- There are some gorgeous waterfalls and fountains; they really add to the ambiance of POPS and parks. Great to sit and chat and eat lunch...
- Many POPS around downtown were designed and built around 70s and 80s, they don't feel welcoming and inviting, often hidden from public view.



POPS: Plaza in Bentall Place on Burrard Street

What's your BIG (or little) idea for public space in Downtown Vancouver?

The responses to the BIG (or little) ideas on public space in Downtown Vancouver highlighted a desire for more green spaces as a clear preference, as well as ideas for making sections of Downtown car-free or car-light – with Granville Street and Robson Street as the clear favourites.



More opportunities to sit, gather, or actively use spaces Downtown

“I was in Bend Oregon at a brewery. They had a beer garden the size of a soccer field. There they had beanbag toss games, frisbee space, along with adirondack chairs and tables for sitting and lounging. All about were adults with their kids hanging out and laughing with their adult friends without kids. Dogs running about would have been lovely. Why can we not create an ANYTHING GOES SPACE?”

“Playgrounds for all - (aka Action Parks) different types of spaces designed for physical play, including parkour courses, pump tracks, multi-sport courts and climbing playgrounds.”

“A plaza each on Denman, Robson and Granville streets.”

“Create a framework of co-designing the public spaces with the community. Maybe several parklets that foster people’s creativity to “take ownership” of the space and use it in a different way.”

Making sections of Downtown car-free: Granville & Robson Streets were favourites

“Make Granville Street a Pedestrian-only street, just like what has been done in many other great cities. This would provide a safe space (from vehicles and bicycles), great for people watching, great for shopping, great for special events.”

Big Ideas involved adding green spaces to the city

“Fruit trees and vines would be great. Also, the artist in residence programs at rec center are great. Let’s extend that concept to outdoor spaces.”

“Green, diverse, live music, people watching. Reminiscent of European piazzas.”

What's your BIG (or little) idea for public space in Downtown Vancouver?

Write your idea. Take a picture with it Post it! #placesforpeoplevan

4 Asset Mapping Responses

To help understand how particular public spaces function, respondents were asked to identify their favourite spaces, spaces they thought were challenged, and spaces they would like to add. Several patterns emerged with clusters around specific locations, including favourite spaces at the beaches and along the seawall, and challenged spaces in the downtown core, along sections of Granville Street and Robson Street.



Asset Mapping Feedback Summary

- Legend**
- Parks
 - Streets
 - Favourite Place
 - Change a Place
 - Add a Place
 - Concentration of Responses

Favourites,
Changes &
Additions

Summary Highlights of the
Asset Mapping Exercise

This section provides a summary
of the feedback on several
prominent public space clusters.



A English Bay Beach

Changes & Additions

- Playgrounds / waterpark
- Allow approval of drinking alcohol on beach
- Add more public BBQs
- More restaurants with patio space

Favourites

- Urban connection to the water

B Alexandra Park

Changes & Additions

- Playgrounds / waterpark
- New grass
- Incorporate picnic tables
- Great use of the band stand (performances)

Favourites

- Great place for picnics and listening to concerts from the bandstand



C May & Lorne Brown
Park / Seawall

Changes & Additions

- Noise from nearby businesses is unpleasant
- Need to fix awkward waterfront pedestrian and bike connection
- Need new open space here
- Add stairs to both ends of Burrard and Granville Bridges
- Expand, widen, and develop the park areas adjacent to the seawall
- Have festivals and parades along seawall to support fireworks, boat races, and Canada Day celebrations



D Morton Park &
Denman Street

Changes & Additions

- Make Beach Ave pedestrian only
- Improve pedestrian crossings
- Great place for a plaza
- Wider sidewalks
- Add more light features
- Have parklets along Denman St.

E Nelson Park & Bute
Street

Changes & Additions

- Make Bute St. pedestrian only
- More exciting features
- Add a water feature
- More pedestrian shortcuts through blocks

Favourites

- Love the shortcuts through the blocks nearby

F Sunset Beach

Changes & Additions

- Have a kids waterpark
- Expand dog park to include the west of the ferry dock
- Playground / outdoor gym
- Parking lot could be space for shops, restaurants & play spaces
- More active patio spaces for coffee/beer/food
- Have an ice area
- Add a dog beach
- Have tennis courts

Favourites

- The sunset
- Place for volleyball, frisbee, & BBQs

G Robson and Bute
Trial Plaza

Changes & Additions

- Robson St. to be car free
- Making Bute St. pedestrian only from Robson St. to Davie St.

Favourites

- “Make it permanent”
- Pleasant cut through
- Nice place to spend time in
- Excellent improvement to the space
- Robson St. great for Vancouver shopping



H Jim Deva Plaza

Changes & Additions

- Allow drinking in public spaces
- Should be quiet days in public space
- More dog friendly features
- Ideal space for future parklets

Favourites

- “Terrific addition to the West End”
- Colours are perfect
- Rainbow crosswalks



I Barclay Heritage
Square Park

Changes & Additions

- Make laneway into park space
- Murals painted on roadways and fences
- Have container community gardens, outdoor ping pong, and hopscotch
- Activate park space behind weeks house
- Have an outdoor exercise space, introduce a seesaw

Favourites

- Enjoy the Barclay Heritage Square, the West End Seniors Network and the Roedde House Museum

J Robson Square

Changes & Additions

- Better landscaping needed at Robson Square
- Public space outside the Pacific Centre has been lost to development
- Robson Square not well connected between the street level and the lower rink

Favourites

- “The bike lane is awesome!”
- Great green elevated walkway acts as a getaway from the bustle of downtown street traffic



K Denman St. Corridor

Changes & Additions

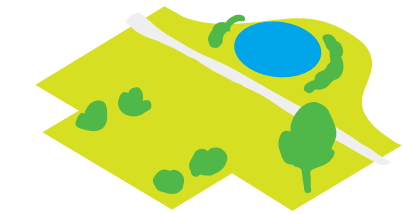
- A new plaza should be built here
- Create a gathering space for buskers, snack stands, weekend craft markets and flower shops
- Have lights strung overhead of the street with unique colours
- Better intersections for pedestrians
- Cleanliness
- West End community centre is run down
- More colourful spaces
- Traffic calming and signage to slow down - traffic is loud and fast



L Waterfront Station & Water Street

Changes & Additions

- Water St. to Carrall St. could be pedestrian only
- Incorporate European style standing espresso bars, delis, breakfast places, and farmer’s market stalls.
- Have outdoor screens to provide SeaBus and West Coast Express departure times.
- Have a bike path, outdoor patios, small kiosks, and places for music



N George Wainborn Park

Changes & Additions

- Have a large floating platform to create a foot/bike bridge in order to allow access from Downtown to Granville Island

Favourites

- “Love the water feature”
- A place with free events to enjoy art, music, and dance
- Good park space

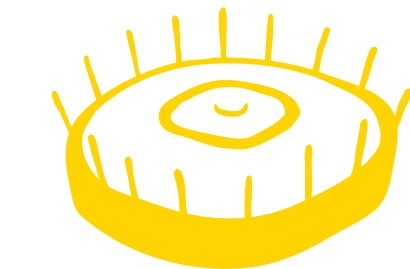
M Plaza of Nations

Changes & Additions

- Needs more greenspace
- Day to day users need more amenities
- Add more trees and temporary seating

Favourites

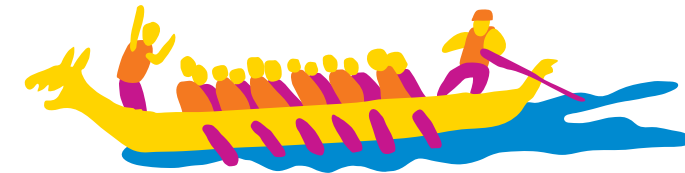
- Great for celebrations and events
- Enjoy the cruise ships and people watching
- Enjoy the views, benches and ocean breeze



O Coopers Park & Cambie Bridge

Changes & Additions

- Have skate park and basketball court underneath Cambie Bridge
- Vacant space used as playground
- Build a new outdoor and free climbing place
- Have a park with lots of shade and grass for picnics along seawall



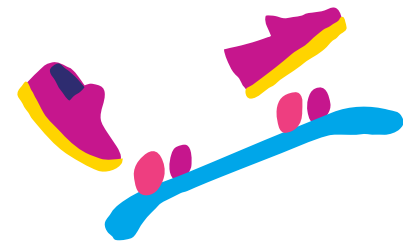
P Andy Livingstone Park & Viaducts

Changes & Additions

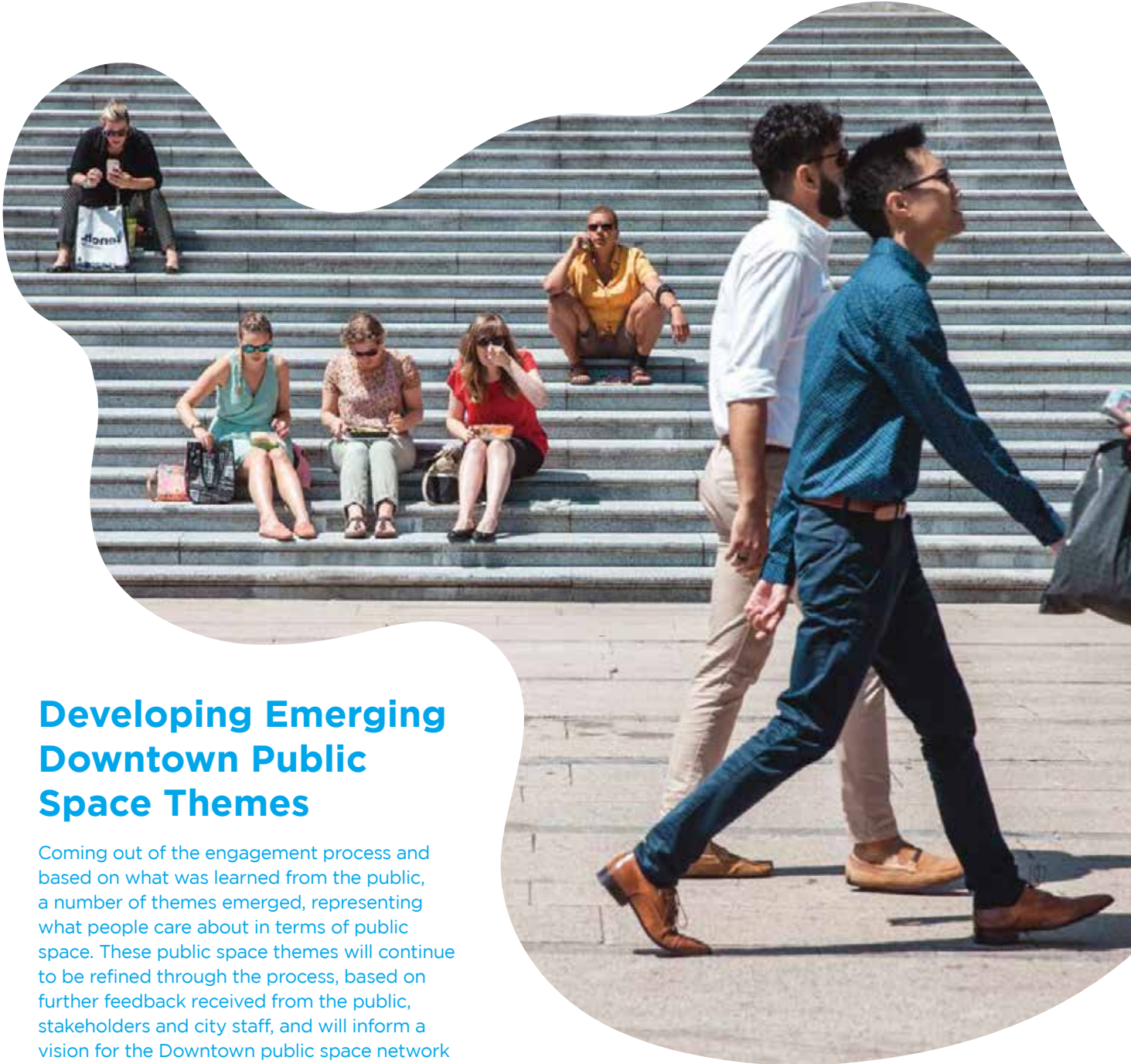
- Park needs programming
- Have a night market, street market, farmers markets and food trucks
- Could have movie nights, community festivals, and symphony in the park
- Paint the roadway
- Have stake board events

Favourites

- Great views every morning



Emerging Public Space Values & Strategic Themes



Developing Emerging Downtown Public Space Themes

Coming out of the engagement process and based on what was learned from the public, a number of themes emerged, representing what people care about in terms of public space. These public space themes will continue to be refined through the process, based on further feedback received from the public, stakeholders and city staff, and will inform a vision for the Downtown public space network and the creation of the final strategy

Emerging Downtown Public Space Themes

Inclusive of All People

Diversity is central to our civic identity, and Downtown attracts people from around the world, contributing to the rich urban experience that defines our city. *Public spaces should be inclusive of all people. They should be safe, clean, welcoming, and accessible to all ages and abilities, and all income and ethnic groups.*

Freedom of Expression

The free expression of ideas and the ability to exercise free speech and peaceful assembly, serve as the foundation for a broad range of civil liberties and democracy. *Public spaces should be places to freely express opinions and ideas.*

Places to Connect

Public spaces are where we interact with the city on a daily basis, as we work, play, create, explore and connect with each other. *Public spaces should support social connections, as well as community and civic engagement, with people-centered planning that encourages gathering and meeting.*

Active & Attractive

The Downtown is alive with people who are moving and gathering throughout the public realm, engaged in a variety of social and recreational activities - from quieter places that provide respite, to more active and bustling areas. *Public spaces should foster exceptional and memorable experiences of the Downtown with a mix of attractive spaces that balance a range of activities and uses; and support a diverse public life.*

Walkable Spaces

The Downtown is a place where people have easy access by foot to the places they work, play, shop and live. *Public spaces should encourage enjoyable walking experiences and be well connected, where people can walk safely, easily and comfortably on all streets and in all public spaces.*

Connection to Nature

The magnificent natural setting of the city defines the Downtown. *The public space network should integrate green and natural spaces with a strong connection to this natural environment, and incorporate climate resilient systems into the public realm.*

Distinct Placemaking

Downtown Vancouver is comprised of distinct neighbourhood and character areas, and multicultural communities that contribute to the rich downtown experience. *Public spaces should strengthen the unique qualities of the Downtown as a special place - in the city and the world, by reflecting local communities and civic identity.*

Cultural Expression

Arts and cultural activities express the creativity and vitality of our city and its diverse communities. *Public spaces should provide opportunities for artistic and cultural expression.*

Community Partnerships

Residents, community groups and businesses all work to improve the use and enjoyment of Downtown public spaces, and these *partnerships should continue to be encouraged and supported.*

First Nations Culture, History & Reconciliation

Downtown Vancouver is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. For thousands of years these lands have been their home. *The public space network should recognize and reflect the history of the land on which the downtown was built, by celebrating the history and culture of the First Nations.*

Emerging Opportunities

These emerging opportunities reflect the feedback from the public during the first phase of engagement - including the online survey, asset mapping, walking tours and other engagement events. The highlighted opportunities that have emerged so far include:

A Downtown for People

Develop a compelling vision for the downtown that fosters public life through an attractive, lively, safe, resilient and healthy public realm that encourages social interaction, brings community together, and contributes to a friendly and inviting city for all people, regardless of age, background or ability.

Expanded and Connected Public Space Network

Create a continuous and connected network of public spaces throughout the downtown, building on the success of the existing public realm and pathways, where pedestrians move safely, easily and comfortably on all streets and where walking, supplemented by transit and cycling, is the primary means of moving around.

Hierarchy of Streets that Foster Public Life

Develop criteria for a hierarchy of great streets that differentiates each street's role as a part of the broader public realm, reflecting function, urban design features and neighbourhood character. This would highlight ceremonial and high streets, and neighbourhood streets, and encourage the creation of a seamless relationship between streets and other elements of the public realm that expands the use of these spaces for pedestrians and gathering places.



Spaces for All Seasons

Create comfortable outdoor public spaces where people gather year-round through the promotion of weather protection, maximizing sun exposure, and encouraging design and lighting features that embrace all seasons and the city's climate.

Access to Nature and Integrating Climate Resiliency

Ensure strong connections to the downtown's natural setting, protecting and expanding green and natural spaces, while encouraging public space design and landscaping that is integrated with the natural systems and incorporates climate resilient features.

Lively Laneways

Expand and build on the use of laneways as a distinct and vital function of the downtown public space network for a variety of activities, including events and commercial activity, to foster new urban experiences, encourage unique gathering spaces and improve pedestrian connections, while protecting their unique character.

Sit-able Spaces & Gathering Places

Foster social connection and gathering through site-specific placemaking, including seating, landscaping, active uses at grade, way-finding, public art and programming. Encourage a diversity of seating options – movable, fixed and informal – at regular intervals throughout the downtown along streets and in public spaces that promotes gathering and provides places to rest.

Shore-to-Core Connections

Improve connectivity between the waterfront and the downtown core with new and improved connections from the seawall and into the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Pedestrianized Streets

Identify locations for pedestrian priority streets, particularly in areas that currently support a high level of pedestrian activity, to provide safe and enjoyable walking experiences that blend the street with neighbourhood public spaces and improve the connectivity of the broader public space network.

Unexpected Places and Rethinking Infrastructure

Look for opportunities for new public spaces in unexpected places, such as laneways and parkade rooftops, and explore placemaking through the rethinking of existing infrastructure, including the use of bridges as weather protection. Encourage pilot projects to test and demonstrate the viability and benefits of these potential space and other ideas to enhance the public realm and promote public life.

Privately-Owned Public Spaces (POPS)

Existing Privately-Owned Public Spaces (POPS) should be retained and made to be more inviting, while new spaces should be encouraged, and should be located and designed to be accessible and visible while serving the local population as part of a larger public space network.

Reflect and Respect First Nations Culture, History & Reconciliation

Recognize and reflect the history of the land, on which the downtown was built, by celebrating the history and culture of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and following the City of Vancouver Reconciliation Framework.

Support a Diversity of Uses & Flexibility

The downtown public space network must respond to a wide range of demands from physical activity, passive recreation to quiet enjoyment. In addition to supporting the needs of active and passive users, public spaces also need to accommodate spaces for community events and civic and cultural expression. Planning and designing flexible use of public spaces improves the overall quality of life today and allows for unforeseen future opportunities and uses.

Continue to Build and Foster New Partnerships

Truly successful public spaces require collaboration with members of the public, community and business groups, businesses and property owners. These partnerships will expand the public space network, encourage the stewardship of local public spaces, and assist the City to respond to local programming needs.



Stay Involved

Help us create exceptional, vibrant, and memorable public spaces, places, and experiences in the Downtown. We want to hear about your favourite public spaces, what you like or dislike about current spaces, your ideas for the future and more! Visit us online to learn about ways to get involved and provide feedback, including the upcoming Winter Public Space and Public Life Study in early 2018:

vancouver.ca/placesforpeople

[Vancouver.ca/placesforpeople](http://vancouver.ca/placesforpeople)

[#placesforpeoplevan](https://twitter.com/placesforpeoplevan)



Appendix
Survey Questions

What’s your vision for public space in Downtown Vancouver?

Take our survey and share your thoughts on Downtown public spaces! Your feedback will help us shape the vision, values and emerging strategic directions for the Downtown Public Space Strategy.

Questions or concerns? Contact placesforpeople@vancouver.ca. The results of this survey will be made available on vancouver.ca/placesforpeople. All responses will be kept anonymous.

1.) Why is public space important to you? (check your top five).

- Are inclusive places to freely express opinions and ideas
 - Offer places for community and civic engagement
 - Offer public gathering and meeting places
 - Are healthy places for people of all ages and abilities
 - Support social connections and conversation
 - Provide opportunities for artistic and cultural expression
 - Provide safe and respectful places
 - Make the city more attractive
 - Are spaces for special events and festivals
 - Offer people-watching and views
 - Are places to connect with nature
 - Provide opportunities to dine, shop and experience cultural events
 - Reflect local communities, supporting a uniquely Downtown experience
 - Other (please specify):
- Public spaces are not that important to me [EXCLUSIVE CHOICE]

2.) How often did you visit these Downtown public spaces in Vancouver over the last year?

	daily	weekly	monthly	every few months	once or twice a year	never
Plazas						
Shopping Streets						
Laneways with special programming						
Parks						
Mini Parks						
Seawall						
Waterfront/Beaches						
Transit stations						
Privately-owned plazas or atriums						

2a) Are there any other Downtown public spaces in Vancouver you visited over the last year?

3.) What would you like to see and do more of in public space generally? (check all that apply)

- Markets
- Concerts
- Music/buskers
- Movies
- Vending
- Games (e.g. chess, ping pong)
- Festivals/special events
- Public art
- Eating/drinking options
- Natural features
- Pop-up installations (e.g. Robson Redux, interactive art, etc.)
- Sports/physical activity
- Other (please specify):
- Don’t know/ not sure [EXCLUSIVE CHOICE]

4.) What do you think should be the top three priorities to consider when planning Downtown Vancouver’s public spaces over the next 30 years?

1.

2.

3.

4.) Are there any challenges or barriers that prevent your enjoyment of Downtown public spaces? (check all that apply)

- None, I use Downtown public spaces often. [EXCLUSIVE CHOICE] Availability: the types of public spaces I like to spend time in are not available
- Downtown, or there aren’t enough of these spaces. (Please specify):
- Physical accessibility: the public spaces that I’d like to visit are not accessible to me. (Please specify):
- General accessibility: the public spaces that I’d like to visit are hard for me to get to because of poor transportation network connectivity. (Please specify):
- Safety: I don’t feel safe in Downtown public spaces. (please specify):
- Feeling welcome: I don’t feel welcome in public spaces or at events in these spaces (please specify):
- Information: there is a lack of information and awareness about these public spaces.
- Other (please specify):

5.) Privately-owned public spaces (POPS) are publicly-accessible open spaces primarily found in front of office buildings and retail in the Downtown’s central business district. In some cases POPS are being lost because they are used to accommodate new development, such as retail or office buildings. What are your thoughts about POPS retention? (check all that apply)

- POPS should be preserved in all cases.
- POPS should be replaced if the site is redeveloped.
- It depends on the POPS/location.
- No concerns about loss of POPS.
- Other (please specify): (set character limit...200?)

6.) Features on the edges of public spaces (e.g. weather protection, store displays, patios, etc.) contribute to the enjoyment of these spaces and support a vibrant public life. What are your ideas for how adjacent buildings, businesses, or other ‘edge features’ could enhance your experience in Downtown public spaces? (please note specific changes and the types of spaces/locations, if possible)

7.) What do you think should be the top three priorities to consider when planning Downtown Vancouver’s public spaces over the next 30 years?

1.

2.

3.

1.

2.

3.

8.) What’s your BIG (idea) idea for public space in Downtown Vancouver?

