



Places for People Downtown

2018

Phase Two

Engagement Results &
Emerging Strategic Themes



CITY OF
VANCOUVER

Planning,
Urban Design &
Sustainability



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✍️ Illustrations by Jeff Kulak



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1 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

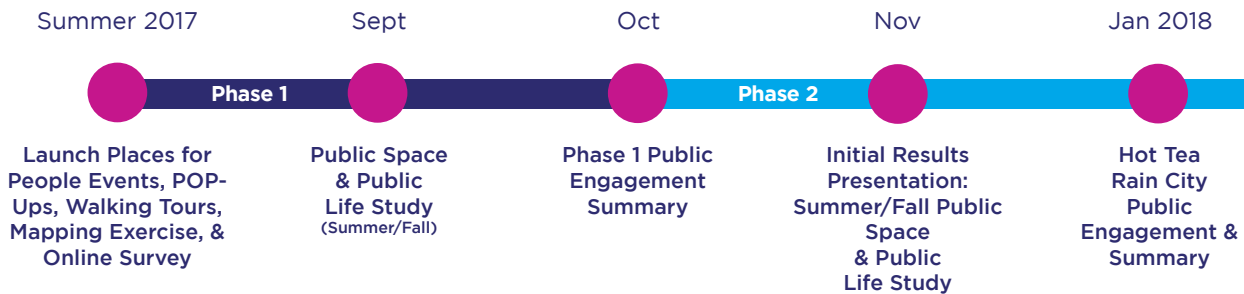
Downtown is the heart of the city, and home to some of the most popular public spaces in Vancouver. It’s also an area that’s growing with more residents, businesses and visitors each year. This means increased demand on the existing public space network in the future. Since space and opportunities are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





Previous Engagement

In the summer of 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 to shape the future of public space and public life in Downtown Vancouver over the next 30 years.

Since the launch, Places for People have held a variety of public space pop-up events to capture feedback on how to inform the planning of public space and public life in Downtown Vancouver.

The first phase of engagement heard from over 4,500 people and took place from June to August 2017. The Places for People team installed engagement kiosks in public plazas and at special events throughout the Central Business District, Yaletown, Coal Harbour and the West End, and partnered with local community and business groups to better understand how people felt about Downtown Vancouver's public spaces. In addition to this, Places for People hosted walking tours, an online asset mapping exercise, and an online survey which received 1,925 responses.

In the winter of 2018, Places for People held a series of engagement events including Meet The Public Space Makers, a public space speaker series at the Lumiere Festival which drew over 100 people, and Hot Tea, Rain City, a roving engagement cart that served hot tea to pedestrians in exchange for their thoughts on how to improve public life during Vancouver's rainy winter months. Hot Tea, Rain City popped up four times throughout Downtown Vancouver and connected with approximately 1,200 people.



2 Overview

What is this document about?

Places for People launched its second phase of public engagement in the summer of 2018. The public engagement involved testing the Downtown Public Space and Public Life Strategy’s vision and public space goals. The Strategy’s vision and goals were developed from last year’s public engagement and stakeholder workshops, as well as observations from the Public Space and Public Life Study.

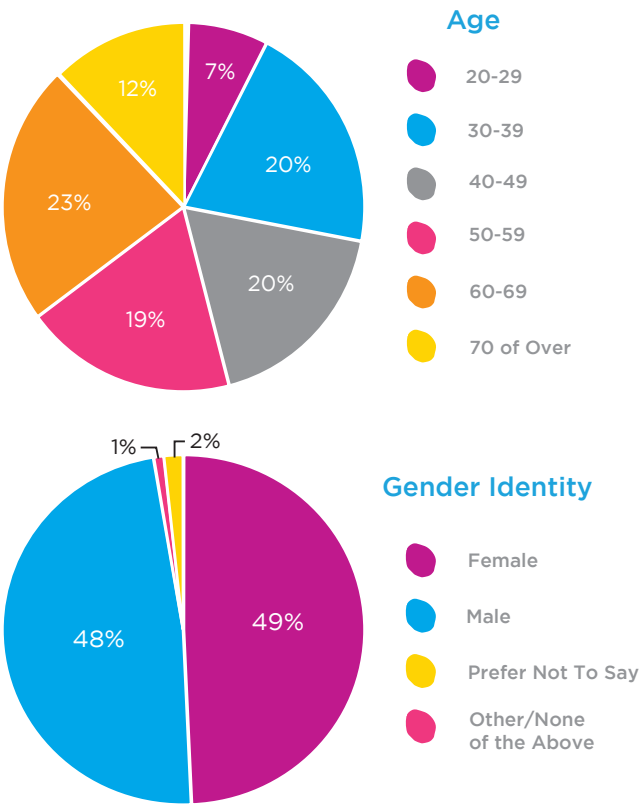
The public engagement included pop-up events in public spaces throughout the Downtown, including Jim Deva Plaza, Robson Square, Bill Curtis Square and the Central Vancouver Public Library Plaza

Each public space goal is supported by ideas on how that goal could be achieved. Members of the public were encouraged to provide input on these goals and the overall vision for the Strategy. Participants provided feedback through a survey, that was also available online.

The Places for People team connected with approximately 1,500 people using social media, Talk Vancouver, and the City’s Listserve. This report summarizes what we heard from the engagement process.



Who We Heard From:



925
people gave their
opinion on the survey.



3 Phase 2 Feedback Summary

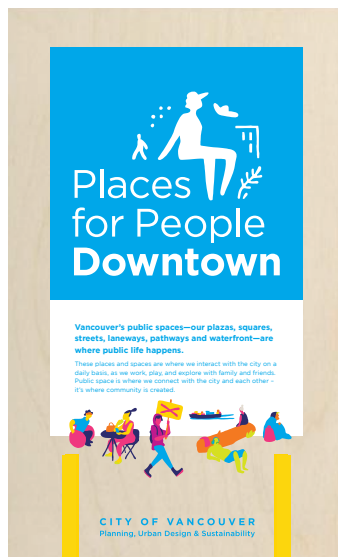


The survey results indicated generally positive support for the emerging vision and goals for the Downtown Public Space Strategy. Of the 925 completed surveys, 83% of respondents confirmed that the Strategy's vision statement captured the values of Vancouverites when planning public spaces in the Downtown. Additional comments were captured and will assist in shaping the Strategy's final vision statement.

Participants also provided recommendations for how to achieve each goal, including ideas they felt should be prioritized or recommended as part of the Strategy. Notable ideas included having more family and dog friendly spaces, as well as having accessible spaces for different age groups (children and seniors) and disabled individuals. Creating safe and comfortable public spaces was a theme throughout the survey results.

Other feedback included recommendations for maintaining public spaces, greater quality greenspaces, and improved overall cleanliness. Lastly, ensuring public spaces are kept free, accessible, and protected from growth and development was an important concern according to survey respondents. Overall 82% of participants either agreed or strongly agreed with both the emerging vision and goals developed for the Strategy.

The following information on pages 8-20 contain the presentation boards presented during the public engagement and the detailed results from each survey question.



Vision for Public Space & Public Life

A Downtown for People

A place for all people to enjoy and participate in Downtown Vancouver's public life, with public spaces that are safe, comfortable, and inviting. These places are well-connected and offer a variety of diverse experiences.

A Downtown *by* People

A Downtown where people feel welcome and empowered to contribute in the creation and activation of public spaces.

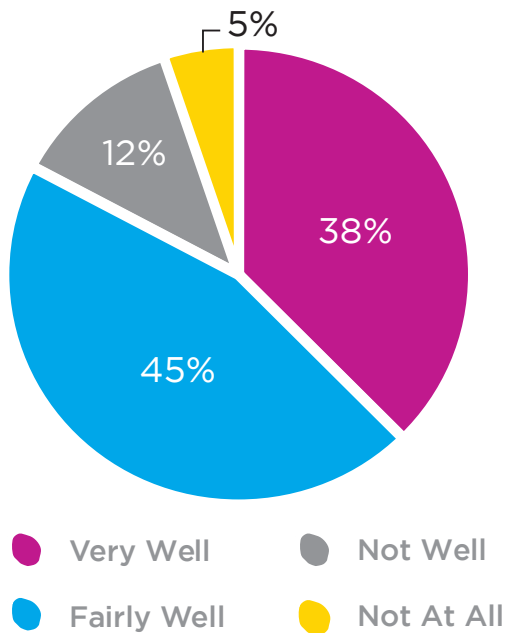


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Feedback (Refer to Engagement Board, Vision Statement, Page 8)

Question 1: How well does this vision capture what you think is important for Downtown Vancouver?



Question 2: What are we missing?

1. Addressing Homelessness & Poverty
2. Accessibility (Disabled or Elderly)
3. Cleanliness, Maintenance, & Less Loitering
4. Safety & Comfortable Spaces
5. Affordable Living Spaces
6. Child & Family Friendly Spaces
7. Enhance Retail & Economic Vitality
8. Dog Friendly Spaces
9. Enjoyable Relaxing & Quiet Spaces
10. Transit Accessibility



1 Downtown Public Space and Public Life Goals

Expand Opportunities for Public Life

By improving options for people to move, gather and enjoy public space freely, opportunities for public life can be expanded and enhanced while meeting the needs of a growing population. With increasingly limited space in Downtown Vancouver, strategic considerations are required to create new public spaces, while retaining and enhancing existing spaces, as part of a well-connected public space network.

Here are some ideas to Expand Opportunities for Public Life:

- **Enhance and retain** public and privately owned public spaces, and pursue opportunities to add new space
- **Unexpected spaces** – Look for opportunities for new public spaces in unexpected places, such as laneways, rooftops and under bridges
- **Make streets 'Places'** – Continue to encourage creative uses of the street with a focus on public life, and create public spaces in the street right-of-way, while recognizing important transportation functions and other street uses
- **Improve connectivity** – Support a vibrant public life by making walking and cycling between and through public spaces safe, convenient, comfortable, and delightful
- **Active Edges & Lively Local Business** – Encourage fine-grained and active retail and restaurants along high streets, and around parks and plaza spaces where there are opportunities to activate frontages and seamlessly integrate a network of public spaces
- **Integrate and enhance** transit stations and bus stops as part of the public space network



Madrid, Spain



Chambar Patio, Keefer Steps, Vancouver



Alley Oop, Vancouver



Bute & Robson Plaza, Vancouver



Paradeplatz, Zurich Switzerland



Patios, Davie Street, Vancouver



Købmagergade, Copenhagen, Denmark

What We Heard

- More space for gathering and socializing
- More sidewalk space on popular streets for walking, sitting and gathering
- Retain and enhance public and private open spaces
- Make transit stations real public spaces

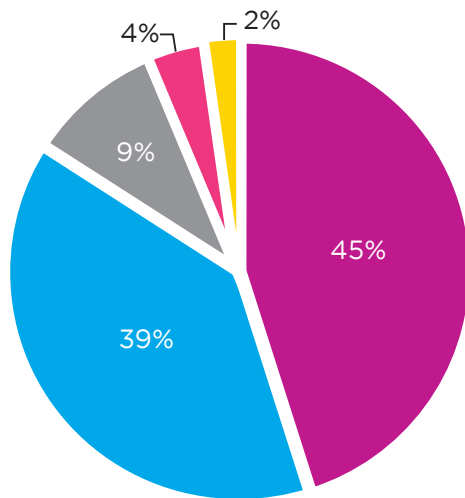


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Feedback (Refer to Engagement Board, Goal 1, Page 10)

Goal 1: Expand Opportunities for Public Life



Question: Overall do you agree or disagree with this goal?

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Top 10 Recommendations to achieve this Goal:

1. Pedestrian Priority Streetscapes
2. Green Spaces & Connections to Nature
3. Enhanced Outdoor Seating
4. Support Laneway Activations
5. Granville Streetscape Improvements
6. Too Much Density & Development Pressure
7. Safety & Comfortable Spaces
8. Vancouver Art Gallery Plaza Improvements
9. Transit Station Area Improvements
10. Weather Protection (Sun & Rain)

What We Heard:

"Accessibility is very important. Ramps, washrooms, bus stops, seating, signage, for people with disabilities."

"More alleyway spaces. Turn them from dirty, garbage areas to lively, interesting, and clean areas."

"I love the idea of making transit stations into inviting public spaces."



2 Downtown Public Space and Public Life Goals

Foster a Welcoming Downtown for All

Encourage welcoming, comfortable and safe public spaces for people of all ages, genders, backgrounds and abilities. The variety of public space types across Downtown Vancouver will be expanded to reflect the needs of a diverse and changing population, while encouraging civic connection and social activity.



Walk for Reconciliation, Vancouver

What We Heard

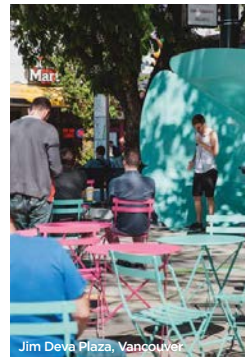
- More open and inviting experiences that are attractive to all ages and abilities
- More spaces to sit and socialize
- More universally accessible restrooms and drinking fountains
- Honour First Nations culture, history and reconciliation in public spaces



Plaza Skatepark, Vancouver



Alley Oop, Vancouver



Jim Deva Plaza, Vancouver



Seawall, Vancouver



Urban Reef, Vancouver



Granville Street, Vancouver



Waterfront Station, Vancouver

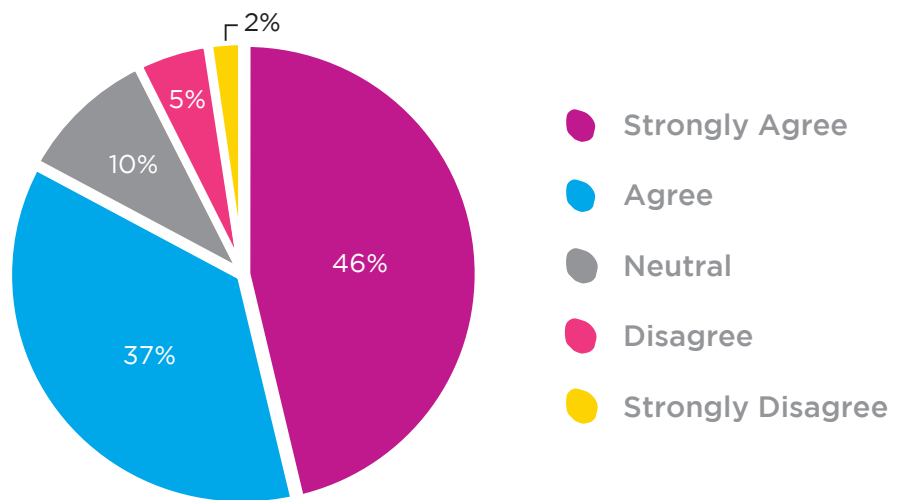
Here are some ideas and opportunities to help Foster a Welcoming Downtown for All:

- **Mix of experiences** - Provide a rich mix of public life experiences, with a variety of public space types and programs that reflects the diversity of the city
- **An inclusive city** - Provide universal services and accessible facilities, including restrooms and drinking fountains
- **A sitable city** - Encourage a diversity of public seating options – movable, fixed and informal – at regular intervals along streets and in open spaces, which promote gathering and provide places to rest
- **A socially connected city** - Foster invitations in public space for social mixing and civic togetherness, including programming that invites the chance meeting and encourages social interaction
- **Distinct character** - Define areas for unique public space design treatment that express neighbourhood character and reflects the diversity of the Downtown communities
- **Continue to engage** with First Nations and Urban Indigenous communities to explore opportunities to celebrate indigenous cultures and histories through public space naming, artistic and cultural expression, and public space design to ensure First Nations use and gathering places

Feedback (Refer to Engagement Board, Goal 2, Page 12)

Goal 2: Foster a Welcoming Downtown for All

Question: Overall do you agree or disagree with this goal?



Top 10 Recommendations to achieve this Goal:

1. Safety & Comfortable Spaces
2. Social Interaction & Inclusion of All People
3. Cleanliness, Maintenance, & Less Loitering
4. First Nations Connections
5. Public Washrooms
6. Addressing Homelessness & Poverty
7. Accessibility (Disabled or Elderly)
8. Enhanced Outdoor Seating
9. Green Spaces & Connections to Nature
10. Granville Streetscape Improvements

What We Heard:

"It would be great to continue amplifying the diversity of cultures we have in Vancouver..."

"Granville Street could be made a MUCH more inviting street to visit both during the day and the night time."

"Very important to make certain that a new plan for downtown Vancouver does not lead to the displacement of urban poor and the homeless."

3 Downtown Public Space and Public Life Goals

Encourage Year-round Public Life

By diversifying opportunities to enjoy public spaces day and night throughout the year, everyday public life in Downtown Vancouver will be broadened. Invitations including special events and community gatherings, will encourage more people to spend time outside during sunny days and the rainy season.



Mural Festival, Main Street, Vancouver



Lumière Festival, Vancouver

Here are some ideas and opportunities to help create to More Invitations to Encourage Year-round Public Life:

- **A celebration city** - Ensure that a range of special events and community gatherings can be accommodated - big and small - with quality spaces and supporting infrastructure
- **A year-round city** - Increase year-round activity by introducing more weather protection, lighting and programming
- **A patio city** - Explore opportunities to create and enhance a variety of patios on street right-of-way, private property and rooftops
- **An evening city** - Explore opportunities to encourage safe and welcoming experiences in public space through the evening, with lighting, way-finding and programming



Bus Station Canopy, Aarau, Switzerland



Mainland Street, Vancouver

What We Heard

- More space for live events, and encourage events during the winter months
- Provide all-season spaces with weather protection
- Encourage more patios to enjoy eating, drinking and people-watching
- More amenity including food and drink in public spaces



Bishops Square, London



Milan, Italy



Stanley Park, Vancouver



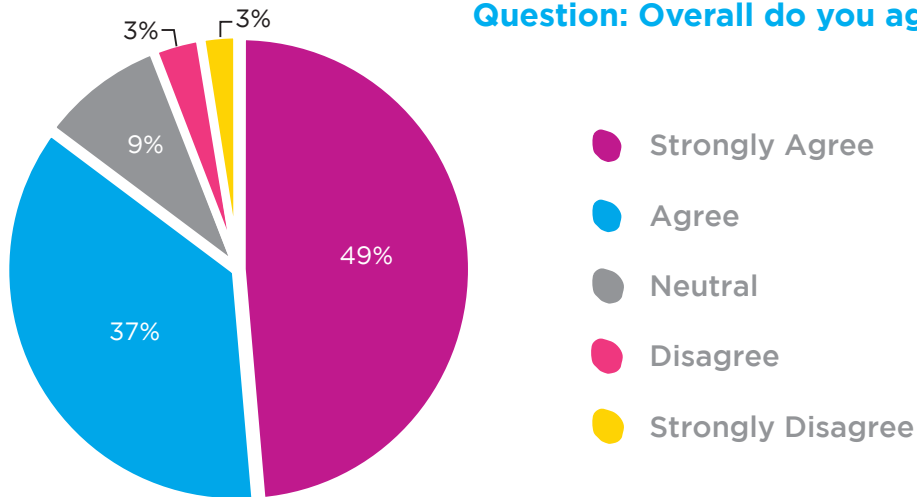
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Feedback (Refer to Engagement Board, Goal 3, Page 14)

Goal 3: Encourage Year-Round Public Life

Question: Overall do you agree or disagree with this goal?



Top 10 Recommendations to achieve this Goal:

1. Weather Protection (Sun or Rain)
2. Enhanced Outdoor Seating
3. Vancouver Art Gallery Plaza Improvements
4. Enhance Lighting or Dynamic Lighting
5. Noise Control
6. More Community Events
7. Granville Streetscape Improvements
8. Green Spaces & Connections to Nature
9. Cleanliness, Maintenance, & Less Loitering
10. Support Artists (Art), Music, Busking

What We Heard:

"Covered and heated spaces during winter."

"Promote more awnings on buildings and sidewalks so you can walk across town without an umbrella. incorporate art..."

"More awnings and large umbrella structures for sun protection in the summer and rain protection in the winter."

"Make sure all transit stops are covered."

"Lighting has a huge effect on the desire to be outside in the winter."



4 Downtown Public Space and Public Life Goals

Enhance Our Connection to Nature

Protect and expand access to natural spaces in Downtown Vancouver through thoughtful design and landscaping that is integrated with natural systems. Incorporate climate resilient features into public spaces to mitigate the effects of changing weather patterns and sea-level rise.



Harbour Bath, Copenhagen, Denmark



La Promenade du Paillon, Nice, France

Here are some ideas and opportunities to help Enhance Our Connection to Nature:

- **An integrated city** - Encourage public space design and landscaping that is integrated with green infrastructure and incorporates climate resilient features
- **Green Connections** - Improve connectivity within the Downtown to green spaces and existing parks, including Stanley Park
- **Shore-to-core** - Improve connections between the Downtown neighbourhoods and the waterfront, such as wayfinding and improved street crossings
- **Experience water** - Create places to experience the waterfront and the bodies of water that surround the peninsula
- **Protect and preserve** access to sunlight and views in public spaces, including parks, plazas, and popular shopping and restaurant streets



Seawall, Vancouver



Hinge Park, Vancouver



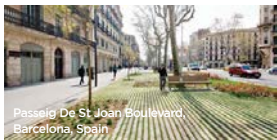
High Line, New York City



Olympic Village, Vancouver



Park Place, Vancouver



Passeig De St Joan Boulevard, Barcelona, Spain

What We Heard

- More trees, landscaping and natural features
- Foster access to nature as places for recreation and respite
- Improve connections between the Downtown Core and the waterfront
- Incorporate green infrastructure into the design of public spaces
- Protect views access to sunlight in public spaces

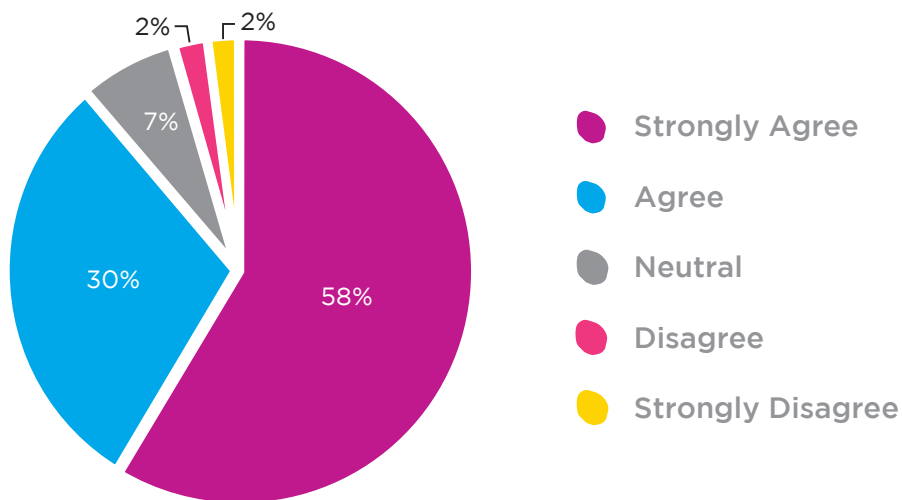


Tasings Plads, Copenhagen, Denmark

Feedback (Refer to Engagement Board, Goal 4, Page 16)

Goal 4: Enhance Our Connection to Nature

Question: Overall do you agree or disagree with this goal?



Top 10 Recommendations to achieve this Goal:

1. Green Spaces & Connections to Nature
2. Improve City's Water Quality
3. Greenspace Maintenance & Landscaping
4. Water Fountains or Features
5. Enhance Seawall, Waterfront & Beaches
6. Cleanliness, Maintenance, & Less Loitering
7. Protect View Corridors
8. Too Much Concrete or Impervious Surfaces
9. Rooftop Spaces (Patos or Gardens)
10. Preserve Nature & Enhance Animal Habitats

What We Heard:

"Love water features downtown and could see areas for summer play."

"Enlarge tree wells and encourage public planting and maintaining of vegetation around the trees"

"Easier access to water, please put strong emphasis on keeping that water (False Creek, English Bay) clean."



5 Downtown Public Space and Public Life Goals

Promote Play and Creative Expression

Encourage public spaces that stimulate whimsy and delight, while creating more opportunities for people to engage in playful activities throughout Downtown Vancouver. Empower self-expression and make it easy and attractive for people to participate in the creation, activation and stewardship of public space.



Olympic Village, Vancouver

Here are some ideas and opportunities to help Promote Play and Creative Expression:

- **An innovative approach** - Continue to test potential public space projects and other ideas to enhance public space and promote public life through VIVA Vancouver and other City programs
- **A playful city** - Expand 'play' beyond playgrounds to encourage more people of all ages engaged in playful recreation
- **User-friendly** - Make it easy for people to activate public space,
- **Local Public Art** - Support local arts and culture through programs in public spaces and interactive public art installations



Mural Festival, Vancouver



Robson Street, Vancouver



800 Robson, Vancouver

What We Heard

- More opportunities to activate spaces
- Have places to play throughout the Downtown
- More opportunities to activate spaces and hold events
- Promote a diversity of public art, with more interactive art



Off Ground, Copenhagen, Denmark



Paprocany Waterfront, Tychy, Poland



Arbutus Greenway, Vancouver



Schwetzingen Terrace, Heidelberg, Germany



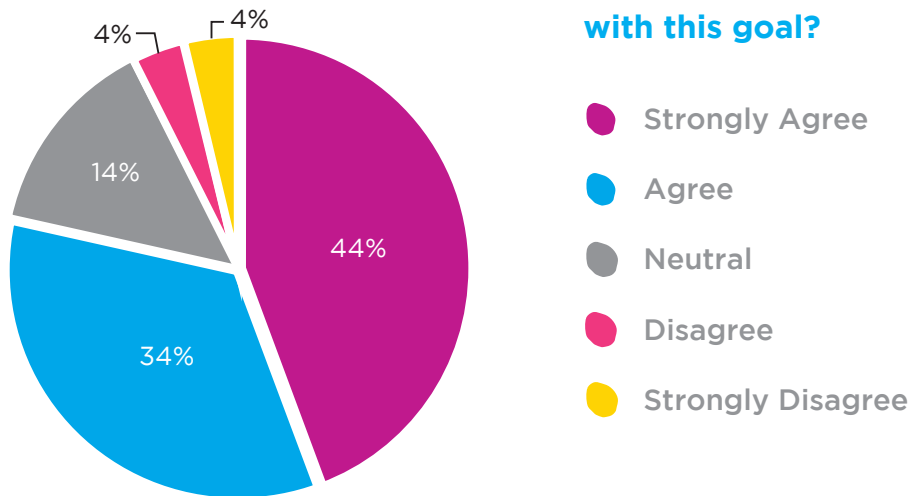
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Feedback (Refer to Engagement Board, Goal 5, Page 18)

Goal 5: Promote Play and Creative Expression

Question: Overall do you agree or disagree with this goal?



Top 10 Recommendations to achieve this Goal:

1. Play & Recreation
2. Child & Family Friendly Spaces
3. Support Artists (Art), Music, Busking
4. Quality Art Installations
5. Interactive Art
- 6.. Accessibility (Disabled or Elderly)
7. Cleanliness, Maintenance, & Less Loitering
8. Green Spaces & Connections to Nature
- 9.. Water Fountains or Features
10. Enhanced Outdoor Seating

What We Heard:

"Whimsical elements should also be designed for adults and the elderly, not just children."

"... bring play to even sidewalks by having some of the playground stations along the sidewalks: seesaw, adult stretching stations, bouncy animal springs...little here and there. It is fun to discover."

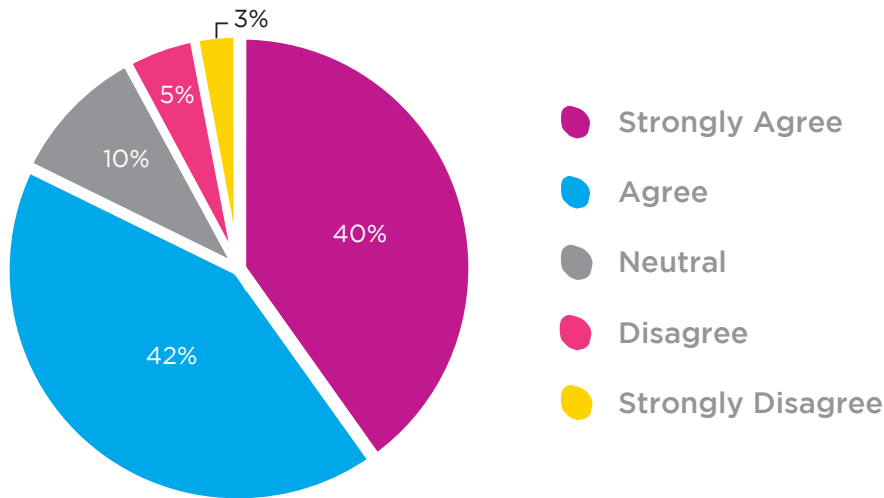
"Crosswalks and sidewalks can be painted. More alleyways can be painted. Lamp posts can be painted."

"Children are very important to promoting play in the city even inspiring adults to use public space differently."



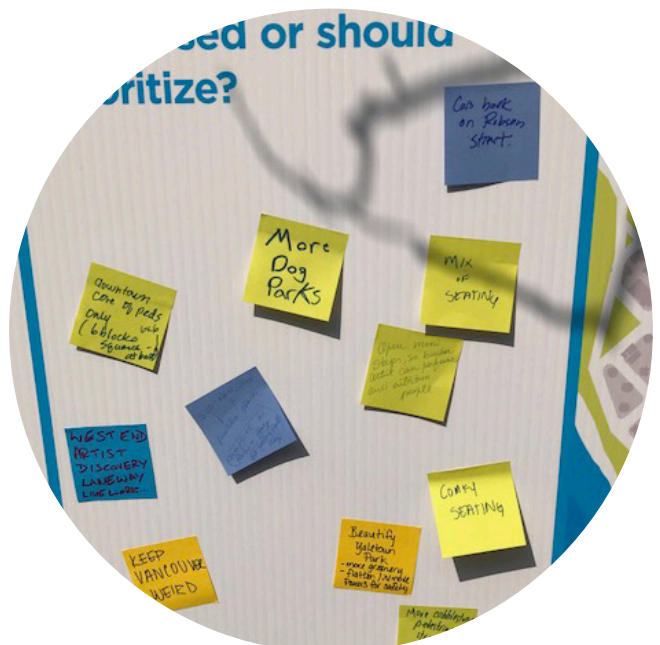
Feedback (Refer to Engagement Boards)

Question: Overall, do you agree or disagree with the emerging vision and goals for Places for People Downtown?



Top 12 Items that were recommended or should be prioritized as part of the Downtown Public Space Strategy?

- Child & Family Friendly Spaces
- Water Fountains or Features
- Learning Experiences (Education & History)
- Dog Friendly Spaces
- Free Experiences
- Affordable Living Spaces
- Cleanliness, Maintenance, & Less Loitering
- Safety & Comfortable Spaces
- Accessibility (Disabled or Elderly)
- Addressing Homelessness & Poverty
- Too Much Density & Development Pressure
- Noise Control



What We Heard:

"Be innovative, be bold, and make sure people can access it by foot."

"pedestrian-oriented lighting that creates beauty and provides safety."

"We need to keep our wonderful city at a higher level of cleanliness for everyone's benefit."

"We need more emphasis on supporting families with children downtown. How do we make it the funnest city for 0-12 year olds?"

"The population is aging, so it's important that accessibility be a top priority. A public space is only a true public space if it can be used by all members of the public."

"Accessibility without having to purchase anything to feel welcome."



4 Next Steps

The Places for People team will use the feedback received from the Downtown Public Space Strategy's vision and goals engagement to create a refined high level policy document containing a series of strategic directions for Vancouver's Downtown public spaces.

In early 2019, the a series of strategic directions will be tested by the public.

The final version of the Downtown Public Space Strategy will be completed in 2019, and will reflect this and previous engagement feedback and will be supported by the findings of the Downtown Public Space Public Life Study.

Please stay tuned for updates or any additional changes to the timeline.

Stay Involved

To help us create exceptional, welcoming, and memorable public spaces in Downtown Vancouver, please visit us online to stay involved and to share your thoughts.

vancouver.ca/placesforpeople

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

