



VANCOUVER COMMUNITY CENTRE STRATEGY

Policy and Trends Report

PROJECT BACKGROUND DOCUMENT #1

APRIL 2022



We acknowledge that the community centres and the buildings we discuss in this project are built on the unceded territories and homelands of xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓k̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

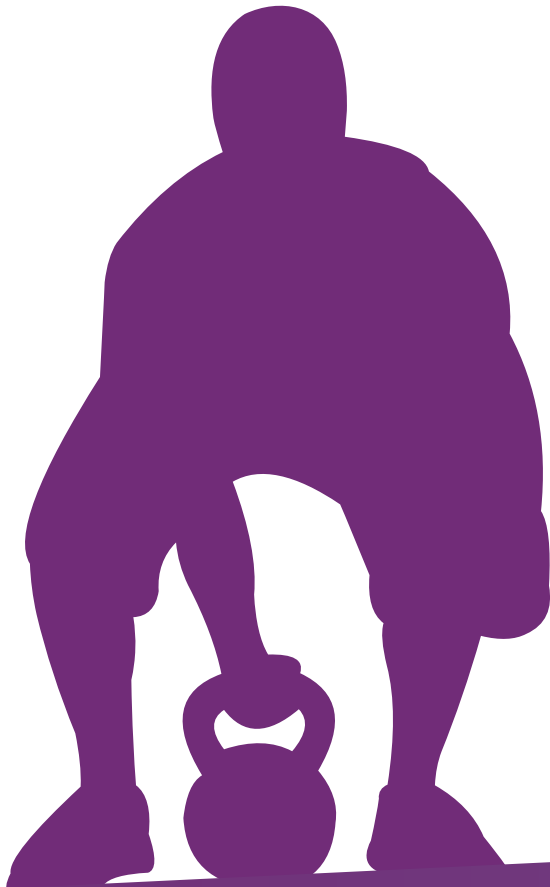


We thank them for having cared for these lands and waters since time immemorial, and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.



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INTRODUCTION

Community centres are vital public assets. They provide reliable and accessible environments for people to gather, learn and play. Effective community centres meet the unique social, cultural, and recreational needs of their local neighbourhoods and contribute to a city-wide system of diverse opportunities. There are 27 community centres in Vancouver. 24 of these facilities fall under the responsibility of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (Park Board) and 3 are provided by the City's Arts, Culture, and Community Services (ACCS) department.

To ensure that community centres continue to be effective, and to increase the number of people who benefit from them, we need to renew existing facilities as well as consider building additional ones.

Reinvestment is overdue. Aging infrastructure is a concern as many centres are nearing the end of their lifespans. As communities grow and change, the capacity and functionality of these spaces need to evolve and ensure they provide continued public benefit. Community centres are places that create equity of opportunity in neighbourhoods throughout Vancouver, ensuring that residents of all ages, backgrounds, and socio-economic characteristics have access to safe places that provide active living opportunities. Community centres can also boost resiliency, if designed to adapt accordingly, by acting as warming shelters, converting to natural disaster hubs, providing adaptable space for public health initiatives, and offering food security to those who need it.

The primary purpose of the Community Centre Strategy is to establish a fair and equitable way to prioritize community centre investment – that is, to determine which facilities get renewed next. This is a challenging topic because of the context – many of these facilities were built during the same time periods and are therefore of similar age and condition. The development of the Strategy aims to ensure future investment occurs in a clear, rationally based, and socially responsible manner that make optimal use of available capital resources.

The purpose of *this* document – the Policy and Literature Review – is to summarize relevant background information as well as highlight trends and leading practices that may be pertinent to future community centre renewal and development projects. This document additionally provides a reference point that can help ensure subsequent documents and the Strategy are aligned with overarching strategic planning (such as VanPlay) and reflect the core values of the City of Vancouver (City) and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (Park Board).

PROJECT DOCUMENTS:

- ☒ Policy and Trends Report
- ☐ Current State Report
- ☐ Engagement Summary Report
- ☐ Community Centre Strategy
 - » Optimal Level of Service Targets
 - » Prioritization Approach for Community Centre Renewals
 - » Process for Individual Community Centre Planning
 - » Additional Recommendations to Enhance Community Centre Service Delivery



BACKGROUND REVIEW

KEY FINDINGS OVERVIEW



PARK BOARD: MISSION

To provide, preserve, and advocate for parks and recreation services to benefit all people, communities, and the environment.

JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT: CAPITAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Park Board is responsible for capital improvements and renovations.

The Community Centre Associations are responsible for providing input on major capital projects.

VANPLAY: RELEVANT GOALS

Grow and renew parks, community centres, and recreation assets to keep pace with population growth and evolving needs.

Prioritize the delivery of resources to where they are needed most.

Adapt our parks and recreation amenities to a changing climate.

Foster a system of parks and recreation spaces that are safe and welcoming to all.

Secure adequate and ongoing funding for the repair, renewal, and replacement of our aging parks and recreation system.

VANPLAY: 2040 ASSET TARGETS

Maintain the current citywide average of 1.2 sq. ft. of community centre space per person (excluding rinks and pools).

Renew an average of two existing community centres per capital plan.

VANCOUVER BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Formed in 1888, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is the only elected body of its kind in Canada. The Park Board manages Vancouver's public recreation system of parks, community centres, pools, rinks, fitness centres, golf courses, street trees, marinas, playing fields, and more.



OUR MISSION IS:

To provide, preserve, and advocate for parks and recreation services to benefit all people, communities, and the environment.

OUR STRATEGIC VISION IS:

To be the leader in parks and recreation by connecting people to greenspace, active living, and community.



RECONCILIATION

In 2016, the Park Board adopted 11 reconciliation strategies in response to the Calls to Action provided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. In addition to the strategies, the Park Board adopted the following mission, vision, and value statements to support the journey of reconciliation.

MISSION

Decolonize the Vancouver Park Board.

VISION

For the Park Board to be an evolvable organization in which every employee and Commissioner recognizes the humanity in themselves by recognizing and respecting the humanity of First Peoples; an organization that sets a worldwide example in treating Reconciliation as a decolonization process.

VALUES

Patience: Colonialism didn't happen overnight. Untangling it takes time. We will pace ourselves for the marathon, not the sprint. We will adjust deadlines to ensure things are done well and respectfully.

Clarity: We will focus on how colonialism functions to exclude, not on how to include.

Pragmatism: All staff are inheriting a system not of our making. The Park Board Reconciliation Team is here to assist colleagues with examining the ways colonialism continues to damage others. Blame is unproductive.

Leadership: We will nurture and sustain each other, demonstrating Indigenous principles in the way we function as a team.

Learning: We consent to learn in public. We will make mistakes. We will sit with those mistakes, be transparent about them, and use them both to learn and to teach. Our mistakes will be diagnostic tools.



JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT

Community Centre Associations (CCAs) are valued partners in Vancouver's recreation system. They respond to local needs by providing programs and events, as well as foster community engagement, and drive volunteer recruitment.

To ensure a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities between the Park Board and CCAs, a Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) was finalized in 2018. 21 out of the 24 community centres that fall under the purview of the Park Board have a JOA in place. Two of the three community centres operated by the City's Arts, Culture, and Community Services (ACCS) department are also guided by a JOA (Gathering Place and the Carnegie Community Centre).

The agreement resulted in many benefits such as system-wide memberships and programs, and increased opportunities for low-income discounts.

THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

Providing input to the Park Board on major capital projects and other major initiatives relating to the jointly operated facilities and outdoor areas.

THE PARK BOARD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

Undertaking any capital improvements or renovations to, expansion of, or the construction of new facilities and reconstruction and/or relocation of the entire facility if the entire facility is rebuilt, in the sole discretion of the Park Board.

VANPLAY

In 2017, the Park Board embarked on a multi-year research and planning journey to develop a parks and recreation services master plan. The comprehensive project became known as VanPlay. Four documents were produced as a result.

INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

A compendium to the current state of the City's parks and recreation system (2018).

10 GOALS TO SHAPE THE NEXT 25 YEARS

A set of aspirational statements to set the course for parks and recreation into the future (2018).

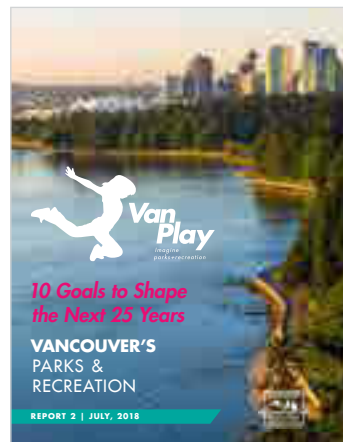
STRATEGIC BOLD MOVES

Outlines bold strategies to deliver on the vision for the future over the next 25 years (2019).

THE PLAYBOOK

The plan for implementation and operationalization.

There is lots of content in these four documents that relates to community centres. While only the most pertinent information is presented on the following pages, VanPlay remained within arm's reach throughout the development of this Community Centre Strategy.



VANPLAY: INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

CONTEXT

Vancouver saw a boom of building civic facilities in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. The majority of the community centres in operation today are the legacy of this investment. Many of these facilities, 84% of all the community centres, without interim repair, could require significant investment or replacement within the next 10 years.

75% OF SURVEY
RESPONDENTS REPORTED
BEING SATISFIED WITH
COMMUNITY CENTRES.

ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE SERVICES

Social: Community centres are integral to local neighbourhoods and provide a third space for people to congregate between work and home. These facilities provide welcoming spaces, programs and services, such as child care, healthy eating, community group gathering, meeting, and events spaces. Many centres act as warming and cooling centres in the case of extreme weather.

Cultural: Community centres offer a wide range of arts and cultural programs, from the public art murals that adorn many facades to performances, art classes, potter studios and theatre classes, to artist residencies, cultural landmarks, and festivals.

Recreational: Community centres and their adjacent/co-located amenities provide many places to play, such as gymnasiums, fitness centres, aquatic facilities, multi-purpose rooms, ice rinks, dancing, and yoga studios, paddling launches, climbing walls, indoor cycling equipment, and playground spaces.



SUMMARY OF KEY CONSULTATION FINDINGS FROM VANPLAY: OPPORTUNITIES

Co-location: Grouping together compatible uses, such as sports field hubs, libraries, schools, community centres, and community gardens, can strengthen neighbourhoods and allows residents to access a number of programs and facilities in one location. Multilevel and/or integrated facilities provide opportunities for many community services to locate together with the best outcome for public access.

Collaboration: Partners extend the reach of the Park Board and allow for delivery of important aspects of the parks and recreation system. For example, a long and rich historic relationship between the Park Board and CCAs gives facilities a heart and soul with a unique grounding in neighbourhood culture. CCAs provide access to quality, responsive programming and services to encourage healthy lifestyles through participation in physical, recreational, cultural, educational, social, and capacity-building programs for residents of the community. Schools and libraries also offer opportunities for partnership.

Sustainable Building Standards and Operations: Vancouver is a leader in sustainability best practices for renewal and replacement of facilities (e.g. Passive House, LEED and SITES certification). In some cases, aging community centres can be improved by retrofitting them with new, environmentally sustainable technology and building materials.

Sense of Place: The architecture and design of civic facilities can reflect local character, values, and history. In collaboration with the Local Nations there is the opportunity to creating facilities that are rooted in the local context. Additionally, a welcoming space for urban Indigenous people would reflect the sharing culture of local Nations.

Placemaking in Facilities: Large, useable common spaces like lobbies and lounges are ripe for placemaking initiatives to encourage people to gather and connect. Power outlets and comfy chairs enhance the spaces.

Fitness Centres: Vancouverites love to stay fit, so the Park Board fitness centres are in very high demand.

Functionality: Facilities should be intuitively functional, have many multi purpose rooms that can change in size and have adequate and easy-to access storage space. All new and renewed facilities are an opportunity to improve the standard.

Youth Space: Historically, the youth spaces in community centres have been small and tucked away. Big, functional spaces that are integrated into the community centre, while also providing dedicated space, are a fantastic opportunity to make centres more welcoming to youth.

SUMMARY OF KEY CONSULTATION FINDINGS FROM VANPLAY: CHALLENGES

Lack of Space: Many of the community centres reported having inadequate facilities for expanding field sports, amateur and elite sports training and sports hosting (e.g., track and field regulation facility, multi-sport complexes). Specialized spaces for arts programming (music rooms, music mixing studios, pottery studios, art rooms) are in high demand and require dedicated space. Gymnasium and other large hard floor space is at a premium—users like Roller Derby leagues often miss out.

Increased/Changing Uses/Demands: The demands on community centres and facilities are unique to each location and vary across the system. In neighbourhoods experiencing significant growth, many facilities are over capacity with little to no room to expand their services or their space.

Barriers to Access: The Leisure Access program opens all community centres to Vancouverites and OneCard makes access easy. However, not all community centres accept One Card or the Leisure Access Program, and many people experiencing financial barriers to access are not eligible for LAP. Other barriers to access include time, availability, energy, child care availability, and location. The Park Board is working to reduce barriers where possible, however, this is an ongoing process.

Lack of Adaptability: Many facilities lack the resources, staff, and operational bandwidth to adapt to demands as they arise, including homelessness services, meals for seniors, and expanded interest in particular classes or activities. The inability of both parks and recreation facilities to swiftly respond to demand for activity-specific spaces is a design and programming challenge.

Acknowledging the Spectrum of Providers: There may be other providers providing duplicate recreation services. Park Board should identify its core responsibilities (i.e. physical literacy, low barrier recreation, facilitating sport for life) and not try and compete with private, for profit, and community partners who provide similar services.

Climate Change: Rising temperatures will increase operations and maintenance costs for facilities and will also threaten vulnerable populations who may use community centres as disaster or climate crisis hubs. This is increasingly becoming part of operating norms (i.e. use as warming centres, cooling centres, and clean air access).

Aging Infrastructure: It is important to note that community centres are not the only infrastructure and amenity type within the Park Board's asset portfolio that requires renewal. VanPlay identifies that many pools, arenas, concessions, park amenities (e.g, washrooms), and service facilities are also aging and in need of renewal. While these projects are different, they will ultimately compete for resourcing priority.

VANPLAY: 10 GOALS TO SHAPE THE NEXT 25 YEARS

Goal 1: Grow and renew parks, community centres and recreation assets to keep pace with population growth and evolving needs.

Goal 3: Prioritize the delivery of resources to where they are needed most.

Some neighbourhoods require more resources in order to have the same level of access and service as others, which is why the Park Board is developing a comprehensive mapping and analysis system to measure the accessibility of parks and services throughout Vancouver.

This process will allow us to locate those neighbourhoods that require additional services and to help address the shortfalls, because it is only by prioritizing our investments, including the renewal of older facilities, the building of new ones, and the acquisition of land for future park development, that we improve the accessibility of our parks and facilities for those who need them most.

Goal 4: Focus on core responsibilities of the park board, and be a supportive ally to partners.

At the Park Board, there is a limit to our budget and resources, and that affects our ability to meet all of the public demand for amenities and services. This sometimes means having to say no to exciting new opportunities. By coordinating with and enabling our hardworking partner organizations, we can share the planning, funding, and delivery of many aspects of our parks' system, allowing the Park Board to focus on its crucial core responsibilities.

Helping us to build on those valuable services are dozens of trusted partner organizations, including Community Centre Associations that encourage health and wellbeing through educational, cultural, social and sports programming.

By continuing to develop and foster fair, inclusive and innovative relationships with our partners, we can ensure the delivery of programming and services to Vancouver's diverse communities.

Goal 5: Adapt our parks and recreation amenities to a changing climate.

And by opening our community centres during periods of extreme heat or cold, we can provide vulnerable residents with a comfortable and secure place.



Goal 8: Foster a system of parks and recreation spaces that are safe and welcoming to all.

A core value of the Park Board is the desire to create welcoming parks and recreation services for all. That's why we are committed to improving the safety and inclusiveness of our spaces through programming, education, activities, events, and enhanced park design.

At the Park Board, we will continue to foster a welcoming environment for all, regardless of income, ability, gender, sexual orientation, age, or ethnicity. Our initiatives include our Leisure Access Program, which makes recreation more affordable for low-income residents; gender neutral washrooms, upgraded pathways, beach mats and Jericho's new adaptive pier to improve access for persons with disabilities; and swim and fitness programs that offer a safe space for the Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirited communities.

By fostering an environment of inclusiveness and community connectedness we are ensuring our green spaces and recreational facilities remain safe and welcoming places for everyone.

**The Park Board additionally offers adaptive recreation programming in collaboration with the CCAs that supports children with unique needs so that they can swim, skate, play, and participate in day camp programs.*

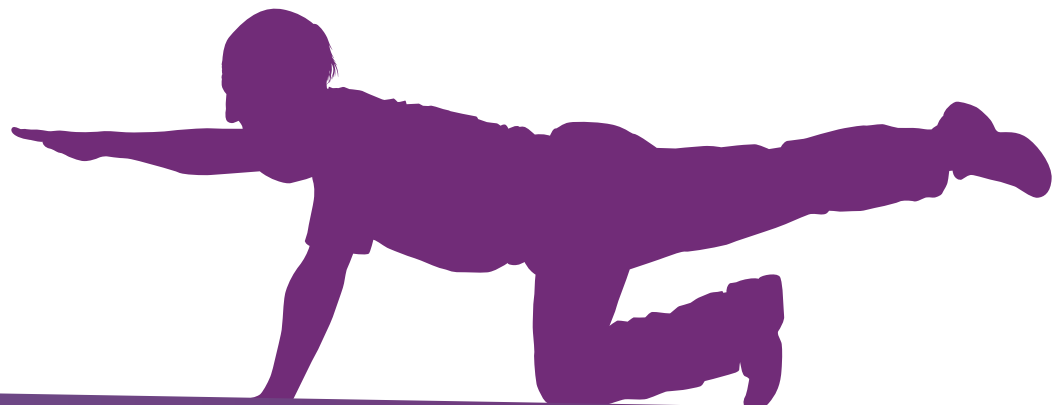
Goal 10: Secure adequate and ongoing funding for the repair, renewal and replacement of our aging parks and recreation system.

Today, Vancouver's parks are at a major crossroads. Many of our green spaces were created and their facilities built nearly half a century ago. Now they're in need of significant repair. At the Park Board, we're looking to secure funding dedicated to the ongoing maintenance of our green spaces, and the renewal and replacement of our aging recreation facilities.

Many of Vancouver's recreation spaces and facilities were created during a rapid period of growth in the 1960's, 70's, and 80's. Now these facilities are showing their age and their renewal and repair is necessary. Our city's growing population also means more people are using our recreation spaces, which increases their ongoing upkeep and repair costs.

With limited funds available for the maintenance, renewal, and replacement of existing parks and facilities, we at the Park Board are faced with some tough decisions about where we allocate what money we do have. That's why we're working towards funding that prioritizes looking after these valuable green and recreation spaces. Avenues include the development of new funding and donor partnerships, factoring full life-cycle costing into our financial planning, and thoughtful consideration of commercial opportunities.

These strategies will not only improve the public's enjoyment of our parks and recreation amenities today, they will safeguard their long-term sustainability for future generations.



VANPLAY: STRATEGIC BOLD MOVES

TOOLS FOR PRIORITIZATION

This report presents a toolbox approach that builds a framework for equity and welcome. The Strategic Bold Moves in this report are crucial steps in the prioritization process when determining work plan actions for programming, research, development, maintenance, and renewal and planning the provision of capital improvement resources.



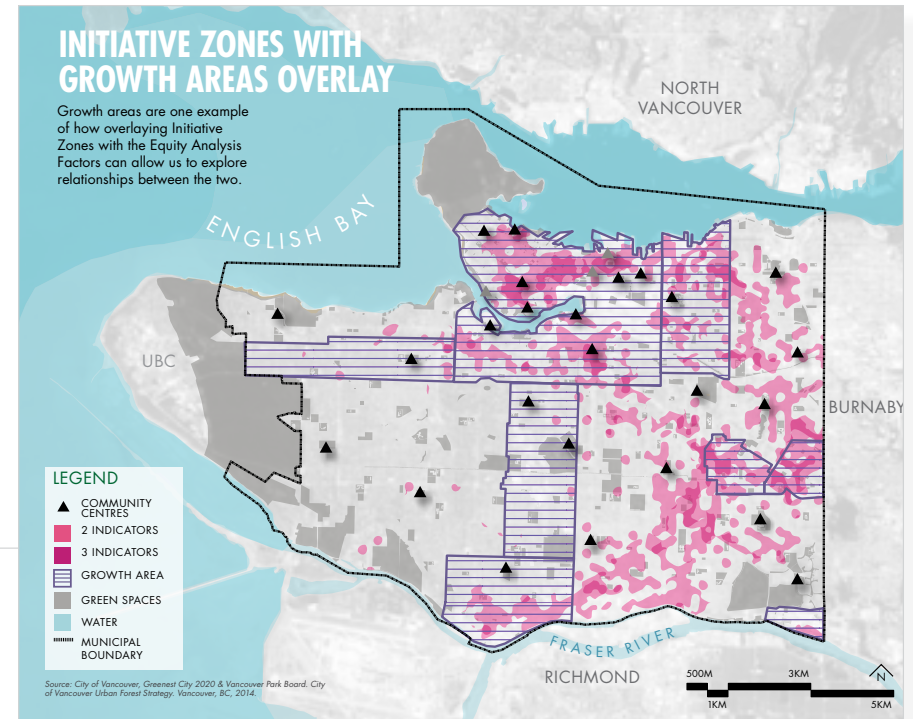
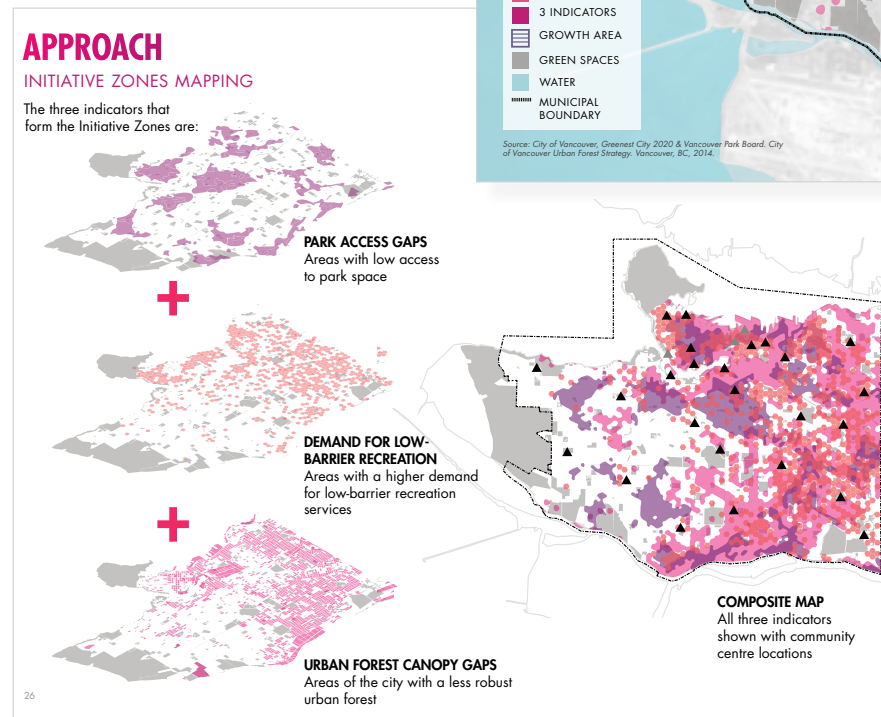
A FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENT

All people and communities in Vancouver, regardless of their ethnicity, gender, religion, race, financial status, sexual orientation, abilities or age deserve the right to access quality parks, recreation and nature, and the opportunity to partake in social, cultural and recreational activities to acquire physical literacy skills, to express and enjoy culture, and to connect with community.

BOLD MOVE 1: EQUITY

SUPPORTING TOOL:

Initiative Zones identify areas of the city that may be in need of resource investment and service delivery focus. This analysis was based on three core indicators: park access gaps, demand for low barrier recreation, and urban forest canopy gaps. Anticipated growth areas were also added as an overlay to further highlight potential areas of focus. It is also important to note that the Strategic Bold Moves Report suggested that the Initiative Zones should continue to be further built-out and refined over time using additional equity analysis factors such as data inputs from other health, education, and service partners.



QUANTITY



the number of amenities citywide or in a given neighbourhood and the number needed into the future

QUALITY



the condition of a space or amenity and how well it fulfills community needs

CAPACITY



the ability to meet community needs, accomodate a growing population and adapt to changing demands

DISTRIBUTION



the spread/distribution of amenities across the city and within a specific community

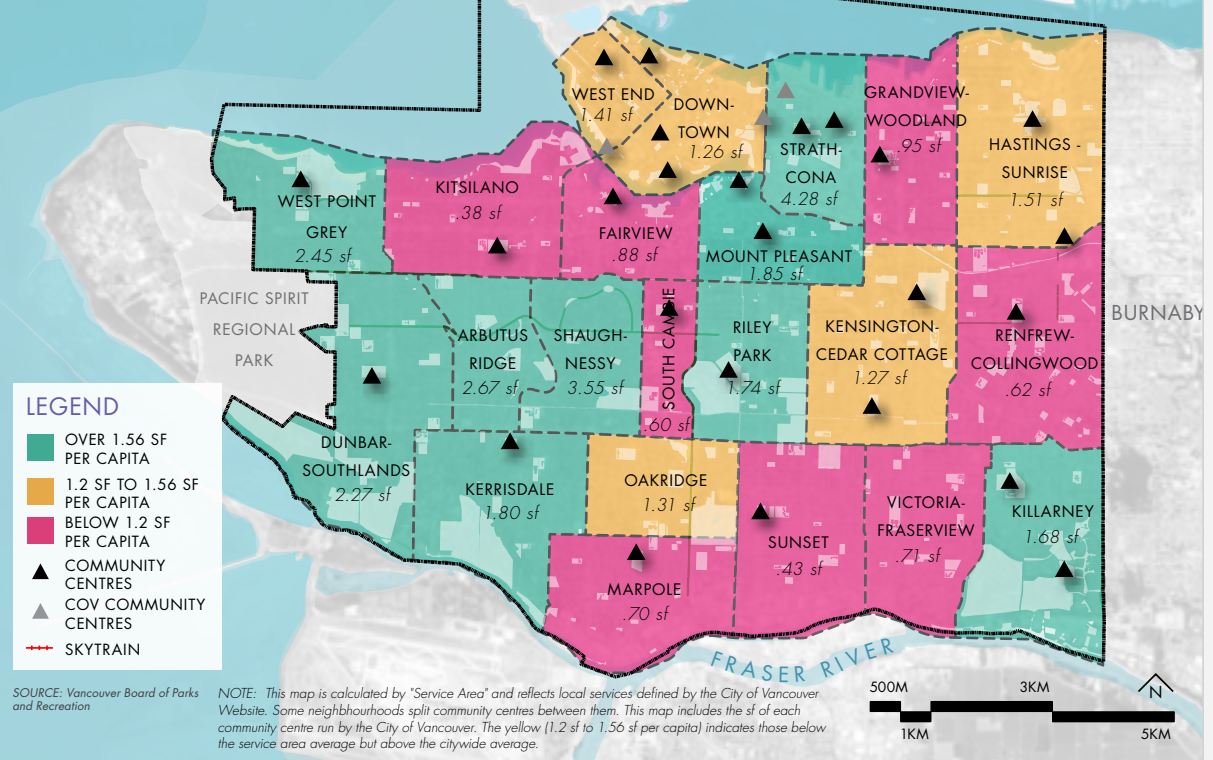
PUBLIC DEMAND



the quality of response to community requests and needs through changes to amenities and programs

COMMUNITY CENTRE SQ FT PER RESIDENT

(EXCLUDING POOLS, RINKS, CHILDCARE, LIBRARY AND/OR OFFSHOOT SPACES)



BOLD MOVE 2: ASSET NEEDS

SUPPORTING TOOL:

Asset Targets consider how many and of what needs to be addressed.

2040 COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSET TARGETS

Maintain the current citywide average of 1.2 sq. ft. of community centre space per person (excluding rinks and pools). This does not determine the size of new centres. Size of individual community centres when they are renewed is determined on a case-by-case basis using a catchment study and needs assessment.

Improve resident level of satisfaction with community centre facilities. The 2017 VanPlay survey reported 75% satisfaction, however a citywide comprehensive survey is required to establish a baseline.

Renew an average of two existing community centres per capital plan (50-year life cycle). Undertaking this target would result in at least 70% of facilities being in “good” or “fair” condition (currently 45%).

OTHER PERTINENT ASSET TARGETS

Summarized below are additional Asset Targets for amenities that often have important spatial relationships to community centres (included as part of community centres, co-located, or located on shared sites, etc.).

- **Fitness Centres** – work with Community Centre Associations to focus on ensuring spaces are accessible, inclusive, low barrier and programmable for diverse populations; set a minimum of 8,000 sq. ft for all new and renewed fitness centres; increase the city-wide average to 4,000 sq. ft (nearly double current)
- **Aquatics** – 5.0 swims per capita; one aquatic renewal per capital plan
- **Pickleball (outdoor)¹** – add lines to accommodate pickleball at 4 new locations
- **Indoor dry-floor sports** – provide at least one indoor multi-sport facility by 2025 (suggests conducting Needs Assessment that considers both a stand-alone facility from a community centre model and incorporation into a community centre)
- **Rinks²** – add access to at least 5 ice sheets; increase capacity by 25%

1 Pickleball recommendations will be further reviewed as part of a Sport Court Strategy.

2 Arena needs will be further reviewed as part of an Ice Rink Strategy.

LOCAL FOOD TARGETS

Increase inclusive local food projects and access to healthy, culturally diverse, local, and sustainable food in parks and at community centres.

Improve infrastructure to support farmers markets.

Enhance resiliency by incorporating post-disaster food planning at community centres.

Complete at least one project per year that supports sharing and gathering to cook or eat food in parks.

ASSET TARGET SNAPSHOT

Asset	Supply	Renewal Timeline	Distribution	Page # (in SBM Document)
Action Sports	▲	■	●	54
Aquatics				
Aquatics	▲	■	●	56
Spray Parks	▲	■	●	76
Community Centres	▲	■	●	60
Court Sports				
Ball Hockey	▲	■	●	62
Basketball	▲	■	●	62
Volleyball	▲	■	●	63
Lacrosse Box	■	■	■	63
Padel Court	■	■	■	63
Pickleball	▲	■	●	63
Roller Hockey	▲	■	●	63 & 68
Tennis	▲	■	●	63
Field Sports				
Ball Diamonds	▲	■	●	58
Playing Fields	▲	■	●	64
Fitness	▲	■	●	65
Golf	■	■	■	65
Horticulture	■	■	■	66
Indoor Dry-Floor Sports	▲	■	●	68
Local Food	▲	■	●	69
Natural Areas	▲	■	●	70
Parks	▲	■	●	72
Play Areas	▲	■	●	74
Rinks	▲	■	●	75
Track and Field	▲	■	●	77
Trails & Paths	▲	■	●	78
Washrooms	▲	■	●	79

KEY

- ▲ MAINTAIN SUPPLY ■ MAINTAIN RENEWAL ● MAINTAIN DISTRIBUTION
 ▲ INCREASE SUPPLY ■ INCREASE RENEWAL ● INCREASE DISTRIBUTION

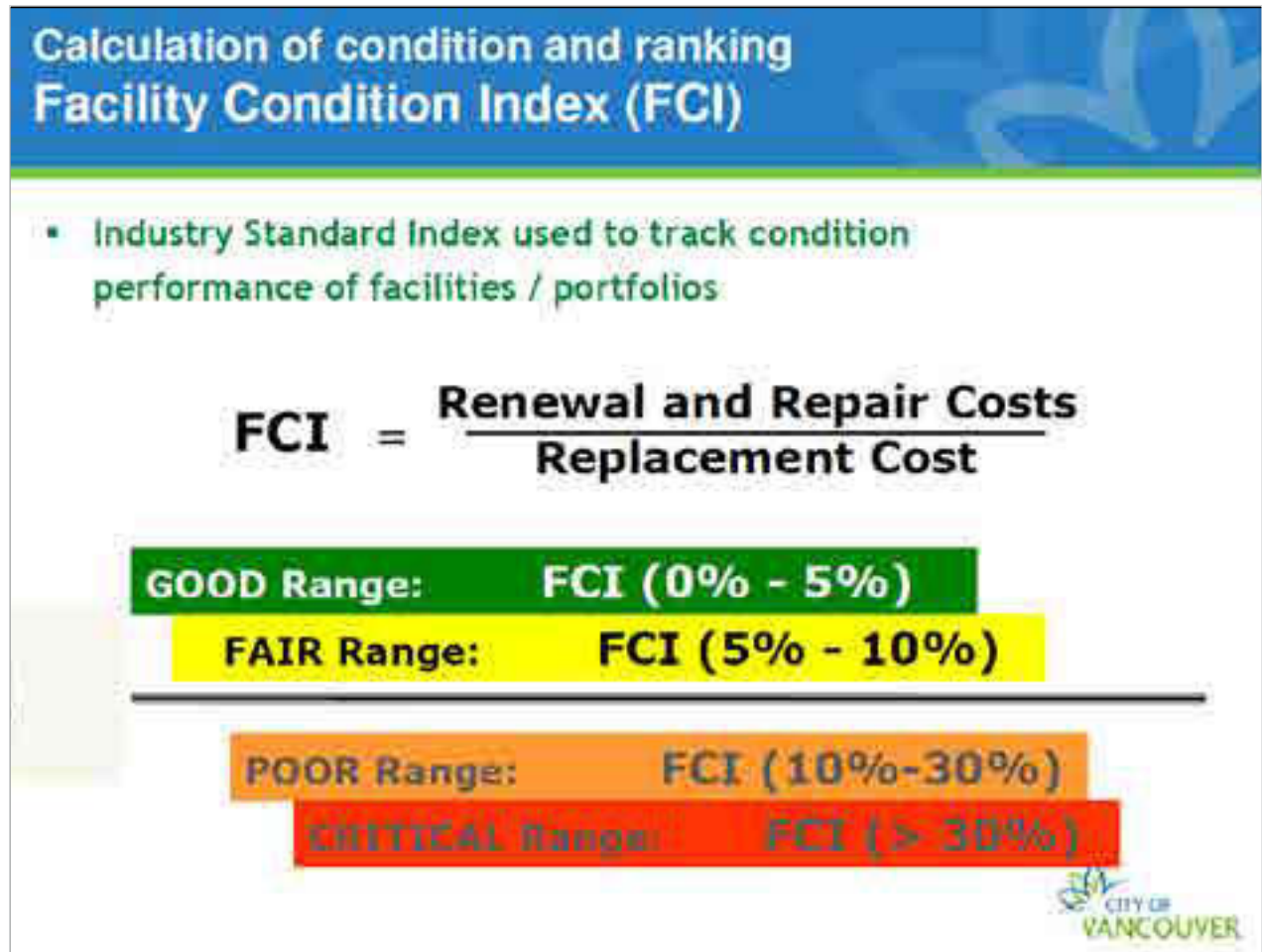
■ AWAITING STRATEGY COMPLETION

"MAINTAIN SUPPLY" recommends meeting the needs of the growing population by increasing capacity of the existing facilities or amenities.

"INCREASE SUPPLY" recommends adding more facilities or amenities where demand cannot be met with the existing supply.

FACILITY CONDITION INDEX

One quantitative tool available in the complex analysis of community centre renewal planning and prioritization is the Facility Condition Index (FCI). This industry best practice was applied to the community centre inventory as an initial condition assessment lens.



VANPLAY: PLAYBOOK

THE VANPLAY PLAN VISION IS:

To maximize access to high quality parks and recreation experiences that connect people with each other and nature.



APPROACHES FOR ACTION

Summarized as follows are Approaches for Action with relevance to community centres.

PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthen and expand partnerships to build capacity and clarify roles.

Develop a community centre funding model to financially better support centres that serve communities facing socioeconomic challenges.

Approaches for Action are overarching recommendations which describe how the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation should focus action in order to achieve the aspirations outlined in VanPlay.

Each Approach for Action is supported by a list of **Associated Initiatives** to be undertaken over the next 10 years (including plans, projects, and policy steps).

SPORT FOR LIFE

Support a lifelong pursuit of sport and recreation for all ages and abilities.

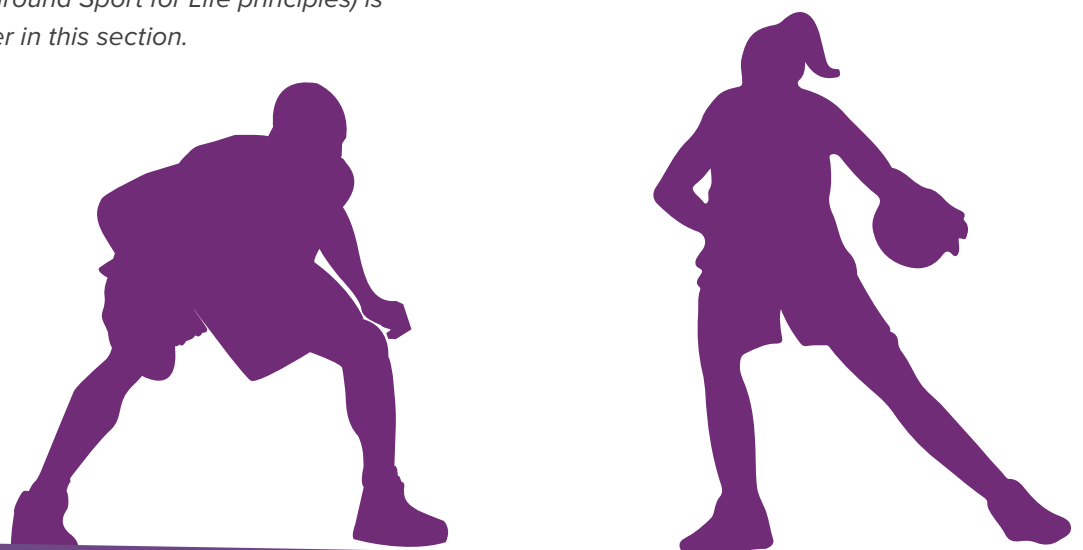
Conduct a survey by, and of, urban Indigenous youth to measure perceptions of safety, and welcome at parks and community centres to develop outcomes and recommendations that result in more opportunities for urban Indigenous youth to use Park Board services, and engage with and provide feedback to Park Board recreation.

An overview of the Vancouver Sport Strategy (developed around Sport for Life principles) is provided later in this section.

LOCAL FOOD

Support access to sustainable, local and healthy food.

Encourage food-focused programming and infrastructure for formal and informal gatherings that facilitate growing, cooking, eating, and sharing of food in parks and community centres.



EXPAND ACCESS

Expand access to recreation facilities to keep up with population growth and changing needs.

Keep up with population growth by increasing the access to facilities; for example, aim to maintain the current citywide ratio of 1.2 sq.ft of multifunctional community centre space (excluding rinks and pools) per person as the population grows.

Anticipate population growth and increased usage of fitness centres by increasing the citywide average size of these assets.

Ensure new facilities are located near transit and active transportation nodes where it is possible to encourage green transportation choices.

Provide affordable, accessible, and secure spaces for all-ages music performances and education in community centres in collaboration with Arts, Culture and Community Services (CoV).

Determine the priority for renewal of community centres in collaboration with Community Centre Associations (Community Centre Renewal Plan).

Increase access to five additional ice rinks by considering potential locations, partnership opportunities, innovative designs, integration into ongoing capital planning and renewal timelines of existing facilities (Ice Strategy).³

WELCOMING SPACES

Enhance existing facilities to create welcoming spaces and amenities which appeal to a wide range of recreational interests and are accessible to all.

Advocate for increased maintenance budgets to better meet needs for facilities and amenities to account for increased intensity of use, particularly in Equity Initiative Zones (Strategic Bold Move Tool) and growth areas.

Develop a robust culture of welcome, inclusion, anti-oppression, and truth and reconciliation within the Park Board.

Equip community centres and large parks to act as emergency hubs and refuges during earthquakes, extreme weather, and other emergencies.

Develop a method to determine maintenance needs and priorities, in collaboration with Community Centre Associations and Real Estate and Facilities Management (CoV).

Promote self-serve admittance while improving accessibility and customer service by installing information and registration kiosks in the lobbies of all major facilities.

³ Arena needs will be further reviewed as part of an Ice Rink Strategy.

COMMUNITY CENTRE RENEWAL PLAN (2001)

In 2001, the Park Board developed a renewal plan for community centres. Much like today, drivers for renewal were aging infrastructure, sustainable service delivery, and population growth demands.

RENEWAL PRINCIPLES

Where feasible, community centres will be co-located with other services.

Community centre activity spaces will be designed to support intensive use and high quality programming and to have the flexibility to meet new program demands.

Community centres will be designed in consultation with the end users.

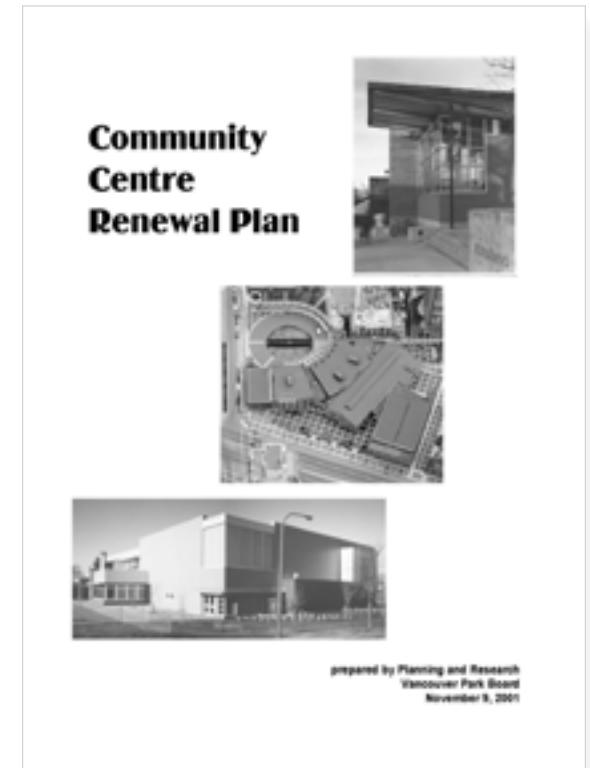
Community centres will be built to an adequate level of seismic resistance, consistent with their designation as emergency reception centres.

Community centres will be accessible and welcoming environments.

Community centres premises will be safe and secure.

Community centres will be constructed on principles of sustainability.

Community centre renewal will accommodate the anticipated population growth for the city.



The plan identified 6 high priority and 5 medium priority capital projects. These projects included Sunset Community Centre (renewed in 2007), Trout Lake Community Centre (renewed in 2011), the West End Community Centre (currently undergoing renewal planning), and Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre (renewal underway).



HEALTHY CITY STRATEGY

The City of Vancouver created a strategy in 2015 to ensure a healthy city for all.

VISION

A city where together we are creating and continually improving the conditions that enable all of us to enjoy the highest level of health and well-being possible.

**Resulting from the development of the strategy was a joint committee that meets monthly to review progress and work collaboratively on health and wellness initiatives.*

PRINCIPLES

A broad and holistic understanding of health and well-being.

Fulfillment of fundamental rights and freedoms.

Health and well-being for all.

Prevention and upstream oriented.

Health and well-being is everyone's business.

Healthy ecological environments.

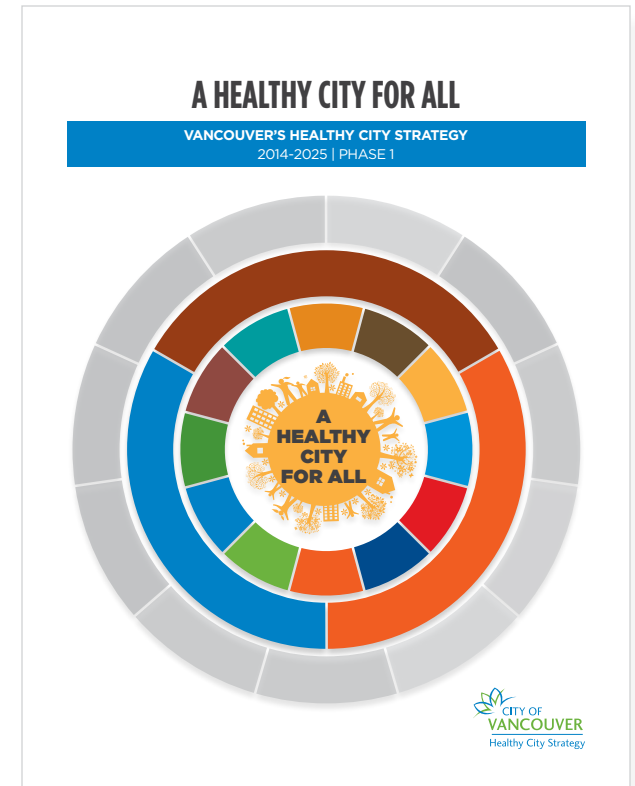
A need for innovation.

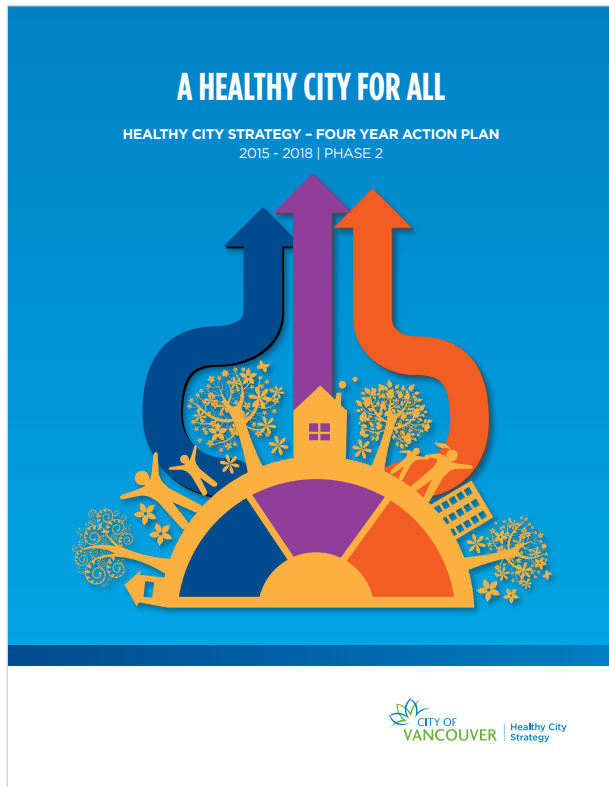
Enabling collective impact.

Focus investment and action based on evidence.

Monitor, evaluate and communicate.

Lead and model.





CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS

Vancouverites are connected and engaged in the places and spaces that matter to us.

A target for 2025: All Vancouverites report that they have at least 4 people in their network they can rely on for support in times of need.

ACTIVE LIVING AND GETTING OUTSIDE

Vancouverites are engaged in active living and have incomparable access to nature.

By 2025: Increase the percentage of Vancouver residents aged 18 and over who meet the Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines by 25% over 2014 levels.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Vancouverites have equitable access to lifelong learning and development opportunities.

By 2025: Increase participation in lifelong learning by 25% over 2014 levels

EXPRESSING OURSELVES

Vancouver has a diverse and thriving cultural ecology that enriches the lives of all residents and visitors.

Increase public participation and community engagement in arts and culture by 25% over 2014 levels.

EQUITY FRAMEWORK

City Council adopted the Equity Framework in 2021 to guide every aspect of internal operations with a sharper and more nuanced equity lens.

EQUITY IS AN OUTCOME AND A PROCESS

Equity as an outcome is the condition that would be achieved if one's identity no longer predicted how one fares.

Equity as a process is the replacement of policies, practices, attitudes, and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes or fail to eliminate them.

To enact this change, the City of Vancouver is committed to:

- Doing equity work over the long term
- Creating spaces for our staff for accountable learning
- Reflecting equity in our leadership
- Building relationships with equity denied communities
- Adequately resourcing equity work
- Ensuring shared accountability



The Equity Framework exists to create a unified vision and shared understanding of equity across City departments, and to define the City's orientation to this work.

BUILDING A PATH TO PARKS & RECREATION FOR ALL: REDUCING BARRIERS FOR TRANS* & GENDER VARIANT COMMUNITY MEMBERS

In 2013, the Park Board formed a Trans* and Gender Variant Inclusion Working Group to identify access barriers and to recommend actions. Recommendations were developed for each of these five key areas: signage and literature, public spaces (including washrooms and change-rooms), human resource training and policies, programming, collaborative public and community partnerships.

The Vancouver Park Board is committed to creating safe spaces for everyone, including 2SLGTBQ+ individuals.



GOALS OF THE REPORT

Expand options in washrooms and change rooms by increasing universal and gender-neutral spaces alongside gendered spaces and include private options in all spaces.

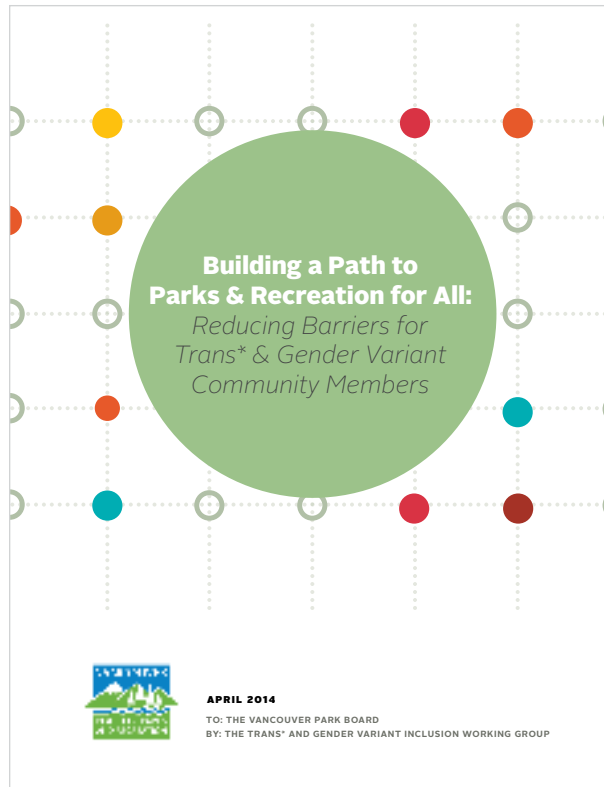
Create and adapt recreational programming to ensure more respectful and inclusive services.

Expand paths to financially accessible facilities and programs.

Create and leverage effective partnerships with organizations who can support new and existing patrons in accessing recreational spaces and programming.

Create communication that engages all community members in honoring human rights law, understanding trans* experience and contributing to welcoming and respectful recreational spaces.

Equip staff with the tools to engage and support trans* and gender variant community members and foster respectful and welcoming parks and recreational facilities.

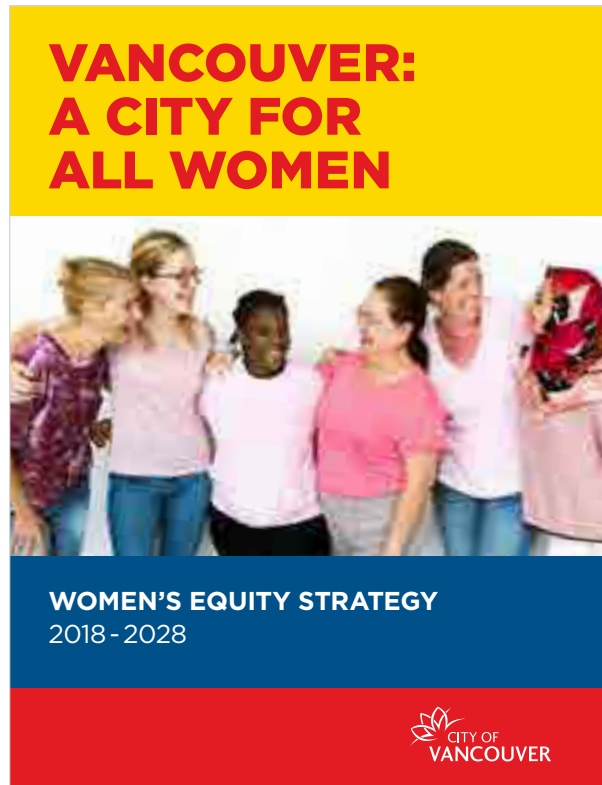


WOMEN'S EQUITY STRATEGY

City Council adopted this strategy in 2018 to make Vancouver a place where all women have full access to the resources provided in the city and have opportunities to fully participate in the political, economic, cultural, and social life of Vancouver. An update was endorsed in 2021.

The strategy addresses the issues faced by women in five priority areas:

- Applying an intersectional lens to strengthen City processes and inform decision-making
- Addressing safety, including violence against women
- Accessible, quality child care
- Safe and affordable housing
- Women's leadership and representation within our workforce



VANCOUVER SPORT STRATEGY (VSS)

The VSS document was approved in 2008 by both the City of Vancouver and the Park Board. The VSS was undertaken to initiate a process geared towards defining the City and Park Board relationship with people who lead, volunteer, and participate in sport programs, events, facilities and key stakeholders involved in sport.

Using the *Canadian Sport for Life* model as a basis, the VSS identified six overarching strategic goals:

- Strengthened Interaction
- Physical Literacy for All
- Active for Life
- Enhanced Excellence
- Quality Facilities and Participation Performance
- Recognition as a Premier Event Destination

Each of the above strategic goals includes a series of associated recommendations and success outcomes. The VSS also clearly identifies the importance of providing supporting infrastructure (including community centres) to foster lifelong sport participation and excellence.



CIVIC YOUTH STRATEGY

Originally crafted in 1995, the Civic Youth Strategy focuses on residents ages 9 to 24. The core objective is to ensure that youth have a place in the city, including having a voice in decision-making.

The strategy included the following policy statement:

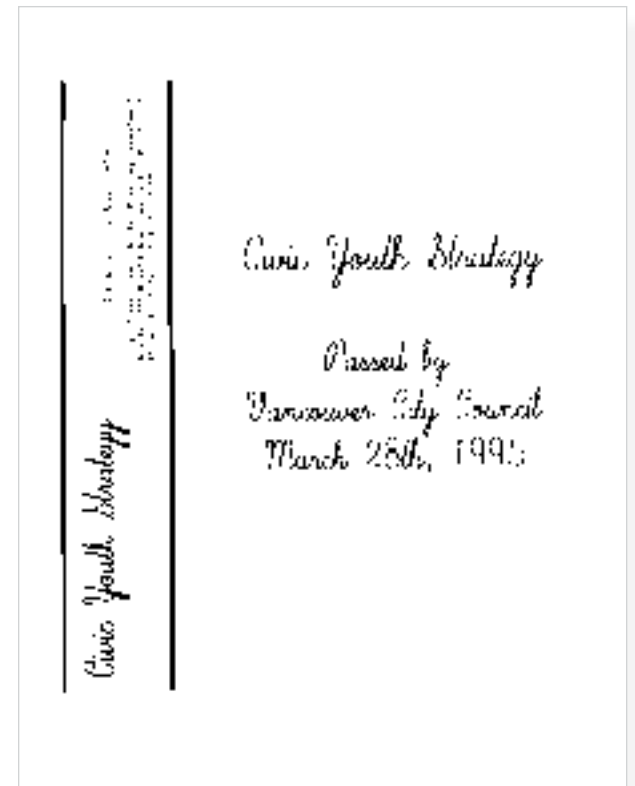
- The City of Vancouver commits to involving youth as active partners:
 - I. In the development, assessment and delivery of civic services which have a direct impact on youth; and
 - II. In broad spectrum community consultations and initiatives
- The City of Vancouver promotes and supports youth driven youth groups as a key consultation resource to the city to ensure the voices of youth are heard.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Strong youth involvement at the local level.

Partnerships in planning and implementation.

Assistance and support rather than control and management.



LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM ACTION PLAN

The Local Food Action Plan, approved and implemented in 2013, contributed to Vancouver becoming a global leader in urban food systems by strengthening the local food system. The plan outlined four priorities, eight goals, and 55 actions. Now that many of those items are completed a new plan has been approved. The Local Food System Action plan was approved by Park Board in November of 2021.

All 27 community centres in the city contain a kitchen facility or a food preparation area. Survey results from engagement undertaken when the plan was originally developed in 2013 reveal that kitchen facilities vary in condition, capacity, licensing, and utilization. Each centre has individual policies dealing with access for rental and community groups that affect its ability to be fully utilized.

GOALS

Goal 1 - Centre Indigenous Voices in Food System to Honour the Teaching that “Food is Medicine”

Goal 2 - Improve Equity in Park Board Food Assets, Services, and Programs

Goal 3 - Strengthen Food Partnerships and Collaboration to Support a Decolonized, Sustainable and Just Food Economy

Goal 4 - Build Long-Term Food System Resiliency, Sustainability, and Increase Biodiversity



SPACES TO THRIVE: VANCOUVER SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

The Spaces to Thrive policy framework was adopted by Council in December 2021 and is Vancouver's first strategic 10-year policy and partnership framework for City-owned and City-supported social infrastructure.

THE STRATEGY INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

- Spaces to Thrive: Policy Framework (Phase 1)
- Spaces to Thrive: Current State Data Book

In addition, work has begun on the Phase 2: Implementation Plan and Financial Strategy.

Spaces to Thrive uses a human rights-based approach, which focuses on those facing vulnerabilities, to ensure fundamental human rights are protected without discrimination to achieve its vision, principles, and directions.

THE STRATEGY INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STRATEGY DIRECTIONS:

1. Partnerships and capacity support: Strengthen the City's role in partnerships and capacity support for the social sector
2. Plan to meet priorities and goals: Plan a network of the right type and supply of social infrastructure that meet reconciliation, equity, and resilience goals
3. Support what already exists: Enable renewal, renovation, replacement, and expansion of existing social-serving facilities
4. Plan for the future: Enable new social infrastructure to meet growth and equity priority needs
5. Innovate for efficiency: Support transformation, adaptation, and optimization of social infrastructure.
6. Improve ecosystem health: Foster resilient, adaptable, and sustainable social infrastructure



HOW THE STRATEGY WILL SUPPORT SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The City of Vancouver supports social infrastructure by:

- Building, operating, renewing, and renovating social facilities
- Building and leasing social facilities to non-profit organizations
- Providing capital to non-profit organizations to build, renovate, and renew their facilities
- Support the operation of social facilities and the needed services they provide through grants

Funding for social infrastructure comes from:

- City contributions - Property tax, user fees, and other operating revenue fund a majority of capital projects.
- Developer contributions - Contributions from development, including development cost levies (DCLs) and community amenity contributions (CACs), to partially fund new and expanded amenities and infrastructure needed for growth.
- Partner contributions - We receive funding from provincial and federal governments as well as from non-profit agencies, foundations, and philanthropists to advance Council and community priorities.



VANCOUVER CULTURE SHIFT

This plan aims to transform how arts and culture are integrated into every facet of the city. It embraces the city's diversity and the unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh.

ARTS & CULTURE AT THE CENTRE OF CITY BUILDING

Champion creators and elevate arts and culture.

RECONCILIATION & DECOLONIZATION

Recognize and support Indigenous cultural knowledge and presence through decolonizing practices.

CULTURAL EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY

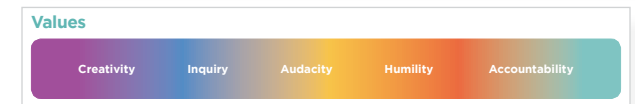
Advance diverse and inclusive leadership & practices by offering equitable and accessible support.

MAKING SPACE FOR ARTS & CULTURE

Prevent displacement and support affordable, accessible, secure spaces.

COLLABORATION & CAPACITY

Strengthen sector resilience through facilitating partnerships and leveraging investment.



MAKING SPACE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

Vancouver's cultural infrastructure plan outlines the City's long-term vision to optimize City policies and tools to secure, enhance, and develop vibrant, affordable, and accessible arts and cultural spaces.

OVERALL TARGET

An overall target of 800,000 square feet of new, repurposed or expanded affordable City, non-profit, and private space over the next ten years.

GOALS

Prioritize self-determined Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh, and urban Indigenous spaces.

Prioritize cultural heritage, equity, and accessibility.

Remove regulatory barriers.

Expand tools to prevent displacement and secure spaces.

Expand community partnerships.

Increase community ownership and support a cultural land trust.



GREENEST CITY STRATEGY

This 2015 strategy provided a road map for the City of Vancouver to become the greenest city in the world by 2020.

VISION

To create opportunities today while building a strong local economy, vibrant and inclusive neighbourhoods, and an internationally recognized city that meets the needs of generations to come. This is a vision that

“Moving toward 100% renewable energy is another way that Vancouver is working to become the greenest city in the world.”

– Mayor Gregor Robinson

has an important role for each of us.

2050 TARGETS

Derive 100% of the energy used in Vancouver from renewable sources.

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 2007 levels.

Require all buildings constructed from 2020 onward to be carbon neutral in operations.

Retrofit existing buildings to perform like new construction.

Increase city-wide and neighbourhood food assets by a minimum of 50% over 2010 levels.



CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Building off the Greenest City Strategy, this City of Vancouver plan takes on Vancouver's biggest local sources of carbon pollution—buildings and transportation.

HOW WE BUILD AND RENOVATE

We need to build and renovate differently. We have to construct and operate Vancouver's buildings in a climate-friendly, healthy, and resilient way.

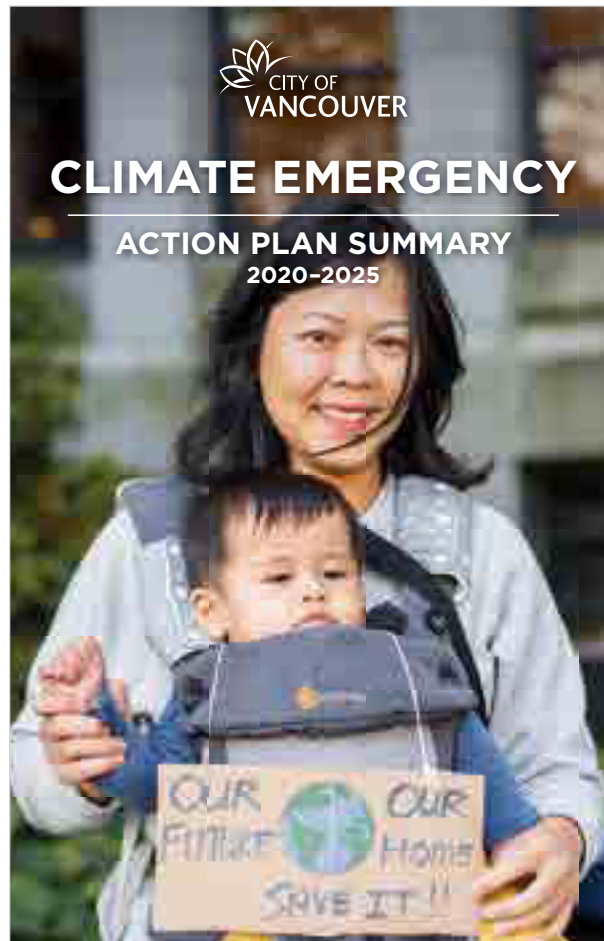
Set carbon pollution limits for building operations and streamline regulations.

Require new buildings to use low-carbon materials.

Support people building with low carbon materials.

Facilitate access to renewable energy.

Support early zero emissions retrofits.



By 2030, people will be able to live and work in zero emissions buildings, and benefit from the comfort, quiet, healthy air, and lower energy costs they offer.

VANSPLASH

The Park Board developed Vancouver's Aquatic Strategy, VanSplash, in 2019.

VISION

Building communities of aquatic users for a lifetime.

MISSION

Deliver a wide range of accessible aquatic experiences for residents and visitors that support Vancouver as a highly livable, world-leading coastal city.

RELEVANT INDOOR POOL RECOMMENDATIONS

Support a balanced delivery model that includes small scale pools as well as large scale facilities to deliver a greater diversity of aquatic experiences.

Replace Britannia neighbourhood pool with a new pool on the Britannia site.

Provide a large scale pool at Connaught Park as part of a future arena and/or community centre renewal.

Replace the Vancouver Aquatic Centre with a new large scale pool.

Replace Kerrisdale Pool with a new medium scale pool, as part of a future community centre and/or arena renewal.

Renovate Kensington Pool to enhance accessibility and increase opportunities for adaptive and therapeutic swimming.



A FRAMEWORK FOR RECREATION IN CANADA

This guiding document was developed by the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association and the Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council. Informed by input from various stakeholders across Canada, the Framework was developed to support recreation providers in Canada and was endorsed by Provincial and Territorial governments in 2015. The Framework provides a philosophic foundation for the recreation sector and affirms recreation as an essential public service.

A RENEWED DEFINITION OF RECREATION

Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community well-being.

FRAMEWORK VISION

We envision a Canada in which everyone is engaged in meaningful, accessible recreation experiences that foster individual wellbeing, community wellbeing and the wellbeing of our natural and built environments.

A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015 Pathways to Wellbeing

A Joint Initiative of the Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council
and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association





Goal 1: Active Living

Foster active living through physical recreation.



Goal 2: Inclusion and Access

Increase inclusion and access to recreation for populations that face constraints to participation.



Goal 3: Connecting People with Nature

Help people connect to nature through recreation.



Goal 4: Supportive Environments

Ensure the provision of supportive physical and social environments that encourage participation in recreation and help to build strong, caring communities.



Goal 5: Building Recreation Capacity

Ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the recreation field.



LET'S GET MOVING

A COMMON VISION FOR INCREASING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND REDUCING SEDENTARY LIVING IN CANADA

The primary purpose of this initiative is to stimulate coordinated policies and actions to increase physical activity and to reduce sedentary behaviours among all Canadians across their lifetime. It was developed and endorsed by Provincial and Territorial Governments as well as the Government of Canada. There are six areas of focus for collaborative action identified through a comprehensive national consultation and engagement process.

There are several ideas presented in Let's Get Moving that call upon municipal governments; here are some of them:

- Work with community planners to create accessible and inclusive spaces and places.
- Work in partnership with Indigenous leaders to realize the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report (2015).
- Use Geographic Information System (GIS) tools to reveal trends and detect weaknesses in walkability and access to recreation facilities and the use of green spaces in communities.
- Monitor parks, fields, and playgrounds to determine how best to activate these places and spaces.
- Use evidence-based checklists and self-assessment tools (e.g., Photovoice) to help assess physical activity opportunities and barriers in neighbourhoods.
- Audit accessibility and improve access to recreation facilities where appropriate.
- Help organizations that have volunteer capacity issues (or face high turnover of volunteers/coaches/programmers) find meaningful solutions support them so that quality programming is consistent and reliable.



SPORT FOR LIFE

Sport for Life (S4L) is a movement that promotes quality sport and physical activity. It is led by Sport for Life Society, a federal not-for-profit society that was incorporated in September 2014 and comprises experts from sport, health, recreation and academia who are employed as independent contractors, yet work cooperatively to promote the movement's goals. The movement introduces two important concepts that influence recreation/sport activity planning, promotion, organization and delivery: Long-Term Athlete Development and Physical Literacy.

**A profile on the City and Park Board's Vancouver Sport Strategy (VSS) is provided previously in this section. The VSS was developed in alignment with the Sport for Life model.*

LONG-TERM ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

An eight-stage training, competition and recovery pathway guiding an individual's experience in sport and physical activity from infancy through all phases of adulthood.

PHYSICAL LITERACY

Defined as the motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities for life.



THE EIGHT STAGES OF LTAD



AWARENESS AND FIRST INVOLVEMENT

To engage in sport and physical activity, individuals must be aware of what opportunities exist for them, and when they try an activity for the first time, it is critical that the experience is positive. That is why Sport for Life emphasizes the two stages of Awareness and First Involvement.



ACTIVE START

From 0-6 years, boys and girls need to be engaged in daily active play. Through play and movement, they develop the fundamental movement skills and learn how to link them together. At this stage developmentally appropriate activities will help participants feel competent and comfortable participating in a variety of fun and challenging activities and games.



FUNDAMENTALS

In the FUNdamentals stage, participants develop fundamental movement skills in structured and unstructured environments for play. The focus is on providing fun, inclusive, multisport, and developmentally appropriate sport and physical activity. These experiences will result in the participant developing a wide range of movement skill along with the confidence and desire to participate.



LEARN TO TRAIN

Once a wide range of fundamental movement skills have been acquired, participants progress into the Learn to Train stage leading to understanding basic rules, tactics, and strategy in games and refinement of sport specific skills. There are opportunities to participate in multiple sports with competitions focused on skill development and retention. Games and activities are inclusive, fun, and skill based. At the end of the Learn to Train stage, participants grow (or progress) towards sport excellence in the Train to Train stage or being Active for Life, either by being Competitive for Life or Fit for Life.



TRAIN TO TRAIN

Athletes enter the Train to Train stage when they have developed proficiency in the athlete development performance components (physical, technical-tactical, mental, and emotional). Rapid physical growth, the development of sporting capability, and commitment occurs in this stage. Athletes will generally specialize in one sport towards the end of the stage. A progression from local to provincial competition occurs over the course of the stage.



TRAIN TO COMPETE

Athletes enter the Train to Compete stage when they are proficient in sport-specific Train to Train athlete development components (physical, technical-tactical, mental, and emotional). Athletes are training nearly full-time and competing at the national level while being introduced to international competition.



TRAIN TO WIN

Athletes in the Train to Win stage are world class competitors who are competing at the highest level of competition in the world (e.g. Olympics, Paralympics, World Championships, World Cups).



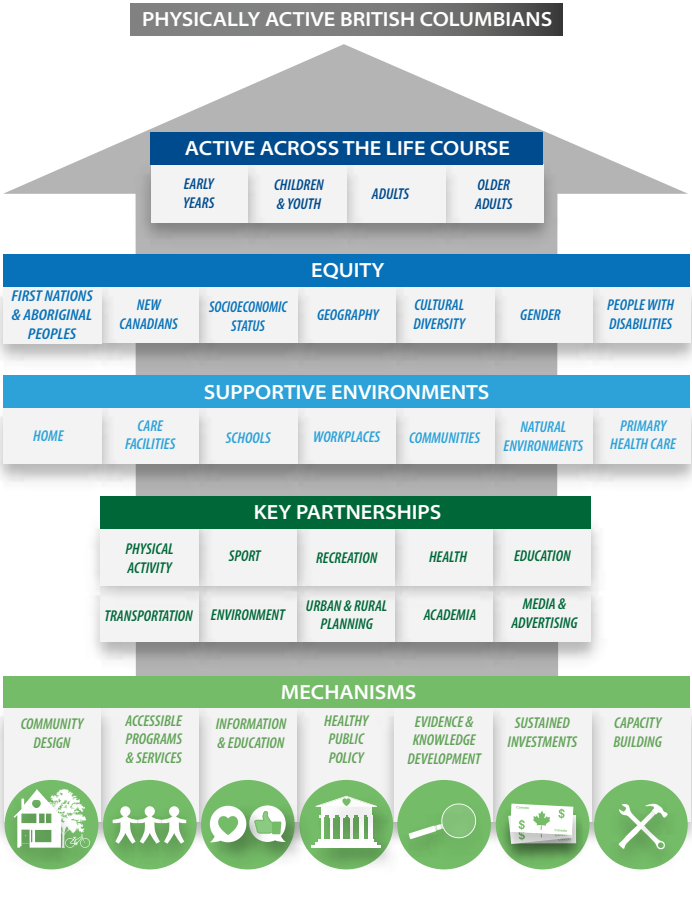
ACTIVE FOR LIFE

Individuals who have a desire to be physically active are in the Active for Life stage. A participant may choose to be Competitive for Life or Fit for Life and, if inclined, give back as a sport or physical activity leader. Competitive for Life includes those who compete in any organized sport recreation leagues to Master Games. Fit for Life includes active people who participate in non-competitive physical activity.

ACTIVE PEOPLE, ACTIVE PLACES

The Government of BC designed this physical activity strategy to guide and stimulate coordinated policies, practices and programs in to improve the health and wellbeing of British Columbians, and the communities in which they live, learn, work and play.

FIGURE 6: B.C. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION



INDIGENOUS SPORT, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & RECREATION STRATEGY (BC)

Renewed in 2019, this strategy is organized and supported by four Pillars that, through the sum of their actions, will create responsive and enduring programs for Indigenous people across BC and will have a positive impact on the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

VISION

To empower and inspire Indigenous people, families, and communities to live healthy, active, purposeful lives.

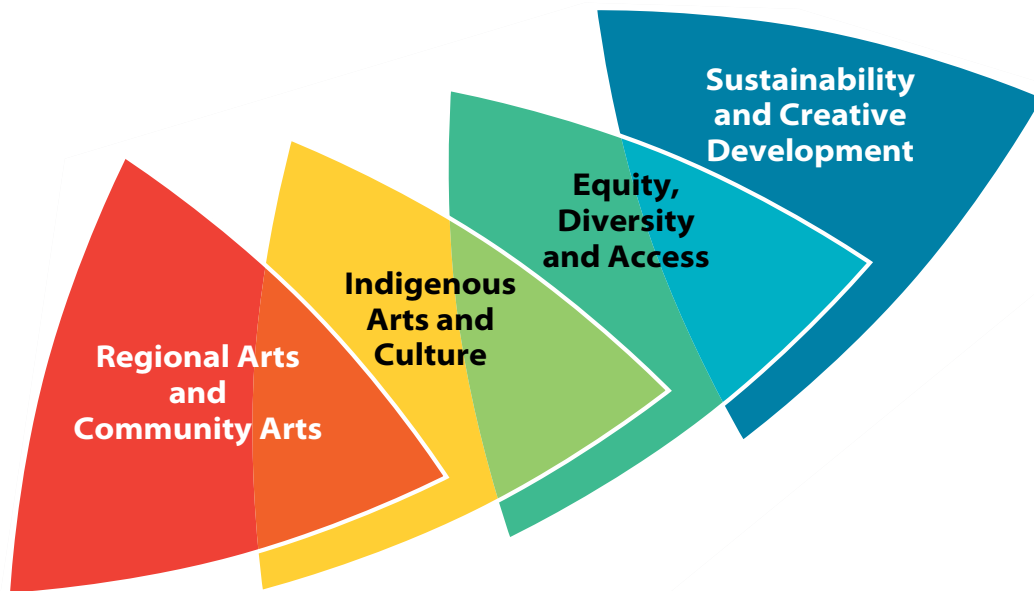


BRITISH COLUMBIA ARTS COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

This 2018-2022 Strategic Plan provides a foundation for the arts and culture sector in the province, with a focus on advocacy and ensuring that the sector is adequately supported and fostered. The plan is organized into four overarching strategic directions.

VISION

Artists and cultural organizations in British Columbia are well-supported, thriving, and able to reach their full potential under principles of equity, diversity, accessibility, and reconciliation. Arts and culture are seen as fundamental to developing vibrant and resilient communities, where the people of British Columbia are highly engaged in the province's unique arts and culture sector recognized for its innovation and leadership in Canada and abroad.





JURISDICTIONAL REVIEW AND TRENDS

KEY FINDINGS OVERVIEW

SERVICE LEVEL BENCHMARKS AND CONSIDERATIONS

In local government planning for community services (such as parks, recreation, and culture), it is common to find provision recommendations based on proximity – for example, everyone should live within 3 KM of a community facility or provision ratios (example - targets for the number of residents per unit of provision). Service needs are also often developed based on addressing specific gaps identified through needs assessment and master planning (example - utilization and demand indicators suggest that more aquatics or performance space is needed). Unlike the direction provided in VanPlay and previous Vancouver community centre planning, none of the benchmarking cities have a square feet per capita standard.

RESILIENCY AND SOCIAL IMPACT

Vancouver is a leader when it comes to thinking about ways that community centres can be used to enhance resiliency to natural disasters and social service initiatives.

PARTICIPATION AND ACTIVITY TRENDS

- Demand for casual and spontaneous opportunities
- Shifting older adult activity preferences
- Evolving nature of volunteerism
- Concerning societal activity levels
- Desire to creative and dynamic
- The impacts of COVID-19
- Focus on equity, inclusion, and access



JURISDICTIONAL SCAN

Selected municipalities were reviewed to gain insights into community centre provision levels.

To the best degree possible the benchmarking information presented on the following pages has tried to capture community centres that are practically within the municipal delivery system for each selected city. However, it is important to note that benchmarking recreation infrastructure is an imperfect exercise. Every municipality has a different historical recreation service delivery context, not for profit partners, and regional adjacencies. The benchmarking exercise also does not take into account functional characteristics (e.g. age, support amenities, quality, etc.) - it simply counts the quantity of community centres.



SERVICE LEVEL SCAN OF SELECTED NORTH AMERICAN CITIES

The following chart reflects community centre service levels based on a provision ratio of centres to population. As Vancouver is unique in using a square foot per capita service target and the space volume of the comparator jurisdictions is challenging to accurately validate, the provision ratio comparison is the best way to contrast service levels. It is important to recognize that each of the comparator communities provides community centre facilities using a different approach. To the best degree possible, the facilities included in this comparison are those considered to be within the municipal delivery system (in some of the comparator jurisdictions this includes facilities provided in partnership with operators such as the YMCA, school and post-secondary partners, etc.). **The supply numbers were obtained from the comparator City's most recent system-wide planning document (e.g. Master Plan) where available.*

City (plan year)	Supply (Community Centres)	Population (at time of plan)	Provision (Community Centres per capita)	Provision Recommendations
Denver (2019)	28	705,576	1:25,000	10 min drive (1 to 3 KM distance)
Halifax (2015)	23 (+20 community halls)	414,400	1:18,000 (1:14,000+1:5,000)	Drive time from Regional Centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 min to major facility (1 to 7 KM distance) • 10 min to community hall (1 to 3 KM distance)
San Francisco (2012)	25	807,755	1:32,000	No provision recommendations
Seattle (2016)	26	668,849	1:26,000	1:15-20,000 1.5 miles (2.4 km)
Toronto (2016)	85	2.87 M	1:34,000	1:34,000 2 to 2.5 KM distance
Portland (2020)	14	654,741	1:46,800	Develop a full-service community centre - defined as a centre with a pool, arts facilities, classrooms and active recreation facilities - within 3 miles (4.8 km) of every resident. Currently only one facility meets this baseline in the city.
Vancouver (2017)	27	675,218	1:25,000	1:26,000 (maintain provision per capita) 1.2 KM / 15-minute walk (analysis tool) 1.2 Sq.Ft. per capita (excluding pools and rinks)

SERVICE LEVEL SCAN OF REGIONAL MUNICIPALITIES

Vancouver's provision of community centres is generally similar to most regional comparators. As suggested by the chart, provision typically expands (worsens) as municipalities grow in size. However, Vancouver has been somewhat of a regional outlier in that it has managed to maintain a provision level equivalent to that of smaller municipalities in the region.

Municipality	Population (2016 Statistics Canada)	Supply (Community Centres)	Provision (Community Centres per capita)
New Westminster	70,996	3	1:23,665
North Vancouver (City and District)	138,883	7	1:19,840
Coquitlam*	139,284	6	1:23,214
Richmond	198,309	8	1:24,789
Burnaby	232,755	5	1:46,551
Surrey**	517,887	9	1:57,543
Vancouver	631,486	27	1:23,388

**Includes the Coquitlam Family YMCA that the City has funded through a partnership with the YMCA. Does not include the planned Northeast Community Centre as timing for this project remains unclear*

***Does not include the planned new Newton or City Centre Community Centres. Once developed, Surrey's provision of community centres will improve to 1:47,081*

PLANNING FOUNDATIONS AND THEMES

Planning from other cities was reviewed to identify prevalent themes and planning foundations - providing insights into key shifts and philosophical objectives in the delivery of quality of life services such as parks, recreation and culture. The following chart matrix reflects the results from the coding of the identified planning documents.

Vancouver	Canada	Denver	Toronto	Halifax	Calgary
VanPlay: Strategic Bold Moves Report	A Framework For Recreation In Canada 2016	Denver Game Plan Final Report 2019	Toronto Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan 2019-2038	Community Facility Master Plan 2015	Calgary Recreation Master Plan (2010-2020)
Equity		Equitable	Equity		Equity
Access	Access	Accessible			Accessibility
Quality			Quality		
Inclusivity	Inclusion	Inclusive		Diversity and inclusion	Diversity & inclusion
Asset Needs					
Quantity					
Capacity					
Distribution					
Public Demand					
Connectivity	Connecting people and nature	Connected, safe		Connectivity	
Vibrant, active communities	Active living	Healthy, active and vibrant			Vitality
Flow of water (FN mention)					
Sense of Place					
Thriving Ecosystems	Supportive environments	Environmentally resilient	Sustainability		Environmental responsible

PLANNING FOUNDATIONS AND THEMES (CONTINUED)

Vancouver	Canada	Denver	Toronto	Halifax	Calgary
		Strong-authentic neighbourhoods			
		Economically diverse			
		Affordable			Economic viability
			Innovation (strategies & design)		Innovation
	Recreation capacity			Facility development (old & new)	
				Facility operations optimization	
					Stewardship
					Adaptability & responsiveness



SUMMARY OF PLANNING FOUNDATIONS AND THEMES FROM THE OTHER JURISDICTIONAL REVIEW

The following themes were mentioned in all five plans.

INCLUSIVENESS AND DIVERSITY

- Enable and promote access for all by helping to attract a diversity of users and conserving, promoting, and incorporating culture.

ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE

- Protect the interests of current and future generations through adaptable and resilient facilities that are socially, environmentally, and financially sustainable.





The following were mentioned in four of the plans.

EQUITY

- Provide an equitable distribution of parks and recreation facilities on a geographic and demographic basis for all residents.

ACCESSIBILITY

- All residents should be able to utilize facilities, regardless of their age, location, financial or other barriers.

CONNECTIVITY

- Improve the connections between communities and their facilities and improve communications between Facilities and citizens.

ACTIVE, VIBRANT

- Participation throughout the life course reduce sedentary behaviours.

These concepts were brought forth in two plans.

ECONOMICALLY VIABLE, AFFORDABLE

- Create and sustain economic prosperity.
- Creativity is encouraged and in which investments are made and leveraged toward community infrastructure and programs.

QUALITY

- Provide high quality and inspiring facilities to enhance the health, wellbeing, and quality of life of residents.

INNOVATION

- Encourage progressive strategies and partnerships that respond to changing times, address emerging needs and promote excellence.
- Finding better ways of designing, providing, and funding spaces, such as co-located and integrated facilities.

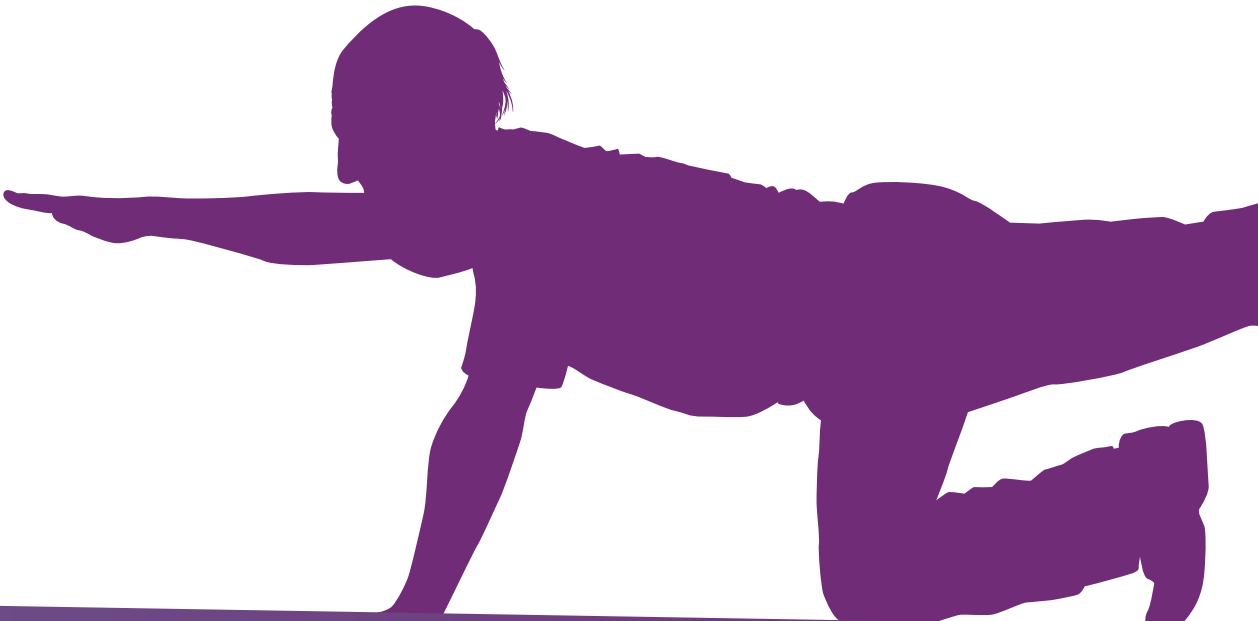


TRENDS IDENTIFIED IN PLANNING DOCUMENTS FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Trends were also highlighted in a number of the reviewed plans. The following chart matrix identifies key trends themes that were identified as being pertinent and potentially impactful to future service delivery in those communities.

VanPlay (Vancouver)	Edmonton	Seattle	Halifax	Calgary
Inventory And Analysis Full Report	Approach To Community Recreation Planning In Edmonton, Oct. 2018	Seattle Community Centre Strategic Plan 2016	Community Facility Master Plan-2 2015	Calgary Recreation Master Plan (2010-2020)
Passive				
Leisure			Personal health (wellness centre)	
Informal	Structured & spontaneous activities		Informal recreation	
Technology	Integration of technology			New and emerging technologies
High performance sport			New recreation activities	
Arts & culture in recreation			Arts, culture & heritage	
Community resilience				
Culinary assets				
Accessibility & inclusivity	Accessibility	Equity and access		
Aging Infrastructure	Concerns over aging infrastructure			Infrastructure deficit
	Flexibility and adaptability			Flexible Designs
Co-location	Multipurpose spaces			Facility Grouping, multi-purpose
Indoor-outdoor integration	Indoor-outdoor integration			
	Revenue generating spaces	Expanded partnerships	Economic benefits (brought through CC)	

VanPlay (Vancouver)	Edmonton	Seattle	Halifax	Calgary
Health services	Social amenities			
	Quality design, sense of place			
	Volunteerism		Volunteerism	
		Hub-Centric		Facilities as community hubs
		Expanded hours programming	Demanding schedules	
		Professional development		
		Custodial staffing		



SUMMARY OF TRENDS THEMES FROM THE OTHER JURISDICTIONAL PLANNING REVIEW

The following trends were highlighted in four of the five plans.

CO-LOCATION AND MULTI-USE HUBS

- Accommodate multiple activities.
- Create operational efficiencies.
- Attract a wide spectrum of users.
- Procure multiple sources of revenue.



These trends were mentioned in three of the plans.

INFORMAL RECREATION

- Informal pursuits which can be done alone or in small groups, at flexible times, and often near or at home.

INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY

- The application of technology in service delivery can assist in enhancing client experience beyond the walls of the facility, engaging a wider segment of the population, and enabling staff to make informed decisions on the current needs and demands.

ACCESSIBILITY, INCLUSIVITY & EQUITY

- Incorporating designs that can accommodate various levels of physical ability.
- Provide the broadest appeal possible to people of all abilities.

AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

- Canada's infrastructure, including sport and recreation facilities, is at risk of rapid deterioration unless there is an immediate investment.

REVENUE GENERATING SPACES, PARTNERSHIPS

- Leased spaces within facility (food, health, retail).
- Short term rental of rooms or areas.
- Private and non-profit founding.
- Program partnerships.





The following trends were noted in two of the five documents.

LEISURE & WELLNESS

- Community Facilities can serve as a wellness centre with space for activities, programming and information resources that help promote public health.

HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORT

- Sports can grow when local stars emerge.

ARTS & CULTURE

- Performance space, art lessons, showcases.

FLEXIBLE SPACES

- Designed with adjustable barriers, walls, bleachers, and other amenities that can be easily set up or removed depending on the type of activity or event.

INDOOR-OUTDOOR INTEGRATION

- Indoor environment interacts seamlessly with the adjacent outdoor environment.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES INTEGRATION

- Maximize the overall experience for users as well as attract non-traditional patrons to the facility.

VOLUNTEERISM

- Encouraging youth by combining it with a portion of employment or school credits are two ways to encourage more young people to become engaged.

EXPANDED AND UNCONVENTIONAL PROGRAMMING HOURS

- Trends towards flexible employment and self-employment may allow for adult activities to be scheduled during the daytime, or off hours.

ACTIVITY AND PARTICIPATION TRENDS

Further discussed as follows are a number of important activity and participation trends that are driving the provision of publicly supported recreation, leisure, and culture services at the regional, provincial, and national levels. It is likely that many of these trends already have (or will in the near term) impact community centre space needs and operations.



Demand for casual and “spontaneous” active living opportunities. The majority of recreation, leisure, and culture participation occurs spontaneously and not part of an organized program or league. While organized sport, recreation, and culture remain important, societal demands for flexibility and variety of activity are likely to continue resulting in a preference for spontaneous opportunities. Facility operators are increasingly having to balance scheduling needs and determine allocation priority for organized programming and drop-in activities.



Shifting older adult activity preference. Recognizing that there are numerous sub-cohorts within the older adult population, a significant trend (particularly among older adults ages 55 – 75) is a desire for more active and dynamic activity options. The emergence of pickleball, demand for fitness programming and spaces, and the popularity of arts and cultural programming is largely being driven by older adults.

The World Health Organization’s (WHO) Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health outlines recommended guidelines for older adult physical activity levels. These guidelines suggest weekly durations, types, and intensities of activities and the many positive benefits of promoting older adult physical activity.



Evolving nature of volunteerism. Contrary to popular belief, overall volunteer participation rates are not rapidly declining – but the nature of volunteerism is changing. The “modern volunteer” is more selective of the organizations they commit their time to, desires clarity on roles and tenure / term for their involvement, and often prefers shorter duration commitments (e.g. event focused volunteerism) over ongoing and indefinite volunteer positions. Younger volunteers are also often motivated by the opportunity to gain new skills, make connections, and align themselves with organizations that are working to address key societal issues. Changes in volunteerism are also impacting the service delivery of public sector recreation, sport and culture facilities and programming. Volunteer fatigue is becoming a serious issue for many organizations who are being increasingly challenged to fulfill important volunteers roles, often resulting in the need to pay individuals or alter program offerings.



Societal physical activity levels remain concerning, especially among children and youth. Less than half of Canadian children and youth meet recommended physically activity guidelines and over half engage in more screen time than is recommended. These factors have led the public recreation and parks sector to place an increased emphasis on physical literacy and fundamental skill development. Available data also support that many adult Canadians, while recognizing the benefits of recreation and physical activity, do not feel they are sufficiently active themselves.



Desire to be creative and dynamic. Individuals across all age groups intuitively want to be creative and challenge themselves. Youth desire dynamic play opportunities and want to explore the world through dynamic physical activity and creative pursuits such as arts, crafts and games. Increasingly, adults are also seeking these opportunities and want to re-connect with these important cognitive and physical skills.

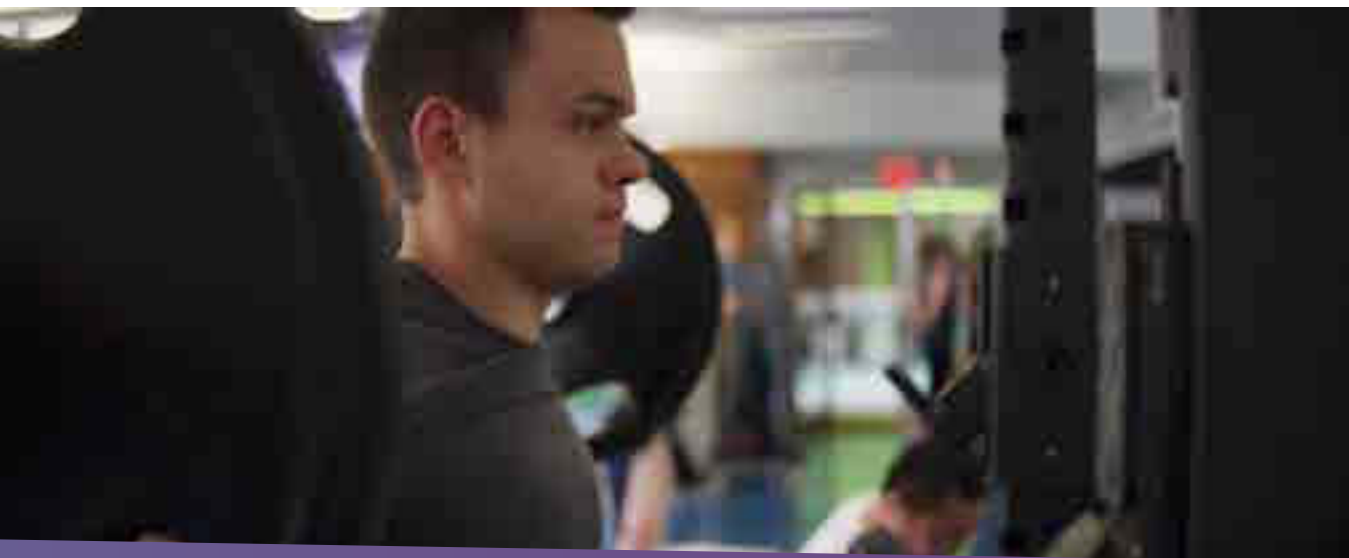




The impacts of COVID-19. The short, medium, and long term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic remain speculative and will not be fully known for a number of years. However, available data does suggest that use of outdoor spaces for gathering, socialization, and programming has exploded during the pandemic as a result of many indoor facilities being closed or having only limited capacity. As we emerge out of the pandemic, it will be important to monitor if this shift to outdoor based recreation was born out of a necessity or may be something that alters activity participation on a move forward basis. Societal attitudes and comfort levels with gathering and participating in activities in confined spaces will also be important to track and could have impacts on how programming and facilities are delivered.



Focus on equity, inclusion, and access. Societal norms and values are changing, and we are becoming increasingly aware of fundamental and deeply embedded inequities. These issues impact recreation, sport, and culture participation. We know through available data and research that income levels, ethnicity, and location of residency impact participation and access to opportunities. Public sector providers of recreation, sport, and culture have a responsibility to foster equity and ensure that public investment in these services achieve the highest possible benefit.



Sources: Canadian Fitness & Lifestyle Research Institute; BC Physical Activity Strategy; 2016-2018 Physical Activity Monitor; The Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth; Statistics Canada; World Health Organization; National Framework for Recreation in Canada: Pathways to Wellbeing; Sport Participation 2010



FACILITY DESIGN LEADING PRACTICES

KEY FINDINGS OVERVIEW

FACILITY DESIGN LEADING PRACTICES

Trends include:

- Synergies between co-location of recreation, sport, culture, and social service spaces.
- Joint-use facilities that foster new relationships and partnerships.
- Stacked configuration – vertical design.
- There is a strong correlation between compact forms and low carbon buildings.
- In the context of the climate change emergency and growing demand for sustainable living, designers of community centres are turning attention to the environmental impact of building environments.
- Community facilities designed with an Indigenous lens support the process of reconciliation and understanding.



CLAREVIEW COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE, 2014 EDMONTON

COMMUNITY CENTRE DESIGN LEADING PRACTICES

As expectations and community needs change, so does the way we interact and use our community spaces. The format, accessibility, functionality, and capability of spaces is shifting to meet new community demands.

Across the globe, we see community centres moving away from traditional stand-alone buildings towards environments that integrate complimentary uses and accessible, inclusive formats. New and renovated facilities are pioneering technologies and structuring public space in new ways. The 21st century community centre is relevant, sustainable, welcoming, and available to everyone.

The City of Vancouver is already leaning towards many of these Facility Design Leading Practices. By drawing inspiration from successful examples of best practice worldwide, Vancouver's community centres aim to achieve the highest level of service and remain relevant in our ever-evolving society.

In this section, we explore some of the developing trends and leading practices in Community Centre Design within Western Canada and worldwide.



EVOLVING TRENDS



ADAPTABLE AND INCLUSIVE DESIGN

- 🔄 Flexible & Adaptable Spaces
- ♿ Accessible & Inclusive Design



MULTIPURPOSE HUBS

- 🏋️ Sport + Recreation
- 📖 Culture + Recreation
- 👤 Services + Recreation



FORMAT INNOVATION

- 🤝 New Relationships
- 🏗️ Stacked



ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

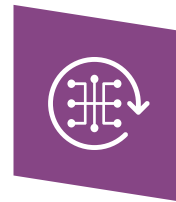
- 🌳 Form Factor
- 💡 Green Technologies



ADAPTABLE & INCLUSIVE DESIGN

New community centres are aiming to better enable access and equity for all, helping to attract a wider range of users and conserving, promoting, and celebrating diversity.

TWO BASIC CATEGORIES OF ADAPTABLE & INCLUSIVE DESIGN



**Flexible & Adaptable
Spaces**



**Accessible & Inclusive
Design**



Acer Nethercott Sports Centre, University of Oxford
FaulknerBrowns Architects
(by Eveline van Egdorn)



FLEXIBLE & ADAPTABLE SPACES

Community centres that are designed to flexibly support change are better able to accommodate a variety of different uses and patron demands within a limited space. Over time, adaptable facilities can also more easily and economically meet the diverse and changing needs of the communities they serve.



Flexible Outdoor Space Sportcampus Zuiderpark's animated entrance courtyard acts as an extension to the park, creating a physical link between the building and the main approach routes. The flexible courtyard regularly holds programmed events, and interactive features such as a basketball hoops, raised platforms and steps encourage spontaneous movement and play.



Volleyball line arrangement



Overlaid floor line configurations

New and emerging technologies can improve recreation experience. The Acer Nethercott Sports Centre is a ground breaking new sports centre for the University of Oxford, which features the UK's first LED lit, glass sports hall surface. The innovative playing surface allows the marking lines for a variety of sports to be switched on individually via a touch screen, making it much easier to identify the boundaries of the court or pitch.



SANDS END ARTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE, LONDON, UK

See next two pages for details on this project



Architects:

Mae Architects

Year:

2020

Area:

7,540 ft²

Sands End delivers flexible community spaces that promote social integration within the community. Grand open spaces offer the opportunity to host many types of activities.

The new centre sits adjacent to a 1903 lodge, maintained and repurpose as an arts space. New additions have been placed around a central courtyard, forming new internal and external connections. Over 35% of the building material is composed of recycled materials, with a responsibly sourced CLT timber structure.

PROGRAM:

- Library
- Child Care
- Multipurpose rooms
- Cafe

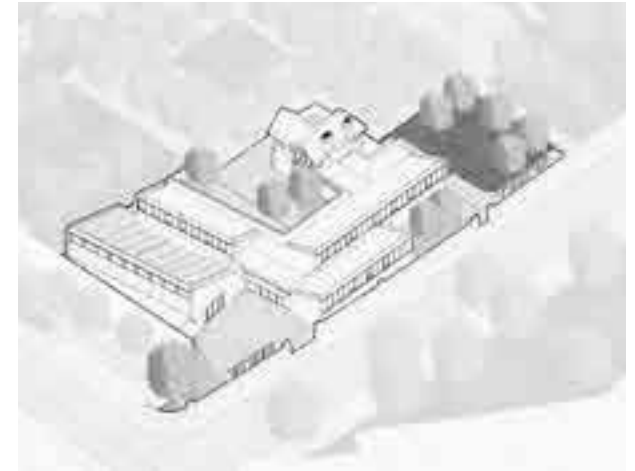




Main Multipurpose Performance Space



Multipurpose Entrance Foyer



Axonometric View



Courtyard



ZWEMBAD HELMOND CENTRE, HELMOND, NETHERLANDS

See next two pages for details on this project

**Architects:**

FaulknerBrowns Architects

Year:

In-progress

Area:

45,200 ft²

Zwembad Helmond Centre offers the opportunity to evolve and adapt to more sustainably meet the needs of the growing community it serves.

The Centre is designed as a spiral that connects the three available layers in a very efficient and highly functional way. Located on a tight site, the building expands vertically and is designed to support added space as required.

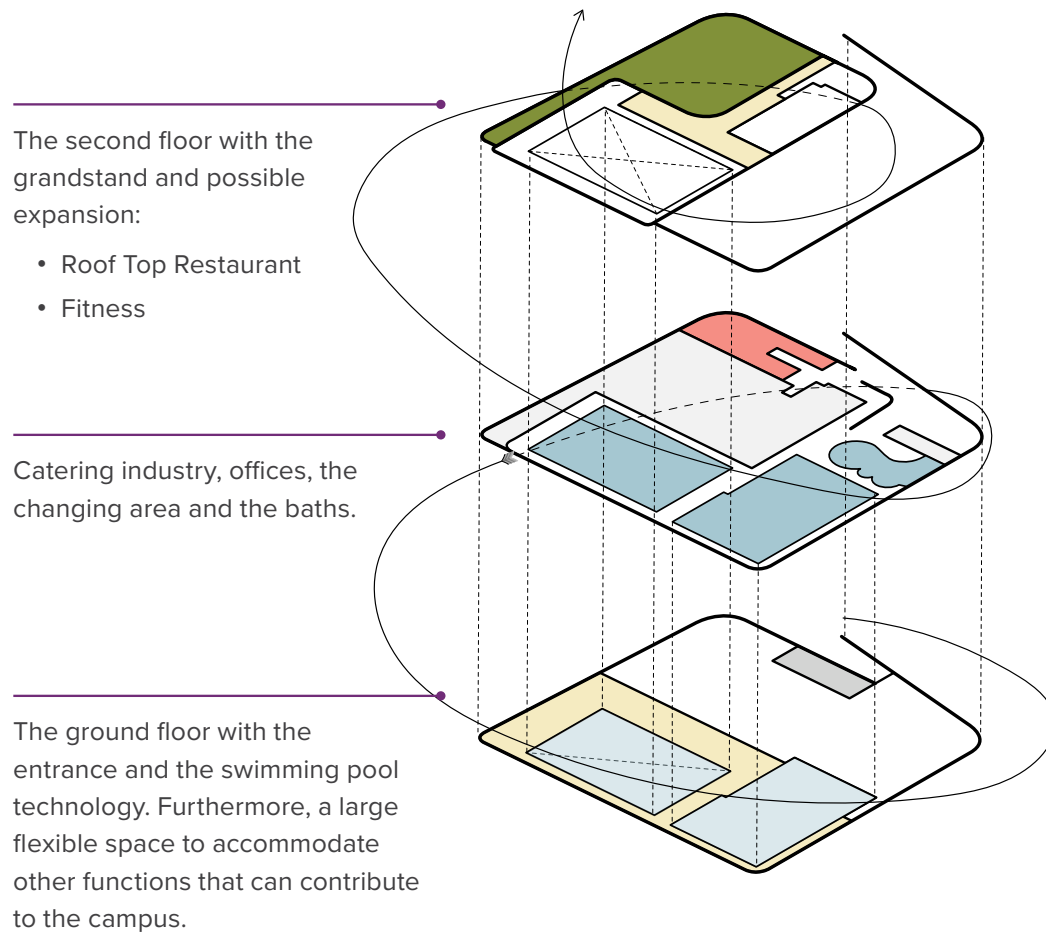
The program is organised to create added-value internal relationships with built-in flexibility for future needs. The ground level will be initially used as an e-bike terminus, but has been designed with free height to provide space for additional community or commercial functions to be added in the future, without having to adjust the main load-bearing structure. The low roof above the changing rooms has been designed to be used as an exercise garden, water playground, or patio for a roof top restaurant.

PROGRAM:

- Pool
- Flex Space
- Offices
- Catering

FUTURE PROGRAM:

- Child Care
- Fitness
- Bicycle shed



Program diagram



25m pool view

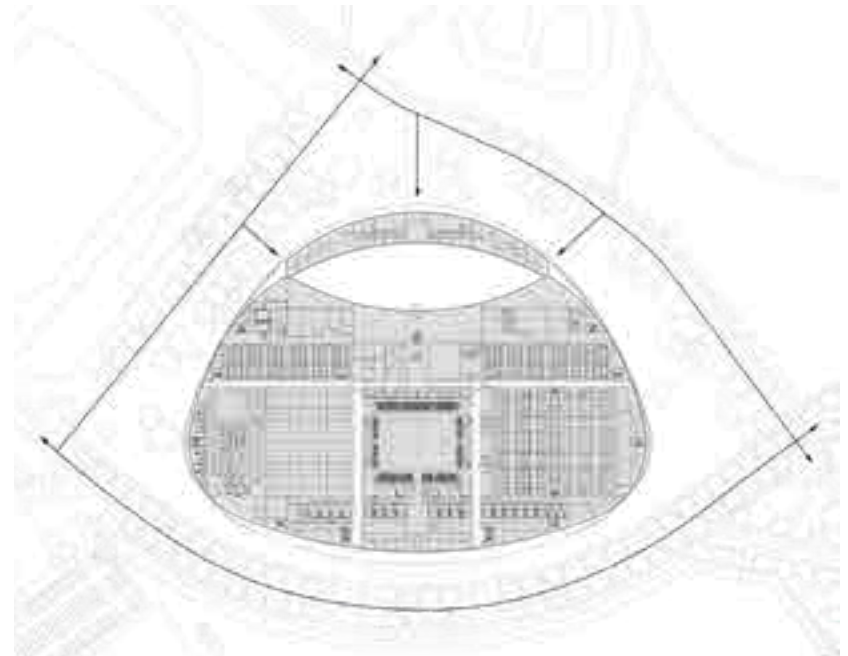


Entrance and Catering



ACCESSIBLE & INCLUSIVE DESIGN

New community centres are rethinking inclusivity in facility design - how we serve people of all identities, age groups, and abilities. The best designs create spaces that reach beyond standard barrier-free design and address the full spectrum of concerns regarding safety, access, and comfort for all.



Equitable Entrance Strategy Sportcampus Zuiderpark was specifically designed to engage local residents in a highly equitable and inclusive manner. Located at the heart of the historic Zuiderpark, a popular city centre recreation space, the curved form of the building creates new, natural circulation routes through the park, engaging passers-by. Decentralized access is through courtyard an open 'no front door' approach.



ZuiderPark sport campus, 2017
FaulknerBrowns Architects, Den Haag, Netherlands

RECEPTION, LOBBY AREAS

The arrival sequence at many community facilities present opportunities to better address user experience and 'put people first'. Planning for spatial flexibility during design process will allow the building to adapt to future needs.



Hebburn Central Community Hub, Newcastle UK



Beacon of Light Interior 'public street', Sunderland UK



Surrey Sports Park Public Atrium, Surrey UK



FLEXIBLE USE OF SPACE

Open and flexible designs can adapt to temporary needs, seasonal events, and emergency assembly.

BEYOND CIRCULATION

Rational layouts can help reduce or eliminate the need for corridors. Generous shared spaces add societal value by providing open, multi-functional space with flexible activity zones.

Clear navigation and multiple options for circulation and exiting are key to ensuring staff and public comfort and safety.

Engaging Entrance Conceptual Design

ACOUSTICS

Acoustic design considerations are key to ensuring usability and comfort for neurodivergent individuals, individuals who are blind or partially sight, and people who are deaf or hard of hearing. High performance windows help to reduce the effects of outside noise and sound damping materials reduce noise by absorbing sound.

PERCEPTION OF OPENNESS

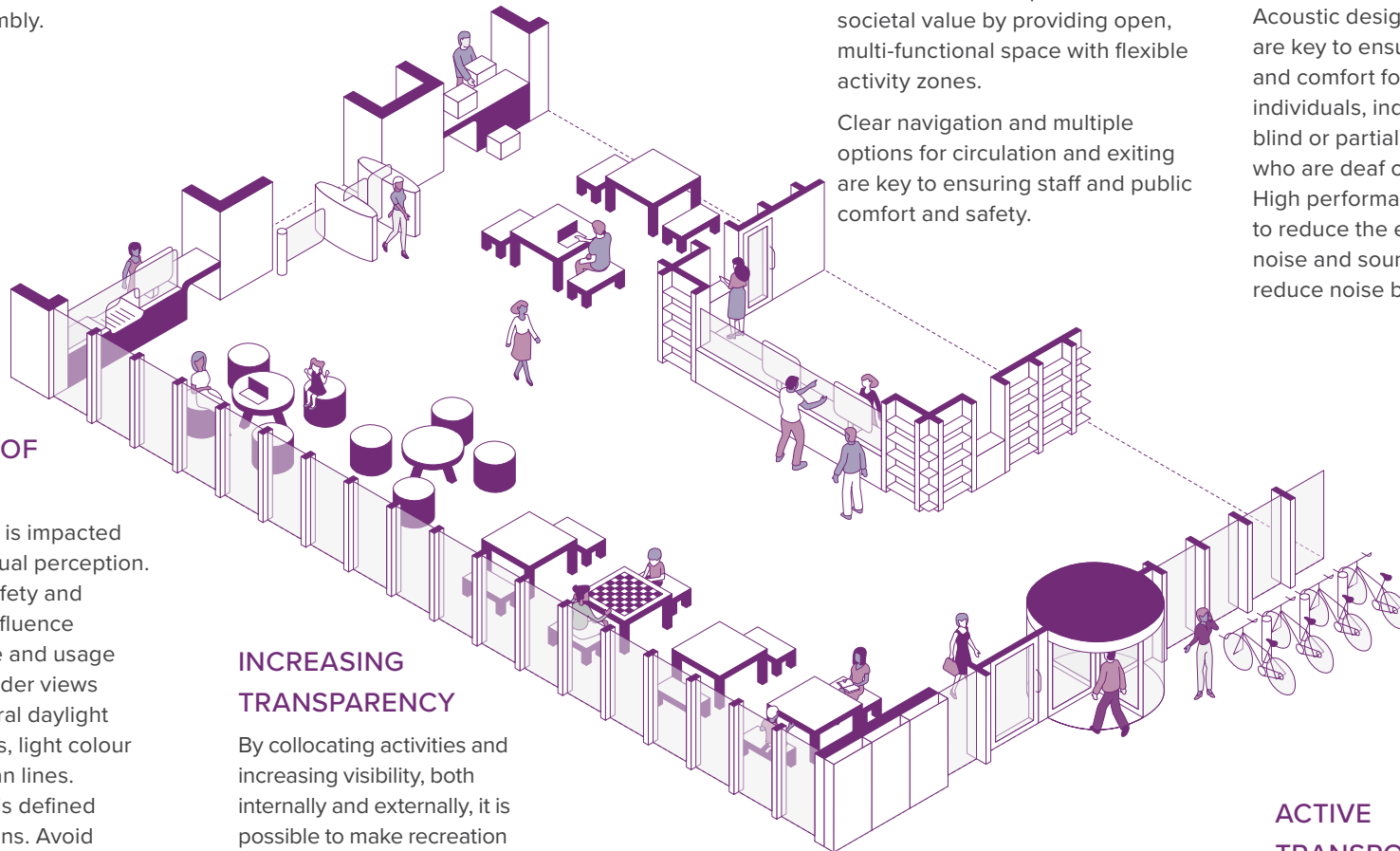
Our comfort level is impacted heavily by our visual perception. Impressions of safety and cleanliness will influence user's experience and usage of a facility. Consider views to outdoors, natural daylight and lighting levels, light colour palettes, and clean lines. User experience is defined by our expectations. Avoid complex arrangements that impede circulation or ease of navigation. Consider high visibility, wide peripheral vision and transparency through glazed partitions.

INCREASING TRANSPARENCY

By collocating activities and increasing visibility, both internally and externally, it is possible to make recreation feel accessible to all. Blurring the boundaries between formal program spaces and informal social spaces help engage people who might be intimidated by structured activities.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Safe, visible, and easy-to-use bike and scooter parking and end-of-trip facilities help to incentivize healthy, low cost means of active transportation.



WASHROOMS / CHANGEROOMS

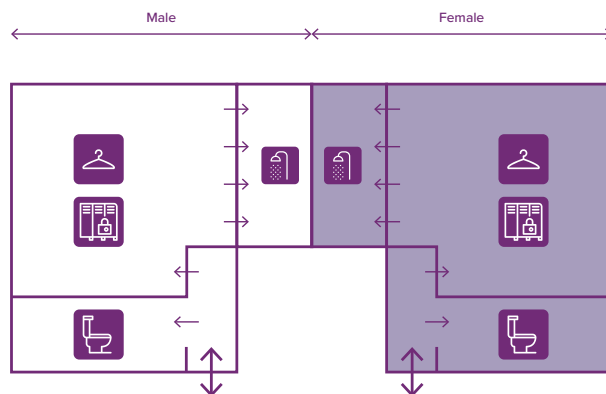
The growing trend towards universal washrooms and change rooms challenges traditional practices of gender segregation in community facilities. New flexible, inclusive models better support diversity and inclusiveness for all. Inclusive facilities rationalize circulation, offer choice, promote passive security while encouraging social interaction.



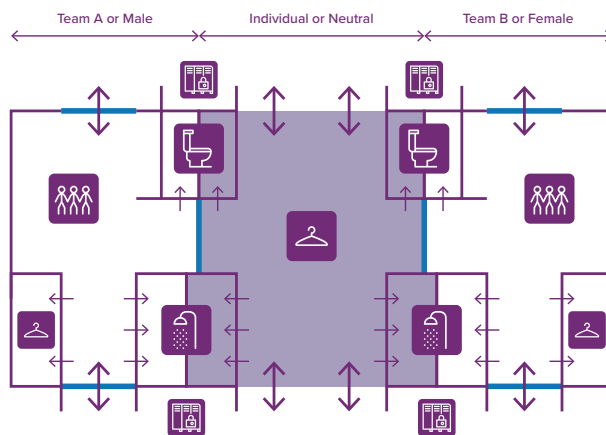
Clayton Community Centre, Surrey BC (HCMA)



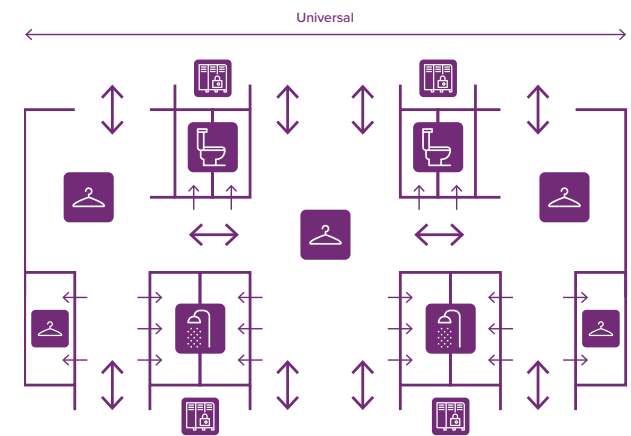
North Delta Recreation Facility, Delta BC (SHAPE)



Traditional gender specific layout



Flexible universal + group layout



100% universal open layout



OPENNESS AND INCLUSIVITY

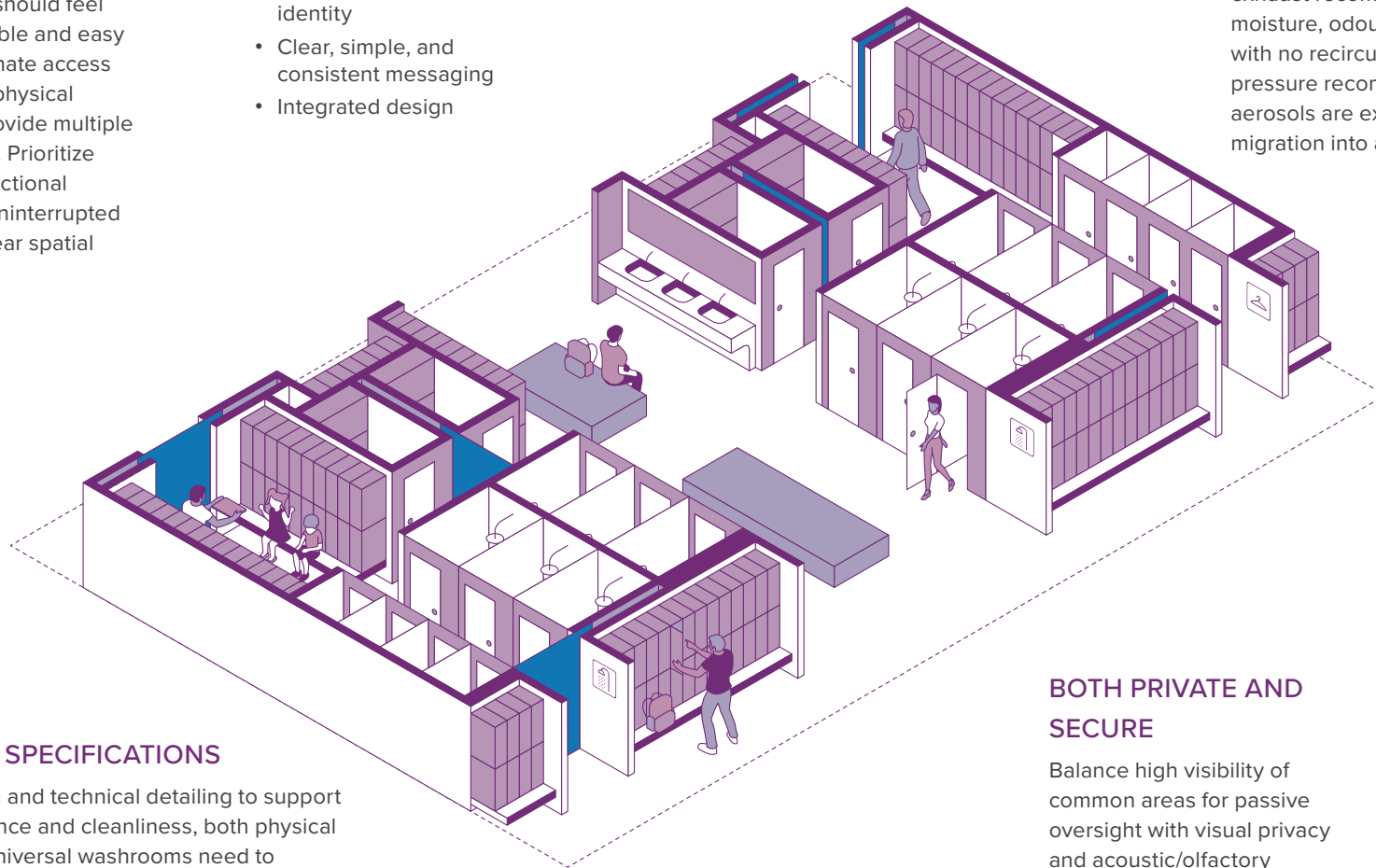
Inclusive spaces should feel inviting, comfortable and easy to navigate. Eliminate access doors, maximize physical openness and provide multiple circulation routes. Prioritize visibility, one-directional circulation flow, uninterrupted sightlines, and clear spatial functions.

INCLUSIVE SIGNAGE

- Focus on the activity or services, not the user identity
- Clear, simple, and consistent messaging
- Integrated design

OPTIMIZED VENTILATION

100% exchange of fresh air and exhaust recommended to manage moisture, odours and aerosol, with no recirculation. Neutral pressure recommended to ensure aerosols are exhausted without migration into adjacent spaces.



DETAILS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Material selection and technical detailing to support ease of maintenance and cleanliness, both physical and perceived. Universal washrooms need to consider enhanced visual and acoustic privacy but require more area and can be more expensive, as each stall needs individual mechanical and electrical items. Specifying “zero sight line” doors or doors that only have small gaps at the floor and ceiling ensures visual privacy without increased cost.

SPATIAL FLEXIBILITY

Movable partitions to enable varying modes of occupant use and support frequent cleaning/maintenance throughout operation.

BOTH PRIVATE AND SECURE

Balance high visibility of common areas for passive oversight with visual privacy and acoustic/olfactory separation through material selection and detailing.

INDIGENOUS LENS

Recognizing, respecting, and valuing Indigenous cultures is fundamental to improving community centre services. Community facilities designed with an Indigenous lens support the process of reconciliation, decolonization, and understanding.

The Vancouver Park Board reconciliation strategies in response to the Calls to Action provided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) set a framework for programming in culture, health and sport to increase public awareness and support for First Nations children, youth and elders in Park Board programs. It includes:

- Involving Indigenous communities in the planning and development of programs
- Fostering a lens that is inclusive of Indigenous world views and perspectives
- Recognizing the diversity of Indigenous communities in Vancouver (e.g. urban Indigenous) with varied identity, culture, and traditions.

Other more tangible aspects where we are seeing Indigenous culture inclusively integrated:

- Implementation of Indigenous art into the building
- Facilitating spaces for common cultural practices (e.g. smudging and other ceremonial spaces)
- Naming or co-naming of facilities
- Incorporating traditional building strategies to support culture, community, and sustainability.
- Vision, meaning, and use of the space or facility is enriched through respectful consultation process with an Indigenous local community.



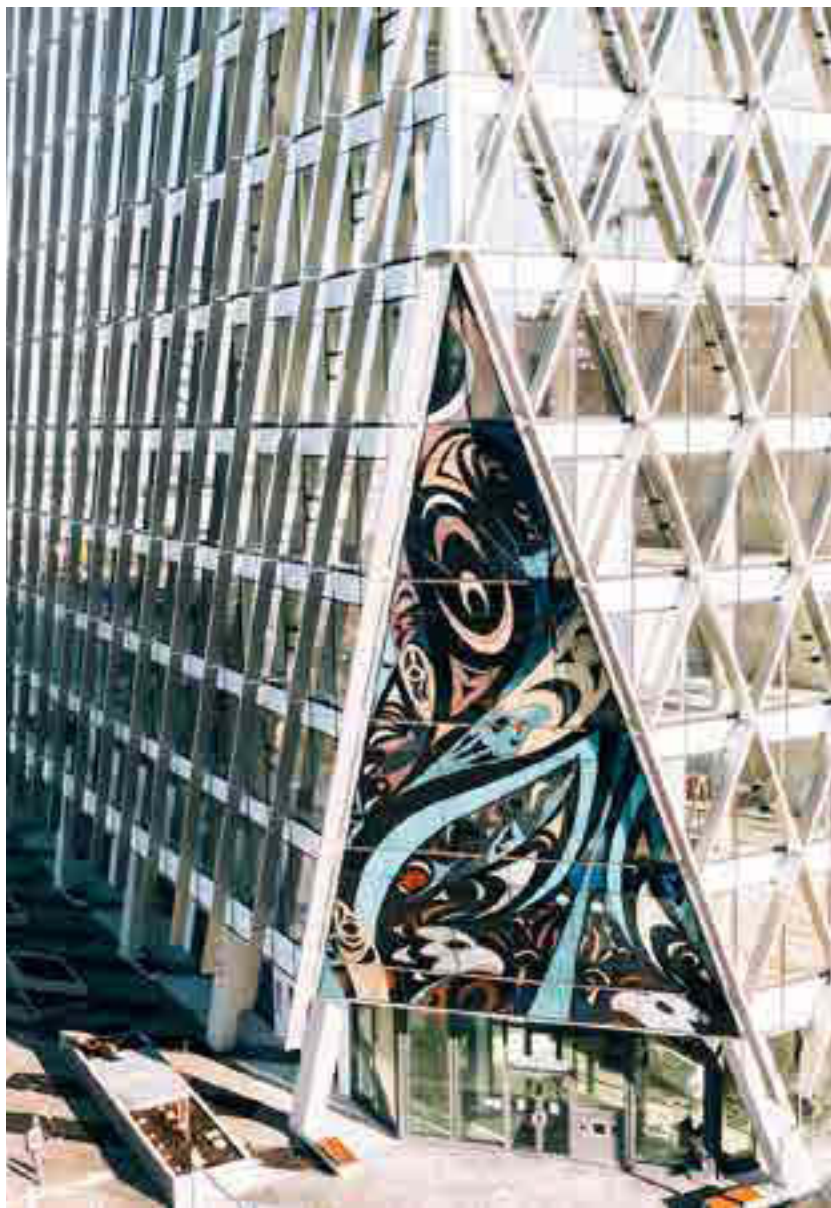
Respecting and facilitating traditional practices

Thunderbird House, Dedicated Smudging Room in Stanley A. Milner Library, Edmonton, Alberta



Strategy of Naming and Co-Naming of Public Facilities

Wunggurrwil Dhurrung Aboriginal Community Centre, Victoria, Australia



Implement Indigenous art into the design of facilities
'Sea to Sky', Coast Salish and Musqueam Nation artist Thomas Cannell, Richmond, BC



Incorporation of traditional building elements and/or configuration to support culture, community, and sustainability
Wunggurrwil Dhurrung Aboriginal Community Centre, Gresley Abas Architecture and Gregory Burgess Architects, Victoria, Australia



CLAREVIEW COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE, 2014 Teeple Architects and Stantec Architecture

MULTIPURPOSE HUBS

Many of Vancouver's community centres are already part of larger recreation complexes. Some are co-located with schools or libraries. This aligns with a growing trend worldwide towards the integration of community centres with other uses to form vibrant Multipurpose Hubs.

THREE BASIC CATEGORIES OF MULTIPURPOSE HUBS



Sport + Recreation



Culture + Recreation



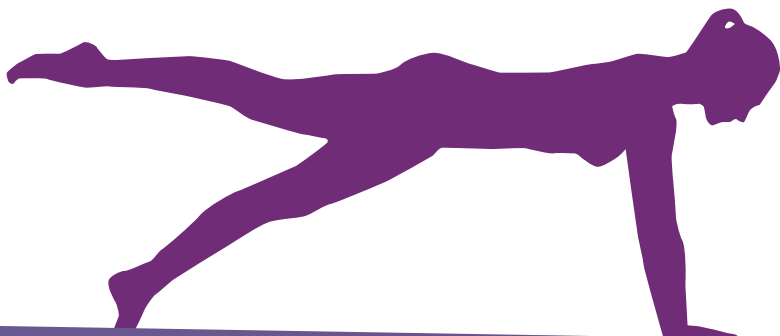
Services + Recreation



SPORT + RECREATION

Facilities that pair high performance and community sport inspire people to participate in activities of all types. The overriding aim is to create venues that encourage wellness and enjoyment for the community user as while facilitating the success of the elite athlete. Using sport as the inspiration has a strong potential to deliver a healthier society.

Buildings capable of hosting high level competitive events can foster stronger community identity and become a beacon of civic pride. These facilities often become key attractions that stimulate secondary benefit to economy and community, by attracting residents and tourists to the venues.



Integrating performance training with community use can both foster sport excellence while inspiring active living. Dutch sprinter Joris van Gool meets a young community centre patron at the opening of Sportcampus Zuiderpark.



COMMONWEALTH COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE - EDMONTON, ALBERTA

See next two pages for details on this project

**Architects:**

MJMA and HIP Architects

Year:

2012

Area:

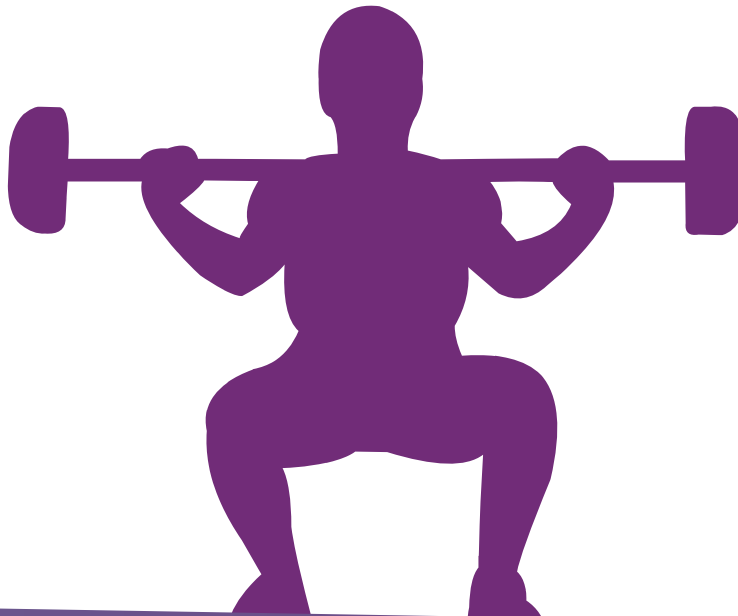
220,000 ft²

The Commonwealth Community Recreation Centre is a joint-use partnership between the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton EE Football Club; combining football operations, stadium programming, and a multiuse recreation centre. The facility adaptively reuses the 1978 stadium fitness centre and physically connects these user groups.

The project has revitalized an underutilized stadium site into a 24/7 urban park and community destination.

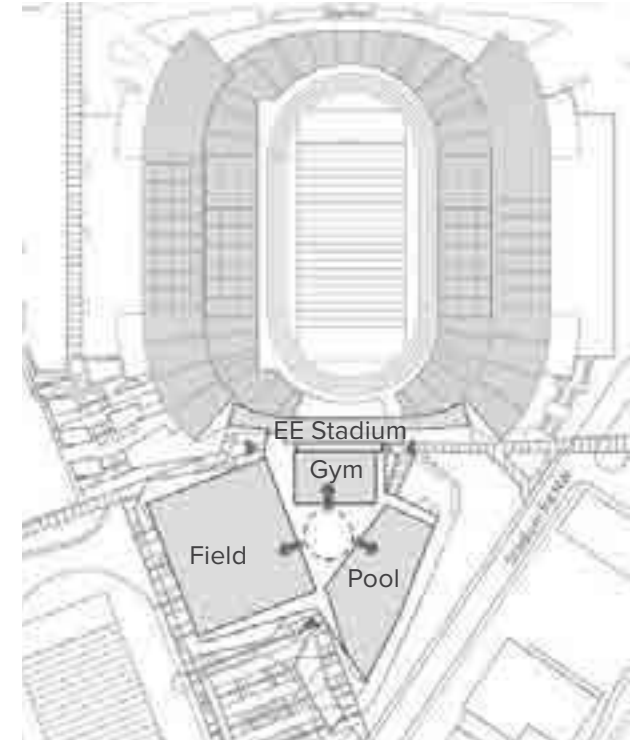
PROGRAM:

- Football Stadium
- Indoor Football Field
- Fitness
- Gymnasium
- Pool





Commonwealth Stadium with the Community Centre Addition



Plan Distribution Scheme



Leisure Aquatics



Gymnasium



CORONATION COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE - EDMONTON AB

See next two pages for details on this project

**Architects:**

HCMA, FaulknerBrowns,
Dub Architects

Year:

In-progress, anticipated 2024

Area:

231,600 ft²

Coronation Community Recreation Centre is an innovative multipurpose community recreation facility that includes an 250-metre indoor cycling track with spectator seating, designed for the City of Edmonton.

Designed capable to host international triathlon and cycling events, the facility also houses a traditional sports hall, a play area for children, a large fitness studio, dance studios and a range of community rooms for child care, meetings, and other needs.

Site and amenity redevelopment is enabling better connectivity between site amenities and creating diverse activities that meet modern recreation and sport needs.

PROGRAM:

- Velodrome
- Sport Courts
- Fitness Centre
- Child Care
- Multipurpose Rooms
- Cafe
- Jogging Track





Uses Diagram



Interior view from jogging track



Entrance interior view



Community space



SPORT CAMPUS ZUIDERPARK, DEN HAAG, THE NETHERLANDS

See next two pages for details on this project

**Architects:**

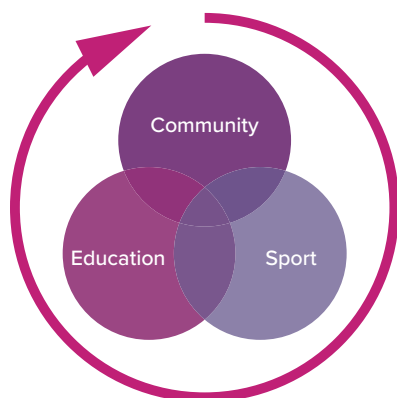
FaulknerBrowns Architects

Year:

2017

Area:

355,000 ft²



Concept Diagram

Designed to host events and be a key facility for the training of elite level athletes, it also offers enormous day-to-day value to the community at large.

The Sport Campus is an innovative collaboration between a school of sport, a university of sport, and the Municipality of The Hague.

During the day, the Sport Campus facilities are used for education and performance training by a variety of sports organizations and schools. During the evening and at weekends, these same facilities are made available to the entire community.

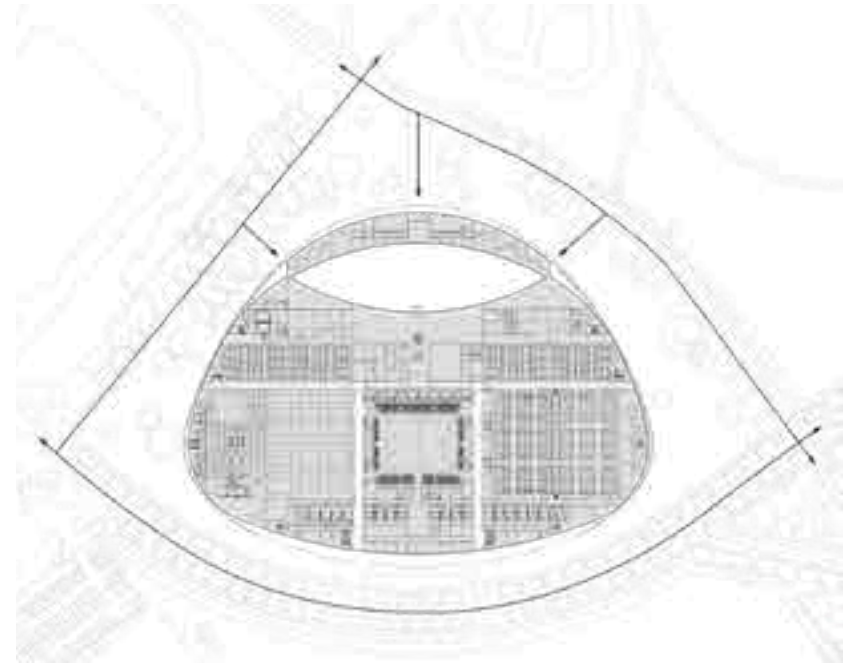
Sport Campus offers a wide variety of educational services and sports programs including indoor beach volleyball. This range of facilities assisted the municipality to secure their position as host for the Invictus Games.

PROGRAM:

- Gymnastics Hall
- Indoor Beach Sports
- Gymnasiums
- Education Spaces
- Library
- Multipurpose Entry/Atrium



Spectator seating to host events



Floor Plan



Gymnastics Hall



Post-secondary Teaching Spaces



Indoor beach volleyball court



Inclusive Community Hub



CULTURE + RECREATION

Combining arts and culture spaces with recreation is another great example of multiuse benefit, as relevant facilities are more accessible to a broader cross section of users.

Merging previously disconnected community spaces together into one centrally-located entity better meets the needs of users with varied interests and encourages participation in new activities. This typically leads to an increase in overall visitor numbers, as members of all generations who use the facility throughout the day find more reasons to visit regularly. The growing trend to combine arts and culture with sport and fitness is a great example of mixed-use with benefits.







HEBBURN CENTRAL COMMUNITY HUB, NEWCASTLE, UK

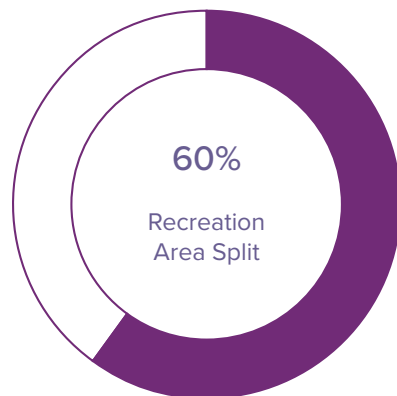
See next two pages for details on this project

**Architects:**

FaulknerBrowns Architects

Year:

2015

Area:62,400 ft²

Hebburn Central merges previously disconnected community spaces together into one centrally located hub. This mix has resulted in a 200% increase in visitor numbers.

The facility offers a wide range of leisure elements including a six lane 25m pool, teach pool, fitness suite, dance studio, sports hall, external 3G artificial pitch and children's play area. These are integrated alongside a community library and customer service centre providing public access to key resources and administration, as well as digital media and event spaces.

PROGRAM:

- Library
- Aquatics
- Dance Studio
- Gymnasium
- Multipurpose Rooms
- Fitness Centre



Natatorium



Library spaces



Gymnasium



Integrated Community Hub



KU.BE HOUSE OF CULTURE IN MOVEMENT, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

See next two pages for details on this project

Architects:

MVRDV and ADEPT

Year:

2016

Area:

62,400 ft²

The Ku.be House blends culture, recreation and learning into a space where body and mind are activated to promote healthy living, creating links between diverse people. It aims to become an incubator for further development within the neighbourhood.

The building functions like a giant play park. Visitors are invited to find their own routes through the interior spaces, using both their hands and their feet.

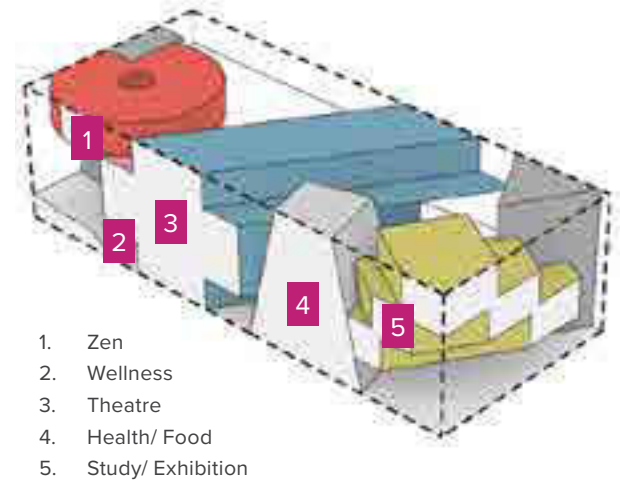
PROGRAM:

- Theatre
- Exhibition
- Multipurpose
- Wellness
- Cafe





Climbing walls



The six primary volumes, which each host their own program, are clad in a unique colour and material. The 'intra space' between these volumes is not assigned with a specific use. The program of this area is entirely user-defined, making it fun for everyone to explore and utilize.



Multiuse space as dancing hall



Internal space play space



SERVICES + RECREATION

Like many municipalities, Vancouver's community centres are key to helping residents thrive by providing essential social services - from child care to food services to helping residents foster interpersonal connections. Community centres around the world are becoming catalysts for regeneration and growth, promoting public health, education, wellbeing, and resilience. High quality amenities lead to greater community participation and improved service delivery.

As community centres increasingly move towards the multipurpose hub model, we see the range of social services grow including associations with external agencies such as non-profits and other service models.







WEST VANCOUVER COMMUNITY CENTRE, WEST VANCOUVER BC

See next two pages for details on this project

**Architects:**

HCMA

Year:

2008

Area:86,000 ft²

West Vancouver Community Centre serves as a new 'front door' to the West Vancouver recreation campus and expresses a transparent approach to social health and wellbeing.

The recreation facility consolidates a number of diverse facilities under one roof. It includes Health & Fitness office spaces for all areas of wellness including rehabilitation programs and health services for seniors and children. A large civic-scale atrium connecting the Community and Aquatic Centres, serves as both a transparent, welcoming gateway, and public gathering space.

**PROGRAM:**

- Health Services
- Child Care
- Children Centre
- Youth Lounge
- Pool
- Gymnastics Hall
- Gymnasium
- Fitness
- Multi-purpose rooms
- Dance Studios
- Art Workshops
- Music hall/ studios
- Atrium/Cafe



Multipurpose Hall



Internal "spine" by children's centre

West Vancouver Community Centre's three-storey circulation spine works as the building's primary artery, linking all the different uses - physically and visually. An operable skylight above the circulation spine helps drive sunlight and fresh air deep into the building.



NORTH DELTA RECREATION CENTRE - DELTA, BC

See next two pages for details on this project

**Architects:**

SHAPE Architecture

Year:

2016

Area:

35,500 ft²

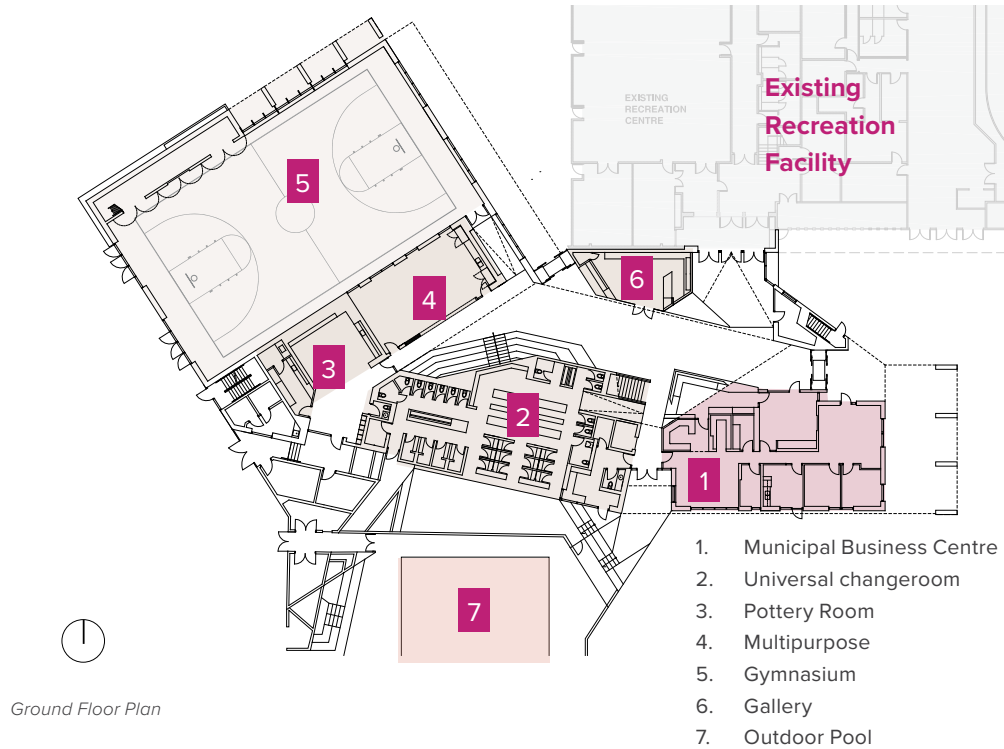
North Delta Recreation Centre acts as a satellite Municipal Hall for the citizens of North Delta, to help overcome the community's disconnected relationship with the main City Hall campus.

The recreation centre facilitates a wide range of services for the local community, including municipal administration, indoor and outdoor sports, and arts programs. The expansion project connects to an existing multiuse ice arena complex and is sited within a campus of civic buildings that include an art centre and police station. The expanded facility consolidates arts, recreation, and support programming around a generous, shared atrium space and a series of interconnected public courtyards.

PROGRAM:

- Municipal Services
- Art Gallery Shop
- Pottery room
- Gymnasium
- Fitness Centre
- Multipurpose Rooms
- Outdoor Pool





Outdoor Pool supported by 100% universal changeroom



Municipal Business Centre accessed off the shared atrium lobby space



Second Level Fitness Centre



BEACON OF LIGHT - SUNDERLAND, UK

See next two pages for details on this project

Architects:

FaulknerBrowns Architects

Year:

2018

Area:120,500 ft²

By stacking program, the overall footprint is minimized and the appearance is created of a shining beacon which can be viewed from vantage points around the city, providing a clear sense of identity and purpose.

Beacon of Light is a unique community facility, consisting of engaging and interactive zones in education, health and fitness, sport and play, and the world of work.

The Beacon of Light is separated into two distinct forms. A controlled, insulated box containing spaces for education, events, training, sport, and fitness, and a lightweight barn structure housing all weather football pitches.

PROGRAM:

- School
- Adult Education
- Soccer fields
- Gymnasium
- Fitness





Semi-conditioned soccer 'barn'



Education Atrium



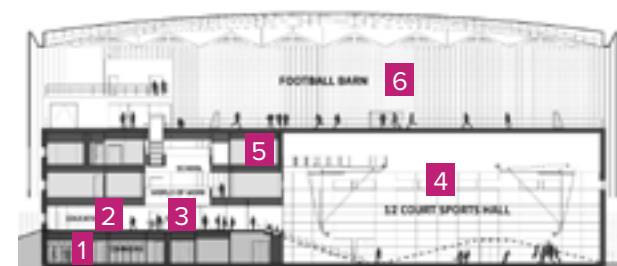
Adult education apprenticeship teaching spaces



Healthy Eating Courses at the Jamie Oliver cookery school



Multipurpose Gymnasium



Section showing stacked program

1. Change Rooms
2. Adult Education Spaces
3. Atrium and Cafe
4. Multipurpose Gymnasium
5. Secondary School
6. Rooftop Soccer 'Barn'



SH2-SUNDBYOSTEL HALL II, 2015 Dorte Mandrup Architects

FORMAT INNOVATION

With increasing land and energy costs, we are seeing new community centres innovating in format by;

- Forming new relationships by integrating non-traditional secondary uses
- Minimizing building footprint by stacking programming

TWO BASIC CATEGORIES OF FORMAT INNOVATION



New Relationships



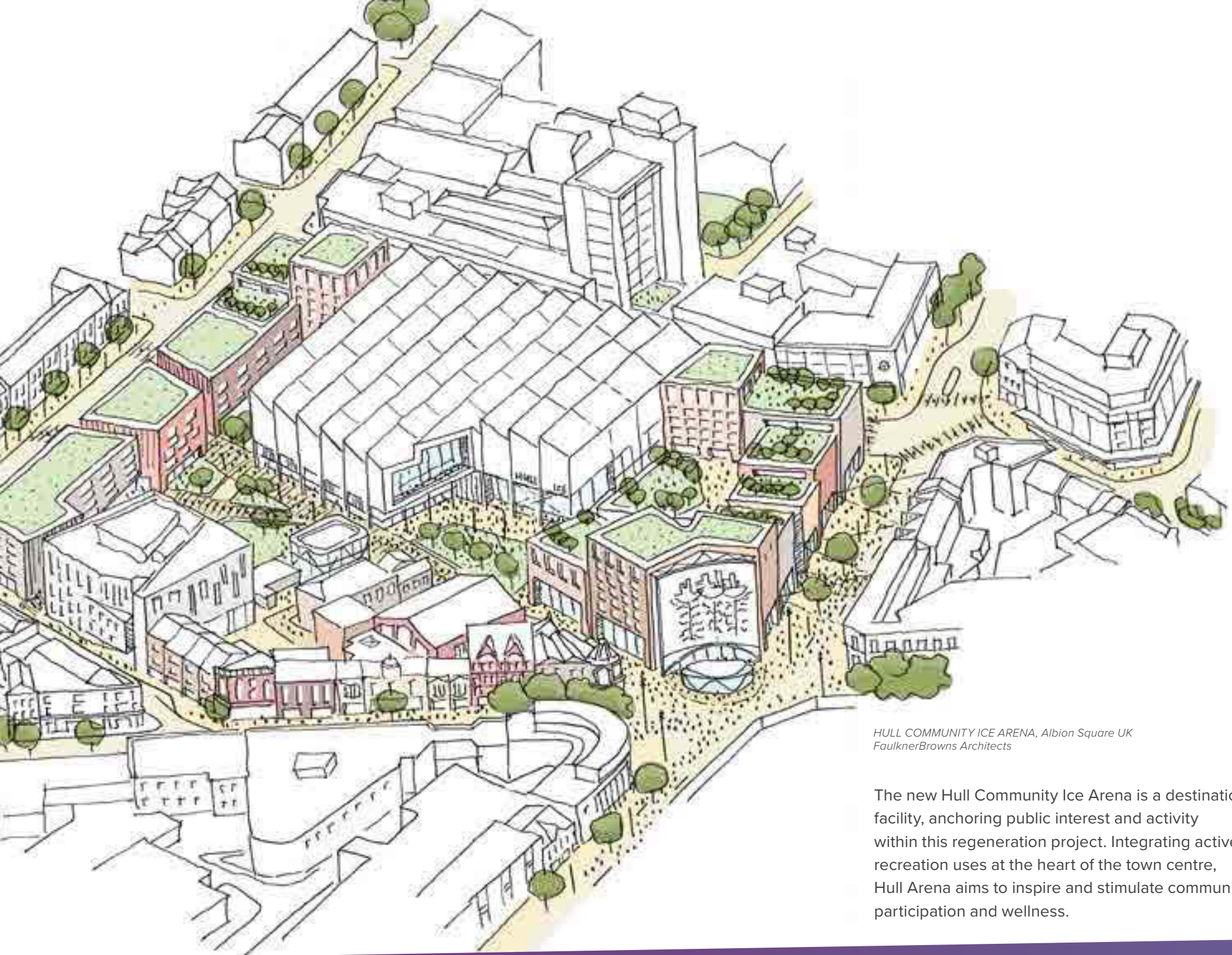
Stacked Program



NEW RELATIONSHIPS

Mixed use developments - sometimes a combination of leasable spaces, government services, social or commercial establishments - create opportunities to generate additional revenue to cover the costs of construction and operation. These new relationships additionally deliver the many added benefits of multipurpose co-location.





*HULL COMMUNITY ICE ARENA, Albion Square UK
FaulknerBrowns Architects*

The new Hull Community Ice Arena is a destination facility, anchoring public interest and activity within this regeneration project. Integrating active recreation uses at the heart of the town centre, Hull Arena aims to inspire and stimulate community participation and wellness.



WOOLWICH COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE - LONDON, UK

See next two pages for details on this project

**Architects:**

FaulknerBrowns Architects

Year:

In Progress

Area:

128,300 ft²

(Community Centre)

A multi-phase development, Woolwich Community Recreation Centre combines sports, recreation and arts centre with a residential scheme.

The multifamily residential component, designed by Alison Brooks, is part of a broader investment in the regeneration of Woolwich town centre. By stacking the recreation accommodation, we significantly reduce the building's ground take, allowing the adjacent development potential to be maximized.

The new Community Centre is the catalyst behind the overall masterplan. It is designed to engage with and enhance an active public realm and place-making agenda. The project also involves the restoration of a Victorian building into a centre for creative arts that extends and connects to the recreation-focused Community Centre, creating an integrated community and recreation hub.

PROGRAM:

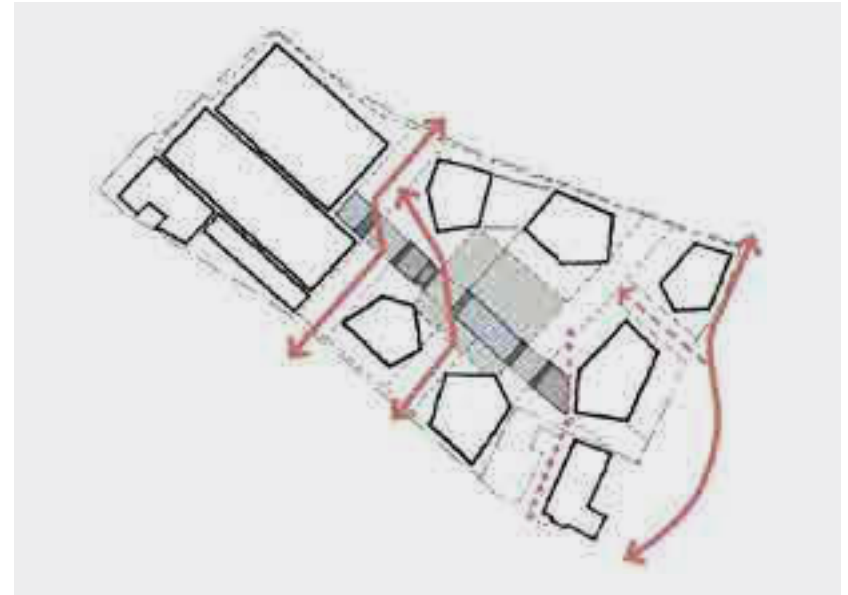
- Residential
- Theatre
- Arts Centre
- Pool
- Gymnasium
- Multipurpose Rooms
- Fitness Centre



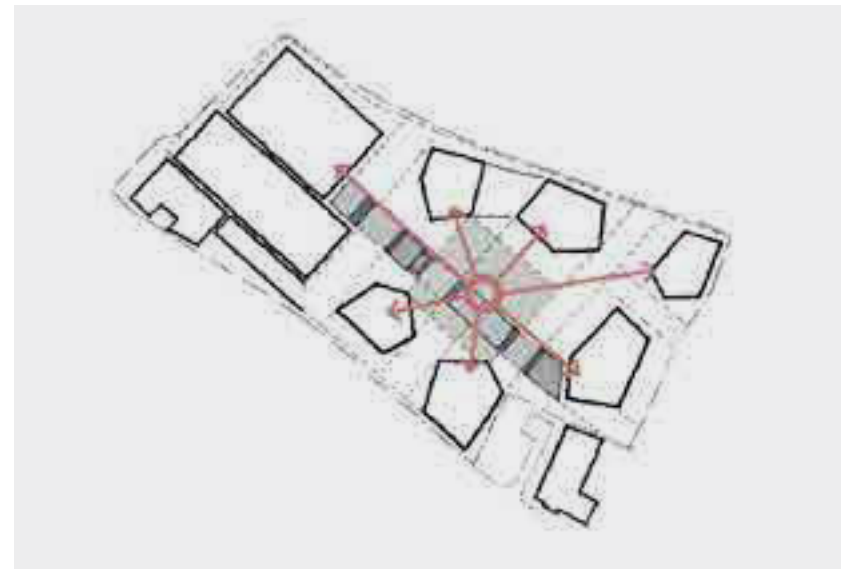
Masterplan arrangement: Community Centre + multifamily residential



Connection of Recreation with Tramshed Theatre, a repurposed existing heritage building



Routes and permeability



Central park and radiating blocks



WESTBEAT COMMUNITY MIXED USE COMPLEX - AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

See next two pages for details on this project

Architects:

Studioninedots

Year:

2020

Area:35,500 ft²

Westbeat represents a new link in the public space network of Amsterdam Nieuw-West, becoming a distinguished destination in the city's densifying urban periphery.

Large areas of open floor space on the lower levels are created by the high arched long-span structures. These spaces support flexible use as event spaces, workspaces and as community rooms, supporting the entrepreneurial and creative spirit of this emerging neighbourhood.

The super space below the residential component alternates in function, hosting workspaces, hospitality venues, performances, concerts, and more.

PROGRAM:

- Residential
- Multipurpose Space
- Performance Venue
- Offices





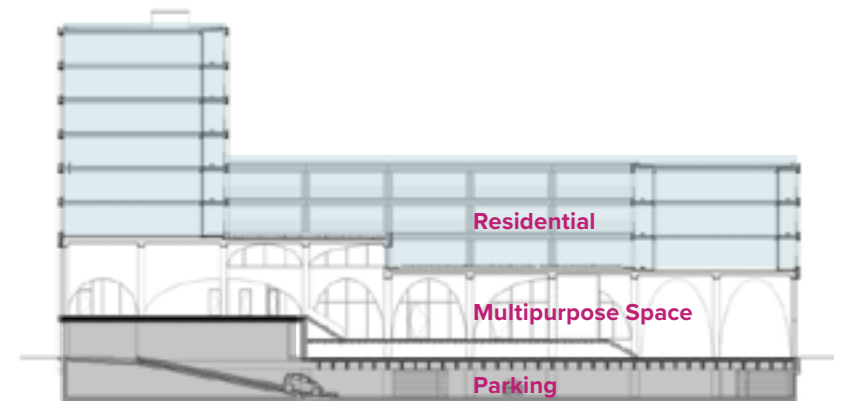
Multiuse Superspace



Superspace Performance set-up



Residential over Superspace





ENERGY HUB, LONDON, UK

See next two pages for details on this project

Architects:

Morris + Company

Year:

2019

Area:25,800 ft²

The Energy Hub is a unique mixed-use building that combines community and commercial uses not usually seen in one building - a powerplant, daycare, and community café.

The combined heat and power facility provides energy to 3,000 homes. It occupies the second floor and part the ground floor, sharing the rest with a community cafe looking at the small pocket park outside. Above, a nursery extends over the upper to floors and open to a sequence of terraces. The power plant machinery is showcased through a large window to the street side of the building.

PROGRAM:

- Energy Plant
- Child Care
- Multipurpose
- Cafe
- Pocket Park





Parents dropping-off their children



Child care terrace concept image



Structure built around EON tanks



Cafe window with views to the park



Building Diagram



SH2-SUNDBYOSTEL HALL II, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

See next two pages for details on this project

**Architects:**

Dorte Mandrup

Year:

2015

Area:

58,000 ft²

SH2-Sundbyoster Hall II is a mixed use architecture integrating grocery store, sports hall, and housing units in one building.

The ground floor contains a grocery store and an entrance for the sports hall, parking, and apartments. The hall is open to public, spans over two floors and is highly adaptable to different types and sizes of events and sports. 12 apartments make the top of the building.

PROGRAM:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Gymnasium
- Multipurpose Rooms





Gymnasium Multipurpose space



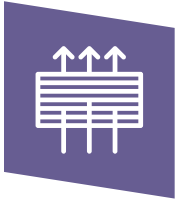
Section



Facade stratification by use



Residential unit

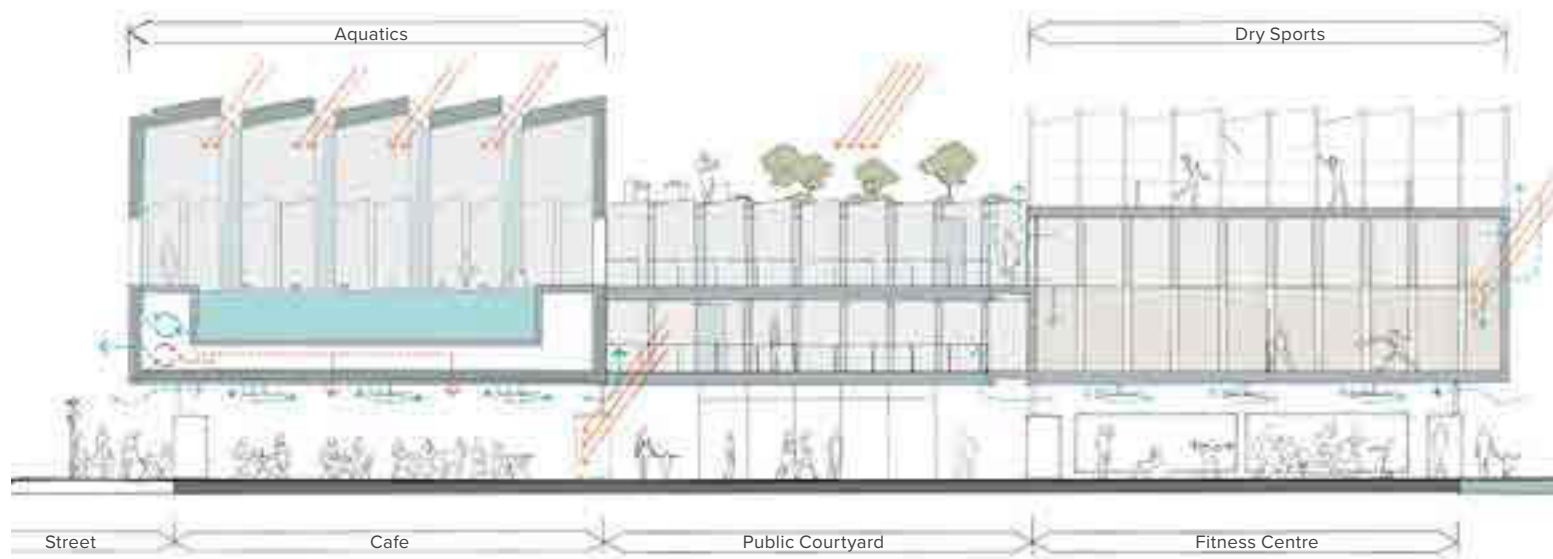


STACKED CONFIGURATION

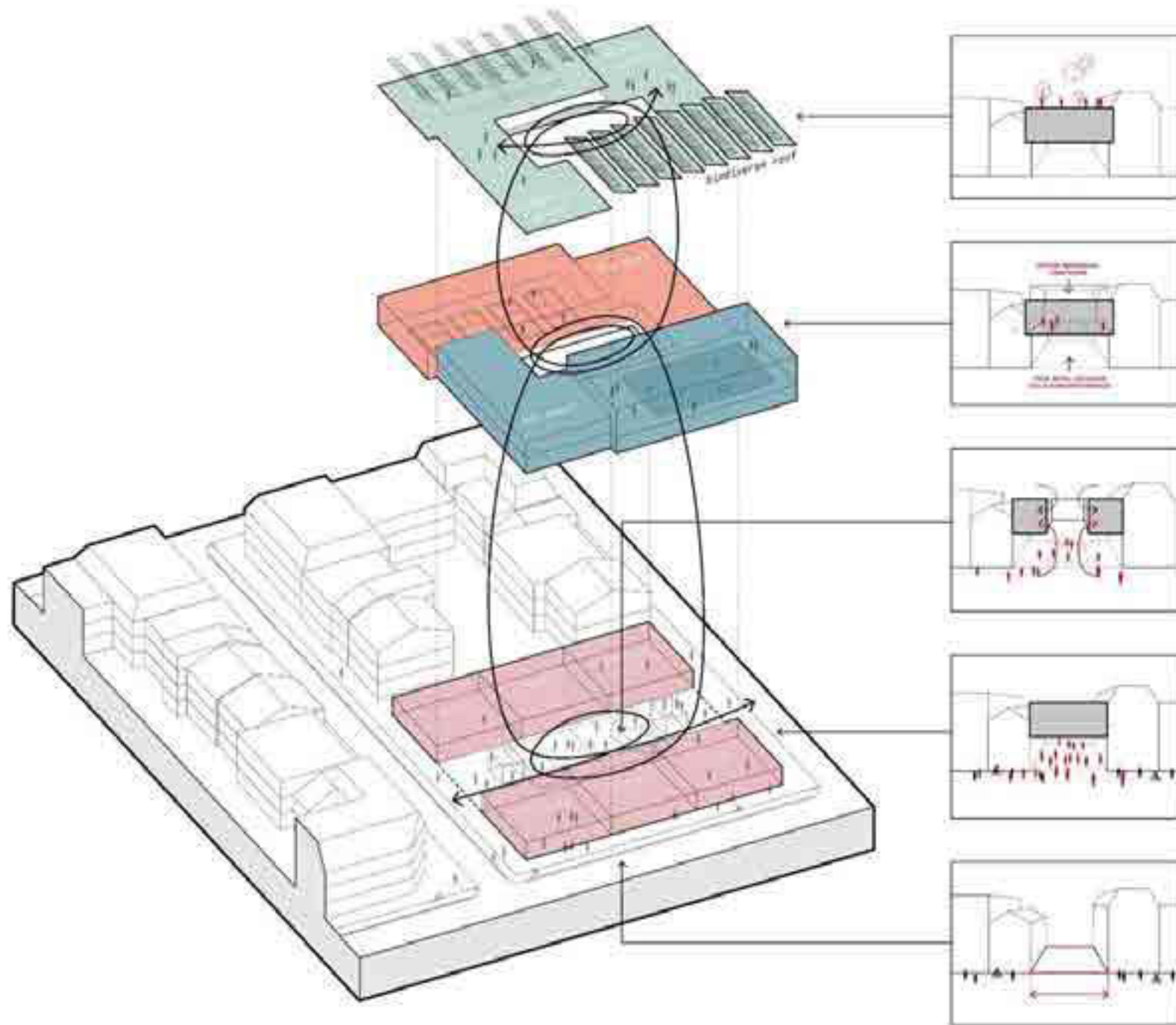
Vancouver, like many cities, has a limited amount of area for development. This places extraordinary pressure on land resource to deliver more. Stacking uses enables access to more indoor activity closer to urban communities. The added benefit is a more efficient form factor in line with low-carbon ambitions.

Many community centres in Europe and North America are situated in standalone sites. We are seeing a growing trend to situate community facilities in urban locations on increasingly compact sites. This has a number of advantages, notably the opportunity to engage with hard-to-reach communities for greater levels of social accessibility.

As our city centres change, there is opportunity for renewed relationship with the urban fabric, collective social experience and environmental sustainability. A new breed of 'city centre recreation' is emerging where facilities are compact—typically stacked—with greater engagement with their urban context. These centres provide opportunities for focused regeneration and a more diverse range of synergies with public and private facilities.



Primary activity spaces are stacked on upper levels, freeing up the ground floor to engage with the urban streetscape in the form of community and commercial opportunities.



'Highstreet' Recreation Concept



ROMFORD LEISURE CENTRE, LONDON, UK

See next two pages for details on this project

**Architects:**

FaulknerBrowns Architects

Year:

2018

Area:87,000 ft²

Romford Leisure Centre has provided the London Borough of Havering and the town of Romford with much-needed leisure facilities. An eight lane 25m pool and learner pool occupy the ground floor together with the entrance foyer and café, overlooked by a state-of-the-art health & fitness gym.

Due to the compactness of the available site, the ice rink has been positioned on the third floor, above the swimming pool.

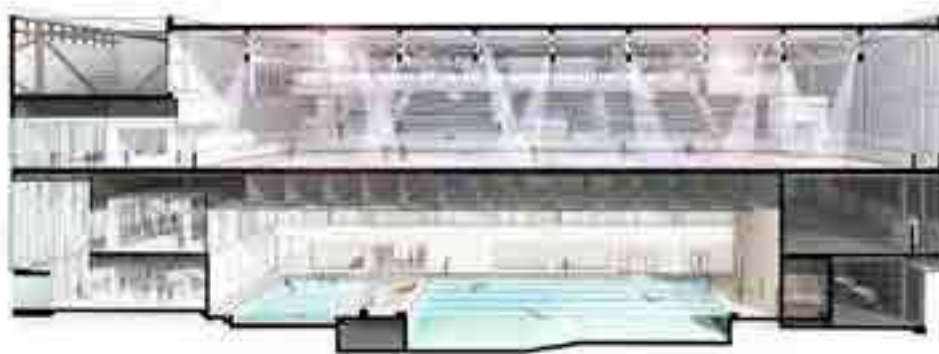
PROGRAM:

- Pool
- Ice Rink
- Fitness
- Multipurpose Rooms

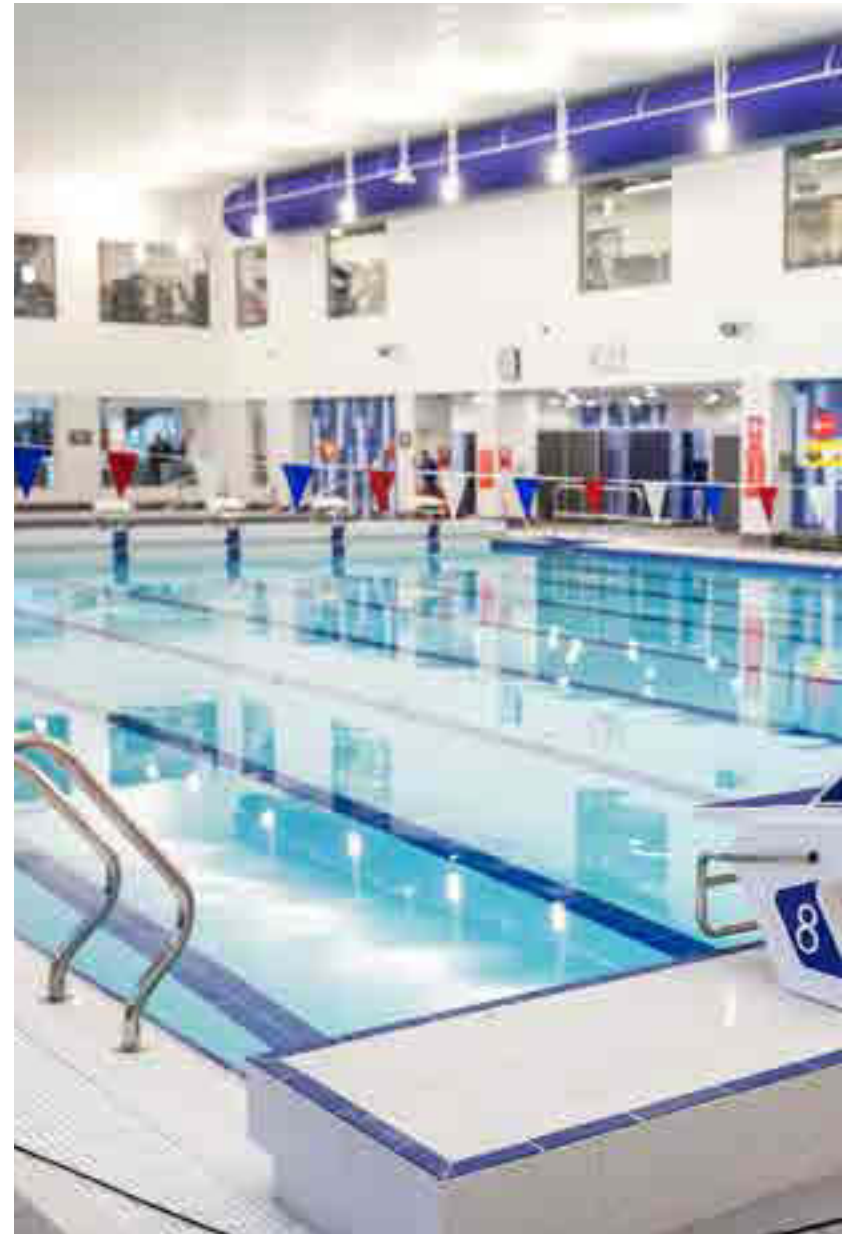
FOOTPRINT= 2,750 M²



Ice Arena Level 3



Ice Arena over a Swimming Pool - Stacked Program



Aquatic Centre Level 1



PUBLIC CONDENSER - PARIS, FRANCE

See next two pages for details on this project

**Architects:**

MUOTO

Year:

2016

Area:

44,000 ft²

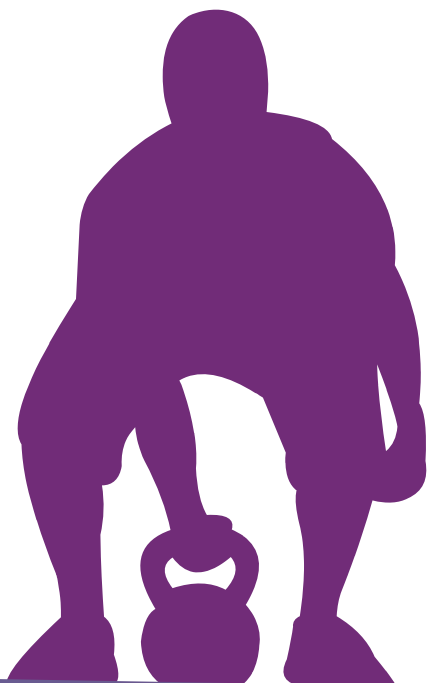
This public facility seamlessly mixes outdoor and indoor activities. The building acts as an 'urban shelf', hosting indoor programs in a very open and transparent way. This makes activity visually accessible to all visitors.

The building's minimal structure, using rough materials, and long-lasting techniques is conceived to provide a place that will last in time, without need for complicated maintenance.

PROGRAM:

- Roof top Basket Courts
- Multipurpose Rooms
- Restaurant
- Cafeteria

FOOTPRINT= 1,800 M²





Interior Multipurpose Space



Section



Upper exterior basketball court



HERSTEDLUND COMMUNITY CENTRE, ALBERTSLUND, DENMARK

See next two pages for details on this project

**Architects:**

Dorte Mandrup

Year:

2009

Area:9,400 ft²

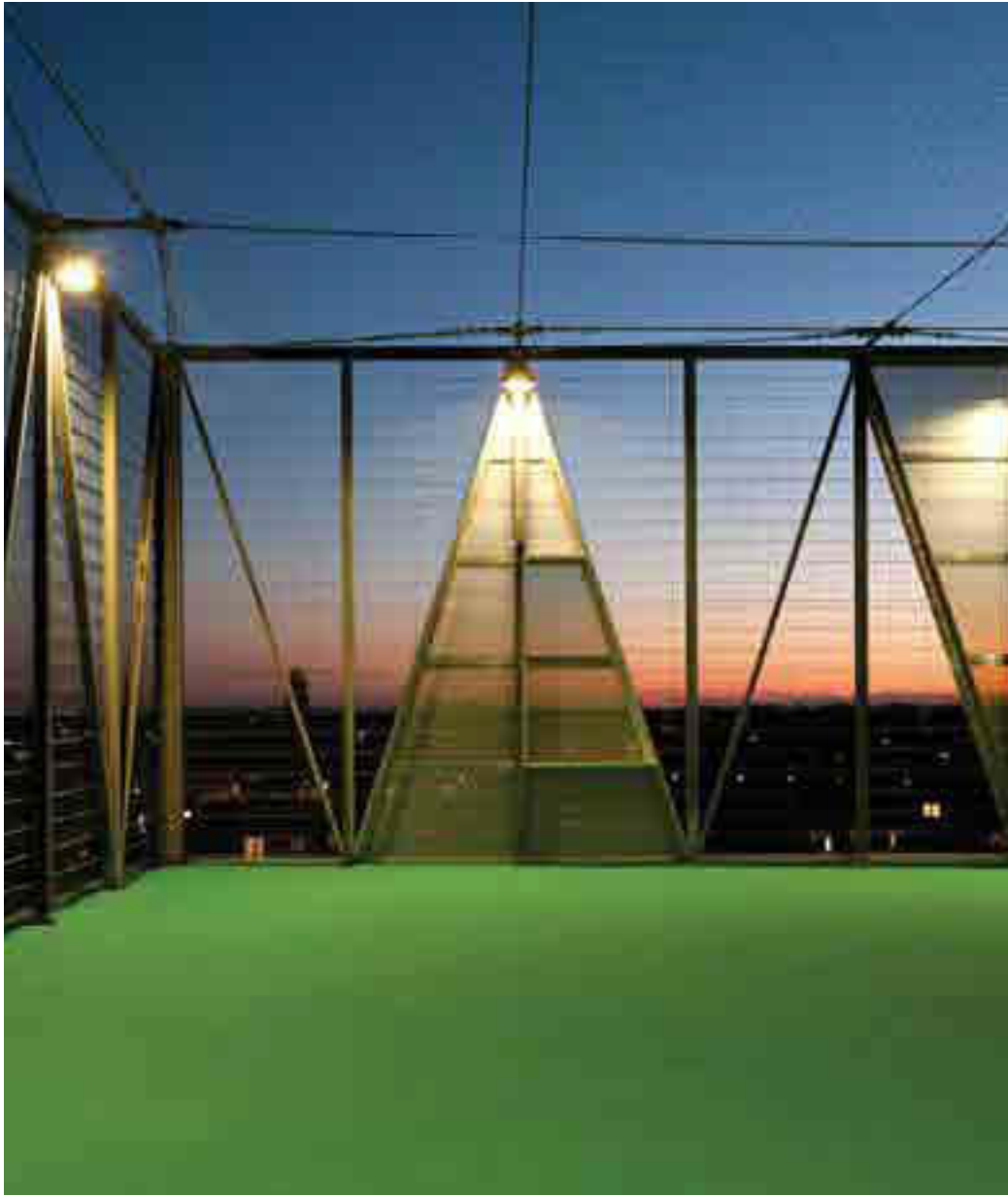
The building provides space for many types of small cultural events, dancing, theatre, yoga, sports, lectures, and teaching. It engages with the surrounding park incorporating a skate park, and a climbing wall as part of the architecture. A kitchen and an outdoor picnic area, with connection to washrooms are also provided bringing opportunities for casual gathering as well as for planned events, such as festivals.

The flexible program of the building is open to everyone, with the possibility to grow along with the community.

PROGRAM:

- Roof top Playground
- Multipurpose Rooms
- Performance space
- Climbing wall
- Skate Park
- Kitchen

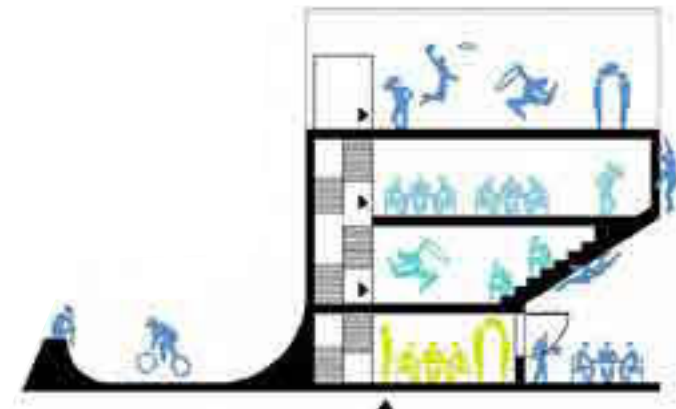
FOOTPRINT= 280 M²



Upper exterior basketball court



Interior Multipurpose Space



Cross Section



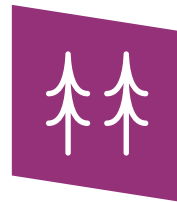
Park Topped Community Centre, Shanghai MVRDV Architects

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

In the context of the climate change emergency and growing demand for sustainable living, designers of community centres are turning attention to the environmental impact of building environments.

We see significant focus on reducing energy consumption, implementing renewable energy sources, and the use of green technologies.

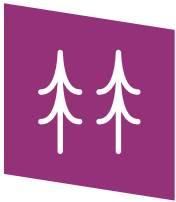
TWO BASIC CATEGORIES OF SUSTAINABLE DESIGN



Form Factor



Green Technologies



FORM FACTOR

There is a strong correlation between compact forms and low carbon buildings. The lower form factor naturally provides a lower energy loss and embodied energy of the building materia.

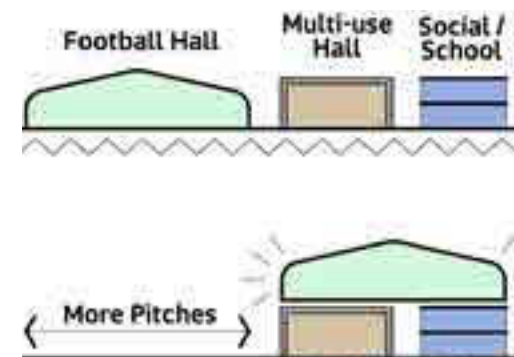
Reduced Heat Loss As a significant amount of energy is lost to the external skin it is important to reduce surface area as much as possible. The lowest form factors are achieved by compact, stacked building configurations.

Lower embodied energy There is also a strong correlation between stacked facilities and reduced embodied energy of the building material. Typically, a lower form factor provides a lower embodied energy in the envelope and reduced foundation as a proportion of building area.

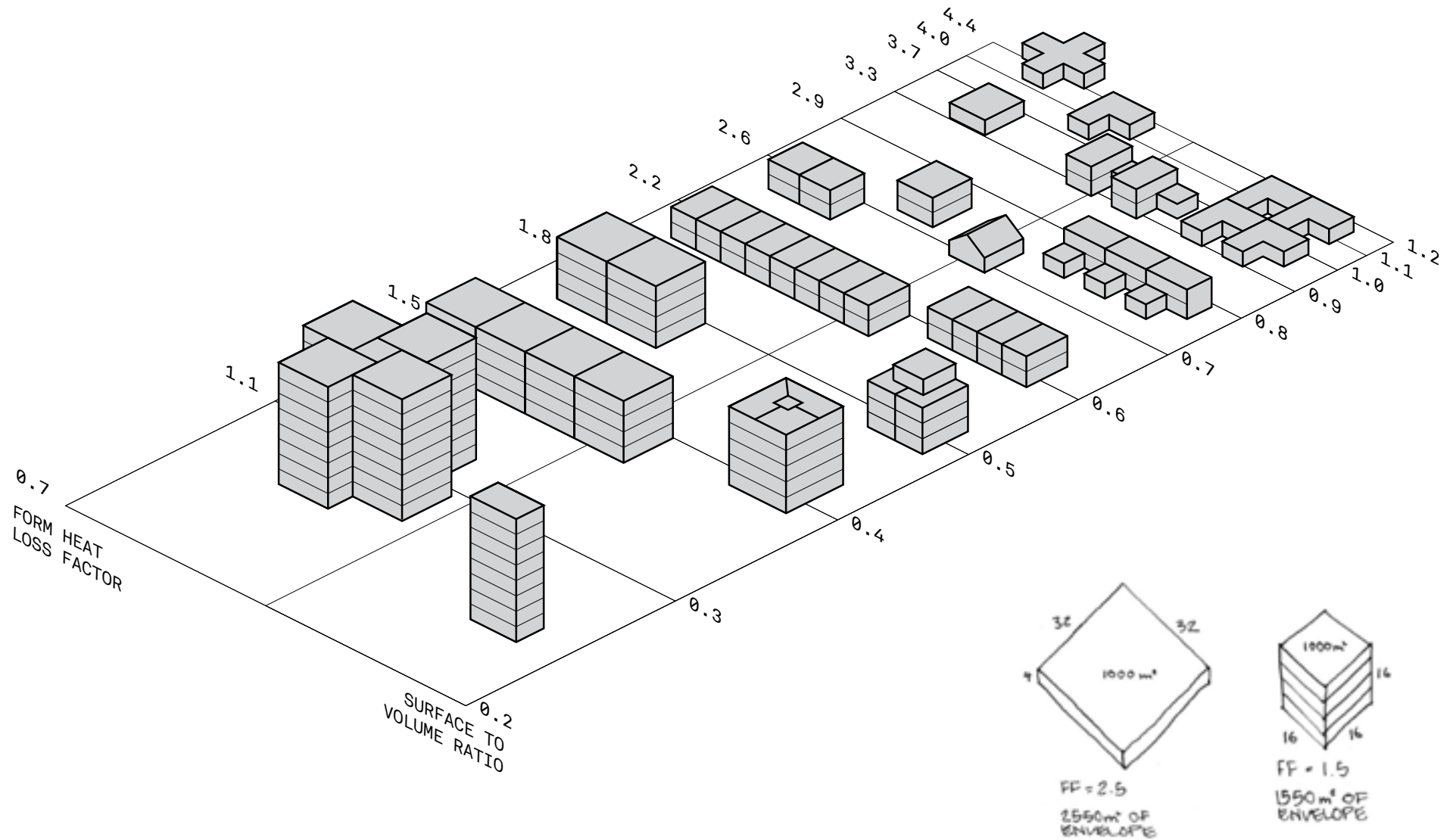
Achieving Net Zero is a requirement for new City of Vancouver facility buildings. The envelope of Net Zero Buildings must achieve more airtightness and lower U-values, while also providing options for natural ventilation. Stacked configurations help reduce the form factor and contribute positively to achieve Net Zero. The City of Vancouver has a Passive House policy.



Beacon of Light exterior view, FaulknerBrowns Architects, 2018
Form Factor: 1.49



Beacon of Light Stacking diagram



The form heat loss factor (FHLF) or Form Factor measures the proportion of external envelope to that of gross internal area. The diagram indicates how the lowest form factors (hence reduced energy / carbon) are achieved in stacked facilities.



CLAYTON COMMUNITY CENTRE - SURREY, BC

See next two pages for details on this project

Architects:

HCMA

Year:

2021

Area:75,000 ft²

The facility is located between two secondary schools. The design focuses on meeting the needs of youth, while offering gathering spaces that connect all generations. The building's compact form minimizes the surface area of the floor, walls, and roof, relative to the volume that needs to be heated and cooled.

Clayton Community Centre is the first community centre to achieve Passive House in North America and it is Canada's largest Passive House facility to date.

**PROGRAM:**

- Library
- Fitness
- Gymnasium
- Multipurpose Rooms
- Arts studio/Exhibition/
- Wood-work
- Child minding
- Preschool
- Teaching Community Kitchen

FORM FACTOR = 2.3



Library



Multipurpose Lobby



BRITANNIA LEISURE CENTRE, LONDON, UK

See next two pages for details on this project



Architects:

FaulknerBrowns Architects

Year:

2021

Area:

87,000 ft²

A stacked solution allows an ambitious and varied program of recreation facilities to be brought together efficiently on a compact footprint. The Community Centre's compact form helps to deliver a 35% improvement on regulations in terms of GHG emissions.

Britannia Leisure Centre's design represents a considered approach to the horizontal layering of the required leisure facilities. The visually dynamic pool halls, café, fitness areas, exercise studios, and soft play areas are positioned on the external perimeter of the plan, so that they are all highly visible from the outside. Minimizing the building's overall footprint has allowed for a new public square to be created on the northern edge of the site. The configuration is designed to encourage participation and creates an active building frontage to the surrounding context.

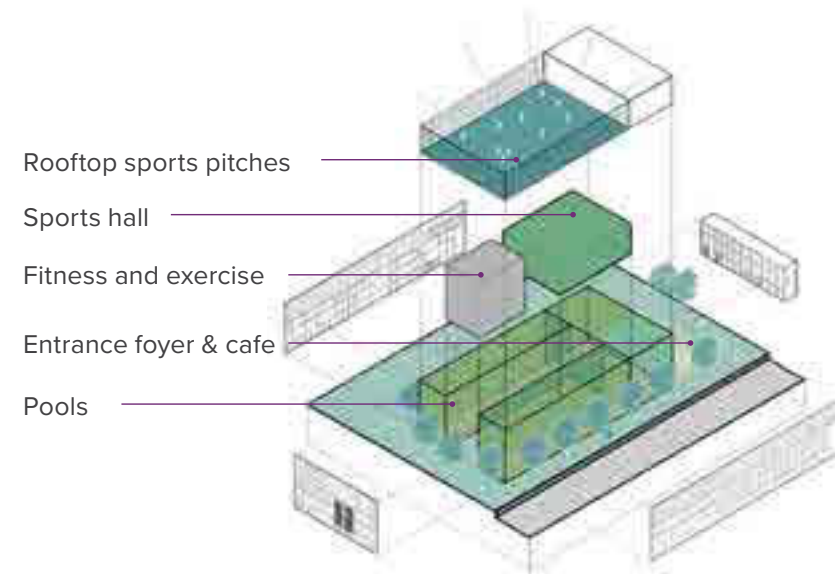
PROGRAM:

- Roof top sports fields
- Pool
- Gymnasiums
- Multipurpose rooms,
- Squash & Tennis Courts,
- Fitness centre
- Daycare
- Cafe

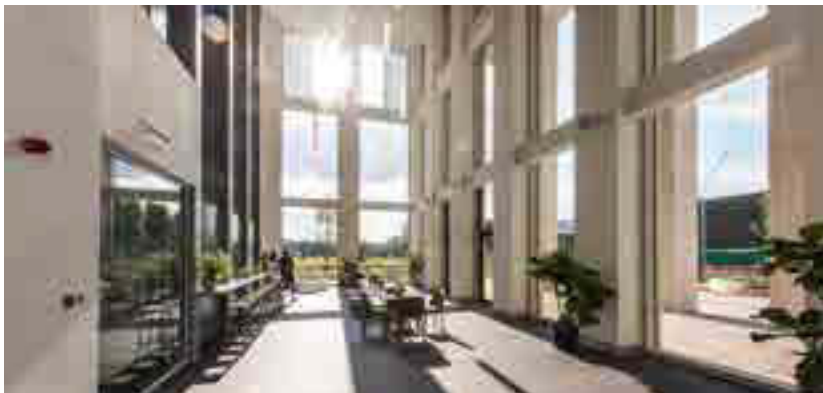
FORM FACTOR = 1.5



Aerial view



Program Organization



Atrium - Cafe Conceptual View



Pool Conceptual View



GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

In the context of the climate change emergency and growing demand for sustainable living, designers of community centres are turning attention to the environmental impact of building environments.

The City of Vancouver is leading by example with the recently approved Climate Emergency Action Plan. The City has set ambitious renewable energy and GHG emission reduction targets, requiring all new civic facilities to be zero-emission.

Built environments accounts for more than 70 percent of global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. About half of those emissions come from the energy consumed in buildings for lighting, electricity, heating and cooling. Poorly considered community and recreation buildings can be some of the worst offenders due to the high energy consumption required to support environmental comfort for various activities.

Community Centre Designers around the world are challenged to find means to reduce both source energy and embodied emissions, while managing water impact, waste generation, and mitigate impact to local ecosystems.



Ravelin Net-zero Sports Centre, Portsmouth University UK





SURRY HILLS NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE - SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

See next two pages for details on this project

**Architects:**

FJMT

Year:

2009

Area:26,900 ft²

The building incorporates many sustainable innovations as part of the design. Computerized building management and control systems (BMS) automatically monitor and control the internal environmental conditions of the building.

This hybrid public building aims to create a meeting point for everyone, mixing activities often separated: library, child care, and community centre. Accessibility, openness, transparency, and sustainability were key values and drivers for the design.

GREEN TECHNOLOGIES:

- Green Roof
- Passive Air Filtration
- Geothermal Heat Exchanger
- Photovoltaic Panels
- Rain Water Storage Tanks





Glazed Facade with Planting for passive air renovation (Bio-Filter)



Automatic Sun Filtration



RAVELIN SPORT CENTRE - PORTSMOUTH, UK

See next two pages for details on this project

**Architects:**

FaulknerBrowns Architects

Year:

2021

Area:

122,000 ft²

Ravelin Sport Centre sets a new bar sustainability for dry and wet recreation. It is on target to meet the highest sustainability standards for this typology in the UK.

The University of Portsmouth multi-purpose indoor sports building consists of a number of environmentally controlled dry sport and aquatics arranged to minimize operational energy and maximize user comfort.

Its biodiverse green roof acts as a solar barrier, while harvesting light and heat with photo voltaic panels to maximize the use of the available renewable resources. The large 200KW photovoltaic array provides carbon free power to the air source heat pumps.

Heat recovery from pool backwash water helps to further reduce primary energy demand. In addition, pool waste water is used to flush the toilets to lower water consumption.

An innovative natural and mixed mode ventilation solution for all key activity spaces reduce operational energy, and enhances user comfort and experience.

GREEN TECHNOLOGIES:

- Biodiverse Green Roof
- Photovoltaic Panels
- Heat recovery
- Natural and mixed Ventilation
- Smart sensors and controls
- Pool waste water recycling
- Low Energy Lighting
- Cooling innovation



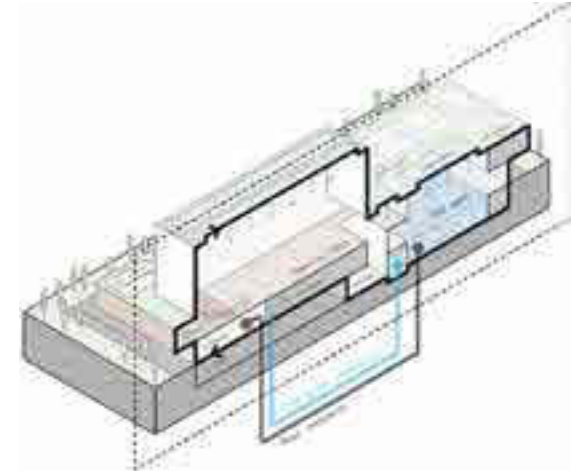
Natatorium



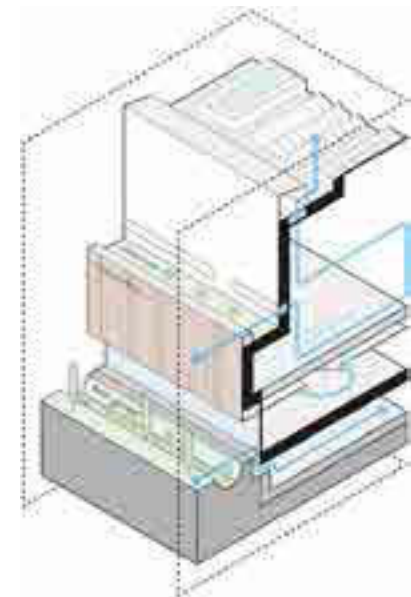
Biodiverse Green Roof with Photovoltaic Panels



Innovative cooling technique based on air movement and room temperature control integrated on fitness ceiling



Green Technologies Section Diagram



Natural Ventilation Strategy





