

City Hive Youth Adaptation Lab

Team 1: Youth Manifesto

Team Members:

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INTRODUCTION

In partnership with the City of Vancouver's Sea2City Design Challenge, CityHive launched the Youth Adaptation Lab (YAL) to offer a year long experiential learning opportunity that places youth at the intersection of learning, relationship building, and planning for sea-level rise in False Creek. This program ran between September 2021, to June 2022 bringing together a cohort of 15 youth (ages 18-30) looking to:

- Learn about the history of False Creek and its connection to the Host Nations;
- Deepen their civic literacy and understanding of municipal engagement practices;
- Deepen their understanding of the Host Nations perspectives and connections to False Creek;
- Work directly with City of Vancouver Staff, Design Challenge Teams, other advisories and peers to develop and build relationships with one another;
- and co-design and deliver a project that will showcase their learnings from the Lab to the False Creek community.

Purpose of the Youth Manifesto

The Youth Manifesto was created as one of three projects to capture the voices, values, and visions of youth needed to help shape the future of the False Creek area. Through a collection of youth survey responses and stories, this document serves to illustrate the diverse relationships youth hold with the False Creek area, and their biggest and boldest ideas for the future of the area.

Our Vision for False Creek

Our hope is that the stories, values and desires captured in this Manifesto will contribute to climate adaptation strategies implemented in False Creek. We would like to see strong plans which take into account the way in which youth play, work and live in this space enacted over the coming years. As the climate continue to change, we would like youth to be continually and actively included in discussions about sea-level rise in False Creek and other environmental changes. Our deepest and sincerest hope is that the False Creek community will continue to grow in unity, inclusivity and resilience.

Process

Digital survey

We published an online survey from May 10th to June 1st, 2022 which was open to the public. The link to our survey was shared widely by all team members through social media and direct forwarding to personal contacts. We also shared a QR code for the survey at the YAL Events Team event. The main section of the survey took approximately 15 to 20 minutes to complete and asked questions regarding respondents' awareness of climate risk, relationship with False Creek and hopes for the future. We also had a section of the survey which asked for a creative response to describe the respondents' relationship with False Creek or their boldest vision for the future of False Creek. We received a total of 19 survey responses including 6 creative responses.

In-person interviews

Our team organized 2 days of in-person interviews in the False Creek area on May 14th and 15th, 2022 around False Creek Community Centre and Creekside Community Centre respectively. Over the course of both days, we interviewed a total of 25 people/groups with varying age brackets ranging from high school students to folks in their thirties. We also included interviewees with young children who play and live in the False Creek area.

YAL event - Story booth

Our fellow YAL teammates led an in-person event at the False Creek Community Centre on May 29th, 2022, where our team hosted a story booth to engage with event attendees. At our booth, we had 2 prompts to start conversations with people as they passed by our booth; "What's your favourite memory of False Creek" and "Share your biggest and boldest ideas for the future of False Creek". We had approximately 7 to 9 participants contribute to our story booth during this event.

Note: Responses from our outreach are all included in the attached excel file.

Findings

Connections between Youth and False Creek

- Our survey responses show that youth hold strong connections with False Creek at physical, social and emotional levels. Many respondents have fond memories surrounding the physical beauty of False Creek and gathering with friends to enjoy its scenic views. Being in False Creek brings up emotions such as calm, playful and energized.
- Several respondents have been living, playing and working in False Creek for many years and would like for the area to either improve or remain the same

Knowledge and Engagement

- From our online surveys, we found that approximately 40 % of participants had never engaged with City of Vancouver's Climate Change Strategy OR the False Creek Coastal Adaptation Plan before completing our survey.
- Many participants had a general knowledge of climate change issues and sea-level rise at a global level but little knowledge of how this pertains to False Creek.
- Social media and in-person community engagement were popular outreach methods that respondents are most likely to engage with CoV.
- Youth call for continued, improved consultation with local youth and organizations to further discussions about climate change in False Creek.
- Our respondents suggested more art and community-based events as a way to engage youth, showcase their talent and diversity as well educate and involve them in climate change discussions.
- A common suggestion for improved outreach by CoV is through programming in local schools to reach youth as they study and learn.
- Our survey respondents call for more education on indigenous history of False Creek, and open discussions about decolonisation and land back strategies.

Hopes for the Future

- Our respondents hope for Indigenous rights in False Creek to be recognized as well as stewardship of the land leading to thriving, healthy communities
- Youth would like to see healthy waters and thriving biodiversity in the False Creek.
- We heard hopes of having a green city where it is safe and easy even for children to bike and walk.
- Our respondents hope for equity amongst all races and socio-economic classes of people in the area.

Our key asks (Manifesto demands)

As youth in Vancouver, our BIGGEST and BOLDEST vision for the future of False Creek is one where:

Values (youth values for the space)

1. We have inclusive, accessible community spaces for recreational and social activities
2. Justice, equity, and care are embodied by our community and government
3. Truth, reconciliation, and Indigenous Sovereignty is prioritized and put into action at all phases of planning and development
4. Natural and urban environments are accessible, healthy, and thriving
5. Our families are safe and secure

Opportunity/connections (ways to better engage youth/partnership and connection opportunities) + calls for change at the city level

1. We can use our knowledge and creativity to engage our community in our vision
2. We are paid for our time, work, and engagement
3. Opportunities for youth involvement in city-led strategies are abundant
4. We are leading impactful community engagement and actions
5. Beyond consultation, we are actively involved in decision-making and planning
6. Local youth-led organizations are working in active partnership, engagement, and decision-making with the city
7. Climate education and engagement is widely discussed and made accessible to everyone
8. Our solutions also address the social and economic needs of our community
9. We have unhindered access to climate education in school
10. Living green is easy and encouraged for the public at large
11. We are included in every step of the process for the City's climate plans
12. We are given the time, space, and resources to explore, envision and create the future we want

Recommendations - next steps for the city & the manifesto

Note: Suggested priority areas for CoV are highlighted in green

- Youth opportunities to get involved are made abundant
 - Invest in creating opportunities for youth of all different levels of experience and knowledge to get involved in city climate planning processes
 - Pay youth for their work!
 - Provide opportunities for youth to express their creativity, passion, and visions for the future
 - Provide opportunities where youth can play an active role in leadership and decision-making
 - Provide opportunities that are meaningful, impactful, actionable
- Continue to invest and build stronger relations with local, youth-led organizations
 - Beyond notifying groups/stakeholders of city engagement events, distribute power and resources to existing youth-led organizations to lead engagement and actions within their networks
 - Build long-lasting relationships with local youth-led organizations that are not just environmentally-focused, but also ones that focus on equity, inclusion, art, and culture
 - Collaborate with schools at all levels to bring climate change education to classrooms and generate engagement through workshops, activities and events held on campuses
- Continue to improve inclusion, equity, and accessibility considerations in planning and engagement processes
 - Majority of youth we spoke to were not aware of current city adaptation plans, but were very concerned about climate change. There is a need to expand engagement to reach them
 - Many expressed concerns of accessibility; not being able to attend consultation events, balancing school/work with other passion and interests
 - Strong value of equity - want to see city building relationships and taking into consideration the needs of all communities
 - Considerations of language, knowledge, network, time barriers (for some of the youth we interviewed, time barriers are linked closely to economic barriers), incentive, trust
 - Considerations of homelessness and drug addiction and communities affected by these who are often overlooked in city planning
- Transparency and accountability
 - We hope that our final report can be made public and be used as a tool to support city staff and future youth civic leaders to utilize and build upon

- We ask that the city be more transparent in their planning process
 - language of documents made accessible to a general audience
 - language of documents translated to languages other than English
 - include in public documents what voices are currently being represented / who might be missing
 - include in public document limitations of the civic engagement process
 - include in every document ideas/suggestions made by the public that the city is not able to (currently) address
 - We hope this process of transparency for the sake of accountability will build trust / faith in the civic engagement process between youth and the government
 - We believe that this practice of being forward with shortcomings invites youth and other members of the public to envision new solutions moving forward
- Decolonization is Land Back and not a metaphor
 - We heard from our engagement that reconciliation and Indigenous Sovereignty are priorities to youth
 - Building on the story we heard in a youth's vision for the future of false creek, recognizing decolonization is not a metaphor; recognition and restoration is not enough in this process, returning sovereignty of the land back to the original stewards is key. We draw on these powerful quotes from Year of the Salish Sea Manifesto:
 - "...colonial governments fulfill their responsibilities of reconciliation and returning sovereignty of the land"
 - "We call on power-holders to take accountability for the damage they cause by transferring power and repairing relationships between people and the environment."

See: [Manifesto by Year of the Salish Sea](#)

Resources Used

Link	Notes
https://www.cip-icu.ca/Files/Resources/kidsguide.aspx	A kid's Guide to Building Great Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each chapter has exercises designed to help the reader apply the content and learn more about their community. ● Each exercise specifies the subject eg social studies, skill application eg observation, target grades and reference. ● Quizzes to test understanding (word searches, multiple choice, scenario testing) ● Final recommendations at the end of document
City of Surrey Child and youth-friendly city strategy	City of Surrey Child and Youth-Friendly City Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Starts off with a vision for a youth-friendly city ● 'Fast Facts' with facts relating to youth, Surrey, climate change etc ● Structure of chapters: Goal (eg walkable city), Why it Matters, Community thoughts, Action Points
City Studio has done a project here	City Studio Manifesto <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cool project, seems very similar to ours ● Struggling to find the actual manifesto
DTES Manifesto,	DTES Manifesto <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manifesto Structure: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Background - why they began the project <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chart identifying challenges -> opportunities ii. Identified Key Asks for folks interacting with their community <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Considerations in preparation to action (positionality, motivation, approach) 2. Ethics - justice-based values 3. Calls for change (expectations) 4. Next steps - considerations, action ○ Appreciate that their calls to action include a focus on justice and trauma-informed approach, not afraid to call out the unjust methods of research/needs for change amongst privileged researchers. Would be cool if we could do the same
https://www.yearofthesalishsea.ca/manifesto	Important piece that talks about decolonization. Impactful quotes:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● “...colonial governments fulfill their responsibilities of reconciliation and returning sovereignty of the land”● “We call on power-holders to take accountability for the damage they cause by transferring power and repairing relationships between people and the environment.”
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Other Secondary Resources

1. [Cities Organize! An intersectional toolkit for your municipal election](#), [Youth Friendly City](#)
2. [\(2006\) Vancouver Working Group paper](#)
3. [Youthful Cities](#), <https://resiliencebydesign.com/>
4. <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/sea2city-primer.pdf>
5. <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/sea2city-community-conversation-round-1.pdf>
6. <https://retooling.ca/taking-action/youth/>,
7. <https://www.youthclimatelab.org/work>
8. [Women Transforming Cities](#)
9. <https://fbcyouthprogram.ca/#home>