



A CITY FOR ALL

VCPC SUMMIT 2018



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The Vancouver City Planning Commission (VCPC) 2018 Summit on “A City for All” was a collaborative event engaging more than 225 groups and individuals. As host, the VCPC expresses our heartfelt thanks to each and every participant who contributed to making the Summit such a success.

This effort was envisioned, designed, and implemented by citizen volunteers whose names are included in the Acknowledgements at the end of this report. Many members of City Advisory Committees and community groups attended monthly “partners “ meetings and hosted events leading up to the Summit. The Commission extends its appreciation to them for making this unique event and workbook possible. They were supported by CityHive (Veronika Bylicki and Tesicca Troung) and Yuri Artibise, VCPC’s Executive Director. We add our special thanks to them.

We are grateful to Chepximiya Siyam’ Chief Janice George for welcoming us to the unceded and traditional territories of the skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), seɬilwítlh (Tsleil-Waututh), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

The Commission also wishes to commend City of Vancouver staff who shared their experiences and expertise in the roundtables, and to the senior managers who attended the closing session to hear the reports from the groups (see Acknowledgements).

Samantha Anderson was the Rapporteur for the Summit, assisted by the group facilitators and recorders. For a complete list of contributors please see the Acknowledgements at the end of this workbook.

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contributions from the following sponsors which allowed the VCPC to waive registration fees for everyone, offer a child care allowance, transportation allowance, interpretation, and an honorarium for those who otherwise would not have been able to attend for the whole day. possible attendance, and indeed, resulted in the Summit being oversubscribed by more than 40 people.

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Introduction

The Vancouver City Planning Commission (VCPC) 2018 Summit on **A City for All** was held at the Community Roundhouse in Yaletown on December 4, 2018. The full day event was attended by over 228 participants from City of Vancouver Advisory Committees, community groups and organizations from all sectors (public,

roundtables throughout the day to present examples of their

recommendations. **The goal was to improve Vancouver's Resiliency by building social capacity.** The topics clustered around three themes: Belonging, Equity, and the Design of Places and Spaces; and overarching frameworks: Intersectionality and Reconciliation. At the end of the day, each table gave a brief summary of their priorities to senior City managers (see list of staff and trustees in the Acknowledgements section).

Thematic Discussions

The goal of improving resiliency guided the VCPC's Summit. The selection of the Summit themes (Belonging, Equity, and Design of Places and Spaces) and frameworks (Resiliency, Intersectionality and Reconciliation) came out of discussions and workshops held by VCPC in 2016/2017.

the discussions addressed issues facing Vancouverites from multiple perspectives.

For example, while research and initiatives on social isolation and the Social Determinants of Health were delved into in the Belonging roundtables, they were also addressed at the Equity roundtables where the impact of affordability, poverty, and marginalization on health and isolation were examined. The Places & Spaces roundtables discussed how physical spaces and planning processes impact belonging and equity. Lack of affordability came up again and again throughout all the roundtables and was examined both from the effects on individuals as well as the ability of civil society organizations to successfully operate in the city.

The importance of keeping intersectionality in mind while designing programs, initiatives, and approaches was continually cited, and was also highlighted as people shared their personal stories of how race, age, class, gender identity their relationship to the City and each other. While the roundtables on Reconciliation and Colonization and Discrimination delved deeply into the history and current impacts of Indigenous-settler



Drawing by Stanley King

relationships, the push for Reconciliation and beyond was critical to the discussions on health, food, housing, economic development, community engagement, and others.

The need to foreground Indigenous values was a common theme throughout the Recommendations.

The Workbook

Part 1 of this workbook is VCPC's report on the Summit to Mayor and Council.

participants. Short summaries of each roundtable's priorities as presented at the end of the day are included in the Executive Summary of the Roundtables' Priorities, followed by descriptions of the initiatives presented at each roundtable with links to webpages for more information. Every attempt has been made to capture these discussions in the participants' words. As requested by them, participants were given the opportunity to review their own group's report.

The Appendices include electronic links to additional background notes and a case study.



Ajay Puri facilitated the summit on *A City for All*

Part 1: *The Vancouver City Planning Commission's Report to Council on A City for All*

Background

The Vancouver City Planning Commission (VCPC) is mandated to advise the Mayor and Council on planning and development matters affecting the city's future. Following the United Nations' adoption of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) in 2016, VCPC embarked on a

Resiliency as the umbrella goal and concentrated further efforts in four areas: Engagement for Real, A City for All, The Design of Places and Spaces, and Financing the Public Good.

VCPC focused on Engagement for Real in 2016 particularly the role and value of Citizen Advisory Boards. In October 2017, in partnership with SFU'

hosted a one day Summit on Shaping Resiliency: A Summit on Resiliency and Vancouver's Future. The report is available at www.vancouverplanning.ca.

A Summit on A City for All was held in December 2018. The process design came from an April planning workshop with over 50 representatives from community groups and City Advisory Committees. The Steering Committee was half from VCPC and half from these committees and community groups. In preparation for the Summit we hosted larger monthly gatherings with partners groups.

We hired CityHive, a social enterprise, to handle logistics and assist with the program. To supplement our own budget we raised funding from the Vancouver Foundation, the City of Vancouver, Modus, WSP, the Real Estate Foundation of BC and Jorden Cook Associates.

Goal

The goal of the City for All Summit was to improve Vancouver's Resiliency by building our social capacity to respond to shocks and stresses. 228 people participated, representing organizations from across the city (65% were women). This was a peer-to-peer event, with participants sharing their knowledge and experiences in 17

The City of Vancouver covered all the registration fees, and with the over childcare, transportation and honoraria for anyone who otherwise would not have been able to attend the entire day. The Summit was oversubscribed by 40 people. It was held at the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre in Yaletown.

Rather than coming to agreement on one big set of recommendations, participants explored topics in depth, sharing their experiences in roundtables and, at the end of the day, identifying

At the closing session each roundtable presented their top three priorities to the other groups and to senior City staff and decision makers,

VCPC compiled the results in a workbook that is intended to serve as a resource to participants as well as senior staff and Council. The workbook includes each roundtable' information on how to contact the groups participating in the discussions. Participants had an opportunity to vet the contents of their own group's report in the Workbook. While the format is the same for each group, each roundtable spoke in its own voice.

This VCPC report to Council is Part 1 of the Workbook.

Highlights of the Findings and Recommendations:

Summit participants the larger group of people and organizations in the City who want to make Vancouver A City for All, including Indigenous, Black and other visible minorities, ethnic and marginalized groups, faith groups, service providers, self-help groups, activists, the LGBTQ2+ community, academics, businesses, social enterprises, youth, and seniors. Social justice issues were front and centre.

The goal of **resiliency**, and the overarching frameworks of

intersectionality and **reconciliation** permeated the discussions at all of the tables. We were impressed by people's passion and engagement on these issues. The concepts were new to some,

roundtable included Indigenous people, women and others who had experienced multiple kinds of discrimination, the concepts were readily explained and understood.

There was a cluster of recommendation around these issues including:

- The need to foreground Indigenous values.
- The need for staff and community leadership training on training to sensitize people and help them understand the truth side of the issue, and then to help them see what, in practical ways, they need to do to change systems, as well as their own discriminatory behavior, to better align their and the City's intentions with their effect on others. The workshops on intersectionality being conducted by Women Transforming Cities were viewed as a good example that could be resourced and used more broadly.
- history is needed, and several groups thought staff should have to attend training, write an exam and be held accountable for applying this knowledge to improve the situation.
- Newcomers to the city need an orientation to Indigenous culture and history updated version of "FIRST PEOPLES: A Guide for Newcomers" to all households.
- It was recommended that the City mandate ceremonial spaces in new buildings and places using funds from Community Amenity Contributions.

The issue of **colonization and decolonization** was also a hot topic. Here the Indigenous participants seemed to be ahead of most others, whose reactions and understanding ranged from quiet denial, to white guilt, to sophisticated and sympathetic analyses of the nexus between colonialism, capitalism and paternalism. Participants noted that urban Indigenous peoples are refugees of colonialism.

Several recommendations were advanced to address these issues, including;

- Create an Indigenous Commission rather than just an advisory committee. Presumably this would be established by bylaw and have more security of tenure, rotating terms, staff and budget.
- Expand the size and responsibilities of staff dealing with Indigenous affairs, include for example establishing a Department of Indigenous Affairs. One person is not enough.

The goal of the Summit was to improve Vancouver's Resiliency by building our social capacity to respond to shocks and stresses. The focus was on creating A City for All.

...diversity without inclusion will create social problems, whereas diversity with inclusion can build social capacity and strengthen resiliency.

- Get resources to the people on the ground who are already doing this work. Empower communities and allies to co-create initiatives.
- Establish a permanent Indigenous Ombudsperson.
- Adopt an Indigenous Charter and rewrite the Vancouver Charter to address inequities with Indigenous peoples.

Inclusion, belonging and engagement were roundtable topics and **equity** table topics. There was recognition that diversity without inclusion will create social problems, whereas diversity with inclusion can build social capacity and strengthen resiliency.

Highlights of the recommendations about belonging and equity include:

- Focus on empowering neighbourhoods and create a Department of Neighbourhoods mandated to support local initiatives, encouraging community and peer approaches versus traditional professional services, dealing with the safety of spaces.
- Implement the Social Isolation and Loneliness Amongst Seniors Report
- Affordability writ large is the biggest issue to be addressed to improve equity. Affordable housing should be the priority.
- Support a broader range of housing types, using a social connection lens.
- Create an umbrella service or navigation team of about 10 people to help people navigate health and mental health systems.
- Meet basic needs: subsidized housing and education; free or pay-what-you-can counseling; improve food security.
- Strengthen food security and apply the Indigenous Food Sovereignty Principles (see page 44 of Part 2).
- Strengthen support for affordable child-care, employment, and training, potentially using city's licensing and tax breaks powers.
- Learn from other cities and countries.

Resiliency, reconciliation, intersectionality, belonging and equity are manifest in the physical form of the places and spaces in our city. Participants were not only supportive of a new city-wide plan they want to be active participants. More than other cities, Vancouver has a long history of civic engagement in planning, a wealth of community groups and organization that are broadly experienced in such engagement, and a large community of professionals with expertise in participatory research and design. They want to participate as co-designers, all the way from the neighbourhood

to the city-wide level. This will require inventing new forms of participation to replace or supplement traditional consultations if we will have to share power and improve transparency if they are to come close to meeting the appetite and expectations of the groups at the Summit.

- Create more spaces for informal connections.
- Re-envision Vancouver using a "Longhouse" lens. Create a web of longhouses within the city as welcoming community spaces designed by indigenous people of the longhouse traditions.
- Enhance the use of art and creativity, adding a therapeutic component, providing public studios for artistic purposes similar to a library.
- Provide safe places where people are welcome and feel safe); providing training programs for businesses and community facilities on improving safety; providing free transportation for people under the age of 19; providing opportunities for people to name their aggressor when they have been harmed.
- Challenge and change the paradigm of housing as a commodity through policy and regulations, incentives and disincentives.
- Allow for pilot projects, experimental use of space, and adaptable space with a plurality of uses. Allow for failures, and build ways to bring successful initiatives to scale.

Please see Part 2 of the Workbook for the detailed recommendations from all 19 roundtables.

Conclusions

In conclusion VCPC would like to share some of our learning about ourselves as the result of the Summit and the process leading up to it.

We believe that over the past three years VCPC has come a long way from being a peripheral, reactive organization undertaking one-off events and research, to being proactive and strategic in our activities. Our success has been in large part due to engaging with the other City of Vancouver Advisory Committees. In many ways this year's Summit was a joint project. We would never have been able to tackle topics such as reconciliation, colonization, and community empowerment, nor bring so many Indigenous groups to the Summit without the real help of the Urban Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee. The same is true for the Seniors Committees, the Women's Advisory Committee, the Peoples

More than other cities, Vancouver has both a long history of civic engagement in planning, and a wealth of community groups and organizations that are broadly experienced in such engagement and a large community of professionals with expertise in participatory research and design.

The breadth of our mandate requires an integrated and collaborative approach.

with Disabilities Committee and many others. Like VCPC each committee is a network of related groups or individuals committed to the challenge assigned to them. Although they might seem to be single-issue committees, by virtue of the nature of their challenges they have enormous expertise that can enrich one another. The silos of departments, budgets, staff assignments and committee mandates hamper building synergy between our efforts. We cannot stress enough, the value of increasing the conversations between advisory groups.

The breadth of our mandate requires an integrated and collaborative approach. Our success in working over the past few years with Advisory Committees led to a remarkably successful Summit. We will be exploring ways to continue our relationships with these groups perhaps by establishing a VCPC liaison committee charged with encouraging collaboration between VCPC and key advisory committees, particularly the Urban Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee, the Women's Advisory Committee, the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee, the Seniors Advisory Committee, the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, and the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee. Whether these committees will be interested in working with us will, of course, be up to them to decide.

To increase our knowledge and understanding of Indigenous issues and planning principles, going forward, the VCPC will be exploring engaging an Indigenous Elder, to teach, and advise us on our path to reconciliation. We will continue our efforts to increase the diversity of our membership, and seek funding to cover child-care, transportation and honorariums for those who otherwise might not be able to participate with us.

The Workbook produced by VCPC and participants from the 2018 Summit is Part 2 of this report. We are identifying what groups are already doing to create A City for All, and what they need to progress further.

Respectfully submitted,

Nola Kate Seymoar

Chair, on behalf of the Vancouver City Planning Commission

Part 2:

A City for All Summit Report and Workbook



Introduction

In April 2018, VCPC invited members of City Advisory Committees relevant to A City for All, along with key community groups to a workshop to help design the VCPC 2018 Summit. The goal of the Summit was to increase Vancouver's resiliency in the face of shocks and stresses by increasing our social capacity and inclusion.

belonging, equity and the design of places and spaces, and, in addition to resiliency, two overarching frameworks - intersectionality and reconciliation. guided our planning.

The goal of **Resiliency** was framed as: the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems within a city to survive, adapt and grow, no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.

Intersectionality was the idea that the intersection of various social identities such as gender, race, sexual identity, and social class has a cumulative impact contributing to the systemic oppression and discrimination experienced by a person or group.

Reconciliation occurs only after a recognition of the truth of the lived experience of Indigenous peoples historically and today. It is an ongoing healing process that fosters sustained relationships of mutual respect and understanding with First Nations, urban Indigenous people, and other later groups that have suffered systemic discrimination.

Belonging encompasses the feelings and attitudes associated with inclusion and exclusion; sharing; thriving with diversity; mutual respect and reconciliation.

Equity

access to resources, governance, and decision making processes

Places and Spaces encompasses the design of the natural and built environment; access (in the broadest terms) and mobility.

Syntheses

Joining the community of world cities that are meeting the challenge of growth in similar and diverse forms, the 2018 Vancouver Summit on A City for All focused a broad dialogue on successes, experiences, interactions, and recommendations. Social exclusion and oppression of the marginalized are taxes on economic, political and social resources, on social growth and urban sustainability. At the heart of good, urban living is social and political equity and justice. The Summit represented the vast array of knowledgeable groups which

are working intimately on our city's most challenging issues, and are prepared to be a resource to city decision makers to help shape policy and practice to enable Vancouver to become a more equitable, accessible, and vibrant place.

In the face of the growing disparity between income and housing cost and availability, Summit participants expressed deep concern over the ability of Vancouver to be a city for all where people can live and thrive.

These syntheses were prepared for the closing session but were not shared because we chose to hear each table's top priorities. Prepared by Terry Anne Boyles; Omar Dominguez, Jennifer Marshall and Marnie Tamaki, they are included below, followed by a brief summary of Andy Yan's talk at lunch.

BELONGING

The roundtable discussions on the theme of **Belonging** were, – of

connection to others, to family, to community, to culture, to diversity, to reconciliation. They explored themes of resilience of individuals and communities within and across other communities. They were consistently cognizant of not only inclusion, but of exclusion. They shared, explored and developed initiatives that alleviated not only social isolation, but lent power to ongoing engagement. Models that did not settle into comfort zones of the "included" but continually invest in re-invigoration to reach to others – individuals and other networks, cultures and communities. They fertilized each other's ideas and garnered a breadth of understandings of, not only a belonging continuum, but of intersectionality.

Across the tables the importance of places, food, accessibility, They examined the importance of helping others whose belonging had been impeded by violence, trauma, dislocation, ability or health. They both demonstrated and committed to sustain the relationships that are the underpinning of reconciliation. The Social Determinants of Health permeated these roundtables.' discussions.

In the respective recommendations there are enabling mechanisms... , adaptiveness, innovation and evolution are key principles of funding programs. There are innovative concepts for diverse gathering places, and food production and sharing. Most vitally individuals who were grouped with others from outside their own spheres sought ways to continue the networking launched at the Summit to increase their impact, together and individually.

EQUITY

Among the **Equity** roundtables there was a spirited recognition that current legal, economic and political systems do not empower the vast diversity of Vancouver’s residents. The disparity which

and European settlers – and which favored older white males – made its way into legal systems and continues in our current society to perpetuate an unequal distribution of power. On average, women continue to earn less than men, Indigenous residents are on our business and political leaders, the experiences and preferences building priorities.

More striking however, was the fact that regardless of their focus – whether on issues related to seniors, youth, people living with disabilities or the impacts of colonization – table participants acknowledged that citizens often have little choice over the path. Their current circumstances are a legacy of inherited unequal access and distribution of power. Table

their own destinies. The notion of “nothing about us, without us” has been largely associated with Indigenous issues. and was also clearly relevant to the Summit’s discussions on equity for all.

While there was a recognition of the need for reformed formal structures, legal systems and social programs, Summit participants

to empower citizens. A shared distribution of power would meet each individual where they are and facilitate opportunities for co-creating a common destiny. A shared distribution of power would require having an open mind, not over-programming and not having overly prescriptive notions of expected outcomes. It is precisely this

THE DESIGN OF PLACES AND SPACES

The **Places and Spaces** Roundtable discussions encompassed process, access and inclusion, work space, housing, and public spaces. There is a need for a reality check on the kind of city that is evolving. There was a feeling that the spaces and places forming the city today are not meeting the needs of the people who live here.

Concern for a broad swath of citizenry being left behind with narrowing opportunities for spaces to work, live, and play and avocation for more inclusive and accessible public spaces drove the recommendations to the City:

- Design our city for belonging, equity, inclusion, and access for all:
 - Find common ground with citizens being engaged and bring shared common values into decision making.
 - Include grass roots organizations in a meaningful way in the planning process.
 - Address need for affordable, suitable housing with security of tenure.
 - Create more spaces for informal connections.
 - Re-envision Vancouver using a “Longhouse” lens, creating welcoming community spaces for gathering, celebration, and dialogue throughout the city.
 - Improve mobility and safety.
- Be bold – look to collaboration and experimentation as a way of working:
 - Allow for pilot projects, experimental use of space, and adaptable space with a plurality of uses.
 - Allow for failures and build ways to bring successful initiatives to scale.
- Support inclusionary zoning agile enough to respond to evolving economies, social infrastructure, and technologies.
- Challenge and change the paradigm of housing as a commodity through policy and regulations, incentives and disincentives.

OVERARCHING FRAMEWORKS: RESILIENCE, INTERSECTIONALITY AND RECONCILIATION

The Summit’s goal of Resilience and cross-cutting themes of Intersectionality and Reconciliation are not boutique issues but overarching, affecting every aspect of urban sustainability and

future. While Resilience, Intersectionality and Reconciliation were discussed at every Roundtable, they were also the subject of their own tables which delved deeply into these themes from individual, organizational and community perspectives, highlighting initiatives and contributions and making direct, proactive recommendations. There was a common call for education (sensitivity training) of city and community services staff on decolonization and intersectionality.

The stresses and their interlinkages of affordable housing/ homelessness, social isolation, economic inequality, aging population,

lack of mental health care and drug abuse were discussed in one way or another at all the roundtables, with affordability and social isolation the most prominent. While recommendations throughout the solation through the provision of space for more informal encounters or through cross-generational programming), one theme running through the recommendations was the need for place-based and especially neighbourhood-based solutions.

The Resilience Roundtable focused on the resilience of organizations These organisations are extraordinary assets to the City, strengthening residents’ connection to people and place. Local organizations that have changed and

number of recommendations that would bring about systemic change in support of a robust civil society sector.

The Intersectionality Roundtable discussed the range of identities that each person has rather than a single identity. Intersectionality strives to include as many voices as possible and thereby help

Discussion centered around implementation of the Intersectional lens at all levels, particularly at the municipal level.

The process of reconciliation is well underway with over 75 City initiatives. The Reconciliation Roundtable was a report card of sorts and a look into the future. characteristics of reconciliation were discussed particularly in the

Recommendations describe continued implementation and integration of reconciliation into all processes.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ANDY YAN’S TALK AT LUNCH

Director of the City Program at SFU, Andy Yan’s talk entitled: “Hot, Uneven and Connected” challenged participants to consider how we will plan for climate refugees, not only from the global south but from the US and not in the future, but now. Three quarters of Metro Vancouver residents live outside of the City of Vancouver’s borders. We are a growing city with ongoing challenges about income distribution – with hunger in the midst of abundance. The issue is about how we grow. Of 4600 new housing units built, there were only 8 units of coop housing in any particular year over the last 20 years in the City of Vancouver. It is not a question of what we are building but who we are building for. We need to be connected not just in terms of globalization or technology, but to one another. And we need a rediscovery of the city from indigenous roots to a global future. A City for All is a city that is open to ideas and to people, with a physical and social infrastructure to support it.

Executive Summary of Roundtable Priorities

At the closing session each Roundtable presented a short summary of their priorities. These are summarized below.

Theme: Belonging

We need to reframe our system from one of healing individuals, to one of healing people within community. Healing can occur through the arts, non-traditional healing processes, and sharing stories in a different way. Reconciliation is not only for Indigenous people. Healing intergenerational bystander trauma is everyone’s responsibility. We need to nurture community resiliency, and support families.

Roundtable 1: Health, Trauma, and Transitions

Social isolation is one of the biggest challenges for Indigenous well being. What is important to us as humans is that we matter, we have purpose and belong. The table emphasized the need to fund existing initiatives and good ideas. For example, the West End Seniors network have made 23 recommendations that Council can engage with right away to improve safety, walkability, sociability, and transit.

Roundtable 2: Social Isolation

and rescue services, and creating more spaces for education to build understanding for all peoples.

This table saw the Longhouse as a physical manifestation of cultural expression. They saw the potential for the City and others to think of Vancouver itself as a longhouse where cultures can thrive and languages be respected. If done in a way that avoids cultural appropriation and is led by people from longhouse cultures, it could be a way to address cultural displacement. There was a desire to experience and express culture free from institutions, expensive and

Roundtable 3: Cultural Identity

other cultures to be able to celebrate with us. In addition, the table suggested that city employees should learn about Indigenous communities and cultures and write an exam about them.

Roundtable 4:
Mixed topics

Despite the wide variations in participants’ backgrounds, this table common themes including: affordable housing, inclusion, and funding. It recommended that the City put an intersectional lens on city planning to create a woman-friendly city; review municipal housing policy; and provide safe, subsidized housing for Indigenous women, families, and seniors.

Roundtable 5:
Food For All

Food is what brings people together, providing connection, social inclusion, skill building, and cultural sharing. This can be achieved through supporting neighborhood-based food programs, funded from the social services sector. The table highlighted examples of successful initiatives including: the Mount Pleasant Neighborhood House; the Indigenous Food Sovereignty Principles and working group; rewilding of urban spaces; and the Britannia food programs.

Theme: Equity

Roundtable 6:
Colonization and Discrimination

This roundtable actively addressed historical, current and future impacts of colonization, emphasizing the difference between the colonizer and Indigenous world views, particularly the difference of Indigenous matrilineal world values. The table’s recommendations included rewriting the V worldviews; fund an Indigenous Commission; establish an Indigenous Ombudsperson at the city level; and improve relationship accountability and allyship.

Roundtable 7:
Income Gap and Poverty Reduction

The table’s priority was enforcing and expanding existing economic and poverty, ensuring that civic infrastructure is in place at the neighbourhood level (community centers, libraries etc.) so that people can be engaged in their communities. This includes the need for accessible housing and transportation and child care (a strong pillar in poverty reduction). It was suggested that an Indigenous lens be put on planning - from the grassroots all the way to city council - with funding and training to implement reconciliation.

Roundtable 8:
Community Empowerment

The consensus of this table was that the City needs a stronger neighbourhood focus, empowering neighbourhoods through co-creation. This should include a Department of Neighborhoods/ neighborhood councils incorporating existing assets such as neighbourhood houses, and including an audit of consultation and decision making practices to reveal areas where there are gaps. Participants supported creating an Indigenous planning department

at the City of Vancouver; mandatory cultural competency training for neighbourhood and city staff; and using co-creation participatory methods to build trust and networks among communities.

This table advocated four actions: 1.Create a city action plan to address youth homelessness; 2. Dedicate a percentage of seats devoted to youth at leadership tables; 3. Support youth-run, Teen Centre, Sunset Community Centre and the Global Lounge at UBC; 4. Support #allonboard - youth on affordable transportation.

The research table focused on the need to share knowledge and recommended creating ways in which research can be brought to decision making tables, using for example a web portal and an advisory group; bringing forward research from the city and outside it; and daylighting data. What is needed is a nexus that connects the city, the community, and the academy. It saw the advantage of creating knowledge brokers in key thematic areas. The table also

types of research being undertaken - for example between consulting research, independent research, or policy evaluation research, etc.

Theme: Design of Places and Spaces

The roundtable argued strongly for an accessibility strategy for all that will allow everyone to live, work, learn, play, and heal in a walkable, livable city, with equitable access to transit and parking. Accessibility audits and scoring of civic and other buildings is needed

included: construction zones, driveways, sidewalks, transcity services, bike education in elementary schools, regulation of ride hailing, and better access for low income people to transportation and all city services.

The table focused on what it means to do meaningful engagement, sharing processes to do it well; concerns about procurement and cognizing and addressing barriers to participation; the need for innovative processes that are inclusive, and the use of a variety of different engagement strategies to reach a variety of individuals. There was common concern that engagement needs to be continual - bridging to implementation and action - not just planning; and bringing shared

Roundtable 9:
Empowering Youth

Roundtable 10:
Empowering through Research

Roundtable 11:
Access and Mobility

Roundtable 12:
Participatory Planning and Design

Roundtable 13:
Where and How We Live

The obvious issues of affordability, suitability, security of tenure, long term sustainability of space, and the need to simplify regulations were discussed, and consensus reached that affordability should be prioritized over everything else. It is important to acknowledge that the issues around housing are NOT just about housing. The table's message to decision makers was to focus on the bigger social and economic picture - the issue is global and affects all sectors. Base decisions on gathering better data on needs and wants of citizens - to truly discover how people want to live. There was strong interest

that moving land ownership into their control could lead to better outcomes. There was also desire to see a balancing of all socio-economic backgrounds in all neighbourhoods, creating healthier more balanced communities.

Roundtable 14:
Where and How We Work

This table called for "re-planning planning" around values rather than physical space, allowing us to transition to more agile planning, better able to respond to new economies, social infrastructure, technologies etc. There was a call for equity for workers in terms of

city. Other suggestions included: incentivising and removing barriers for better opportunities for work; inclusionary zoning; co-creating places to foster better connections, investing in groups like 312 Main, libraries, communities, and investing more to support BIAs and hubs of mixed use knowledge centers.

Roundtable 15:
Public Space

Participants at this table advocated for bolder, fearless and more experimental design, planning and programming for public space, allowing more room for experimentation and pilot projects. They recommended expanding opportunities for community stewardship, emphasizing the need for designs that are unique to each community,

They called for a plurality of different kinds of spaces; applying a social equity lens; greater accessibility; inclusive, informal places combined with deliberate space.

Overarching Frameworks

Roundtable 16:
Resilient Organizations

Features of resilient organizations include: reciprocal relationships between individuals, collectives, and organizations; and risk taking, , and empowerment versus vulnerability, trauma, and despair. The table emphasized the importance of the foundations - in order to thrive, organizations need to have a strong base of space, culture, funding, and individuals that work for them. Resilient organizations need time and space to accomplish their goals.

Resilient organizations build strong relationships and take care of their people. The City of Vancouver can build its own resiliency by having stronger ongoing relationships internally and externally, not just temporary ones based on project based consultations.

"Intersectionality is a dynamic and contextual analytical framework and tool rooted in social justice identifying how interlocking systems of power affect people according to race, class, sex, etc". The participants advocated applying a gendered intersectional framework to all city and community policies. To do so requires dedicated educational initiatives including ongoing professional development and learning from the community. Meaningful evaluation of the

community members. Intersectionality initiatives must be resourced . The table called for the City to create a designated staff liaison person to assist community organizations to integrate intersectionality in their policies, programs, and practices.

The roundtable referenced Joe Biden's quote, "Don't tell me what you value, show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value." It called for getting the resources to the people on the ground

critically important requires a recognition that the urban Indigenous communities are refugees of colonialism and raised the issue that there are more supports for other refugees than for Indigenous refugees. The table called for the deconstruction of colonial systems and the need to smash colonial protocols. The human behind the institutions needs to show up.

This group's common recommendations clustered around: increasing affordability (housing, living wage) so that others can move to or afford to stay in the city; building diversity and equity into systems; decolonizing all city processes and policies; and recognizing that housing is a human right, essential to health. The table also recommended building continuity of membership into City Advisory Boards and Committees.

Roundtable 17:
Intersectionality

Roundtable 18:
Reconciliation

Roundtable 19:
Mixed Group



Closing with JB the First Lady

BELONGING

{
 ROUNDTABLE 1:
 HEALTH, TRAUMA,
 & TRANSITIONS
}

Overview

Health includes both physical health and the social determinants of well-being.

- How do we nurture individual resiliency – the ability of a person and those around them to prevent, respond to, and recover from shocks and stresses?
- What initiatives are working that support individuals and/or their friends and families, so as to minimize, respectfully accommodate, or mitigate traumas and ease transition to a positive state of mental and physical health?
- What works in different situations – of crises or chronic pressures?
- How do we support the whole person who may be dealing with many different and cumulative pressures?
- to reconciliation?

Roundtable Discussion

In addition to the table lead, Calum Scott, and notetaker, Evangelia Aleiferi, there were 9 participants in this group, representing different agencies and persons with lived experiences related to trauma and health. Each person presented an initiative and then discussion

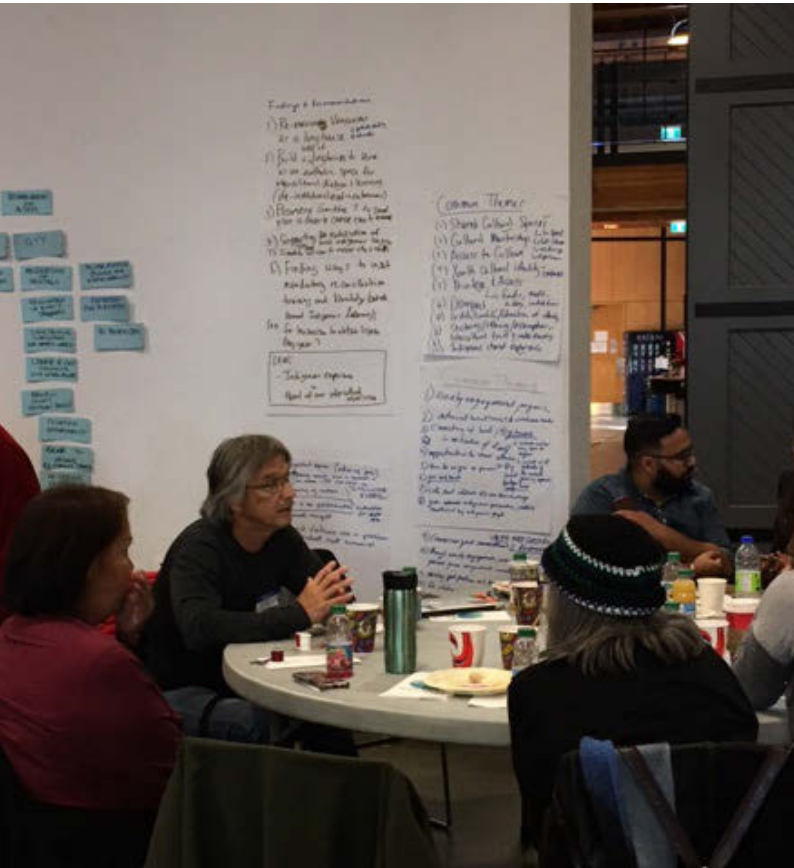
Participants shared examples and stories (their own or others) to highlight a number of themes that emerged. These included issues such as intergenerational and bystander trauma, the importance of social connections to physical health, and an approach to health that goes beyond the individual to encompass the whole community. The discussion highlighted how people with personal experience of trauma or illness can use their experience to help others. The value of the arts in promoting healing and connectedness was emphasized.

The Family Services of Greater Vancouver Healthy Connections Program presented an example of intergenerational trauma.

Stephanie’s Story: Stephanie had 7 siblings and all of them had experienced sexual abuse from other family members. When she was 8-9 years old and asked her mother why she didn’t stop the abuse, her mother said “sexual abuse is for girls and physical abuse is for boys.” When Stephanie moved to Vancouver, at age 16, she was connected with counselors but felt unable to talk about her story. At age 18, while she was thinking of attempting suicide, she learned she was pregnant. She joined the Family Services of Greater Vancouver’s Healthy Connections program. Through this program, Stephanie connected with other women with trauma in group counseling, and

her experiences and begin to heal.

Other examples presented during the discussion are initiatives” on page 29.



Summit photo by Marine Tamaki

Key Findings

Healing and wellness are multifaceted and need to take into account many aspects of people’s lives. Healing is everyone’s responsibility and is much more than the concept of a ‘cure.’ To have a meaningful life means to have healthy relations with others.

- Community is critical for healing. Peer support is needed in addition to traditional professional approaches.
- single similarities to incorporate a more intersectional approach.
- Art and creativity can play an important role in dealing with trauma and transition.
- Safety and ensuring that people do not fall through the cracks, are major components of healing.
- People face challenges in navigating health systems - particularly in mental health. We analysis of available services; which services are at capacity; what needs to be replicated; and where the gaps are.
- Meeting basic needs is fundamental to health and wellness and to the ability to participate fully in society.
- Many of these issues come back to reconciliation, the acknowledgement of injustices and ongoing colonization as well as addressing intergenerational trauma.
- The issues are also intersectional. It’s like pulling a thread - you can start at gender, you can start at race, you can start at class, and it can lead to ripping down a whole blanket.

The issues and recommendations that follow have been around for a long time. They need to be prioritized and implemented.

Recommendations

- Enhance the use of art and creativity in dealing with trauma and transition: improve resources and funding for art in the city; reduce barriers to participation; rely less on volunteers; make public art meaningful, thoughtful, and representative of the local community; add a therapeutic component to public art; facilitate art shows by diverse groups; have a public studio for use by artists similar to a public library.
- Encourage community and peer approaches vs traditional professional approaches: provide resources to train volunteers to build community; provide material resources (e.g. housing & public transportation); use less free labour by community organizations (city can add this as a criterion when providing funding); use new/social media to provide peer healing support and to gather data/feedback.
- fee shops) where people are welcome to visit and feel safe; provide a business training program (e.g. for bars, pubs, restaurants) on how to provide safe spaces free of violence; have trained civilians (not police or security) present downtown on weekends to provide safety; provide transportation (e.g. free bus) for intoxicated people so they are not left in vulnerable positions; provide opportunities for people to name their attacker when they have been harmed.
- Create an umbrella service that can navigate and direct people to a suitable service that matches their needs.
- Create a City-led navigation team of about 10 people, properly funded. It can also include a research component to collect data and give feedback. Assessments should be based on
- Meet basic needs: subsidized housing and education. Free or pay-what-you-can counseling; improve food security.

Related Initiatives

Healthy Connections is a ‘you and your baby’ program that helps women deal with trauma when fered by **Family Services of Greater Vancouver**. The program also aims to establish a healthy connection between mother and child. It deals at the same time with mental, physical, and social wellbeing, contains an art therapy component, and addresses the idea of intergenerational trauma. www.fsgv.ca/healthy-connections/

Vancouver Association of Survivors of Torture (VAST) supports refugee claimants in dealing with mental health. VAST helps with practical issues such as housing or using public transportation. With in-house facilitators, counselors, and volunteers, it empowers participants through counseling sessions, physical activities and creation of community in dealing with physical trauma (e.g. torture) and social trauma (e.g. being away from family). www.vast-vancouver.ca/

Creep Off was a pilot text-based initiative that ran for 7 weeks in the summer of 2018 to gather data on harassment. The initiative established a baseline and provided insight into harassment in Vancouver. Some observations: gender-based harassment is most common, followed by race. Women 20-35 years old report the most harassment, which typically occurs in places of employment. www.goodnightoutvancouver.com/harassment-hotline

My Health My Community Survey was conducted in 2013-2014 across the Lower Mainland. It found that being socially connected is far more important than any physical activity for our general mental and physical well being. A second survey will be conducted this spring. www.myhealthmycommunity.org/Home.aspx

The Vancouver Women’s Health Collective (VWHC) education, and share wisdom. They provide a space for women to relax, clean up, take a nap, and access services. VWHC is currently talking with Indigenous women about integrating healing in the Indigenous community. www.womenshealthcollective.ca/

Teachings in the Air are podcasts focused on Indigenous men’s health and wellness. They are part of a broader movement to use new media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram) to engage people where they are. www.teachingsintheair.ca/podcasts

The Coast Mental Health Resource Center offers low-cost meals as well as support programs such as the member-run art room, community health nurses, community garden, peer support worker program, and a homeless outreach program. It is dedicated to the memory of Carma Rogers, a volunteer with and peer support. www.coastmentalhealth.com

Coast Mental Health Recovery and Rehab operates out of the Hillside and Brookside cottages on the grounds of the former Riverview Hospital in Coquitlam. The program supports 15 women and 25 men with severe mental illnesses as well as addictions who are working towards recovery. Key components of the program are creating a sense of community and treating the whole person. www.coastmentalhealth.com

BELONGING

{ *ROUNDTABLE 2:* }
SOCIAL ISOLATION }

Overview

Humans are social beings – without touch infants wither and die. In situations of crisis or emergencies, those who are isolated are most at risk. Vancouver groups have explored many programs and initiatives to address social isolation.

- How do we build caring communities where people are connected and engaged?
- What structures can we build into our social safety net to catch those that are isolated?
- How do we create a sense of home and belonging for newcomers, outsiders, singles, widows and widowers, differently abled, queers, those who don't look like us...?
- What is working and what can we learn from those experiences?

Roundtable Discussion

There were 12 participants at this table plus the table lead Lidia Kemeny and notetaker Aneesha Grewal. Most participants worked or

immigrants and/or had experiences that provided insights into the issue of social isolation (e.g. sexual orientation, age, mental health).

ancouver that increase social isolation such as: the high number of people who are from other places; a culture that prioritizes work; racism; social interactions based on transactional relations (e.g. with service providers); and cultural differences in how people interact. Lack of af

. Young people are reluctant to put down roots as they may not be able to afford to stay in Vancouver. These impressions are supported by the Vancouver Foundation's 2012 and 2017 social isolation reports, which interviewed 3800 people across the Metro Vancouver region. The ancouver is a hard place to make friends; 2) Neighborhood relationships are cordial but not deep; 3) There is not a lot of faith in each other to solve neighbourhood problems; 4) Neighbourhood trust is not very strong; 5) Many people are retreating from community life.

The report also noted that many people want to increase connections with others, but do not know how. The participants noted challenges to social service organizations such as lack of space and funding

connect, and recognized that effectively connecting with others can sometimes require changes in how people think – e.g. moving from a colonization model to one of reconciliation.

Key Findings

- Social Isolation is one of the biggest challenges facing us, and the City of Vancouver has a role to play in the ways we connect.
- Costs: health coverage, community wellbeing, loss of cultural connection/heritage/history. Isolation hinders creative ability, and creates mental physical and economic challenges.
 - Social isolation impacts on all aspects of life. An inventory of existing infrastructure can explore where there may be opportunities to address social isolation.
 - Social isolation is an issue that impacts all of preventive measures is needed.
 - The absence of immediate family for many in Vancouver highlights the need for strategies to ensure people have contacts to rely on in case of emergency or disaster.
 - Income, mental illness, and addictions further isolates people. How can we better include and welcome these residents?
 - Racism in park spaces and in public spaces requires discussion with police force.
 - Othering is a form of social isolation. Cyclical othering within othered communities can be positive (don't 'other' others) and negative ('other' others).
 - Holidays and weekends can accentuate increased social isolation.
 - Celebrations help us get to know each other in Vancouver.
 - Inclusive, safe and accessible spaces can increase community connectedness. Affordability and housing play a key role in socialization. Defensive/inaccessible architecture can impact social isolation.
 - "Co-housing" and "intentional communities," bringing people with common interests or a collective purpose together, and provide models for fostering relationships and breaking isolation.
 - Residents with disabilities face further barriers to connecting and require targeted strategies.
 - Solutions are multifaceted and require strategies for individual and neighbourhood level interventions.

Recommendations

- Policies in a wide range of areas such as built environment, education, housing, equity, and accessibility affect social isolation. Needed program and resource supports include:
- Implementing the Social Isolation and Loneliness Amongst Seniors (SILAS) Report by City of Vancouver Seniors Advisory Committee including recommendations regarding improving safety, walkability, transit,
 - Creating more spaces for informal connections that can build on existing initiatives and may be informed by the TRC's Call to Action.
 - Incorporating the lens of social connections within housing strategies.
 - Supporting proven existing strategies that bring intergenerational connections.



Making Connections – See case study
Neighbourhood Small Grants in Appendices

Related Initiatives

- The **West End Seniors' Network** noted that one of the biggest issues facing older adults related to social isolation is transportation and overcoming mobility challenges. Recently they have begun working with buildings that have a high proportion of older adults as residents to activate the lobbies and common spaces with social, recreational, and educational programming. Food is provided, and volunteers knock on doors to invite people to attend. These events are open to all, and intergenerational relationships and connections among neighbours are encouraged. www.wesn.ca
- The **Indigenous Wellness Team - Provincial Health Services Authority** aims to improve the health and well-being of Indigenous people, and to close the health gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous British Columbians. The program has been looking at issues of social isolation and recognises that while technology can enable community-building, it is important to have physical spaces in which people can meet and develop meaningful face-to-face relationships. <https://bit.ly/2U2VYqH>
- Vancouver Foundation** has been in Vancouver for 75 years, supporting programs that enhance and contribute to community well-being. Vancouver Foundation is addressing social isolation through the Neighbourhood Small Grants program which provides grants of \$50-\$500 to projects that bring neighbours together and which has been documented and evaluated to increase belonging in the communities it is offered. www.vancouverfoundation.ca
- Hogan's Alley Society** focuses on housing justice and equality for Black people living in the DTES. Early initiatives on social inclusion such as connecting the DTES Black community through weekly dinners has had uneven results due to a lack of permanent space. The proposed Black cultural centre as part of the Hogan's Alley revitalization will provide important stability for initiatives promoting social inclusion in the DTES Black community. <http://www.hogansalleysociety.org>
- The **Riverview Village** proposal envisions a new community of mentally ill and non-mentally ill living together on the Riverview Lands. For many people living with serious mental illness there are 2 housing models- scattered site housing or congregant housing- both of which often result in a lack of meaningful relationships that do not involve transactional relationships (i.e. people who are paid to look after you). A mixed community will provide an environment more conducive to meaningful relationships. www.riverviewvillage.ca
- MOSAIC's refugee sponsorship program** families. They introduce the family to friends, jobs, housing etc. This model goes beyond organizational support to help refugees build social networks and communities. <https://bit.ly/2G1k5kD>
- A program of the **South Granville Seniors Centre**, the **Model DTES Seniors Alliance Centre**, emphasizes outreach to seniors, visiting them in their apartments or holding snack and social events in their residential buildings to break down barriers of isolation. The Seniors' Centre also of www.southgranvilleseniors.ca
- Qmunity** is a community center in Vancouver, BC that works to improve queer, trans, and Two-Spirit lives. They provide a safe space in their building as well as counseling, peer support, educational resources and events, and support for families. They also work with partner organizations such as MOSAIC to do outreach in refugee/newcomer communities and in Indigenous communities. www.qmunity.ca
- Beyond the Conversation** strong community through conversation. With over 400 regular participants and 13 meetings, the program helps newcomers learn English, develop social networks, share cultures and experiences, and end stigma around mental health support. www.beyondtheconversation.ca

Related Initiatives

Greater Vancouver Community Services Society is one of BC's oldest and largest accredited community care service providers. GVCSS cares for 4,000 people each year, including the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and those who require support to retain or regain their health and independence. GVCSS is currently advocating with Vancouver Coastal Health to allow for more time for in-home visits to better address social isolation. www.gvcss.bc.ca

411 Seniors Centre Society is a peer support organization that runs a social meeting hub where people meet, socialize, and organize around issues important to seniors. www.411seniors.bc.ca



Summit photograph by Jennifer Marshall

BELONGING

ROUNDTABLE 3:
CULTURAL IDENTITY

Overview

Diversity is a positive factor in the health and evolution of species in nature. When our identities are threatened we may withdraw, become defensive or aggressive. When a dominant group colonizes another, the previous culture may be maligned or suppressed. W religious, or cultural differences.

- When people have a sense of their identity and belonging in their group, are they more likely to be open to appreciating the richness of other cultures?
- In a diverse and multicultural city and country, how do we move beyond stereotypes to build genuine relationships within and between cultures, to build respect and mutual accommodation?
- What role do the arts play in cultural identity?

Roundtable Discussion

There were 10 participants at this table plus the table lead Will Tao and notetaker Navi Rai. Participants had professional and personal interests in the roundtable topic connecting their work with immigrant, Indigenous, and anti-racist organizations with their own or their parents and grandparents' experience of immigration, colonialism, and racism. These experiences were related to continuing exclusion in the city. Common themes included: the need for shared cultural spaces (to speak, tell stories); cultural mentorships; access to culture; youth cultural identity; privilege and access; disrespectful institutions; and Indigenous shared experiences.

In speaking about the need for engagement, the need to shift power from the city and institutions which replicate colonialism to the people, the need for marginalized people to work together, the importance of sharing stories between communities and between generations, and the need to connect with the land, the table re-envisioned Vancouver as a longhouse or a web of longhouses that would shift power and change Vancouver into a space for intercultural dialogue and learning.

We are in our homelands and find it disconcerting when we hear people say to people of color go back to your own country when they, themselves, are from Europe. It is disheartening and disrespectful when people say to Aboriginal people go back to your reserves. In the face of systemic racism we continue to raise our hands up.

- LILLIAN HOWARD

Key Findings

- The need for shared cultural spaces - to allow us to speak, tell stories, reclaim history, and address dispossession.
- The need to collaborate in the process of cultural mentorship.
- The need to empower youth in assisting them
- The need to tackle issues of privilege and access through distribution of funds and grants, media access, historical accounts, and within our institutions.
- The need to address sectoring, othering, and false assumptions that negatively affect our communities.
- To tackle intercultural trust and understanding.
- To address the Indigenous experience as a shared experience.

Recommendations

- Creating a structural framework where we re-envision Vancouver as a “Longhouse” - a space for practicing identity, and educating about our complex identities. Deploying a longhouse concept in this way would need to be cognizant of cultural appropriation and be led by Indigenous persons from the nations big house traditions.
- Building a web of physical “longhouses” to serve as an authentic space for intercultural dialogue and learning - a space that is de-institutionalized and autonomous.
- Convening a Committee (outside of the City’s own committee) to plan a diverse canoe event to re-enact the process by which cultural communities have met and interacted over time.
- Supporting the revitalization of local education among City staff.
- Simplify the process to access city assets (grants, etc.) for cultural communities.
- Finding ways to insert mandatory reconciliation training/knowledge into city processes (such as during business license renewals, etc.).



Britannia Salish Honouring Ceremony.
Photo by Christopher Tait.

Related Initiatives

The Punjabi Market Retail Business Study: Findings & Next Steps 2018, is a report and responsive initiative to research, engage stakeholders, and identify policy changes to sustain the Punjabi Market. Essential to the South Asian community as a commercial and cultural destination since the 1970s, the old market areas is experiencing an economic decline and the loss/dislocation of businesses and residents with rising rents and house prices. The community wants the City to protect the Punjabi Market’s cultural s economic vitality and business diversity.

Kokoro Dance producing, and performing new dance theatre with an emphasis on multi-disciplinary collaboration and cross-cultural exploration. Recognising the challenges that minority and non-mainstream arts organizations have, Kokoro started the Vancouver International Dance Festival in 2000 that focuses on performances by under-represented and marginalized dance artists. In 2018 it opened KW Studios in the Woodward Heritage Building (111 Hastings St. W) with a mandate to make the studios affordable and accessible to DTES performing artists/organizations. www.kokoro.ca; www.vidf.ca; www.kwstudios.ca

The Vancouver Mural Festival is the city’s largest free public art celebration. It is held in August with events and public art installations throughout the year that address socio-economic issues facing the city. www.vanmuralfest.ca

CJSF radio and virtual media as one way to broaden the base of people who understand and want to support initiatives such as Shared Cultural spaces. CJSF radio welcomes an eclectic range of opportunities for our work group to share its stories and recommendations. www.cjsf.ca/

La Federation des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique works to expand the francophone space in B.C. and support francophone civil society capacity. One aspect of their mandate is to support new francophone immigrants, recognising that not all francophones have a European heritage. They work to expand diversity within the francophone community and support African immigrants and refugees in maintaining their francophone heritage. www.ffcb.ca

Urban Aboriginal Peoples Advisory Committee advises Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for urban Indigenous Peoples to fully participate in City services and civic life. Cultural identity is extremely important for Aboriginal people, and Aboriginal concepts such as the longhouse can help Vancouver overcome its colonial history and racist present. www.vancouver.ca/your-government/urban-aboriginal-peoples-advisory-committee.aspx

We Heart Canada is a partnership between the Vancouver Asian Film Festival, the City and Vancouver Immigration Partnership to offer immigrant and refugee youth the use of video to tell their story about belonging and cultural identity. Begun for Canada’s 150th birthday, this year the project is reaching out to Indigenous, East Asian, and South Asian communities. www.vaff.org/we-heart-canada

The **Hidden Journals** is co-authored by Mary Tasi and Wade Baker. Based on archival and oral research from many Indigenous elders in Vancouver and Maui, the book examines the stories about Wade Baker’s ancestor, Third Lieutenant Joseph Baker, mapmaker on HMS Discovery, from 1791 to 1795, and Captain Vancouver. The book centers Indigenous knowledge, looking at history through an authentic Indigenous lens. www.skyspiritstudio.com

BELONGING

{ *ROUNDTABLE 4:* }
MIXED TABLE

Overview

This was a mixed table discussion focused on A City For All and was made up of participants as individuals or organizations that, due to the large number of registrants, were not able to be accommodated at other tables. This afforded the table an opportunity to consider the creation of a City for All from multiple perspectives.

Roundtable Discussion

individuals with an interest in the future of the city at Mixed Roundtable 4, as well as the notetaker Elizabeth Pinsent, and the table facilitator Walter Wawruck.

As a mixed table, a number of subjects and stories were discussed and common themes developed. The narrative was diverse in subject matter, but the importance of affordability, inclusion, and the role of government in addressing them, were consistent throughout. People related their personal experiences

and inequality based on race, gender, class, sexual orientation etc. to the challenges of creating a city for all. Almost everyone

they have a place to belong or not, either physically or socially, and made the connection between affordability and belonging.

The more we see ourselves represented the more we can communicate better and also feel a better sense of belonging.

- LYNNE LEE

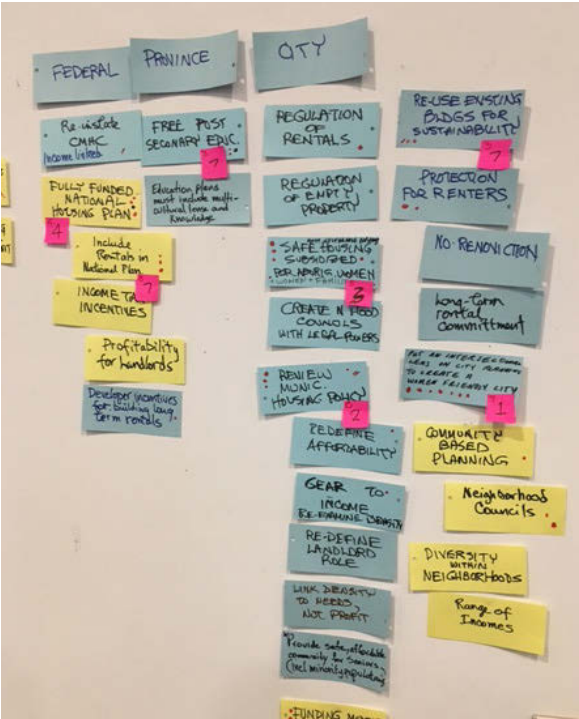
Key Findings

- Affordable housing is a prerequisite to societal participation.
- Need to deal with social inequalities and pay attention and provide support to minorities.
- Recognize the gap between opportunities and income versus quality of life, housing, belonging, connection.
- Need to use a gender, intersectional, and multicultural lens in all services and systems to achieve safety and equal representation.
- Giving attention to social inequalities can be connected to inclusion and a sense of belonging.
- Affordability needs to expand beyond housing.
- Diversity in neighbourhoods needs to take into account diversity in the built environment. If all the buildings in a neighbourhood are torn down and replaced with condos, it affects the affordability and diversity of the neighbourhood.
- Current funding models and federal, municipal, and provincial housing policy discourage different, innovative models for city development and increase lack of affordability. The equation of 'rental' with 'affordability' does not work.
- We need community-based planning that

the city and revive local neighbourhood councils to really take into account impacts of development and needs of residents.

Recommendations

- Use an intersectional lens on city planning to create a women-friendly city.
- The planning commission and the municipality together need to review the existing housing policies, particularly some of the new demographics of this city, e.g. more housing geared to income.
- Safe subsidized housing that addresses families; women friendly buildings designed to meet all their diverse needs, including childcare; buildings for women and families only, including seniors and those with unique issues faced by those aging with challenges.
- Free post-secondary education, although a provincial issue, would address many of the A City for All.
- Reuse and renovate old buildings to facilitate sustainable housing.
- Fully-funded National Housing Plan is needed.



Related Initiatives

World of Walas works on a different model from most developers. They buy buildings in depressed areas in the Netherlands and Germany – steel mills and fabric mills – and rejuvenate those buildings, rebuilding and renting them out as landlords (rather than acting merely as developers).
last out” methodology – they bring in the tenants, create the community (around the tenants) and stay for the long term. www.worldofwalas.com

Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF) is dedicated to promoting and celebrating the diversity and depth of American www.vaff.org

411 Seniors Centre Society is a peer support organization that runs a social meeting hub where people meet, socialize, and organize around issues important to seniors. www.411seniors.bc.ca

Women Transforming Cities examines systemic barriers to women’s participation in local government. In 2014, they launched the Hot Pink Paper Campaign, partnering with organizations serving women to develop policy recommendations. In 2018, they had 11 topics and 33 recommendations for mayor and council. The new Mayor supported 32 of the 33 recommendations and the whole Council supports using a gender intersectional lens on city policy as well as a city wide safety audit and anti-violence campaign and environmental initiatives. www.womentransformingcities.org



Tasia Alexis speaking at the summit.

BELONGING

{ *ROUNDTABLE 5:* }
FOOD FOR ALL

Overview

Food is a connecting point between people: growing, buying, selling, cooking, making, sharing and dining together. It connects us to our familial and cultural traditions and is the foundation of health and well-being.

- What do robust, resilient, and accessible food systems look like?
- How do we deal with issues such as affordability and food waste?
- What can be done at the local level to address global stresses such as climate change, loss of agricultural land, soil degradation, and distant and attenuated food supply chains?
- The connection is often made between food and biodiversity, health, local economic development, education, social inclusion and community. What do these connections look like in Vancouver and how can they be strengthened?



Photo courtesy of WSP.

Roundtable Discussion

The table had 9 participants from community and private sector organizations with a focus on food security plus table lead Ian Marcuse and notetaker Jenna Aujla.

The discussion focused on a number of initiatives ranging from the use of food and gardening as a way to teach kids leadership skills, to high tech approaches that support low-emission urban agriculture. One theme that ran throughout the discussion was how food and culture connect with the wider ecological, economic, and cultural systems that include food production, preparation, and consumption.

The roundtable looked at ways to make sure that food industry practices are ethical, respectful, and involve community so that future generations of strong food practice can be created. There was discussion of inner city farms creating good green jobs and the practice of rewilding - bringing back traditional wild areas within an urban zone. More than simply promoting biological diversity, rewilding is a reconciliation practice that acknowledges our responsibility to care for unceded Indigenous land. Increasing the range of urban agricultural investments is important, but the concept needs to be broadened to include a deeper connection to the land and a recognition of the need to ensure access by the most vulnerable to food. Connections between poverty, economic security, labour rights (in this context highlighting agricultural labour), food waste, climate change, the rural-urban shift, food skills, and health and nutrition were discussed.

shift from food systems as consumer-based, to ones with more cultural connections were highlighted, such as the reintroduction of Indigenous foods into hospitals in Haida Gwai, neighbourhood food projects bringing communities together, and youth skills development in food gardening and production.

The food items weren't good enough for the rest of us, but good enough for them (lower income).

- SHARED BY ZARAH ESMAIL
QUOTING A YOUTH RESIDENT
AT EVA'S PHOENIX (A YOUTH
SHELTER IN TORONTO)

Key Findings

- Need to use land in a meaningful way enabling people to build a deeper connection to the land, whether growing food or simply being in pleasant green space. Land use that supports healthy ecology and global warming mitigation and more intensive food growing.
- Resiliency: for food planning + low income households to address high cost of living.
- narrows the gap in access to quality, healthy, culturally appropriate food.
- Recognize the social connection of food: more opportunities to eat together within community settings can address issues of social isolation. Food production and connection between housing, space availability, and food (zoning).
- Addressing food insecurity is an income issue and needs to be addressed through poverty reduction. Community food sector can do more anti-poverty work and community organizing work (leadership development, food justice, advocacy and policy work) with increased resources beyond support for basic food access/food security type programming.
- Incorporate food production with a food reconciliation strategy that includes relationship building or generally create more opportunities for social connection and inclusion.
- Increase intergenerational Interaction: senior centres and students that address isolation and loneliness issues.
- Awareness of where food comes from builds responsibility that ensures social and environmental justice.
- Place-based models – local programming has the largest impact. It takes a village to feed a village.
- Need for education around safe food e.g. food allergy / adversities.
- Cultural discrimination around food. We need to support more cultural learning and sharing around food. We all need to be a part of food systems change, not just foodies. One change is ensuring that cultural foods are more available and valued.
- Renaturalization of urban spaces to be inclusive of Indigenous food systems. Stronger focus on supporting Indigenous food systems and development of such frameworks. How can naturalized or rewilded food systems? This is more than just food access. It is about strengthening our connection to land/nature (in the city).



Rewilding in Vancouver. Photo by Ian Marcuse

Recommendations

- Provide funding for food programming in social service sector to support integrated and cross sectoral approaches that facilitate general health and well-being, and are embedded within community social systems of connections, inclusion, learning, etc. (place based).
- Focus on local neighbourhood based infrastructure
 - a) food programming and spaces
 - b) leadership training + education
 - c) integrated neighbourhood food hubs
 - d) community food programmers tasked to facilitate urban agriculture initiatives.
- Apply Indigenous food sovereignty principles (BC Indigenous Food Sovereignty Working Group) and values within the city via such activities as rewilding, cultural sharing, and access to traditional foods.
- Increase range of urban agricultural investments that are inclusive of wild areas and broaden to include deeper connections to the land while recognizing access to food is for most vulnerable. Increase the number of community commons or shared growing areas.
- Support neighbourhood food networks with increased physical assets and human capacity to scale up food access, food skills, community engagement, and cultural sharing within place based frameworks.
- Incorporate food considerations into disaster planning, especially for vulnerable people (e.g. women, children, elders) who may need extra support or access.

Indigenous Food Sovereignty Principles

SACREDNESS

Sacredness in terms of the 4 principles of the land. A responsibility to nurture healthy, interdependent relationships with the land, plants and animals that provide us with our food.

PARTICIPATORY

An action that is ultimately based on the day to day practice of maintaining our traditional food harvesting strategies and practices

generations. A cultural strategy that must be practiced at all of the individual, family, and community levels.

SELF-DETERMINATION

The ability to respond to our own needs for safe, healthy, culturally adapted Indigenous foods - the ability to make decisions over the amount and quality of food we hunt, grow, and eat. Freedom from dependence on grocery stores or corporately controlled food production and distribution in market economies.

POLICY

A national, and international policies that are negatively impacting traditional land and food systems.

(From the BC Indigenous Food Sovereignty Working Group. See www.indigenousfoodsystems.org/food-sovereignty for more details).

Related Initiatives

Grandview Woodland Food Connection is a grassroots umbrella food program run out of Britannia Community Centre. Programming includes Wild Minds, empowering youth to learn about ecology, basic food skills, environmentalism, and connection to the land; renaturalising the Strathcona Cottonwood Gardens; summer gardening program with at risk/marginal young people affected by racism and colonialism. www.gwfoodconnection.com

The BLEND Program at **South Vancouver Neighbourhood House** focused on food and social inclusion. It brought together immigrant youth each week to learn recipes, share food from their countries, and improve food literacy. The program helped launch intergenerational community dinners in South Vancouver. www.southvan.org

Friendship Catering Events was developed as a social enterprise providing dinner and a morning snack for the largest temporary shelter in Vancouver. With that as a platform it now offers catering beyond the organization and a space for people to develop skills and connections. www.vafcs.org/programs/cateringmenus

Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House provides training workshops to engage community members in learning about traditional plants and medicines and how we have been impacted with interference in traditional foods. This encompasses heightening the visibility of Indigenous technology, harmony, unity, sustainability, and practicing generosity and promoting the 4 Principles of Indigenous Food Sovereignty. www.mpnh.org/our-programs/aboriginal-gatherings

Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Networks support 15 food security organizations developing communities across Vancouver. Operating as a critical community of practice, they use food to bring people together andv create a culture of change. www.vancouverfoodnetworks.com

WSP is developing Canada' to address some of the issues around climate change, rural-urban shift, and concerns about food security, getting fresh foods into cities, closer to cities. There is still limited government support for urban agriculture, but it needs to be part of the discussion. <http://ca-futureready.wsp.com/aperture-2018-q2/aperture-2018-q2/>



Grandview-Woodland Native Plant Garden. Photo by Lung Liu

EQUITY

ROUNDTABLE 6:
COLONIZATION AND
DISCRIMINATION

Overview

For thousands of years before contact with European explorers and later settlers, the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish First Nations had vibrant cities and communities in what is now Vancouver. First contact included exposure to European diseases (smallpox, chicken pox, measles, mumps, syphilis, and gonorrhea) that decimated Indigenous communities. New technologies (guns and metal pots) and knowledge were welcomed, but interference with their language, religion and culture, particularly through the imposition of residential schools, and the exploitation of their land base, left them insurmountably disadvantaged. In the light of this history, of what we now call genocide, the City and others have been taking steps to address past wrongs and move forward to establish a more equitable and just city. Progressive settler groups; the Chinese, Japanese, Black immigrants, Indians and other visible minorities were in turn discriminated against.

- How is it possible to redress the systemic discrimination that could lead to the atrocity of murdered and missing Indigenous women?
- What does a city free of discrimination that has seriously addressed its colonial history look like? Can we learn from other places?
- What are the intergenerational and gendered impacts of discrimination and colonization?
- What partnerships need to be built to achieve an equitable and just city?
- What progress have the City and other community groups made to address issues of discrimination and colonization that can be further built on?
- What are the barriers that still need to be addressed to support the vision of a City for All?

Roundtable Discussion

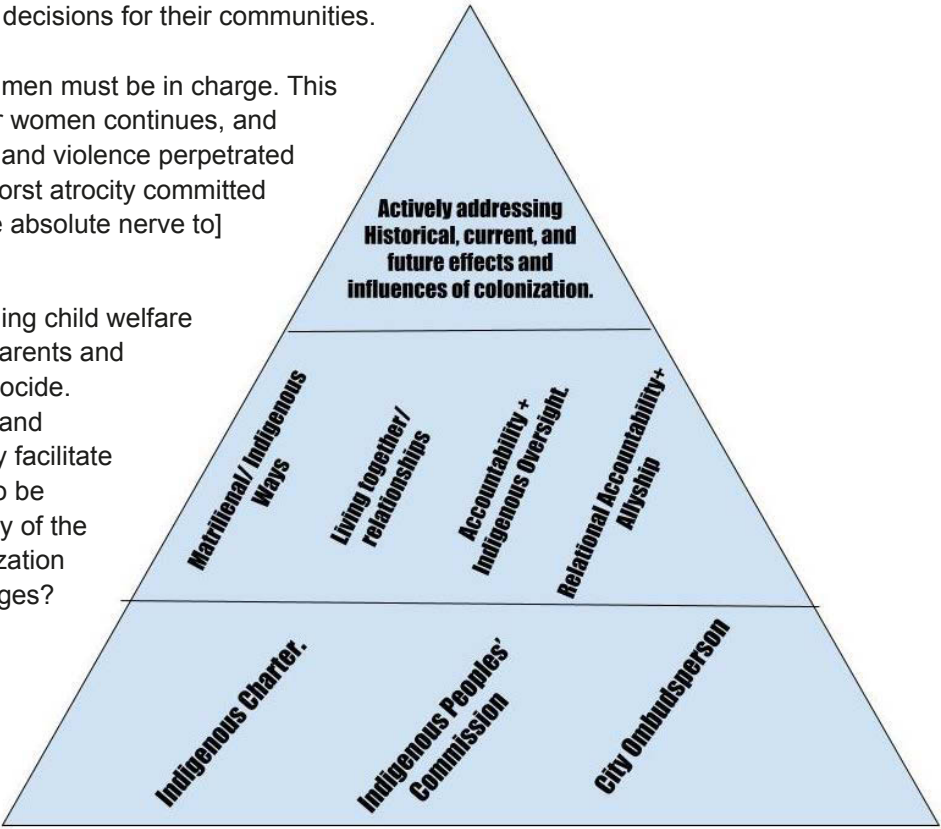
The table had eleven participants largely from community organizations with a focus on Indigenous, immigrant and refugee communities, inequality and marginalization, in addition to the table lead, Penny Kerrigan, from the former Urban Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee, and notetaker, Meghan Hunter. The roundtable discussed the ongoing effects of colonization on both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Vancouver and across Turtle Island. Forced assimilation to patriarchal European values in previous centuries continues to have negative effects on us all. Many people do not know that they have been impacted by colonization

we must decolonize. Decolonization does not mean deporting all non-Indigenous people, it means centering Indigenous voices and returning to Indigenous values.

Though none of us were alive before colonization, and much Indigenous culture has been forcibly erased and oral histories lost, we know that many pre-contact Indigenous groups were matrilineally structured, with women making key decisions for their communities.

meet with women, insisting that the men must be in charge. This devaluation of Indigenous and other women continues, and results in continued trauma, abuse, and violence perpetrated against women and children. The worst atrocity committed by colonizers was that they [had the absolute nerve to] abused the children.

Unequal distribution of funds regarding child welfare and removal of children from their parents and their culture is a continuation of genocide. Decolonization begins in education and empowering youth. How can the city facilitate that? Another question that needs to be addressed is, are we addressing any of the root causes of discrimination/colonization or are we just strengthening the edges? We are a part of the system. What can we do within the system, right now, today, that can have a positive generational impact?



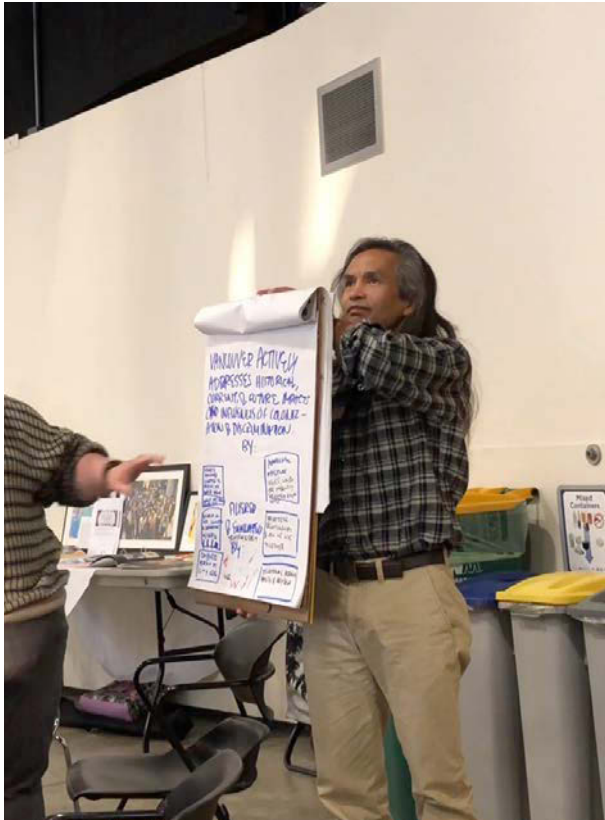
Vision (tip of pyramid) rests on values (middle) and institutional support (bottom). Prepared by Roundtable 6.

Key Findings

Recommendation

- The Elders are the experts. In a colonial world, formally educated doctors, social workers etc. are positioned as experts. To decolonize, we must recognize the wisdom of lived experience.
- Education keeps our shared history present.
- Accountability and oversight is critical to move towards decolonization: What does it actually look like, at a policy level, to hold the system accountable to address colonial violence?
- Relational accountability and allyship.
- We need a more holistic, spiritually informed way of governance.
- Culture is healing. Culture and art groups can also create awareness and change.
- Vancouver is falling behind in reconciliation because they haven't created an Indigenous department. Claims that reconciliation would be integrated into every department have clearly proved false. It is the only city in Canada with standing at the Inquiry on Murdered and Missing Women and it chose not to intervene.
- Changing the culture of the city to an Indigenous one - a reversal of assimilation would mean creating a culture of shared learning and "Radical integration" with cultures meeting on an equal footing.
- The Truth and Reconciliation Committee claimed that there was a cultural genocide, but the Inquiry on Murdered and Missing W continues to be) literal genocide.
- Subversive methods of communication - #metoo, #IdleNoMore, create discussion outside of the system. Social media is probably the most effective way to create revolution outside systems because it is the only thing that can transcend the systems.

- Adopt an Indigenous Charter for the City of Vancouver. All policy would then have to be altered over time in keeping with the charter.
- Properly fund and support the City's Indigenous People's Commission so that it can meet monthly rather than 4 times per year, and so that it has permanent status rather than being dissolved every time there is a new government.
- Make the Indigenous ombudsperson's role at the city level permanent.



Norm Leech, Executive Director, Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre

Related Initiatives

The **National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)** began in September 2016, and the Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee (UIPAC) and the City of Vancouver convened a working meeting in April 2017 to discuss how families and survivors in Vancouver could be better supported throughout the inquiry process, and make recommendations for action.

The working meeting's most urgent recommendation was that the city create and fund a space for Indigenous healing and wellness during the inquiry. The Saa'ust Centre was opened in February of 2018 at 44 East Cordova, operated by the Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre. It is a temporary space while the city looks for something more permanent.

At this point the decolonizing practices recommended by the MMIWG Inquiry Interim Report have not been supported in policy, and neither have the majority of the working group's recommendations for Vancouver's involvement.

It is recommended that the new City Council hold another working meeting to discuss how the city can support survivors and families, as well as taking preventative measures. The city (and all of Canada) must acknowledge that despite the impending end of MMIWG Inquiry, the systemic issues that lead to Indigenous women going missing persist. This inquiry cannot be a one-off event expected to solve these issues. The Inquiry has endeavoured to be trauma-informed, to be decolonizing, and to put

These mandates could be applied to much of Vancouver city policy, and would surely strengthen our community.

vancouver.ca/your-government/urban-aboriginal-peoples-advisory-committee.aspx

EQUITY

ROUNDTABLE 7:
THE INCOME GAP &
POVERTY REDUCTION

Overview

Metro Vancouver has the 3rd highest rate of income inequality in Canada, increasing by more than twice the national average since 1982. Vancouver also has the biggest gap between housing prices and income in North America. At the same time poverty rates in the City of V people out of the city to the suburbs.

- What are the drivers of the growing income gap in Vancouver?
- How can workers in service industries such as restaurants, hospitals, and tourism afford to commute to their minimum wage or part time jobs? What are the incentives to work?
- What initiatives and policies can be built upon to implement the City’s poverty reduction strategy? What barriers need to be overcome?
- What is the likely impact of BC’s poverty reduction strategies on the City?
- What partnerships are needed to address the income gap?
- A very small proportion of people on social assistance are “unemployed employables,” the rest are in desperate need of social assistance. How can we create a more compassionate city and effective social safety net?

Roundtable Discussion

12 people participated in this roundtable discussion including the There was good diversity in backgrounds with staff and volunteers from community organizations working on poverty and employment issues, as well as people focused on higher level economic development issues in the city.

Discussion focused on the need to reduce barriers and increase access to a variety of types of economic activity, as well as to public poverty levels and people’s ability to work. Participants highlighted the need to think of income generation and poverty reduction broadly and not just in terms of traditional jobs. Participants also discussed how all these issues (income gap, poverty reduction, access to services) intersect with Indigenous culture and the need for cultural safety training. They also discussed how the city could more effectively leverage the power it has to support poverty reduction strategies such as enforcement of its own agreements with developers to provide amenities and ease zoning restrictions for social enterprises.

[The City should] become a bit more brazen and own the power that is there.

- TRISH KELLY



Housing disparities are becoming increasingly visible in the city. Photo courtesy of Urban Arts Architecture.

Key Findings

- Reframing the notion of work, conceived of as an income generation spectrum instead of the neoliberal perspective (formal jobs).
- Income generation gap - even with good wages housing is unaffordable.
- Need to incorporate an Indigenous lens on economic development - from grassroots all the way to city council - funding, training.
- Importance of engagement with residents.
- Childcare is a strong pillar in poverty reduction.
- We need to eliminate barriers for people programs, long wait times, language barriers, misinformation, etc.
- Community services e.g. thrift stores, food security, social programming are important supports.
- Vancouver has a diverse economy and low unemployment but wages are too low for the living expenses e.g. housing & childcare.
- local businesses.
- Need to understand and support a broad range of economic activities e.g. unpermitted street vending, binning etc.
- Stories are important to understanding barriers: intersectionality of barriers to employment.
- Build from the grassroots up. Safety net, sense of security helps realize human potential.

Recommendation

- Enforce and expand existing policies such as Collective Bargaining Agreements, Community Agreements, etc. to create more economic space/opportunities for equity seeking groups.
- generated go back into neighbourhoods to
- Strengthen support for (0-12) affordable accessible childcare to enable parents to work.
- Apply an Indigenous lens to city policy, establish a permanent Aboriginal commission and adequately fund Aboriginal relations manager's work throughout the city.
- Use civic facilities to improve communication with residents (for community planning).
- Increase housing (city land) for low income people and reduce/eliminate transit costs for low income people.
- Improve sharing of data and transparency for evidence-based decision-making.
- Improve access to employment, training, education etc. especially for people with barriers, potentially by using city's licensing

Related Initiatives

Raycam is a neighbourhood centre for old and young with recreation and social activities, where new skills can be learned. It provides personal and family support services including out of school, pre-school and day-care for children, a gym, hobby and club rooms, and a drop-in lounge where coffee is available. www.raycam.com

The **Vancouver Economic Commission** works to position Vancouver as a globally recognised city for innovative, creative, and sustainable business. It focuses on low-carbon sectors, green economy, tech industry, digital entertainment, impact businesses, and social enterprises. Vancouver has one of the most diverse economies in Canada with low barriers for participation but is challenged by low wages, temporary and unstable work. <http://www.vancouvereconomic.com>

Exchange Inner City is a community backbone organizations for Community Economic Development local businesses, social enterprises, and local residents within the DTES who collaborate together to collectively foster a vibrant and inclusive local economy where all residents can live full and rewarding lives. All are welcome to join in our work. www.exchangeed.com

Local card
Participating retailers give discounts or otherwise make their stores more accessible to local community members in the DTES (e.g. cafes with bathrooms open for all). www.localcard.ca

The **Downtown Eastside Business Directory** is a digital hub dedicated to the promotion of Shopping Local in the "Greater Downtown Eastside" (DTES) Business Community. www.dtesvancouver.com

The **Living Wage for Families** advocates for government policies that help families make ends meet. The Campaign puts a living wage employers in B.C. The Campaign is beginning to address the issue of precarious contracts. <http://www.livingwageforfamilies.ca>

The **BC Poverty Reduction Coalition** reduce poverty and homelessness. As a member of the former Vancouver Advisory Committee on Children, Youth and Families, it advocated for affordable childcare. The new provincial government has been responsive on child care, for example, reducing fees in licensed childcare facilities. <http://bcpovertyreduction.ca>

The **Potluck Cafe Society** is a social enterprise creating jobs and providing healthy food for people living in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside since 2001. Potluck aspires to provide a living wage but is not yet able to, as well as stability and to help with social isolation as a viable anti-poverty intervention. But the cafe is only one part of their employees' lives, and broader support is needed from the government and other sectors of society. www.potluckcatering.org

Pidgin Picket
surveillance by police. They want to redirect rising police budgets.

The **Developmental Disabilities Association** is a community living agency that provides over 50 community-based programs and services, including employment placement, to children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. www.develop.bc.ca

LIV advocates for a non-taxable Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) to replace our current exploitative and paternalistic welfare system, and reduce inequality in the labour market, without leaving anyone worse off. www.livableincomevancouver.com

EQUITY

ROUNDTABLE 8:

COMMUNITY

EMPOWERMENT

Overview

Community empowerment is the process of enabling communities to increase control over the decisions affecting their own lives. It is about power and access to resources.

- What role does the City have in enabling community empowerment? What about other stakeholders?
- What current initiatives and partnerships can be built on to empower communities?
- How are the distinctions between engagement and empowerment relevant to A City for All?
- What would empowerment in the context of reconciliation look like?
- In the context of equity, which communities need different kinds of support and what does that look like?
- What are the policy barriers that need to be addressed to support community empowerment in Vancouver?

Roundtable Discussion

There were 9 participants at the table, mainly representing community groups, neighbourhood houses and groups, and Indigenous enterprises, as well as the table lead Mark Friessen and notetaker Majka Hahn. The discussion mainly focused on how to build meaningful representation and community engagement and how to move from engagement to agreement, especially when there are numerous immovable voices that cannot cooperate.

The roundtable made the distinction between engagement and empowerment - questioning whether a person can be empowered unless they are also engaged. They questioned how to build trust between city residents and municipal power-holders, and be able to shift attitudes so that residents are seen as contributors rather than problems or complications.

Meaningful Indigenous consultation was also a major topic, and participants touched on the connection between empowerment and reconciliation, and the need to be clear on how engagement protocols can be shared, understood, and co-created in the early stages of inclusive decision-making.



Summit group discussion, photo by Marnie Tamaki

Key Findings

Recommendation

- Recognizing the importance of inclusiveness.
 - Social infrastructure = Building trusting networks – Relationships.
 - Capacity Building – support communities to participate through:
 - Permanence
 - Sustainability
 - Education
 - Effective outreach outside of organization.
 - Co-creating:
 - No predetermined outcome
 - Agreement on the goals
 - Protocols for engagement, i.e. an agreed set of principles used to engage in discussion and decision-making must be determined before further deliberation
 - Must have respect for inherent cultural history and connection.
 - Recognize the importance of identifying fears and needs.
 - Different solutions for different communities and issues.
 - Equitable access to resources.
 - Trust – in and between all levels.
 - Accountability and responsibility.
 - What is currently working for community empowerment?
 - Sanitation
 - Participatory budget
 - Giving creative control to community accountable individuals
 - Delegated process control
 - Raycam community center model
 - Provincial ombudsperson
- of Vancouver's 27 neighbourhoods.
 - Provide more resources for commissions and advisory boards to increase their permanence and support:
 - Participatory Decision Making
 - Incorporating Indigenous consultation and decision-making processes into
 - Indigenous Planning Department: one person cannot provide all the services. Indigenous knowledge needs to be incorporated into all the departments.
 - Consultation Audit (e.g. use of Policy Implementation Matrix or Accountability Scorecard)
 - Mandatory Cultural Competency training
 - Structure using existing organizations:
 - Equitable and adequate community infrastructure

Related Initiatives

ALIVE (Aboriginal Life in Vancouver Enhancement) is one of the agencies behind the Youth Matters initiative which seeks to address service gaps faced by the disproportionate number of Indigenous youth in government care and all vulnerable families in the Downtown Eastside. It is based on the Our Place (Promoting Local Access and Community Empowerment) model which brings together a table of practitioners and organizations committed to support youth in the inner city in a holistic and systematic way. It meets four times a year at Britannia Community Centre to share their work and look for opportunities to collaborate. The most recent meeting examined innovative interventions by pediatricians to address the opioid crisis. www.ourplace-vancouver.ca; www.alivesociety.ca

The **Suzuki Elders** are a voluntary association of elders concerned about the environment working with and through the David Suzuki Foundation. They help each other and the wider community build emotional resilience through small conversation circles on topics such as plastic, youth about climate change, fast fashion. Elder storytelling is popular with youth. They work on teaching/practicing creative conversation to counteract the toxic discourse prevalent in the media and politics. www.suzukielders.org

Evergreen is a national charity and international thought-leader that works to provoke bold action to build At the core of our work is the belief that involving people directly in the process of restoring their environments and their communities positively affects the attitudes and behaviours that lie at the core of the sustainable city. Through the Green Bloc Neighbourhoods Project, Evergreen has empowered residents in 7 Vancouver neighbourhoods to take action on climate change by reducing their ecological footprint. Our newest project, Climate Risks - Engaging Vulnerable Populations, is focused on gathering grassroots input from DTES residents and seniors in order to understand and reduce their vulnerability to climate change impacts. www.evergreen.ca

SFU Public Square is a community engagement initiative out of SFU that hosts 70 events a year and holds an annual community summit. Topics cover the issues of the day such as democracy, feelings about each other, climate change. This year the focus is on the manipulation of information and its impact on society. www.sfu.ca/publicsquare

Frog Hollow Neighborhood House's Older Adults' Program has 15 projects on the go, including the engaging abundance community project, mental health awareness, training senior volunteers to be wellness connectors, community walks, caregiver support group, and digital storytelling. www.froghollow.bc.ca

Sky Spirit Consulting is a consulting and design practice dedicated to utilizing Indigenous design methodologies to combine qualitative and quantitative data with oral history and Indigenous law to develop meaningful action plans to further reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada and internationally. www.skyspiritconsulting.ca

The Coalition of Vancouver Neighbourhoods is an umbrella organization composed of 24 Vancouver Neighbourhood Residents Associations and provides a collective voice for its members on issues of interest and impact. CVN's (2018) Principles and Goals for Collaborative Neighbourhood-based Planning in the City of Vancouver is a dynamic framework for City Planning. CVN advocates for an inclusive, vibrant, and fair process that ensures the voices of all Vancouver citizens through their neighbourhoods are heard. CVN regularly presents to City Council on current neighbourhood issues. www.coalitionvan.org

Grandview Woodlands Area Council participated in a well-run community engagement process leading to a community plan developed by the City that encapsulated most of what had been talked about, but added a plan for towers that had never been discussed. This radicalised the GWAC, and they created a citizen's assembly which garnered public support to oppose the plan. www.gwac.ca

EQUITY

{ *ROUNDTABLE 9:*
EMPOWERING YOUTH }

Overview

Ensuring that children and youth have a strong role in the development of their city . Numerous groups work with youth or are made up of young people in Vancouver. Youth at risk, youth aging out of care, and immigrant youth have special needs and programs.

- How can these efforts be made more effective?
- What would a city that empowered children and youth look like?
- What current initiatives and partnerships can be built on to empower youth?
- What key challenges face children and youth in Vancouver?
- What are the policies and other barriers that need to be addressed to empower youth?
- What are the connections between empowering youth and resiliency?

Roundtable Discussion

11 people from a variety of service agencies and community groups participated in this roundtable including the table lead Marnie Goldenberg and notetaker Michaela Slinger. Participants linked personal experiences as children and young people, in foster care, as immigrants and refugees, as activists, as educators, and as parents to goals of creating child and youth friendly cities. They were explicit about seeking ways to connect what they are doing to larger systems/planning/political bodies, to talk/share with Council and be involved. They want to take ideas away to build into current work and to understand how municipal government can support their work.

Some of the recurring themes included how the general supportive attitude of society and resources available to people with babies falls away as children age, often to be replaced with negative attitudes about teenagers and young adults. Cities are designed for adults s energy and need for expression. Organizations focus on programming, devoting less time and space to unstructured time. Participants discussed the challenges with effectively engaging young people and the gap between those who want to participate and those that reject participation (but whose voices still need to be heard). The group emphasized the need to capture and remember work that has been done in the past on these issues and to plan and focus on the long term and action rather than more discussion.

The group noted that there is a perception that front-line workers in caring/feminized work are less valuable, or that they do a job that anyone could do. How do we create more sustainable employment in these sectors which struggle with low wages and often highly challenging, emotional work days?

Folks are accommodating when you have young babies, but people don't give space for people above age 7. There's an expectation of going from infancy to grown up – we're missing the in-between.

- MARNIE GOLDENBERG



A Night in the Life youth homelessness awareness raising campaign.

Key Findings

- There’s a mismatch between funding structure/donors/timeline/reporting structure and how deep, trauma-informed engagement works on the ground.
- W spaces (not multi-purpose rooms), including seats on committees and councils, where they don’t feel like they need to be policed in/ access to resources both inside and outside – e.g. Sarah Blythe skate park.
- and need physical space for youth—e.g. using empty rooms at Neighbourhood Houses. Those spaces should be on a sliding scale.
- What is the purpose of consultation? How do we work across class/life experience of youth, and also not just get the “marginalized voice” without looking at a systemic/policy change level? How many reports, committees, recommendations need to occur before real change occurs? Consultation exists within a current framework. If we’ve already been told what we need to do, let’s do it.
- We must create opportunity for youth to gather unprogrammed, across differences and generation, as well as give space for groups with similar experience to have time together.
- Youth need more options on their own terms, with less prescriptive programming and more of an offering that conversation/support/ capacity building will be there when they’re prepared for it.

Recommendations

- Create a city action plan to address youth homelessness – informed by the homeless count.
- Dedicate a percentage of seats at leadership tables (e.g. local government, community centres, youth service agencies) to youth.
- in politics; lower the voting age and modify citizenship requirements.
- they feel safe, free, heard, and supported (e.g. Broadway Youth Resource Centre, Sunset Community Centre, Global Lounge).
- Support #All on Board: stop ticketing minors, waive all T children & youth.
- Put youth at centre of engagement and prescriptive, meet them where they are.
- Increase pay and supports for caregivers and workers on the front lines - enough to encourage them to stay in the job. Explore workers housing, in kind donations to attract and retain bright and capable people.
- Rethink the neoliberal model of the charitable sector which deepens the system of poverty.
- Explore social enterprise models and other alternatives

Related Initiatives

A Night in the Life fundraiser offers community members the opportunity to support Vancouver’s most vulnerable, street-involved youth while experiencing life on the streets through their eyes. The event includes a youth homelessness simulator – a mini-city is set up, and staff/youth clients act as bus drivers/ police/social workers/youth workers/landlords/city employees/business owners, etc. that vulnerable youth may encounter daily homelessness. During the simulation there are three goals: obtain food, money, and a place to sleep.

food made you sick, take drugs so that you don’t fall asleep due to feeling scared). Youth helped develop Youth . One outcome was that participants

Related Initiatives Continued

better understood the arbitrary criminalization that happens daily while youth try to engage in community activities. www.directionsyouthservices.ca/night-in-the-life/

Directions Drop-in Center is a safe space for homeless youth to do laundry, shower, eat a hot meal, use a computer, play video games or hang out. Services to support increased stabilization are embedded in all programming. directionsyouthservices.ca/drop-in-centre/

The Front Step (Mt. Pleasant Neighbourhood House) project is an initiative engaging youth in and from care and older adults to co-design projects that address their needs. They have two frameworks: Chaordic stepping stone (ordered chaos) and CYNEFRIN: break down system into: complex, The project now has three rings: Youth & Seniors (centre ring), support & service providers (second ring), community (third ring). mpnh.org/about-us/community-development/the-front-step-project/

Check Your Head has initiated a program called Youth Building a New Economy, in which youth develop leadership and community organizing skills with an economic justice focus. Their Youth Peer Facilitators also lead collaborative workshops in high schools and community spaces on issues of social, climate, and economic justice. checkyourhead.org/blog/ypf-spring2019/

The **City Wide Youth Council** was established by the City of Vancouver & the Parks Board to provide a municipal voice for local youth. Each Community Centre selects 2 youth representatives who meet and work with Parks Board youth workers on programming and events. In the beginning, the youth workers ran the meetings, but now youth set their own agenda and have established their own committees (e.g. environmental, social media, advocacy). <https://bit.ly/2CMnd2L>

UBC Global Lounge is a youth-friendly space with an international focus. Youth are in decision-making positions including on hiring committees for staff. There is space available to book for meetings/clubs etc. as well as grants available for initiatives with an international or intercultural focus. students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/simon-k-y-lee-global-lounge-resource-centre

Girls First is Girl Guides of Canada’s new program for girls ages 5 to 17. The program empowers every girl in Guiding with the tools to navigate her world through fun, relevant, girl-driven activities and experiences. www.girlguides.ca/girls-first

YMCA Youth Exchanges Canada: Groups of 10-30 youth between the ages of 12-17 along with 1-3 adult leaders from anywhere in BC can apply to travel to another province or territory in Canada for 1 week during the school year or summer period. Their twin group will then visit them for a week, making this a reciprocal exchange program. Through subsidizing travel, Youth Exchanges Canada encourages young people to learn about various cultures and lifestyles within Canada, and promotes reconciliation through relationship building and experiential learning. <https://bit.ly/2I6Ur0p>

The **Broadway Youth Resource Centre** (BYRC) is a one-stop youth centre that provides a wide range of social, health, education, employment, and life skills services to youth. It is a multi-service and multi-agency hub with a range of services for youth all under one roof. <https://bit.ly/2OJogp5>

For youth in low-income communities, **Pathways to Education** provides the resources and network of support to graduate from high school and build the foundation for a successful future. www.pathwaystoeducation.ca

Fostering Change is a seamless path to youth advocacy guided by former youth in care who challenge the child welfare system through political advocacy and organizing. Supported by First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, Fostering Change seeks to persuade decision-makers toward a robust social safety net for youth in and from care, transitioning us carefully to independence and aging into community rather than out of care. fosteringchange.ca/

EQUITY

ROUNDTABLE 10:
EMPOWERING
THROUGH RESEARCH

Overview

Research has a responsibility to engage, to create new interfaces for better communication and public memory, and to open us to more and better understanding. Such understanding will be essential to creating a more inclusive, resilient, and just city. Researchers in the City for All today “are not content to include all [people] in our hopes, but have become conscious that all [people] are hoping and are part of the same movement of which we are a part” -- a sentiment as true today as it was for the celebrated urban activist and researcher Jane Addams in 1902.

- What lessons can we draw from working across identities and groups in our community engaged research that is worth sharing and building upon?
- What are some tests that we can apply to our research to ensure authentic engagement, accountability, and readiness to recognize and respect difference?
- What new research partnerships does our city need right now and what platform could best support linking diverse research initiatives into an urban knowledge collection that is greater than the sum of its parts?

Roundtable Discussion

1th strong policy and community orientations, participated in this roundtable including table lead Meg Holden and notetaker Tiffany Muller Myrdahl.

The key message from the table is that research should be used as a conduit between city, academia, and community, and that there should be a place within City Hall where research has a voice. There is an incredible amount of research being done by city staff and consultants, academics (including those who are embedded in City programming, like CityStudio), and community organizations (e.g., Carnegie Community Action Program), but there is very little opportunity for knowledge sharing across these communities. The City should be invested in knowledge sharing: research being done by the City (staff, consultants, embedded academics, etc.) should be accessible and visible, and there should be a way for those who are not city staff researchers to have a voice and contribute.

In addition, the Table emphasized there is a difference between policy implementation research and community needs-driven research, and this distinction must be recognized. The City must be able to distinguish between consulting, independent research, policy implementation research, and evaluation. that a new ethics protocol should be established for engaged research, especially when seeking to procure/contract research with local communities. This protocol must include ongoing consent, long-term relationship building, and community accountability, and incorporate reconciliation per TRC recommendations.

We must recognize that extractive research is problematic for communities, universities, and governments. Change can start by asking whether the community in which research is being conducted has already produced questions and data that they would like researchers to build upon. Why not start with the premise that “research subjects” are instead “research companions” or “research collaborators” and that research may engender flourishing, long-term, responsible relationships?

- MARGOT BUTLER

Key Findings

- There is a need for the City to develop expertise or invest in more research on the areas of housing, social isolation, and women. The City should recognize key thematic areas (such as these), while also distinguishing between research with distinct purposes (e.g. research conducted as part of consulting, independent research, policy implementation research, and evaluation research).
 - Visibility and accessibility of research was a key theme. Ways to facilitate visibility could include: podcast and pop-up installations or parklets that focus on key thematic areas.
- is that researchers and their staff collaborators would be visible to one another, which would enable more collaboration. Data visualization emerged as an important issue in this discussion. The City should be transparent about research being conducted.
- City process regarding research needs to be addressed: there are structural barriers re: data collection and sharing, and even City staff don't know what other projects are being undertaken, or what the existing evidence is. Walk the Talk 2010 was an example put forward of a positive collaboration, but maintaining connections between staff, academic researchers, etc. needs to be addressed so that good examples are not one-off events.

Recommendations

- The City should create and facilitate a portal for already existing, community-based research. This would enable the City to be them more easily, and make them more easily implementable.
- The City should showcase and highlight research that is being undertaken in collaboration with researcher(s) in academia. This would provide opportunities to create networks and relationships across researchers, city staff, etc. This would enable the City to invest in already existing capacity.
- The City should have a centralized collaborative partnership proposal process.
- The City should offer data visualization of example might be an electronic billboard in front of City Hall that featured a real-time housing counter to track the metrics of the housing crisis.)
- The City should have a research advisory group to council with representation from academic institutions and community organizations.
- A different kind of ethical code for conducting research must be implemented: new ethics protocol for engaged research with an expectation of longer-term relationship, community accountability. Focus should not be damage-centred, and community needs-driven research that emerges from community should be valued.

Related Initiatives

UBC Humanities 101/201 (HUM) involves 4 free cultural studies-dedicated courses + free public programs for low-income students who reside in the DTES and DT South. HUM is based in decolonial, feminist, anti-racist, situated knowledges and includes a wide range of materials, directly related to situations that people live in. Students are offered pre-requisite free courses, no tuition, with funding to pay for transit and childcare. , grounded in TRC calls to action. HUM is grassroots and predates formal engagement movements and stands outside of the demand for “community engagement.” www.humanities101.arts.ubc.ca

Resilience by Design Research Lab at Royal Roads University brings together researchers, faculty, students, post-doctoral fellows, and youth to explore community resilience, disaster risk reduction, and climate change through social innovation and creative action research. Projects look at what it is that young people need to get engaged in their communities. Honouring people's stories, working with youth methodology (CBR + arts based). www.resiliencebydesign.com

The Housing Research Collaborative, hosted at the School for Community and Regional Planning, UBC and launched in 2017, is BC's only forum for multi-sector approaches to address affordable housing. It has two goals: to create a research hub and data portal resource to help researchers to connect, and to facilitate a new generation of housing research, largely on hiatus in Canada since the withdrawal of the federal government from the housing sector in the mid-1990s. The Collaborative uses research to inform policy making and empower communities. Effective mobilization and communication of research through infographics, for example, helps create successful impacts and bring media attention to results. www.housingresearchcollaborative.scarp.ubc.ca/

Inclusive Communities of Care is a discussion paper by the Housing Research Collaborative (HRC) with the Riverview Village Intentional Community Society for the purposes of supporting RVICS' vision for the Riverview Hospital grounds in Coquitlam. It examines a number of international case studies of inclusive communities to help reimagine institutionalization as long-term support systems for marginalized sustainable, and supportive of socialization. [Paper-2018-6.pdf](http://www.housingresearchcollaborative.scarp.ubc.ca/Paper-2018-6.pdf)

Hey Neighbour is a pilot program designed to combat social isolation and loneliness in high-rise buildings at 2 sites - Collingwood (500 residents) and Oakridge (50 residents). The project assigned two people per building with the title: “resident animator” whose goal was to draw on assets already present in the building to build relationships and community. They hosted events and facilitated connections that already exist but people didn't know (e.g. kids from the same class who didn't know that they lived in the same building). <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/hey-neighbour.aspx>

Active Aging BC is an evidence-based initiative to enhance the health, mobility, and social connectedness of older adults through physical activity and falls-related injury prevention. Choose to Move is a program developed by AABC that trained 75 activity coaches and set up 264 groups to develop individual action plans for seniors as well as people in organizations like the YMCA or BC Parks and Rec with experience with older adults. <http://www.activeagingrt.ca/what-we-do/Research-Eval/active-aging-bc/active-aging-bc>; <https://www.choosetomove.info/>

PLACES & SPACES

{ *ROUNDTABLE 11:* }
ACCESS & MOBILITY

Overview

Approximately 5% of Vancouver residents have mobility restrictions that may include the use of wheelchairs, walkers, and canes. Others have limited sight or hearing, or are parents using strollers. Creating an accessible city involves not just enhancing physical accessibility through the built environment, but also supporting social inclusion and the elimination of barriers to participation in city life for all residents.

- Have shifts in the building codes, design of housing, facilities, and transportation improved accessibility and mobility? What gaps still exist and how should they be addressed?
- What accessibility issues are outside of physical abilities yet impact accessibility such as all gender bathrooms, facility fees etc.?
- How can cross agency collaboration (with Translink, for example) or other partners be strengthened?
- What is the long-term impact of an aging population and how can the City effectively plan for it?
- How can accessibility and mobility be factored in to resiliency planning?

Roundtable Discussion

This roundtable had nine participants as well as a table lead Tasia Alexis and notetaker Elisha Cooper. Participants were from a variety of backgrounds, in particular with organizations or experience with transportation, seniors, and mobility and accessibility issues.

everyone to be able to use any city facility and any other building with comfort and feel included in activities without too much effort.

Many issues and questions came up in discussion. Accessibility

‘erosion of accessibility’ as a major theme.

Participants noted that the city still prioritizes vehicles for example by not taking into account how to reasonably reroute pedestrians, especially ones with mobility challenges around building sites. However, accessibility is not only about transportation. A more holistic approach is needed, taking into account for example access to washrooms and housing as well as accessible transportation. Affordability impacts accessibility, and increased density in housing has not been matched in many neighbourhoods with increased amenities. ferent approaches

to accessibility and mobility that can have unintended consequences. For example, improving transportation can also lead to

neighbourhoods.

*If you live long enough
you will have a disability.
Put the planning in now.*

- TASIA ALEXIS

*The same area on a
map for an able bodied
person looks like
shriveled swiss cheese
for someone with
mobility impairment.*

- MIKE PRESCOTT



Photo courtesy Centres for
Disease Control and Prevantion

Key Findings

- There is a need to acknowledge the current gaps in the system: currently Vancouver is not a city for all.
- Must agree on a way of measuring inclusion and accessibility in the community (like measuring walkability). Being able to step in improving access and inclusion.
- Accessibility is not only about transportation. A more holistic approach is needed, taking into account for example access to washrooms and housing as well as accessible transportation.
- Affordability impacts accessibility, and increased density in housing has not been matched in many neighbourhoods with increased amenities.
- Approaches to accessibility and mobility can have unintended consequences. For example, improving transportation can accessible neighbourhoods.
- Inclusion is not only being able to access but also being able to participate and engage in the environment instead of being on the sidelines.
- Ride sharing will increase the gap in accessibility (technological divide).
- Currently skateboarders are not given much space in the city when it comes to transportation.

Recommendations

- ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY:**
- Improve access and inclusion to live, work, learn, heal, and play (not just commute to work).
 - Create a standardized way of measuring inclusion and accessibility in the community (like measuring walkability).
 - Make city transparent with an accessibility score-card by neighbourhood on their website to show progress. It would encourage the community to work towards accessibility and take the burden from the city.
- TRANSPORTATION:**
- HandiDart is not an equal service to transit and does not work for many. It needs more services, as more people are going to be using it.
 - Ride-hailing should be equitable and provide for the undigitized, unbanked, and people with disabilities. Ride sharing should be regulated.
 - Increase public bicycle storage (ungap the map).
 - Systematic cycling education in elementary schools.
 - Consider the affordability of skateboards and longboards over bikes as transportation.
- ACCESSIBLE STREETS:**
- More curb cuts and less steep curb cut ramps. Driveway and sidewalk design should be
- ACCESSIBLE HOMES:**
- Use the City’s current accessibility strategy as an opportunity to build this in to it.
 - Set the bar higher than meeting minimum standards.
 - Building code: Ensure that in all new homes the walls are reinforced to facilitate the installation of safety bars should they be needed. All bathroom doors should be 36 inches wide to allow access to a wheelchair.

Related Initiatives

The **Vancouver Public Library** has hired a consultant to aid in the development of a long term accessibility strategy and has embarked on staff training. They hope to update accessible software and equipment across all libraries, and develop a better way for staff to interact with people with accessibility challenges. www.vpl.ca/accessible-services

Everyone Rides Grade 4-5 Initiative: Cycling is one of the most affordable forms of transportation. It This initiative teaches children the rules of the road, and provides them with independence and freedom. More support and funding is needed to give access to all students. www.everyone_rides_grade_4-5_summary.pdf

Seniors on the Move is one of the projects under the Allies in Aging umbrella. It is a multi-sector collaboration to: (a) share and enhance existing services and best practices; (b) design innovative new services and partnerships; (c) help seniors plan for age-related changes to their transportation needs and connect them to appropriate options; and (d) advocate for improved transportation services. The design is human-centered and targets low income, ESL, and persons with disability. They address gaps such as access to medical appointments, recreation and social activity, and building a sense of resilience and belonging for seniors in a neighbourhood. It would have the most impact if it was city-wide. <http://www.theseniorshub.org/allies-in-aging.html>

Barrier-Free BC is a Non-Partisan Campaign advocating for a Barrier-Free province for All Persons with Disabilities. Barrier-free street design by the City of Vancouver is an on-going and complex process. Some issues include the trade-offs for example between the use of truncated domes (tactile paving) which make crosswalks more accessible to pedestrians that are visually impaired but create barriers to those using walkers or wheelchairs. Bike lanes increase complexity for people with visual impairments. Barrier-Free BC sets out 13 principles for a British Columbians with Disabilities Act. <http://barrierfreebc.org>

SILAS (Seniors In Isolation and Loneliness) is a special project initiated by the City of Vancouver Seniors’ Advisory Committee to investigate the causes and consequences of social isolation and loneliness among older adults, and to develop recommendations to help the City of Vancouver and other stakeholders reduce and, ideally, prevent these problems. Barriers such as lack of accessible bathroom facilities makes seniors reluctant to leave their homes increasing loneliness and isolation. <http://www.vancouverseiorsadvisory.ca/loneliness/>

PLACES & SPACES

ROUNDTABLE 12:
PARTICIPATORY
PLANNING AND
DESIGN

Overview

Meaningful input from residents, decision-makers, technical experts, and other stakeholders is critical to creating vibrant communities based on a successful urban design vision. Vancouver is seen as a global leader in participatory planning and design but the danger of a credibility gap between public consultation processes and perceived results is a persistent concern.

- What have the City and/or developers done right and what barriers currently exist?
- What does meaningful partnership with community residents look like and how can engagement momentum be maintained?
- How can expectations be managed and partnerships with diverse stakeholders be built and maintained?
- What can be learned and replicated or scaled up from good examples of participatory planning?
- Beyond community engagement, what other components are needed for successful neighbourhood design?

Roundtable Discussion

This roundtable was very popular and had 12 participants as well as a table lead Ouri Scott and notetaker Carlin Sandor. Participants were mostly professionals in the planning, urban

community engagement. A few others joined representing participants in neighbourhoods that had engaged with the City to create neighbourhood plans such as the West End Plan.

Discussion centred on best practices for effective engagement of community members.

Participatory planning revolves around trust. Trust is shared and requires building a relationship. If you don't have a relationship, what do you have?

- SAM COLLINS, WSP

Now what? How can citizens have input into city plan?

- GABRIELLA EMERY



Ouri Scott, Architect AIBC, leads community members in a visioning session on Indigenous values for the Britannia Renewal project.

Key Findings

- There is a gap between professionals and communities.
- A good community process takes money, experience, and time.
- There is a need to recognize structural barriers to participation to make engagement accessible to all.
- Effective participation must move to empowerment.
- Planners need to learn to work with youth and seniors.
- Combat social isolation with good social connections.
- Respecting and honouring people's time is important - listen respectfully, engage honestly.

Recommendations

1. PLAN FOR PARTICIPATION AND MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT:

- Share knowledge and lessons learned - positive and negative shared learnings.
- Improve involvement of community members in the planning process. Understand that engagement is entering into a relationship.
- Establish shared underlying values of the particular planning project. Use shared values as a tool for decision making.
-
- Provide appropriate budgets to support real engagement.
- Use an intersectional lens to create equitable involvement, and incorporate all voices.
- Provide transparency – an honest and accountable planning process, implementation + action, with a follow-up strategy and feedback loop.
- Create a Playbook for Participatory Planning – recommend best practices.

2. BREAK DOWN BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION:

- Provide childminding.
- Outreach - meet people where they are, send experienced + competent people out to
- Use a range of inclusive and innovative engagement strategies.
- Translate materials into relevant languages.
- Acknowledge that potential participants may have limited time.
- Change how we do things, involve vulnerable groups and elders and youth.

3. EDUCATE + EMPOWER STAFF AND PUBLIC:

- Educate + empower involvement – train staff and public be able to more fully participate; build mentoring and capacity building in community.
- Empower informed choice - give people tools to make decisions.
- Educate the community - properly fund thoughtful sharing of information, background, and materials, ie. how the process works, what is possible, what zoning terms mean, etc.
- Provide graphic tools that enable the average citizen to comprehend and understand parameters and ideas.
- Share knowledge + lessons learned, both positive and negative. Explore case studies for participatory planning best practices, from Vancouver + cities around the world.

4. IMPLEMENTATION:

- Create Neighbourhood liaisons.
- Incorporate a follow-up strategy and feedback loop so people know they have been heard.
- Incorporate best practice for participatory planning into the City Wide Plan.

Related Initiatives

Developing the **Britannia Renewal Master Plan** was undertaken with an Indigenous lens, values led participatory planning process and included over 3,500 touches. It employed a wide variety of planning events including consulting vulnerable populations, stakeholder groups, open houses, vision workshops, speaker events, and a forum on housing. All events were supported by clear information on the process, what would be done with participants input, graphic communications framing the context of the project, and a meal. Materials included takeaway brochures, information boards, and a slide show presentation. All materials were made available in an on-site space of community engagement – the “Blab.”

<https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/britannia-renewal-project.aspx>

Developing the **Hastings Park Master Plan** involved extensive public and expert consultation with the goal of transforming Hastings Park into a greener, more active, year-round destination, while ensuring its economic viability and long-term sustainability. The Plan is now being implemented over a 20 year timeframe. <https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/hastings-park-pne-master-plan.aspx>

RayCam Centre is an active community centre on Vancouver's Eastside serving low-income residents with a specialization on families. RayCam Renew represents four years of visioning and productive collaboration between the Renew team and stakeholders including community (existing and new residents), staff, funding partners, local businesses, and professional consultants. The vision for a renewed RayCam includes 200+ units of housing, 3 daycares, expanded recreational spaces, seniors, local health, and youth programs, facilities for partner organizations, NGO's, and local startup enterprises and social enterprise businesses. @RayCamCentre, <http://raycam-renew.ca/>

The **Indigenous Wellness Team – Provincial Health Services Authority** aims to improve the health and well-being of Indigenous people, and to close the health gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous British Columbians. The program has been looking at issues of social isolation and recognise that while technology can enable community-building it is important for people to have physical spaces in which to meet and develop meaningful relationships. www.phsa.ca/our-services/programs-services/indigenous-health#Partners--&--resources/ca

The **Norquay Village Neighbourhood Centre Plan**, approved by Council in November 2010, was developed with input from Norquay Village residents and property and business owners to help guide growth and development throughout the neighbourhood. The Implementation Committee is a self-organized community group that monitors what is going in Norquay.

CityStudio Vancouver is an innovation hub, founded together with SFU and the City of Vancouver, where city staff, students, faculty, and community members work together to design experimental projects that make Vancouver sustainable, liveable, and joyful. www.citystudiovancouver.com/

The City of Vancouver's **Coastal Adaptation Plan (CAP) – Fraser River Foreshore**, programs of its kind in Canada, was the result of the development of a new planning process to engage and co-design values-based solutions with the public. A values-based approach to climate change adaptation is one that acknowledges that the impacts of climate change are only partially understood through technical assessments. It foregrounds the subjective, qualitative dimensions of what people and cultures care about to help us develop a shared understanding of the challenges that we face. Future

project so that they can be used along with more technical engineering criteria to help evaluate potential adaptation options. www.vancouver.ca/green-vancouver/sea-level-rise.aspx

Related Initiatives Continued

Project Green Block started by Riley Park residents and supported by Evergreen has expanded throughout the city. Neighbourhood residents get together using cooperative dialogues and community design charrettes, measure household and neighbourhood ecological footprints and develop a neighbourhood plan to reduce carbon emissions. www.greenbloc.lighterfootprint.ca

Grandview Woodlands Area Council participated in a community engagement process, Emerging Directions, resulting in a community plan encapsulating most of the discussions. Then towers were added that had not been discussed. To counter opposition, the City developed a Citizens Assembly based on demographics and random selection which unfortunately did not include GWAC or any people who had actively participated for years. This fostered distrust and radicalized GWAC. www.gwac.ca

West End Neighbours (WEN) is a volunteer-run organization and an active participant in the City's current community planning process to guide development in the West End over the next thirty years. Its mission is: to enhance and celebrate the quality of life, the distinct, diverse character and the heritage of the West End, a livable neighbourhood between downtown Vancouver and Stanley Park. We

www.westendneighbours.wordpress.com



Summit discussions photo by Jennifer Marshall.

PLACES & SPACES

{ *ROUNDTABLE 13:* }

WHERE &

HOW WE LIVE }

Overview

Housing affordability and accessibility is a perennial topic of concern for all Vancouverites and was a major focus of the recent municipal election. The City continues to promote and adopt an expanding set of strategies related to supply, diversity of housing type, speculation,

affordability of a wide range of housing types. Yet secure access to housing continues to elude many Vancouver residents or workers.

- What is a reasonable long-term goal for a housing strategy? How can expectations be managed or met?
- What strategies are working or have worked elsewhere and where do the barriers lie?
- Beyond housing, what other types of physical and social infrastructure are needed to support vibrant communities in a City for All?
- What partnerships are needed and how can they be improved to bring this about?

Roundtable Discussion

The table was comprised of eight participants plus table lead Jacqueline Gijssen, and notetaker Joycelyn Guan, from a mixed group of organizations, including developers, housing societies, design professionals, advocacy organizations etc. Everyone at the table had some experience addressing the housing, livability and space affordability issues in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland. The table discussed a variety of approaches to deal with the space crisis, or lack thereof. It was concluded that there is not one solution to this problem as it is a multifaceted issue. The table divided housing issues that arose into four main points of contention: Affordability, Suitable Space, Sustainable Space, Security of Tenure.

The discussion about af that it is not limited to housing. Affordability is affecting all kinds of spaces sses and for community groups that then affect livability. Additional issues were how to keep people in the city, diversity of neighbourhoods and potential fordability goals. Affordability needs to be embedded in all policy and regulations. The need for a common fordability also came up.

The table also discussed zoning constraints, the need for more mixed use and how city goals can be too complicated, contradictory and siloed. The goals cannot be met on every project and can end up killing the project. For example, parking and arborist requirements are extremely expensive and a hindrance to affordable housing projects.

Buildings start with people.

- KAHLIL ASHANTI

We strive to be the Greenest City, but if we cannot solve affordability, who can live here?

- YIJIN WEN

We won't solve anything if we don't embrace density.

- SIMON DAVIE

Key Findings

- Key considerations for space including those for housing are: affordability, suitability of space (i.e. design and functionality), security of tenure, and long term operational sustainability.
- most successful at providing needed housing – government needs to trust community groups outside of government.
- The real estate/land value issue is global. There needs to be a shift from focusing on the minutiae and look at the big picture (from the 10,000 foot level) to create effective solutions.
- Need to consider the amount of time housing projects take in order to avoid displacement.
- working and change them when they are not.
- affordability: long-term, high level, not tied to market.
- Need to collaborate with communities to develop what will serve them best.

Recommendations

- Prioritize affordability: changing regulations, removing barriers.
 - Change the dynamic to include affordability, suitability, sustainability, tenure.
 - Principles need to be built in, adhered to, lived and breathed by all city staff, all policies, all developments.
 - Regulations: keep what is valuable but shift the rest from restrictive to enabling.
- Encourage or create socio-economic diversity within neighbourhoods.
 - Instead of NIMBY, shift it to everyone’s backyard.
- Training: Capacity building (building the knowledge, skills and abilities) of folks involved in both decision making and delivery of affordable space is a critical need. There are organizations working in this area – partnerships are key and recommended.
- Focus on the Big Picture
 - what the community wants vs. what we think they need.
 - the types of space needed to support livable, healthy communities. Keep with generational interests (not single family).
 - Need to change the current paradigm of commoditized land: with its singular focus on monetary value, ie. “Don’t base value on a “best use” or tax at “best use” that only uses \$\$ as its measure.

Related Initiatives

The Social Purpose Real Estate Collaborative is a group of funders and investors that helps mission- the affordability in Vancouver discussions beyond housing. www.socialpurposerealestate.net

Terra Housing specializes in developing social purpose real estate mainly fo They advocate for housing development in this sector as NPOs have capacity and experience to develop housing, understand and represent community and have long term mission driven visions. www.terrahousing.ca

World of Walas is an urban (re)development company working in concept and design, development and construction, project management, property management, and access to innovations. In Vancouver, the focus is on affordable access to arts and cultural spaces. www.worldofwalas.com

The Agency for Cooperative Housing manages the federal government’s co-operative housing programs in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and PEI. housing where the users decide on their needs, not the planner and the need for a spectrum of housing based on community engagement. www.agency.coop/caring-your-buildings

The Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia is a philanthropic organization working to advance sustainable land use and real estate practices in British Columbia. REFBC is currently exploring issues such as how to meet the needs of a broader community, not just those represented in NPO societies, how to create engagement that doesn’t threaten communities and results in NIMBYism, and how to promote sustainable land use. www.refbc.com

Aquilini Indigenous Development LP has partnered with the 3 host First Nations (Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh) to purchase and develop land in Vancouver and Burnaby to provide economic security with a goal to hold onto this land in perpetuity. Tsleil-Waututh Nation has developed a 100 years land use plan for reserve land in North Vancouver. The goal is to bring members back to the reserve as half the band live off reserve due to lack of housing. www.Aquilini.com; www.Twnation.ca

Entre Nous Femmes Housing Society (ENF) manages 409 units of housing in Metro Vancouver with a focus on providing housing for single mothers. <http://www.enfhs.org>

The Urban Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee advises Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for urban Indigenous Peoples to fully participate in City services and civic life. With regards to housing, UIPAC focuses on ghettoization, displacement, and advocates for understanding the needs of people in the community. www.vancouver.ca/your-government/urban-aboriginal-peoples-advisory-committee.aspx

PLACES & SPACES

{ *ROUNDTABLE 14:* }

WHERE &

HOW WE WORK }

Overview

diverse array of opportunities is a critical component of A City for All. Workers and professionals often have to commute from more affordable housing in Metro. Changes in the nature of work and how we work, open different opportunities for working and/or collaborating vulnerabilities and resiliency.

- How can we develop a more inclusive and diverse economy, attracting new businesses, and nurturing social entrepreneurs, artists, craftspeople, those that work from home and small businesses?
- economy be made more resilient to global shocks and stresses?
- How can economic development goals be aligned with other prioritise such as climate change, mitigation and adaptation, or diversity and accessibility?
- What strategies have been used successfully in Vancouver and elsewhere and where do barriers still exist?

Roundtable Discussion

The table had 11 participants in addition to the table lead Landon Hoyt and note-taker Robert Matas. The participants were from organizations with an interest in economic development such as BIAs and Tourism Vancouver, a seniors' representative, a researcher, someone who was unemployed, and professionals with a perspective on the impact of the economy and jobs on the built environment. The participants felt the table was relatively homogeneous and wanted the report to note it.

The discussion was rich, focusing on how to nurture and expand a diverse and inclusive economy, strengthen social enterprises, and increase affordability while emphasizing the need to think long term. They described strategies that have been used in Vancouver and elsewhere to achieve these goals.

The table heard dif perspectives of entrepreneurs and wage-earners. Participants grappled with the opportunities and the risks of changes in the workplace, reinforcing the necessity of considering the effect of economic development on both winners and losers.

Participants discussed the interests of seniors, young people, the unemployed, and the historically marginalized groups, reinforcing a city for all, where no one is left behind. They urged a quick response to the crippling problem of small businesses to

that businesses and organizations were losing staff because staff could not afford to live in Vancouver.

Urban design is not about setbacks but about what is delivered, in terms of social good on the property.

- GERBEN VAN STRAATEN



City of Vancouver photo.

Key Findings

- Flexibility is required in use of space, partnerships, and city regulations.
 - Connecting local business with social- not be left to volunteers. A person with the knowledge and ability to do the work should be hired for the job. This recognizes the role of hubs in connecting, brokering, and bridging between sectors.
 - Support for local businesses creates jobs for people who live in the neighbourhood and more stability for the community.
 - Employment should provide a living wage.
- Employment lands/ zoning reviews should look at the type of jobs, not just the number of jobs supported by the land-use regulations.
- Public libraries and co-ops provide models that could be scaled up to provide skills training, extend social services, and offer a foundation for a shared economy in a live-work environment.
 - Tighten the link (and reduce travel times and transportation costs) between housing, affordability, income generation, and work space.
 - The city should stop destroying its older commercial and industrial buildings. Buildings with lower rents are the playground for start-ups, artists, and cultural groups, and are important to create the new economy.

Recommendations

- THE FUTURE FOR WORK**
- Re-plan planning. Urban planning remains too focused on land use. City plans should integrate live, work, and play. Access to services, such as childcare, seniors’ facilities, and medical centres should be integrated into city plans.
 - New city plan should be grounded in values, including (a) sustainability in the face of climate change, (b) integrating City for All principles while respecting diversity, (c) adaptability as part of all plans, policies and regulations to accommodate change, (d) equitable access to employment with historically marginalized populations.
 - City plans, policies and regulations should gig economy and market pressures require changes in use of spaces.
- QUICK STARTS**
- The City should collaborate more with BIA, SFU innovation hubs, libraries, co-ops, and community groups.
 - Policies should be developed to allow small businesses to thrive in high rent government incentives, and zoning regulations are some alternative approaches that could be considered.
 - Cultural spaces should be supported to encourage creativity in the community and cultural transfer between and among communities.
- OVERHAUL THE SYSTEM**
- traditional employment, volunteering, post-employment activities and work in the shared economy. Government policies on procurement and job creation should promote a living wage for all workers.

Related Initiatives

Hastings Crossing BIA supports the health and resilience of the local economy in the DTES, working with businesses to provide jobs for DTES residents with barriers to employment. Experience Hastings offer promotions that will help fundraise and promote their partners’ work. <http://hxbia.com>

Tourism Vancouver’s mission is to attract more visitors to Vancouver and promote local businesses. stores, such as connecting 1,500 volunteers at a tech cybersecurity conference with two local schools for a micro-curriculum on cybersecurity. <https://www.tourismvancouver.com>

Our vision is for **Strathcona BIA** members to thrive in a mixed-use, inclusive, resilient, and prosperous local economy. We focus on a community-oriented economic development approach, for example through offering innovative programming in partnership with local social enterprises. <http://strathconabia.com>

Walas Concepts is an urban (re)development company with projects such as one in Holland that turned 500,000 square feet in a former coal mine into a mixed-use area with mostly local business, long term leases for big tenants and jobs designated for people with disabilities, the unemployed, and seniors. <https://worldofwalas.com>

Downtown BIA – Proposal to have more mixed-use zoning in the city in order to permit more light-industrial, commercial, residential, and co-work spaces. Examples cited included Seattle, Yaletown, Strathcona, and Culinary Institute of America in San Antonio, Texas. <https://www.dtvancouver.ca>

411 Seniors Centre Society is a peer support organization that runs a social meeting hub where people meet, socialize, and organize around issues important to seniors. One of their focuses raised here is on <http://411seniors.bc.ca>

Vancouver Strategic + Integrated Resources is a management consultancy. One initiative is a proposal in response to CMHC’s call for ideas on the redevelopment of Granville Island to create spaces for learning and creativity interchanges dedicated to education, forecasting and planning for alternative futures. <https://vancouverstrategicresearch.ca>

RADIUS is a social innovation hub at Simon Fraser University. RADIUS envisions a transformed economy that is dynamic, just, sustainable, and resilient. In order to get there, we collaboratively build the capacity, networks, and solutions needed to respond to complex social and economic challenges. Current programs focus on refugee social and economic integration, sustainable e Indigenous communities, health promotion, and a more equitable future of work. <https://radiussfu.com>

supports educational projects on LEED (Leadership in <http://www.gbcicanada.ca>

Gastown Business Improvement Society focuses on little projects with the potential to spark big change, such as using a parkade in the evening for drive-in movies. <https://gastown.org>

PLACES & SPACES

{ *ROUNDTABLE 15:* }

PUBLIC SPACE }

Overview

The design and availability of shared public space helps build common-unity and a sense of place. Community facilities, public art,

active parks, views, beaches, wildlife refuges – all help to connect us to one another, to culture, and to nature and the land. It is often in these public spaces that the colonization of Indigenous territory is most apparent, particularly in the naming of places and spaces, or the type of public art chosen for display.

- How can we encourage accessibility and a feeling of inclusion in our public spaces?
- How can we improve equity of access to spaces and facilities?
- What does a well designed public space look like?
- How can we encourage active use of public spaces? How do those spaces or places increase resiliency?

Roundtable Discussion

The table was comprised of 15 participants, many of them design professionals, as well as the table lead Jada Stevens and notetaker Courtney Vance. The discussion began with the overview statement above, and was wide-ranging. It included the connection between public space and the natural environment, Indigenous connections and responsibility for the land, how space is used and who is using the space, and building community as part of the planning process.

Roundtable participants shared different examples of creating friendly public space, informally and formally, and what kind of design elements go into creating these spaces. The question of how to design places and hold events that do not exclude people was raised, and the dangers of over-programming highlighted. Opportunities for more creativity in dealing with maintenance and operating costs were raised. They also discussed the importance of inclusivity control of ostensibly public space by private interests, and bringing more voices into the planning and design process.

If we slowly integrate a non-colonial idea of time, it might not be so frustrating to add more time and resources.

- VIVIAN WONG

All living space can be laboratories.

- EMILY DUNLOP



Vancouver Public Space Network's "Umbrella Wall" public outreach project encouraged passers-by to write directly on the umbrellas with their ideas on how to make Vancouver a more rain-friendly city.

Key Findings

- There needs to be a bigger focus on thorough consultation with planning as a collaborative process.
- Neighbourhood voices need to be in the planning process at city hall.
- There needs to be more mixed-use spaces – an example of this could be opening up schools from 7am-11pm to allow community use.
- There needs to be more room for failure, for experimentation.
- Social cohesion must be a focus of design to counteract isolation.
- neighbourhoods and character, and not try to include everything that everyone asks for, which results in bland or cluttered space without theme or character.
- The city needs to learn how to relinquish control more often.
- Inclusive design is highly personal. Designers and planners need to broaden their own cultural awareness and open their minds to other ways of knowing.

Recommendations

DESIGN, PLANNING + PROGRAMMING OF PUBLIC SPACE:

- Allow for pilot projects, experimental use of space, and adaptable space. In planning and programming, be bold and experimental as this will help identify real solutions.
- ‘Plurality of purpose’ – design accessible and socially equitable spaces while ensuring that each space maintains its independent character and purpose.
- Stop over-programming – provide inviting and well cared for spaces.

PUBLIC SPACE FROM A COMMUNITY BUILDING PERSPECTIVE:

- Include neighbourhood voices in the planning of public spaces.
- Expand opportunities for community stewardship – a tool for long-term maintenance.
- Allow more creativity.

Related Initiatives

Life Between Umbrellas is a design competition being held by the Vancouver Public Space Network starting in Spring 2019 on ways to improve public space and public life during Vancouver’s rainy months www.vancouverpublicspace.ca/our-work/projects-events/placemaking/lifebetweenumbrellas

The Vancouver Parks Board will be developing the **Stanley Park Comprehensive Plan & Process** over the next 2-3 years. www.parkboardmeetings.vancouver.ca/2018/20180416/REPORT-UnderstandingStanleyPark-DevelopingaComprehensivePlan-20180416.pdf

néca?mat ct Strathcona Branch Library, opened in April 2017, is the Vancouver Public Library’s newest branch library. At approximately 11,000 square feet, it is one of the largest branches in Vancouver’s library system with diverse public spaces, including a digital meeting, programming, and community gathering spaces; and a diverse collection of books, DVDs, magazines and newspapers in English and other languages including an Indigenous collection. <https://www.vpl.ca/location/néca?mat-ct-strathcona-branch>

Happy City is a design lab focused on “permanent spaces that boost and help social well-being in the city” with the use of pop-up experiments such as the Pavement to Plaza Program @ Main + 14th St. www.agency.coop/caring-your-buildings

VIVA Vancouver is a program that transforms road spaces into vibrant people spaces through short- and long-term street closures in collaboration with community groups, local businesses, and regional partners. www.vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/viva-vancouver.aspx

SFU City Conversations are hosted by SFU’s Public Square every third Thursday of every month on current topics affecting Vancouver and the Lower Mainland. They are sponsored by The City Program and SFU Vancouver. www.sfu.ca/publicsquare/upcoming-events/city-conversations.html

Creative City Strategic Grants was a one-time grant designed to lower barriers and support groups underrepresented in the City’s arts and cultural funding programs. The grant assessment committee was www.vancouver.ca/people-programs/creative-city-strategic-grant-program.aspx

Kokoro Dance is a dance company that is creating, producing, and performing new dance theatre with an emphasis on multi-disciplinary collaboration and cross-cultural exploration. Recognising the challenges that minority and non-mainstream arts organizations have in securing funding and building audiences, Kokoro raised \$900,000 to renovate space in the Woodward building into studio space managed by Kokoro and shared with several performance groups. www.kokoro.ca

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is currently developing the **Northeast False Creek Plan** for a major waterfront park and new open spaces designed for daily life, which will transform at times to welcome major gatherings and special events. <https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/northeast-false-creek-parks.aspx>

The **Save the Hollywood Theatre Coalition** is a group of citizens dedicated to maintaining this heritage community space through a Community Use Agreement. www.savethehollywoodtheatre.wordpress.com

OVERARCHING FRAMEWORKS

ROUNDTABLE 16:
RESILIENT
ORGANIZATIONS

Overview

Resilience is the ability to survive, adapt, and thrive in the face of challenges and changes. Our city, and the world around it, is facing accelerated and often unprecedented change. Local organizations are facing a range of complex local and global challenges, and in many cases, have adapted and innovated in order to continue to serve their communities. This transformation comes in the form of altering and expanding missions, service models, and spaces in order to meet the changing and growing needs of clients, staff, and volunteers. Not only do organizations change day-to-day operations and services to serve their communities, but they have demonstrated tremendous capacity to provide critical support and services during times of crisis. This adaptive change is at the core of resilience.

Sharing learning from local organizations that have changed in the face of challenges and uncertainty helps us to feel empowered to survive, adapt, and thrive in the future.

Roundtable Discussion

and community-based organizations and funders of NPOs in the Resilience Roundtable, as well as the facilitator Katie Mcpherson and notetaker Katia Tynan. Discussion centred on various ways that individuals and organizations have demonstrated resilience.

Through this discussion, three themes emerged: people, funding, and spaces. People are at the centre of all resilient organizations. Community ownership and buy-in builds a base of support for organizations, and ensures that

community. Caring for staff and volunteers is also a critical component of this resilience. A culture of validation and self-care for front line workers and for volunteers needs to be supported to mitigate burnout and vicarious trauma.

Additionally, funding is a key challenge, particularly in the Canadian context where there is a focus on seed funding for pilot projects, but little operational or long-term funding to turn pilots into ongoing programs. Organizations also have limited access to funds to collaborate with other organizations

prevalent model of transactional relationships both with other organizations, and with individuals.

Finally, organizations require security of spaces and places to operate, room to grow and adapt as the community they serve also grows and changes, and must be able to steward and hold space for future generations. In a place like Vancouver

neighbourhood or community larger spaces can disrupt critical, place-based services.

A resilient organization is a good communicator.

- SHARON ESSON

Knowing that failure is okay; it's part of building resilience and a pathway to learning.

- ELISABETH KYLE

Key Findings

- Community resilience starts with individuals having a sense of purpose, worth, value, and being able to contribute in a meaningful way.
- Resilient organizations centre themselves and their work around serving the needs of their community. By fostering a sense of ownership from the community, the organization will ensure that it is able to be adaptive to changing needs, and have advocates and champions to support it through challenges.
- Safety and rules: need to balance inclusion and safety in the context of low-barrier spaces. There is a difference between rules that are put in place for safety, and rules that are put in place just for order.
- Failure as a pathway to learning: being able to take risks and learn from failure is adaptation, and transformation.
- Need to be careful with the language of resilience as it can sometimes be used to denote personal failure if people aren't able to surmount their situations, rather than recognizing systemic oppression and institutional barriers.
- Resilient organizations have a strong vision and a mission - not just funding. Vision and mission help guide organizations so that the priority is not self-perpetuation, but meeting needs and providing valuable services to their community.
- Resilience requires collaboration and strong communication within organizations and between organizations.
- Resilience is dependent on circumstances – resilient behaviour in one context may not be resilience in another context. Successful programs or models can't necessarily be implemented in another place and expect to be successful.

Recommendations

- systemic change – working beyond individual and organizational challenges and working on root causes:
 - Advocate upward - don't just try to change behaviour of individuals, try to change systemic and organizational behaviour.
 - Take stock of where you are at and what value you bring to the community.
- Empower local, context responsive community leadership
 - Resource board or ward system model as examples
 - Build a sense of ownership for service users over organizations. Empower them to express their needs.
- Systems operation – collaborating and working together with like-minded organizations rather than competing with them
 - Advocate for backbone funding and support to run long-term programs, do relationship building, professional development, strategic planning, etc.
- Talk to each other – the left hand should know what the right hand is doing
 - Government should develop clear guidelines on what its responsibility is to
 - Cut red tape - use guidelines rather than hard rules.

Related Initiatives

First United Church provides low-barrier emergency shelter and social housing in their three Vancouver buildings. Emergency shelter clients have access to a reserved bin in their personal storage program and are matched with a case planner. The shelter is open 24 hours a day. [www](#)

Beyond The Conversation exists to engage, empower, and inspire seniors, new immigrants, refugees, and youth. We are a volunteer-led initiative who are driven to use the English language as a vehicle to . It is volunteer driven with no funding. [www.beyondtheconversation.ca](#)

Britannia has its origin in cooperative community action. Local citizens and various civic agencies created the organization in 1974 to coordinate and integrate a wide range of human services. Through and facilitating educational, recreational, library, and social services for the communities of Grandview-Woodland and Strathcona. [www.britanniacentre.org](#)

VAST is a primary mental health resource for refugees in Vancouver providing counseling, support groups, documentation of psychological trauma for refugee claims, education, and referrals. [http://vast-vancouver.ca/](#)

411 Seniors is a membership organization supporting seniors. They have a drop-in seniors' centre with programming and will soon be moving to a new permanent location that will include seniors' housing. [www.411seniors.bc.ca](#)

VanCity is a cooperative credit union building resilience amongst its staff and systems to ensure that members can access funds during a disaster. It is also working on supporting businesses and communities to become more resilient. [www.vancity.com](#)

Ballet BC e new works. Ballet BC's collaborative model has produced visionary work that has brought the Company local and international acclaim. [www.balletbc.com](#)

OVERARCHING FRAMEWORKS

{ *ROUNDTABLE 17:* }

INTERSECTIONALITY

Overview

Intersectional frameworks based in social justice aim to understand the many circumstances that, combined with discriminatory social practices, produce and sustain inequality and exclusion. An intersectional framework can help cities understand and come up

of their citizens. Intersectional frameworks rely on disaggregated data that capture concepts of gender, race, culture, income, ability, age, refugee or immigrant status, sexual orientation etc. Using a gendered intersectional approach helps to address systemic barriers and power structures, ensuring the city is not perpetuating inequity, but actively participating in building inclusive and women-friendly plans, policies, and spaces that work for everyone.

- Through this discussion we want to share our understanding of gendered intersectionality, why it is important, giving examples of how we have applied it in our own organizations and work, and sharing lessons learned.
- How can our experiences be applied to the city overall?
- How can a gendered intersectional framework be applied to a housing strategy, safety, and emergency preparedness?

Roundtable Discussion

This roundtable included 12 participants from private sector

and city departments. Joint table leads were Tasha Henderson and Joy Masuhara; Christine O’Fallon facilitated, and Leslie Shieh recorded.

Participants discussed the meaning of intersectionality and the importance of recognising its roots in social justice, Black feminism, and the work of Dr. Kimberle Crenshaw.

The table noted that intersectionality does not simply refer to a gendered lens; a key aspect of intersectionality is to question how a broad range of identities (including gender identity, economic class, education, sexual orientation, race, age, citizenship, religion, marital status, birthright, employment, anatomy, disability, social institution) impact lived experiences. With gender as an example, the group agreed that women are not a homogenous group. Often when people discuss the category of ‘women’ what is really meant is white women, which is exclusionary and therefore unacceptable.

The table used colour mixing as a metaphor. One of the participants brought play dough to illustrate how an intersectional lens changes things: Racism is blue. Sexism is yellow. Women of colour do not just experience blue and yellow. They actually experience green, which is different from the ways that say, white women experience sexism as simply yellow. The intersection of identities produces a *different* experience for that individual, not just the ‘sum of the parts’.

An intersectional lens changes how we approach public policy. The current system is inherently inequitable, and needs to be dismantled and transformed at its roots to see and repair where power collides. Policies and programs impact community members differently; an intersectional framework can help identify those differences, with the aim to strive for equity, and ultimately equality. Participants stressed that regardless of who’s at the table, we can never know the experience of every single person; it is the task of intersectionality to include as many voices as possible, and to

Definition of intersectionality: A dynamic and contextual analytical framework and practice rooted in social justice and Black and Indigenous feminism, to identify how interlocking systems of power collide to impact people disproportionately as a result of their race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, etc.

- ROUNDTABLE 17

Key Findings

- Take action!
- Shift from binary.
- Try not to lose gender in the discussion.
- Remember it's not possible to include everyone, but keep trying.
- Go to the community, not the other way around.
- Take ongoing and new reconciliatory actions!
- Watch our language; language matters!
- Recognize oppression over time (not always celebratory).
- Intersectionality is rooted in social justice.
- Where and when of people's lived experience; rural vs urban; queer person in the 1950s carries that lived experience that will impact them for their whole life.
- Intersectionality is a lens, tool, theory, practice; it's always changing, emergent, dynamic.
- Pay attention to more subtle micro-aggressions that happen everyday.

Recommendations

- Overarching: apply a gendered intersectionality framework to all city policies, programs, budgets, funding, intersectionality completely in the city plan.
- Education: facilitate ongoing professional development on intersectionality by allowing City staff to use paid time to attend community-based workshops/ educational events.
- Measurement and evaluation: resourced collaborations with relevant community members.
- Audit/resource distribution: fully fund the application of a gendered-intersectional audit on city resources resulting recommendations. Integrate intersectional knowledge and professional development into staff job descriptions and performance reviews.
- f liaison position to assist community-based organizations in the development application process; commit to expediting the development application processes for community-serving agencies (development
- shelters for non-binary and trans people. Resources for a nonbinary shelter, created together with community to know how shelter should be run and managed.

Related Initiatives

Women Transforming Cities examines systemic barriers to women's participation in local government. In 2014, they launched the Hot Pink Paper Campaign, partnering with organizations servicing women to develop policy recommendations. In 2018, they had 11 topics, 33 recommendations for Mayor & Council. <http://www.womentransformingcities.org>

Qmunity offers a space for all LGBTQ/2S individuals to develop meaningful connections. <https://qmunity.ca/>

In 2018, the **Women's Equity Strategy** replaced the City of Vancouver's 2005 Equality Plan, which did not adequately address women occupying marginal spaces. use intersectional frameworks; this step is in development at the City. Phase 1 priorities in the Strategy focus on addressing women's safety, accessible quality childcare, adequate housing, and women's leadership and representation within the City's workforce. <https://vancouverstrategy-2018.pdf>

Abundant Housing is a pro-housing group that supports more homes of all types in Metro Vancouver. <http://www.abundanthousingvancouver.com/>

MODUS recently worked with the City of Surrey to update the City's Parks, Recreation & Culture Strategic Plan. They tailored a community engagement process to include more diverse voices, especially those who were traditionally underrepresented. Involving more people and exploring community priorities based on age, gender, and language, led to a more inclusive plan that focused on accessibility, affordability, reconciliation, and intercultural understanding and appreciation, rather than simply City facilities and infrastructure. www.surrey.ca/PRCplan

The Front Step (Mt. Pleasant Neighbourhood House) Is an initiative engaging youth in and from care and older adults to co-design projects that address their needs. They have two frameworks: Chaordic stepping stone (ordered chaos) and CYNEFRIN: break down system into: complex, complicated, simple, support & service providers (second ring), community (third ring). <http://mpnh.org/about-us/community-development/the-front-step-project/>

Access Recreation Culture Program engages Indigenous youth aged 14 to 19 who have an interest in criminal justice. The program has an intersectional lens of: gender, race, parenting, culture. They go on elders. <https://www.vancouverpolicefoundation.org/2018/11/access-recreation-and-culture-arc/>

Indigenous Cadet Program provides coaching, help getting a driver's license etc. It provides a gateway to get youth into a position where they can apply to police departments or the RCMP. <https://vancouver.ca/police/recruiting/indigenous-cadet-program.html>

Women's Friendly City Challenge (WTC) launched at the World Urban Forum 2018, is a call for action to encourage cities around the world to become more women friendly and shares Wise Practices from all over the world. It looks at different categories: safety, economics, governance, housing, etc. and has applied an intersectionality lens to international agreements, and found for example sexual orientation is not included in many documents. <https://www.womenfriendlycitieschallenge.org/>

OVERARCHING FRAMEWORKS

{ *ROUNDTABLE 18:* }
RECONCILIATION

Overview

Reconciliation occurs only after recognition of the truth of the lived experience of Indigenous peoples historically and today. Colonialism, residential schools and interference with language and religion have broken trust between Indigenous peoples and settlers, and their descendants. The City of Vancouver and other organizations have undertaken measures to bring the objectives of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission into action.

- What are the emerging lessons from these efforts?
- How can we engage in a healing process that fosters sustained relationships of mutual respect and understanding?
- Under the umbrella of A City for All, there remains a need for reconciliation with others that have received apologies, such as the Japanese, Black, Chinese, and LGBTQ2S communities who have also suffered systemic discrimination.
- Recognizing that each group’s history and circumstance is different, what are the commonalities?
- What can be applied from the initiatives of different groups to bring reconciliation into action?

Roundtable Discussion

There were 1 community-based organizations and funders in the Resiliency Roundtable, as well as the table lead Carole Brown and notetaker Carl Steffans.

While the experience of the impact of colonization may be felt by many groups, there was agreement that Indigenous
ferent from others that came later. The rich discussion touched on multiple themes. There was discussion of the deeply personal and political experiences of sharing one’s culture but also of educating oneself in one’s own culture, coming to terms with lessons from a history we never knew, but are living in right now. The table also discussed the problems with using systems and services (e.g. health care, child and family services, police services) that have displaced and oppressed Indigenous and other peoples, and the challenges of systemic change. Other topics included the role and place of urban Indigenous peoples; how people are connecting to the idea of colonialism and relating it to themselves; and the need for common ground between different groups (Indigenous, people of colour, other cultural minorities, and different experiences and backgrounds within those umbrellas).

reconciliation. There is the danger that reconciliation simply brings more pressure to assimilate. Reconciliation is messy. It is not about bringing outside members into the existing culture, but building a more cooperative community living together.

governments and the general public want certainty. Truth is central to making reconciliation integral to the community.

While clearly there is a long way to go, there is also recognition that there is a resurgence underway with Indigenous people taking their power, but taking it in a community way and level. There is recognition of trauma but also a recognition that trauma is only one part of a person.

We finally get to say it. A lot of our people have been kept in silence for so long because they have been held in trauma. This gave people validation that ‘yes we live in complex trauma, but that doesn’t define us. It is only a part of who we are.

- AMANDA NAHANEE

Reconciliation shouldn’t be something that is a done deal. It is fluid.

- DAVID DIAMOND

Key Findings

- Tolerance isn't enough. Love, knowledge, and acceptance are central to effective reconciliation.
- Uncomfortable conversations are important to making change, but education shouldn't be the job of Indigenous and other minority groups. Education is integral to understanding. The question is education for whom, by whom, and about what.
- Diversity and inclusion is not about changing white spaces, or helping 'others' to conform. How do we change dominant culture? How do we co-create space?
- How can language be used to change attitudes?
- The root problem is land and cultural dispossession. Industrialization has made everything a commodity. western capitalism.
- How do urban Indigenous peoples legitimize their ability to represent themselves?
- There is both diversity in Indigenous peoples and nations, but also a shared experience. There is a need to understand where we are located. Status is a way to place people into boxes.
- Fear based policy making is essential to colonialism (potlach ban). People who led were afraid of white assimilation into Indigenous culture. There is a fundamental fear from people who are used to being welcomed everywhere—white fragility.
- People don't understand the power and privilege they have. Privilege and power should be acknowledged, but are invaluable opportunities to make effective change. Those elected make choices and those who provide information (staff, management) aren't neutral data-generating machines. People need to act with intentionality, thoughtfulness, and do their personal work to understand their roles in deconstructing racism.
- The importance of keeping families together, protecting children, not children 'at risk' but children who have been deprived of their culture.

Recommendations

OVERARCHING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Get resources to the people on the ground already doing the work and create effective opportunities to empower communities and allies to co-create initiatives.
- Address the fact that urban Indigenous peoples are refugees of colonialism.
- Deconstruct colonial systems.
- Break down systemic barriers which support existing power structures.
- Smash colonial/capitalist protocols and get the humans representing institutions to be present.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Re-publish an updated version of "First Nations: A Guide for Newcomers" and send it out to all households → public education.
- Set up a structure where people are not afraid to make mistakes and to voice opinions.
- Look at mandating ceremonial spaces in new buildings/places using Community Amenity Contributions.
- City of Vancouver to set up a non-appointed Indigenous advisory committee for reconciliation, strategic planning, continuity in relationship building.



Britannia Salish Honouring Ceremony.
Photo by Christopher Tait.

Related Initiatives

ALIVE (Aboriginal Life in Vancouver Enhancement) creates opportunities for Aboriginal peoples to take part in decision making in the space they live in. They work at a neighbourhood level to examine the ways people communicate and work together on issues such as community engagement and employment and through projects such as "Reconciliation in Action" initiative in partnership with community centres and residents' groups. www.alivesociety.ca

Britannia Community Centre hosts reconciliation events including ALIVE's Reconciliation in Action program. The Board is looking at ways to advance reconciliation in an area where Indigenous People are underrepresented such as creating a ceremony room in the Centre. www.britanniacentre.org

Theatre for Living uses theatre workshops to connect Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to help support processes of reconciliation. www.theatreforliving.com

The **Ming Sun Benevolent Society** has supported the replacement of the historic Ming Sun building in Japantown with social housing. There needs to be a way to commemorate the history of the building, one of the 20 oldest in Vancouver, even though it is not repairable and the community needs the social housing. Some groups and individuals protested the development of social housing on the site - there continues to be a lack of understanding about social housing, and more education and communication between different groups is needed. www.friendsof439.wordpress.com

The **Parks Board** has adopted 11 recommendations in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It is now trying to do ground work on reconciliation including taking a reconciliation lens to programming, trauma informed training, harm reduction training, training on privilege, and through the Rise program, having Indigenous youth partners in the parks board system. Melding this approach with existing Parks Board systems is a challenge and an ongoing process. www.vancouver.ca/news-calendar/park-board-approves-11-recommendations-response-to-truth-reconciliation-commission.aspx

The Discourse is a digital news media company that brings together journalists, members and partners to provide in-depth journalism to communities underserved by media. www.thediscourse.ca

The **Tsawwassen Comprehensive Community Plan** was recently refreshed and one of the nine objectives was the recognition of language and culture. Preservation of Indigenous languages is especially hard when people move to urban areas. The use of technology may be one way to address this issue. www

The **Indigenous Relations Manager** is responsible for managing the City of Vancouver's overall approach to government relations with Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, and Tsleil-Waututh Nation. The Manager is a resource to the City's Business Units in the implementation of Council's strategic direction moving towards a 'City of Reconciliation', as well as implementation of Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendations relevant to municipal government. This position works collaboratively across City divisions and agencies to build strong relationships with First Nations, community organizations, and other government partners to support Council direction and the City's strategic initiatives. www.vancouver.ca/people-programs/indigenous-communities.aspx

OVERARCHING FRAMEWORKS

{ *ROUNDTABLE 19:* }
MIXED TABLE

Overview

This was a mixed table discussion focused on A City For All and made up of participants as individuals or organizations that, due to the large number of registrants, were not able to be accommodated at other tables. This afforded the table an opportunity to consider the creation of a City for All from multiple perspectives.



Photo from City of Vancouver collection.

Roundtable Discussion

There were seven participants including students, academics, planners, and people working with the private sector and community-based organizations at this roundtable, as well as the the table facilitator Anthony Perl and notetaker Penny Bain.

As this was a mixed table, a number of subjects were covered. The Social Determinants of Health were a major theme of discussion, in particular the relationship between housing type and health. The lack of diversity of housing types and affordability were common concerns. We are becoming a city for the rich, forcing out the lower and middle class. The value of cooperative housing models was

subsidized by higher incomes) and equity (by giving residents more control over their decision making structures). Anhart Community Housing was seen as a positive alternate model of providing capital for affordable housing.

Participation and community engagement was another theme, particularly related to youth, members of the LGBTQ2+ communities, and residents who do not speak English easily.

The use of advisory committees to the City was seen as very important to bringing a wider range of views before Council. However, fear was expressed that such groups may not be continued.

The Parks Board's process to decolonize itself was presented, including the move to rename places and what it means to give Indigenous people the power.

Questions raised included: Who are the important voices? What process will include quieter voices i.e. those with less power? How can those engagement processes be made more stable?

A City for All is a healthy city and Vancouver cannot be healthy if it is not an inclusive city.

- ROUNDTABLE 19

Key Findings

- Housing affordability is a key determinant of health.
- We can't be a healthy city unless we address determinants of health such as social isolation. A City for All is a healthy city and cannot be a healthy city if it is not an inclusive city.
- We need to plan for the impact of climate change on the livability of the city.
- Diversity and inclusion means more resilience and creates a more aware, fun and vibrant city.
- Planning/consultations should include those with less power and support more robust community engagement.
- We need to include a less formal mode e.g. 'kitchen table' model for community consultation. Need to consult not only with people who use services but with people who do not (e.g. Translink- talk to people who do not use transit). We need to ask people who do not feel at home in Vancouver what it would take to change that.
- We need to look beyond government- based services. Distrust for models that only include those with power.
- A process for intergenerational living e.g. encouraging students to live with seniors as in the Dutch example, has promise.
- We need to build the capacity of youth to represent themselves in decision making fora, and include them in planning.
- There is a need to address declining life expectancy due to the opiate crisis.
- Affordable housing is essential for new immigrants. When housing is not affordable, visible minorities move elsewhere, taking their culture with them, hence making Vancouver less culturally diverse.

Recommendations

- Provide easier ways for community voices to be expressed to decision makers.
- Continue the Advisory Committees (such as the LGBTQ and 2 spirited Committee) and ensure that the experience, community relationships, and learning from the committees are not lost.
- Address the continuity of membership of city advisory committees, vary the terms of appointments and do not change the entire membership when Council changes.
- Take advantage of opportunities to improve affordability of living in Vancouver and thereby allow people to stay in the city - e.g. childcare, affordable housing, support to liveable wage initiatives.
- Build diversity and equity into community engagement strategies, ie. decolonizing the City consultation and decision-making processes.
- Housing is essential to health and therefore the City should endorse a right to housing.

Related Initiatives

Anhart Community Housing Society poverty through housing, health, education, and social enterprise nationally and internationally. In Canada, Anhart is committed to preventing homelessness, by focusing on affordable housing for people with household incomes between \$8,000 and \$40,000. It builds affordable housing with the help of social impact investors. www.anhart.ca

The Vancouver Park Board has developed a process to begin the decolonization of the Board. As part of that process, it passed a motion to recognize traditional Indigenous place names for the city's parks and beaches. www.vancouver.ca/news-calendar/park-board-approves-11-recommendations-response-to-truth-reconciliation-commission.aspx

The **Co-operative Housing Federation of BC (CHF BC)** is made up of member housing co-ops and associated organizations across British Columbia. Areas of interest include better youth engagement and the health implications of housing. www.chf.bc.ca

The **Youth Collaborative for Chinatown** advocates for public space in Chinatown. Memorial Plaza on Columbia and Keefer was not well designed for local use. They worked on a conceptual redesign of the space to make it more useable - street closure and popup redesign engagement – and produced a report and recommendations for the City and Parks Board. <http://ycc-yvr.com/>

Our Place (Promoting Local Access and Community Empowerment) has been addressing the social determinants of health e.g. circle of the child to provide support for children taken from families, providing a social safety network, and developing strategies for supporting families. <http://www.ourplace-vancouver.ca>

LGBT Advisory Committee for the City of Vancouver advised Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, and queer communities to fully participate in City services and civic life. It has been building relationships with the Aboriginal community and addressing two spirit community issues by, for example, hosting a Pre-Pride Social at the Aboriginal Friendship Centre. www.vancouver.ca/your-government/lgbtq-advisory-committee.aspx



Photo courtesy of WSP

Closing Discussion

The senior managers from the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, and Vancouver School Board expressed their appreciation to participants and organizers and were in turn thanked for making themselves available and listening to the ideas and recommendation of the groups and individuals in attendance. During the closing discussion there was an overall plea for the City to address decolonization and inequalities with Indigenous peoples, a topic that had been raised in all of the roundtable groups.

It was noted that the Summit had an unusual depth and breadth of participation by Indigenous peoples, the Black community and people of colour, women, youth, seniors and representatives of the LGBTQ2+ and the (dis)ability communities. The question of who was not there raised the issue of children and youth who were in school or people working with organizations that could not afford to spare them, even though an honorarium had been offered to cover their time. There was also a need expressed for outreach to community members who are not digitally connected or comfortable.

almost all of those in the room had participated in many such gatherings in the past and shared a general frustration at the lack of feedback and continuity about the impact of their work. Everyone at this Summit had brought case examples and insights to share from their work and lived experiences and wanted – in fact demanded – to see results in action, not in words.



Sierra, Kwakwaka'wakw, honouring Indigenous peoples in the room

Acknowledgements

Thank you

The City for All Summit would not have been possible without the hard work of numerous volunteers and staff. This event was almost entirely volunteer driven. We would like to thank the following people.

Thank you to the City for All Steering Committee for conceiving the event, setting the agenda, recruiting volunteers and participants and making it all happen: Nola Kate Seymoar (chair), Jennifer Marshall, Omar Dominguez, Alyssa Koehn, Anthony Perl, and David Crossely, from VCPC, and community members Marnie Tamaki, Jada Stevens, Scott Clark, Christine O'Fallon, Allen Smith, and Terry Anne Boyles. The committee was formed from a 50+person partners working group whose member organizations participated in monthly updates, sponsored lead up events and contributed to the roundtable groups at the Summit (see Related Initiatives sections of the workbook).

Thank you to Ajay Puri for facilitating the event with such energy and enthusiasm, to Chepximiya Siyam' Chief Janice George for welcoming the group to the unceded and traditional territories of the skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), sel̓ilwilt̓h (Tsleil-Waututh), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations, to Andy Yan for the lunchtime address, to JB the First Lady for an inspiring closing performance and to the participants who re-energized the group with songs, jokes, and exercise at critical moments.

A huge thank you to Tesicca Truong and Veronika Bylicki of CityHive for event planning and logistical support. Thank you to Samantha Anderson for coordinating volunteers, acting as Summit rapporteur and co-authoring the Summit workbook, to Alyssa Koehn for designing the logo and sponsor materials, and arranging the catering and to Grace Lee, for the design of the workbook and Irene Luo for proofreading. Thank you to Executive Director Yuri Artibise for registrations, budget and keeping everyone on track. Thanks to our caterers, Cedar Feast House and Potluck, for delicious food and for responding so capably to the increased number of participants.

Thank you to the Table Leads and Notetakers for facilitating and recording the discussion as well as revising content for the workbook. Table leads were Scott Calum, Lidia Kemeny, Will Tao, Walter Wawruck, Ian Marcuse, Penny Kerrigan, Kate Hodgson, Mark Friessen, Marnie Goldenberg, Meg Holden, Tasia Alexis, Ouri Scott, Matt Halverson, Jacqueline Gijssen, Landon Hoyt, Jada Stevens, Katie McPherson, Tasha Henderson, Carole Brown, and Anthony Perl. Notetakers were: Evangelia Aleiferi, Annesha Grewal, Navi Rai, Elizabeth Pinsent, Jenna Aujla, Meghan Hunter

Majka Hahn, Michaela Slinger, Elisha Cooper, Tiffany Muller-Myrdahl, Carlin Sandor, Jocelyn Guan, Robert Matas, Courtney Vance, Katia Tynan, Leslie Shieh, Carl Steffens, and Penny Bain. Michele Lei provided additional support throughout the day.

Thank you to the senior city staff closing session and listened to the presentations by the Roundtables: Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager Engineering; Margaret Wittgens, Director of Public Space and Street Use; Malcolm Bromley, General Manager Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation; Sandra Singh, General Manager Arts, Culture and Community Services; Kaye Krishna, General manager, Development, Buildings and Licensing; Marisa Espinosa, Director of Green Operations; and Janet Fraser, Chair Vancouver School Board.

Thank you to SFU professor Tiffany Muller-Myrdahl and her students Majka Hahn, Carl Stef Aneesha Grewal, Navi Rai, Jocelyn Guan, Meghan Hunter, Courtney Vance and Carlin Sandor. They wrote background papers on key themes and case studies of initiatives presented at the conference. Their work is included in the electronic appendices.

Thank you to our sponsors: Vancouver City Planning Commission, City Of Vancouver (especially the Planning Urban Design and Sustainability, Healthy Cities Strategy and the Resilient Cities Initiative), Vancouver Foundation (especially Lidia Kemeny), MODUS Planning Design & Engagement, WSP, Real Estate Foundation of BC and Jorden Cook Associates.

to rent space, provide catering, waive the registration fee, and provide honoraria, childcare and transportation subsidies for those who otherwise might not have been able to attend.

, last but not least, thank you so much to all the participants who shared their time, energy and knowledge to the Summit and the production of this workbook.

Appendices

Backgrounder: Belonging

Desmond Tutu, in his book, *No Future Without Forgiveness*, offers a perspective on “ubuntu” which might help inform our work. He says, ‘My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in yours.’ We belong in a bundle of life. We say ‘A person is a person through other persons.’”

In Bowling Green, the more successful from less successful communities was the extent of social capital, or widespread relatedness that existed among its residents.

There is a large body of research that links a low sense of belonging in community and social isolation with poor health. Lonely people suffer more depression, heart disease, sleeping problems, high blood pressure, and even an increased risk of dementia.

In Vancouver, the Vital Signs report. Their survey showed that when it came to happiness, a person’s education level, income or ethnic background did not matter much. The main factor in people identifying themselves as happy and having a good quality of life was that they felt they “belonged” in their community and they “trusted” their neighbours. When this report was published it created so much interest that the Foundation began a journey to better understand how to connect and engage residents in communities.

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In 2012 the Vancouver Foundation reported further on belonging, using the lens of connections and engagement: “connections” meaning people’s relationships with others and the strength of those relationships; and “engagement” meaning people’s commitment to community and their willingness to take actions to solve problems or participate in activities that make their community better. The Foundation found that one in four respondents said they are alone more often than they would like to be. The report *Connect and Engage* showed that loneliness has negative consequences for the entire community. When people feel lonely, they are also more likely to feel unwelcome in their neighbourhood and skeptical about community trust. As well, these residents are less likely to participate in activities that make their community a better place to live.

In 2017, Vancouver Foundation decided to commission a new report to revisit the themes of their 2012 research. It continued to measure the strength of residents’ connections and engagement at the personal, neighbourhood, and community level, and also looked closer at the barriers and opportunities to move beyond the issues and catalyze action.

did in 2012. However

This weakens the resilience of our communities.

The Vancouver Foundation’s Connect and Engage 2017 report reveals a desire for stronger connections and sense of belonging. The results show that those who are more likely to experience weaker connections – particularly younger people and those living in low-income households – have clear ideas on how they would like to make new friends and are open to expanding their circle. Residents are less

related activity has dropped since 2012. But people still prefer connecting in person, and less than one in . The survey provides insight into the kinds of activities and places that connect people. Social gatherings, community festivals, and participating in community projects are the most popular ways for neighbours to get to know each other. Community gardens and green spaces are at the top of the list of spaces people would like to share.

“Engagement for Real” and “A City for All” were two of four topics of focus at the VCPC’s 2017 Summit on Shaping Resilience: A Summit on Resilience and Vancouver’ importance of building social capacity as a way of improving Vancouver’s resiliency. Inclusion and

2018 Summit. In a city as diverse as Vancouver ties within and between communities of mutual respect.

In the words of the Vancouver Foundation, “We are not alone in our endeavors to build stronger communities. We are encouraged by the inspiring efforts of others in this space, and welcome policy makers, community organizations, private companies, business organizations, faith-based groups, and

“Community belonging is a key factor explaining differences among Canadian communities in their average levels of life satisfaction. It is also the key reason why people in large cities are generally less happy than in smaller communities, where tighter connections occur more naturally. To create that sense of belonging in larger cities is possible, but it requires rethinking how spaces are designed, services delivered, and how individuals treat each other.” Dr. John Helliwell, Professor Emeritus, UBC and Co-Editor of the World Happiness Report.

Lidia Kemeny
Director, Partnerships, Grants and Community Initiatives
Vancouver Foundation

Case Study: Neighbourhood Small Grants

“The classroom was so quiet that community centre staff kept peeking in. They thought the kids may have lost interest in my workshop and gone home.”

model-building workshop he offered for free to kids living in the South Burnaby neighbourhood of Edmonds. The neighbourhood, which is socially and culturally diverse, includes a large proportion of low-income families and recent immigrants struggling to get established in their new country.

“Many people doubted whether these kids had the interest or ability to concentrate long enough to build model cars,” says the folksy, white-haired Harder, who himself learned to build model cars when he was a teen.



Harder, who volunteers his time to teach the model-building workshops, knew it would be an uphill battle to get kids interested in his workshop. In an age of fast-paced video games, his slower art of reading instructions, assembling, gluing and painting seemed like it might not be an attractive offering.

“But I knew kids would have a sense of accomplishment if they built a model. When a video game is over, it’s over. But when a model-building workshop is over, you walk away with something that you built,” he says.

So he decided to offer the workshops for free, including the model kits, which each kid would be allowed to keep.

“The Eastburn Community Centre was very supportive of my idea and provided the workshop space,” says Harder encourage people to donate any model car kits or supplies they may not want.”

ord got around, and by the following workshop, attendance had doubled. Today, Harder’ times a year, attract up to 30 kids at a time. About a third of the students are girls. And now even parents attend and help out. But what was even more interesting was how many of their parents also showed up to sit next to their kids and work on the model cars.

Soon you had parents from the Ukraine sitting next to parents from Vietnam in turn sitting next to parents from the Congo.

They were building a sense of connection, a sense of shared interests.

“I think it is nice to see how parents are getting involved in this,” says Harder. With some pride he shares the story of a family whose two older kids attended a couple of workshops. Eventually, the youngest child also joined the class. Some time later Harder heard from the mother about how model making brought the family together.

“The father was watching his kids making models, and decided to make one of his own. Then the mother, seeing how much fun everyone was having, bought her own kit. Now, after dinner, the family clears away the dishes, spreads out the newspapers to protect the dining room table, and each person works on their own model.”

Some of the kids Harder has taught have gone on to become model-building fanatics. Denys Miroshnychenko, whose parents emigrated from the Ukraine a few years ago, is a case in point. He’s a virtual model car production line.

The articulate and serious 11-year-old came to one of Harder’s attended every workshop since. To date, he has assembled almost 30 cars, and also has a collection of model airplanes that hang from his bedroom ceiling.

“My favourite car is the gold Lamborghini,” Denys says, grinning, as his little hands hold it up for everyone to admire.

When asked what he likes about making model cars, Denys considers the question for a moment, and then replies, “I like model making because it gets me thinking. It is sort of like yoga in that way.”

make money to buy his own model cars.

Foundation’s Neighbourhood Small Grants program. The program, which started in 1999, supports resident-led initiatives that enhance local neighbourhoods. Grants can be up to \$500, and are evaluated and administered at the community level.

Thousands of projects have received funding over the last 20 years. The projects range from activities such as Harder’s model-making workshop to neighbourhood gatherings, community gardens, lantern parades, knitting circles and Chinese brush painting for seniors from different cultural backgrounds.

“Neighbourhood Small Grants demonstrate that small amounts of money can make a world of difference,” says Lidia Kemeny, Vancouver Foundation’s program director for Neighbourhood Small Grants. “What impresses me is that even a grant of \$500 can touch so many lives. It is remarkable.”

So with a mere \$500 grant many things were accomplished. Doug had his idea funded – and he became an engaged citizen, giving back to his community. The youngsters were able to learn a hobby, and were proud of their efforts. And their parents, from all over the world, had an opportunity to get to know one another.

T
visit www.vancouverfoundation.ca or call 604- 688-2204.

Backgrounder: Equity

Equity is about power - its distribution, use, and impact. Power is exercised in many ways - directly and indirectly by individuals, groups, and institutions. Equity is about access to knowledge and resources:

policies, and practices; and governance: the ways in which decisions are made, by whom and for whom. liberal democracies, such as Canada, this value base includes the notion of fairness – of equal access to basic human rights and social justice. But what happens when some values collide with others? When the desire for equality comes up against a capitalist economic model, or when a belief in individual rights comes up against the collective good? , what happens when there is a discrepancy between the stated intentions of those exercising power and their effect or impact on others?

Most discussions today are not about equality but about equity, which includes a concern for social justice. The following illustration shows the difference in meaning between the two concepts, and the impact of systemic barriers.

Equity begins with an acknowledgement that our social, political, and economic institutions have been “built with inequality as an inherent component of their design.” It is not always easy to tease out how legacies of colonialism, racism, discrimination, stereotyping, and unfair employment practices (to name a few) affect diverse groups of people differently. However, a shift in policy making and planning is moving away from formal equality (the strictly equal treatment of individuals) toward a focus on equity, which recognizes that diverse groups of people may require not only equal, but different treatment in order to access the same advantages that others have.

Differences based on race, ethnicity, religion, class, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, indigeneity, immigration status, and ability are just some of the factors that affect a person’ from formal equality under the law, or from equality of opportunity. This concept of intersectionality is elaborated elsewhere in this workbook.

Gender equity is currently one of the focal areas of the City and will serve as the main example of policy approaches for the purpose of this introduction. [The Women’s Equity Strategy 2018-2028](#) is a ten-year

Context

- Women continue to be economically disadvantaged relative to men. Even for the same occupation, women still earn .87 cents to each dollar a man earns.
- The “motherhood penalty” involves the cumulative effects of extended parental leaves, unpaid care labour, lack of affordable childcare options, and precarious employment. These structural inequalities limit women’s full economic participation over the course of her lifetime.

- We know that women’s economic disadvantage places them at increased risk of violence and exploitation. Intimate partner and gender-based violence are a persistent issue that has deep and long-lasting ef
- Many women do not feel safe in the city. Only 57% of women compared to 73% of men said they felt safe walking after dark. Senior and younger women reported feeling the most unsafe.
- Inequality is experienced differently and more acutely for women with intersecting oppressions, such as Indigenous women who are at a greater risk for violence than non-Indigenous women, have higher rates of unemployment, and are twice as likely to head lone-parent families.

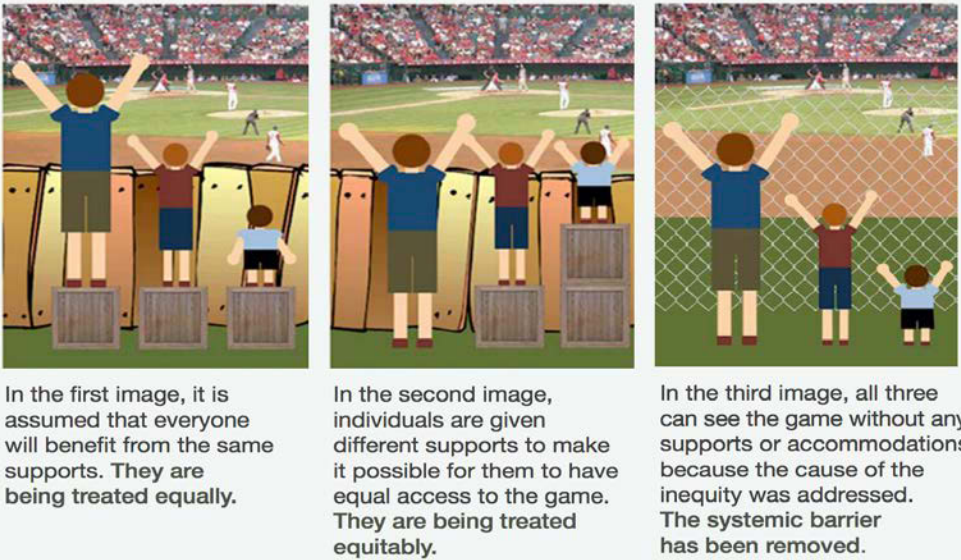
The City of Vancouver’s Women’s Equity Strategy 2018-2028, as well as the federal government’s [Gender Based Analysis + \(GBA+\)](#) are tools that apply an intersectional lens to all policy and at all levels of government. Inherent in their design is the objective of looking at the differential impact of policy on individuals and groups that vary across race, class, sex, gender, ability, and other vectors of identity. The adoption of the Women’s Equity Strategy and GBA+ at the level of Council and senior management in the City of Vancouver is a milestone to ensuring that urban policies are equitable. The process undertaken with the Women’s Advisory Council to engage women and their organizations in codesigning the strategy was positive. A similar process is needed to ensure the implementation phase is also an inclusive process. Experience shows that it is necessary to document the impact of such commitments - both intended and unintended and make adjustments in implementation in light of ongoing monitoring.

Issues and Opportunities

mit focused on the impact of colonization, discrimination, and poverty and initiatives that are being undertaken by many groups, organizations, and researchers in the city to empower communities and youth.

Student
Simon Fraser University

EQUALITY VERSUS EQUITY



Retrieved from *Advancing Equity and Inclusion: A Guide for Municipalities* (www.equityandinclusion.ca)

Backgrounder: Resiliency

Moving forward, Vancouver can and should be a global leader in resilience. Now more than ever, we recognize the strength of our residents and the Value of our communities in creating a more resilient Vancouver, a future in which there is space for all people to thrive.

PRELIMINARY RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT, CITY OF VANCOUVER

Defining Resilience

Urban resilience is the ability to survive, adapt, and thrive in the face of challenges and changes. For our communities, resilience is the bounce back factor, the creative factor, the survival factor, the ability to imagine the future and be ready for it. It is the ability to initiate, mediate, mitigate and maximize the change for the common and individual good. Resiliency = transformation.

Background

In 2012, Vancouver adopted the [Climate Change Adaptation Strategy](#) in order that Vancouver can remain a liveable and resilient city maintaining its values, character, and charm in the face of climate change. In this case, resilience is the ability of a system and its component parts to anticipate, absorb, accommodate, or recover from the ef

In 2016, Vancouver was accepted into the [100 Resilient Cities](#) network pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation, and committed to developing [Resilient Vancouver](#) Reconciliation; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Ecological – Health and Economy; Building Community Capacity; and, Affordability. The four focus areas are Neighbourhoods, Buildings and Infrastructure, Economy, and Government.

The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, aiming to increase the resilience of City infrastructure is technically oriented and seeks to improve understanding and knowledge, as well as enhance opportunities for networking and partnership with communities and especially the organizations that serve those most vulnerable. These have a key role to play in any Resilience strategy. Vancouver has a number of other initiatives such as the Resilient Buildings, Resilient Neighbourhoods, Greenest City Action Plan, and Healthy City Strategy that also feed into the overall Resilient Vancouver initiative (a complete list is available [here](#)).

Also in 2016, The Vancouver Planning Commission approved Habitat III’s [New Urban Agenda \(NUA\)](#) as its guiding framework. NUA provides a framework for resilient and sustainable urban development at the local, national, and international level for the next 20 years. In moving this agenda forward, VCPC, in partnership with the City of Vancouver, 100 Resilient Cities, and Simon Fraser University’s Public Square, held an invitational Summit called [Shaping Resilience: Resiliency and Vancouver’s Future](#) on October 25, 2017. The Summit and a community dialogue held the day before were opportunities for the public and representatives of urbanist, planning, service provider, and advocacy organizations to have input into Vancouver’s [Preliminary Resilience Assessment](#).

Preliminary Resilience Assessment

affordable housing/homelessness followed by social isolation, economic inequality, aging population, lack of mental health care, and drug abuse as major stresses to Vancouver. The shocks most likely to affect the city are: earthquake, public health emergency (opiate crisis), infrastructure failure, hazardous material/oil spill,

At the 2017 Shaping Resilience Summit, participants also identified Vancouver could become most resilient - improving governance and cooperation among all orders of government; increasing financial resources to the city and community level; better urban design; housing and mobility options; increased green space and common properties; and economic reform to manage international capital and real estate speculation. The ability to use new technologies to foster social connections and support a genuine sharing of resources is seen as Vancouver’s future.

At the 2018 City for All Summit, many of these themes were explored further. The Resilience Roundtable focused on the resilience of organizations such as non-profits, the business sector, and residents’ connection to people and place. Local organizations that have changed and adapted in the face of uncertainty shared their experiences and insights about systemic change in support of a robust civil society sector.

Assessment were discussed in one way or another at all the roundtables, with affordability and social isolation the most prominent. Discussion were interlinked - for example, affordability negatively impacting the ability of people to socialize and therefore increasing social isolation, or the likelihood of local organizations addressing environmental degradation and climate change, improving seniors’ sense of resilience and belonging, and increasing the resilience of the local economy. While recommendations throughout the assessment focused on social isolation through the provision of space for more informal encounters or through cross-generational programming), one theme running through the recommendations and echoing that of the Assessment was the need for place-based and especially neighbourhood-based solutions.

VCPC recognizes that Resilience is only possible with the awareness, organization, cooperation, and action of our communities and neighbourhoods, including the governmental and non-governmental, the

Marnie Tamaki
Commissioner
Vancouver City Planning Commission

Samantha Anderson
Volunteer
Vancouver City Planning Commission

*This is what will make all the difference:
your ability to apply yourselves with
creativity and resiliency to meet what lies
just over the horizon.*

CORNELIA HAHN OBERLANDER, JUNE 2019
HONORARY DOCTORATE ADDRESS

Backgrounder: Intersectionality

If you don't have a lens that's been trained to look at how various forms of discrimination come together, you're unlikely to develop a set of policies that will be inclusive as they need to be.

KIMBERLE WILLIAMS CRENSHAW, ORIGINATOR OF THE TERM “INTERSECTIONALITY”

Historically, governments and those outside government who concern themselves with social justice have sought ways to understand — and policies to address — a wide range of challenges and barriers encountered by supposedly discrete communities. But are all forms of oppression separate from one another? Can we disentangle the consequences of one person’s experiences living in poverty from her experiences living with a disability? Intersectionality theory proposes that individuals experience discrimination based on the multiple ways they identify (or are identified) by race, gender, sexual ability, sexual orientation, class, age, etc., and that discrimination (and privilege) is best understood as compounding or simultaneous, rather than being a series of unconnected, discrete experiences.

To begin with, Crenshaw saw intersectionality as an analytical framework to understand and illuminate the oppressions experienced by women of colour in the United States. Her ideas emerged at a time when there was a growing effort by other thinkers, including the Combahee River Collective and bell hooks, to bring to the American feminist movement an awareness of the plight of Black women. Over time, intersectionality has more generally come to be understood as a framework to analyze and respond to the different ways that the different identities of a single individual work together to create layers upon layers of oppression and/or privilege. In policy design and social planning, intersectionality is a tool to bring people and communities typically left on the margins of opportunity, health and wellbeing into the centre of decision-making. It’s about understanding how different forms of oppression intersect and how particular policies, and who is not.

In 2014 the City of Vancouver created the *Healthy City Strategy*, which included as a guiding principle “for all, not just for some”, and referenced the use of an intersectional lens, noting:

The lived experience of being, for example, a female Aboriginal elder, is not ever one of being only female, or only Aboriginal, or only an elder - we experience our lives in intersecting ways. Rather than apply a single category lens (such as a “women’s lens” or an “Aboriginal lens”, or an “LGBTQ lens” or “a disability lens” or a “senior’s lens” or a “people of colour lens”), we are using an intersectional “for all”

In 2016, a motion was brought to Vancouver City Council to create a new Women’s Equity Strategy, in collaboration with the City’s Women’s Advisory Committee (WAC). The latter proposed, in alignment with ongoing priorities within the WAC, that intersectionality be a strong component of the new Strategy. *The Vancouver: City For All Women, Women’s Equity Strategy 2018-2028* adopted a framework that unites and runs through the Phase One Priorities of the Strategy, “to ensure that action in these priority areas benefit all women.”

Also in 2018, in a step aimed to broaden the reach of intersectionality-informed policies in the City, the department of Arts, Culture and Community Services (ACCS) hired a contractor to develop an Intersectional Policy Framework. The Framework will include a Resource Guide and Toolkit, which is scheduled to be completed, along with an implementation plan, in 2019.

The V ty as a part of its discussions about Resiliency and two themes: Engagement for Real and A City for All in 2017. Challenged by the Women’s Advisory Committee and Women Transforming Cities, VCPC adopted Intersectionality as an overarching framework for the 2018 Summit on A City for All. Throughout the planning meetings with partnering community organizations, the Summit Steering Committee encouraged each roundtable at the Summit to incorporate the framework into their discussions. It was an underlying principle in the outreach to community groups and organizations who were invited to the Summit. Before the Summit, VCPC held a workshop for Commissioners and members of Advisory Boards on the subject of Intersectionality. Led by Women Transforming Cities, the workshop used role playing to bring the idea home to participants.

focused on Intersectionality.

Christine O’Fallon
Steering Committee
Vancouver City Planning Commission

Majka Hahn
Student
Simon Fraser University

Backgrounder: Reconciliation

Reconciliation in all its forms requires patience, openness and courage.

CHIEF DR. ROBERT JOSEPH, HEREDITARY CHIEF OF THE GWAWAENUK FIRST NATIONS

Defining Reconciliation

Reconciliation Commission. Reconciliation is to understand the n shaped by the Truth and and to establish respectful, healthy relationships among people now and in the future. Reconciliation is also about establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships between Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal peoples. n essential part of creating A City for All.

Why Reconciliation?

With colonization, the power imbalance among the Canadian government, settlers, and Indigenous peoples, led to the abuse, assimilation, and marginalization of Indigenous peoples. This relationship imbalance is highlighted through actions such as the Indian Act, the residential school system, and Indian reserves. Recognition and acknowledgement of these past injustices and systemic mistakes that marginalized communities, began the reconciliation process of restoring respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

The term reconciliation in a Canadian context generally refers to the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. ntally different from later groups. However, the tools of reconciliation can also create an inclusive city for other historically marginalized Vancouverites such as Vancouver’s Chinese, Japanese, and Black communities. The process of reconciliation includes examining historical actions such as housing discrimination and displacement through urban renewal that have affected the way certain communities are able to live and interact in Vancouver to the present day.

Context

In 2013, the City of Vancouver passed a motion to proclaim the Year of Reconciliation in Vancouver, endorsing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People which Canada formally adopted in November 2010, and designating Vancouver Vancouver had 5 foundational goals to strengthen local First Nations and Urban Indigenous relations.

<https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/city-of-reconciliation.aspx>

On June 25, 2014, Council also formally acknowledged that the City of Vancouver is situated on the unceded, traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations and

signed a Statement of Cooperation with each of the First Nation communities. Vancouver city staff
Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 Calls to Action as actionable at the
municipal level.

The City is engaged in actions to implement reconciliation in three broad areas to:

- Strengthen Local First Nations and Urban Aboriginal Relations;
 - Promote Aboriginal Peoples Arts, Culture, Awareness and Understanding; and
 - Incorporate First Nations and Urban Aboriginal Perspectives for Effective City Services.
-
- Healthy Cities Strategy, Resilient City, Creative City, City for all Women strategies;
 - Building new Aboriginal health and wellness facilities; and
 -

The City of Vancouver has embedded reconciliation goals into the municipality’s core work, hiring staf
ies. To date there have been over
75 Vancouver initiatives, including the hiring of a City of Vancouver Indigenous Relations Manager,
the establishment of the Urban Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee and several Indigenous civic
cultural and art activities and installations.

The City has also committed to expanding the focus of the City of Reconciliation Framework to other
ethnicities and cultures in Vancouver in 2019.

The process of reconciliation is well underway. This conference roundtable was a report card of sorts
and a look into the future.

Carl Steffans
Student
Simon Fraser University



Canada Day Celebration used with permission Britannia Community Centre

