



YOUTH SERVICES

annual report

2017



WELCOME

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (Park Board) and the Community Centre Associations (CCAs) continue to be strong supporters of young people and their families. Through the community centre system, Park Board strategically funds a Community Youth Development Coordinator and Community Youth Workers (CYWs) in seventeen Vancouver neighbourhoods to ensure there are caring adults who support, mentor, encourage and empower young people. CCAs provide resources such as additional youth staff, supply budgets and out trip funding. Through this partnership, Park Board and CCAs demonstrate ongoing commitment to young people by employing over 120 youth staff annually who implement youth driven programs, events and initiatives. In 2017, more than 144,000 youth visits were recorded. This figure conservatively represents youth visits to programs and drop-in programs that occur when the CYW and youth staff are present. Youth visits at sites without CYWs and youth visits to pools, rinks and fitness centres are not included in the youth visit total. The purpose of this report is to provide a snapshot of the diverse youth driven, 360 degree programming and initiatives offered through the Park Board and CCA partnership. It highlights our community connectedness and the web of support that we provide together with Vancouver youth.



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CITY-WIDE YOUTH SERVICES

The Park Board intentionally shifted toward a city wide model to break down silos and ensure consistency of recreational experiences across the city. The addition of resources to support the city wide focus has enabled:

- Strategic planning in each department
- Better alignment to the shared vision
- City wide coordination on Park Board projects and initiatives
- Consistency in policies and procedures
- Better identification of community trends and service gaps
- Consistency in local offerings
- Additional local recreation opportunities
- Development of partnerships
- Increased community engagement
- Increased participation at external partnership tables

Park Board staff engagement at external youth serving agency tables has been extremely beneficial. The collaboration of passionate advocates has ensured a better understanding of youth issues, service gaps, systemic issues, barriers to participation, available resources and has facilitated the development of partnerships on important initiatives. The CYW team is guided by the principles of accessibility, inclusion, prevention, collaboration, best practices and youth as partners. The following initiatives demonstrate some of the work the Park Board Youth Services Team is doing to put these principles into action:

ACCESSIBILITY and INCLUSION

Park Board Camp Sasamat Trip

CYW's initiated a citywide camping trip to share resources and funding to minimize financial barriers for vulnerable young people. With the financial support of the Len Cederholm Memorial Trust Fund and Community Associations, ten Park Board sites with 100 local youth took part in activities such as team building, swimming, kayaking, archery, hiking, and many other activities.

Night Hoops

The Park Board partners with Night Hoops to provide a positive late night activity for young people. This supportive environment promotes community and personal development through teamwork, fair play, life skills and fun. Night Hoops operates on the principle of inclusion. There are no skill level requirements, no cuts, and Night Hoops is FREE! Youth receive instruction from skilled basketball Coaches who also provide Life Skills Workshops.

Vancouver Youth Week

The Vancouver Youth Week Committee took a youth driven approach to implement the following events:

- Youth Week Dance
- Youth Week Skate Event
- Youth Week 3-on-3 Basketball Tourney

Grant opportunities were created so youth groups from across the city could develop their own Youth Week initiatives. The Park Board's City Wide Youth Council selected the successful applications and determined the amounts awarded.

BEST PRACTICES

Youth Worker Action Team (YWAT)

Park Board CYW's from across the city work together to ensure effective, innovative, responsive programs and services at Vancouver community centres. CYW's meet monthly to discuss mutual concerns, share knowledge, take part in trainings, provide support and work on multi-site projects.

Youth Service Hubs

Park Board CYW's have taken a lead in developing Youth Service Hubs across Vancouver. Regular meetings with youth serving organizations are held as part of an extensive network of prevention and early intervention services for young people in the city. The partnerships, strategies and joint ventures developed between these organizations combine to form a "safety net" of physical, social and emotional support for children and youth in Vancouver.

COLLABORATION

Youth Matters Forum

In concurrence with the Healthy City strategy and the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, every four months, youth serving organizations, ministries, government agencies, community members and young people come together to work toward systems change that will positively affect young people in our community.

Child and Youth Mental Health Substance Use Collaborative

The CYMHSU Collaborative is a group of professionals working towards the common goal of improving the lives of children, youth and families struggling with mental health and substance use issues. The Collaborative's Local Action Teams and Working Groups address communication barriers, service delivery gaps, and coordination of care both locally and system-wide.

PROACTIVE

Responsible Indigenous Strategy for Empowerment (RISE)

RISE is a partnership between the Aboriginal Life in Vancouver Enhancement Society (ALIVE), the Park Board and CCAs. Indigenous youth leaders are employed as paid staff in the Park Board. They receive training, support and connections to employers. As a team, RISE leaders work to identify and support other Indigenous community members and excluded groups to become connected to neighbourhood opportunities. Through this initiative there is a better understanding of social, economic and cultural assets provided by the urban Indigenous community. By involving the Indigenous community in decisions and opportunities, the hope is to educate the Park Board system on reconciliation.

Transition in Resources, Relationships and Understanding Support Together (TRRUST)

TRRUST is a collective impact initiative around the common interest of achieving system-wide improvements in the outcomes for youth transitioning out of foster care in Vancouver. The Park Board Youth Services Team are active participants of this collective.

YOUTH AS PARTNERS

City Wide Youth Council

The CWYC is made up of youth from across Vancouver. CYWs facilitate and empower youth to take on initiatives and provide input on issues of importance to them. They divided themselves into 3 working groups:

- Environmental Committee – organize community clean-ups, recycling events, landfill trips
- Youth Advocacy Committee – provide advocacy and act as a voice for Vancouver youth on issues of importance to the group.
- Social Action Committee – support fundraising initiatives for various causes and do random acts of kindness events.

Neighbourhood Cleanup Party

Youth groups organized Neighbourhood Cleanup Parties to:

- Create a sense of community and purpose for friends, family, and colleagues in their neighbourhood
- Reduce pollution in storm water runoffs that impacts our waterways
- Help neighbourhoods feel vibrant and safe

The City provides the supplies and collects the garbage free of charge.

ABOUT COMMUNITY PROFILES

The next section includes community profiles that are meant to be unique snapshots of the accomplishments in each neighbourhood. They are not meant to be standardized or to be used for comparison purposes as there are many factors that affect quantitative measurement and specific site offerings. Each Park Board site has vastly different resources that directly affect attendance and the overall capacity of the community youth development work done at each community centre. Some factors include:

- Presence of a full time CYW
- Resources for additional Staff
- Designated space for youth that they can take ownership of
- Resources for supplies and equipment
- Highly subsidized programming
- Funding that the youth can access for youth driven initiatives
- Facilities that appeal to youth (games room, gymnasium, Skate Park, pool, rink, etc...)
- Proximity to schools
- Youth friendly environment that is welcoming
- Other local resources
- Partnership opportunities
- Willingness of local organizations to collaborate
- Demographics

Sites that have access to the above listed resources typically have a greater capacity to implement well attended programs.

LEGEND



Community Partnership



Program Highlight



Staff Profile



Youth Speaks

BRITANNIA



1

**only VPB stand-alone
Teen Centre**



1

**only VPB Centre with a Latin
American Youth Worker**



350

**youth attended
Youth Extravaganza Event**

Human Rights Education

Britannia Youth programs have been recognised by Equitas for continued leadership around Children and Human Rights education and training using the Play it Fair and Speaking Rights toolkits. Hundreds of young people have learned about the values of acceptance, cooperation, fairness, inclusion, respect, respect for diversity, and responsibility. They have gained skills for peaceful conflict resolution, had discussions about local and global issues, and are now helping to build inclusive and safer communities. Britannia has been a partner since its pilot over 11 years ago.



Journey Around the Circle Society

Working with the Britannia
55+ Centre and the Journeys
Around the Circle Society, the

Britannia Youth Team developed intergenerational programming for sharing education, culture, stories and understanding, with the intent of taking steps towards reconciliation. Elders and seniors engage with young people by sharing meals, stories and cultural performances. Together they do craft projects, go on out trips, learn about the land and greet the canoes coming in from journey. They have also worked with cedar to make hats, bracelets, and headbands. Connecting youth to Elders helps to guide, teach and educate young people on values and traditions.



Canucks Autism Network

Staff, mentors and youth from
Britannia have partnered
with the Canucks Autism

Network (CAN) to facilitate a youth and young adult Dragonboat team. Approximately 18 young people on the spectrum are provided an opportunity to learn how to dragonboat, be part of a team, and compete in regattas. For many of the people involved, this is a first experience in the sport. Dragonboat requires fitness, strategy, concentration, timing, stamina, mental fortitude and teamwork to make a flatbottom boat travel 500m as fast as they can! Everyone on the team has been positive and supportive of each other, and all get excited when they receive their racing jersey! All the effort during warm ups, practices, and practice regattas culminates in our racing in the Vancouver Concord Pacific Dragonboat Festival, which is the largest in North America! 2017 was our third year working with CAN, and Britannia is the 2 time defending champion in our division!



CHAMPLAIN HEIGHTS



4793

total youth visits



2390

engaged in recreational activities



744

participated in volunteering



Champlain Youth Council (CYC)

The CYC was looking for a way to have a greater impact in their community and decided to initiate a community clean-up. As a collective, they selected Everett Crowley Park to be the perfect choice for the undertaking. Eleven young people signed up setting the stage for a fun outing on a beautiful Saturday afternoon.

As the group of young people began the planning phase of their outing, they partnered with the Keep Vancouver Spectacular (KVS) team who helped provide members with supplies needed. They picked up the tools and also arranged to pick-up the collected garbage. The group of youth picked up garbage along the walk to the park and interacted with community members who thanked them for their volunteer work.



Intergenerational Program

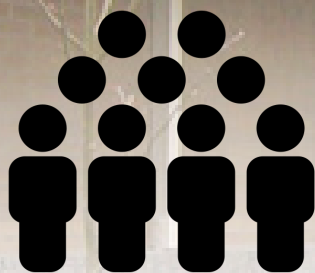
Living in such a diverse neighbourhood that boasts an eclectic mix of people from all walks of life, the CYC wanted to reach out to local partners to create more inter-generation opportunities in the community. With a clear vision in mind, the CYC were able to partner with SouthView Terrace that houses over fifty rental units catered to seniors. The retirement home welcomed the initiative with open arms as a group of youth organized two separate visits over their spring break holidays to meet and greet the seniors in their games lounge.

During the first visit, the youth introduced themselves and partnered with the seniors to ask them questions on their life story. Recording the information, the youth created a PowerPoint to present during the second visit the following week. With even more seniors present, the youth took centre stage and presented their partners to the crowd sharing the stories heard the week earlier.

The finale had the two groups playing games and sharing jokes. The CYC looks to return to SouthView Terrace in May 2018 to take part in card games and run a bingo event in June to cap off the school year.



DOUGLAS PARK



5745

total youth visits



3638

engaged in recreational activities



1042

participated in volunteering

Summer Leadership Camping Trip

This pre-teen program saw some amazing growth in 2017. Starting in January, a small group of 10 pre-teens were selected to participate in monthly meetings that focused on various aspects of leadership including developing a sense of community belonging, group dynamics, team building, volunteerism and inclusion friendly spaces.

Each month they completed activities to demonstrate the importance of these topics. After each activity they had a fulsome discussion about what they were going to take away from the learning activity. Once on the camping trip all participants had a role to make our camp life fun – these included cooking, cleaning, setting up their own tents as well as participating in more learning activities including exercises on values and personality types.

To be able to attend this camp all the participants were required to attend the monthly meetings and to volunteer for the Soccer Wrap-up. The Soccer Wrap-up consists of one evening and a full day of volunteering; putting together approximately 1000 hotdog lunches! The money raised from this large event covered the cost for all of the participants to go to camp at no cost. They really love the fact that this event creates the possibility for any youth to participate and be the leader that they feel they should be.



Youth Week Grant

Through the Vancouver Parks Board – the Sr. Youth Council at Douglas Park applied for and received a small grant to run their Youth Week event. This year their event was a games café. They set up five different games and had one council member host a game at each table. They played Happy Salmon, Apples to Apples, Ticket to Ride, Exploding Kittens and a few more made the rotation. In addition to playing games the Sr. Council prepared several popcorn bags and juice boxes for all participants. Everyone went home with some Youth Week Swag and it was another successful event.

DUNBAR



5262
total youth visits



2360
engaged in recreational activities



2902
participated in volunteering

New Dedicated Youth Space



With a goal in mind to create a safe and inviting space to appeal to youth, the Dunbar Youth Group, with the support of their CYW, presented a Games Room proposal to the Dunbar Community Centre Association (DCCA). The Youth Group worked collectively to come up with a functional design that would attract and welcome youth to engage in social recreation at Dunbar. The DCCA approved the proposal and provided funding to equip the space with a brand new pool table, foosball, table tennis, tv, gaming consoles, lounge furniture and workspace. Finally, in December, the Youth Group celebrated the opening of the Games Room with a Banana Split Bar and free-for-all games night. Turnout was exceptional and included families with youth of all ages. The Games Room is currently fully operational and open exclusively for youth every day after school and on weekends.

Youth Bootcamp

Following a request from local youth, a 4-week youth-only Bootcamp was run at West Memorial Park. The purpose of the camp was not only to promote active living in youth, but also to provide them with knowledge of nutritious snack options and low-barrier access to regular physical activity.

The boot camp ran every session free of charge on a drop-in basis. Each session began with warm-up and positive affirmations promoting increased self-worth. Depending on weather, the workout was held either outdoors at West Memorial Park or indoors at Dunbar Community Centre. Following a 45-minute training circuit, youth were provided with a healthy post-workout snack subsidized by the DCCA.

Following bootcamp, for those interested, a one-on-one personal plan for ongoing fitness options was created with the CYW who is a certified personal trainer. What began as a group of 3 female youth interested in working out grew into a group of 12-16 co-ed youth with a desire to stay active and gaining an increased awareness of the benefits of healthy living.



FALSE CREEK



3187

total youth visits



1672

engaged in physical recreation



1398

participated in partners

New Initiatives

Previously at the False Creek Community Centre, there was a focus on social and instructional programming for the pre-teen age group. In 2017, the youth staff team with consultation from youth began implementing a well-rounded continuum of offerings for young people in the community. Now, in addition to the pre-teen programs, secondary school youth can take part in employment training, capacity building workshops, volunteer opportunities, food education programs, physical activities, city wide out trips and social events. Some of the new youth programs include dragon boating, drop-in gym times, youth only lounge times, snowboarding, dodgeball and out trips throughout the lower mainland. This shift should see more local youth learning, playing, volunteering and engaging in decision making at their community centre.



Youth Speaks

"My name is Skye and I have been part of False Creek Community Centre since preschool. I have grown up here, went to daycare here, and attended programs here. The programs at False Creek are important to me and to others because I believe in giving back to my community, and because it gives us something to do during the week and especially Friday nights. I like being able to hang out with friends on a Friday night in a safe space close to our homes. The volunteer work has been very important to me because of the skills you learn and the different opportunities available. I just started volunteering in the False Creek Community Centre Birthday Parties and I hope to one day become the staff person for it." - Skye

Youth Staff Profiles

Tamara and Jay Jay are testimonials of the benefit of having caring adults in the community to provide opportunities, encouragement and guidance. They started out as youth volunteers and with the support of Park Board staff, developed skills through training, mentoring and volunteering. For the past five years they have been Park Board Program Assistants providing programs and events in partnership with youth in the False Creek area. Tamara and Jay Jay create a safe atmosphere that is engaging and fun. They are kind, positive, funny and patient people who have proven to be fantastic leaders and role models.



HASTINGS



5683

total youth visits



2540

engaged in recreational activities



730

participated in volunteering

Hastings Hydras

The Hastings Hydras, established in 2014, is a youth dragon boat team at Hastings Community Centre. Throughout the season, the team participates in three regattas including North America's largest race, the Concord Pacific Dragon Boat Festival.

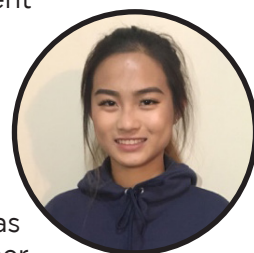
The team is for youth in grades 8 to 12. During the season, the paddlers are exposed to proper dragon boating techniques and fun while establishing bonds with the other youth on the team. The primary focus of the team is to offer a fun and safe environment for the youth while developing leadership and teamwork skills. The team practices weekly, rain or shine.



Although the Hastings Hydras is a recreational team, through the commitment and determination of the youth, the team has been performing admirably during their races. Since the establishment of the Hastings Hydras, the team has consistently finished in the top 3 in the B division.

Youth Staff Profile

Joanne is an outgoing, positive, and well-rounded leader. Her involvement with Hastings Community Centre has helped shape her personal character. She is a responsible, young role model in our community.



Ever since grade 10, Joanne has contributed numerous volunteer hours in the Hastings Community. She is not only a participant in special events, but assists with the planning and setting up processes. Aside from volunteering, Joanne is also one of the top paddlers for the community's dragon boat team. With her endless amount of support and encouragement to her peers, she has been a role model to the team. She has provided support to our Pre-Teen program, summer day camps and birthday parties.

HILLCREST



11 023

total youth visits



2772

engaged in recreational activities



2106

participated in volunteering

Partnerships

The Midtown Youth Services Hub has been working collaboratively for four years. It is made up of youth service providers including Park Board, Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Public Library, Neighbourhood Houses, Mosaic, Immigrant Services Society, S.U.C.C.E.S.S., Milieu Children and Family Services and Pacific Community Resources Society. The purpose of this Hub is to create a safety net of support for young people in the Mount Pleasant and Riley Park communities. Participants of the Hub discuss ways to support youth, community trends, service gaps, solutions for service gaps and collaborative initiatives. One of these initiatives in 2017 was the creation of community centre and neighbourhood house tours for youth and families new to Canada. Feedback from the families was extremely positive and many of the families continue to visit the facilities.

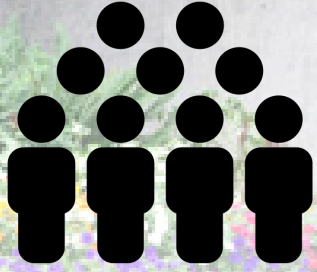
Programs

Due to popular demand, the creation of an additional Saturday night Youth Open Gym & Games Room time (5-8pm after community centre hours) was created. Attendance averaged well over 45 youth each week. This new Open Gym served to extend our successful (and packed!) Friday gym time. It enables youth from Tupper and Eric Hamber Secondary Schools to connect, play and engage through gym activities... all for free.

Youth created a carnival-themed Haunted House and welcomed hundreds of ghouls and goblins to Hillcrest in October, an annual tradition enjoyed by all! The Youth Special Events Crew also celebrated with the community at Hillcrest Summer Festival, the opening of the Variety/Challenger Field, the Farmer's Markets and the Riley Park Community Garden



KENSINGTON



5808
total youth visits



4274
engaged in recreational activities



467
participated in volunteering

Kensington Leadership Programs

Kensington CC runs leadership programs through the year for Grades 6-12. The emphasis for these programs is to assist young people in developing core leadership skills such as, effective communication, goal setting, problem solving, understanding social dynamics, ethical decision making and event planning and implementation. These themes are explored through workshops, committee work and practical volunteer experience. Youth are also encouraged to have a voice in decision making in their community so they can learn from these experiences and make a difference. Another focus of the leadership programs is on individual development. Life skills such as mindfulness, positive thinking, resume writing, interviewing skills, physical literacy, and healthy development are developed.



Volunteering Program

Kensington CC Youth Council meets every Saturday from 12-2pm from September to June. This group collaborates to enhance eleven Kensington Community Centre Association (CCA) Special Events and ensures sufficient youth volunteer support. Some of these events include the Halloween Pumpkin Decorating, Xmas Craft Fair, Breakfast with Santa, Family Day, Breakfast with Bunny, Canada Day and Music and Movie in the Park. The Youth Council also organizes youth driven events for youth. Past events have included sport tournaments, fundraisers, youth parties and volunteer appreciation events. Additional volunteering opportunities for all local youth include event day support, day camp assistant leaders for summer, winter and spring breaks and Gray Park summer playground assistant leaders.

KILLARNEY



9360

total youth visits



6421

engaged in recreational activities



1328

participated in volunteering

Project Warmth

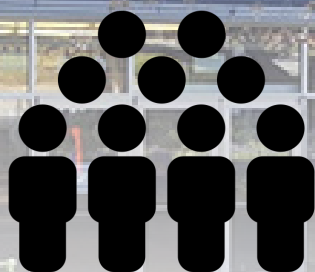
Each year 20-30 members of Killarney Youth Council reach out to Vancouver hotels seeking blankets and toiletries, which they then handout at the Powell Street Getaway in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. This year KYC also ran a clothing drive in the community centre, providing an opportunity for members of the public to donate clothes to the visitors to Powell Street Getaway, many of whom are homeless. On event day the KYC members set-up tables at the Getaway and guide visitors to pick up donations. This is a very important event for KYC as it requires the application of significant teamwork, organizational, and communication skills. It also fosters the development of empathy in the youth through observing and interacting with street entrenched people, which is not an opportunity they would often have in the Killarney community. At the end of the event KYC decided they hadn't had enough time interacting with the visitors to the Getaway and are now planning another excursion there for later in the year.



Partnership

In 2017 the Killarney Youth Office partnered with the Vancouver School Board and Multicultural Helping House to run a series of programs for new immigrant youth. A basketball program was piloted. The success of the basketball program led to youth requesting the addition of a hip-hop and volleyball program. Potential volunteer instructors were approached and soon all three programs were running on Saturday nights. Each week 10-20 youth attended these physical recreation programs. They developed skills, built friendships, and practiced their English language skills. This positive partnership occurred throughout 2017 and the partners have committed to continue working with this group throughout 2018.

MARPOLE OAKRIDGE



8804

total youth visits



3980

engaged in recreational activities



1402

participated in volunteering

Youth Dragon Boat Team

The Marpole United Nations Youth Dragon Boat team was created just under 3 years ago. Generous contributions from the Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre Association made this team possible. The goal is to engage vulnerable youth that may not have the opportunity to Dragon Boat due to financial, language and social barriers. The team receives referrals from high schools across the lower mainland and also from organizations such as South Vancouver Neighborhood House and Kids Safe. The youth on the team are diverse coming from different walks of life but the cool thing is that they always feel welcome on the boat and the language barrier is not an issue. The team members have created their very own sense of community and it is inclusive & supportive to all new paddlers and anyone who would like to join. The coaches, Sherry Lin, Tyler Lim, and Lina Kim have been a huge support for this team to get off the ground, they are the true heart of the team really pulling it together. All three coaches have paddling experience and have built meaningful relationships with the youth. No matter what the level of fitness everyone gets to paddle. Throughout the seasons the team consistently brought in over 30 committed youth, most of whom were new immigrants. This year, the team won a bronze and silver medal in two of their races.



First Annual Volunteer & Career Fair

This past fall the Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre partnered with Sir Winston Churchill's Career Prep teacher to host Churchill's first Volunteer & Career Fair. The idea behind this event was to bring in businesses and organizations to promote and share resources, programming and volunteer/job opportunities to the students. It provided excellent opportunities for these organizations to recruit potential candidates for seasonal employment and support for summer programming. The turnout was great with over 120 students trickling in between 3:00pm-4:30pm to view the 38 community booths in attendance. This will now be an annual event.

MOUNT PLEASANT



13 360
total youth visits



6421
engaged in recreational activities



1328
participated in volunteering

Community Action Project

The Mount Pleasant Girls group received a grant (\$500) from Equitas (International Centre for Human Rights Education) to launch a Community Action Project (CAP) in support of female youth in our community. The group realized that many female youth lack the financial resources to access female hygiene products, such as: pads, tampons, deodorant and razors. There is often an inability to afford these products, yet it is a necessity for health and well-being. It is embarrassing and disempowering for female teens to suffer the consequences of poor hygiene. The girls group wanted to change this and remove the financial barrier. They wanted to engage the community on this issue and that's why the group came up with "Hygiene Queens" Tampon & Pad Drive for at-risk female youth. The drive was hosted at Mount Pleasant Community front desk for 28 days (June 18th – July 16, 2017). The goal was to collect 500 products (Specifically: boxes of tampons and pads, packs of razors and deodorant) through community contributions and distribute them to the Broadway Youth Resource Centre and the East Vancouver Youth Clinic, where female youth in need can access the free products. This was a very successful and meaningful project for the girls. They end up exceeding their goal of 500 products.



CHILL Snowboarding and Girls-Only Stand Up Paddle Boarding

The Chill Foundation provides opportunities for at risk and under-served youth to build self-esteem and life skills through snowboard and stand up paddle board sports. Mount Pleasant CC was provided with got 5 spots for snowboarding this year. Youth were also able to take part in girls-only stand up paddle boarding. This program was a hit with the youth and was great for motivating the youth to accomplish goals they never thought they could. It teaches them important life skills through snowboarding and stand up paddle boarding.

RAY CAM



95

youth support connections



48

free weekly programs



1

only pop-up clinic for youth
in Vancouver

RISE Leader Snapshot



Crystal Asham is the RISE (Responsible Indigenous Strategy for Empowerment) Leader at Ray-Cam Community Centre. The RISE Program is a partnership between ALIVE Society (Aboriginal Life in Vancouver Enhancement), the CCA and the Park Board that promotes cross cultural understanding through community-building activities and recreational programming in community centres. Crystal is a warm, inclusive, educated and culturally informed person who brings a wealth of skills, abilities and personality to the Centre, she has been actively involved in a number of community activities and programs at Ray-Cam including after school tutoring, parent education groups and youth support. Crystal has lead several workshops sharing Indigenous culture including medicine bag making and dream catchers. Crystal is currently pursuing the funding to lead a series of workshops in which participants will make their own pair of mukluks. Crystal's overarching goal is to increase knowledge, respect, and understanding of the richness and diversity of Indigenous culture and to enrich cross cultural connections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members. Get a hold of crystal at crystal.asham@vancouver.ca.

NASKARZ

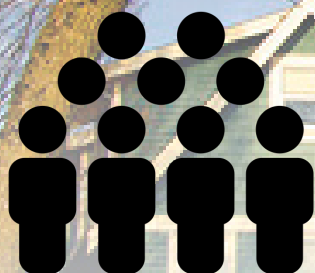
NASKARZ (Never Again Steal Cars) is an innovative program that addresses youth and gang crime through mentorship and positive relationships. Developed in partnership between Ray-Cam Cooperative Centre, Vancouver Community College (VCC), and the Vancouver Police Department (VPD), this award-winning program offers young people from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside automotive, social and educational opportunities.

Cars are the just hook into the program. NASKARZ program is important for its participants' futures because these kids are not hungry for crime; they're starved for opportunity. The Insurance Corporation of BC credits NASKARZ as one of the initiatives that led to a 71% multi-year reduction in car-theft in Vancouver.



An annual Soapbox Derby for local children and youth, organized and delivered in partnership with Vancouver Police Foundation and VPD, now attracts teams from supporting businesses and organizations raising money for the program. The soapbox racers are built by youth in NASKARZ program at VCC, under the guidance of volunteers from Jelly Beans Autocrafters. Money raised goes toward funding NASKARZ.

STRATHCONA



7234
total youth visits



1338
engaged in recreational activities



1818
participated in volunteering



Munchie Bus Partnership

Street Life, in partnership with Park Board CYWs from Strathcona and Ray-Cam provides the only mobile youth drop-in centre in Vancouver. The Munchie Bus is a renovated thirty-eight-foot RV that enables youth staff to meet young people both literally and figuratively where they are at. It is a safe space for marginalized, street entrenched young people between the ages of 12 and 25 to access resources. Hot meals, beverages, blankets, toiletries, socks, referrals and access to a caring adult are offered Friday nights from 7:30pm-10:15pm at Georgia and Hawkes Street. This unique resource ensures that youth staff are able to respond to the ever changing needs of vulnerable youth in the Strathcona community.

Graduation Strategy



Pathways to Education is a national, charitable organization breaking the cycle of poverty through education. This award-winning program is creating positive social change by supporting youth living in low-income communities to overcome barriers to education, graduate from high school, and build a foundation for a successful future. In the downtown eastside, the program is part of the community-driven Our Place Graduation Strategy, a place-based approach to improving the educational success of children and youth living in the inner city. This partnership between Strathcona, Ray-Cam, Pacific Community Resources Society and Pathways to Education offers four free supports:

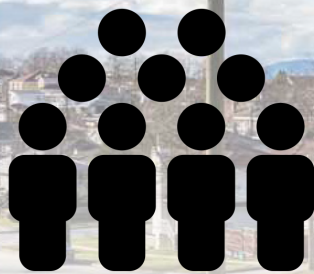
TUTORING - Youth are offered after-school tutoring 4 times per week at Strathcona Community Centre.

MENTORING - Youth explore, discover, and build upon their interests through fun group activities and mentoring relationships.

FINANCIAL SUPPORTS - Youth can receive financial supports such as bus tickets and grocery gift cards by actively participating in the program.

ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT - Youth will be provided with one-to-one individualized support. Pathways staff will work closely with parents, school staff, and other community resources to ensure youth have the support they need to stay in school.

RENFREW PARK



3970
total youth visits

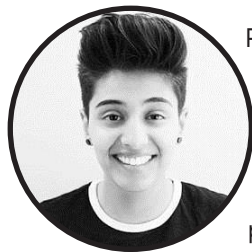


1929
engaged in recreational activities



1483
participated in volunteering

Youth Staff Profile



Riya has been with the Park Board since 2013. During this time she has worked extensively with youth as an open gym supervisor, program leader, out-trip supervisor, and day camp manager. Riya grew up in the Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood and fostered a passion for giving back to her community at a young age. Due to her commitment to volunteering and substantial involvement coaching high school sport teams, Renfrew staff saw her leadership, maturity, and skill working with young people. They recruited her to run programs and since then, Riya has dedicated several years to developing positive relationships with local youth and her presence has helped

increase the number of youth flowing through Renfrew Community Centre. Most recently, Riya initiated Renfrew's first-ever girl's Night Hoops basketball team. She took on the role of coordinating the girl's division for Night Hoops and ran a successful 6-week season with unprecedented turnout and impeccable organization. Riya recently graduated from Simon Fraser University and is confident that her major in criminology and minor in counselling and human development has further prepared her for working with vulnerable populations. Riya demonstrates social responsibility, respect, and professionalism to not only the youth she works with, but her colleagues and peers alike.

Youth Celebrate Canada Day

This youth-driven community event has been running for over two decades at Renfrew Park Community Centre. Planning for the event begins in late December, by a coordinating committee comprised of youth in grades 8 to 12 from Windermere Secondary School. The committee meets weekly to discuss agenda items such as event promotion, budgeting, family activities, crafts, food sales, and entertainment. Members of the committee write small grants, seek donations from community agencies, and build positive relationships with community members and businesses. With minimal direction from community centre staff, youth plan and implement this Canada day event that draws out hundreds of people from the community, rain or shine. Youth Celebrate Canada Day is a testament to the leadership and coordinating abilities of the youth. They continuously demonstrate teamwork, collaboration, professionalism and maturity. The event would not be possible without their tenacity to overcome the challenges that inevitably come with planning and implementing a large event.



ROUND HOUSE



5428
total youth visits



1097
engaged in recreational activities



4326
participated in physical recreation



Skate Host

The Skate Host program is a partnership with the Vancouver Skateboard Coalition (VSBC), Roundhouse Community Centre Association (RCCA) and Park Board. It has been running successfully for over 12 years during the summer at the

Downtown Skate Park. Skate Hosts are Park Board staff, hired to ensure a safe environment, teach skate skills and etiquette and maintain positive relationships with community members. Safety, creativity and originality are encouraged over pure skill.

Jeff Cole from the VSBC is an integral part of the Skate Host program and the skateboard community. He recruits, mobilizes, and inspires young skateboarders. Jeff, VSBC and Park Board staff collaborate with the Vancouver Youth Week Committee to run a Skateboard event for Youth Week. It has been a huge success for many years. The event is a skateboard contest combined with a jam and demonstration for ages 5-18. There are prizes available for everyone regardless of skill level. Skateboarders of all ages respect the space, enjoy the festivities and skate together safely with no issue.



Youth Staff Profile

Stratos Charalambides has been a participant in programs at Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre (RCARC) since he was 10 years old. Growing up in the neighborhood, Stratos finished over 500 volunteer hours at RCARC. Because Stratos is a well-known and dedicated community member, he was hired to work the Friday night youth drop-in in 2012. He is passionate about working at RCARC with young people and he takes the time to engage with everyone who comes into the centre. Stratos has great connections with children, youth and his peers. He has a big heart, is kind, caring and always has a smile! He is an integral part of the youth leader team at RCARC! Stratos is a role model to many and is committed to encourage others to live a healthy and active lifestyle. He can be found at RCARC working in various roles including, parent and tot supervisor, youth gym supervisor, front desk receptionist and building supervisor. If you see him, don't be shy, say hi!

SUNSET



19 075
total youth visits



6403
engaged in recreational activities



1836
participated in volunteering



Abilities Club Morning Café

The Park Board and Vancouver School Board's Life Skills Program partner to implement the Abilities Club Morning Café. Students with diverse abilities gain valuable employment and life skills education. On Wednesday mornings, the students set up a full-service coffee shop for Sunset Community Centre (SCC) patrons. Many of the students are looking toward future employment in the service industry and the café gets them started on the right track. Community centre patrons and staff are thrilled to have such a cheerful group of students serving up freshly ground coffee, tasty pastries, and healthy freshly prepared snacks. Recently, the café students have begun filling large catering orders for centre youth programs. Money raised

goes directly back into the program to keep it sustainable. Staff, partners, and youth at SCC are always proactively searching for new ways to promote youth development and this initiative is a fine example of innovation being put into practice.

Community Partnership



The OnyxWorks program is a PLEA Community Services initiative in partnership with the SCC. OnyxWorks is a free, confidential, voluntary support service for youth under the age of 19. The program is for young people of all genders and orientations, who are at risk of being sexually exploited. OnyxWorks is a no barrier, fast-response service tailored to each youth's strengths, needs and circumstances. Youth are encouraged to establish their own goals and to participate in developing their service and safety plans. Once contact is made and a positive relationship is formed, OnyxWorks works with each youth to access practical resources relevant to their individual situation. Youth gain a temporary work placement (fully paid through OnyxWorks) in the community centre. With the support

and guidance of the CYW the youth gain valuable life and employment experience including punctuality, accountability, self-determination, independence, communication, workplace safety, group work dynamics and the CYW acts as a valuable reference for future employment opportunities for the youth.

THUNDER BIRD



11 770

total youth visits



4952

engaged in recreational activities



3421

participated in volunteering

Youth Incentive Program

The Youth Incentive Program (YIP) provides young people the opportunity to gain employment and social skills while connecting them to positive mentors. Youth are supported to receive training such as first aid, Food Safe, and High Five that they can add to their resume. Youth staff work with the young people to build a professional resume and to gain interview experience. The youth are then set up for success in a volunteer placement that matches their interest and skill set. At the end of the program, they earn an honorarium as a token of appreciation for their commitment. YIP ensures inner-city youth have a challenging, rewarding and successful learning experience. Youth who successfully complete YIP placements exit the program with the foundational skills needed to secure entry level positions in the workforce. YIP facilitates intrapersonal development by increasing confidence, self-esteem, self-worth, and positive identity. The connection to the community centre, the centre staff and community members allows youth to build a larger support network in their neighbourhood. This enables youth to feel a sense of belonging and to maintain positive influential relationships that are essential in supporting healthy development.



Diversity Camp

Thunderbird Youth Services took part in the Diversity Camp at Camp Capilano. The camp was planned in partnership with 5 Park Board Community Centres and their Youth Workers. With inspiration from the Equitas Speaking Rights program, this two night camping trip was geared toward fun outdoor recreation experiences and educating young people, between the ages of 13-18, on human rights issues. During one activity, youth were asked to share their experiences and feelings on racism and discrimination. The discussion was engaging and the youth provided thoughtful input. They brainstormed strategies to address discrimination, racism and exclusion. In addition to the dialogue, youth were asked to participate in leadership activities that promote human rights, non-discrimination and peaceful conflict resolution.

TROUT LAKE



16 939

total youth visits



91

members in youth council



9 & 2

**community clean ups
& large-scale recycling events**

Community Clean Ups

Trout Lake Community Centre's (TLCC) youth are committed to keeping the community clean and vibrant.

Keep Vancouver Spectacular (KVS) is a volunteer program within the City of Vancouver that encourages individuals, businesses and organizations to take part in litter pick up, graffiti removal, and other activities that keep Vancouver's streets clean. For the past four years, Trout Lake Community Centre's Youth Council (YC) hosted monthly KVS Community Clean Ups in their neighbourhood.



In 2017, about 150 YC members took part in these KVS neighbourhood cleanup events. Every third Saturday, youth were geared up with gloves, garbage pickers, and trash bags to clean up garbage in John Hendry Park and the Trout Lake Beach area. In addition, Trout Lake youth participate in the KVS Annual Electronic Drop Off. On February 27, 2017, a team of 42 youth helped collect and sort electronic waste and small appliances for recycling in the TLCC parking lot. Over 13 200 pounds of items were collected during the three hour event.



RecycleFest Partnership

RecycleFest was hosted at TLCC on Saturday, July 22, 2017. TLCC partnered with ElectroRecycle, a small appliance and power tool recycling program, to encourage the recycling of appliances and power tools. Trout Lake youth received, sorted, and recycled unwanted small appliances and power tools from the community. The youth volunteers led craft activities, ran a hotdog BBQ concession, and hosted mini community clean ups every hour.

Through these activities, Trout Lake youth demonstrate their commitment to their community and the environment. Trout Lake Youth Council hope to inspire other youth to get involved in keeping their communities clean.

WEST END & COAL HARBOUR



6441

total youth visits



5600

engaged in recreational activities



814

participated in volunteering



**Vancouver
CoastalHealth**

The SACY Leadership and Resiliency program (LRP) is a youth leadership and engagement program serving late elementary and early secondary school youth in Vancouver. The program is open to youth attending the schools where the program operates, with priority given to youth who could benefit from increased connection to peers, adults, school and community.

The program engages youth in weekly resiliency groups, monthly adventure based programming, and monthly community volunteer experiences to support the achievement of these outcomes.

The West End Community Centre provides room space for the weekly resiliency group and the Community Youth Worker (CYW) supports the program by attending the weekly groups and monthly adventure activities. The CYW also supports the LRP youth through their monthly volunteering activities at the Community Centres' special events.

The presence of a CYW in the LRP provides an opportunity for the CYW to build relationships with vulnerable youth they might not otherwise be in contact with. This connection helps provide a "safety net" of physical, social and emotional support.

The SACY LRP Youth Engagement Facilitator, in return, supports West End and Coal Harbour's existing programs through educational workshops for youth and staff, referral of youth to existing programs and program collaborations.



Youth Staff Profile

Daniel B. has been a participant in programs at the West End CC since he was 6 years old.

Daniel is a respected, socially responsible and engaged leader in his community. Through over 1000 hours of volunteer service at the West End and Coal Harbour Community Centres, he has assisted with implementing social and recreational programs for pre-teens, provided engagement opportunities for families at special events, and been an avid participant in the Youth Incentive Program, a leadership program for youth who are outstanding role models in the community.

Daniel exemplifies the qualities of an effective young leader - thoughtful, kind, caring, inquisitive and hard working. He is a pillar of positivity not only for younger children and youth, but also for his peers. Daniel has undoubtedly developed healthy relationships with community members of all ages and backgrounds.

In 2017, Daniel was hired as a Program Assistant with the Park Board. Since September, Daniel supervises the children and pre-teen drop-in hockey program on Fridays, and supports staff in our Pre-Teen Night program.

THANK YOU

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

