



YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

2018/2019



INTRODUCTION

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (Park Board) and Community Centre Associations (CCA) continue to be strong supporters of young people and their families. 2018/2019 was filled with many successes and opportunities for youth in Vancouver. Some of these success are briefly highlighted in this report. Community Youth Workers continue advocating for young people based on the six youth service guiding principles.

YOUTH SERVICES GUIDING PRINCIPLES

ACCESSIBILITY



COLLABORATIVE



INCLUSIVITY



YOUTH AS
PARTNERS



BEST PRACTICE



PROACTIVE



2018 AT A GLANCE

47,116

Youth Volunteer Hours

1,521

Total Volunteers

1,711

Unique Programs

\$652,562

Worth of Volunteer Service



"The Youth Incentive Program is the most exciting part of my week."

-Grade 10 student

ACCESSIBILITY



EIGHT
ADAPTED YOUTH
PROGRAMS

YOUTH IN ACTION (YIA)

YIA is a Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) funded program for teens with mild to moderate behavioural and developmental needs. Youth participate in fun, challenging activities in a safe recreational environment. Youth must first be Registered with a CYSN through MCFD.



\$28,600
IN YOUTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

"Volunteering at the Community Centre is so much fun! The environment is so welcoming and everyone who works there is so kind"

- Youth Participant

"No Matter where I go this place will always feel like home"

- Youth Participant

ACCESSIBILITY

Youth Spaces Survey

In 2018 the City Wide Youth Council identified a lack of youth-only spaces in Vancouver and wanted to learn about other young people's perspectives on youth spaces. They created a survey, distributed it across the city and received 542 completed responses. Key findings were:

- 80% of all youth responded 'yes' that they needed a youth only space, with an even higher percentage from female (88%) and LGBTQ2+ (85%) youth
- 80% of youth surveyed believed that youth spaces should exist in all centres, 91% of youth identifying as female answered yes to this question.
- 82% of all youth surveyed believed that community centres should have a youth worker, 91% of youth identifying as female responded yes to this question.
- 70% of all youth feel that program fees prevent or somewhat prevent them from participating in program with an even higher percentage of female (75%) and LGBTQ@+ (75%) youth feeling cost is a barrier for their participation





INCLUSIVE



83 CHILL Participants

Since 2015 CHILL has been working with the Parks Board to help inspire youth to overcome challenges through board sports. Six core values are taught over six days, using board sports to teach these life skills and increase self-esteem. This free program focuses on resiliency to help youth reach their full potential and see that there is a path out of their current circumstances,



"I'm thankful that CHILL has given me a skill and a brand new hobby. I can focus on that instead of the problems that surround me"

-CHILL Snowboarding Participant

INCLUSIVE



QUEER PROM

This year, in partnership with youth, the Douglas Park Community Centre hosted a Queer Prom. It was incredibly heart-warming and special to see the youth be themselves and have a space to have fun, just for them to celebrate their graduation.



R.I.S.E.

The Responsible Indigenous Strategy for Empowerment (RISE) is a partnership with ALIVE, the Park Board and CCAs. RISE leaders identify and support Indigenous community members and excluded groups to connect to opportunities.



CAMP SASAMAT

Camp Sasamat is an inclusive, outdoor learning opportunity that challenges youth to try new activities in a safe and encouraging way. Youth participate in kayaking, high ropes, archery, and socialized with peers in the outdoors!

BEST PRACTICES

2018 Strategic Plan

We facilitated 17 strategic planning sessions across the city and engaged 262 youth representing 32 different schools. This is what we heard:

Why do youth come to the Community Centre?

- Hang out with friends in youth only spaces and meet people
- Free or low cost programs and events
- Volunteer, gain work experience, develop life skills and to give back to community

Why do you think some young people do not come to the Community Centre?

- No youth room, nowhere to hang, adults taking over spaces and no youth staff
- Don't feel welcome, friends are banned, or they feel judged by grumpy adults
- The program they want isn't there

What qualities would your ideal Youth Staff have?

- Caring, kind, thoughtful, understanding, empathetic, nice, humble, like family
- Optimistic, positive, smiling, friendly, personable, welcoming, approachable
- Cool, chill, funny, young, athletic, fun, relate-able, survived adversity

What would you like to provide input on across the city?

- Housing, homelessness, developments
- Transit
- How the city is run, affordability, wages

Data from the strategic planning sessions will guide our work for the next 5 years.



BEST PRACTICES



Youth Service Safe Work Procedures

In 2018/2019, we underwent a Youth Services Review with the intent of ongoing improvement and creating safe, welcoming and inclusive spaces for all young people. We completed site visits, a policy and procedure review, training assessment and are in the process of developing new Safe Work Procedures.

CYMHSU Collaborative Youth Mental Health Resource Fair

The Children and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative hosted a Youth Services Mental Health Resource Fair with 25+ service providers and 100+ participants. We had a esteemed panel of professionals speaking to the significance of harm reduction and trauma informed practice.

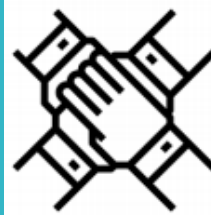


COLLABORATION



"These hub meetings organized by the community youth worker help connect our community to better service the youth in the neighbourhood. This inclusive format drives what we are all trying to do and puts youth in the forefront"

-Community Partner



257 Partners And Collaborations

Community Youth Workers work with partner organizations to best support youth in the community. Using case management techniques to support youth they are able to build connections in order to provide outreach and referrals as necessary.

Positive Tickets

Youth who are witnessed displaying positive behaviours could receive a Positive Ticket, redeemable for four complimentary drop-in visits to any Vancouver Park Board pool, fitness centre, or ice rink.

COLLABORATION

"Our program is so much more successful because of partnerships and generosity of partners with other community organizations. Thank you for supporting us in accessing your space and we look forward to future opportunities."

- Jen Donovan (SACY LRP)



SACY LRP WITH VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH

The leadership and resiliency program (LRP) engages youth in weekly resiliency group and monthly adventure based programming and community volunteer experiences. Park Board Community Youth Workers act as co-facilitators for the sessions and build relationships with vulnerable youth. This connection helps provide a 'safety net' of physical and emotional support.

MORESPO RTS

Moresports creates and facilitates recreational programs for children aged 5-13 that promote sport and leadership development. Supported by a city-wide network of community partners, they ensure positive engagement and experiences among youth. Community Youth Workers work with and support hub developers in planning and offering a variety sports and physical activity programs in multiple neighborhoods across the city, and often help with leadership development for youth coaches and volunteers.





MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCE FAIR

In 2019, the City Wide Youth Council in partnership with the Killarney Youth Council planned and implemented a Mental Health Resource Fair for youth on their school Professional Development Day. 60+ youth took part, gained skills and learned about resources that support positive mental health.

CAMP DIVERSITY

Camp Diversity is a multi centre camping trip for youth over Spring Break. This camp explores social justice, leadership and equality through workshops, games and activities that encourage critical thinking, empathy and responsibility. Youth act as drivers in conversations, and create bonds with each other and staff through their learning and enjoyment at camp.



YOUTH AS PARTNERS

YOUTH AS PARTNERS

99,350
Youth Visits
across community
centres



VanPlay Youth Deep Dive

The Vancouver Park Board (VPB) initiated an in-depth consultation process called VanPlay that would inform a new master plan to guide the delivery of vibrant parks and recreation over the next 25 years. The VanPlay process included robust data collection and analysis, research on international best practice and consultation with the public, VPB staff, partners, stakeholders and experts. The VPB Community Youth Workers (CYWs) brought together more than 150 youth to give youth in Vancouver an opportunity to voice their opinions on the future of our parks and recreation system



City Wide Youth Council

Two youth representatives sit on the City Wide Youth Council, a youth led council that meets at city hall once a month to discuss pertinent youth issues regarding advocacy, youth spaces and the environment. Delegates later report back to their centre youth councils. Community Youth Workers act as facilitators guiding discussion, booking space and collecting paperwork. Community Youth Workers also meet with the City Wide Youth Council Executive team once a month to aid in the planning of events and agenda items for members at large.

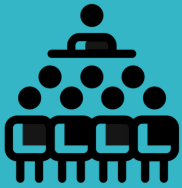


PROACTIVE

The Park Board CYWs are in a unique position to build mentoring relationships with young people, provide proactive programming and develop each young persons capacity in a recreation setting. Programming, leadership development and events are developed in partnership with youth and are based on the needs of the youth in each community. Social emotional learning and leadership development are key focus areas.

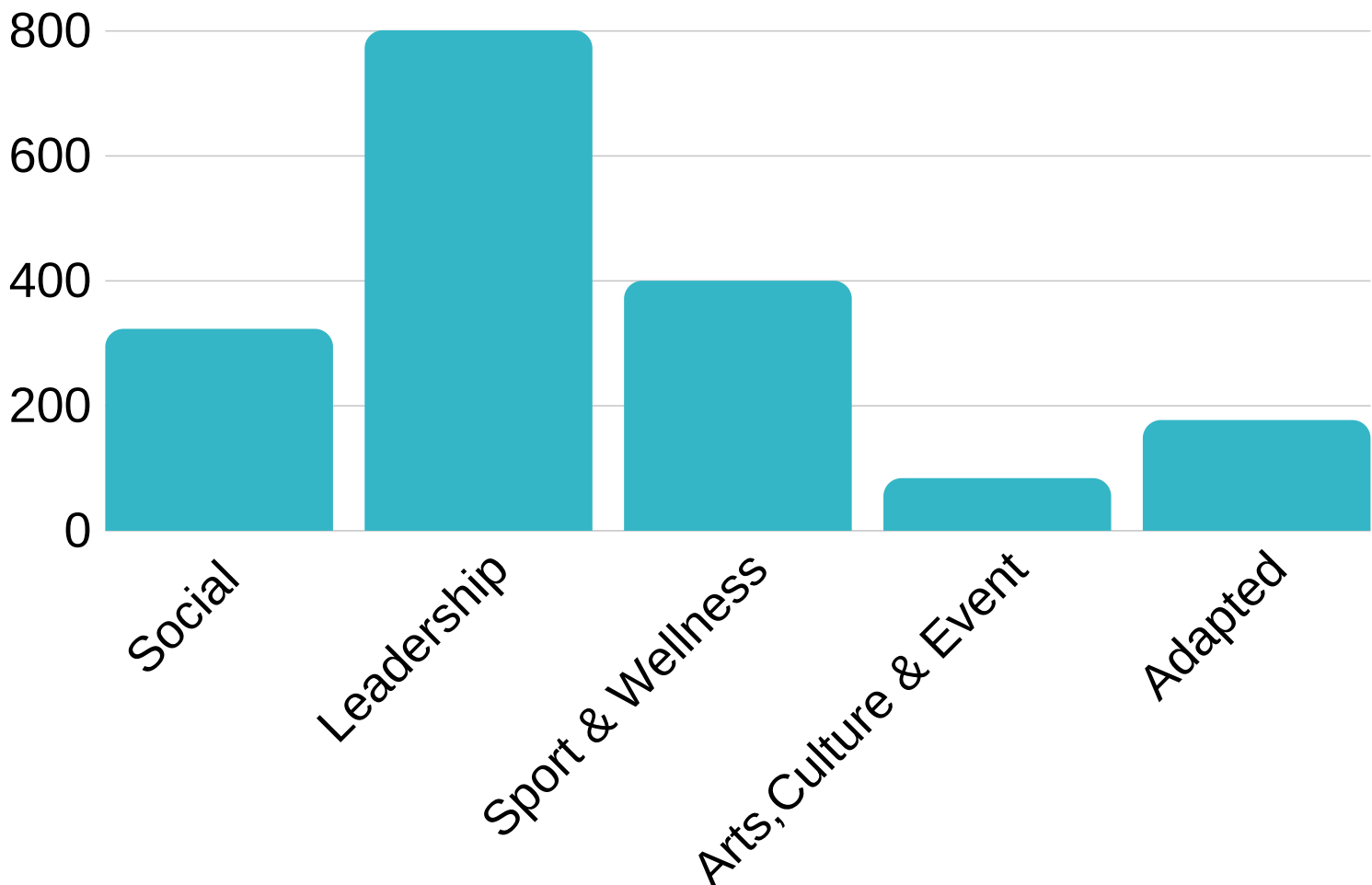


Sport programs include drop-in sports, organized leagues, fitness classes, running clubs and martial arts. Sports in centres can include basketball, volleyball, soccer, dodgeball, skateboarding, skiing, dragon boating and so much more!



Leadership programs include youth councils, Youth Incentive Programs, workshops and volunteer opportunities such as daycamps and birthday parties. These are run by the Community Youth Worker who provides mentorship, capacity building and skill development for the youth.

The below graph represents the the number and types of programs offered by Community Youth Workers in 2018. Programs are varied and dependent on the community needs, youth and available resources. Lesson based programs including arena and pool programs are not represented in the below data.





8004
Hygiene Products
Distributed in 2018



City Wide Youth Council Youth Week Grants

Every year during Youth Week (May 1-7) youth groups and individuals are invited to apply for funding to host their own youth week event; planned by youth for youth. Supported by youth workers and Community Centre Associations, youth present their ideas to the City Wide Youth Council, who then select the winning applications and divide the funding

TRRUST OPPORTUNITY FUND

TRRUST is a collective impact of youth serving agencies with the mandate of improving outcomes for youth in and from government care. The TRRUST Opportunity fund seeks to connect young people in and from government care in Vancouver with meaningful experiences they might otherwise miss out on. Youth can apply for up to \$200 to take part in arts, drama, culture, or educational workshops, as well as alternative healing and extra-curricular activities that are often not traditionally paid for through the government care system. Park Board Community Youth Workers (CYWs) work with the young people to complete and submit the funding application.

For more information about the initiatives in this report, contact Erica Mark, Recreation Coordinator at erica.mark@vancouver.ca

MEET OUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PARTNERS

