



# COMMUNITY HEARTS ASSET MAPPING

Increasing Resiliency in the DTES

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## Introduction

The Downtown Eastside (DTES) is an extraordinarily diverse, complex community with a unique and tumultuous history. Residents disproportionately suffer from mental illness and addiction, and experience high rates of poverty. Despite the prevalence of these complex social and economic problems, there is a strong sense of community and pride within the neighbourhood. Since most residents face continual crises from various barriers as well as pressures such as gentrification and low access to food and health care, community members are highly resilient in the face of stresses. In order to increase the resilience within the DTES in the face of shocks and stresses, CityStudio, Langara College, and 312 Main embarked on a collaborative project called the Community Hearts Asset Mapping (CHAM) project. The CHAM project identified that while many studies have focused on the places of importance to the DTES community, no single project to date has compiled these findings. As such, CityStudio, Langara College and 312 Main has compiled research and information from these asset studies into one living map, the “Community Hearts Asset Map,” which can be adjusted and modified going forward to reflect changes in the DTES. By identifying assets of importance to the community, this map provides 312 Main, a co-working space and centre for social and economic innovation, the foundation to further their Resilient Neighbourhood Strategy and increase the overall resiliency within the DTES community.

## History of the Downtown Eastside

The Downtown Eastside (DTES) is located on the southern shore of the Burrard Inlet in the heart of Vancouver and is part of the Coast Salish’s traditional territory.<sup>i</sup> Named “s’olhtemexw” (“our world,” or “our land”) by the Stó:Lo people, this area was historically hunted and fished by the Indigenous group.<sup>ii</sup> The neighbourhood is made up of five clearly defined areas: Chinatown, Gastown, Victory Square, Strathcona, and Oppenheimer (Figure 1).<sup>iii</sup>

The DTES has a history of exclusion and displacement of minority groups; in World War II, Japanese Canadians were dispossessed and forced out of the Oppenheimer area into internment camps in British Columbia’s (BC) interior.<sup>iv</sup> Today, the neighbourhood has a high concentration of complex social and economic problems rooted in systemic issues.<sup>v</sup> While the DTES has a reputation of being one of the poorest postal codes in Canada (V6A), the community itself is resilient, supportive and unique in its diversity.<sup>vi</sup>



Figure 1. Source: Overview of DTES, Jodi Newnham

The DTES was Vancouver’s first settlement, and developed as a residential area for resource industry workers such as loggers and fishermen, with many single occupancy hotels and bars to serve the population.<sup>vii</sup> It was once a vibrant part of the city that was home to head offices, the public library and theatres along with large department stores and businesses.<sup>viii</sup> In the second half of the 20th-century, the community was gradually marginalized through economic and transportation decisions: streetcars

stopped running to the area, and businesses and major public buildings such as the library, closed and relocated to the new downtown centre.<sup>ix</sup>

The area's history, paired with several systemic issues, has led to a greater concentration of social and economic problems being located in the DTES.<sup>x</sup> In the 1980s, the transition away from institutional psychiatric care toward community-based health models led to the local closure of Riverview Hospital, an institution that once housed thousands of mentally ill patients. The loss of affordable housing in other parts of the city and region, coupled with psychiatric de-institutionalization locally and country-wide left many patients without the mental health support they require, resulting in an increase in residents to the area, concentrating complex systemic social and economic problems.<sup>xi</sup> In response to this concentration, many social services have located themselves in the area to support low-income individuals and families, as well as to provide services for people struggling with mental illness and addictions.<sup>xii</sup>

## DTES Demographics

Within the community, many physical and social assets exist, including the aforementioned social services. Understanding the demographics of the neighbourhood helps to illustrate the importance of these assets to residents in the community. Based on an estimated population of 18,500 in 2011, a higher portion of seniors, single people, men, Aboriginal people and people of Chinese ancestry live in the DTES compared to the rest of the city.<sup>xiii</sup> Also, given that over half of DTES residents are considered low income as defined by Statistics Canada<sup>1</sup>, the majority of the community shares in the lived realities of living below the poverty line. Shared experiences of DTES residents also includes the following demographic characteristics:

- Discrimination based on race, sexual orientation, gender, mental or physical disability, addiction, low income or a combination of these;
- Very small or inadequate housing, or homeless;
- Are unemployed, work part-time, or volunteer;
- Receive low fixed incomes and cannot afford anything beyond day-to-day necessities;
- Have health and/or addiction concerns.<sup>xiv</sup>

While the population is largely low-income, the DTES also includes the working poor, moderate income and middle-income families, as well as singles living in a diverse mix of accommodation in the different neighbourhoods. The DTES is home to many vulnerable groups, considered those with greater risk to health and wellbeing than the general population. These groups include: women, children and youth, homeless, seniors, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) residents, low income singles and families, sex workers, drug users and people with disabilities and/or mental illness. Residents are concerned about the rapid rate of development and that gentrification will take over the DTES, displacing low-income residents and destroying the community assets that support those who remain.<sup>xv</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada uses before tax Low Income Cut-off (LICO) as its definition of low income. In 2006 this ranged from \$21,202 (about \$10 an hour) per year for a single person, to \$39,999 (about \$19 an hour for one person) for a family of four (CCAP, 2010, p5).

## Population Growth

Between 2001 and 2011, the total population of the DTES grew at a growth rate of 12.7%, slightly faster than the population of the city as a whole, though the growth rate has slowed since 2006. The growth is largely influenced by new accommodation including the replacement and renovation of older housing stock and the development of previously vacant sites. Continued replacement of older buildings and new development, particularly condominiums could maintain the growth rate of 12.7% and accelerate the DTES population to 25,000 by 2041.<sup>xvi</sup> The increase in market condominium development brings new, high income households to the predominantly low-income community, furthering the residents' concern over the impacts of new development on existing assets.<sup>xvii</sup>

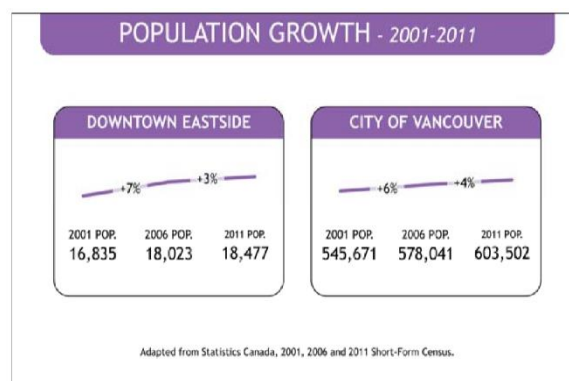


Figure 2. Source: DTES Local Area Plan 2013

## Age and Gender, General Health

Concerns surrounding the ability to secure existing assets or creating new ones tend to be with specific groups within the low-income community. Women continue to have significantly lower labour force participation rates, are heads of lone-parent families, and face significantly higher health and shelter-related challenges compared to women in the rest of the city.<sup>xviii</sup> The DTES has a relatively low percentage of children (2%) and youth (8%), roughly half of the city-wide percentage, yet the proportion of children under six years of age living in low-income families in the DTES is more than twice that of the city.<sup>xix</sup> This is particularly concerning as children who experience poverty in their early years face continued risk of health and behavioural problems that lead into adulthood.

Seniors living in the DTES face greater levels of poverty and are more than twice as likely to live alone than those living in other parts of Vancouver. Twenty one percent of DTES low-income residents are 65 years or older, compared to 13% citywide with 55% living alone compared to 29% citywide.<sup>xx</sup> Seniors are especially vulnerable to homelessness, poor health and addictions, and physical and mental disabilities. Seniors with limited or no English, such as the large number of Chinese-speaking seniors, face additional challenges to their health and independence including accessing culturally appropriate services. Aboriginal elders are highly impacted by poverty, health issues and the effects of residential schools.<sup>xxi</sup>

While the overall health of DTES residents has improved in recent years, it is still below citywide standards. Life expectancy, for instance, has increased 8.1% for men living in the DTES, from 71.4 years to 79.5 years over the last decade, but still remains below the Vancouver average of 83.3 years.<sup>xxii</sup> Similarly, many indicators of physical health are still worse in the DTES compared to city and provincial averages. As such, drop-in centres and specialized health and social services are very important to the vulnerable residents of the DTES. The neighbourhood is served by 14 targeted Aboriginal services, 30 drug-use and addictions services, 24 mental health services and 32 services for people with other disabilities<sup>xxiii</sup>. These centres and services are assets that are of great importance to low-income residents, but there is concern that these resources will be shut down or relocated as a consequence of new development.<sup>xxiv</sup>

## Aboriginal Identity

The DTES has a much higher proportion of Aboriginal people than the city as a whole. Aboriginal Identities include people of First Nations, Métis or Inuit identity. Even amongst the DTES residents of Aboriginal ancestry, many vulnerable groups are overrepresented. In 2012, over 32% of homeless were Aboriginal, over 25% were injection drug users and many are also disproportionately affected by health challenges<sup>xxv</sup>. Aboriginal women are as particularly marginalized group in the DTES.<sup>xxvi</sup>

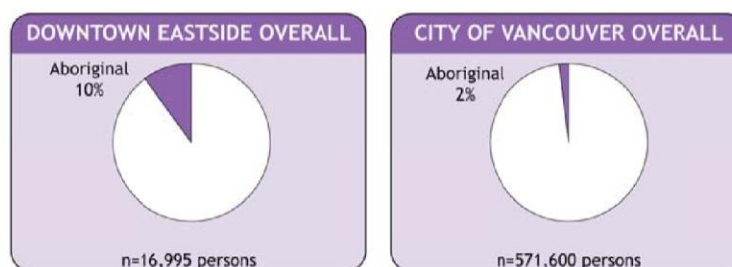


Figure 3. Source: DTES Local Area Plan 2013

## Income

The DTES is an extreme case and has one of the lowest per capita incomes of any urban area in Canada with median income for private households being \$13,691 compared to \$47,299 for the City of Vancouver overall as of 2005.<sup>xxvii</sup> Families in the DTES have lower median incomes than those in other areas of Vancouver and over a quarter fall below the low-income threshold. Housing affordability is therefore a challenge for families in the neighbourhood. In addition to affordability challenges, housing availability is a struggle as most are geared toward single adults and seniors. Despite the suitability of dwellings for singles, low-income singles remain vulnerable as they must rely on a single income and cannot pool resources with other members of the household.<sup>xxviii</sup>

Recent trends in the neighbourhood suggest the area is experiencing gentrification. The number of high-income earners appears to be growing at a faster rate in the DTES than in the city overall: from 2010 to 2014 the number of people reporting incomes over \$100,000 increased by 84% in the V6A postal code compared to 37% across the city.<sup>xxix</sup> Low-income residents fear that as more affluent individuals move into the area, residents who have been part of the community for a long time will no longer be able to afford to live in the neighbourhood due to increasing unaffordability and unavailability of housing. Residents are also concerned about the potential loss of local businesses that provide them with access to affordable goods in a dignified manner.<sup>xxx</sup>

## Employment

A large portion of DTES residents are considered “working poor,” meaning low-paid workers living in low income situations. Lack of employment skills and local employment opportunities continues to exist, especially for low-income residents who deal with multiple barriers to employment.<sup>xxxi</sup> An informal economy—including activities such as binning, street vending or bartering—provides an essential income to meet the basic needs of some. A number of residents hold volunteer jobs and, in some cases, receive food and training for hours worked. In 2012, volunteers contributed over 100,000 hours to the community, significantly helping residents with limited sources of income make ends meet.<sup>xxxii</sup>

## Housing Tenure and Type

Housing, including the range and affordability of housing choices, has an impact on general health and well-being of DTES residents. As quoted, “Once people have housing, the other stuff starts to smooth out.”<sup>xxxiii</sup> As of 2013, there was an estimated 15,300 housing units in the DTES including both market

housing (56%) and non-market (44%)<sup>xxxiv</sup>. Housing types include single room occupancy (SRO) hotels, apartments, single-family houses, condominiums and supportive housing units. According to 2006 census data, the majority of DTES dwellings are rented, 88% compared to 52% in Vancouver overall. Residents with a stable place to live consider their home their biggest asset and they fear being displaced by new development and rising rents caused by gentrification.

### Early Learning and Care, Education

Availability and affordability of quality early learning and care opportunities are key issues for all families, but especially challenging for more vulnerable families in the DTES. It is well documented that children who have a good start in life do better at school, secure better jobs, and enjoy better physical and mental health in adulthood.<sup>xxxv</sup> Therefore, the United Way, in partnership with the provincial, municipal, community and aboriginal services, work together to bring “Success by 6” healthy child initiatives to vulnerable family communities.<sup>xxxvi</sup> Compared to the rest of Vancouver, DTES residents have lower rates of formal education. Census data from 2006 indicates that more than 38% have not completed high school compared to a rate of 17% city wide and less than 40% have completed a post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree (Figure 4).

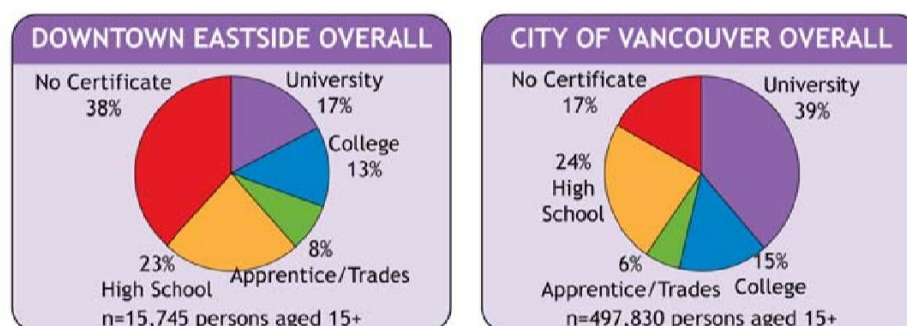


Figure 4. Source: DTES Local Area Plan 2013- Education

Recently, alternative learning resources provided by neighbouring post-secondary institutions, such as UBC’s Learning Exchange, has become available in the area in addition to schools with Aboriginal focused programs.<sup>xxxvii</sup> Many low-income residents would like to participate in higher education and life skills programs, but face barriers in enrollment. They fear the potential loss of these types of assets, and how it will significantly affect them and their children.<sup>xxxviii</sup>

### What Has Been Done?

The current demographics of the neighbourhood are not only a result of the area’s vast and tumultuous history, but are also influenced by other trends in health, housing and employment. As a result of the concentration of complex social and economic problems within the DTES neighbourhood, the City of Vancouver has spent a significant amount of time producing several plans, including the Downtown Eastside Local Area Plan, Downtown Eastside Local Area Profile, and the Downtown Eastside Social Impact Assessment (DESIA). The Carnegie Community Action Project (CCAP) has also provided pertinent information as to the current assets identified in the area. An overview of these major documents is given to define the foundation upon which this CHAM project builds.

## The Downtown Eastside Local Area Plan

The DTES Local Area Plan aims to improve the lives of all residents in the DTES including low-income and middle-income residents, the homeless, women, children, seniors, and families.<sup>xxxix</sup> The plan also hopes to improve the diversity in the affordable housing market and non-market options in the neighbourhood, while providing a framework of programs, policies and plans to achieve a future that is desired.<sup>xl</sup> The distinct areas within the DTES are described in this plan as a means of identifying the specific direction, policies, and strategies for implementation to guide and manage change within each district.

## The Downtown Eastside Local Area Profile

Through the DTES Local Area Profile, an information baseline has been created. This helps provide an overview of the neighbourhood which can be used to assist in community engagement during current and future plans and projects in the area.<sup>xli</sup> Given the high rate of homelessness within the DTES community, obtaining accurate data presents certain challenges. By acknowledging this, the DTES Local Area Plan aims to serve as a “living draft document”<sup>xlii</sup> to be refined and updated. Data within this plan has been gathered through:

- Statistics Canada’s Census of population
- City of Vancouver
- Non-profit service providers
- Primary research shared by low-income community members

## The Downtown Eastside Social Impact Assessment (DESIA)

The DESIA developed concurrently with the DTES Local Area Plan to examine the potential social impacts of development within the community.<sup>xliii</sup> Through a sustainability framework,<sup>2</sup> economic, social, and ecological needs of the community were identified using indicators of health such as income, housing, employment, food security, education, early childhood development, health services and social inclusion.<sup>xliiv</sup> The social impact assessment model was employed to develop a holistic understanding of the positive and negative impacts of new development and created a foundation to mitigate, monitor, and evaluate assets and impacts to maximize the positive effects while minimizing the negative outcomes.<sup>xliv</sup> In addition to physical buildings and intangible assets, gaps were identified through residential participation during the 2012 – 2013 community input phase which will be further expanded below.

## Carnegie Community Action Project (CCAP)

CCAP conducted 23 community mapping sessions with roughly 200 low-income residents of the DTES to identify community assets. The project was a response to the gentrification that is threatening the neighbourhood.<sup>xlvi</sup> This process not only identified key assets within the neighbourhood, but residents also identified places that made them feel mad, unsafe, and uncomfortable. This project uses personal accounts to deliver the powerful message that while the DTES is surrounded by various social issues, the immense sense of community and pride felt in the neighbourhood is one of the strongest in the City of Vancouver. One final interesting aspect to note is that identified assets differentiated between individuals in survival mode versus individuals in social housing.<sup>xlvii</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> This is based on the City of Vancouver’s Healthy City Strategy draft.

## Identifying Assets

Community mapping as defined by the Carnegie Community Action Project (CCAP) is a democratic, inclusive alternative to traditional maps. Through the process, community members came together to share local knowledge and experiences to create a map that fosters a sense of place through the illustration of the needs and strengths of the community.<sup>xlviii</sup> The Downtown Eastside Social Impact Assessment (DESIA) report utilized the term “asset mapping” to identify community assets. The purpose of this approach was to engage the community to determine key attributes of the neighbourhood that are considered essential to maintain quality of life in a process that can be sustainable.<sup>xlix</sup>

In the DESIA report from Spring 2014, assets were identified during the community input phase. Through the community mapping or asset mapping process, the process accomplishes more than identifying physical assets such as social housing, community centres, and green spaces. It also allows the identification of intangibles such as the sense of community, safety, and security.<sup>i</sup> Recognizing assets as tangible and intangible, or physical and social is imperative in understanding the current dynamic of this community as well as how this community has historically reacted to shocks and stresses. One Hundred Resilient Cities (100RC), pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation, define shocks as single event disasters, such as tsunamis, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, and fires.<sup>ii</sup> Stresses were defined as events or factors that pressure a city or community on a daily or recurring basis with examples such as water shortages, access to clean drinkable water, food accessibility, overtaxed transportation system, high unemployment, and affordable housing.<sup>iii</sup> Residents of the DTES community face numerous stresses each day and this contributes to their heightened level of resilience.

The City of Vancouver’s philosophy regarding the DTES neighbourhood is “revitalization without displacement.”<sup>liii</sup> The meaning behind this philosophy is to ensure that the existing low-income residents will remain key within the neighbourhood amidst the diverse social and economic backgrounds entering the community. With such a strong historical background within the community, heritage assets are also believed to be significant in terms of spiritual memories and intangible values held by the community and the tangible built form of various structures.<sup>liv</sup> While these buildings are huge assets within the community, there is also the challenge of age and condition of these heritage structures deteriorating over time.

The various types of assets, be they physical, social, historical, or spiritual, may be tangible and/or intangible, and it is important to note that they are not static. Many physical assets may be historical structures that allow for social assets to be fostered and created. Key assets have been identified detailing the reason as to why this is such an integral piece of the DTES community.

## The Map and the Process (Appendix A)

Through a meeting between 312 Main and Langara students, it was determined that a map of community assets that could be built upon in the future would be of value for the Resilient Neighbourhoods Program. It is important to recognize that the map created and the mapping process depict one specific point in time to provide a foundation for 312 Main to build upon. Community engagement events and opportunities will be required to ensure the map is accurate and up-to-date. As the community grows and changes, the data utilized within this map will become outdated and will require changes as well.

## Data Sources

City of Vancouver staff provided students with the DTES boundary and DESIA community assets, and the City's open data catalogue, which is free and open access, allowed our team to gain datasets such as:

- Block outlines
- Building footprint
- Community centres
- Drinking fountains
- Public washrooms
- Community gardens and fruit bearing trees
- Cultural spaces
- Fire halls
- Homeless shelters
- Libraries
- Park features
- Property addresses
- Property parcel polygons
- Schools

The data obtained from the City created the foundation for the CHAM project asset map. Previous plans and projects, discussed above, were also used to consolidate and compile the previously identified assets in the neighbourhood into one map. All the data and information gathered has been processed through Esri's ArcMap 10.5, a geographic information system, to process spatial and non-spatial data.

Each community asset identified through the CCAP project has been input as points into one shapefile for ease of identification. The City of Vancouver has also provided the DTES SIA Community Assets that were identified in the DESIA project. As the file contained all plotted assets in one file, our team created layers that separated the assets into the previously identified classifications of:

- Homes
- Livelihoods
- Places
- Well-being
- Food Access and Security
- Health and Social Services
- Inclusion, Belonging, and Safety

## Physical and Social Value

During the mapping process, students discovered there is oftentimes little distinction between physical and social assets. While drinking fountains and public washrooms are inherently physical structures, there are also social ties related as well. These physical features may be primarily recognized for their inherent affordances of obtaining drinking water and providing a place to relieve oneself, but they may also be gathering places for conversations and relationships to be fostered. Physical spaces can offer more than one use, such as Lord Strathcona Community Elementary School which is both a school and a library. Another example is Carnegie Community Centre; a location which has been classified as a community centre, library, cultural center as well as a place identified within the DESIA numerous times. Carnegie holds immense social value as a community asset as various programs and services are

available for residents of the community. Our understanding of physical and social assets through this process has shifted to recognize that there are many layers and nuances towards what is considered an asset and how such asset provides value to the community.

## Key Assets:

An asset is something that can be used to improve the community, and as discussed previously, assets can offer value to the community in the form of physical, tangible improvements or services, or in the opportunities for social connection they present. Opportunities for increasing social connection greatly increase the resiliency of neighbourhoods. Therefore, social assets are of great importance, especially in communities such as the DTES where many residents live with a variety or combination of difficult social and physical circumstances such as high levels of poverty, mental illness, substance addictions, and high levels of marginalization. Physical and social assets in the community offer support and improvements in quality of life that are of immense value to residents, and the following key assets have been identified in the aforementioned asset mapping projects in the community.

## Parks

The DTES does not have many green spaces, but several parks stand out and provide green amenities, serving similar yet different purpose for the community. Pigeon Park holds a weekly Sunday market that encourages economic activity and transaction to occur without having a formal business space. The Sunday market is one of many informal markets that pop up in the DTES. These markets have some police presence to deter any conflict. Crab Park, while not within the direct boundaries of the DTES, is a highly accessible park for residents of this community and is an oasis from the concrete jungle, a place to view the mountains and experience the ocean. Oppenheimer Park is geared towards social activity and gathering; it has a homeless musical band and is utilized for community events.<sup>iv</sup> These parks are important to the residents of the DTES, serving as living rooms for the community. Many of the housing options available in the DTES are without any meaningful shared amenities. Therefore, these parks act as a place for mental and physical restoration for fellow community members.

## Aboriginal Front Door Society | 384 Main Street

The vision of the Aboriginal Front Door Society (AFDS) includes helping Canada's largest urban concentration of Aboriginal people with addictions and other daily challenges using holistic Aboriginal teachings as much as possible. Their goal is to restore respect, dignity and pride to its members by providing opportunities to learn about Aboriginal Peoples and Cultures. When necessary they act as a crisis centre and offer other necessary services but primarily AFDS provides access to resources and offers programs that include healing circles for women, men and elders and a transition service program for sex workers. AFDS also has a weekly food bank and bannock give away.

## Carnegie Hall Community Centre | 401 Main Street (Appendix B)

According to the community mapping document created in July 2009, Carnegie Hall is one of the top five assets in the DTES. It provides a public plaza on the steps for the community to gather and build their social capital and exchange ideas and values. Carnegie Hall also offers a wide range of programs and activities for social gathering that vary throughout the week. The programs available throughout the month include: free haircuts, skill building (writing, tech classes), recreational opportunities, cultural and physical activities. The programs cover a full spectrum of activities for a very diverse community that it

serves.<sup>lvi</sup> Membership for the community centre is only \$1 annually, valid from the day of purchase to the end of the calendar year. The centre is open daily from 9AM to 11PM.

### The Door Is Open | 255 Dunlevy Avenue

Soup kitchen in the community that provides shelter, counselling, clothing and of course food. The facility provides lunches every day for the community and provides breakfast for women on Wednesdays.

### Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House | 573 E Hastings Street

This neighbourhood house caters to the preparation and provision of food to the DTES community. There are many programs offered that ensure the inclusion of all the founding communities of DTES: Indigenous, Japanese, Chinese, and low-income.<sup>lvii</sup> Reflecting on the services provided on the website, the DTES Neighbourhood House truly caters to all ages, gender, and groups. There are specific services for elderly, women, children, and different ethnic groups on different days and times. This asset attempts to create accessibility and remove barriers to accessing food in the DTES community. The DTES Neighbourhood House allegiance is toward the low-income population, to help them learn cooking skills that can help people become self-sustaining.

### Downtown Eastside Women's Center | 302 Columbia Street

Supplies clothing, meals, and addresses for self-identifying women. There are basic necessities provided within the center. This organization helps provide a source of stability for women in crisis. There are programs provided in the centre for: Chinese Seniors outreach, HIV community case management, housing outreach, kitchen, skills development and victim services. The centre has been identified by 69% of women in the DTES as one of the safest places for them in the community and neighbourhood.<sup>lviii</sup>

### The Dugout | 59 Powell Street

The Dugout is a non-profit serving the residents of the DTES by providing a supportive, safe space. Also known as a "Community Living Room," the Dugout is a place where residents can come inside for a snack or coffee to get off the street and away from any isolation they may be experiencing. They offer several programs such as a hot breakfast daily, "safe-space snacks" with low cost food such as local eggs for \$2.75 per dozen, or \$0.50 for two. Another of their many programs is the daily Alcoholics Anonymous meetings of the "Out to Lunch Bunch."<sup>lix</sup>

### First United Church | 320 Hastings Street

First United Church was established in 1885 in Vancouver and has been committed to the struggle for social justice since. It served as a major support hub for the City during the Great Depression and remains a vital support hub today. First United Church provides community ministry, low-barrier shelter, legal advocacy, and describes itself as a "one-stop shop" for many other services including tax returns, foot care, and more. It also currently manages 189 affordable housing units in the DTES and Mount Pleasant area. In various asset mapping and community engagement processes, First United Church was considered an asset in multiple community well-being categories.

### Four Sisters Housing Co-Op | 153 Powell Street

The co-op housing is located west of Powell and Main Street. It is a 153 unit cooperative affordable housing with a gated courtyard, and a lot of social amenities for its residents.<sup>lx</sup> This is noted to be one of

the best affordable housing locations in the DTES that has an extensive application process and waitlist. The co-op is looking for residents that will contribute to the community and its members. The mixture of people in the co-op covers all spectrums of income, background, and skills to contribute to the co-op. The housing is close to community amenities and parks making it a coveted asset in the DTES.

### [InSite for Community Safety and Supervised Injection Site | 139 E Hastings Street](#)

InSite is a legal, supervised injection site that opened in 2003. This site is open until 3AM daily and provides intravenous substance users with a site that employs professional nurses and detox options to educate users. The site operates on a harm-reduction model that attempts to reduce health impacts, social and economic consequences of drug use.<sup>lxi</sup> In 2017 alone, there were 175,464 visits by 7,301 people, and 2,105 overdose interventions.<sup>lxii</sup>

### [Lifeskills Centre \(Now known as Drug Users Resource Centre\) | 412 East Cordova Street](#)

First opened in 2003, this organization provides a safe, supportive, and welcoming space for all members of the community. To meet the needs of user communities within the DTES on an "on-the-ground" level, services include:

- on site primary care and methadone clinic
- user group specific programming and education
- barrier-free health and therapeutic interventions
- pre-vocational skills training
- work and volunteer opportunities
- arts and cultural programming
- housing support
- referrals and advocacy

### [Mission Possible | 659 East Hastings Street](#)

Mission Possible has supported people challenged by homelessness and poverty since 1992 through programs that help people experience a renewed sense of dignity and purpose. As well as an employment readiness program, Mission Possible runs two social enterprises, MP Maintenance and MP Neighbours, employing roughly 50 people per year in transitional jobs.

### [Pigeon Park Savings | 92 E Hastings Street](#)

Provides the community with banking ease. Allows for an account to be opened with limited requirement of identification and deposit. This facility allows for the cashing of welfare cheques without having an account. This helps community members who would otherwise face many barriers to cashing cheques.

### [Powell Street Getaway | 528 Powell Street](#)

Also known as the Living Room Activity/Drop-In Centre, the Powell Street Getaway is a resource centre for adults living in the DTES who struggle with serious mental illness. It offers structured and unstructured programs in a safe environment, with programs ranging from computer and camera clubs, to meditation, skill development, and education groups. Meals are offered daily, and a Women's Action Group allows the opportunity for women to connect and discuss neighbourhood issues.

### Ray Cam Cooperative Centre | 920 East Hastings

Ray-Cam Co-operative Centre is a neighbourhood centre for all ages that fosters recreation, social activities, and support services for individuals and families. Membership is free for all residents in the area. Through the programming available, Ray-Cam understands the demographics within the DTES and makes a conscious effort at creating a positive space and environment for youth, families, and seniors. Services available at Ray-Cam include: programs for youth, families, and seniors, access to computers and internet access, weightroom and gym, darkroom facilities, media lab and music resources, and educational partnerships for high school students.

### Strathcona Community Centre | 601 Keefer Street

Strathcona Community Centre is located in Vancouver's neighborhood of Strathcona and provides programs for all ages and abilities. In addition to licensed childcare and preschool classes they also provide breakfast and a number food security programs for children and low-income families. Strathcona Community Centre programming includes a variety of initiatives including Youth Council and Youth Action Team, a new Arabic-speaking Women's support group and RISE (Responsible Indigenous Strategy for Empowerment). In agreement with the provincial government, the centre also provides access to the CAP-C Community Action Program for Children designed for low-income families with children 6 and under. The program aims to increase parenting skills and provide parenting support, and to improve the health and social development of children 0-6 years. The Centre is a vital asset to children and low-income families.

### Sunrise Market | 300 Powell Street

Renowned for its affordability and range of fresh fruit and vegetables among other products, Sunrise Market increases the food security of the neighbourhood greatly. The community appreciates the market because it is family owned and operated, and provides them with the personal touch that big box stores cannot provide. The market has a welcoming atmosphere for people from all walks of life.

### Additional Note

These physical assets serve the community in different capacities, but all have a joint vision and purpose to assist the community to be successful. Another type of physical asset that should be recognized in the DTES are public washrooms and water fountains. These public assets have increased importance to people who do not have places to call home by giving them a place to access the basic needs of running water and restrooms. Therefore, a layer on the Community Hearts Asset Map is dedicated to the identification of available public washrooms and water fountains.

### Gaps in Assets

Asset mapping has the capability to identify gaps within the community, which is essential in order to plan for a resilient community. The Carnegie Community Action Project's "Our Place & Our World," identifies the following gaps in assets:

- Places for children – there are not many places to go and feel safe with children
- Lighting – more lighting throughout the neighbourhood would help to increase safety
- Housing
- Treatment centres
- Places for people who are homeless to be

The Downtown Eastside Social Impact Assessment Report lists frequently mentioned gaps such as:

- Affordable self-contained and accessible units
- Housing for homeless people
- Housing for vulnerable populations (i.e. Aboriginals, seniors, sex workers, people with mental health issues)
- Affordable artist live/work units
- Safe and adequate housing
- The Aboriginal Health, Healing, and Wellness in the DTES Study (2017) found that gaps in health services for Vancouver's Urban Aboriginal population knowledge exist.

## Future Engagement Opportunities

Currently, the DTES is experiencing changes due to development pressures, and gentrification within its neighbourhood boundaries. Due to the fluid nature of "community," it is important to continuously revise assets that have recently been added or removed from the neighbourhood to reflect the current state within the neighbourhood. Information from residents is invaluable in identifying assets in the community. Thus, with the addition of 312 Main into the DTES, and the early stages with Langara's collaboration, there is potential for a framework to ensure ongoing community engagement to identify assets in the neighbourhood.

The City of Vancouver completed the DTES Local Area Profile and the Downtown Eastside Social Impact Assessment in 2013, with the CCAP as the only other identified community asset mapping activity in the neighbourhood that was done in 2009. Although both documents have highlighted assets that are available within the community, there has not been another interactive opportunity for residents of the community, through our knowledge, to highlight community assets themselves. The following are opportunities that can encourage interactive community engagement in asset mapping using the asset map developed through the CHAM project as a base.

## Planning for Real: Participatory Asset Mapping

There are many different opportunities to engage the public during community events in formal or casual formats (see Appendix C). To ensure a comprehensive understanding of assets in the community, there should be an event where residents are invited to participate in a 'planning for real' activity that will highlight important assets and needs in the community. This format will allow participants to point out their most important asset and for them to be mapped out.

Resource: "Participatory Asset Mapping: A Community Resource Toolkit"<sup>3</sup>

## Interactive Display

The Community Hearts asset map, displayed in the foyer of 312 Main, would be a great platform to highlight assets in an interactive format that can be updated weekly through contribution from people using services at 312 Main. The map would display the current inventory of physical, social and individual assets gathered from the 'planning for real' segment on a cork board. Color-coded stickers provided below the display could be used by residents to highlight different categories of assets that are important to them. Once a week, stickers could be collated and after a certain number of stickers have been added for one specific location, a more permanent indicator for the specified location/service can be added to the digital map.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.communityscience.com/knowledge4equity/AssetMappingToolkit.pdf>

In the neighbourhood, residents are highly resilient as they face daily, ongoing struggles and stresses. Creating an accessible Community Hearts asset map for individuals at 312 Main, the existing resiliency can be highlighted and gaps / areas of vulnerability can be identified. In this way, the Community Hearts Asset Map can be used as a source of information for the community. There is also great potential for 312 Main to provide a unique opportunity for the community to not only be informed by the map, but to inform the map and participate in its continual process of being made and re-made by highlighting their community assets without the constraints of a formal gathering or questionnaire.

## Hashtags

A hashtag is metadata created by identifying a phrase or word with a pound sign (#) before the word. This will allow some systems to collect posts, pictures, and events to be associated with the hashtag. Hashtags that can be used to identify certain types of assets (physical/social/person) in the community can be created through various social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. Managed through hashtag counts, the GIS layer can be altered to display the assets identified through the counts on the 312 Main website map. These hashtags can be displayed throughout the 312 Main foyer and placed on the colour-coded stickers category holders for the interactive map display.

To tie together all of the results from the community contribution, the design for the decal could then be delivered to the newly notified asset in the community to be displayed on their property or on their digital platform as the newest addition to the DTES asset.

## Recommendations

### 1. Community Heart Window/Door Decal

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*"THERE IS NOT MUCH TIME TO PRESERVE THIS AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY, OFTEN CALLED 'THE HEART OF THE CITY.' PRESSURE TO GENTRIFY THE AREA IS INTENSE. BUT WE ARE CONFIDENT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR RESILIENT NEIGHBOURHOOD. THAT CONFIDENCE COMES OUT OF A LONG TRADITION OF STRUGGLE AND SUCCESSES BY DTES RESIDENTS TO ORGANIZE AND ADVOCATE FOR OURSELVES." (ASSETS TO ACTION, CARNEGIE REPORT, PG.4)"*

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Figure 5. Proposed Asset Identifier  
"Community Heart" Decal

This ardent quote from the Assets to Action, Carnegie Report, along with the purple hearts used to represent special places during the SIA's community asset mapping process were inspiration for a Community Heart window/door decal. The heart, together with the City of Vancouver's Disaster Support Hub symbology, are intended to represent resilience, love and caring, service and protection felt within the community. The Langara student design of the Community Heart decal is a prototype only. It is recommended that community engagement should be used to collaborate on a design that truly reflects the sentiment of the neighbourhood.

In letter-sized format, the decal can be adhered to windows, doors or other structures recognized by citizens as a social or physical asset to the neighbourhood. Aside from any graphic design fees and costs associated in refining the design, ongoing cost would be limited to the printing of the decal and should be minimal.

While not intended to replace the City's official Disaster Support Hub in Oppenheimer Park, these branded assets can potentially be prepared to provide informal or formal support to the neighbourhood in situations of stress or shock. For instance, support may be in the form of medical care at a recognized clinic or refuge in an identified shelter for vulnerable members of the community.

As important as it is for neighbourhood residents to find support at Community Heart places in times of duress, it is also important to acknowledge the contributions and efforts of these assets on a daily basis. A Community Heart decal is ongoing recognition of the recipient's special contribution to the community and should be celebrated.

## 2. Establish a Holistic Micro and Macro Level Resilience Strategy.

In the event of a disaster, the community asset map detailing community identified assets is imperative. Recognizing the location of important social and physical features present in a community allows for community members to gain specific items from safe locations.

In addition to understanding the various assets within the community, a detailed micro level analysis of 312 Main will be beneficial in determining valuable individuals during a crisis situation. Recognizing and identifying individuals with valuable skills such as:

- First aid / health sector – to perform medical services (nurses, firefighters, doctors, and social workers)
- Leadership – to diffuse stressful situations and identify / prioritize actions.
- General handiness – individuals who are able bodied and able to assist in a variety of situations.
- Communications – individuals who are well connected and able to network and connect with others during an emergency.

A long and short form survey may be utilized to be gather information regarding the community in terms of what individual social assets exist in the community as well as who may require additional assistance in the neighbourhood and/or building in the event of an emergency (i.e. mobility issues, pets, medication, etc.). While this will be beneficial for 312 Main, implementing this micro level strategy across all social service providers and businesses within the DTES will set the stage for neighbourhood resilience to be created in a holistic manner.

## 3. Complement Micro Level Strategy at 312 Main with a Sign-in Sheet

Incorporate and utilize the NADIA software to create an in-house sign-in sheet that broadcasts individuals (with prior consent) and organizational assets present in the building. This will encourage familiarity between users of the co-working space in 312 Main, thus strengthening the social capital of the community at 312 Main. The sign-in sheet could ask very basic questions that simply identify personal skills that may be an asset for a person or organization utilizing the co-working space or the public on the main floor such as:

- What organization are you affiliated with?
- Describe the nature of your work.
- Would you want to share your expertise within the 312 Community if the need arises?

The short sign-in will create a profile of the person without asking personal questions that can be translated through a 312 Main NADIA social feed that mimics the Twitter format. This can be used to announce the presence of people with a certain skillset or asset that can be utilized at 312 Main in the case of emergency or simply be used for knowledge sharing.

An analog copy of all catalogued individual and organization assets can be stored in a safe location to be used in emergency situations where digital formats may not be available.

#### 4. Organize and Implement a Collective Framework

Information sharing is imperative to determine what has been accomplished within the neighbourhood as well as what needs to be done. To gain a current understanding of resilience within the neighbourhood, a survey may be completed to understand the current amount of social service providers. Further research and/or engagement is required to understand the current work being done by social service providers regarding:

- Programing / services currently being provided.
- Resources available to each service provider.
- Demand / need for services not available in the area.

The ability to communicate between organizations will not only allow for increased resilience in the neighbourhood, but will also create meaningful relationships in the community. Understanding and collaboration between organizations will determine the strengths and weaknesses of each organization in addition to how various providers are able to provide support within the neighbourhood.

#### 5. Utilize an Ethical Framework (Appendix D)

Understanding the demographics in the area, residents may often feel as though they are “living in a fishbowl.” To ensure transparency between individual researchers and groups entering the neighbourhood, an ethical guide for researchers has been proposed by Hives for Humanity, a non-profit organization that encourages connection between individuals, nature, the community, and themselves. This framework is intended to increase transparency related to community engagement events, understand potential issues surrounding ethics, determine the purpose, expectations and risks of the intended project, as well as clarify the timeline, exchange, and boundaries of the project scope and objectives. In creating this framework, residents in the community have a better understanding as to:

- What – information is being collected.
- Why – the information is collected.
- When – the information will be presented back to the neighbourhood.
- How – the information is collected and used.
- Who – background information regarding the project is made clear for residents to make an informed decision about whether or not to participate.

## 6. Create an Analog Map

Having a digital version of the community asset map is important as it allows for ease in updating and maintaining accurate information. An analog version of the asset map would be beneficial to be displayed in the main lobby of 312 Main for community members to provide input into the current environment in the DTES. This analog version may be displayed in the lobby as a physical interactive map with a digital interactive map to replace it in the future. An analog map is also imperative during emergency events as digital means often rely on electricity, which may not be accessible.

## 7. Utilize qGIS to Maintain / Update Map

Recognizing that Esri's ArcMap 10.5 is a very costly program to purchase, utilizing qGIS, a free and open source Geographic Information System, is a cost-friendly alternative. As the system can process multiple data sources, this may be an even more powerful software to maintain the community asset map. A brief qGIS workshop to learn basic functions would allow 312 Main staff to update the map in the future.

## Conclusion

Currently, the downtown eastside (DTES) is experiencing gentrification, and residents fear changes such as the loss of important assets or access to them will reduce their quality of life. In the face of gentrification pressures as well as ongoing, daily stresses, residents have been identified as highly resilient. While there have been many studies of the DTES, most have been singularly focused on places of importance to the community, with minimal collaboration between studies. The CityStudio, Langara College and 312 Main collaborative Community Hearts Asset Mapping (CHAM) project is a landmark in furthering the overall resilience of the DTES community as it provides one base map that integrates the findings from previous studies of the neighbourhood. The product of the CHAM project, the Community Hearts Asset Map, is a living asset map that can be adjusted and modified to reflect changes in the DTES as the community continues to change over time. While the asset map gives 312 Main the foundation to further their Resilient Neighbourhood Strategy, the provided recommendations are possible next steps that would strengthen the strategy and increase the overall resiliency within the DTES community.



## Appendix B – Carnegie Community Centre March 2018 Program Guide

Carnegie Community Centre Association Board Committee Meetings March

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
			1 Board Meeting 5:30pm Theatre	2
	6	7 Volunteer Meeting 3:30pm Classroom	8 Park Meeting 3:30pm Park	9
	13	14 Edu./Library Meeting 3pm Classroom	15 Senior's Meeting 2pm Theatre	16
	20	21	22	23
	27	28 Community Relations Meeting 4pm Assoc. Office	29	30



## Program Guide

### March 2018

#### Carnegie Community Centre



401 Main St.

Vancouver, BC V6A 2T7

Phone: 604-665-2220

Open every day, 9 am to 11 pm

**FOOD SERVICES**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Concession offers soup, sandwiches, and other nutritious inexpensive snacks and meals. A wide variety of freshly baked goods are also available. Hours are:

Breakfast - 9AM to 11AM - \$ 2.00  
Lunch - 12 noon to 4PM - \$ 2.25 Vegetarian entree available  
Dinner - 5PM to 8PM - \$ 3.25

Monday = Pasta / Tuesday & Friday = Vegetarian / Wednesday = Chili / Stew  
Thursday = Fish / Saturday = Roast Beef or Turkey / Sunday = Traditional  
There are many volunteer opportunities in the Carnegie Kitchen!

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**CARNEGIE READING ROOM**

A library card is **FREE!** Open daily 10AM - 10PM, 365 days a year.

- o Fiction & non-fiction collections
- o Local newspapers (English & Chinese)
- o Magazine collection
- o A large collection of Chinese fiction
- o Chinese non-fiction & magazines
- o A very fine collection of First Nation materials
- o Access to the Internet and Vancouver Public library online catalogue.

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**Are you 40+? You are a SENIOR at Carnegie!**

- Visit the Seniors' LOUNGE in the Lane Level
- Complete with a Beverage Bar / Newspapers and Cable TV
- BINGO (Seniors only) Thursdays
- Special Events & Trips - Check for Posters in the Centre & Seniors' Lounge. Trips & Activities, posted 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.
- Seniors Group Meeting - Thursday, Mar. 15 - 2PM | Theatre
- Get involved and find out what events are coming up for the next month!

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**OPPENHEIMER PARK**

All kinds of great programming! For more information, head over to the park, pick up our program guide at Carnegie Front Desk or call 604-253-8830. We are open every day from 9:15AM - 5PM. See you soon!

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**COFFEE BAR**

At Lane Level! Fresh, delicious coffee for 50¢/cup! Also teas, juices & pop. Coffee Cards \$4.50/10 cups and \$9/20 cups!  
**Enter to win a 20 cup coffee card!**

**CULTURAL SHARING PROGRAM**  
 MONDAYS 5-9PM  
 THEATRE

**\*\* OPEN TO EVERYONE \*\***  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**FIRST NATIONS TALKING CIRCLE**  
 WEDNESDAYS 10AM - 12PM  
 COFFEE & SNACKS PROVIDED.  
 CLASSROOM

**Cultural Sharing - Details:**  
 Drop by to learn the Big Drum, make crafts and meet new friends  
 Everyone Welcome!  
**Talking Circle - Details:**  
 Every Wednesday 10am - 12pm  
 In Classroom  
 Drop by and have a coffee and chat with Perry. Everyone welcome!  
**Learn How to Pow Wow Dance**  
 With Juanita  
 Every Wednesday  
 11 AM - 12:30 PM  
 Everyone welcome!

**POETRY**  
**Poetry Night**  
 Hosted by: Diane Wood  
 Sat Mar 3  
 7 - 9 PM | Theatre
 

**Philosopher's Cafe**  
 Cafe hosted by Mark Stewart  
**Topic:** Should we worry about personal data being collected from our smartphones?  
 Fri Mar 9  
 5 - 6:30 PM | Learning Centre
 
**KARAOKE**  
 Fri Mar 9 & 23  
 7 - 9:45pm  
 Theatre
 


**LET'S DANCE!**  
**COME AND JOIN US FOR LIVE MUSIC AND DANCING**  
**BAND: BLUE RAYS**  
 Fri Mar 16  
 7 - 9:30pm | Theatre

## SPECIAL EVENTS!

 <p><b>Missing - Post-Production Dialogue by: City Opera</b> Sat Mar 10 2 - 4 PM   Theatre</p>	 <p><b>Say Goodbye to Librarian Natalie</b> Sat Mar 10 11am - 1pm   Theatre</p>
 <p><b>Introduction to Crowdfunding</b> 4pm - 5pm Sat Mar 10   Classroom</p>	 <p><b>Bluegrass Concert</b> Wed Mar 14 7 - 9 PM   Theatre</p>
 <p><b>Metropolitan Concert Band Performance</b> Wed Mar 28 7:30 - 8:30 PM   Theatre</p>	 <p><b>Music Jam</b> 1:45 - 5 PM   Theatre Must sign up with Ken, first come first served so come early!</p>

### LEARNING CENTRE

The Learning Centre on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor is open Monday to Thursday 9AM-5PM, and Saturdays 10-2 PM, depending on the availability of Volunteers. Call (604) 665-3013 for inquiries.

We offer one to one tutoring in all subjects from English to computers. Sign up with staff and we will match you with a volunteer tutor.

Classes in English, First Nations Studies, and community development are offered from September to June.

~ The Learning Centre is a partnership between the Carnegie Community Centre and Capilano University ~

### JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM !

Approximately 300 volunteers are the driving force behind the delivery of many programs and services provided by Carnegie.

#### LEND A HELPING HAND TODAY!!!

Orientations are held every Monday and Saturday at 2:30PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Call (604) 665-2220 the morning of orientation to make sure it's not cancelled.



### February Volunteers of the Month

#### Congratulations to :

- Terry Williams (2nd Floor Reception)
- Sam Mackay (Cultural Sharing)



#### Volunteer Dinner

(12 hours minimum to attend)  
**Wed Mar 14**  
4:30 PM | Theatre

#### Volunteer Committee Meeting

**Wed Mar 7**  
3:30 PM | Classroom

Carnegie Membership Card: Cost is \$1.00. It is valid for the calendar year in which it is purchased and expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>. It is 50 cents to get a replacement if lost. Membership includes access to: **Computer Room** 10am - 10pm, **Pool Room** 9am - 10pm, **Weight Room** 10am - 10pm, **Free Phones** 9am - 9pm and, if you are 40 or older, the **Seniors Lounge** 9am - 10pm. Times may vary depending on availability of volunteer monitors. Most programs require that you have and show your membership card. It is very important that you always bring your card with you when you come to Carnegie.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>Line Dancing</b> 9:30 - 11:30 AM Theatre	<b>Tech Café</b> 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Art Gallery	<b>Free Haircuts</b> 10 AM   Seminar Rm Note: Barber will finish when no more clients	<b>Seniors' Bingo</b> 11:30 AM - 2 PM Theatre Mar 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Carnegie Senior members only.	<b>Portrait Drawing</b> 2 - 5 PM   Dining Rm Models are recruited from inside Carnegie. Bring your own materials and drawing board.	<b>Chinese Singing Class</b> 9:30 - 11:30 AM Theatre	<b>Tai Chi</b> 9 - 11 AM   Theatre
<b>Short Story Book Club</b> 10 AM - 12 PM Classroom II	<b>Jazz Band Class</b> 10 - 11 AM practice 11 - 12:45 PM rehearsal Theatre	<b>First Nations Talking Circle</b> 10 AM - 12 PM Classroom Coffee & Snacks provided!	<b>AIDS Support Group</b> 5 - 7 PM   Art Room	<b>Folk Circle</b> 1 - 2:30 PM Classroom II Mar 2, 16	<b>Saturday Night Documentary</b> Brought to you by Humanities 101 6 PM   Theatre Mar 10, 17	<b>Ballroom Dancing</b> 1 - 4 PM   Theatre
<b>Women Rock!</b> 1:30 - 4:30 PM Theatre	<b>Get Back to Active</b> 11 - 12 PM   Weight Rm Injury assessment and exercise program with a personal trainer.	<b>Firewriters with Phoenix</b> 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Learning Centre	<b>Egor's Movie Night</b> 6 - 10 PM   Theatre	<b>Book Giveaway</b> 2:30 - 3 PM Outside Carnegie on Hastings St.	<b>Sing-Along Choir</b> 6:30 - 9:30 PM Classroom II	<b>Art Workshop and Drop in</b> 2 - 6 PM   Art Room With Sarah
<b>Cultural Sharing</b> 5 - 9 PM   Theatre	<b>Music Jam</b> 1:45 - 5 PM   Theatre Must sign up with Ken, first come first served so come early!	<b>Art Room Studio and Workshops</b> 3:30 - 7:30 PM with Erin	<b>Thursdays Writing Collective</b> 2 - 4 PM Classroom II	<b>Karaoke</b> 7 - 9:45 PM   Theatre Mar 9 & 23	<b>Poetry Night</b> 7 - 9 PM   Theatre Hosted by: Diane Wood Mar 3	<b>Egor's Movie Night</b> 5 - 10 PM   Theatre Start time varies so check with Information Desk around 4 pm
<b>NA Group</b> 8 - 9:30 PM Classroom 24 help line 604-873-1018 Meeting list, more info: <a href="http://www.bccsna.bc.ca">www.bccsna.bc.ca</a>	<b>Cabaret Coffee House</b> 6:45 - 9:45 PM Theatre	<b>Music Jam</b> *Mar 7 only First 2 Wednesdays of the month - subject to change 1 pm - 4 pm Theatre Musicians/Singers all styles and level welcome! Must sign up with Sarah, first come first served.		<b>Monthly Dance</b> 7 - 9:45 PM   Theatre Mar 16		
	<b>U.B.C. Law Students</b> Mar 6, 13, 20 7 - 9 PM					

#### PLEASE NOTE!

ALL GYM programs cancelled after January 10, until further notice, due to kitchen renovations.

See the Learning Centre on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor for their monthly schedule of classes & events!

Lane Level - Art Room  
Main Floor - Theatre  
2nd Floor - Gym and Dining Room  
3rd Floor - Art Gallery, Classroom

## Appendix C – “Planning for Real” from the Community Planning Handbook

**P** METHODS**Suggestion cards**

These can be pre-prepared with blanks for people to add any ideas of their own. The use of colour and visual symbols makes the process accessible to those with low literacy levels.

**Priority cards**

These are used to record all suggestions and their locations.

*“Compromise and consensus become easier because everyone’s line of vision converges on the subject matter – the model itself – allowing for practical ways of non-threatening communication and participation.”*

**Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation**  
leaflet, 1997.

## Planning for Real

Planning for Real uses simple models as a focus for people to put forward and prioritise ideas on how their area can be improved. It is a highly visible, hands-on community development and empowerment tool, which people of all abilities and backgrounds find easy and enjoyable to engage in.

- A large 3-dimensional model of a neighbourhood is constructed, preferably by local people, using cardboard cut-outs for buildings pasted onto a base plan fixed to polystyrene or cardboard.
  - The model is used at pre-advertised sessions held in various locations in the community.
  - Participants place suggestion cards on the model indicating what they want to see happen and where (eg playground, parking, standpipe, tree, shopping).
  - The cards are sorted and prioritised to establish an action plan which is followed up by working groups.
- ☞ Kits with building cut-outs and cards can be purchased (☞ further info), or you can make up your own using available materials.
- ☞ Events work best if facilitated by someone who has done it before but the basic idea is easy to pick up from the kits. The kits’ manufacturers – the Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation – recommends that users should be fully trained by them.
- ☞ The model kits are good for generating interest and creating an initial vision. After that they need some creative adaptation if they are to be used for detailed design.
- S** From US\$800 (venue and materials) to \$24,000 (trained facilitator to prepare for several months).

## Typical Planning for Real process

- 1 Initiation.** Define area. Set up Steering Group. Get support. Purchase model pack (optional) or gather materials. (3 months)
- 2 Make model.** A collective exercise by Steering Group, often with school children or students. Usually to a scale of 1:200 or 1:300 – which allows people to identify their own homes – and in sections so that it is easily transportable. (2 days)
- 3 Publicise activity.** Take model around the area to generate interest. (2 weeks)
- 4 Training session.** Run through process with Steering Group. (2 hours)
- 5 Open sessions.**

One or more times in different locations.

  - People gather around model.
  - **Introduction** by facilitator explaining objectives and process. (10 mins)
  - Participants individually place **suggestion cards** on the model. Professionals watch and answer questions but do not take part. (30 mins)
  - Participants **discuss results** and rearrange cards until collectively happy with the result. (30 mins)
  - Participants **record results**, usually on priority cards setting out the suggestion and its location. (30 mins)
  - Participants **prioritise suggestions** by placing priority cards on Now, Soon or Later boards and identifying who should take action. (30 mins)
  - **Discussion on next steps** and establishing working parties on the main issues. (20 mins)

(Total: 2.5 hours – possibly broken up into a series of separate drop-in 'suggestions' sessions, and then a prioritising session.)
- 6 Working parties.** Follow up suggestions. (2 months)
- 7 Feedback.** Circulation of newsletter. (1 month)



### Making suggestions

Participants mill around the model, and make their views known by placing pre-written or self-completed suggestion cards onto it.



### Prioritising

Working in small groups, participants order the suggestions by placing cards onto a chart which is divided into three bands – 'Now', 'Soon', 'Later' – on one axis and those who should be responsible for taking action on the other.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

- 📁 Method: *Models*. Scenario: *Inner city*.
- 📁 Building Design Pack. Do-ers Guide to Planning for Real. Planning for Real Community Pack. Planning for Real – the Video. Power in our Hands.
- ✉ Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation supplies kits with instructions.
- 📁 Margaret Wilkinson. 'Planning for Real'® is a registered trademark of the Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation.

## Appendix D – Hives for Humanity Intake Form – Cultural Production

### Purpose:

- to increase transparency in requests for community engagement,
- to screen for potential issues around ethics,
- to understand purpose, expectations and risks of project
- to clarify timeline, exchange and boundaries

Thank you for your inquiry into partnership with (your organization/name).

We are happy to discuss opportunities and see how we may collaborate in this cultural production through respectful community engagement. Please provide us with a bit more information about your project, (project name).

- What is your purpose and vision for this project?
- Why do you feel we are a good fit for your project?
- How will you present your project to us? Examples: creative brief, story board, ethics process.
- What timeline is your project on, how flexible is this?
- Who are the other partners/collaborators/funders involved in the project?
- How will the product be published? When? Where? And in what context?
- What honouraria or other acknowledgement will be given to participants to honour their time, skill and knowledge?
- How will this project be brought back to the community when complete? Will there be a community event? Will copies of the product be shared with community members? Will there be food? How will you acknowledge the unceded territories this work is being done on?
- Will we have access to the product after the shoot for our own use? What format will this be shared in (i.e. file type and accessibility)?
- Will we have final approval on the project? It is important that our consent is fully informed at all times, or it may be withdrawn.
- How will you support the withdrawal of consent at any time, by any participants?
- What experience do you have working with community in cultural production?

## **Empowering Informed Consent**

*How to ensure community ethics are part of the process of cultural production.*

This card is designed to support community, individuals, media, students, researchers, artists.  
To provide opportunities for conversation, clarity, and fully informed, ongoing, consent.

Community Ethics: a set of principles to guide behaviour, based in experience, acknowledging the interconnections of our humanity, fostering relationships of respect, responsibility, reciprocity and return.

Cultural Production: any time an entity comes into community to and makes a product from its culture, including but not limited to visual art, photography, journalism, media, research, student learning, volunteerism.

### **What is “informed consent”?**

Reasonable understanding of purpose, expectations and risks of project.

*Q: Do you have a written description of the project? What is the timeline and scope of the project? What is your ethics process? What does participation involve? How long will participation take? Have you worked with community before? Do you have lived experience in or associated with the area of inquiry?*

An ongoing process, with ability to withdraw at any time.

*Q: How will you support the withdrawal of consent? What will happen to materials produced? Who is available if any concerns arise and how are they contactable?*

Confidentiality is respected.

*Q: How will this work be published? When? Where? In what context? Will there be an opportunity for review before it is published?*

Affiliations are transparent.

*Q: Who else are you working with, who are funders, who are partners?*

Agreement is mutual.

*Q: How will we ensure both parties are protected? Is there a written agreement? Is the verbal agreement witnessed?*

### **How do we build reciprocity?**

How will time, skills and knowledge of participants be honoured?

*Q: Is there an honouraria? How and when will this be paid?*

How will the product be share with the community?

*Q: Will copies of products be shared with participants?*

Will there be a community engaged event to share products?

*Q: How will the territorial acknowledgement be made? Will there be food to share? How will community engagement be supported?*

What contribution does this project make to the community?

*Q: How might this project dismantle or re-inforce stigmatisation? How might this project create opportunities to share stories of strength?*

### **Where are supporting resources?**

Download this card for your use;  
Access template Intake Forms for media, artists, research and students;  
Read through active policies & procedures from local & international groups;

Online at [www.hivesforhumanity.com/communityethics](http://www.hivesforhumanity.com/communityethics)

In person at Carnegie Library, SFU's Vancity Office of Community Engagement, UBC Learning Exchange, VANDU or Culture Saves Lives.

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