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# WE Choose

# Participatory Budgeting

## Projects and Voting Guide

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# What is Participatory Budgeting?

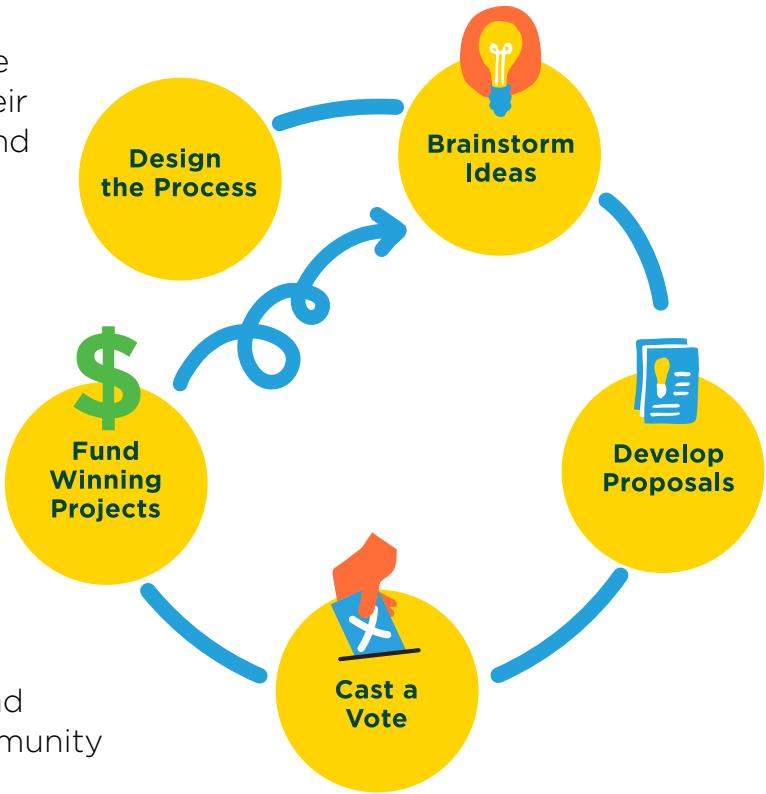
Participatory budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend part of the public budget in their community. It gives local people the power and resources needed to make real decisions and real change in their community.

In 2017, an opportunity arose to test PB in Vancouver for the first time. Through the City of Vancouver's West End Parking Strategy consultation process, the revenue from some of the increases in parking permit fees could be reinvested into the neighbourhood using a PB process.

The following year, with a \$100,000 set aside from parking revenue, the community-based **WE Choo\$e Impact Team** came together to lead this process in the West End and gather community improvement ideas.

During 2019, additional volunteers called **Project Proponents** developed these ideas into feasible projects, with the support of City Staff and the Impact Team. The 14 shortlisted projects are now being put to a **community vote**. Please enjoy reading about these projects on the following pages and casting your vote today!

For more background information, visit: [vancouver.ca/participatorybudgeting](http://vancouver.ca/participatorybudgeting)



## How does the community vote work?

- Voting is open to anyone over the age of 12 with a clear connection to the West End (either lives, works or volunteers)
- Select and rank up to 4 of your favourite projects, and the projects with highest number of votes and ranks fitting within the \$100,000 fund will be implemented.
- To cast a vote, visit one of our public voting stations or go online: [www.vancouver.ca/votePB](http://www.vancouver.ca/votePB)



# Chalk Art Block Party Event

\$15,000

**Ballot Description:** A chalk and art block party for all ages in the streets and sidewalks of the West End, supported by Gordon Neighbourhood House.

**Location(s):** Various public spaces.

**Full Description:** A playful and creative chalk party where you can meet your neighbours and let someone else worry about arranging the party. Murals in chalk will bring a temporary splash of cooler to blank spaces in the West End. Or, you can write out your poetry, your song lyrics, or stories in colourful chalk. Gordon Neighbourhood House would be provided with a grant to organize and facilitate this event to bring the West End community together. Artists recruited for the event would help guide works created by the community, providing a chance for people with a connection to the West End to meet each other, have fun and enjoy creating art, poetry, stories, and song together in our streets. The grant would help fund the event including an event coordinator, artist facilitators, art supplies and materials, street cleaning prior to the event, permits, insurance, promotion and equipment rental.



# **Christine Fretwell and Kathryn Gibbons Memorial Gift to West End Students**

**\$20,000**

**Ballot Description:** A memorial donation of \$20,000 (\$10,000 each for Lord Roberts Elementary and King George Secondary) for sports and/or music equipment.

**Location(s):** Lord Roberts Elementary & King George Secondary

**Full Description:** Dedicated to the memory of Christine Fretwell and Kathryn Gibbons, two West End mothers who passed away recently due to illness, this memorial donation will directly support students at Lord Roberts Elementary and King George Secondary School. With the support of the PACs, the funds (\$10,000 each for both Lord Roberts Elementary and King George Secondary) will be distributed using simplified participatory budgeting model to help the youth of the West End more deeply engage and understand the participatorybudgeting process.



# Davie Village “Flower Power”

**\$40,000**

**Ballot Description:** A hanging flower basket program along the 3 blocks of the Davie Village (Burrard to Jervis) in partnership with the West End Business Improvement Association.

**Location(s):** Davie Street (Burrard to Jervis)

**Full Description:** As a tightly knit neighbourhood and home to Western Canada's largest LGBTQ2+ community, the Davie Village is a hub for the West End and Downtown South. This project would provide a hanging flower basket program, through a grant to the West End Business Improvement Association, along the 3 blocks of the Davie Village (Burrard to Jervis). This program would be highly-visible and build on a number of the public space improvements already initiated near Jim Deva Plaza. A hanging planter program is also consistent with City of Vancouver's West End Plan which seek to identify the “heart” of Davie Village with targeted investment in elements such as decorative lighting, landscaping, public art, and space for gathering, and stress recognition of Davie Village as the culturally and historically important hub of Vancouver's LGBTQ2+ community. These elements could also be reflected in the choice of colours and design for the hanging baskets.



# Eat.Play.Connect Summer Series 2020

\$50,000

**Ballot Description:** Connecting our community through free outdoor food, fitness and art events from June to September 2020.

**Location(s):** Various public spaces.

**Full Description:** Our goal is to connect community through events that promote physical and mental well-being for all ages. This could include weekly co-ed fitness classes lead by local fitness instructors, meditation, art classes in the park, and food events educating the community on the importance of a plant-based lifestyle and the new Canadian Food Guide. Event concepts include a plant-based picnic, painting in the park, meditation and sound bath sessions, sunset yoga, running and walking Clubs, boot camp classes, guided bike tours, sports day, pool day and neighbourhood BBQs. Special note: This programming would not conflict with special city wide events like the Celebration of Light or Vancouver Pride.



# Happy Denman: Transforming the Street Before Your Eyes

\$20,000

**Ballot Description:** A community-led project where your ideas will guide temporary street re-designs to test changes that make Denman Street more safe, inclusive and people-friendly.

**Location(s):** Various locations on Denman Street

**Full Description:** Working with residents, businesses, and neighbourhood groups, this project will identify and test solutions to a number of issues and problems identified on Denman Street. The team of urban activators at Happy City will bring the street to life by testing different changes over the course of a weekend. People will be given the chance to react to these tests, and those reactions will inform a final report with recommendations. These recommendations will allow area residents to demonstrate to the City that they are united in calling for street improvements.



# Healthy Minds, Healthy Hearts

**\$35,000**

**Ballot Description:** Funding to Gordon Neighborhood House to expand their free mental health services by hiring part-time staff for 12 months.

**Location(s):** Gordon Neighbourhood House

**Full Description:** Gordon Neighbourhood House (GNH) is one of the only providers of free community counselling in the West End. We believe counselling should be free and accessible to everyone, and so we provide over 35 hours of counselling each week to West Enders struggling with depression, anxiety, grief and trauma. We also work to reduce barriers to access by providing childcare, food, translated materials and referrals to those who may need it. This funding would allow us to support an additional 85 West Enders in 2020. A portion of funding would also support the coordination and administration of the funding.



# Pedestrian Crossing at Barclay and Nicola Streets

**\$15,000**

**Ballot Description:** Improvements to the pedestrian crosswalk at Barclay and Nicola Streets, including a zebra crossing, signage and curb ramp upgrades.

**Location(s):** Barclay at Nicola Street

**Full Description:** The pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Barclay and Nicola Streets need improvements, including a zebra crossing and signage at the west crosswalk, and upgrades to curb ramps. This project will fund these improvements, complement the upgrades currently taking place along Haro Street, and improve access to Barclay Heritage Square, the West End Seniors' Network at Barclay Manor, Friends For Life at Weeks House, and the Roedde House Museum.



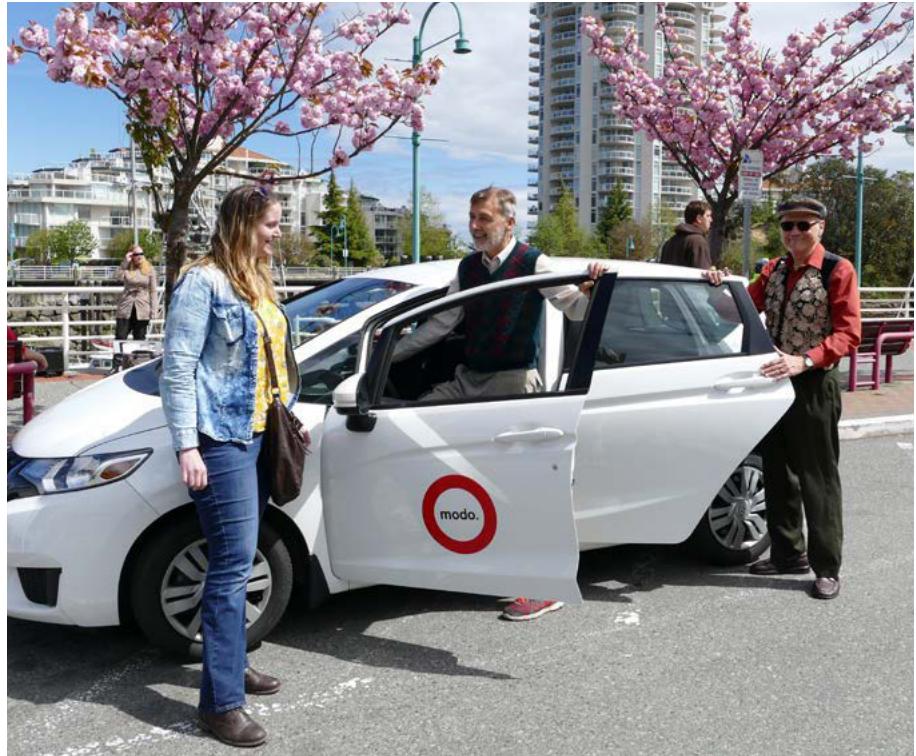
# Senior's Transportation Service

\$15,000

**Ballot Description:** Funding for the West End Seniors' Network Better at Home service to support the costs of transporting older adults in the West End around Vancouver to medical appointments.

**Location(s):** Across West End

**Full Description:** The Better at Home service offered by the West End Seniors' Network (WESN) assists older adults living in the West End by providing transportation to and from medical appointments. West End seniors are eligible for this service if they are 55+ and need assistance to complete day-to-day tasks safely and effectively. WESN volunteers drive seniors to and from appointments, a service which is provided by donation. The most significant costs to this service are expenses related to its Modo car share account and the ongoing need to recruit volunteer drivers. With this funding, WESN would have greater capital for carsharing costs to meet the increasing need for transportation supports to appointments with medical, dental, vision, and hearing professionals. Additionally, WESN could address its other significant limitation, a low base of volunteer drivers, by initiating a recruitment drive.



# Sidewalk Improvements

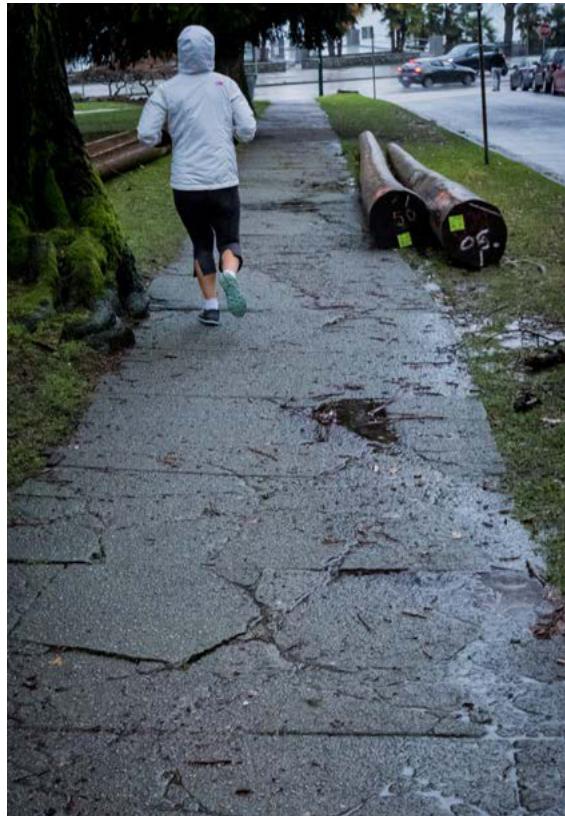
\$30,000

**Ballot Description:** Sidewalk replacement and repairs at six locations in the West End to remove tripping hazards and enhance safety.

## Location(s):

- Bute Street between Nelson and Comox Streets (west side)
- Bute Street between Jepson-Young Lane and Pendrell Streets (west side)
- Bute Street at Harwood Street (north side)
- Burnaby Street between Beach and Bidwell Streets (south side)
- Burnaby Street between Nicola and Broughton Streets (south side)
- Burnaby Street between Broughton and Jervis Streets (south side)

**Full Description:** The West End is considered a highly walkable neighbourhood, but sidewalks in disrepair present barriers to people with mobility impairments and those who use walkers or wheelchairs. This project will improve the sidewalks at six West End locations to remove tripping hazards and enhance safety.



# West End Calisthenics Parks

\$50,000

**Ballot Description:** Creation of local calisthenics space to enable residents to pursue and maintain a simple but effective strength and skills workout through pull-up, parallel and wall bars.

**Location(s):** Barclay Heritage Square in the green space at the corners of Haro and Nicola Streets

**Full Description:** Calisthenics parks are suitable for people of all ages, skill and strength levels and abilities. In addition to physical benefits, calisthenics parks also have shown to have an important social benefit by enabling social interactions and community building. In the West End Neighbourhood Social Indicators Profile published by the City of Vancouver in 2018, almost a quarter (23%) of the West End's population is below the after-tax low income measure. In addition, the median income of the neighbourhood lies below the rest of the City (\$51,000 vs \$65,000). Ie subsidized fitness programs and facilities exist in the neighbourhood, the calisthenics parks do not require any financial contributions by community members to utilize and benefit from the infrastructure. Furthermore, users of calisthenics parks are free to develop their own full-body exercise routine using resources freely available online or exchange knowledge with other participants.



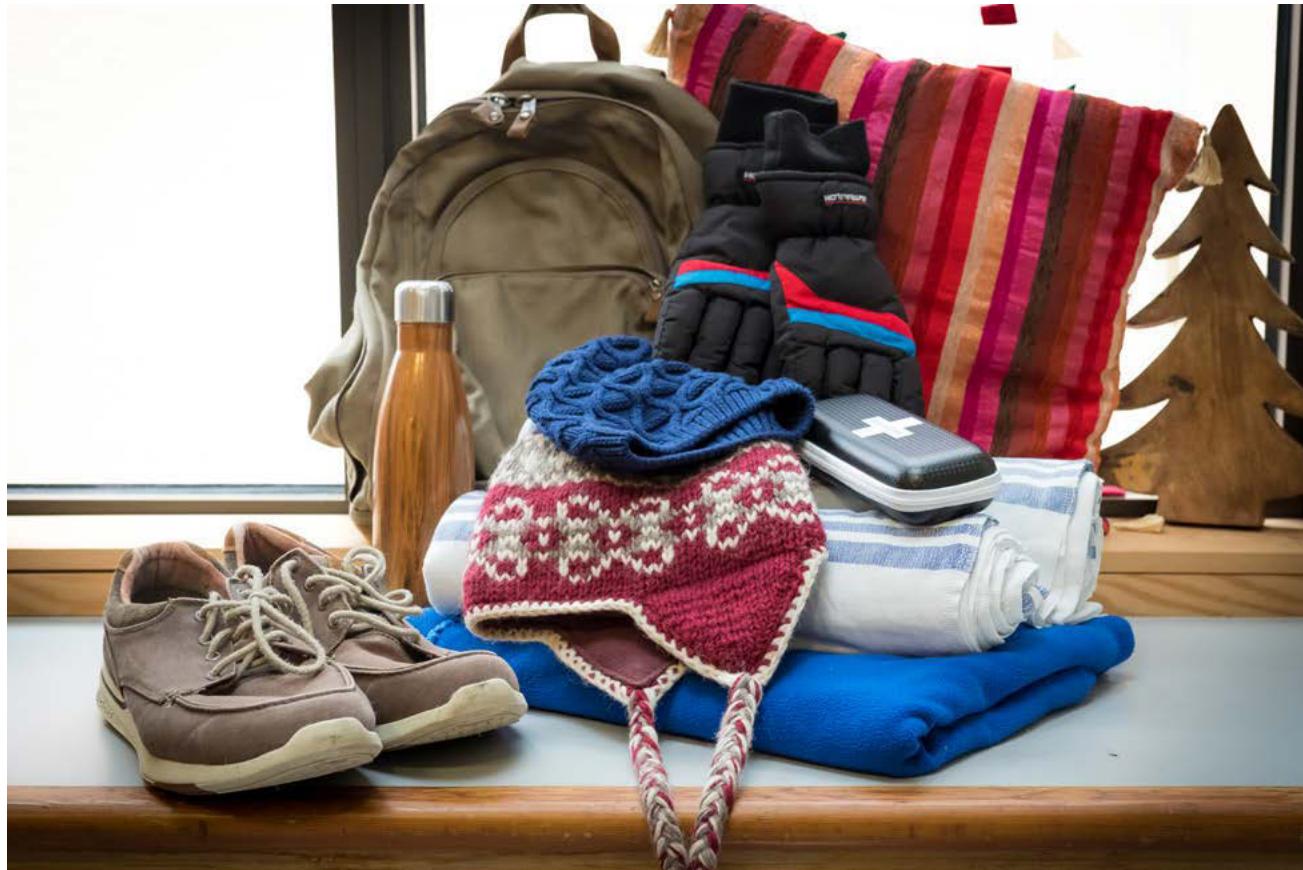
# West End Care Kits

\$12,000

**Ballot Description:** Distributed by the Gordon Neighbourhood House, these welcome kits for homeless residents to West End will encourage a sense of belonging, community and security.

**Location(s):** Gordon Neighbourhood House

**Full Description:** Welcome Kits will provide resources to 50 homeless residents of the West End to encourage a sense of belonging, community, and security. The kits will be distributed from GNH to vulnerable individuals in the community, building stronger relationships between those residents and staff or volunteers. Beneficiaries would be individuals that have spent no more than one month in the West End, are homeless or live in extreme poverty, and/or in desperate need of the benefits provided by these kits. The kits include the Vancouver Food Asset Map, a mental health and addiction service brochure, a \$20 voucher to The Attic Thrift Stores, a \$20 voucher to a local grocery store, hygiene necessities, a naxolone kit, and inclement weather gear and equipment. The distribution process will happen organically from the front desk of GNH. Project cost includes the procurement of materials and packaging and delivery to GNH. GNH will cover the administration costs to distribute the kits.



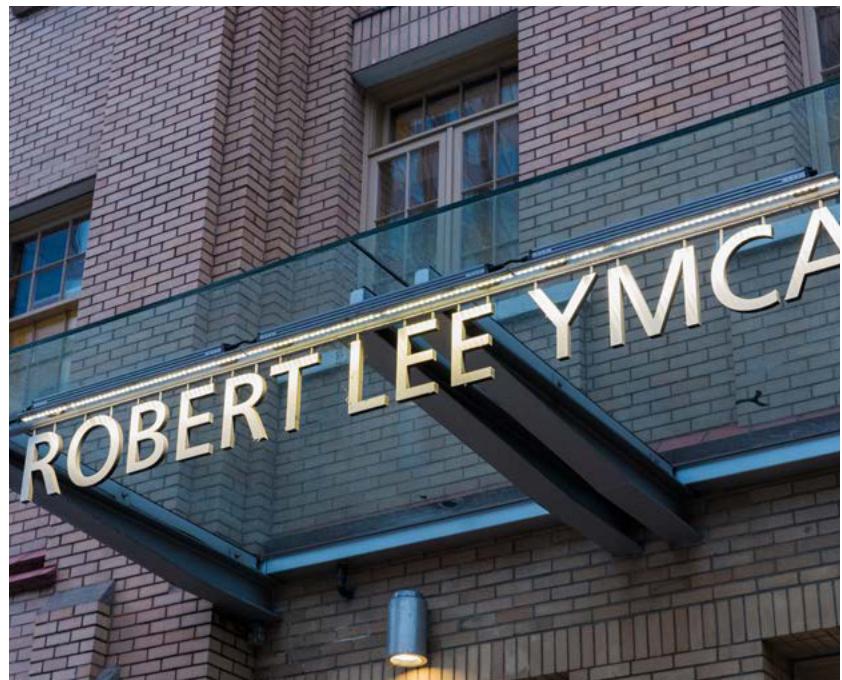
# West End Emergency Childcare Grant

\$10,000

**Ballot Description:** 15-20 one-time grants for sole parents/guardians unable to make monthly childcare payments, to be assessed on income level, need, employment, and number of children.

**Location(s):** Robert Lee YMCA

**Full Description:** Single parent families make up 35% of families with children in the West End, and 82% of these single parents are female-identified. Single mothers are more likely to face significant social and economic challenges, including the inability to make monthly childcare payments and lack of access to childcare. Families and caregivers that are less likely to be able to afford high-quality childcare compromise a child's social, emotional, academic, and physical health, as well as pose a higher risk of stress, burnout, and increased barriers for employment, physical exercise, and nutrition. With this in mind, this project will provide funding for numerous one-time grants for single parents or caregivers that are unable to meet childcare costs for: after school childcare, spring and summer camps, and school closure days (like Pro-D days). Childcare and Camps are open to all families in the neighbourhood, based on availability.



# West End Food Hub

\$50,000

**Ballot Description:** Funding for food, services, and programming for neighbours who are nutritionally vulnerable, experiencing homelessness, newcomers, and low-income seniors and families.

**Location(s):** Gordon Neighbourhood House

**Full Description:** The West End is comprised of almost entirely multi-unit residential buildings with some of the highest rental rates in the city. Meanwhile, median incomes in the West End are much lower than City-wide averages, and over 23% of residents live in low-income households. As a result, this situation has led to an increasing number of people in our community who need emergency and low-cost food.

The West End now has the second-highest number of people who access the Food Bank in the city (the first being the Downtown Eastside). Supported by Gordon Neighbourhood House, this project will directly affect our neighbours who are most in need by providing funding for food, services, and programming for neighbours who are nutritionally vulnerable, experiencing homelessness, newcomers, and low-income seniors and families.



# West End Placemaking Mural

**\$25,000**

**Ballot Description:** Funding to commission a large community placemaking mural (or several smaller murals) in the West End.

**Location(s):** Various public spaces in West End

**Full Description:** During the idea collection phase, many people requested more murals in the West End. Murals help create a connection between those who live, work and play in the community and can provide echoes of those who have lived in this area in years past. Through this project, the City of Vancouver would invite artists to submit proposals for temporary painted and/or digital printed artworks to be installed in the public realm within the West End. The final locations, either on a civic building or private property with a public facing space, will need to be determined in partnership with the City of Vancouver. Artists would be selected by a panel of 3 to 5 art professionals and community leaders who have a connection to the West End. The budget allocation will include proposal fees for shortlisted artists, commissioned artist fees, panel honouraria, paint and paint supplies, equipment and 2-year maintenance timeframe.



# 2019-2020 WE Choose Impact Team

(and affiliated organizations):

Co-chair: Kendal Fish

Co-chair: Anthony Kupferschmidt  
West End Seniors' Network

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*Gordon Neighbourhood House*

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*on behalf of the Lord Roberts and King*

George PACs

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Colleen Hamilton

Joel Harnest

*QMUNITY*

Chris Hyndman

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WE Arts*

Sol Lewites

Cheryl Loveseth

Tim Maskell

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*West End BIA*

Nigel Morgan

*Dr. Peter Centre*

Alicea Praeker

*Vancouver Pride Society*

# 2019-2020 Project Proponents

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# **Prepared by the WE Choose Impact Team**

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**For more information:**

Visit: **vancouver.ca/participatorybudgeting**

Email: **public.engagement@vancouver.ca**

