

Britannia

RENEWAL

PHASE 1 DEEP DIVE:
Listening Sessions
NOTES Part II
February – March 2021



Boys Basketball
Youth Listening Session
March 4th

Youth Listening Session: Boys Basketball

March 4, 2021

Facilitators: Iggy and Tru

Existing Site

VIEWS

- Best views are from skywalk (connects old part of school to new building)
- More views of the mountains and downtown

SMELLS

- Don't like the skatepark because of the smell of weed and cigarettes
- The community garden is nice to walk through on their way to and from school

SOUNDS

- Dislike the sound of vehicles from the streets (i.e., revving engines)
- Like the sounds of people playing in gyms, gathering at events, etc.

FEEL & NAVIGATION

- Bigger hallways are needed
 - Most of the boys mainly hung out inside the school and in the gyms.
- Larger gyms to host more big events (e.g., invitationals basketball tournament)
- More indoor and outdoor basketball courts
- Larger fitness centre- roofs are too low currently
- Teen centre: some use it regularly to hang out after school- others don't use it as much and hang out with friends on benches outside, etc. (need for designated space vs. ad hoc space). Some feel unsafe to use the teen centre because the "druggies" use it
- Most common places for this group to hang out in:
 - Main hall within school, skywalk, cafeteria, gyms, fitness centre
- Some of the boys felt unsafe in outdoor spaces due to others using drugs (e.g smoking weed). Places they sometimes felt unsafe included teen centre, skatepark

Future Site

Diverse Community

- Inclusion and diversity- Britannia should be a place for all different people

Skatepark Concerns

- No skatepark (concerns with people who smoke weed)

Food Access

- Lunch and food program- more food options and food access on site
- Better food options: local places, restaurants, cafes, etc.

Parking

- More parking for cars

Natural & Outdoor Spaces

- More gardens and nature on the site
- Emphasis on nature, views and more trees
- More colours around the school (i.e., on buildings, on pavement, etc.)
- Cleanliness- more trashcans
- More under cover areas with benches and gathering spaces for socializing (rain protection)

Recreational Spaces

- Better, more accessible gyms
- Public basketball courts that are open to everyone from the neighbourhood
- Football posts on the field

Boys Basketball



red dots



blue dots



yellow dots



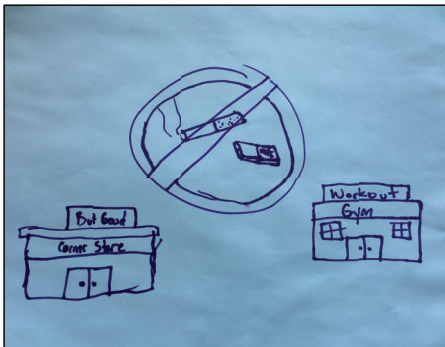
green dots



Boys Basketball



Boys Basketball



Girls Who LEAP (Seniors)
Youth Listening Session
March 5th

Youth Listening Session: Girls Who LEAP (Seniors)

March 5th 2021

Facilitators: Sarah and Mackenzie

Reflective Mapping Exercise

VIEWS

Grass Field

- View (x7)- great views of the sunset, open space, skyline, people watching
- Place where community gathers

Britannia Secondary School

- Views (x4)- good views of downtown from the third floor, lots of sunlight, direct view of downtown

Gym A + B

- Views- love the view from inside the gym, looking down from the bleachers, seeing the sunset out of the large windows, people watching

Ice Rink

- Views -paintings/art on the ground, community

The space between the ice rink and the pool, exit of gym C

- Views (x2)- best view of the sunset from here

Commercial Drive

- Views (x2)- love seeing food through the windows on commercial

Garden behind tennis courts

- View – nature, flowers

Gravel field

- Good views

Grandview Park

- Like the view from Grandview Park

East of Gravel field

- Best view from here

SMELLS

Grass Field

-Smell (x5)- Love the smell of freshly cut grass, flowers

Food Program

-Smells- like the smells coming from the food program

Gym A + B

-Smells- basketball shoes, rubber, sunlight

Ice Rink

-Smell (x8)- love the smell of the ice rink

Pool

-Smell (x3) - Love/hate relationship with the smell of the pool, chlorine smell brings back memories, Love the smell

Commercial Drive

-Smells (x6)- love the smells from the restaurants on Commercial, smell from DownLow Chicken

Gardens behind secondary school and gym a+b

-Smell (4) - Love the smells of the garden and the plants, earthy smell

Garden behind tennis courts

-Smells (x2)- smells great, a really nice place

Elementary school

-Smell- always smells like pee

SOUNDS

Grass Field

-Sounds (x4)- people laughing, birds singing, dogs, people playing sports, yelling, runners, children laughing/yelling

Britannia Secondary School

-Hear music, people chatting

Gym A + B

-Sound (x2)- love the sounds of the echoes off the wall, the squeaking shoes, the bustle of the activity, the sounds of people playing basketball

Ice Rink

-Sound (x5)- love the sounds of the rink, I feel happy in that space, associate with hockey

Pool

- Sound (x2) – splashing, people having fun

Commercial Drive

-Sounds (x4)- love the sounds of commercial drive, people living their life, lots of people around, sounds of the City

Gardens behind secondary school and gym a+b

-Sounds - Birds, nature

Elementary school

-Sounds (x3) -Children laughing/playing

Gravel field

-Sound- like the sound of the gravel crunching, laughter, people talking, can hear the music on Commercial

Parking Lot

-Hear the sounds of trucks

Big tree West of gym a+b

-Hear drum circles in the evening

FEEL & NAVIGATION

Grass Field

-Where I feel most comfortable (x3): because of the grass, being with friends, being active, feels like home

Britannia Secondary School

-Where I feel most comfortable (x10)- in my favourite class because the room is spacious, roomy, a welcoming place, feel safe, where friends convene

-Where I feel most comfortable- Mitra's office, snacks, a secluded spot, green benches to sit on

-Where I feel uncomfortable- bad vibe

-Feel most comfortable in the cafeteria

Gym A+B

-Where I feel most comfortable (x6)- Clean, good lighting, the light coming in the windows at 4:30pm is beautiful, connected to others through sport, everyone is accepted, a place for unity, welcoming, a place for craft fairs, sports and sleepovers

Ice Rink

- Where I feel most comfortable (x3) -Friends convene, sports are played here, sitting on the benches

Library

-Where I feel most comfortable (x2) -Calming, inviting, memories, where you can quietly do homework

The space between the ice rink and the pool, exit of gym C

-I feel safe here and aware of my surroundings, always people around

-Good lighting here, feel safe, people are around

Near big tree behind secondary school

-Place I feel most comfortable- I always exit school from here

Gym D

-Where I feel most comfortable- memories of elementary school, the floor making my shoes blue, good memories of fun times

Elementary school

-Where I feel most comfortable- I find it calming walking through the halls of this building

Gym C

-Don't use this space too often because it's farther away. Bland, no personality

-Where I feel most comfortable- site of leadership program- although usually extremely cold or hot in Gym C

Grandview Park

-Where I feel uncomfortable- does not feel safe

Space between pool and gym C

-Where I feel uncomfortable- does not feel safe, drug use

Big tree West of gym a+b

-Where I feel most comfortable

Track

-Being outside with friends in PE class/in the summer

Features from Collages

Building Design – windows, natural light

- Big windows- sunlight, warmth of sun
- Open windows- views/sunset
- Big windows
- Warm, big windows, places to people watch, a hub of activity
- Sky walk that connects the buildings something that we love and would like to retain

Building Design – open, bright, vibrant

- White, clean, modern
- Bright light, modern, bright colours
- Aesthetically pleasing – Instagram worthy
- Purple, calming colours
- The colour yellow

Public Realm – Seating

- Comfortable places to hang out and sit
- Seating across the site- big bean bag chairs, couches indoor and outside
- Balcony from which to watch the sunset
- Place to hang out on rooftops
- Rooftop gardens with seating and views

Public Realm – Green space

- Community gardens and open space
- Gardens, more central, closer to the school
- More gardens, more nature, less concrete
- Plants, green house
- Gardens
- Water- sunshine coming into the pool
- Surrounded by trees
- More trees, clean air
- Nature and healthy living
- Nature, animals, café like settings

Accessibility

- Accessibility
- Accessible, less hills
- Site is currently inaccessible for all of us, hard to move around the site
- Clean, accessible, modern, universal washrooms (x2)
- Need water fountains near the gym

Connectivity and Wayfinding

- Signage to help people navigate the site
- Elementary school and secondary school and library physically connected and close by
- Better connection between buildings and floors
- Undercover connections between buildings

Inclusivity

- No anti-homelessness infrastructure, maintain warming center
- Togetherness, belonging, community
- Do not want to see the community gentrified
- Newness, room to grow with the space, feeling like you always belong

Spaces – Flexible, indoor/outdoor, community gatherings

- Spaces for nutrition, dancing, indoor and outdoor
- Bigger office for Mitra (for youth programming)
- Sound proof music room
- Lounge areas
- More places to eat lunch
- Spaces for nature and that reflect the history and culture of the place
- Outdoor spaces for socializing and fitness
- Rain cover
- Multi-purpose space for community gatherings and events – people can move and socialize
- Places where community can gather, interact and strengthen culture/sense of community

Art – Dedicated places to create and showcase

- Culture and art, murals
- Art that distinguishes Britannia from other community centers
- Places to do art
- Accessible places to do art

Other

- A lazy river
- Composting on site
- Not too warm (air conditioning)

Girls Who LEAP (Seniors)



red dots



blue dots



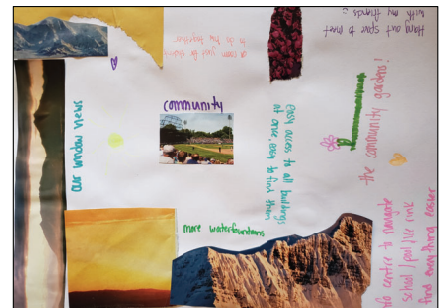
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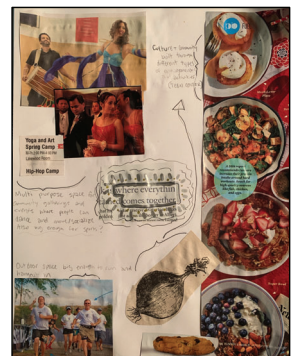
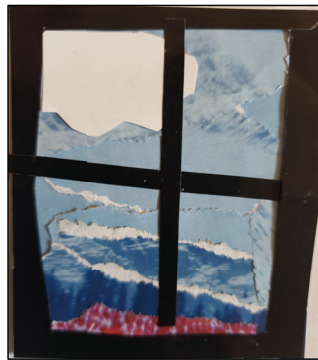
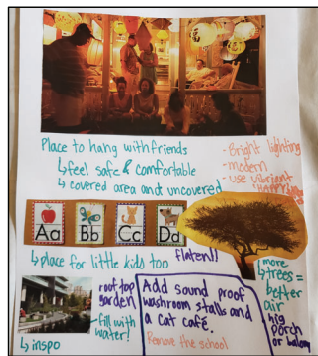
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Girls Who LEAP (Seniors)



Girls Who LEAP (Seniors)



Girls Who LEAP (Juniors)
Youth Listening Session
March 17th

Youth Listening Session: Girls Who LEAP (Juniors)

March 17th 2021

Facilitators: Tru and Mackenzie

Reflective Mapping Exercise

VIEWS

South of gravel field

- Best view of whole city

Grass field

- Great view of city
- Best view right in the middle
- See people exercising, youth, families, etc.

Skatepark and garden

- Like to come here to watch people skateboarding

Skywalk

- Views of mountains here, gets a lot of sunlight

Ground Murals

- Enjoy looking down at all of the murals/art
- They should re-do this to bring new colours around the school

Garden

- Like seeing green space and trees throughout the site- need more

Southeast Corner of field by Williams Street

- There are rocks here near the path that are great for sitting and you get unobstructed view of the city

Graffiti

- As you walk around the site

Swimming pool benches

- Favourite places to sit and look at your surroundings

SMELLS

Off Commercial

- Many smells coming from shops and food places off Commercial
- Downlow Chicken and Uprising Bread - some good smells
- Downlow Chicken garbage is very close to ice rink- can smell very bad at certain times

Skatepark & Garden

- Strong smell of marijuana

Gym A + B

- Strong smell of garbage
- Smells from people working out

Carving Centre

- Like the smells around here- cedar, sage nearby

Grandview Park

- Smell of trees and sandbox

Pool

- Smells from swimming pool
- Sitting outside on covered pool benches- can smell rain

SOUNDS

Classrooms

- You can hear kids playing outside from the Britannia Secondary School classrooms- this can be distracting sometimes (would like playgrounds to be away from windows)
- You can also hear skateboards and people playing basketball on the courts- which is nice but not during class

Green Space

- Can sometimes hear hummingbirds
- Birds chirping relaxes your anxiety

Off Commercial

- Sounds of sirens are very prevalent
- Sounds of cars

Grandview Park

- Sounds of kids playing

Gravel lot by the field

- Can hear sounds of kids at the park

Garden area right off McLean Drive

- Wish this was more quiet and calming area because it's green space

Gyms + Basketball Courts

- Basketball sounds are quintessential to Britannia

Outside Spaces

- Can always hear community members chatting and running into each other
- All of the sounds belong together- people playing, chatting, nature, etc.

FEEL & NAVIGATION**Entire Site**

- Feeling comfortable everywhere because they grew up here

Skatepark

- Important to keep the skatepark because this feels like home to many people

Benches by ice rink

- Place to gather and hangout with friends (x2)
- Many age ranges use these benches- can sometimes be uncomfortable

Entrance in between library and elementary school

- Uncomfortable because there is a lot of smoking and vaping

Basketball courts

- Comfortable

Skywalk in school

- Feels comfortable walking through

"The skywalk represents the Britannia community"

Gardens by skatepark

- Not able to enjoy gardens as much because of smokers

Benches near Mitra's Office

- Has become the unofficial hangout space for youth girls

Gym C

- Don't feel comfortable here walking after basketball practice- not enough lighting and is too dark

Bus Stop at Entrance

- Discomfort - People are often looking for a washroom here

Library

- In the front, it feels safe here- many people around and a lot of activity
- In the alleyway beside library- feels uncomfortable- many strangers and non-students

Gym A + B

- Feels comfortable

Pool

- Feels uncomfortable
- Swimming pool benches are most comfortable for others because most times it's quiet and they provide shelter from everything

"I met my best friends by the pool benches. It's easy to meet people there"

Staircase between gym, ice rink, parking lot

- Challenging for some people to navigate

Quad area by library, CC, Seniors Centre

- Feel most comfortable here- always many people around

Features from Collages & Discussion

Dedicated Teen Space

- Open and bright
- Provision of counselling services and mental health resources
- Right now, teen centre is dark and enclosed- needs to be more bright and welcoming around the outside and inside

Active Learning Spaces

- Active spaces for learning throughout the site
- Youth learning opportunities

Inclusive Recreation Areas

- Gender inclusivity in sports areas

Culture and Art

- More art and colour around the site
- Showcase public and local art
- Areas for dance and cultural expression
- Areas with music

Natural Spaces

- More trees, natural green space
- Gardens
- More wildlife- birds, etc.
- Aquarium with fish to look at
- Allow for more natural sounds (water, birds, leaves rustling, etc.)

Calming Areas

- Spaces to be in solitude
- Quiet, calm spots away from noise and activity
- More upper floor space with windows (like Mitra's office)- spaces to study and lounge and still get great views

Multigenerational Spaces

- Emphasis areas that bring different generations together (younger and older)- more opportunities to connect, learn from each other, etc.

Gathering Spaces

- More places to gather with friends outside (i.e. covered pavilion)
- Picnic tables
- More bench seating
- Spaces large enough to safely gather outside

Lighting

- The site is super dark- more lighting around buildings and especially around parking lot

Concerns with Housing on Site

- Safety concerns with amount of women and youth abductions in area
- Housing should be for Elders on the site
- Housing may block views of the mountains looking east
- If people live at Britannia, concern that it may not be as comfortable for kids to hang out after school (need dedicated spaces for youth and school)

Parking on Site

- Concern for parking capacity + location on site
- Questions on accessibility if all parking is underground
- Will parking still be free for the community?

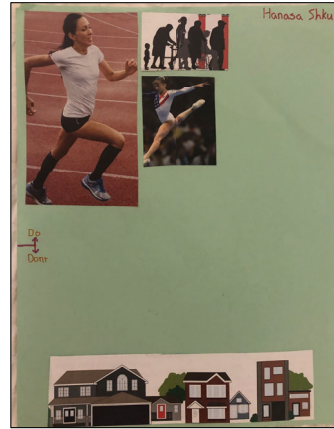
Girls Who LEAP (Juniors)



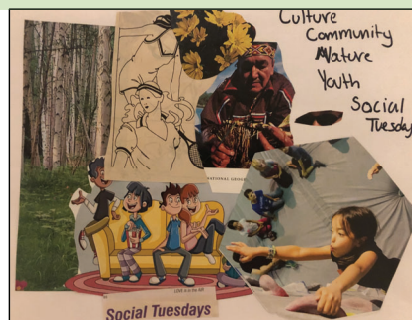
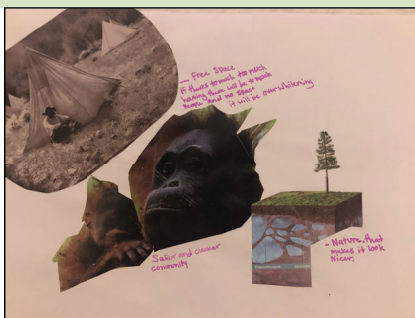
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Girls Who LEAP (Juniors)



Girls Who LEAP (Juniors)



Vancouver Native Housing Society
Listening Session
March 26th

VANCOUVER NATIVE HOUSING LISTENING SESSION

Britannia Renewal

March 26th, 2021

Britannia Gym C

4:00 – 6:00pm

11 participants

INDOOR SPACES

Welcoming & Bright

- Feeling welcomed as you enter building
- Lighting is key, many windows to make buildings feel bright (natural light)
- Will the shops below the field be underground? Concerns that there will not be enough natural light
- Gym C currently feels like you are underground, no windows or natural light

Safety & Security

- One primary way to enter and exit the site
- Security system for accessing housing, buzzing in and out
- There is a need for warming centre- but need to ensure that there is a safe way for kids to walk to and from school. At the moment, the path kids take to walk to school often leads to interactions with those leaving the warming centre.
- Need for more people on site, more of a presence to ensure people feel safe

Public Art

- Display of Indigenous art

Plan Layout (+ Nearby Uses)

- Need to ensure connection between related buildings
- Swimming pool, rink and gym all benefit from being nearby each other
- Schools, gym and library should be nearby each other
- Like that the plan has designated buildings and the overall layout of the Master Plan

Accessibility & Parking

- Easy to walk and drive to buildings + access to parking
- Place to drop off children at school

Ice Rink

- Importance of public access to rink as spectators
- Warm place to watch hockey

- Heated seats in rink
- Designated space for gatherings, birthday parties (right now, spectator space in ice rink is being rented out for parties)

Private Spaces

- Need for fields/gyms that are dedicated to the school and not shared during school hours
- Programming and daycare should have private spaces
- Private spaces: schools, fields and gyms during school hours

Public Spaces

- Public spaces: library, recreational centres, community programs

Wayfinding

- More directive signage needed

Senior and Elder Spaces

- Importance of 55+ space and access to food- healthy food options, cooking classes
- Elders need their own spot- dedicated but with times for youth to interact with Elders
- Elders centre and carving centre should be close together

Indigenous Spaces

- Dedicated space for Urban Indigenous peoples (ceremony space)
- A home away from home for Urban Indigenous people, the heart of our Urban Indigenous community

Community Programming

- Spaces for community connections should be close together
- Importance of facilities that support all elements of a food system- growing food, preparing food, learning about food preparation
- Access to spaces for community use when school is not in session
- More life skills classes
- Tae-bo exercise class
- Intergenerational mix of programming
- Utilize carving centre for school and public programs

OUTDOOR SPACES

Public Washrooms

- More washrooms on site
- Secure, clean, safe public outdoor washrooms

Adequate Seating Areas

- More seating options (especially near playground)
- Seating like benches, tables, etc. for picnics and eating
- Areas to relax
- Seating around fields and courts for spectators

Outdoor Gardens

- Secure outdoor gardens (learning opportunity for children- access for community and school)
- Access to rooftop gardens- concern that may access may be limited and those spaces won't be able to be shared as easily
- Will the urban farm be part of Street Front programming? There is an opportunity to connect urban farm with programming.

Spaces for Large Gatherings & Celebrations

- Areas for outdoor gatherings with covered shelter (accommodate larger groups/families)
 - Very important during COVID
- Space for night market
- Outdoor space for singing and dancing
- Traditional singing, dancing areas

Sports Fields & Play Areas

- Public outdoor courts and sports fields
- Outdoor sporting activity spaces
- Secure play spaces for kids
- More places to play basketball

Parking & Drop-off

- Need for adequate amount of parking spaces and drop-off points

Outdoor Programming

- Tutoring programs for all ages
- Elder-led classes and programming

Current Site

- Needs paint job and maintenance
- Like the current layout

NON-MARKET HOUSING

Affordable Housing

- Need for more affordable housing in community- a lot of people are moving downtown
- Need for low-income housing

Short-term Housing

- Could consider short-term/temporary housing as one model

Separate from School

- Keeping housing separate from schools so it's safe for children walking to schools
- Concern for safety and security
- Keeping housing separate from schools
- Monitoring and security around housing, ability for residents to buzz up

Larger Units

- Bigger units for larger families and intergenerational families (3-5 bedrooms)

Elder Housing

- Dedicated units for Elders. There is a need for Elder housing in the community.

Providers & Housing Type

- Vancouver Native Housing
- Lu'ma Housing
- Co-op housing

Provision of Resources & Services

- Resources nearby on site to provide for people in housing- life skills, etc.
- Need proper supports and services to make it a safe place
- Programs for youth, youth in care, youth that age out, etc.
- Programs to support food security

Sense of Community

- Building strong community with strong neighbour support through housing on site
- Concern about bringing people in from outside of community (should be housing for people already in community)
- Families living in the new housing will have safe access to new community buildings/events and outdoor activities