

# Appendices

- A. West End Experiences Stories**
- B. West End Experiences Survey**
- C. Engagement Boards and Supporting Material**

# A. West End Experiences Stories

## West End Experiences

At the core of the W.E. Connect visioning process were stories of all kinds of different experiences of the West End. These stories helped shed light on what is unique and special about the West End.

The following were collected through an online survey, paper survey, at workshops and at pop-up events.

Then, these community stories were collaboratively interpreted during workshops and other engagement opportunities, to draw out key ideas for a vision and principles for the future Community Hub.

People responding to the West End Experiences Survey were asked to choose one of three prompts for sharing their experience about the West End:

- 1. What is a memory you have from the West End?**
- 2. If you had to tell a friend something unique or special about the West End, what would it be?**
- 3. Tell us about something that happened in the West End that people need to hear about.**

## Stories chosen by W.E. Connect workshop participants to be shared more widely

The following stories were selected by W.E. Connect workshop participants during visioning workshops to be shared more widely. These stories were posted on boards in high-foot traffic locations, and on the project webpage.

## Love and Recovery

I met my soulmate here. But that's not the important part of the story! What really matters is exactly where that happened - we met at an AA meeting. AA is not a dating service by any means, but our coming together was a byproduct of us both being sober, healthy, happy, and reinstated as contributing members of society. We people in recovery are very fortunate to have all sorts of anonymous 12-step meetings in the West End - AA, NA, AI-Anon, Nar-Anon, OA, and CMA are the few that I know of, and I would guess that there are many more! My hope for the future of this site is that there will be affordable spaces for 12-step meetings to rent out so they can continue to meet. Groups are slowly but surely being priced out of suitable meeting places due to the shameful, atrocious rents in this city, so a public site with affordable meeting rooms for rent would help alleviate this stress. God knows, we need as many recovery spaces as we can get in the city of Vancouver!

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## Living in the fun destination

I moved to the West End (near English Bay beach) from Yaletown. When I stepped out of my previous building in Yaletown, there were people on the sidewalks, but they always seemed to be in a hurry and headed somewhere else. In contrast, when I stepped out of my new building in the West End, there were people on the sidewalks, but this was their destination, and they were having fun. It was lovely to live where people came to have fun.

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## Saturdays at the Fitness Centre

My partner and I went to a community centre fitness class every Saturday morning for over three years. It had an extremely affordable drop-in rate which helped as we were students and just starting out in the city. The class was special in that people of all ages came to it to work out. The friends we made in the class led to waves on the sidewalk as we moved about the community during the week recognizing people as we ran our errands. Babies were born and brought to the class, news was shared, and brunch was had after the class. Covid hit and the class hasn't been there since. We miss it, we miss our little Saturday community, and I hope that however the community centre shapes up that there continues to be accessible, and importantly, affordable options for community building.

## Reigniting the Fight Against Non-Local Traffic

In the late 1960s my grandmother lived in a modest studio apartment on Chilco Street between Pendrell and Comox. At that time Chilco was a noisy street busy with non-local traffic from the North Shore travelling between Beach Avenue and Georgia Street. Today Chilco is a quiet pleasant street because planners and politicians in the 70s had a vision to protect the neighbourhood by building traffic diversions and mini-parks which has made the neighbourhood a much more pleasant place to walk and encounter other neighbours. This work is not yet complete because our main streets particularly Denman are still dominated by non-local traffic, that does not support local businesses and which creates noise and pollution and affects the quality of bus service. The West End Community Plan passed by Council in 2013, spoke of improving the pedestrian environment in the West End and prioritizing walking and transit over the private automobile. Yet over the past eight years nothing concrete has been brought forward. Denman Street sidewalks are in poor condition especially for seniors with wheelchairs and walkers, and there is not enough width to allow for physical distancing and cafe patios. Perhaps it is time when planners and politicians made concrete their aspirational plans by further diverting non-local traffic from travelling through our neighbourhood and especially our high streets and replacing vehicular traffic lanes with wider sidewalks.

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## Memories of My Neighbourhood

I am a 66 yr old female. I have lived in the West end since 1980 where I raised my son, who also currently resides in the West End. I will share a couple of very fond memories I have of the Neighbourhood. One is the wonderful West End Community Centre which had and still has so many after school programs and activities for children of all ages and abilities . The Centre along with the VPL made sure that no child nor teen would ever have to stay in an apt in front of a TV. They are the heartbeat of our community ! Another memory is the First Baptist Church bus coming through the West End every Sunday morning picking up folks that could not , for whatever reason , get to church . My son would hop the balcony rail when he would hear the tooting of the horn. Up until a few years ago, there were still seniors who remembered my son going to church. In closing, the West End was A safe, diverse, inclusive neighbourhood to raise a child.

## The Water Lady!

During the last two heat waves this year, one woman was sitting on a sidewalk patio with an adult beverage with her friends and asking (and getting consent) to spray people with a water gun. She was such a bully personality who understood the situation and provided some hilarity and relief. These are the types of people in the West End. It is a small community feel at the footsteps of the big city. It's connected but also secluded and the individuals in the community are what make it feel like home.

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## Busy yet Quiet

Everyone thinks that the West End is so dense/crowded. And it is, but it also surprisingly peaceful when you walk along tree-lined residential streets. My favorite thing to do in the West End is to go for an early morning run along the Sea Wall/Stanley Park and then head to a coffee shop. People watching in the West End is the best.

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## Park(let) Connections

I live in the West End and love it here because of the diversity in housing, ages of people and incomes. This community has so much character. I love seeing people gather in the little parklets and often stop to talk to my neighbours there. People take pride in gardening as well. I'm part of a community garden at Nelson Park and there is connection and support.

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## My Arborous West End Welcome

Getting off the #6 bus at Davie and Denman on a hot day and immediately feeling the cooler air temperature coming off English Bay and heading home on foot under the protective canopy of shady 7 storey high deciduous trees filled with massive trunks covered with moss and ferns and the occasional scampering squirrel all the while being greeted by each passerby on the sidewalk, occasionally one with a dog on a leash to pet while I enjoy a chat with the loving neighbourhood owner.

## Friendly neighbourhood community

One evening I went for a walk in the West End to hear music being played in the garden at Roedde House. As I was walking home through the quiet streets enjoying the little gardens around the buildings I passed 3 gentlemen sitting on a bench on a corner. As I walked past, one of them told me a funny little joke. We laughed together and wished each other a lovely evening.

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## Living in the fun destination

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## Holding Hands

Holding hands for Justice, a protest march along Davie St. from English Bay up to Hornby after a young gay couple had been assaulted for holding hands while walking along Davie. The assault triggered a massive community response with Jim Deva at the helm. That Sunday afternoon Davie St. was awash with gay and lesbian folk holding hands and singing and as we marched up the hill towards Jervis St. Hundreds of gay pride flags fluttering in the breeze filled the street for blocks. Looking up towards Jervis from Cardero seeing hundreds of folk waving the pride colours was a true moment of inspiration and pride.

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## Spring Time in the West End

I've lived in the West End for 14 years since I was in my late 20s. What I love most about living in the West End is watching the trees and plants bloom and blossom again every spring. How Barclay becomes filled in with tree cover each April and May. How the rhododendron garden blooms in April. How the cherry blossoms explode in May. This is one of the most special experiences of the West End for me.

## Many memories

One of my favourite things about the West End is the various modes of transport you can use to arrive there. I have been by bike along the seawall, by the water taxi from Granville Island, and by kayak launching from Vanier Park. Usually, the reason I like to make the journey is to enjoy the sunset and some of the amazing food. The street was always bustling and there it is easy to find something from every background to eat. Once I have satisfied my food craving, I am able to enjoy all that is going on, be it an outdoor movie in Stanley Park, watching a dance party on the beach, or listening to saxophone being played down by the water. The West End is definitely a highlight of Vancouver and I hope everyone gets the chance to make some memories here.

## 1980's Gay Life

First moving into the West End in 1980, as a young gay man after attending high school in the suburbs. Those were exciting times, before internet dating. People met up in a number of bars and nightclubs in the West End or downtown, many more than exist today. The bars then supported a network of local drag shows, entertainment, fetish clubs and fabulous pride parade floats.

## The Under Bridge Garden.

The I remember when I used to bike by the north end of the Burrard Bridge and see a man pulling out the ivy that was covering the ground everywhere. I stopped to talk to him (Jason) and he told me just wait and see I am going to take it all the ivy out and build a garden. It took several years and a couple of neighbours to do it. The police used to hassle him telling him he couldn't be doing that. People started donating plants and money to get this big project realized. The garden flourished with the volunteer help and the city added it to its list of community gardens they supported with compost. It kept expanding and expanding down to the seawall. Someone came along and asked if they could have a memorial garden for a family member who died and that person 's favourite flower was the Hanging Datura where at night it gives off a heavenly scent. If the Datura don't make it though a hard winter the family brings in more so they are always kept going. It's pretty incredible what happened there over 15 years. The city even installed a water tap there. Jason moved to the Island but his legacy flourishes and cared for by two people.

## My West End Walk Home

My unique & special experience happens after every shift I work & walk home. I leave the hustle & bustle at SPH walking through west end streets until I reach my residence. My walk home always starts in a hurry reflecting on the events of my shift but as I walk through the west end I find myself admiring the trees, the homes and the people out walking pets, cycling or sitting on one of the outdoor benches. My walk slows & I feel refreshed & thankful to live in such a unique & eclectic community....the west end.

## My second home

I have been privileged to live in a community that has a library and a community centre , that largely prior to the pandemic was my second home it was my gymnasium and my art studio with a fantastic pottery studio I took fitness classes and then could pop in to the studio for a few hours to work on a sculpture. On my way home, I might stop at the library and pick up a book to read. The pottery studio not only gave me a place to work, but also to learn and develop as an artist and a community to connect with. With internal workshops, but also public events and sales that allowed the community at large, to not only witness, but participate and benefit from having access to unique dinnerware/pots/art at affordable prices.

## Stumbling across performative art on the beach

We took our friend, who was back from Toronto for a short visit, kayaking. Since he only had the evening left to spend with us, we did a short trip. We kayaked from Kits over to Second Beach. When we got there, there was a crowd of people on the beach, all gathered around a chair placed in the sand, facing towards the sea. We had no idea what they were there for. We beached our kayaks, had our picnic dinner, and just as we were finished, a man in a robe and airy pants came running down the beach to the crowd. They applauded, and he said a few things, including how he was late because he overshot the location on his way over. Then he did some ceremonial acts with a cedar branch and sang a little, I think, before sitting on the chair. It was interesting to see the performative art as people who didn't expect to see it. The meaning is a lot more personal, but also, like a lot of things you see in life without being privy to the explanation, I think it will weave itself into my memories as something memorable yet cryptic. Why did we see someone doing that thing on the side of the road that one time, or why was that woman yelling at that old man with the cane? etc.

## Walking through my beautiful community

A memory of being able to see my friends, do everything I needed to do, experience nature and culture all within a 15 or 20 minute walk from my home. It's a memory of belonging to a beautiful community.

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## People don't pay for art.

I make art, it's hard to be an artist here. I have no peanuts. I make beautiful boxes and soapstone carvings. People don't pay for art.

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## A new food experience

First time I ever had sushi

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## Gays and Old Ladies

In 1972, when I first moved to the West End and was looking for an apartment to rent, my then partner and I looked longingly at a brick walk-up west of Denman.. we must have looked exactly what we were, as an elderly lady coming out of the building said to us, "there's no point in applying for a place here. The only way anybody leaves here is in a box." The building still stands - the lady long gone.. but then the West End was known to be populated by gays and old ladies.

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## Nature in abundance

In general I have had many experiences with nature which are remarkable in that this is within a large urban area. For example a simple walk around the lagoon might yield views of an eagle patiently waiting to feast on something nearby, turtles basking in the sun or fish lurking beneath the surface, a heron fishing for small fish treats, a beaver if you are lucky and many small rodents and birds and other waterfowl. Oh I forgot the river otters playfully munching along the edge. Simply wonderful for young and old!

## Lovely West End

any day in the West End is special. It's where I can go for a walk with my 85 year old mother any day of the week and feel safe, enjoy residential roadways, with a canopy of trees along traffic-calm streets, with boulevard seating for rests, and tended gardens to admire, and a high street with an interesting variety of independent shops & services plus a mix of trusted, familiar chain retailers. Also, generally speaking, on the side streets the residential multi-family buildings are nicely set back from the street, with green space in front. Mixed demographic is great. Strangers say hello.

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## The ocean makes friends

On a morning before work, I took a walk to the beach. Just passed English Bay is my favourite cove where I often stop to sit. As I approach, to older people (60+) in wetsuits stood down the path. One of them, in surprise, pointed towards at the beach. A slightly younger couple (40s) on the stairs were also in wetsuits. It was clear they were strangers, but also fast friends. They chatted, pulled up their hoods, waddled into the ocean and swim towards the park

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## Support change.

I am amazed at the reluctance to change that I see among my neighbours. I did not think that in moving to what I thought was a progressive community I would hear so much resistance to social programs that would assist those less fortunate than my neighbours, green programs that would slow global warming, traffic calming programs that could reduce fossil fuel emissions, harm reduction programs that could bring dignity to the lives of people with addiction problems. I've had to learn to go slowly and in some instances keep my mouth shut. This is disappointing. We should be a model to the rest of the country, if not the world, of what saving the earth and all its creatures could mean.

## Families form the fabric of the west end in many ways.

My son wasn't able to get into the annex as it was full and he was 30th on the waitlist! So 5 years later we transferred from the francophone system to Lord Roberts. The diversity of the kids and families in the school is amazing. People from all over the world and Canada. Lots of families that have lived in the west end for a long time and some for just a little while but it's amazing that there are over 600 kids just in elementary school plus the annex. I don't think people realize how many families live in the west end and how much that makes up the fabric of the west end. So many rent or are in coops and with being in the city we all rely on the city/parks/school facilities for all the day to day needs of kids and families. Having local schools with the capacity for our kids that are safe and not over 100 years old would be amazing. Also we all walk and shop, work and explore the west end daily. Helping keep the area safe and vibrant for all. Also so many kids at the school have diverse abilities and special needs that any community hubs need to include space for all. I love the west end for its diversity, safety and walkability. It's the only place I've stayed more than 10 years because it's so open to all.

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## Playground Connections

My oldest child was born in the West End, we moved out of the neighbourhood when he was four and the first thing I noticed when we went to our local playground was that for the first time everyone was 'like me' - it was unsettling, I realize I missed the diversity at the playgrounds downtown at the West End and the beaches etc. We moved back and had another child, I enjoyed meeting so many different families when we were out and about in the West End. I've met new friends and folks with different stories in a uniquely West End way

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## Building a garden

helping build a community garden in a back lane

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## Beach Community

During the pandemic, I spent a lot of time running from my home (Mt. Pleasant) along the Sea Wall to other places in the City - including the West End. I loved going to the West End so much. Despite the health regulations - West End residents still found ways to be together. I would run past so many (socially distanced) groups scattered throughout the beach and parks who were playing music, laughing, and just spending time with each other. During some low-points of lock-down, this running route always put a smile back on my face.

## A life in the West End

I grew up in the West End. I went to Lord Roberts Elementary, and then King George. I learned to ice skate at the West End Rink, and took my first ballet class at the West End Community Centre. I spent many hours at both Joe Fortes Library and the upstairs library for King George. Now I'm raising a family in the West End and my daughter will be going to King George in little over a year.

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## Walking in our community.

My family recently moved to the community. We love to walk around the west end, go to the parks, shops, and restaurants. We love meeting other families at the parks and the diversity in the west end. We feel like we are part of a community in a way that we didn't when we lived in the suburbs. Having all our needs in walking distance has brought us together with our neighbours in a way that having to drive to everything did not.

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## This is the West End

The West End is a place where you feel at home. It has so many residents who make it a practise to say Hello on the street even if they do not know you. I have Parkinson's and was let off the bus at the wrong stop. As I have mobility issues I was totally exhausted after walking less than a block. Suddenly a young man came up behind me, basically supported me on his back, asked me where I was going and packed me up a hill to my destination assuring me he was happy to help and took off. This is typical of the many kindnesses others have also experienced.

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## Springtime in Stanley Park

We moved close to Lost Lagoon earlier this year and have so enjoyed walking through Stanley Park and all the wildlife that can be spotted, like the very wee ducklings growing up all through the spring at the Lagoon, the two families of baby raccoons that seem to live in or around the Lagoon, and the times we spotted the family of three beavers at Beaver Lake or the two huge owls we spotted there another time.

## More Stories Shared through the West End Experiences Survey

The following stories were other submissions to the West End Experiences Survey that were reviewed during W.E. Connect workshops.

Additional submissions that were more related to needs and spaces will be taken forward and integrated into future phases of W.E. Connect.

### 1970 memories

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As I child walking around the streets always happy

### 1980's Gay Life

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First moving into the West End in 1980, as a young gay man after attending high school in the suburbs. Those were exciting times, before internet dating. People met up in a number of bars and nightclubs in the West End or downtown, many more than exist today. The bars then supported a network of local drag shows, entertainment, fetish clubs and fabulous pride parade floats.

### 1990 Pride

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1990 Gay Games.

### 5 Downtown bus

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I moved to the West End 18 years ago and one of my first experiences was taking the 5 Downtown bus. It was crowded.....young and old, students and shoppers but the most amazing thing? I heard 4 different languages even before the bus turned on Robson. Wow!

### A Damn Beaver in Stanley entrance!

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I saw a beaver in the roughage near second beach pool

### A high schoolers take on the west end community

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A memory is going out for lunch regularly on denman. The options are so diverse from sushi to Greek that you can never get bored. I love the west end for that. It is full of diversity and life and is one of the many select places that still has a great amount of greenery. I live in Yale town and whenever I walk to school I always feel so safe and secure.

## A life in the West End

I grew up in the West End. I went to Lord Roberts Elementary, and then King George. I learned to ice skate at the West End Rink, and took my first ballet class at the West End Community Centre. I spent many hours at both Joe Fortes Library and the upstairs library for King George. Now I'm raising a family in the West End and my daughter will be going to Kind George in little over a year.

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## A new food experience

First time I ever had sushi

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## A place to be

When I moved to Vancouver in 2015, I invited a friend from Seattle - we were looking for an activity, and stumbled across the aquatic center. The people in the pool and sauna were so friendly, and I truly felt that this was a place I could come to be myself and chat with folks after my friend had left again

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## A real neighbourhood

This feeling as you walk around that you belong to a community; a real, old-school neighbourhood, the kind that seems not to exist anymore

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## A Societal Failure

Walking from home (near Sunset Beach) to shop on Davis Street I passed a man - what appeared to be 'homeless' man or a 'street person' (not sure what the appropriate term is) lying and passed out on the side of the street. This is not at all unusual as I often see people living in rough conditions in our neighborhood. The problem is upsetting and it seems hard to build to resolve. It is a shame that a place as wealthy as ours that were left in the situation

## A stop on the way through life

West End has a temporary feeling. People arrive here from all over - the neighborhood has a high percentage of rental and rents are still comparatively cheap. In some ways, I feel like the fact that I'm still here after so many years, here raising my kids, no plans to move, means I've failed at life. When I was in university everyone lived in the West End, I'm the only one left. When my kids were at daycare, everyone lived in the neighborhood and now we are the only ones left. Everyone leaves. Except the people who never leave. But families leave. I think it's a great neighborhood for families but I guess most people don't. Wish there were more apartments for families, wish there were more affordable apartment for families. Wish there were fewer renovations. Where are people supposed to live in this city?

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## A Stroll through West End

How to enjoy a walk through the neighbourhood streets, seeing some of the old homes that have been kept and redefined, and enjoying the peacefulness.

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## A walk down Barclay.

Vancouver resident for 25+ years. West End resident for 3 weeks, so starting with a clean slate :) I live half a block from Barclay Heritage Park. Walking by/through the park, you can't help but feel like you've been transported back in time 100+ years. The modern world is steps away, but for 1 block it isn't.

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## A Walk on the Wild Side of WE

I was taking my grandkids to the playground via Lost Lagoon. We saw turtles, a beaver, otters, and were very entertained by several raccoons. My grandkids, aged 2 and 4 were delighted with their adventure. So much so, that each time we go on that walk they ask me where all the animals are when we don't see any. I don't know of many other areas or neighborhoods that compare. The West End is precious because it is surrounded by the beauty and wonder of nature. We have the ocean all around us, old growth forests and majestic trails through Stanley Park, access to amenities and yet the mostly quiet streets.

## **A West End Welcome With Open Arms**

This is more of a collection of experiences I have at least once a week that makes me really enjoying living in the West End. Since I've moved here a few years ago, I've joined a our community Buy Nothing Facebook group, have traded things and had great conversations with people living near me. When out walking my dog, I've found myself chatting up with multiple residents and dog owners and soon realizing that we've created a sidewalk jam of people, dogs and tangled leashes. I've signed up for the West End online news journal which provides so much detail about the regular and irregular occurrences in my neighborhood. All these experiences have led me to feel like I'm really a part of this tight knit community. I feel welcomed by the West End with open arms.

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## **A wide variety of independently-owned businesses**

I love all of the independent services, food stores and restaurants on Davie St. It makes the West End so personable and I love running into the same employees and having conversations with people of all cultural backgrounds. In particular, European Deli, Simdy's Alterations, Kinara Indian Cuisine and Cordero Cafe. Such gems!

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## **Adding brightness to the West End**

I had the chance to be part of the team painting a mural on the road at Nicola and Cardero. For years, every time I biked by there on my way to work, it was a nice reminder of the cool community we live in. The paint has faded now, but the memory of being part of a community project will always be there.

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## **Adult Figure Skating Dreams in the WE**

It is where I developed and trained, and continue to do so, as an adult figure skater at the WECC Ice Rink.

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## **Aggressive attack by a stranger**

Overall I would say the West End is a very friendly and supportive community: people are coming up and saying a nice compliment, or offering help, or just reach out with friendly words for a chit chat. The specific experience that currently stands out though is about the opposite: a guy who turned around and threw a book at me while I was walking my dog. He was walking down the street yelling around occasionally (didn't look like he was doing well), but we didn't interfere. He passed me - and then all of a sudden turned around and got aggressive. I didn't react, he stand there, yelled at me for a while before he moved on.

## **Amazing Escape**

I dont live here. But I love spending time with my partner by Stanley Park. During Covid the park was extra special - it was so amazing to bike around the road and close to cars. It has magical it felt like we transported somewhere not in Vancouver. We spent a lot of nights biking around having picnics and reading while watching the sunset what an amazing escape

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## **An unexpected cry at Denman and Comox**

One windy, dark night last fall, I was walking along Denman street, and someone's dog barked and lunged at me. I snapped at the owner and she snapped back. But somehow, magically, our initial snapping turned into apologies, and then we ended up talking. It turns out we were both having really bad days about personal stuff in our lives, and our initial snapping was just taking it out on a stranger needlessly. We ended up crying together and hugging on the street corner at Denman and Comox. It was really nice, I needed that:)

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## **Barclay Manor needs accessibility upgrades**

The Barclay Manor location of the West End Seniors' Network is an important hub for older adults in this community. However, it isn't truly accessibly. As a past staff member, I have held open the elevator door there for older adults many times because it swings open and can't be opened by someone using a walker or wheelchair.

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## **Barclay Square Concert**

I live near Barclay square and one time I was walking by and there was live music in the square. People were gathered about on blankets and lawn chairs and it was a great community experience.

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## **Beach Community**

During the pandemic, I spent a lot of time running from my home (Mnt. Pleasnt) along the Sea Wall to other places in the City - including the West End. I loved going to the West End so much. Despite the health regulations - West End residents still found ways to be together. I would run past so many (socially distanced) groups scattered throughout the beach and parks who were playing music, laughing, and just spending time with each other. During some low-points of lock-down, this running route always put a smile back on my face.

## Beach garden

There was a man who made a beautiful beachside garden in a public space it was beautiful and the community loved it. Unfortunately it was destroyed since it was technically on public land but it was a beautiful action this person took in my opinion to tend to this little piece of land in a beautiful way.

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## Beach Views

I remember looking down Davie to English Bay for the first time and being completely 'wowed'.

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## Breast Cancer Survivors Learn to Run

Learning to run with the Breast Cancer Survivors group every Saturday morning through The Running Room

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## Building a garden

helping build a community garden in a back lane

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## Busy yet Quiet

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## Changed Place

Denman St chanded so Much. Used to have independent movie theatre, small hardware stores, gas station, it's gotten busier. I came in 1975, there was less traffic. I enjoyed the beach and park. Now there are the coyotes and dead fish. Still nice place to walk. I hope for a restaurant to come back to Stanley Park.

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## Coach Darko and Coach Randy; investing into the youth of tomorrow

King George Secondary School is beyond lucky to have one of the greatest, most caring basketball coaches! As a former player, Coach Darko and Coach Randy have changed my life for the better through there constant help, both academically and athletically. Darko and Randy volunteer over 20+ hours per week coaching us, whether thats leading a basketball practice or homework club at the West End community centre. Darko and Randy are treasures of this city!

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## Community Blooms When

The spring magnolia openings and residents gathering around to photograph each tree. The installation of pianos at the WE Community Centre and the art and pottery sales.

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## Community connectiveness

Walking along the street and seeing and interacting with someone you know. Despite being in a dense part of downtown is such a special effect.

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## Community During Tragedy

I was one of the tenants of the 998 Thurlow building that experienced a horrible fire in October 2While us residents lost our homes, it was heartwarming to experience the community response. Neighbours drove myself and my pet to the emergency hospital. The Gordon Neighbourhood House provided vouchers to The Attic Thrift Store so we could get some much needed clothing. A Facebook group was set up for the residents so we could share resources. I cannot accurately describe just how touching these acts of service were during this time. Community was why I loved the West End, and while I ended up finding a temporary home in nearby Yaletown, a year later I was able to move into a different West End building and come back to where I feel most at home.

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## Community Games night

Community games night at the bandstand park on Beach

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## Contradictions

I remember my neighbour overdosed, 38 years old, and his wife banging on my door to get help. There is so much suffering around us, and such contradictions when you look at homeless or suffering people beside the overpriced farmers' market and expensive restaurants.

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## Conversations on the Beach

One afternoon in early spring 2021, I was sitting on a trunk on the beach at English Bay breathing in the crisp salty air after being cooped up working from home all day. A lady sat on the other side of the trunk and started making conversation. We seemingly had nothing in common, she was in her 50s, of Chinese origin, I am 30 and from France. We seemed to have very different backgrounds and life trajectories. Yet we lived in the same neighbourhood and shared a special appreciation for this beach and little slice of ocean. As the conversation went along, we exchanged our experiences with housing issues, life's hardships and lucky breaks, our mental highs and lows, loneliness and the importance of a support system, and, of course, our favorite movies. We talked about how Vancouver can sometimes be a harsh place, where friends are hard to come by, especially in the middle of a pandemic that exacerbates people's suspicions about each other. We talked for about 30 minutes until I finally had to go. I wasn't expecting to have such a deep conversation with a complete stranger but I'm glad I was there to hear her story. She was very happy to have someone to chat with that day. It might not seem like much, but this type of connections are vital for us human beings. They are what makes a neighbourhood feel like a community. And it was all thanks to this beach and little slice of ocean.

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## Coyote Attacks in Stanley Park

Stanley Park is the West End's backyard, where we gather with family and friends and keep fit walking, cycling, biking and swimming. For the past ten months, habituated coyotes have been attacking people in the Park. 45 attacks, including 5 children. What happened to me is that I was riding my bicycle along the bike path between the golf course and the daycare and I encountered a stalking coyote following a pedestrian. It had no fear of the people in the area who were shouting at it. Later that day, a man was attacked by a coyote on the same path. Now, I am afraid to use the Park. My family, friends and neighbours are afraid too. We have lost our beautiful backyard.

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## Culturally Speaking

I love going to jazz concerts at Roedde House Museum. Talented local musicians provide excellent entertainment at affordable prices, outdoors in Barclay Heritage Square in the summer months and in the intimate parlour of the historic house from October to May. Pal Studio Theatre also offers a modest number of good productions and concerts. The two venues are within walking distance for anyone living in the West End or downtown generally. Of course I am describing pre-Covid experiences. The public art in the neighbourhood is improving every year, most recently with the stunning wall murals by Douglas Coupland.

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## Cycling right to Denman and Davie

We took bike share right into the thick of the busiest part of the West End and spent the afternoon and evening there without worrying about our own bikes or parking. Right by the laughing man we were able to park after arriving from Comox Street near Burrard and then switch to foot and explore the Sylvia, the beach, and the neighbourhood West of Denman. Pop-up patios on Denman gave us several options to eat outside and we chose Roost, some of the best fried chicken I've ever tasted and really nice picnic table patio. and went to the beach for dessert. Later we grabbed Mobis and went down the new bike path (Beach?) and up Chilco without having to ride with cars almost at all and then rode the seawall past the Bayshore and dropped my friend at the Seabus before riding up Hornby and home again.

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## Dads love to barbeque.

Fathers in the West End had over ten successful barbeques at Nelson Park feeding at least 30 children and their parents. Not hot dogs and hamburgers but steak, cevapi, pork and chicken. Each family brought salads and the dads all chipped in on the meat. Many of the families live in one bedroom apartments. One of the dads who is rather well off chipped in \$100.00 each time towards meat.

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## Denman Street traffic.

Always being stuck in vehicle traffic on Denman Street.

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## Densification raises stress levels

Increased density is causing our streets to be crowded. More bars and drinking establishments are resulting in excessive noise at night. I hear that somewhere in Europe, bars in residential areas must close by 10:30pm. This is respecting the residents whose home this is. Drunks yelling in the street in the middle of the night is common. Excessive noise from music in the bars is common at night.

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## Dirty old fitness centre with lots of memories

Making new friends in the fitness centre. It's too bad the the fitness centre has been closed for the past 2 years and has not date to reopen. The gym was a great way to socialize and now all the members are going to different gyms and most likely will not return to the centre

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## Diverse community

I moved to the West End in the late 1980s. I decided shortly after I moved here (from New Westminster) that I wanted to attend a local church and the first one I visited was the one that became my faith home: St Paul's Anglican at Pendrell and Jervis. What drew me to that church, besides the Anglican faith, was the diversity of the congregation - all of whom lived in the West End - and the strength of the gay and lesbian community at that church. The West End neighbourhood had (has?) seniors (both couples and singles), gay and straight, young families, young adults in their 20s, 30s,40s,50s, all living in diverse housing situations - rentals, condos, mid-level incomes, some higher income, some lower income, diverse ethnic backgrounds. We found a spiritual home that was supportive of all our diversities and which began, in the 1990s, the Advocacy Office that is an essential service to people in need in the neighbourhood. And we all lived in a beautiful downtown neighbourhood, taking care of each other through the AIDS crisis, really getting to know each other. Exactly what COMMUNITY is all about.

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## Divine Encounter

I feel safe walking around the West End. It is easy to strike up a conversation with anyone. Walking along Lost Lagoon in the summer, I happened to speak with a man observing Ramadan and he asked me to sit down and we were able to share about each others faith. I sang to him and there was such a warm exchange of feeling that I will always remember and look forward to seeing him again.

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## Downtown Community Garden

Walking through the Davie Village Community Garden and enjoying the flower and vegetables that people have grown.

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## Drivers will do what they think they can get away

People drive their cars the wrong way through streets that are blocked off to one direction of traffic. And through mini parks when they think they're not seen. Drivers will do what they think they can get away with when enforcement is lax

## Drugs

Taking the dog for a walk, towards the west end community centre, I encountered a couple of drug dealers that forcefully warned me to stay clear. This frightened me and I have forever changed where I walk in the west end.

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## Eat, Love, and Connect

I have a plot at Nelson community garden. There are not enough community garden spaces, though. There is a huge waitlist for the Nelson community garden. I also guerilla garden on the median outside my building. I am always talking to people passing by, it is a wonderful way to connect. I also eat out at the gardens, and bees have my flowers to help them live. Food security, healthy environment, and connecting with people....thanks West End.

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## Enjoying English Bay with a hotdog

We ae in our miccle 80s snd cycle the wesr end. We love the bike paths and use them frequently. Our special experience is stopping for lunch at the hotdog seller on English Bay. He is fun, polite and makes great hotdogs

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## Everything and more

I often walk through the West End to enjoy the quiet tree line streets. The streets have more people than cars. Itís unique location bound by English Bay, Lost Lagoon and Coal Harbour make it an appealing destination from where I live in Yaletown. Also, I find the small shops a charming retail experience.

## Everything we imagined Canada to be

Chapter 1. I moved to Canada Vancouver from Mexico with my partner in 2012. Finding a place to rent was a daunting experience, easier to do from the ground so accepted an offer from a friend of a relative. She was also from Mexico but had been here for 20 years. She lived in a one bedroom apartment in the west end and with her two kids. This didn't stop her from offering us a couch in her house to sleep. We spent our first few weeks there and were in love with the neighbourhood. Walking on Davie Street holding my partner's hand with other immigrants meeting others gay people, it was everything we can imagine Canada to be. Chapter 2. We struggle to find a place to rent because we didn't have a Canadian credit history. A Romanian building manager who knew the Mexican woman who is letting us stay at her place (who is now her friend) agreed to rent us a one bedroom apartment in the same building as our friend but after 10+ years I am a bit nervous the neighbourhood is losing its identity as a place where immigrants and LGBTQ people live

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## Families form the fabric of the west end in many ways.

My son wasn't able to get into the annex as it was full and he was 30th on the waitlist! So 5 years later we transferred from the francophone system to Lord Roberts. The diversity of the kids and families in the school is amazing. People from all over the world and Canada. Lots of families that have lived in the west end for a long time and some for just a little while but it's amazing that there are over 600 kids just in elementary school plus the annex. I don't think people realize how many families live in the west end and how much that makes up the fabric of the west end. So many rent or are in coops and with being in the city we all rely on the city/parks/school facilities for all the day to day needs of kids and families. Having local schools with the capacity for our kids that are safe and not over 100 years old would be amazing. Also we all walk and shop, work and explore the west end daily. Helping keep the area safe and vibrant for all. Also so many kids at the school have diverse abilities and special needs that any community hubs need to include space for all. I love the west end for its diversity, safety and walkability. It's the only place I've stayed more than 10 years because it's so open to all.

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## Family Unfriendly

Walking with my infant daughter I was spit at by a homeless person.

## Farmers' Market

The West End Farmers' Market is one of the best parts of living in the neighbourhood. On Saturdays in summer and fall, Comox St closes along Nelson Park and becomes home to dozens of stalls featuring fresh, delicious food from farmers and vendors. Many of my neighbours shop at the market too, and I love stopping to chat and meet all the neighbourhood dogs and kids. The market is also a great place to listen to live music, meet local politicians, and just enjoy the happy 'buzzy' energy of the West End.

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## Favourite beach summer and weekday duathlon

Many summer days spent at Bikini Beach (south of the Parks Board Office) with my family & friends. I continue to swim there after biking around the park but only sunbathe with family occasionally. Always my favourite spot to swim.

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## Fire Hall Visits

Regularly standing outside the fire hall near to our apartment with my toddler son running up and down the driveway until a fire fighter would come out and give him stickers/a fire hat or show him a fire truck. So exciting for a small child and brings the community closer together.

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## First dinner

I have many memories in the west end since it is the first and only neighborhood that I have lived in since moving to Canada four and a half years ago. When I arrived, my husband who had moved before me welcomed me to a mostly empty apartment and we had champagne from lovely flutes he bought at Chocolate Mousse. I arrived late that night and we had dinner from Babylon Cafe. It was lovely to be able to find something delicious to eat so late at night.

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## First skates

Teaching my children and other children to ice skate at the West End Rink at lessons and at the parent and tot drop in skate times.

## Fix It

I've lived in the west end for over 20 years. As much as I love the neighbourhood is as much as I am deeply worried about crime and street disorder. An incident happened recently within the outside corridor between King George School and the community centre. Clearly street people addicted to drugs were having an episode. A young mother with two children were about to step into it and I had to quickly redirect them and escort them away (I am a 45 yr old male). The mother thanked me. This is one of many many situations that happen in our community and at our community centre. We need a much improved (new) facility that is SAFE and provided a safety bubble that prevents crime, disorder, drug addicts and criminals from degrading the area.

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## Free To Be in the West End. Diversity and unconditional love.

The 7:00pm cheer during the quarantine days of Covid. We pulled together and made each day brighter while making sure our health care workers know we appreciated all they were doing. In particular the day we were outside for a short walk during the cheer. During the cheer we could hear (but couldnt see) live music being played through speakers from the rooftop (a la Beatles) from one of the 4 storey walk up apartments. Everyone on the streets began cheering! We learned later that Gordon House had organized the short set to help lift everyones spirits. The West End is a vibrant, diverse community who care about each other.

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## Friendly neighbourhood community

One evening I went for a walk in the West End to hear music being played in the garden at Roedde House. As I was walking home through the quiet streets enjoying the little gardens around the buildings I passed 3 gentlemen sitting on a bench on a corner. As I walked past, one of them told me a funny little joke. We laughed together and wished each other a lovely evening.

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## FUN and FUNdraising

We were a group of GLBTQ friends known as The Cowbelles who square danced our way into many different venues and hearts in many different costumes. We hosted variety shows, performed at command personal events, marched in many Pride Parades here in Vancouver and in Seattle and haunted GLBTQ bars on weekends. Always in costume astride our trusty hobby cows and all the while soliciting donations for PWA. All monies we collected went direct to PWA, all overhead costs were covered by The Cowbelles. Thats the background to our having use of the the big gymnasium at the community centre on several occasions thereby assisting a local group in their fun and fundraising events.

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## Fun Times

Spending time with friends at the bars on Davie Street.

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## G.O.A.T West End Story

Walking or riding the Seawall around West End is always a unique and special experience. No walk is ever boring. From seals popping up, to Canada Geese being sassy, to all the weird and wonderful people and pets. The standout experience for me was walking along the Seawall one afternoon near English Bay and hearing a goat bleat. As I looked around, I spotted someone taking a baby goat for a walk on a leash! It was the coolest and cutest thing I have ever seen. It was also fun to have everyone on the Seawall commenting and chatting to each other about it as we all watched the baby goat being taken for a walk.

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## Gays and Old Ladies

In 1972, when i first moved to the West End and was looking for an apartment to rent, my then partner and I looked longingly at a brick walk-up west of Denman.. we must have looked exactly what we were, as an elderly lady coming out of the building said to us, itthereís no point in applying for a place here. The only way anybody leaves here is is a box.î The building still standsÖ the lady long gone.. but then the West End was know to be populated by gays and old ladiesÖ.

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## Generous neighbour

I dropped a memory stick on the sidewalk near my home. A neighbour found it and located my phone number. We met up and he returned it! Only in the West End!

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## Get out and Dance!

Watching elderly couples dancing at 2nd beach near the fire truck play area on the basketball court. On a summer evening a few years ago.

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## Getting back into my art

Exhibiting my art at Meluiches in July 2021 and teaching drawing (everyone can draw) at Gordon Neighbourhood House.

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## Glowing with Pride in the West End

Every year the Pride parade and festival is such a great time. My best fun has been being in the parade a few times. Nothing beats the energy generated by tens of thousands of spectators and the excitement among the participants. The festival at beautiful Sunset Beach offers so many interesting booths and entertainment. Looking forward to post Covid rebirth even better.

## Greenhill in Stanley Park

Early on in the pandemic when parking lots were closed in Stanley Park, everyday after lunch, I'd take my two kids out to the little leftover bit of grass and trees between the parking lot in front of the tennis courts and the apartment buildings that face onto the park. I was really just trying to get some fresh air and kill time after hellish homeschool mornings and after the baby's morning nap. I'd bring my coffee and some snacks, books and toys and we'd spread out a blanket for a couple of hours. But the spot quickly started to become magical. We named it Greenhill, drew a map and made up all kinds of stories about it. The closed parking lot attracted an amazing array of activities - so many personal training sessions, weight lifters, tiktokers, people playing tennis over the traffic barriers, kids scooted and rode bikes. Everyday the same few neighbors would pass by on their way into the park and we'd visit for a bit. It was the most neighborly small-town feeling, almost unheard of in such a well known tourist spot as Stanley Park but for a few months Greenhill was ours and the parking lot was a circus and I'll never forget it.

## Growing up in the WE

My daughter went to school at Lord Roberts and King George. The opportunity for the students at both schools to use the community center, the public library and ice rink were a great part of her school experience

## Growing up in the West End

I remember when I first moved to the West End in 2000 there were still weird shops on Denman (the video store, and the candy store for example). Rents were more affordable. You had a diversity of people. It was an exciting place to grow up. There were things to do, but also plenty of space to relax and enjoy the outdoors. Unfortunately, the things that draw me to the West End have been diminishing due to unaffordability. I hope this expansion will create more spaces for regular people to enjoy their neighbourhood.

## Gym and Council

In the summer, when everyone was afraid of COVID, I was going on a walk because I just had a break up and I saw my favourite teacher in the street. It was the first time seeing her after a year because of covid. We talked and she told me that she just had a break up like me. She told me it was okay to be alone and to be independent. It was so nice seeing someone that I care and respect in my neighborhood, my home.

## Happy memories

-Earnest ice cream truck at English bay on summer nights and walking home along the sea wall -library family time at the WECC -coffee at Delayney's and watching my 4yr old chat about unicorns with the regulars! -walking the neighbourhood streets of the w

## Harder to live

Aggravating, many buildings, a lot of traffic. They make it harder to live in the West end or get here. no turn lanes too. I'm moving away.

## 'Hello.'

When I returned to the West End in 2000 I was pleased and encouraged by the engagement I saw with people acknowledging each other on the street. Sometimes a conversation would be initiated while waiting for the light to change, or over a title at the library. I felt the community to be welcoming to all and sundry and I was happy to share this information with visiting guests and family & friends from other parts of town.

## Hockey or Soccer should not take over Sunset beach skate park

At Sunset beach skate park, we frequently run into aggressive hockey or soccer players taking over the space for hours. The men yelled terrible things to the skaters who just wanted a fair share of time to enjoy the skate park. At one point they even surrounded a woman skateboarder and forced her to leave the skate rink.

## Holding Hands

Holding hands for Justice, a protest march along Davie St. from English Bay up to Hornby after a young gay couple had been assaulted for holding hands while walking along Davie. The assault triggered a massive community response with Jim Deva at the helm. That Sunday afternoon Davie St. was awash with gay and lesbian folk holding hands and singing and as we marched up the hill towards Jervis St. Hundreds of gay pride flags fluttering in the breeze filled the street for blocks. Looking up towards Jervis from Cardero seeing hundreds of folk waving the pride colours was a true moment of inspiration and pride.

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## Hollywood in the hood.

The WE is a location for many movies and TV shows sets. Roaming the streets of the neighborhood is very entertaining.

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## I Have Arrived

My aunt and grandma owned a house on Comox Street and as a child I vowed to one day be able to live in the West End. As an adult, I worked three jobs to afford to buy a home, and I chose the West End. Through an interesting series of events and coincidences, I was able to purchase their very house! It was not an inheritance, I worked hard to afford a down payment and the mortgage is still huge. I've lived here for almost twenty years now.

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## I live here!

Walking. Walking everywhere. Walking and admiring the magnificent trees, street gardens, private gardens and garden plots. Walking along the Seawall, breathing the clean air, and admiring the sunset, while saying to myself (in a smug inner-voice): 'I live here!!'

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## I'm a lucky senior prairie girl

I love the weather, the sights (mountains and forests and the water). The ease of access to everyday needs, great public transportation etc. I feel like the luckiest 80 year old prairie girl in the world.

## If You Lose a Cat..Let It Be Here

Many Canadian residents of my vintage (80 yrs old) labour under the misguided impression that life in tall, multi storied buildings leads to alienation and separation rather than 'community'. Well, I'm hear to dispel that 'myth' with a story of my West End experience as a tenant with a rambunctious pet story. Of course, I must qualify that my story takes place in 2 entire postal codes of densely populated urban high rises interspersed with the occasional 3 story walk-ups bordered on 3 sides with high trafficked city arteries, the relief of Stanley Park to the western edge and a community regularly shared with thousands of visitors for 4 out of 12 months each year. My nephew and his family of wife and 3 young girls entrusted their Coon Manx cat to me while they were in middle of a move from East Vancouver to Powell River. Upon returning from short grocery shop on the second day of his visit, the cat had disappeared..from my 5th floor apt..obviously over the meter high balcony wall! A quick search of the cement and garden area below and a frantic 3 block radius search produced no sign of my missing 'charge.' He'd possibly survived the fall but was he headed 'home' to the far reaches of east Van? I quickly made up posters with his picture, the event date and contact info and 'poster'd' the neighbourhood ..all within the first 90 minutes. It wasn't another 90 minutes later that I got a call from my 1st floor neighbour. He'd noticed the poster on his return from the library across the street and told me the his response was feeling overwhelmed with the thoughts of yet another missing neighbourhood kitty. Suddenly, he said, a thought hit him..and he called my #. He explained that while having his lunch he'd experienced a flash out the corner of his eye which he'd assumed at the time was something carelessly dropped from any of the 10 balconies above his unit. You Know..one of those 'harumpff' moments! In the off chance that the cat, hurt was still close by and lying low so my neighbour insisted we revisit the garden area I had first searched and sure enough! There was our magnificent Coon Manx..who survives to this day exploring the wilds of the forests of Powell River..returning nightly for his dinner and to tuck himself in beside his 9 year old bunk mate! All this happened because I live in a neighbourhood where our hundreds of buildings in the V6G and V6G postal codes are filled with people who feel 'connected' and reach out to 'the other' as a regular practice!

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## Inclusive Haven

I love the inclusivity of the West End. Coming here in the 90s as someone in the LGBTQ spectrum, I always felt safe and accepted on Demand. People take care of each other here. There is always eyes on the street, but in an inclusive way. AIDs was less painful here, compared to Montreal or other cities, which were less resourced. The gay scene in Canada started here. Not a lot know this.

## Glowing with Pride in the West End

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## Growing up in the West End

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## Institutions

I arrived in Canada as an immigrant 20 years ago. I've lived in the West End ever since. I've lived in 3 different apartments, each one of them within 3 blocks of Denman Street, which, for me, is the heart and the hub of the West End. My favourite memories of the neighbourhood involve small, iconic destinations. There was Mr. Pickwick's Fish and Chips. That gallery called A Walk Is. Seemingly unimportant landmarks, but places that would prompt the response, 'That place is an institution!' The buildings were diverse and had character. Now buildings are being pulled down and replaced with glass and concrete blandness, robbing the neighbourhood of its soul.

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## It is all special

A 'special' experience is really a daily experience living in the west end. I love the mixed demographics. I love the mix of older and younger neighbours. I love the variety of languages spoken. I love the many ethnic cuisines available. I love the sound of kids laughter during recess at Lord Roberts. I love the tree canopies. I love the heritage buildings that are still in tact. In short, what makes the west end special isn't a singular moment but all of the facets of the neighbourhood!

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## It's a shame

My memories of the west end are very special, more than a community a family I was 17 when I came to Vancouver and as a gay man Davie street was the destination of choice ..... But the West end is not what it used to be from the druggies that hang on the block outside the hospital to the guy that lays outside Circle K to the many beggars in the doorways The people that camp in the 'public' washrooms on rainy days and more it's become more of a Hastings and Main environment and I don't go there anymore Sad really

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## KG is a gem

I have two daughters that both graduated from KG High School and had so many good and positive stories about their time there that my nephew applied out of boundary to go there.

## Late Night West Enders

That time my friends and I went to a an outdoor moving showing near Second Beach, as part of the Summer Cinema series. I don't even remember the movie we watched, but I remember bringing dips and snacks from a Persian grocery store near where I live, and I remember biking along the seawall on the way home. It was dark, and all of a sudden, the nightlife of English Bay reminded us we were in a cosmopolitan city--hearing laughter and all the sounds of summer joy, and the layers of Spanish, Japanese, Arabic, Farsi, Mandarin, French, Korean, and of course, taking in the drifting smells of weed, booze, fries. I felt like I was in Europe, only because that's the only place where I've experience safe, vibrant life in public spaces that late.

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## Leaves

Walking in the colourful autumn leaves.

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## Living Here.

Learning to line dance at the rec Center. Going to meditation class at the rec Center. Starting an art journal based on walks around the closest part of Stanley Park. Looking for places to visit with friends out of the rain!

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## Living in Nature's Wonder

Seeing the herons in their nests, mating in the early spring, feeding their chicks and fighting off the eagle from the nest.

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## Living in the fun destination

I moved to the West End (near English Bay beach) from Yaletown. When I stepped out of my previous building in Yaletown, there were people on the sidewalks, but they always seemed to be in a hurry and headed somewhere else. In contrast, when I stepped out of my new building in the West End, there were people on the sidewalks, but this was their destination, and they were having fun. It was lovely to live where people came to have fun.

## Long time farmers market fan

Growing up in the West End with a single mother we established some personal west end family traditions. One of which being the West Ends Farmers Market, when I was a baby my Mom would take me with her to do some weekly shopping at the market. Being as talkative as she is, we would often stop and she would chat with the people managing the booths. By the time I was 8 years old, I just wanted to watch cartoons and relax on Saturday morning but my mom would bribe me with the promise of a berry muffin to get me to join her. Having only organic foods and no sweets in our house this delighted me and motivated me to tag along. As an avid reader, I would pack whatever novel I was currently engrossed in and settle in on the side of the sidewalk while she stopped. Always catching up to her when she got to the honey stand for my treasured honey sticks, the pastry booth and the final produce booth which had and still has the best apple juice. To this day, even though we have moved to the False Creek area my mom and I continue to go to the market together. By now all of the booth runners recognize us and its always nice to hear comments about how cute of a baby I was!

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## Looking out for others

People looking out for each other. An elderly woman on the street struggling, and so quickly, a group of people around her to help.

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## Love and Recovery

I met my soulmate here. But that's not the important part of the story! What really matters is exactly where that happened - we met at an AA meeting. AA is not a dating service by any means, but our coming together was a byproduct of us both being sober, healthy, happy, and reinstated as contributing members of society. We people in recovery are very fortunate to have all sorts of anonymous 12-step meetings in the West End - AA, NA, Al-Anon, Nar-Anon, OA, and CMA are the few that I know of, and I would guess that there are many more! My hope for the future of this site is that there will be affordable spaces for 12-step meetings to rent out so they can continue to meet. Groups are slowly but surely being priced out of suitable meeting places due to the shameful, atrocious rents in this city, so a public site with affordable meeting rooms for rent would help alleviate this stress. God knows, we need as many

## Lovely West End

any day in the West End is special. It's where I can go for a walk with my 85 year old mother any day of the week and feel safe, enjoy residential roadways, with a canopy of trees along traffic-calm streets, with boulevard seating for rests, and tended gardens to admire, and a high street with an interesting variety of independent shops & services plus a mix of trusted, familiar chain retailers. Also, generally speaking, on the side streets the residential multi-family buildings are nicely set back from the street, with green space in front. Mixed demographic is great. Strangers say hello.

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## Lucky

Attending a watercolour workshop at the West End community centre and thinking about how lucky I was, to live within walking distance of creative opportunities to learn, great food at lunch breaks, beautiful parks and tree-lined streets.

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## Majestic Park

Experiencing Lost Lagoon in Stanley Park. The ducks the fountain. Calm.

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## Making friends at the community garden

Gardening in my plot in Nelson park and have people stop by all the time to ask about the garden and start friendly conversations. We even made good friends that way once with a couple from New York who loved the west end and it's vibe so much that they now moved to Vancouver and guess where they decided they settle? You got it. The West End.

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## Manners: Ontario vs BC

In the late 1960's I lived in an apartment at the southwest corner of Gilford and Comox. A beautiful building, though I didn't appreciate its features then. It had a coffered ceiling, hardwood floors, big windows, and a gas fireplace.. (It didn't work any more, but looked handsome.) Back then I wore high heels to my secretarial job, and at home too.. (I had grown up in Ontario and was surprised to find, on moving to BC, that people just wore socks or slippers indoors.) After a month, the landlord came to tell me I must change my habits. The tenants below had complained about the clackety-clack of my heels. Of course I complied. I still think it looks funny at indoor social events (i.e., back in pre-Covid days) that though the adults may get all dressed up they are just wearing socks or slippers.

## Many memories

One of my favourite things about the West End is the various modes of transport you can use to arrive there. I have been by bike along the seawall, by the water taxi from Granville Island, and by kayak launching from Vanier Park. Usually, the reason I like to make the journey is to enjoy the sunset and some of the amazing food. The street was always bustling and there it is easy to find something from every background to eat. Once I have satisfied my food craving, I am able to enjoy all that is going on, be it an outdoor movie in Stanley Park, watching a dance party on the beach, or listening to saxophone being played down by the water. The West End is definitely a highlight of Vancouver and I hope everyone gets the chance to make some memories here.

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## Marketing

Last time we commuted there were two young lads that helped with the event. They maned voting booth. They got a lot of votes (signatures). When asked how they did it they said 'we are kids, adults always talk to kids as they feel they have to'. What a great marketing strategy and they got enough votes for their school projects

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## Memories of My Neighbourhood

I am a 66 yr old female. I have lived in the West end since 1980 where I raised my son, who also currently resides in the West End. I will share a couple of very fond memories I have of the Neighbourhood. One is the wonderful West End Community Centre which had and still has so many after school programs and activities for children of all ages and abilities . The Centre along with the VPL made sure that no child nor teen would ever have have to stay in an apt in front of a TV. They are the heartbeat of our community ! Another memory is the First Baptist Church bus coming through the West End every Sunday morning picking up folks that could not , for whatever reason , get to church . My son would hop the balcony rail when he would hear the tooting of the horn. Up until a few years ago, there were still seniors who remembered my son going to church. In closing, the West End was A safe, diverse, inclusive neighbourhood to raise a child.

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## memories of the West End

considering it was all low rise and like a community not that many years ago ,but is growing so much .it seems we are losing that community charm. I have lived here many years love going to beach for walks and just having a nice walks ,the fireworks and seafest where great. I am slowing trying to change with how this community is growing so much ,so long as some of the old community charm is still around to enjoy

## Mental Health Issues

There is a lot more people with mental health issues here, but it is everyday. Not sure what we can do about that. When I lived on Thurlow, there would be a person screaming their head off basically every night. It's less bad further down the hill, but it's still pretty bad.

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## Mixed memories of picnics at Hallelujah Point in Stanley Park

I grew up in the West End. I have a million memories. But here's one. I'm of mixed Indigenous and European ancestry. Nagwaadu (my dad) was Ts'msyen from Kitsumkalum on the Skeena River in northwest BC. My mum was German-Canadian from the prairies. My older sister had our dad's dark eyes and hair. I was fair like my mum. In this way, we fit in well with the cultural, ethnic, age and income diversity of the West End which was always one of its great strengths. Stanley Park was our backyard as children. As a family we would often go to Hallelujah Point in Stanley Park for picnics. Hallelujah Point is across the park drive and up a bit from the totem poles, a knoll overlooking Coal Harbour and the city. I didn't know as a kid that those totem poles were not actually traditional to the Coast Salish peoples whose land is now called Stanley Park - that they were actually traditional to my dad's - our - people of the northwest coast of BC: the Haida, the Ts'msyen, the Tlingit and others. Of course the Coast Salish people are also carvers, but their traditional work was more represented in house posts, welcome figures and other beautiful forms. (Now somewhat made right by Susan Point's beautiful welcome posts at the totem pole site.) As a little girl I didn't know that my Dad was a key figure in attempting to bring 'Totem Land' to Stanley Park, a village concept, something that would bring a deeper understanding of Indigenous peoples and history to the visitors and tourists in Stanley Park. He was the only Indigenous person on a committee made up of mostly white male politicians and others and was eventually edged-out altogether on what was becoming in my dad's eyes, a political football. My dad was a West End fixture, having worked in publicity and newspapers, later becoming a realtor, specializing in the West End. Like many Indigenous people, my Ts'msyen dad endured a lifetime of shaming, erasure, micro-aggressions and marginalization. When my dad was little, growing up on the Skeena River, an old evangelical missionary taught him and the other kids in the Usk Sunday School that totem poles were 'the devil's picture.' When I interviewed my dad shortly before his death at almost 92, he told me many of these stories. I'm a journalist and broadcaster, currently working on a short animated film project inspired by his stories. He said 'I remember throwing a totem pole into the Skeena River with some other kids because this old missionary told us to 'drown the devil.' Missionaries did much damage to my family in a myriad of ways. So, back to Hallelujah Point. I'm struck by how deeply, darkly colonized Stanley Park was back then and still is. Hallelujah Point got its name, apparently, because it's where Salvation Army missionaries would hold their loud rallies, and the cries of 'Hallelujah' could be heard across Coal Harbour. All of this on sacred, ancient Coast Salish territory, where my Indigenous dad,

my mum and their two kids and little dog, would sit on a picnic blanket, with every speck of evidence of the millennia of Coast Salish peoples, their lives, culture and life ways erased, as we set up our blanket near a rectangular stone cairn in homage to missionaries, in a park replete with Edwardian colonial statuary and even a Canadian military naval base plonked down upon the sacred and historic Skwtsa7s (Deadman's Island) within eyeshot of our picnic blanket. Decades later, about 7 years ago, I moved back to the West End. I walk by Hallelujah Point almost every week as I walk or cycle the seawall and am filled with a mix of loving, happy memories of my parents, both gone now, and chagrin that so little has changed to re-Indigenize this sacred place whose grounds my feet have traversed since I could walk, this place named for a colonial vice-regal, who didn't even live here, yet who has a fawning statue of himself there, with his arms held wide 'welcoming' everyone to the park, as if it was his. It's time to decolonize this sacred place called Stanley Park in meaningful ways that would be a boon to the three Indigenous host nations; the Musqueam, Squamish and Ts'leil Waututh; those living on this land; those who come to visit and the land, waters and animals.

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## Mole Hill Makes Community Happen

The Mole Hill Development. The innovative lane way design has changed this area into a true community. I work at St Paul's Hospital and often go there to take my coffee breaks in nice weather. As I overhear conversations, Mole Hill has an true community feel to it and it's impressive.

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## Moving in with two drag queens I knew

I moved into the West End in 1970 to take an apartment with two drag queens I knew. You can google 'Call Me Mr. Madonna' to find my story about that episode. I've called the West End home ever since.

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## Moving to Vancouver from Ontario

Was the first neighbourhood I visited prior to moving here, which ultimately convinced me to move!

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## Mr. Prince meets new friends

The joy of talking to strangers when I'm walking my dog. He always gets lots of attention and some of the conversations are delightful.

## Music at the beach.

Musicians regularly come to play on the beaches.

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## Music matters in the West End

Walking west of Denman one day we stumbled on a free lawn concert at Nelson and Chilco. Reid Jamieson duo? Incredible singers and tender songs from the 50s to the 80s and some originals too. Community all gathered on the grass or just standing nearby, safely and respectfully. So special were crying even. Later that week we again found a live concert in the park with Kentish Steele and a Mexican band. People from all walks of life, kids and dogs, all feeling something special together. We didn't even need to go downtown to get entertained!

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## My Arborous West End Welcome

Getting off the #6 bus at Davie and Denman on a hot day and immediately feeling the cooler air temperature coming off English Bay and heading home on foot under the protective canopy of shady 7 storey high deciduous trees filled with massive trunks covered with moss and ferns and the occasional scampering squirrel all the while being greeted by each passerby on the sidewalk, occasionally one with a dog on a leash to pet while I enjoy a chat with the loving neighbourhood owner.

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## My everyday, ordinary dream

Looking out my window every day brings so much joy and it adds to my well-being in more ways than I can count. It's not unique or special, but I am immensely grateful for living in such a beautiful community.

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## My families paradise

My family immigrated from the Yugoslav War. I remember when we arrived in 1995 to the Welcome house. It was small but cute and I remember being told about places to visit. The moment we left, we went towards Davie Street and as we were walking down I loved all the green spaces and cultural buildings. And then towards English Bay, the first right as a 8 year old I saw the most beautiful sunset ever. That was the moment I knew this is where I want to be...and I haven't left.

## My first and probably last home in the westend

Finding my apartment in 1980 and I am in the same apartment today. I have gone through young adulthood, post secondary education, marriage, divorce, parenthood, shopping locally, Westend community centre, pottery club member. It is the original residential managers who made this home, neighbours, names you do not know but familiar faces that you always stop and chat with on the sidewalk. Community and home

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## My good fortune

I had always lived on the west side of Vancouver, raised my son there. As rent escalated, my disability benefits no longer covered expenses so I looked for options. I had never considered the West End, when an offer from a seniors building for a suite was made. I was so grateful, relieved to know I had a roof over my head. I could not be in a better neighbourhood as a senior. There are wonderful programs for us. There is the Seniors Network, community centre, and an amazing library. All so close by. All my shopping needs are easily met, people are thoughtful and friendly, and I feel safe. The bus service is excellent, Stanley Park nearby, and I am so grateful for my good fortune created by a phone call offering me a suite. I enjoy the diversity and multicultural aspects and the beauty of the area proximity to downtown.

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## My home!

I started working at age 15 while living in Alberta and since graduating from high school have always worked in a full-time job. I returned to school as an adult student and single parent to jump start a new career in my mid 20's and then spend the next 35 years as the primary income earner which allowed very little time or energy for hobbies or special interests. My partner and I relocated to BC. in 2007 and have lived in other neighborhoods. In 2016, we moved into the West End Community and it was then I started to reduce my work hours for the first time as I began to move toward retirement age. I decided with free time on my hands and a very small community of acquaintances and friends in Vancouver, I would look for an activity to fill my time. I started by exploring the programming at the West End Community Centre and after checking a number of activities off as possibilities, signed up for a pottery class. After my first 3 hour class I realized it was the first time in my adult life where I was unaware of my anxious thoughts and had spend the entire evening completely focused on an activity that provided relaxation. Since that class I have taken every opportunity to register for a pottery class, I take advantage of Saturday drop-in studio time, have made new friends who share my interests, and attend the bi-yearly pottery sales made by the very skilled amateur potters in the neighborhood. After 4 years participating in programming at the centre - now when I am out for a walk in my neighborhood, I regularly meet my pottery friends on the streets of the community, in the park while walking my dog and have for the first time in my adult life been a part of a community because of the West End Community Centre and the opportunities offered there to try out a new skill, meet friends and engage in wonderful self-care! It feels like I am home!

## My Introduction to the West End

What I'll always remember is walking into the Joe Fortes Branch Library, having only recently moved to Canada from San Francisco, and wondering who Joe Fortes was. Asking a librarian (I believe his name was Thomas) provided the answer and then I started looking around at the displays and books. It only took a few minutes to realize that I was 'home'.

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## My second home

I have been privileged to live in a community that has a library and a community centre, that largely prior to the pandemic was my second home. It was my gymnasium and my art studio with a fantastic pottery studio. I took fitness classes and then could pop in to the studio for a few hours to work on a sculpture. On my way home, I might stop at the library and pick up a book to read. The pottery studio not only gave me a place to work, but also to learn and develop as an artist and a community to connect with. With internal workshops, but also public events and sales that allowed the community at large, to not only witness, but participate and benefit from having access to unique dinnerware/pots/art at affordable prices.

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## My West End

I live in Yaletown. My sister also lives in Yaletown. We are second generation Vancouverites. Our mother went to school in the West End. My grandmother lived in the West End for many years. My sister was born at St. Paul's. When I was a child I swam at the old Crystal pool. When I was growing up my family would go for a drive on Sundays around Stanley Park and then have dinner in our car at the White Spot on Georgia Street. Two of my grandchildren were born at St. Paul's. During the pandemic I have walked almost every day to Sunset Beach and to English Bay for respite. I also love to ride my bike to Stanley Park. Sitting on a bench at Lost Lagoon has given me solace in these difficult times.

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## My West End Walk Home

My unique & special experience happens after every shift I work & walk home. I leave the hustle & bustle at SPH walking through west end streets until I reach my residence. My walk home always starts in a hurry reflecting on the events of my shift but as I walk through the west end I find myself admiring the trees, the homes and the people out walking pets, cycling or sitting on one of the outdoor benches. My walk slows & I feel refreshed & thankful to live in such a unique & eclectic community.....the west end.

## Nature in abundance

In general I have had many experiences with nature which are remarkable in that this is within a large urban area. For example a simple walk around the lagoon might yield views of an eagle patiently waiting to feast on something nearby, turtles basking in the sun or fish lurking beneath the surface, a heron fishing for small fish treats, a beaver if you are lucky and many small rodents and birds and other waterfowl. Oh I forgot the river otters playfully munching along the edge. Simply wonderful for young and old!

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## Near Mishap at Robson Street

There was a huge snowfall the day before. Vancouver was all white. Hubby & I were walking along Robson St nearer Denman St. when suddenly a bus swerved to the sidewalk near us. The driver could not control the bus since buses are not fitted with snow tires. Fortunately, we managed to escape & did not get hurt. That experience made me weary and not to go out after heavy snow.

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## Negative Changes in Vancouver's West End

I remember when you could see the Jubilee Fountain in the Lost Lagoon along with swans and row boats. All gone now thanks to the Park Board. Now the area is boring in comparison!

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## New to the West End

I moved to the West End just 8 months ago, and it is the best neighborhood I've ever lived in. Everyone is incredibly friendly- I have never lived somewhere where people will give you a friendly 'hello' on the street, or strike up a conversation while you're waiting for a cross walk light. I have gotten to know the neighborhood dogs as well- there is a pair of beautiful brown terriers that I call Terry 1 and Terry 2, and I like to think they are brothers. Their owner is very kind and patient when you ask to pet them. The West End feels very safe (which as a young woman is very important to me) because you get the sense that everyone in the area is looking out for one another. It is truly magical to live so close to the park, and I visit the park for early morning walks, tennis, and picnics with friends at least twice a week. The area also has everything you need- grocery stores, a dry cleaner, a clinic, and most importantly, a library with study and work spaces. I truly love the West End and want to make it a permanent home.

## Nights in the West End Library

I was only 6 years old when I had moved to Vancouver from across the country and the first place I ended up going in Vancouver was the West End Community center. I Associate the west end with my childhood even though I did not originally grow up there. I found myself spending hours in the West End library from a young age which is how I grew to love reading and developed many passions within that space. Little did I know that many years later I would be attending school at King George Secondary. I have made so many memories here throughout the years that I have a hard time picking just one but I can confidently say that over the years of being a part of the West End Community I have shared so many laughs and met the most amazing people that I hope to have by my side forever. I have learned something new everyday from the people in the West End Community and have made connections I will forever cherish. As I come close to the end of my time at King George, I hope I can return back all of the kindness and support that this community has given to me over the years.

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## No car required.

Having not owning/requiring a vehicle for twenty years speaks to the walkability plus local community focus the West End creates. Fireworks, Pride Parades and the beaches. Its the place to be.

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## Not diverse anymore

I had all three of my children in Saint Pauls Hospital. We walked the newborns home. Then it was diverse and affordable. It was also a time when the sex workers were here. It was fun. They were lovely people. It's not the same anymore. So much exclusivity. The new mixed housing on Davie has a separate door for the poor people.

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## Not safe anymore

I was shocked to hear that my aunt who works at St. Paul's no longer goes out for lunch because it's not safe to do so in the neighbourhood. Her co-workers have been aggressively chased to the door while on breaks. I lived in the West End for 12 years and never had these kinds of experiences. I moved with my family last September out of the West End and I was really sad to hear of this.

## OUR EDEN.

My (our) my husband's memories are: When we first arrived in 1Coming over the Port Mann Bridge and running out of gas and how quick the bridge patrol were to make sure we got across the bridge safely and gassed us up to carry on our way. And then, driving down Hastings Street ( a little glum I might add) and then, seeing those beautiful mountains and continuing to drive in astonishment. Stayed at the Patricia Hotel first night (never again). Wanted to back to Montreal. But, we drove at night to see Vancouver and we hit Georgia Street and WOW!!, we saw the stately Hotel Vancouver all lit up and the streets were beautifully lit and the Mountains in the night air were clear with just the right amount of snow to identify the Lions. We were agog and then seeing Izzy's Supper Club and the houseboats along Stanley Park and then driving at night through Stanley Park, gosh I thought we had taken a wrong turn and enter some sort of Eden. The Next day we went back down to find an Apartment to live in. We were worried about the cost but managed to get one on Alberni Street for (Get this) a furnished one bedroom apartment for \$125.00 a month on the 7th floor overlooking Stanley Park and Lost Lagoon with the Beautiful dancing fountain's colourful display. We knew then we had found our Eden. We lived in different parts of the West End since then, but also lived in Burnaby, West Vancouver and North Vancouver BUT, always come back to the West End for its' mosaic and wonderful ambiance. Unfortunately, it has changed. Not for the better we might add, it has become too dense and full of noise and craziness. Not the beautiful music we would go on our balcony on Alberni Street to hear from the House boats and the beautiful sounds from Lost Lagoon. But, we still love the walks around the Seawall and into Stanley Park when safe. Cannot walk too much at night now because of the number of persons with mental challenges who are verbally or physically attacking people. These are the things that need to be talked about. How to bring saneness and beauty and the colour and life that was the West End. The tranquil love of live that was cherished in those days. The excitement of the Clubs that were filled with good music and food and laughter, not the high shrill of ugliness the permeates the areas now from Third Beach to Sunset Beach and in between. Why not have wonderful local artists perform in Joe Fortes Park in the bandshell. It would be marvelous. Have spoken to the Parks Boards in the past to no avail. But, we still love our West End. Its' closeness to the water, the beaches the lovely little Canteens with great staff and wonderful food. The people when they are not on their phones or pads or some other electrical gizmo attached to their bodies are still smiling somewhat and will give you a hello or a nod now and then. But, I think the Parks Board and Vancouver City Hall have an immense amount of work to do. I applaud you and will comment an;d suggest when asked. Thank you for this opportunity. Peace.

## Our park, Our backyard

Stanley Park has always been a space to visit for my wife and I. We spend time walking in the forest on warm sunny days rainy stormy mornings and on occasion sit on the mounds of snow to listen to silence. Any one of these times allows us a moment to reflect on how beautiful the West End is

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## Out for a run

I love running on the Seawall. The best is on Saturday mornings when I walk out to my starting point, when things are still rather quiet and just starting to wake up. No matter what the season or weather, walking under all the trees, past the huge variety of buildings, it's always a reminder of how unique and lovely this place is. Then it's out onto the Seawall and seeing other parts of the city and Stanley Park which is always gorgeous. Post run, with a coffee in hand, I take my time walking back through my neighbourhood and taking it all in with a very content mindset.

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## Overdue for an Overhall

Over 20 years ago I used to frequent the West End community centre but all amenities there are completely out of date and were dated 20 years ago. The fitness centre is being held together with duct tape. With the density of residents in this area, this should have been a priorities ages ago.

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## Paddleboarding English Bay

Paddleboarding around Sunset Beach and English Bay

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## Paradise

My story to friends and acquaintances is very simple. I live between Denman and the Parks Board Offices, deep in the heart of the WE. I get to experience the absolute best of the West Coast Rain Forest. I acknowledge that I am fortunate to reside on unceded Indigenous territory and that I best leave as small a footprint as I can. I tell them that I will live my retiring years in a paradise that you cant really appreciate until you see it for yourself!

## Park(let) Connections

I live in the West End and love it here because of the diversity in housing, ages of people and incomes. This community has so much character. I love seeing people gather in the little parklets and often stop to talk to my neighbours there. People take pride in gardening as well. I'm part of a community garden at Nelson Park and there is connection and support.

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## Peggy Casey

I remember moving my mom here from Richmond after my father died. My mother immediately became involved with the West End Senior's Network (WESN) and eventually Gordon Neighbourhood House (GNH). She was a Peer Counselor for seniors and was involved in many local events. Peggy passed away in December 2020 and will be missed by many.

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## People don't pay for art.

I make art, it's hard to be an artist here. I have no peanuts. I make beautiful boxes and soapstone carvings. People don't pay for art.

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## Picking up trash with humility

Street people and others seem to leave trash strewn around overnight. I've started picking it up when I see it. Occasionally, some one will say thank you for picking it up. More rarely, someone will come and help. It renews my faith in humanity when that happens.

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## Pink slippers

My earliest West End memory is coming to have tea with my grandmother and then my mom and I went to buy my first pair of ballet slippers. The only place they could be bought was at a lingerie shop on Denman. The proprietor was also the first ballet teacher in Vancouver.

## Pool Pals

When I moved to Vancouver over 30 years ago, I chose to live in the West End. I wanted to live in a walkable area, well served by transit where I didn't need to use a car for everyday activities and shopping. Over the years I worked in the downtown core, Richmond, Burnaby and UBC, travelling to work each day on foot or on transit. When working, I spent my days surrounded by colleagues who lived across the lower mainland and these people were my main social contacts. When I left the paid work force 10 years ago, I started doing aquafit and swimming at the Vancouver Aquatics Centre. I did this most weekdays and people I met there largely lived close by and they became another of my 'social hubs'. We had pot luck lunches and coffee dates and celebrated birthdays and holidays together at West End restaurants. The same people I met at the pool, I ran into on the sea wall, and the streets of the West End- at No Frill, Safeway, Shoppers, London Drugs, the postal outlet and the library. We'd wave and greet and ask after each other. We'd stop and chat. During the pandemic, my 'world' became much smaller. I wasn't travelling on transit as much and my book club met via zoom. Friends that lived in other areas weren't getting together. My 'West End community' became even more central in my social life. It was my near neighbours that I called upon when I needed help or an ear or wanted social contact....and they in turn, called on me. I have come to realize that the somewhat loose community that had formed through shared activities at the Aquatics Centre had become very important to me. I think this importance has been strengthened because many of the people live within walking distance of the Aquatics Centre and it is this close physical proximity that has fostered a greater sense of community. Many of the users of the Aquatics Centre are seniors and living close to the facility makes it much easier to participate. I understand that the current planning process for the West End includes the library, community centre, school, ice rink but there is no mention of a pool. I understand that the Aquatics Centre will be replaced at some point and it may move to a location outside the West End. I hope that the needs of the West End residents are considered and that planning process ensures that a pool continues to be located within the West End. As research shows- exercise and community are vital to our well being- both physical and mental. A pool within walking distance certainly fosters both!

## Positive Retirement Program

When I retired in 2004, I needed something to fill the gap in my world. I began walking around the Stanley Park Sea Wall 2 or 3 times a week - summer and winter. It brought me back to a closer relationship with nature and provided a positive activity to look forward to. Brings back wonderful memories today.

## Pride in protecting our own

I remember once in the West End these British tourists started taking selfies with the fellow who was sleeping outside Mac's on Davie. I was across the street and horrified but within two seconds there were a whole bunch of community members reaming them out for it and attending to the person on the sidewalk. It was great to see my community step up to protect one of our vulnerable neighbours like that. I hope people continue to think of the neighbourhood's unhoused residents in this planning process.

## Quaintness

I really enjoy the quaintness of the west end neighborhoods. I love the community gardens, roundabout and sidewalk corner flower displays, and the statues that residents display (eg. bathtubs full of flowers, garden gnomes, bird houses etc.). Going further into the west end and into Stanley Park, I have many beautiful memories of going to Second Beach pool with my mom.

## Reigniting the Fight Against Non-Local Traffic

In the late 1960s my grandmother lived in a modest studio apartment on Chilco Street between Pendrell and Comox. At that time Chilco was a noisy street busy with non-local traffic from the North Shore travelling between Beach Avenue and Georgia Street. Today Chilco is a quiet pleasant street because planners and politicians in the 70s had a vision to protect the neighbourhood by building traffic diversions and mini-parks which has made the neighbourhood a much more pleasant place to walk and encounter other neighbours. This work is not yet complete because our main streets particularly Denman are still dominated by non-local traffic, that does not support local businesses and which creates noise and pollution and affects the quality of bus service. The West End Community Plan passed by Council in 2013, spoke of improving the pedestrian environment in the West End and prioritizing walking and transit over the private automobile. Yet over the past eight years nothing concrete has been brought forward. Denman Street sidewalks are in poor condition especially for seniors with wheelchairs and walkers, and there is not enough width to allow for physical distancing and cafe patios. Perhaps it is time when planners and politicians made concrete their aspirational plans by further diverting non-local traffic from travelling through our neighbourhood and especially our high streets and replacing vehicular traffic lanes with wider sidewalks.

## Relax Cat

Saw a cat sitting in his own mini lawn chair.

## Saturdays at the Fitness Centre

My partner and I went to a community centre fitness class every Saturday morning for over three years. It had an extremely affordable drop-in rate which helped as we were students and just starting out in the city. The class was special in that people of all ages came to it to work out. The friends we made in the class led to waves on the sidewalk as we moved about the community during the week recognizing people as we ran our errands. Babies were born and brought to the class, news was shared, and brunch was had after the class. Covid hit and the class hasn't been there since. We miss it, we miss our little Saturday community, and I hope that however the community centre shapes up that there continues to be accessible, and importantly, affordable options for community building.

## Saving the best for last

There are many experiences I've had in the West End that are singular and exceptional. I moved here from high desert and drought, so I will never again complain about rain. It is a gift. I have birds who nest on my 3rd storey patio and bring me joy and connections to nature that have made getting through the pandemic much easier. I have met a variety of people on my daily walks through the neighbourhood and in the parks that I would not have had the opportunity to meet in other places I have lived. I have lived in several countries around the world and believe that in moving to Vancouver I have saved the best for last.

## Sayers It Isn't So for much longer!

Several years ago a special Ivan Sayers Canada Day vintage fashion show was held on the lawn outside Barclay Manor. My friend/neighbour & I were thrilled to attend (we live just down the street) & took pains to dress for the occasion (red & white, hats) & truly enjoyed what we saw & learned from Ivan, a fashion historian with an amazing costume collection. We weren't so happy when the gardeners directly across the street started up their gas-powered lawn & shrub trimming equipment right in the middle of the presentation! I went over and politely requested that they stop the noise until the event had concluded. A grudging partial concession on their part: they moved to the Nicola side of the property & fired up again. I am often irked that the few rules & regulations that we do have to protect our hearing & sanity from loud noise (highrise demolition & then construction, landscaping & seemingly unwarranted tree cutting, motorcycles without mufflers, out of control car alarms, extended water/sewer replacement projects) are not enforced. We deserve more for our taxes & for our West End neighbourhood.

## Saying Hello

A simple story, but my parents were visiting (they live in Richmond) and we were walking along Nicola street and when we passed other strangers along our walk they would say ðhelloí or ðgood morningí and my parents were shocked. They looked at me and said ðthis is what a neighbourhood should beí.

## Seawall and Sylvia Memories

My brother who was undergoing chemo, and has since died, and his wife came to the West End to listen and dance to a band playing on the seawall on a beautiful sunny day. Then we retired to the Sylvia for drinks, food and memories of all the good times we'd had together in the West End.

## Seawall artist Jock

Made an acquaintance with Jock (who sells stone carvings + leather goods) on the seawall just west of English Bay. I asked Jock to make me a custom pouch. I use the pouch to carry stones, gems, and silver. The patina is now beautiful and Jock and I often share stories when I see him at his spot.

## Sharing my Artwork

I had a show of my artwork in the window of the Van City branch in 32015, also in the foyer of my PAL building every year since 2010 for one month each.

## Skating Safely

I took ice skating lessons at the Community Centre for a year or two. My skating instructor went over landing on the ice safely with our class. My instructor asked us to show the class the procedure for landing safely, and I was the only one who could remember all of them. My instructor offered me a chance to graduate immediately from the current level if I could show them I could do bubbles for ice skating. I could not do bubbles and I could not graduate, but I still had fun skating!

## Small community feeling.

When walking on the seawall, people I meet often smile and say hello, even though you don't really know them.

## Small work-out world

Running into a former high school teacher of mine at the Denman Community Centre gym.

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## Snow on the beach

I live near the intersection of Beach, Jervis and Pacific. The hill at the intersection to Pacific is small but can always get people in the snow. Many years ago, it snowed and cars became stuck trying to get up the hill. My friend and I set up beach chairs to sit and cheer when people made it up. We would help push cars up the hill. After a little while, more neighbours came out to do the same. I think one person brought us all hot chocolates. One neighbour came and shovelled the snow on the hill so cars and the C23 could maybe make it up the hill. Eventually, the snow plows came so we didn't need to be there. The neighbours and I ended up going to the grassy hill on top of the pump station and tobogganing down. It's a good memory. I'm sure I have more, but when/if it snows, I always remember this day.

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## So much to see creates connection & growth

Classes: I learned to watercolour and it was a fun creative time. Plus I bought pottery at a great show and dale as I walked by. Connected me to events and creative vibes in my new living zone. Took another class on meditation and scents which was so great and met diverse people. Things I would never connect to I did through the community centre. Plus library!!! Awesome

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## Special events in the Westend.

The special weekends on Denman and Davie streets, with only pedestrians and stalls out in the car lanes. The Pride Festival through the Westend and along beach Avenue. Not to forget the English Bay beach fly-over, etc. (in former days) and so many other things, such as events at the Westend Community Center. Also, the International Gay Olympics, hosted by Vancouver in 1990.

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## Spontaneous Street Performance

I was at Sunset Beach a few months ago with some friends, and out of nowhere a street performer started doing a show on the seawall. He made lots of jokes and did some juggling, got the crowd involved. It was a really fun and spontaneous thing, which made it really special.

## Spring is on its way

Walking down Comox Street in late winter/ early spring and my spirits lifted by the sight of the cherry blossoms in all there glory and the crocuses poking their heads out of the ground; knowing that winter was over in Vancouver while most of the country was still in the deep freeze.

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## Spring Time in the West End

I've lived in the West End for 14 years since I was in my late 20s. What I love most about living in the West End is watching the trees and plants bloom and blossom again every spring. How Barclay becomes filled in with tree cover each April and May. How the rhododendron garden blooms in April. How the cherry blossoms explode in May. This is one of the most special experiences of the West End for me.

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## Springtime in Stanley Park

We moved close to Lost Lagoon earlier this year and have so enjoyed walking through Stanley Park and all the wildlife that can be spotted, like the very wee ducklings growing up all through the spring at the Lagoon, the two families of baby raccoons that seem to live in or around the Lagoon, and the times we spotted the family of three beavers at Beaver Lake or the two huge owls we spotted there another time.

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## St. John's Nightmare

The tearing down of St. John's United Church on Comox St. due to rezoning. Just before the final decision some monks (?) were 'blessing the church' and 'accidentally started a fire'. It was put out , the story quietly disappeared and later the church was demolished in 2011 even after fierce opposition from the whole street.-enriching millionaires at Westbank Projects. Corp. and Peterson Investment. I live next door to the Lauren the 22 storey building that replaced the church. Our 4 story building has had nothing but trouble from this neighbour. I really miss that church. Not because I was a church-goer but I did attend a few times with friends and think that building could have been a wonderful 'extension' to Gordon House or put to some community use. A real lost opportunity. Just like the beautiful 'Macaroni Grill' or Rogers Mansion on Davie. Would have been wonderful for an extension for West End Seniors Centre of something of community benefit. Now more out-of -reach condos for the rich.

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## Stanley Park

Just wonderful experiences in Stanley park.

## Stanley Park Manor

I was raised in the West End. My first home as a new born was 1915 Haro Street, 'Stanley Park Manor'. The building is still standing today. When I was a child my father would joke that when I was born I was so small that they put me in a shoe box and put me in the closet. My mother would contradict the shoe box part of the story but not the closet part. I wondered what sort of people would put a baby in a closet?! Years later my parents are gone and my young adult daughter found her first apartment, coincidentally at 1915 Haro Street. When she moved in we found out that all the units are studios and they all have huge closets, which function in many cases as bedrooms. Finally I had my answer as to why my very first bedroom was a closet.

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## Story time and hockey

When my children were younger, we spent lots of time at Joe Fortes Library Branch. We attended story time on Saturdays and checked out books. Upon leaving, though, their favourite part was playing the mechanical hockey game in the foyer of the community centre. Remembering my daughter guide her little brother's hands as he turned and pushed the levers to make the game players move and twist brings me joy. When we went to the library, I had to promise after story time that we could play hockey.

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## Street Party Gay Pride

I remember when for Gay Pride Davie street was completely blocked and each block had something unique and fun going on (nightclub in the street, beer garden, games, booths). It was multiple nights of fun and community. It was street activation at its best. Sadly, that type of event hasn't happened to that extent for a number of years now.

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## Street people outside the hospital

I was walking to the hospital, and noticed that there are a lot of people that seem to be living on Burrard Street near the hospital doors. There is a bad smell (urine, BO). I'm not sure if the people are sleeping in that block of the street, but they are certainly encamped for at least part of the time. Sometimes the people and their belongings partially block the sidewalk. I'm sad that people who are accessing healthcare are ending up laying on sidewalks.

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## Streets so narrow a fire truck needs three goes to turn a corner.

I have watched as fire fighter, ambulances and police have an ever more difficulty navigating the streets west of Denman. A fire that took a mans life occurred near my building. I could see the flames coming out of the window as I watched fire trucks, police, ambulances and investigators try to navigate around the narrow corners. These corners make navigating a small car difficult enough but emergency vehicles wound up on curbs or just parking a block away to assist in this tragedy. I do not believe that the man would have been saved because of the nature of the fire (smoking while falling asleep) but it is clear how this would hamper other emergencies and could lead to loss of life. Emergency services needs to be thought about when changing the physical structure of our streets. If Fire Station 6 is moved further away, the problem will be made more dangerous for people in medical or physical distress. Add in that St. Pauls will move further away as we take down the Dunsmuir Viaduct and the casualty rate for cardiac events and trauma victims will escalate. This is not being well thought out and is dangerous. I wonder if you have advocates for the disabilities or senior citizens on your committees.

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## Stumbling across performative art on the beach

We took our friend, who was back from Toronto for a short visit, kayaking. Since he only had the evening left to spend with us, we did a short trip. We kayaked from Kits over to Second Beach. When we got there, there was a crowd of people on the beach, all gathered around a chair placed in the sand, facing towards the sea. We had no idea what they were there for. We beached our kayaks, had our picnic dinner, and just as we were finished, a man in a robe and airy pants came running down the beach to the crowd. They applauded, and he said a few things, including how he was late because he overshot the location on his way over. Then he did some ceremonial acts with a cedar branch and sang a little, I think, before sitting on the chair. It was interesting to see the performative art as people who didn't expect to see it. The meaning is a lot more personal, but also, like a lot of things you see in life without being privy to the explanation, I think it will weave itself into my memories as something memorable yet cryptic. Why did we see someone doing that thing on the side of the road that one time, or why was that woman yelling at that old man with the cane? etc.

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## Summer Art Market Dance Party

During WEArts Summer Art Market we had musician Claude Duke play live music in Jim Deva Plaza. Everyone was enjoying and then a big group of international students from Mexico started singing along to his Spanish songs and a bit of a dance party started. So much fun!

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## Summer Beach Walk

Walking through the neighbourhood to get to the Park and 2nd beach for a swim after work every day in the Summer.

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## Sunset @ local beach!

I've been living here for seven years and only this summer did I find out I can go swim and watch sunsets every night at 'the local beach'. I didn't even know we had a local beach. It's right beside the flowers and gardens emerged during Covid. Lovely to get to meet more neighbours and hang out

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## Super Soaker Corner

Annual Pride Parade watching on Denman at the end of my street, in the lane between Nelson and Barclay. Every year, one of the residents sets up a pick-up truck with giant bins full of water and then sets his kids(?) to spray the parade with huge super soaker water guns as the floats and performers and walkers go past. The best part is that this means an all-out war with the fire dept as the fire truck approaches and "retaliates" with fire hoses and much comedic flair. We all get sprayed and laugh so hard watching it unfold. Every year. So good. The second best part is the kids (who are almost grown now) are always responsible about not soaking or spraying people that give the sign to them "no!" while providing much appreciated respite from blazing August sun for most of the other parade participants, some of whom seek them out for a good full-body soak before they continue on.

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## Support change.

I am amazed at the reluctance to change that I see among my neighbours. I did not think that in moving to what I thought was a progressive community I would hear so much resistance to social programs that would assist those less fortunate than my neighbours, green programs that would slow global warming, traffic calming programs that could reduce fossil fuel emissions, harm reduction programs that could bring dignity to the lives of people with addiction problems. I've had to learn to go slowly and in some instances keep my mouth shut. This is disappointing. We should be a model to the rest of the country, if not the world, of what saving the earth and all its creatures could mean.

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## Swinging worms

I used to walk in Stanley park walking trail during summer, Those swinging one inch worms, were very interesting, and how they evolved to moth at early September .

## Tennis with friends, close to home

It is lovely each summer being able to access the tennis court on Barclay. If it was for playing or practising, alone or with others, it was wonderful to enjoy the outdoors, at a facility so close to home. This experience is a big part of my joy of living in the West End. There are no fees, and we are able to meet neighbours and make new friends, while getting exercise. It also helped with my mental health - especially during the pandemic. And if the courts are already occupied, people are respectful of the 30-minute rule and there is a space to wait. We need spaces like this that are casual and not always programmed. During the school year, when the facility is restricted to school board use during the day, and activities programmed by the community centre in the evening, the facility is hardly ever used. This is frustrating to see facilities paid for and maintained by tax payers, sitting idle, when there is a huge need in the community.

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## The Beauty Salon

The Hollywood stars coming to ur standing in front of Lucien Bellin Salon.

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## The best birds

The birds were absolutely delightful last spring when we took meandering walks through the west end every weekend. Big flocks of very vocal little feathered friends skipping from tree to tree and singing their hearts out in happiness.

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## The Best Part of Going to School in the West End

My favourite aspect of going to school in the west end (King George) is that there are so many opportunities around. One such example is the sheer amount of places to eat out at during lunch time, I have talked to many students who left and the one thing they miss about KG is the location and the easy access to food as well as the community centre situated right beside!

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## The Bird Cage

Finding a huge, vintage bamboo bird cage on the sidewalk that someone was giving away, and somehow cycling home with it

## The day we met

Recently moved in to the west end, 2009 or so, alone and so free. Fireworks, scared, think I'll walk down to the beach. It's way past my bedtime. Drizzle, Denman direction south feels like a community catwalk. Police presence, safe feeling. Arrive just as it all starts. Wonder and joy, fireworks to move the heart, lift the spirit and move the soul. A community where I know no one, yet feel so safe. Walks home, hood up, police watching my every step. Safe.

## The Dead Rat

One time when I went for a walk at Stanley Park I saw a Dead Rat. It looked disgusting but perfectly in place, close to a back alley. It was a dark shade ridden intersection with nobody else in sight. The rat circus had been eaten by a crow but that crow was not in sight. All that was in sight was a rotting, decomposing rat with its guts hanging outside like the sun on a bright day.

## The grand dame

The Sylvia is a home away from home. So many family memories there and may ahead in the future

## The Immigrant Experience

Arriving in Canada from Europe, making a new home in Canada and contributing to making a part of the dynamic change to Vancouver, my living in the West End with all of the other immigrants. The West End was full of houses, not buildings, and the sense of community amongst the many new people arriving here.

## The Joy of Art & A Relaxing Chat!

Before the 'plague' hit I really enjoyed loading up my bike with a tent and my art, and taking it all to Jim Deva Plaza for the summer craft fairs. The sense of community and happiness really shows on these days. Communication and idle chatting about art leads to talk about other subjects. During COVID we all became hermits! That can not become the 'norm'

## The Magic Bus Ride

It was on a jam packed bus heading east on Davie a few days before Christmas. Everyone was feeling stressed and grumpy when suddenly the bus driver started singing (quite well, actually) I Cant Help Falling in Love with You. But he changed the words to being about on a bus and immediately everyone started laughing and enjoying the ride. It was lovely.

## The neighborhood that was

When I moved into the Westend it had a quaint feel. There were small businesses and felt like it's own little community. Now, all the building of the unsightly high rises with no infrastructure to support it, wiping out smaller low rises which gave the neighborhood the quaint feel. That's all but lost, the crime rate and gang activity is up, I no longer feel safe walking at night and the cost is unaffordable. For the first since I moved here in 1998, I am looking at my options to get out of the city, it's sad.

## The ocean makes friends

On a morning before work, I took a walk to the beach. Just passed English Bay is my favourite cove where I often stop to sit. As I approach, to older people (60+) in wetsuits stood down the path. One of them, in surprise, pointed towards at the beach. A slightly younger couple (40s) on the stairs were also in wetsuits. It was clear they were strangers, but also fast friends. They chatted, pulled up their hoods, waddled into the ocean and swim towards the park

## The Old and New West End

Although I didn't live in the West End then and only have now since around 2015, I have fond memories of the old West End from the Fifties and even the Sixties when it was as much a place of old heritage homes as small apartment blocks. My cousin's family owned the Kamlo Hotel, (now the English Bay Hotel), on Denman near Davie and my father had a store on Granville and Nelson so we often walked - usually along Nelson or Davie from one place to the other - often having a meal at my father's or my uncle's expense near their places of business. We especially frequented the West End during the summer when we went to English Bay or Stanley Park. There still are remnants of the old West End along Nelson Street especially and I hope they are preserved in perpetuity as part of our history. Not that I mind the new stately high rises - especially the irregular-shaped ones like the Vancouver house or the one going up on Alberni and Cardero. They too represent an inevitable present and future of the West End. Just don't lose the places like the Nelson Park homes or the independent eateries and shops along Denman street to high rent chains.

## The Only Hope

My memory is: Saturdays and Sundays there was music and performance pieces. Everywhere from the 70s to 2012ish. Why was it stopped?

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## The Pier and the Aquarium

when i was a child, in the 1940's, there was a long pier near the park entrance, it had a restaurant on the shore. Much like White Rock pier today. There was also an aquarium near the bath house.

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## The reason to live here

The opportunity to be outside all year long and nearest to a large park, community, nature albeit besides concrete (haha)

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## The roof incident

Once a tree fell on my the roof of my apartment when I was playing with toys

## The Under Bridge Garden.

The I remember when I used to bike by the north end of the Burrard Bridge and see a man pulling out the ivy that was covering the ground everywhere. I stopped to talk to him (Jason) and he told me just wait and see I am going to take it all the ivy out and build a garden. It took several years and a couple of neighbours to do it. The police used to hassle him telling him he couldn't be doing that. People started donating plants and money to get this big project realized. The garden flourished with the volunteer help and the city added it to its list of community gardens they supported with compost. It kept expanding and expanding down to the seawall. Someone came along and asked if they could have a memorial garden for a family member who died and that person 's favourite flower was the Hanging Datura where at night it gives off a heavenly scent. If the Datura don't make it though a hard winter the family brings in more so they are always kept going. It's pretty incredible what happened there over 15 years. The city even installed a water tap there. Jason moved to the Island but his legacy flourishes and cared for by two people.

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## The Water Lady!

During the last two heat waves this year, one woman was sitting on a sidewalk patio with an adult beverage with her friends and asking (and getting consent) to spray people with a water gun. She was such a bully personality who understood the situation and provided some hilarity and relief. These are the types of people in the West End. It is a small community feel at the footsteps of the big city. It's connected but also secluded and the individuals in the community are what make it feel like home.

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## The West End Can Feel Unsafe and Sad

I was walking along Davie Street near Thurlow and was following behind a young man who was very disheveled and talking to himself with pants well below his bare bum. He then took a glass bottle and smashed it violently on the street - I was very glad no one was in the path of the glass shards. I later called in two needles that were discarded on a park bench down a side street. I was very glad I did not have my little grandkids with me that day as sometimes am fearful of their safety when people are around who can be unpredictable. This makes me sad as is a more and more common occurrence and I feel,the West End has so much more to offer but there are days when you wonder about yours and others safety.

## The West End in the 1960s

I remember in the 1960s, a friend and I wandered around the West End admiring all the handsome old houses and taking photographs. Most of these houses are gone, now, and the West End became a neighbourhood of high rises. It's still the best place in the City for seniors to live.

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## The West End is Green and I love it!

I love going with friends to the little coffee shop at Cordero and Comox Street. It is such a nice place to relax in a quiet spot. I often cycle or walk through the West End and enjoy the greenery and no car areas and small parks and benches..

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## The West End is the Best End

I love the diversity of the West End, and all of the beautiful tree canopy. I would tell my friend that it is the best neighbourhood in the city. You can get the best Ramen, get top of the line Korean barbecue, and have three grocery stores within a 3 minute walk. The trees help keep people cool in summer and attract birds like chickadees, bushtits, northern flicker, great Blue heron, brown creepers, Wilson's warbler and yellow warbler. The mix of co-op, rental and strata, the local school and library, etc. all help attract diverse residents.

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## The West End provides a community to residents

Although I live downtown, I live in a community. I know many of the shop owners by name and stop by and meet them frequently just to chat. I even know people in other buildings, who I have discovered over the years. Living in the West End, especially West of Denman is a bit of an oasis in a busy city.

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## Things I Missed During Covid

Swimming in the Second Beach pool in the rain. Quiet, grey, soothing and magical, staring up at the sky and floating on my back the full length of the pool, feeling the stress slip away. Having a patio dinner outside at Robba Da Matti on warm summer evenings, surrounded by trees, fairy lights and the gentle noise of other people's conversations. Going for walks with an icecream in the evening at English Bay. So multiple experiences really!

## This is the West End

The West End is a place where you feel at home. It has so many residence who make it a practise to say Hello on the street even if they do not know you. I have Parkinson's and was let off the bus at the wrong stop. As I have mobility issues I was totally exhausted after walking less than a block. Suddenly a young man came up behind me, basically supported me on his back, asked me where I was going and packed me up a hill to my destination assuring me he was happy to help and took off. This is typical of the many kindnesses others have also experienced.

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## Too small but too big

I met my boyfriend in the West End. I was feeling down when a random guy came to sit with me and talked to me.

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## Ukulele in the cold

Need overhangs in public spaces. I can't believe a city with this much rain doesn't have overhang areas. A lot of programming was pushed outdoors because of the pandemic. I had to do my ukulele lessons outdoors in the cold.

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## Untitled #0001

Date night at the beach with pizza and wine during the pandemic

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## Untitled #0002

Having a safe and happy pride

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## Untitled #0003

When I discovered the Polar Bear enclosure from the now closed Zoo in the Stanley park. I think I read about it first and then went about finding it. Amazing.

## Untitled #0007

Going to Delilahs walking the streets with lights shining up into them

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## Vancouver Aquatic Centre is for real swimmers

Vancouver Aquatic Centre has the coldest pool in the city -- and it's really important to preserve that. Many pools are warmed to 'leisure' temperatures, and it makes it really hard to get a solid workout. The cooler waters let people really workout without overheating.

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## Vermin Verity

I remember getting bed bugs in my apartment. I couldn't figure out why I had these welts on my arms and shoulders. Then, one night, just as I was nodding off to sleep, I felt this thing crawling on my forehead and I quickly turned on the light and saw two of them. I spent the rest of the night sleeping in the bathtub. Then over the next couple of weeks, I had my apartment sprayed with Agent Orange. It took weeks to clean that up. Now I sleep with a rifle beside my bed, but at least I don't have any more bed bugs.

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## Vertical Suburb

I call the West End a 'vertical suburb' to friends out of town / from my hometown visiting or new to the City. I've never had a moment, even growing up in a 50's suburb of Edmonton, of meeting so many of my neighbours both within a single building (1st time living in an apartment building) and in the surrounding area. I run into my many neighbours each morning or around the 'hood on daily walks and errands, say hi, wave, or chat. I think I meet so many neighbours because we all walk. It's quiet, quaint with tree-lined streets, lush front lawns and the periodic bench that has the same folks chatting every week. I've never been in such a dense, lush, neighbourly, and friendly city in North America. When the old hotel at Gilford & Haro was replaced by a women's shelter I thought I'd extend that practice and I talked to 4 women just outside on the benches and welcomed to the area and dang they were happy by that.

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## W.E Euphoria

I put my runners on, took the elevator down to 'Park Lane' and started running. An hour later, I had run all the way around Stanley Park, past 4 beaches, under high cliffs and a giant bridge. Along the way, I saw an eagle in the sky, a seal in the water and a seagull on the rocks - with a seastar wrapped around his face! I repeated that same run every Sunday for 8 years.

## Walk Home

Walking home for 14 years through the West End from the Skytrain stations to close to English Bay where I used to live. (I now live close to Davie Village and SPH.) I enjoyed for many years walking through the West End, enjoying the gardens, trees, variety of buildings, and glimpses of other people's lives. Even passing the skunks in the evening. When I moved to a condo on Burrard, what I saw on my walk home was mainly concrete and cars. I've moved again, and my new walking home experience is between these two. Overall, I enjoy the walkability of the West End.

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## Walking in our community.

My family recently moved to the community. We love to walk around the west end, go to the parks, shops, and restaurants. We love meeting other families at the parks and the diversity in the west end. We feel like we are part of a community in a way that we didn't when we lived in the suburbs. Having all our needs in walking distance has brought us together with our neighbours in a way that having to drive to everything did not.

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## Walking through my beautiful community

A memory of being able to see my friends, do everything I needed to do, experience nature and culture all within a 15 or 20 minute walk from my home. It's a memory of belonging to a beautiful community.

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## Warmth

It was being safe. A few years ago I attended the fireworks alone. By the time it was over it was dark and crowded. I had to walk home alone. I was apprehensive but soon relaxed as there were lots of families and couples walking the same way. They smiled as I walked beside them. This is what I want the westend to be safe and welcoming

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## Watching sunsets at the beach.

After working heading down to the beach for a picnic with friends to watch the sunset.

## **WE**

The sense of community. People like to talk and engage with one another. The amount of trees, closeness to water. The large number of lower income residents, all contribute to a sense of place and people.

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### **We can still have Pride**

The gay pride parade we used to have.

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### **WE Community Centre is our Hub**

I have lived in the West End since 1999, when I moved here from Ontario. I have raised my two boys in the West End and I feel they have benefited greatly from growing up in such a wonderful, diverse, safe and accepting neighbourhood. Some of my fondest memories are from when my boys were younger and not yet in school, we would spend many hours at the Joe Fortes library and the community centre to participate in all the programming for younger children. We found our community here and friendships formed during these times are still strong. One specific memory I have is when my oldest son was not quite two, and he was just beginning to learn how to stand and walk on his own. We were at the twos time drop in at the Community Centre and he starting walking using some of the cars they would have out as a type of walker :) He learned to confidently walk across that gym floor with the biggest smile of achievement on his face. As they grew up, they continued to participate in the youth and teen programming at the community centre. They now go to King George high school and it is so special that this has been a safe and welcoming place for them to go from Age 1 to 17!

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### **We helped me**

The West End helped me to get through the pandemic.

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### **We play and do stuff with friends.**

My neighbour teaches me to swim because she is a lifeguard at second beach and at the aquatic centre. We make new friends every time it snows and we go sledding at English bay. Our grocery lady has watched me grow up since I was born. We like to go trick or treating with friends. I learned to play tennis with friends and neighbours. Sometimes it takes a long time to walk to school because we stop and talk to old and new friends. And Half of all the books I've read have come from the Joe Fortes library.

## **Welcoming & Warm Neighbourhood**

When we first moved to the West End last month, all our neighbours on the same floor knocked on our door that first day to welcome us. All my years living in Vancouver, this has never happened! Since then, just walking on the streets or going to local shops, everyone is so friendly. I love the community feel of this neighbourhood, and the diversity of ages. Ive met people of all ages, and they are so friendly here.

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### **WELCOMING WEST END PLACE**

After moving to the WEST END in 2003 the best decision I made was to join the STANLEY PARK LAWN BOWLING CLUB. As a retiree it was difficult to meet people and make new friendships. The SPLBC immediately provided a place to keep active and also play Bridge with neighbours! Over the last seventeen years many social activities there have helped form relationships for members of all ages and their families.

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### **West End diversity**

In an afternoon, you can go from ocean to forest (when it isnt closed) and then for excellent food from a diverse range of choices.

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### **West End hubs**

There are so many things to say about the West End. The proximity to the beach and Stanley Park is an obvious perk. And I would have to say the way the residents take in the neighborhood is great, using the seating and benches or bringing their own chairs to sit outside on their building's lawn. There are hubs/ parkettes in the West End and they are well used.

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### **West End Journal**

Where else in Metro does a neighbourhood have its own monthly magazine? Thanks to Kevin McKeown, West End Journal (including Coal Harbour) has news, ideas, photos, history, and neighbour profiles. There's lots of focus on the arts, and even the high school has a columnist.

## West End Kids

Before the pandemic I would sometimes take my children to school at Lord Roberts Elementary on the No. 23 bus. Each time another student from Lord Roberts would get on the bus by himself a bit further up Beach Avenue. We would walk from the bus stop to the school with him and I would keep an eye on him as he crossed Denman St. That's the thing about the West End. We keep an eye out for the neighbourhood kids to make sure they're okay.

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## West End love

Walking among 100 year old trees

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## West End Neighbourly Love

I learned about the West end community when I volunteered for the farmer's market years ago. It gave me the opportunity to meet the kindness of all the neighbours. Later I moved to the west end and experienced the neighbourly-ness first hand. People are lovely, they want to maintain a beautiful space and are friendly to all.

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## West End proud

Walking in the 2019 Pride Parade through the west end. I had watched from the sidelines for several years while living here, but being a part of that magical day I will never forget. Seeing the support of the community I live in and the vitality of everyone around me gave me a true sense that I am living in one of the best places in the world.

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## West End Wanderings

A west end memory are the daily wanderings from my apartment, under the protection of magnificent heritage street trees to English Bay and Stanley Park. As I stroll along the waterfront, my eyes reflect the light from the watery seascape, the aroma of salted air fills my nostrils, and I stop to bow to the sun as it sets on the horizon. To live in the West End is a privilege - a place where nature presides and where moments of beauty and peace bring their presence, to nourish the soul.

## Westend Fatigue

How utterly rude and obnoxious people have gotten in the westend during covid-19, all living on top of each other with an influx of people from other neighbourhoods all wanting to use the park and beaches like personal playgrounds. Being spit on multiple times on the sea wall, speed cyclists using it like a gran fondo roadway, garbage everywhere inside the park and on the beaches, drinking and smoking everywhere in park, many homeless men with mental health issues which feels unsafe. So much noise, so overwhelmingly loud and rude on a daily basis. I loved the westend, especially easy access to park and water, but covid is pushing me over the edge with my neighbours from here and coming in from elsewhere. It's too many people in one small space and too much inconsiderate behaviour - everyone is only focused on themselves it seems and they all want to come to the westend! It feels a lot less like a neighbourhood and more like a dumping ground. Although prior to covid it was also an endless number of festivals and marathons every weekend which was also exhausting for such a small area.

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## When we moved to the west end

Waking up my first morning living in the westend & looking at the ships while I drank my coffee.

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## Where I belong

I've been living in West End for twenty plus years. It's a small world here. If you go outside, go for a walk or go out to do your grocery shopping or any other purpose, you run into people you know. There isn't a day it doesn't happen. There are greetings and small talks. West Enders are not strangers. We form one unique village. Then I feel that I'm connected to this community. This is where I belong.

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## Who knew?

I moved to the west end 11 years ago attracted by the idea that it is a place strong and community. I went to the rec centre for classes, checked at the community offerings and visited the garden neighbourhood house etc. I walked every step here and walked through the park to get to and from work every day. Yet the strongest sense of community I felt has ironically been through to Facebook sites created by members of the western community. One is just our for chat and use and post tips pretty local photos. I have actively followed connections attracting community events, fires, people needing help. The other has been a group I have met local folks while offering them things they need that I no longer need

## Why do we allow hatred and discrimination to go unpunished?

Last year, on several occasions the West End, Davie village, was subjected to street preachers, on the corner in the heart of the LGBTQ2s community spewing homophobic, hatred, and even violence that resulted in a broken leg for a member of our community who tried to intervene. On other occasions, news reported attacks on Muslim students who were peacefully disseminating educational material in the Robson area. In all instances, the police and justice system did nothing. Our hate crime laws are the weakest they can be, and if spewing hatred and discrimination in a community that houses those who are being discriminated against is not considered a hate crime, then what is. I realize that this is not a municipal jurisdiction, but Vancouver can bring in its own by-laws to deal with and prevent these things from happening again.

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## Wildlife in the West End

I find living in the West End very interesting. When I leave my house in the morning for work, or walk my dog I am always struck by the huge diversity of people and wildlife all living here. There are the early morning joggers, the sleepy dog walkers, and of course a large number of people heading to school and work. The West End is so full of energy and life and that includes our resident skunks, raccoons, mice, birds and squirrels. It's amazing to watch all of this natural beauty right from my living room window. With a plethora of trees and shrubs it often feels more like a park setting than a city. When I think of the West End I find myself remembering the parks, trees and wildlife for sure.

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## Winter Wonderland Ice Skating

The daily magic of Winter Wonderland at the West End Ice Rink

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## Wonderfully Extraordinary!

My West End beautiful morning encompassed smiling at the new the spring flowers, hearing the birds sing, walking on the beach, strolling through the forest, and biking to the store; followed by a tai chi class, visit to the library, doctor, and optician; picking up a prescription, parking permit, newly cut key, and bottle of champagne; buying an artisan bracelet, squeaky cat toy, grass fed beef and fresh beans for dinner; dropping off my taxes, pants for mending and mail for sending; topped off with reading the newspaper while enjoying a cup of coffee and cinnamon roll all before 11:00 am and within five blocks - that's our Wonderfully Extraordinary West End!

## Wont you be my neighbour?

The West End has an amazing community feel. Its a very friendly neighbourhood with a great mix of people , young and old. When I first moved here from another City, my apartment neighbour would left me little goodie bags of chocolates to help give me energy while I was unpacking. He was very welcoming and it was a great first impression for the neighbourhood vibe.



6. How do you feel about this story? (Circle One)



Very positive



Positive



Neutral



Negative



Very negative

7. What emotions or feelings do you associate with this experience? (Choose up to three)

- |                                    |                                  |                                     |  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pride     | <input type="checkbox"/> Delight | <input type="checkbox"/> Hope       | <input type="checkbox"/> Connection      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety   | <input type="checkbox"/> Grief   | <input type="checkbox"/> Isolation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Frustration     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nostalgia | <input type="checkbox"/> Love    | <input type="checkbox"/> Compassion | <input type="checkbox"/> Something else: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fear      | <input type="checkbox"/> Joy     | <input type="checkbox"/> Support    | _____                                    |

8. Which of these have you done in the West End in the last year? (Check all that apply)

- |  |                                      |  |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Live                      | <input type="checkbox"/> See friends | <input type="checkbox"/> Play or relax                     | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work (including remotely) | <input type="checkbox"/> Shop        | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to school (including remotely) | <input type="checkbox"/> Something else: |
|  |                                      |  | _____                                    |

9. If you are currently a West End resident, how long have you lived there? (Choose one)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am currently not a West End resident | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or fewer years | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 to 20 years     | <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure          |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 to 10 years    | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 20 years | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

10. What is your age? (Choose one)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 15 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 to 39 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 60 to 69 years    | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 to 19 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 40 to 49 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 70 to 79 years    |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 to 29 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 50 to 59 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 80 years or older |  |

11. How do you describe your gender:

## Thank you for completing the survey!

### What's this about?

For the online version of this survey, for more ways to get involved, and for the project timeline, go to [shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect](https://shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect).

Translations are available in Korean (한국어), Farsi (فارسی) and Spanish (Español):

Korean 더운날씨에 안전 유지 방법에 대한 자세한 내용과 번역 된  
조언은 다음 웹사이트를 방문하십시오 :  
[shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect](https://shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect)

Farsi برای اطلاعات بیشتر و مشاوره درخواست ترجمه درباره چگونگی ایمن ماندن در هوای گرم، به این  
آدرس مراجعه کنید: [shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect](https://shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect)

Spanish Para mayor información y consejos visite:  
[shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect](https://shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect) (traducciones estarán disponibles)

# C. Engagement Boards and Supporting Material

## Engagement Boards and Story Cards

West End Community Hub  
shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

**Help us shape a vision for the site that includes the West End Community Centre, King George Secondary School, Joe Fortes Library, and other important facilities.**

It begins with reconciliation. We invite you to listen and learn from Knowledge Holders from the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səllwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. Hear stories that have defined this land for millennia. Then, share your own experiences of the West End and hopes for a new community hub.



**W.E. W.E. W.E. W.E. CONNECT CONNECT CONNECT CONNECT**

**Creating a vision, together**

This fall, help create a vision for the renewed West End Community Hub through a process that takes a different approach to many planning projects:


- 1 INSPIRE**  
Connect with West End stories from artists and storytellers from the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səllwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations, as well as local community artists, so that we can deepen our connections to these lands.
- 2 GATHER**  
Share your experiences of the neighbourhood, online and at over 10 workshops, including *W.E. Connect: Coast Salish Chronicles of the West End* on September 21.
- 3 EXPLORE**  
Explore your neighbours' experiences and draw from local First Nations Knowledge Keepers to help us build a vision for the future West End Community Hub. Join workshops and look for pop-up activities.
- 4 SHARED VISION**  
Learn about the vision for the West End Community Hub, as developed by the local community, at a public event and online. The vision and principles will help define space use needs for the West End Community Hub.



**Project overview**

The City of Vancouver, Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Vancouver Public Library, and the West End Community Centre Association are working to renew and expand the buildings and outdoor spaces at this site. This work builds on previous community engagement processes and takes direction from the West End Community Plan, VSB Long Range Facilities Plan, Vancouver Public Library Strategic Plan, and VanPlay.

This project will produce a renewal plan—a document that will guide and direct the future of the site, including land use, relationships between buildings and outdoor spaces, neighbourhood connections, key views, accessibility, connectivity, and project phases.




- 1 West End Community Centre**  
The West End Community Centre will be replaced to meet the needs of the growing West End neighbourhood, including renewal of an ice rink.
- 2 Vancouver Public Library, Joe Fortes**  
This well-used branch needs a larger library space.
- 3 King George Secondary School**  
The King George Secondary School will be redeveloped to provide more spaces for students and meet seismic upgrade requirements.

**Other Potential Amenities**  
The renewed community hub will likely have combined and shared programming spaces. Other potential uses that could serve the West End will be considered for addition or expansion in the renewal plan, including childcare, a relocation of Firehall No. 6, seniors' spaces, arts and culture facilities.


**Project timeline**

FALL 2021	WINTER 2021	SPRING 2022	SUMMER 2022	FALL 2022
<b>Vision and principles</b> Build a vision for the future community hub grounded in Indigenous teachings and West End experiences.	<b>Identify program needs</b> Plan how people will use the community hub spaces, through research and engagement.	<b>Initial options for the community hub</b> Share draft options for how the community hub spaces take shape based on input received, get feedback and revise.	<b>Preferred community hub options</b> Share draft final plan, get feedback and revise.	<b>Final plan</b> Public information session and final plan publicly submitted to project partners.

**How to get involved, online and in-person**

- Listen & learn from Knowledge Holders at *W.E. Connect: Coast Salish Chronicles of the West End*, our launch event on September 21
- Complete the online West End Experiences survey
- Attend over 10 community workshops this September and October
- Visit project pop-up locations

For dates and full details: scan the QR code or visit [shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect](http://shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect)  
Translations available in Korean (한국어), Farsi (فارسی) and Spanish (Español).



# West End Experiences



What characteristics of the West End do you see in these stories and art? Through W.E. Connect, local community members have shared their experiences of the West End. We invite you to read the above stories – and discover the artwork on the accompanying artist board.

Now, take some time to fill in one of the provided postcards.



SHARE YOUR OWN WEST END EXPERIENCES  
Scan the QR code to share your own experiences through the West End Experiences online survey. Early next year, you can also complete a traditional survey asking how you use the current site and what features you would like to see in the future.  
shappysourcity.ca/wecconnect

- 1 ANSWER THE QUESTION: WHAT CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WEST END DO YOU SEE IN THESE STORIES AND ART?
- 2 WRITE A SENTENCE OR TWO THAT DESCRIBES THESE CHARACTERISTICS, QUALITIES, OR VALUES.
- 3 DROP THE COMPLETED POSTCARD INTO THE RESPONSE BOX.

Story no# 209



## My Second Home

I have been privileged to live in a community that has a library and a community centre, that largely prior to the pandemic was my second home it was my gymnasium and my art studio with a fantastic pottery studio I took fitness classes and then could pop in to the studio for a few hours to work on a sculpture. On my way home, I might stop at the library and pick up a book to read. The pottery studio not only gave me a place to work, but also to learn and develop as an artist and a community to connect with. With internal workshops, but also public events and sales that allowed the community at large, to not only witness, but participate and benefit from having access to unique dinnerware/pots/art at affordable prices.

Story no# 63



## Walking through my beautiful community

A memory of being able to see my friends, do everything I needed to do, experience nature and culture all within a 15 or 20 minute walk from my home. It's a memory of belonging to a beautiful community.

Story no# 47



## Friendly neighbourhood community

One evening I went for a walk in the West End to hear music being played in the garden at Roedde House. As I was walking home through the quiet streets enjoying the little gardens around the buildings I passed 3 gentlemen sitting on a bench on a corner. As I walked past, one of them told me a funny little joke. We laughed together and wished each other a lovely evening, but then the West End was known to be populated by gays and old ladies.

Story no# 200



## Where I belong

I've been living in West End for twenty plus years. It's a small world here. If you go outside, go for a walk or go out to do your grocery shopping or any other purpose, you run into people you know. There isn't a day it doesn't happen. There are greetings and small talks. West Enders are not strangers. We form one unique village. Then I feel that I'm connected to this community. This is where I belong.

Story no# 282



## People don't pay for art.

I make art, it's hard to be an artist here. I have no permits. I make beautiful boxes and soapstone carvings. People don't pay for art.

Story no# 227



## Stumbling across performative art on the beach

We took our friend, who was back from Toronto for a short visit, kayaking. Since he only had the evening left to spend with us, we did a short trip. We kayaked from Kits over to Second Beach. When we got there, there was a crowd of people on the beach, all gathered around a chair placed in the sand, facing towards the sea. We had no idea what they were there for. We beached our kayaks, had our picnic dinner, and just as we were finished, a man in a robe and airy pants came running down the beach to the crowd. They applauded, and he said a few things, including how he was late because he overshot the location on his way over. Then he did some ceremonial acts with a cedar branch and sang a little, I think, before sitting on the chair. It was interesting to see the performative art as people who didn't expect to see it. The meaning is a lot more personal, but also, like a lot of things you see in life without being privy to the explanation, I think it will weave itself into my memories as something memorable yet cryptic. Why did we see someone doing that thing on the side of the road that one time, or why was that woman yelling at that old man with the cane? etc.

Story no# 263



## Growing up in the West End

I remember when I first moved to the West End in 2008. There were still weird shops on Denman (the video store, and the candy store for example). Rents were more affordable. You had a diversity of people. It was an exciting place to grow up. There were things to do, but also plenty of space to relax and enjoy the outdoors. Unfortunately, the things that draw me to the West End have been diminishing due to unaffordability. I hope this expansion will create more spaces for regular people to enjoy their neighbourhood.

Story no# 247



## Music matters in the West End

Walking west of Denman one day we stumbled on a free lawn concert at Nelson and Chilco. Reid Jamieson duo? Incredible singers and tender songs from the 50s to the 80s and some originals too. Community all gathered on the grass or just stood nearby, safely and respectfully. So special, we were crying even. Later that week we again found a live concert in the park with Kentish Steele and a Mexican band. People from all walks of life, kids and dogs, all feeling something special together. We didn't even need to go downtown to get entertained!

# C. Engagement Boards and Supporting Material

## Artist Boards

### Angela George



Learn about the Indigenous history of the West End through Angela George's personal story and original artwork, *Sunset People*.



*Sunset People*  
Angela George, in collaboration with Gabriel George (2021)

Coast Salish Weaving, sheep's wool  
46.7cm x 25.4cm (18in x 10in)

Instagram: @anggeorge\_weaver  
Facebook: /ang.george

#### Artist bio

Coast Salish weaver Angela George carries two ancestral names - site'sáts'tenat and q'á'nat. Originally from Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Sts'ailes, she lives and works in the səlilwətaf (Tsleil-Waututh) Nation with her husband Gabriel George, children, and grandchildren. Traditionally groomed, Angela carries the gift of weaving with integrity and a responsibility to create awareness, stewardship, and harmony. Angela holds an MBA in Indigenous Business Leadership at SFU, where she researched səlilwətaf laws of the land and sacred waters of the Burrard Inlet, then designed it into a 10' Weaving Governance panel to demonstrate that Coast Salish weavings are Holders of Knowledge and living, guiding documents.



Scan the QR Code to see the other artists' work and their stories. Share your thoughts online or use the postcards provided to tell us what this story says about planning the future West End Community Hub.

shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

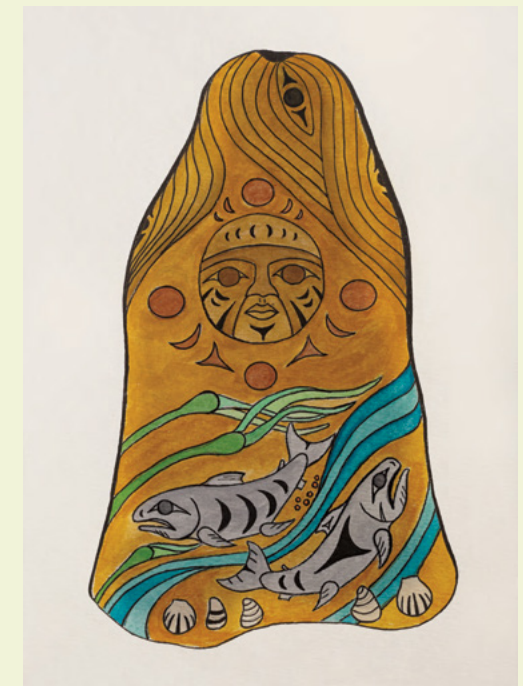
#### Artwork synopsis

*Sunset People* - by Skwxwú7mesh Weaver, Angela George, in collaboration with Gabriel George, səlilwətaf Knowledge Holder Chief Dan George referred to his people of səlilwətaf as the Sunset People. He composed a prayer song recognizing that we turn to the Sunset at the end of each day and give thanks to the sun for warming our children, for giving us light, for nurturing our lands. We hold our hands up in gratitude to the setting sun and ask it to return tomorrow. His grandson, Gabriel George shares this history which is reflected in this weaving. Woven upside down then inverted, it reflects knowledge of past generations woven into the present. The setting sun on the horizon, viewed over the ripples on the Burrard Inlet and Salish Sea, reminds us to uphold the integrity of our ancestors, conducting ourselves according to the laws of nature, giving thanks, striving to illuminate the warmth and light of the Sun.

### Chrystal Sparrow



Learn about the Indigenous history of the West End through Chrystal Sparrow's personal story and original artwork, *Cedar Mother*.



*Cedar Mother*  
Chrystal Sparrow (2021)

Red cedar, acrylics, abalone and copper.  
Designed in Watercolour.  
12.7cm x 25.4cm (5in x 10in)

Instagram: @chrystalsparrow  
Facebook: /chrisalcarver



Scan the QR Code to see the other artists' work and their stories. Share your thoughts online or use the postcards provided to tell us what this story says about planning the future West End Community Hub.

shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

#### Artist bio

Chrystal Sparrow is a x'məḡk'əyəm (Musqueam) artist and female carver. She was traditionally mentored by her late father Irving Sparrow, a master carver.

Chrystal is both a traditional and contemporary Coast Salish artist who designs feminine art to express her culture and family teachings. She has public art at the YVR International Airport, Vancouver School Board, Starbucks Canada, BC Children's Hospital, and many other locations.

Chrystal believes her work is a living art language that expresses her culture, teachings, and perspectives.

#### Artwork synopsis

*Cedar Mother* is a representation of land, animals, medicines, people, and the Salish Sea. The Coast Salish People of x'məḡk'əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaf (Tsleil-Waututh) have shared land, food, teachings, and many of the uses of red cedar for thousands of years.

We used red cedar to build long houses spanning 100 feet to 200 feet in length, to construct canoes for travel, to make art and clothing, and to bury our people in sacred places. In Stanley Park, the West End, and throughout Metro Vancouver, our people once gathered clams from the inlets, and harvested berries, medicines, and cedar roots from the land.

My great grandmother Rose Sparrow and great aunt Jeri Sparrow collected red cedar roots from Stanley Park to make baskets and to use for various medicines. I have relatives that lived in Stanley Park and gathered shells from the inlets like English Bay. The West End community was a part of a larger area where our people gathered and once lived.

# Cory Douglas



Learn about the Indigenous history of the West End through Cory Douglas's personal story and original artwork, *Strength in Community*.



*Strength in Community*  
Cory Douglas  
(2021)

Graphic design, digital

Instagram: @modernformline  
Facebook: /corydouglas7



Scan the QR Code to see the other artists' work and their stories. Share your thoughts online or use the postcards provided to tell us what this story says about planning the future West End Community Hub.

[shapeyourcity.ca/wecconnect](https://shapeyourcity.ca/wecconnect)

## Artist bio

Cory Douglas was born and raised in Coast Salish Territory "Vancouver" and brings over 25 years of local experience in art and architectural design. He is a Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation member with Xaayda (Haida) and Ts'msyen (Tsimshian) ancestry. Cory began his business as a graphic artist and continues to redefine himself as he merges his academic architectural vocation with his innate creativity.

Cory is connected to the Skwxwú7mesh Nation through his parents and has been studying traditional Xaayda form and Formline and Coast Salish design. Cory's intention is to communicate the cultural history of Canada, alongside the development and design of strategies through decolonization.

## Artwork synopsis

The Two Headed Snake, with the protagonists of a brother and sister who defeat the serpent, is a legend that is told by different First Nation communities up and down the coast. I've taken inspiration from the Skwxwú7mesh Nation legend. This story simply represents the challenging times we are facing today. We have an opportunity to look at this legend and pull inspiration from the duo's leadership and create something beautiful with our modern day story, working together in harmony and building relationships in places perhaps not considered. Look beyond the limits of what is and expand the possible by utilizing the strength that every individual imbibes. This is a story of hope and resilience and becoming stronger as a community.

# Afuwa



Learn about the West End through Afuwa's personal story and original artwork, *Seraphim*.



*Seraphim*  
Afuwa  
(2021)

Birch panel, handmade paper, ink, paint,  
Zik gold leaf  
81cm x 91.4cm x 3.8cm (24in x 29in x 1.5in)

Website: [afuwa.wordpress.com](https://afuwa.wordpress.com)  
Instagram: @afuwapaints



Scan the QR Code to see the other artists' work and their stories. Share your thoughts online or use the postcards provided to tell us what this story says about planning the future West End Community Hub.

[shapeyourcity.ca/wecconnect](https://shapeyourcity.ca/wecconnect)

## Artist bio

Afuwa was born in Guyana, on Karinya, Lokono, and Akawaio lands, and makes art on x'məŋk'əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlliwətaf (Tsleil-Waututh) territories (Vancouver), on the site known as Luk'Łuk'. Locally and internationally exhibited, her work encompasses language, the body, and diasporic memory, and has appeared in publications such as Room Magazine, PUBLIC, Asparagus, GUTS, The Capilano Review, The Feminist Wire, Briar-patch, West Coast Line, sub Terrain, and in *Performing Utopias in the Contemporary Americas* (2017). Her multisensory painting/installation *Still Salt, Dark Stories* is currently in the Vancouver Art Gallery's Vancouver Special exhibit, which runs until 02 January 2022.

## Artwork synopsis

The story of a place begins long before you arrive. My entry point was Joe Fortes (1863-1922), the Trinidadian-born local hero after whom the branch library is named. Joe's story led me to discover the lives of the residents of Stanley Park, outlined by Jean Barman in her excellent book *Stanley Park's Secret: The Forgotten Families of Whoi Whoi, Kanaka Ranch and Brockton Point (Harbour, 2005)*. Within these lives are themes that encircle us today: marginalization, resilience, resistance, and bonds that form in times of upheaval.

Through the window frame of my old apartment, these community stories entwine with local plants – extending across generations, asking us how we can be in place beyond now, beyond the future, and move consciously and with grace towards a practice of land back.

# Ken Boesem



Learn about the West End through Ken Boesem's personal story and original artwork, *Community Nest*.



*Community Nest (West End)*  
Ken Boesem  
(2021)

Acrylic and ink on canvas  
50.8cm x 76cm (20in x 30in)

Website: @kboanuck  
Instagram: @kenboesem



Scan the QR Code to see the other artists' work and their stories. Share your thoughts online or use the postcards provided to tell us what this story says about planning the future West End Community Hub.

[shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect](https://shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect)

## Artist bio

BC artist/writer Ken Boesem's family first arrived in Vancouver in 1885, and he has been a settler here, making his home in various "nests" in the West End, since 1999.

Between 2005-2012, Boesem produced "The Village", a newspaper comic strip that featured a diverse and inclusive cast of West Enders living in shared community in the West End's queer Davie Street enclave.

Boesem had the privilege of working in various capacities from 2004-2017 at the West End's legendary community bookstore, Little Sister's Book & Art Emporium, helping to facilitate West End community building directly at street level.

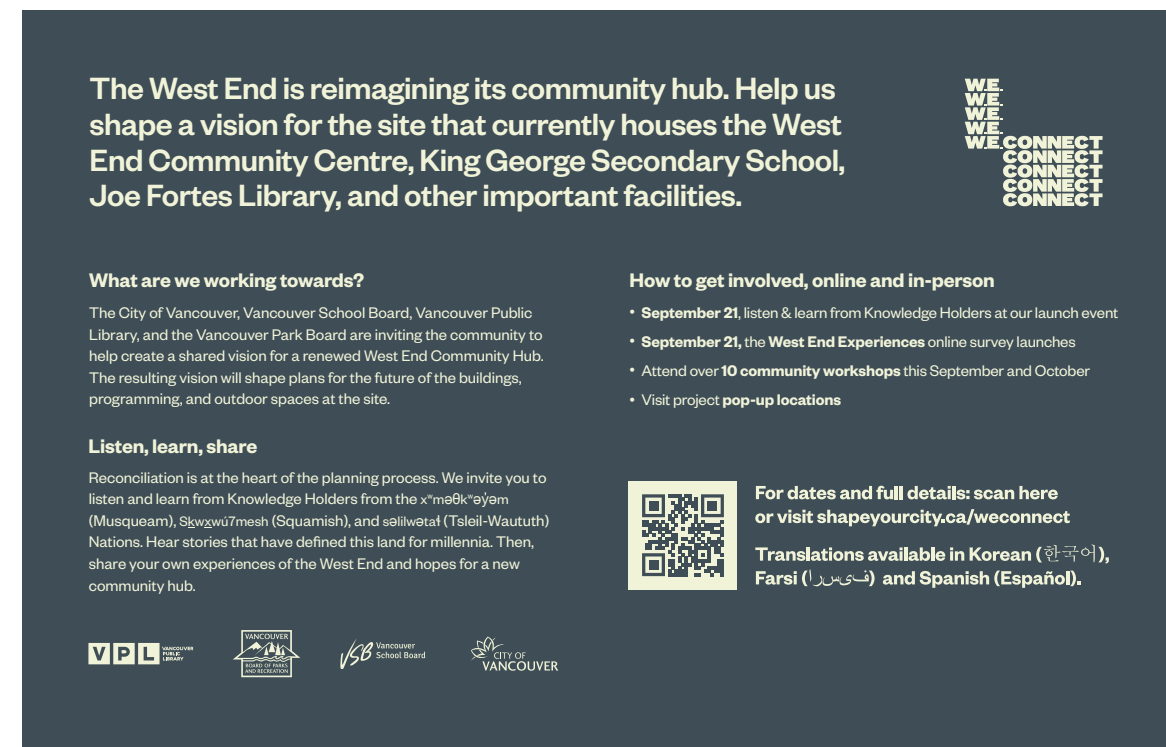
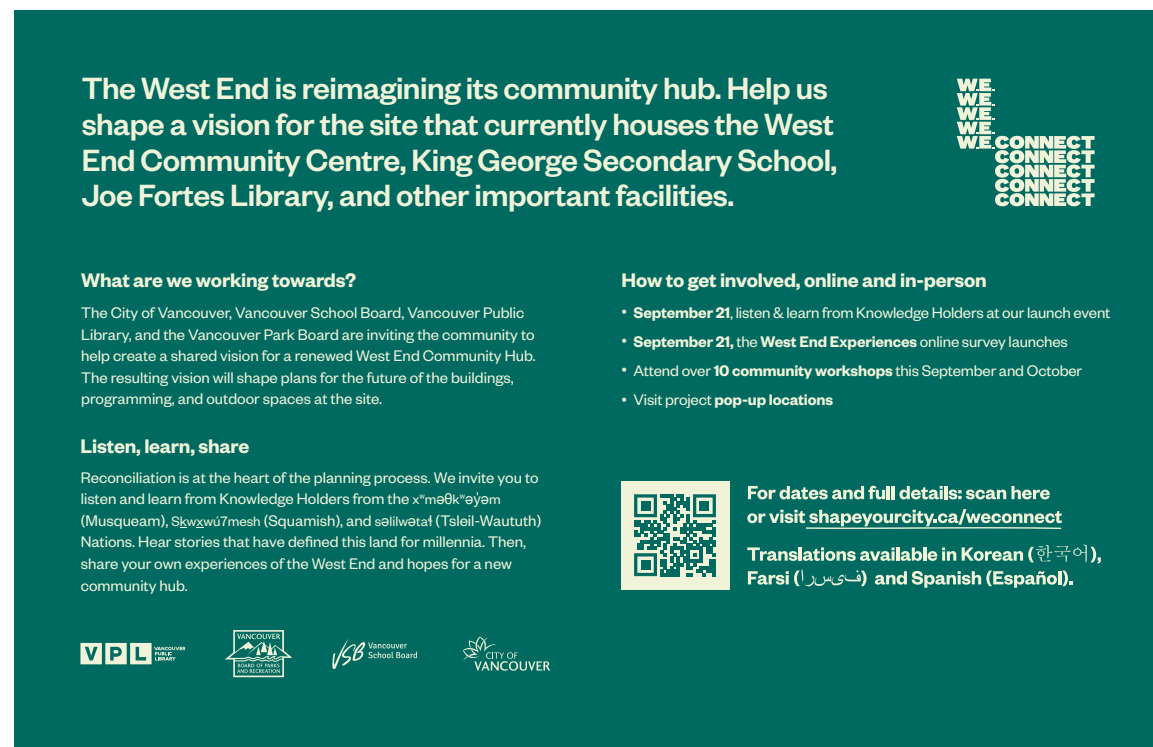
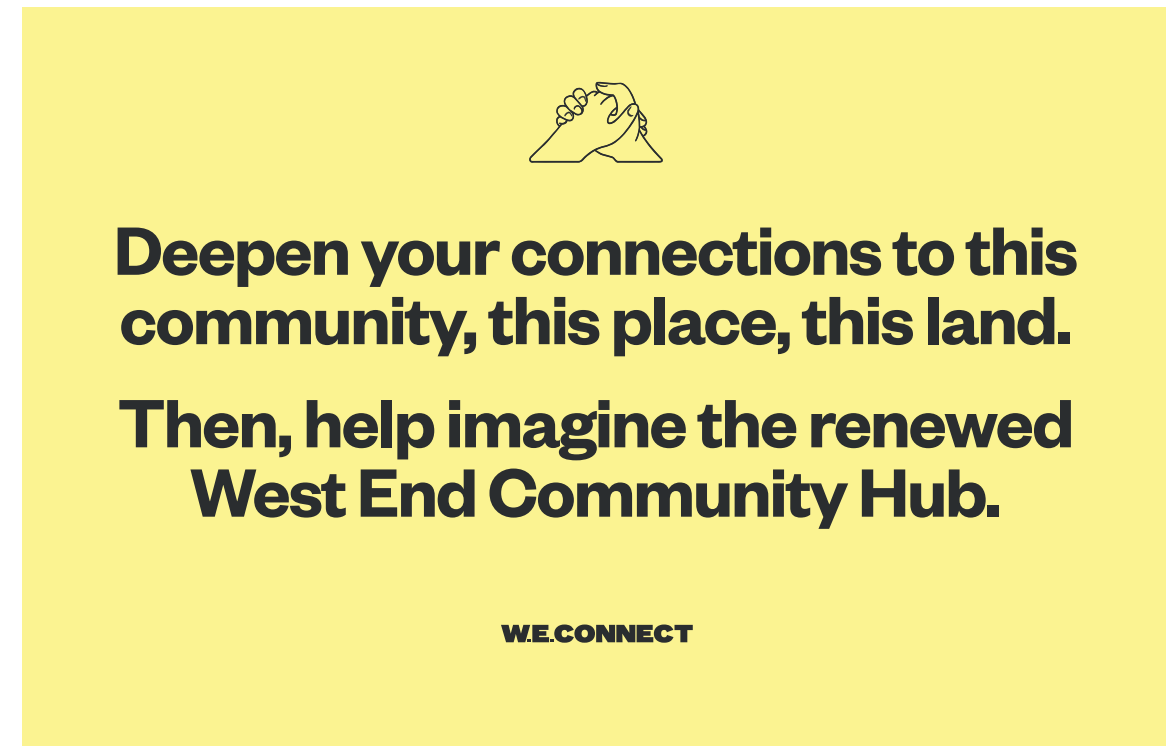
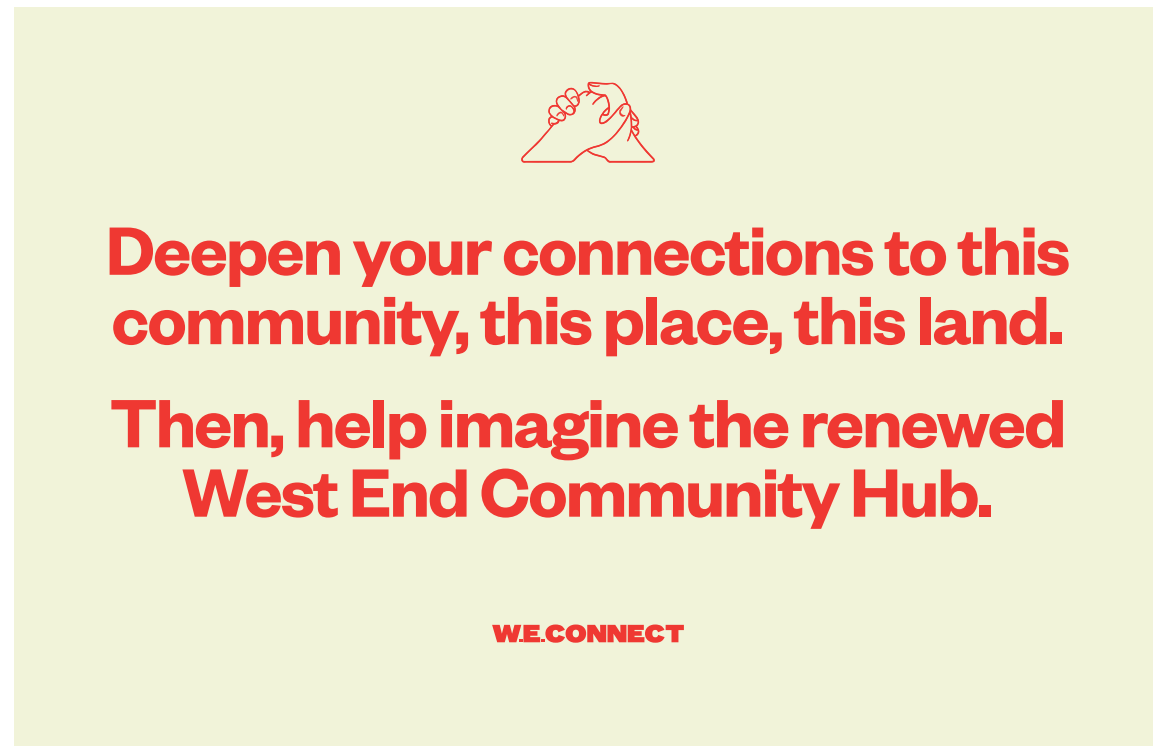
## Artwork synopsis

Through a personalized avian metaphor, artist/writer Ken Boesem's West End story reflects upon his own queerness, finding a home, and gratitude for his time as a guest in this territory. At the same time, it circles imagery of community building.

Like the West End's crows, who build their nests anew each season, West Enders like Boesem have repeatedly utilized the West End as a renewable source of incubation and growth, through multiple life changes.

Boesem symbolically posits the West End as a communal nest, creating a visual metaphor for the area as a safe place of incubation and growth. In this sense, we can conceive how the West End serves many as a place of individual gestation and rebirth, while also serving many disparate communities as a metaphorical "safety nest".

# Engagement Postcards



# Engagement Leaflet

West End Community Hub  
[shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect](https://shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect)

604-257-8333  
[weconnect@vancouver.ca](mailto:weconnect@vancouver.ca)

## How to get involved, online and in-person

- Complete the online West End Experiences survey at: [shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect](https://shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect)
- Attend one of the community workshops below this September & October

**W.E. Connect: Coast Salish Chronicles (launch event)** Online  
 Tuesday September 21 7-9pm

**Community Visioning Workshop** West End  
 Sunday September 26 3-5pm Community Centre

**Community Visioning Workshop** Online  
 Wednesday September 29 6-8pm

**Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Workshop** Online  
 Thursday October 7 6-8pm

**Health and Wellness Workshop** Online  
 Wednesday October 13 6-8pm

**Education Workshops (students only)**  
 Throughout October

**Arts and Culture Workshop** West End  
 Sunday October 17 3-5pm Community Centre

**Seniors Workshop** West End  
 Tuesday October 19 1-3pm Community Centre

**Children, Youth, and Families Workshop** West End  
 Sunday October 24 10am-12pm Community Centre

**Community Visioning Workshop for Indigenous Persons** Coal Harbour  
 Wednesday October 27 6-8pm Community Centre

**Lifelong Learning and Public Spaces Workshop** Online  
 Monday November 1 6-8pm

**Public Information Session on Visioning Results** Online  
 Wednesday December 8 6-8pm

Register to attend at [shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect](https://shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect)

## Listen and learn

W.E. Connect is rooted in cultural and lived understandings of the West End. Participants will learn about the Indigenous history of the West End through stories and original artwork shared by artists from the xʷməkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Other community artists have also been invited to share their perspectives and rich experiences of the West End.

Connect with these stories and art to inspire a vision for the future community hub. Look for pop-up displays and hear directly from these artists at the W.E. Connect workshops.

## Share your West End experiences

To help plan for a new West End Community Hub, we are collecting stories of all kinds of different experiences of the neighbourhood. Submit your West End experiences online and at workshops. Your input will form the basis of a shared vision for the future community hub. Join one of 10 workshops this fall to explore the experiences shared by other West Enders too.

These are some of the ways that you can contribute to planning the West End Community Hub. Early next year, you can also expect a more traditional survey asking about how you use the current site and what features you would like to see in the new community hub.

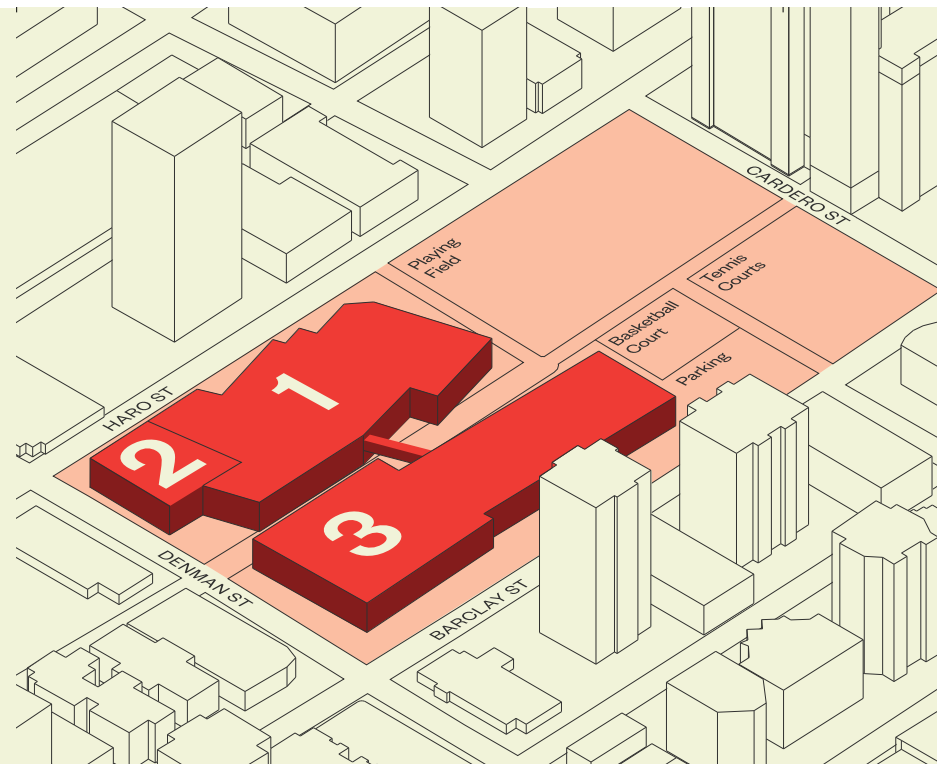


Deepen your connections to this community, this place, this land. Then, help imagine the renewed West End Community Hub.

The West End is reimagining its community hub. Help shape a vision for the site that currently includes the West End Community Centre, King George Secondary School, Joe Fortes Library, and other important civic facilities.

The City of Vancouver, Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Vancouver Public Library, and the West End Community Centre Association are working to renew and expand the buildings and outdoor spaces at this site. This work builds on previous community engagement processes and takes direction from the West End Community Plan, VSB Long Range Facilities Plan, Vancouver Public Library Strategic Plan, and VanPlay.

This project will produce a renewal plan—a document that will guide and direct the future of the site, including land use, relationships between buildings and outdoor spaces, neighbourhood connections, key views, accessibility, connectivity, and project phases.



- 1 West End Community Centre**  
The West End Community Centre will be replaced to meet the needs of the growing West End neighbourhood, including renewal of an ice rink.
- 2 Vancouver Public Library, Joe Fortes**  
This well-used branch needs a larger library space.
- 3 King George Secondary School**  
The King George Secondary School will be redeveloped to provide more spaces for students and meet seismic upgrade requirements.
- Other Potential Amenities**  
The renewed community hub will likely have combined and shared programming spaces. Other potential uses that could serve the West End will be considered for addition or expansion in the renewal plan, including childcare, a relocation of Firehall No. 6, seniors' spaces, arts culture facilities.



### Project timeline

FALL 2021	WINTER 2021	SPRING 2022	SUMMER 2022	FALL 2022
<b>Vision and principles</b> Build a vision for the future community hub grounded in Indigenous teachings and West End experiences.	<b>Identify program needs</b> Plan how people will use the community hub spaces, through research and engagement.	<b>Initial options for the community hub</b> Share draft options for how the community hub spaces take shape based on input received, get feedback and revise.	<b>Preferred community hub options</b> Share draft final plan, get feedback and revise.	<b>Final plan</b> Public information session and final plan publicly submitted to project partners.



For more about the W.E. Connect project, scan the QR code or visit [shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect](https://shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect)  
Translations available in Korean (한국어), Farsi (فارسی) and Spanish (Español).







# City of Vancouver Instagram Posts

**Angela George**  
*Sunset People*

WE  
WE  
WE  
CONNECT  
CONNECT  
CONNECT




**Chrystal Sparrow**  
*Cedar Mother*

WE  
WE  
WE  
CONNECT  
CONNECT  
CONNECT




**Cory Douglas**  
*Strength in Community*

WE  
WE  
WE  
CONNECT  
CONNECT  
CONNECT




**Ken Boesem**  
*Community Nest*

WE  
WE  
WE  
CONNECT  
CONNECT  
CONNECT



**Afuwa**  
*Seraphim*

WE  
WE  
WE  
CONNECT  
CONNECT  
CONNECT







TODAY'S ARTIST FEATURE

# Chrystal Sparrow

xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) artist and carver.



ARTWORK SYNOPSIS

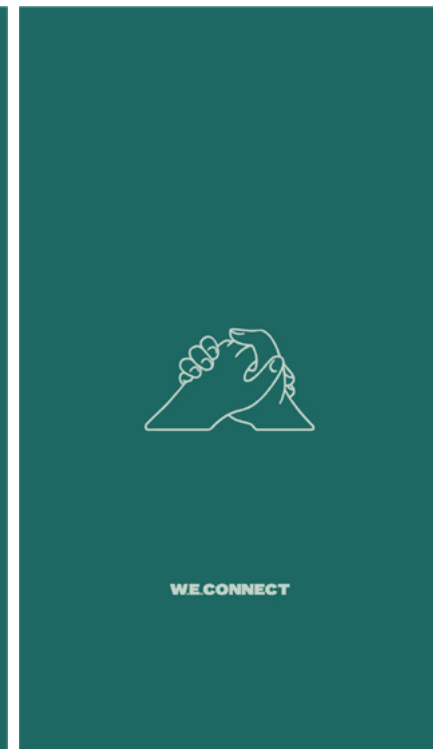
The Coast Salish People of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) & səlilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) have shared land, food, teachings, and many of the uses of red cedar for thousands of years.

FIND OUT MORE

Connect with the stories and art of Chrystal Sparrow and help inspire the future West End Community Hub.

FOLLOW  
@chrystalsparrow

VISIT  
shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect



TODAY'S ARTIST FEATURE

# Ken Boesem

Artist and writer Ken Boesem has made his home in various "nests" in the West End since 1999.



ARTWORK SYNOPSIS

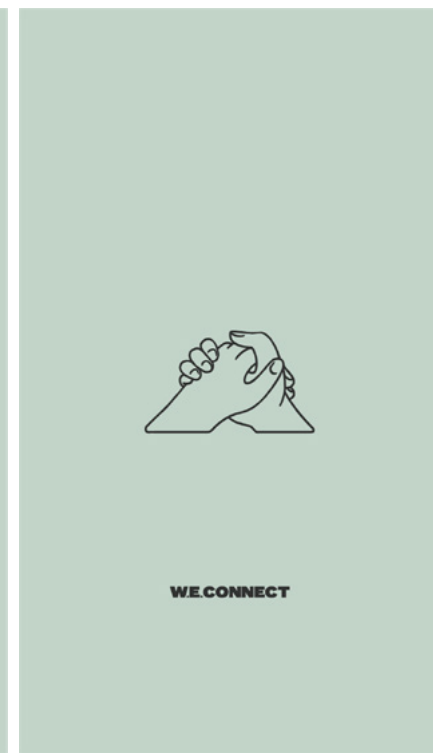
Boesem's West End story reflects upon his own queerness, finding a home, and gratitude for his time as a guest in this territory, and it also circles imagery of community building.

FIND OUT MORE

Connect with the stories and art of Ken Boesem and help inspire the future West End Community Hub.

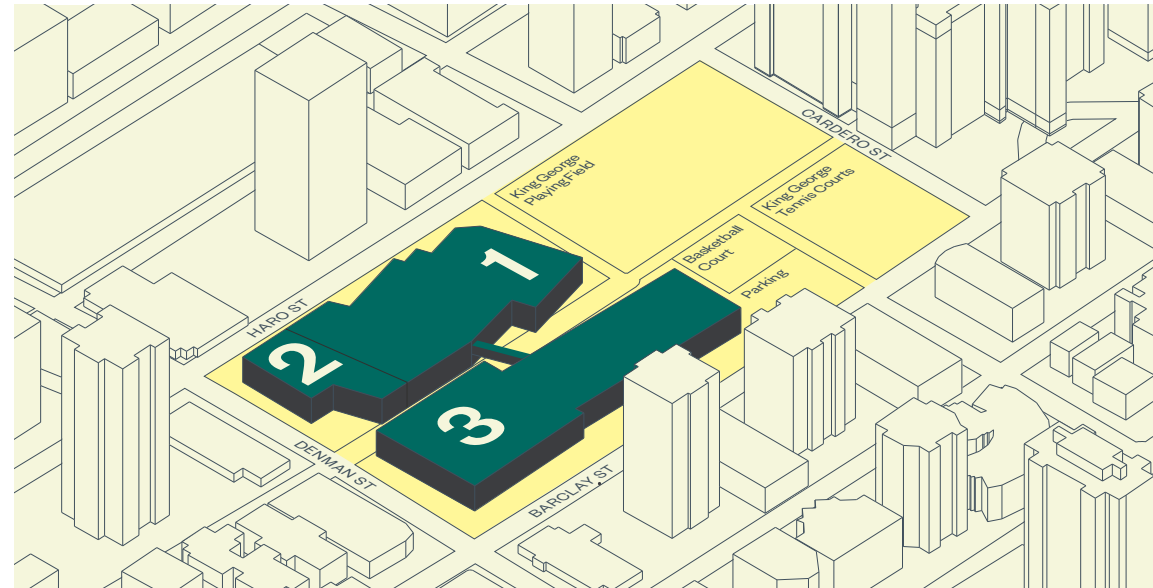
FOLLOW  
@kbcanuck

VISIT  
shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect





# King George Secondary School Student Survey Engagement



## Shape the Future of KGSS



The West End is reimagining its community hub, a space where everyone can come together to connect, relax, learn, and play.

**Enter to win a \$25 Visa gift card  
2 winners a week throughout October**

1. Go online to share your West End experiences: a memory or special experience
2. Take a screenshot of your completed survey
3. Email your screenshot to [weconnect@vancouver.ca](mailto:weconnect@vancouver.ca) with the subject "KGSS Student Survey"



SHARE YOUR OWN WEST END EXPERIENCE

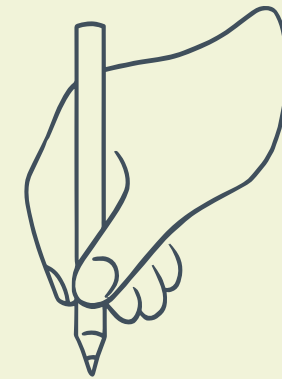
Scan the QR code to share your own experience through the West End Experiences online survey. Complete the survey and enter as many times as you like.

**Contest closes November 4**

[shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect](https://shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect)



## Shape the Future of KGSS

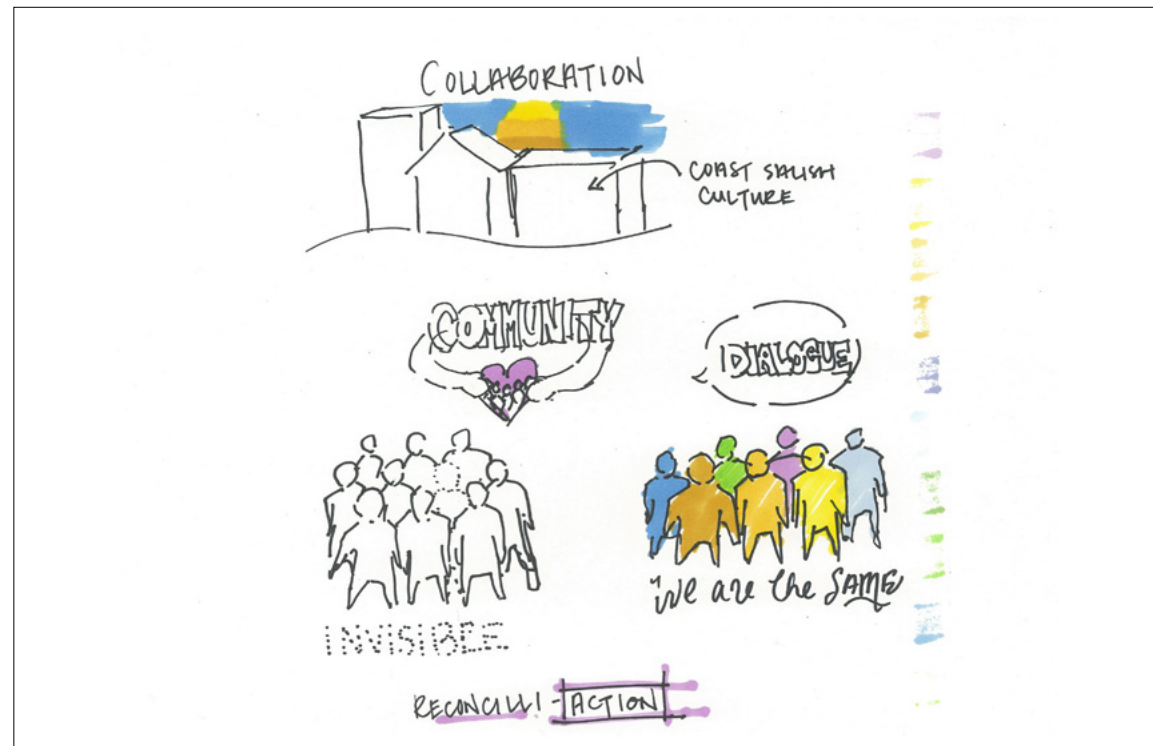


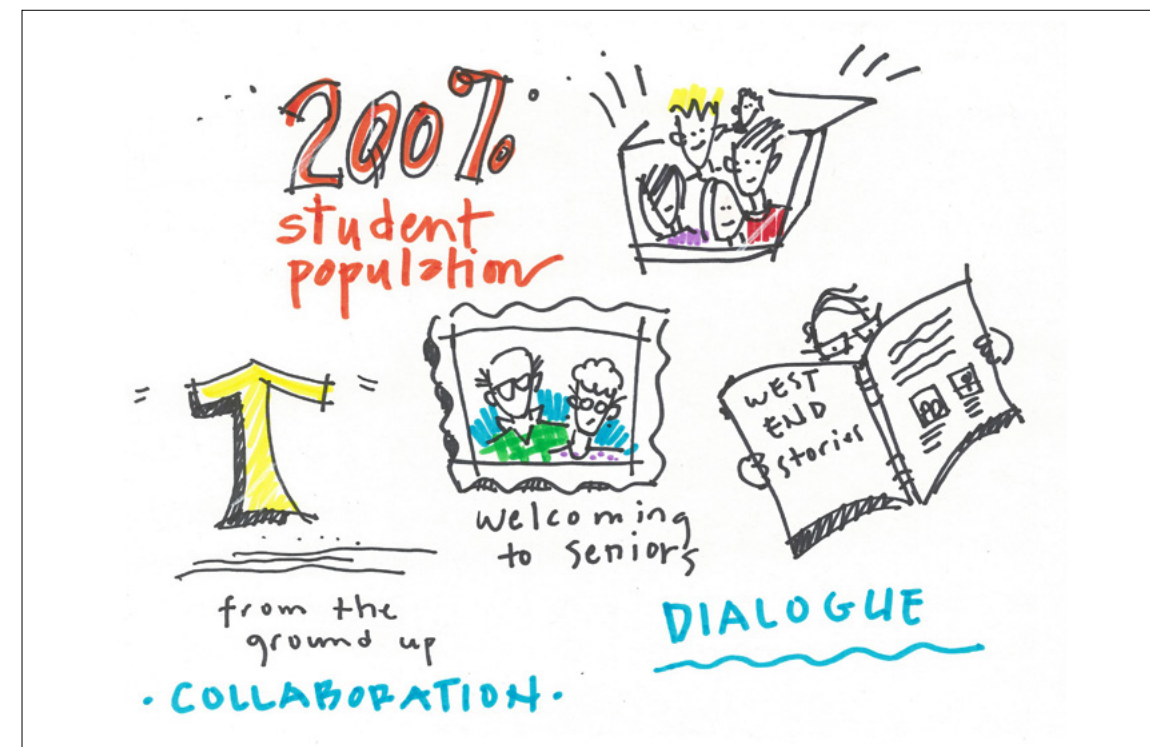
**Enter to win a \$25 Visa gift card  
2 winners a week throughout October**

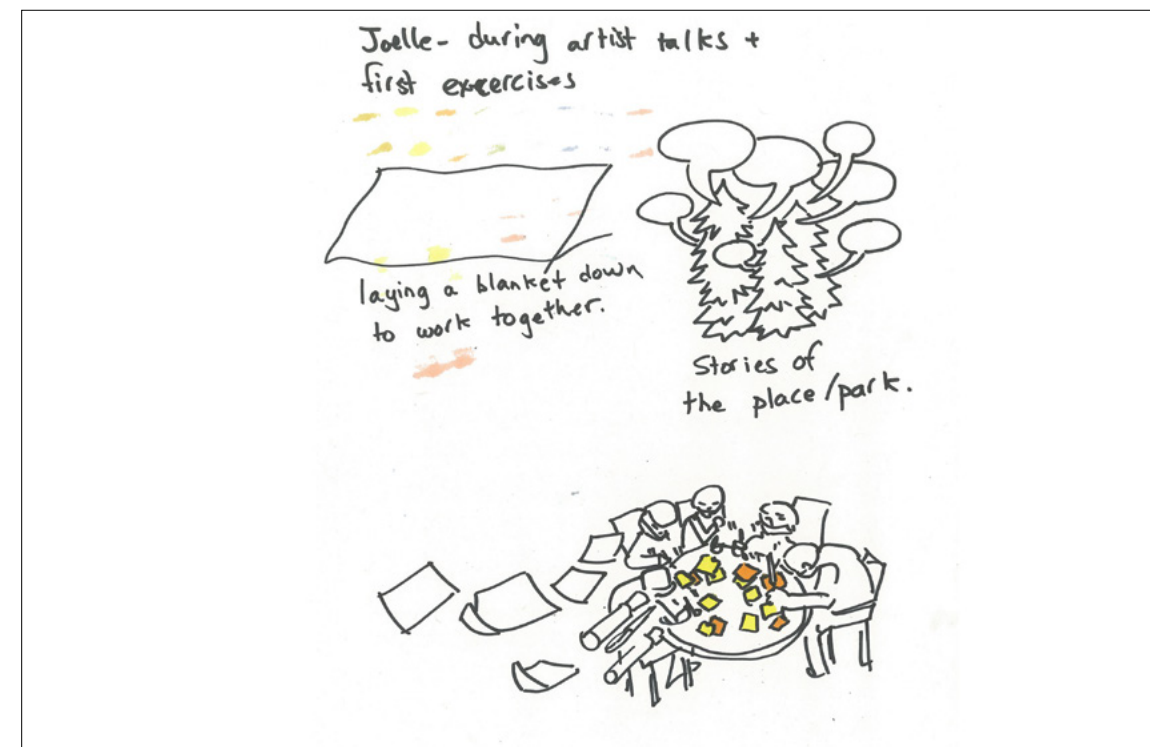
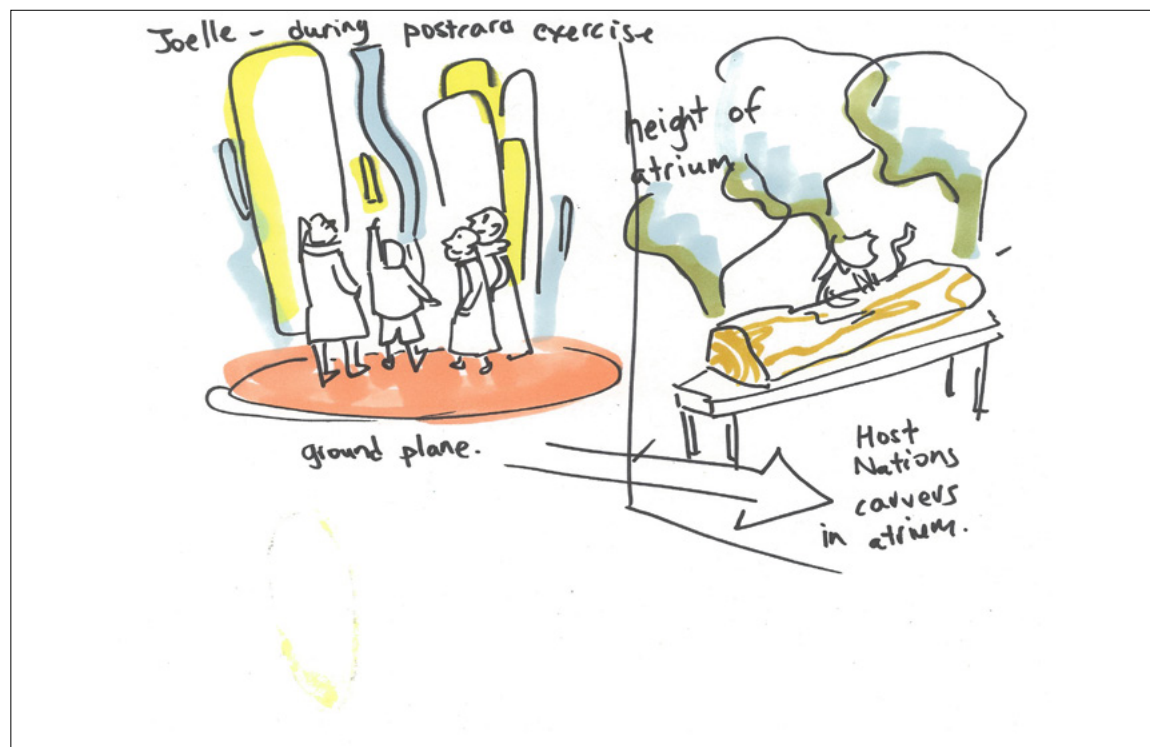
**WE.CONNECT**

# Synthesis Workshop Graphic Recordings









PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO BE TRANSIENT.  
 PLAN FOR FAMILIES TO STAY!



BRIGHT AND FUN SPACES. DESIGN FOR AN 8 YEAR OLD AND AN 80 YEAR OLD.



PEOPLE NEED SPACES WHERE THEY CAN JUST BE



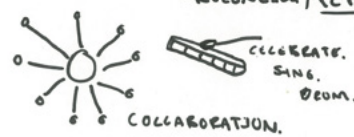
BIG INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY KITCHEN!



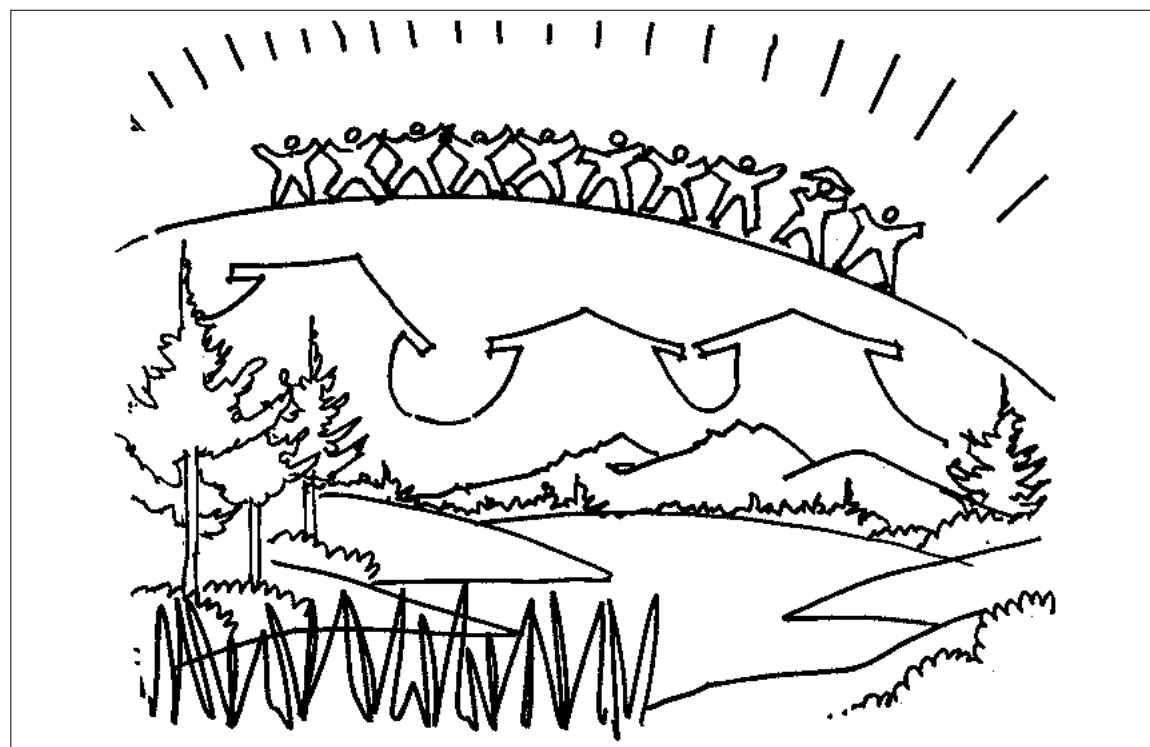
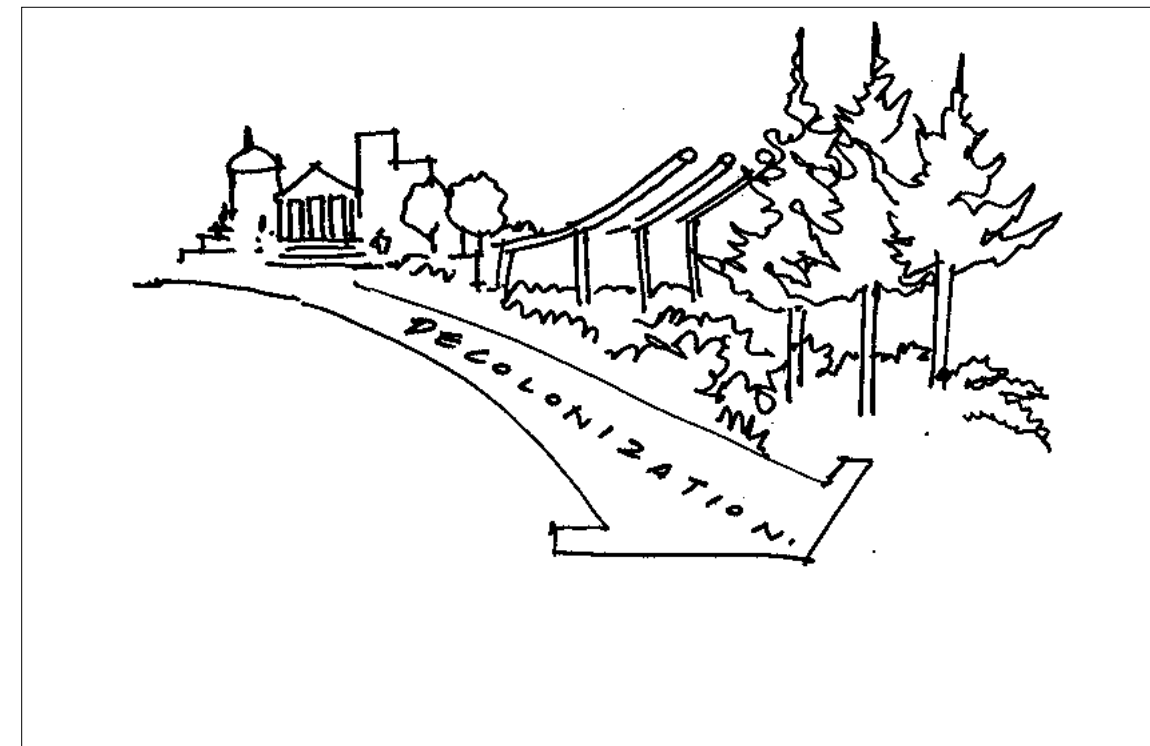
COOKING BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER.

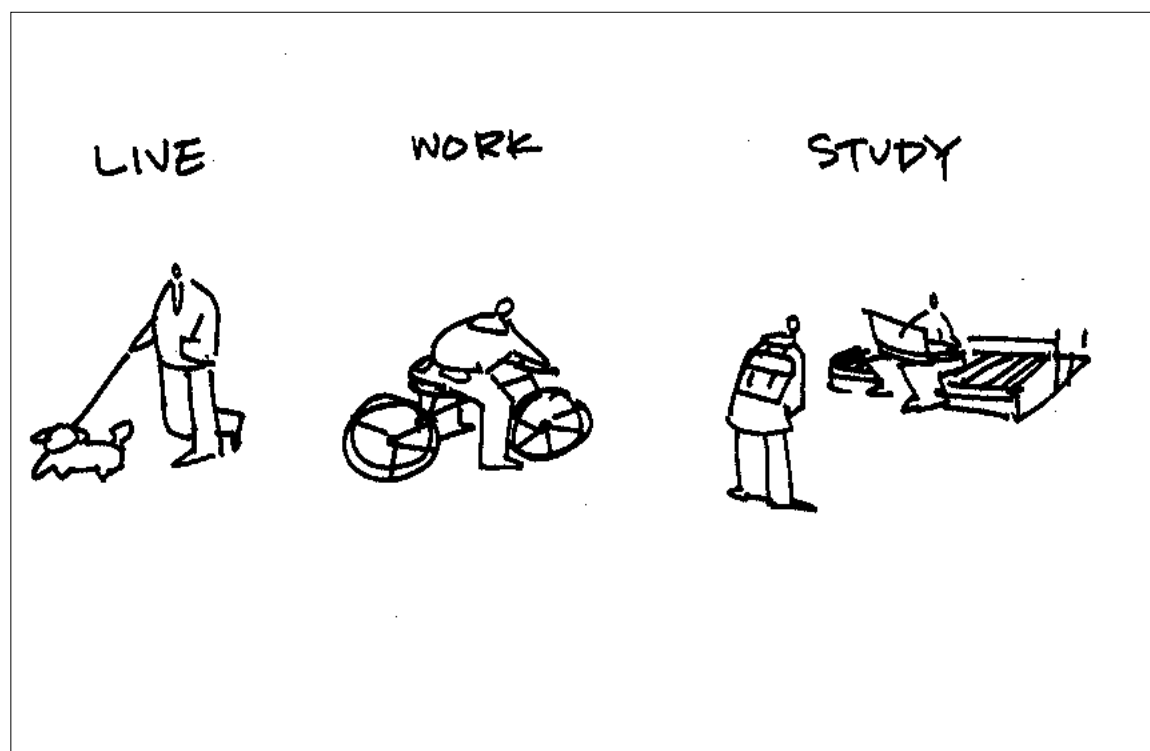
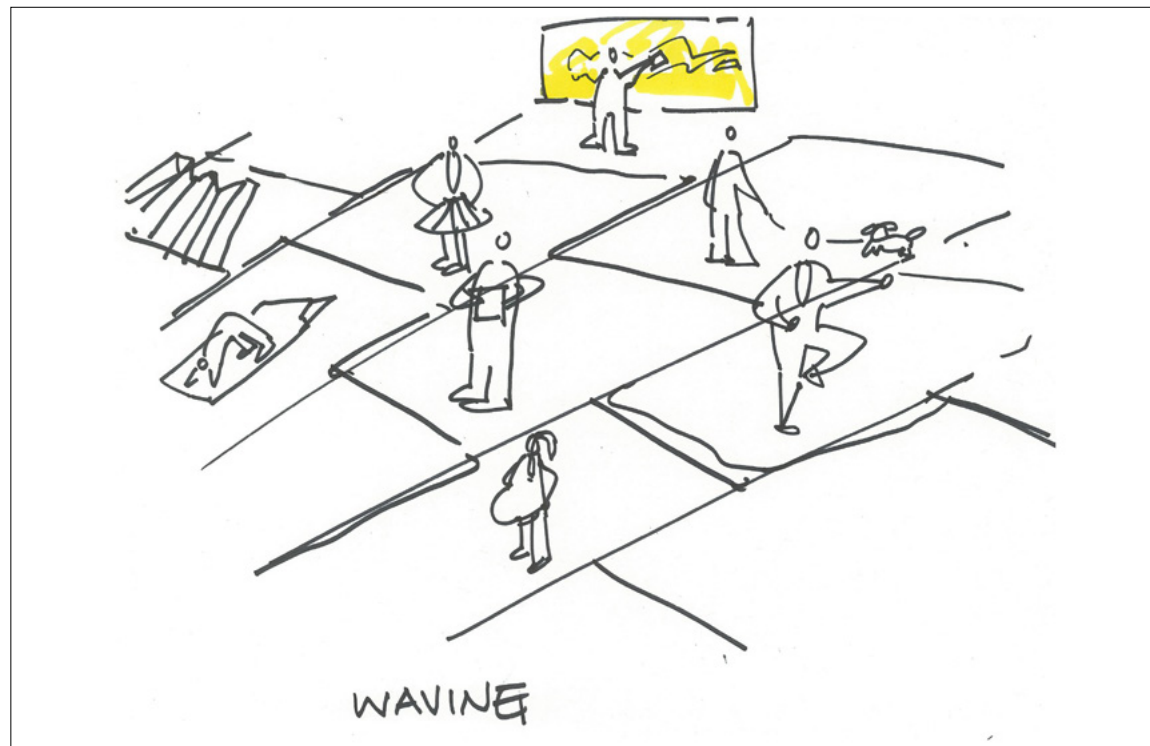


"ALL WAYS ARE THE BEST" ... FOR US"  
 "WEAVING CONNECTION" - ANGELA  
 "WE ARE FROM HERE" (SPEAKING OF LATE UNCLE).  
 - RECONCILIATION ACTION!



written during "postcard" exercise. (Joelle)







## W.E.CONNECT

For more information, please visit [shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect](http://shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect)

For any inquiries, please contact [weconnect@hcma.ca](mailto:weconnect@hcma.ca)

