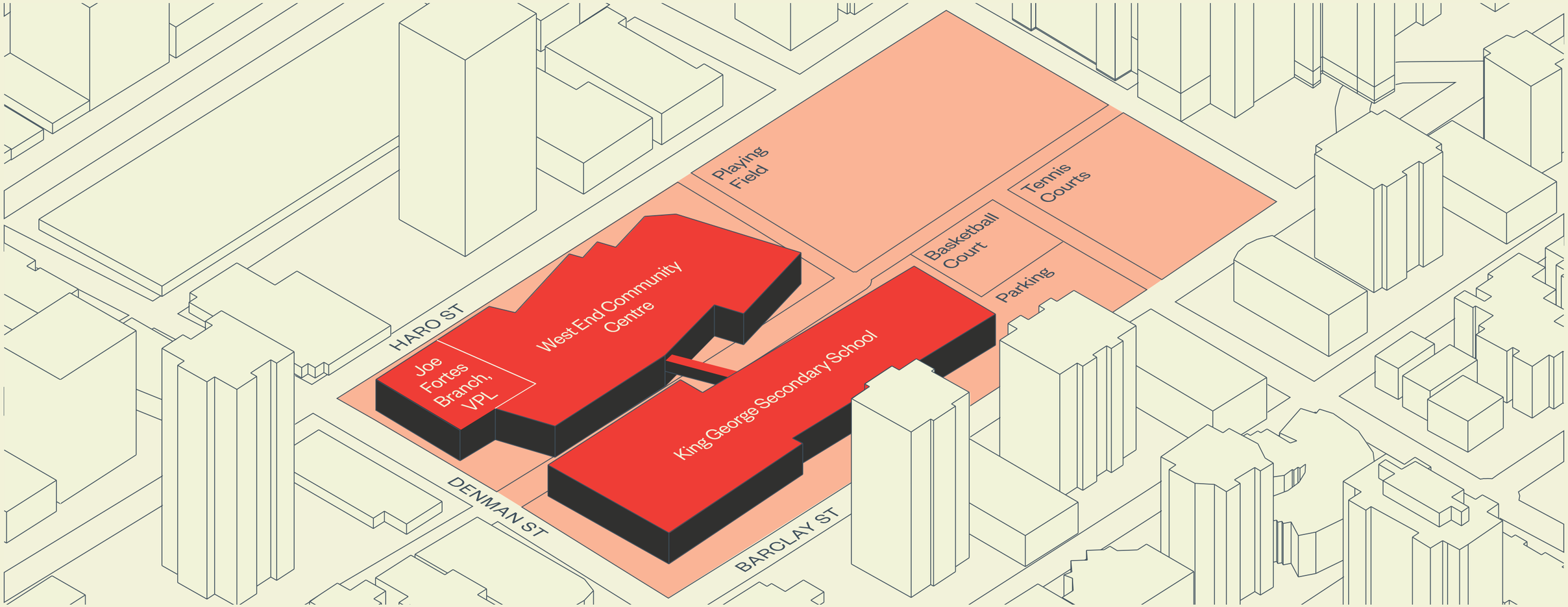
West End Community Hub Renewal Plan

W.E. CONNECT

Phase 1 Report: Vision & Principles

Issued: December 2021



CITY OF VANCOUVER · VANCOUVER BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION · VPL VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY · VSB Vancouver School Board · WEST END COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION

The West End Community Hub site is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Peoples. Along with being home for the Host Nations, Vancouver is also home to a large and diverse community of Indigenous residents. Despite systematic and institutional efforts to eradicate their communities and cultures, the resilience, strength, and wisdom of the Host Nations have allowed them to revitalize their languages and cultures, and exercise sovereignty over their lands.

Settler residents of Vancouver have a responsibility to the Host Nations and the Indigenous Peoples that have stewarded these lands to take tangible actions and commit to reconciliation through decolonization. With respectful recognition of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) and the Urban Indigenous community, West End Community Hub project partners are committed to reconciliation as a key value guiding the renewal of the future West End Community Hub.

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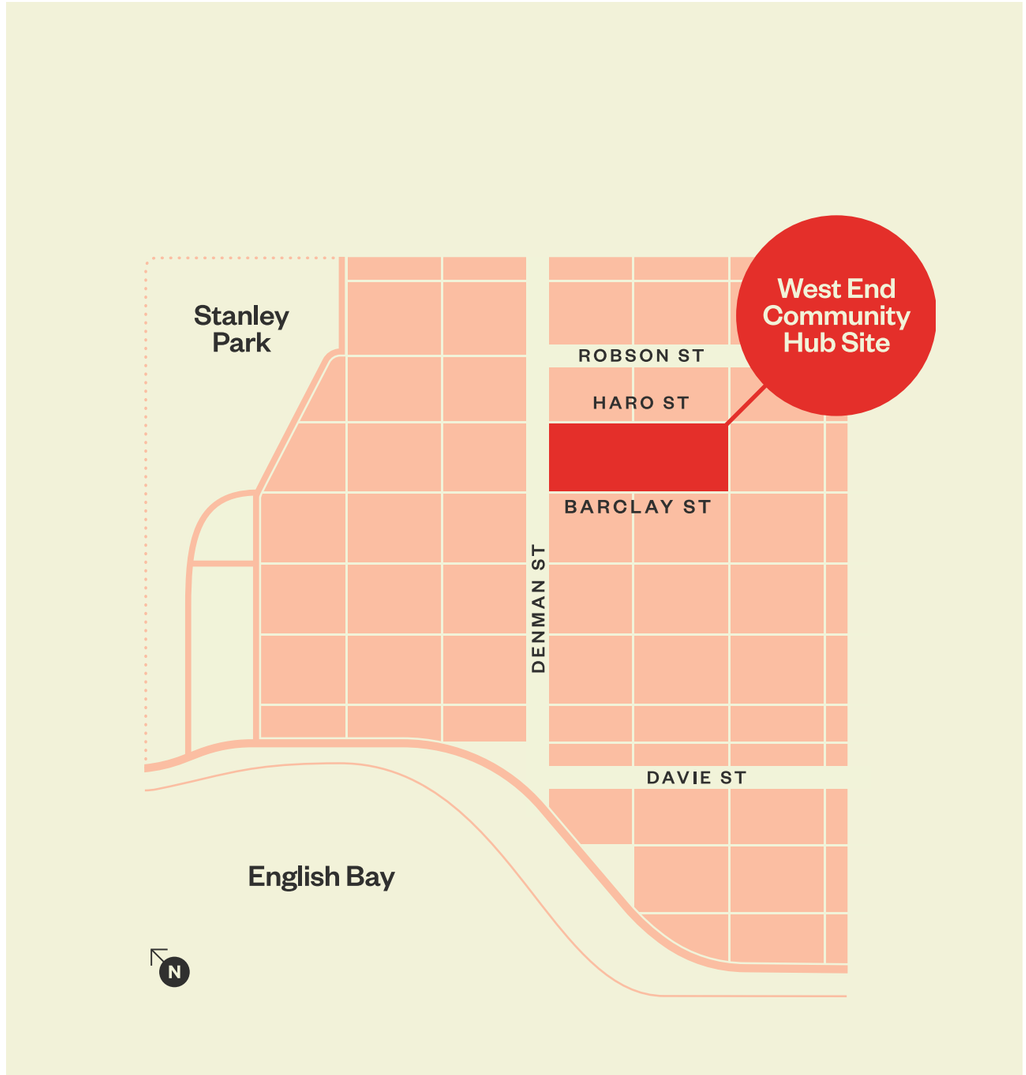
1.0 Executive Summary

Executive Summary

This project is for the renewal of an important West End community site that currently houses the West End Community Centre, Joe Fortes Branch of the VPL, and the King George Secondary School (KGSS). It is led by the City of Vancouver in partnership with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (VPB), Vancouver Public Library (VPL), Vancouver School District and the West End Community Centre Association (WECCA).

To support this project, known as the West End Community Hub (WECH) Renewal Plan, a community engagement effort called W.E. Connect began in fall 2021. The WECH Renewal Plan has five phases, and this report presents the process and results of the first phase, which developed Vision and Principles for the future community hub.

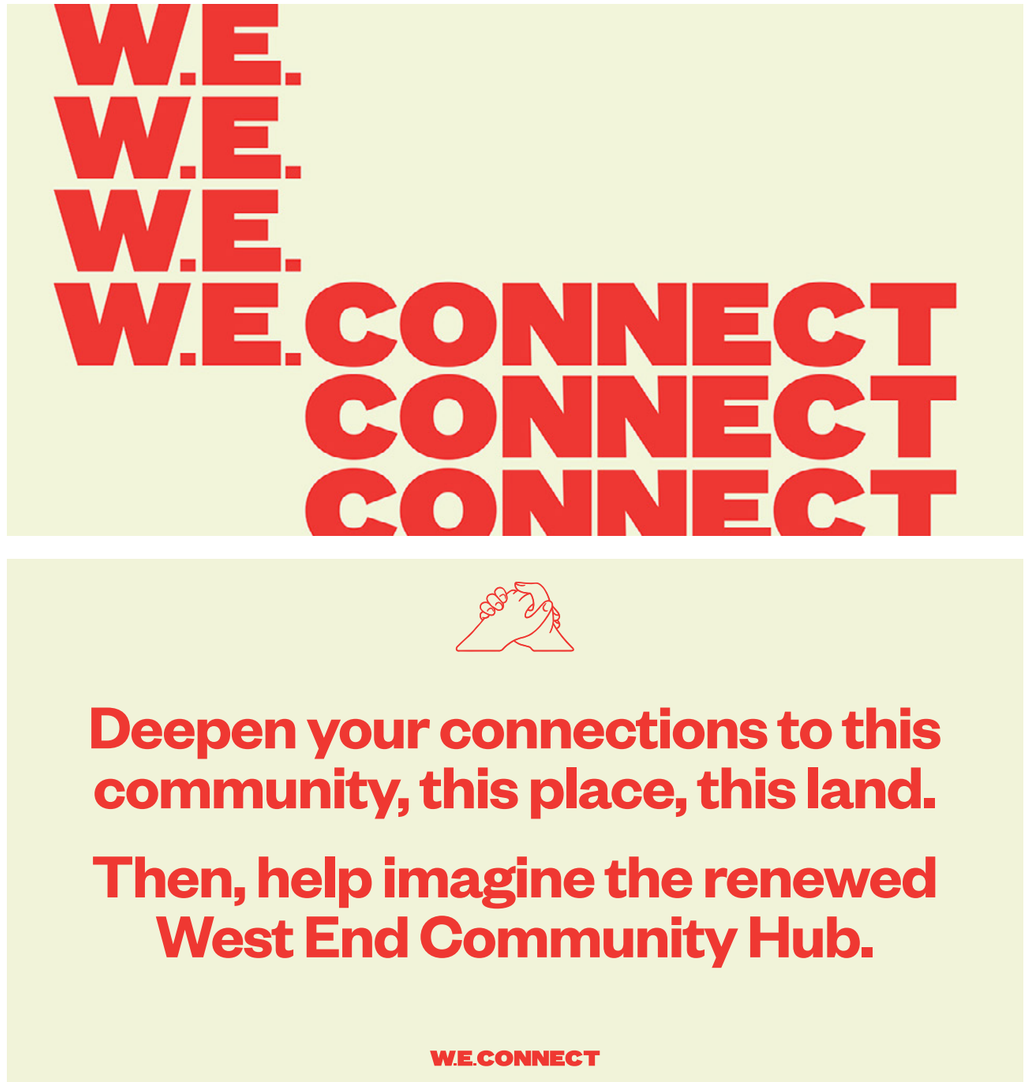
A key part of the WECH Renewal Plan is the project partners' ongoing commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Knowledge Holders, artists and youth from each of the three Host Nations— xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh))— guided the engagement process and helped develop the Vision and Principles. In particular, three Coast Salish Project Associates each created an artwork that shares a story of their Nation's unique and deep connection to the area now known as the West End. Two local Community Artists also supported the engagement with their artwork and stories.



▲ Site plan identifying project location

Hundreds of people connected to the West End participated in the fall 2021 engagement. Opportunities to be involved ran from September through December including:

- Engagement advice from dozens of West End community organizations;
- Coast Salish Chronicles of the West End — an online event featuring Knowledge Holders and artists from xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations;
- West End Experiences Survey, which collected memories and experiences of the neighbourhood (over 375 stories were shared);
- Self-paced engagement stations in five locations around the West End that showed original artwork created by the Coast Salish Project Associates and two Community Artists;
- Seven pop-up events hosted by Youth Ambassadors, connecting with over 400 people;
- Eight visioning workshops, some held on-line and others in-person, with over 310 participating in total;
- Synthesis Workshop, led by project partners and volunteers, to review and draft the Vision and Principles for the future community hub (see below for details); and,
- Public report-back event, held online, to share and get feedback on the draft Framework, Vision and Principles.



▲ W.E. Connect Engagement branding and key messaging

In early November, we held a Synthesis Workshop to review and create themes from the diverse community input and West End stories we collected. Participants, including volunteers from all past events, worked together to develop a draft Vision and Principles for the WECH Renewal Plan. The results of this workshop were brought together into one final draft Vision and Principles, which was then reviewed by the Coast Salish Project Associates, and then by the project partners.

With the encouragement of the Coast Salish Project Associates, a reconciliation-focused framework was developed to support the Vision and Principles. The results were then presented back to the community at a workshop with over 80 attendees for final review and feedback in early December.

The resulting Vision and Principles developed for the West End Community Hub Renewal Plan, which will guide the planning work moving forward, are:



Framework

The West End of Vancouver is a culturally and historically rich location for Coast Salish people. The WECH framework outlines how WECH Project Partners will advance reconciliation while supporting neighbourhood aspirations. See Section 4.2 for the framework.

Vision

Vision for the West End Community Hub :

The West End Community Hub celebrates Vancouver's connection to xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) cultures, and supports play, learning, creativity and wellness for all people.

Principles

The West End Community Hub will...

- make visible and strengthen connections to Coast Salish people, history, and culture.
- weave the fabric of our communities together, creating a safe, inclusive, accessible, equitable place that is welcoming to all.
- be integrated, flexible, and responsive to changing community needs.
- bring in sounds, sights, and experiences of the natural environment.
- provide spaces and plant the seeds for creativity, innovation and co-learning across cultures and generations.
- offer a mix of social spaces for celebrating, ceremony, spontaneous connections, or finding quiet.
- grow community and individual resilience by using seven-generation thinking.

What's Next?

The next phase, *Space Needs Identification*, builds on the Vision and Principles and begins in early 2022. This phase will explore how people currently use the site and how they want to use it in the future, which will result in a high-level plan (functional program) that describes what is needed for accessibility, inclusivity, sustainability, resilience, and other community priorities and policy directions.

Following phases will include developing and getting feedback on initial options for how the community hub spaces take shape, followed by developing and inviting feedback on a preferred option. Lastly, the final WECH Renewal Plan will be publicly shared and submitted to the partners for approval.

Project Timeline



▲ Project timeline and phasing





▲ Fall Engagement activities

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Project Background

In the heart of Vancouver's West End is the West End Community Centre, Joe Fortes Branch of the VPL and King George Secondary School (KGSS), and other important facilities.

The West End Community Hub (WECH) Renewal Plan is a collaborative effort to renew this site and set a comprehensive direction and dynamic vision for the future of the site. This project is a partnership between:

City of Vancouver (CoV)
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (VPB)
Vancouver Public Library (VPL)
Vancouver School District
West End Community Centre Association (WECCA).

The WECH Renewal Plan is 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.

The future community hub, which will renew and expand all existing services on site, is anticipated to have combined and shared programming spaces. In addition to the replacement and expansion of existing public amenities and an approximately three-times larger high school, the renewal will explore other potential uses that could serve the West End, including the relocation of Firehall No. 6, full-time childcare facilities (0 to 5 years), seniors' spaces, and arts and culture facilities.

Building on Existing Strategies

The vision for the WECH Renewal Plan has been initiated by, and builds on the foundational work of a range of existing work including:

- West End Community Plan
- Vancouver School District Long Range Facilities Plan
- Vancouver School District Education Plan 2021 and the forthcoming VSB Education Plan 2026
- VPL Strategic Plan
- VanPlay
- Making Space for Arts and Culture

See Section 3.2 Reconciliation Commitments of Project Partners for existing partner strategies for reconciliation.

West End Community Plan

The West End Community Plan calls for significant growth of amenity spaces to accommodate the growing population for this dense and vibrant oceanside neighbourhood, along with the document's main seven principles:

- Achieve a green, environmentally sustainable urban pattern.
- Support a range of affordable housing options to meet the diverse needs of the community.
- Foster a robust, resilient economy.
- Enhance culture, heritage and creativity in the city.
- Provide and support a range of sustainable transportation options.
- Protect and enhance public open spaces, parks and green linkages.
- Foster resilient, sustainable, safe and healthy communities.

VPL Strategic Plan

The Vancouver Public Library Strategic Plan recognizes the growing demands for more library space. The main goals identified in the plan are:

- Offer free access to collections, resources, programming, and expertise to support lifelong learning, creativity, and an informed community.
- Provide welcoming and accessible physical and digital spaces that enable Vancouver residents to engage with information, ideas, and each other.
- Foster a connected community by providing opportunities for social interaction, sharing, and informed civic dialogue.
- Ensure we are ready to deliver the services our community needs, and VPL is recognized as vital to Vancouver.

Vancouver School District Long Range Facilities Plan

The Vancouver School District Long Range Facilities Plan calls for redevelopment of the King George Secondary School to address growing school needs within the community and the need for seismic upgrades to the aging facility.

- Vancouver School District commits to continue to work in partnership with the City of Vancouver on the King George and West End Community Centre master planning process.
- King George currently has enrollment pressures and requires seismic upgrades.
- An expansion of King George was included in the VSB 2021-2022 Five-Year Capital Plan submission. To date, this capital plan request has not been supported by the Ministry.
- Should the Vancouver School District receive expansion capital funding and funding through the seismic mitigation program, the total capacity for King George would become 1000. This would address the forecasted enrolment pressures for King George.

The Vancouver School District is currently engaging the public on their 2026 Education Plan. This updated plan will inform the Community Hub renewal.

VanPlay

VanPlay is Vancouver's Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan. Along with identifying the southeastern part of the West End as an initiative zone, having historically been underserved, it has the following goals:

- Grow and renew parks, community centres and other assets, to keep pace with population growth and evolving needs.
- Protect existing parks and recreation spaces from loss encroachment and densification.
- Prioritize the delivery of resources to where they are needed most.
- Focus on core responsibilities of the Park Board, and be a supportive ally to partners.
- Adapt our parks and recreation amenities to a changing climate.
- Create a green network that will connect our parks, waterfront and recreation areas.
- Restore Vancouver's wild spaces and vital biodiversity.
- Foster a system of parks and recreation spaces that are safe and welcoming to all.
- Seek truth as a foundation for reconciliation with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh).
- Secure adequate and ongoing funding for the repair, renewal and replacement of our aging parks and recreation system.

Vancouver Fire and Rescue Strategic Plan

The Vancouver Fire and Rescue Strategic Plan identifies the large amount of high-rise buildings and lack of space for aerial vehicles in Fire Hall #6 in the West End as a unique challenge.

Making Space for Arts and Culture

Making Space for Arts and Culture is the Vancouver Cultural Infrastructure Plan. Along with setting cultural space designation in the renewed West End Community Centre as a priority, it outlines the following goals for its vision of securing, enhancing, and developing affordable and accessible arts and culture spaces in Vancouver:

- Cultural Heritage, Equity, and Accessibility
- Self-determined xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh), and Urban Indigenous Spaces
- Remove Regulatory Barriers
- Expand Tools to Prevent Displacement and Secure Spaces
- Expand Community Partnerships
- Increase Community Ownership and Support a Cultural Land Trust

About the Site

The site for the future West End Community Hub is bounded by Haro and Barclay Streets to the east and west, and Denman and Cardero Streets to the north and south.

The 4.4 acre site has a secondary school with a official capacity of 375 students, an approximately 60,000 square foot community centre that includes a non-regulation sized ice rink, the approximately 5,000 square foot Joe Fortes Library, a playfield, tennis courts, and a combination of underground and surface parking.

The Vancouver School District owns the majority of the land, approximate 70% of the site, and the City of Vancouver owns the remainder of the land. The West End Community Center is currently jointly operated by the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and West End Community Centre Association. The Library is operated by the Vancouver Public Library.



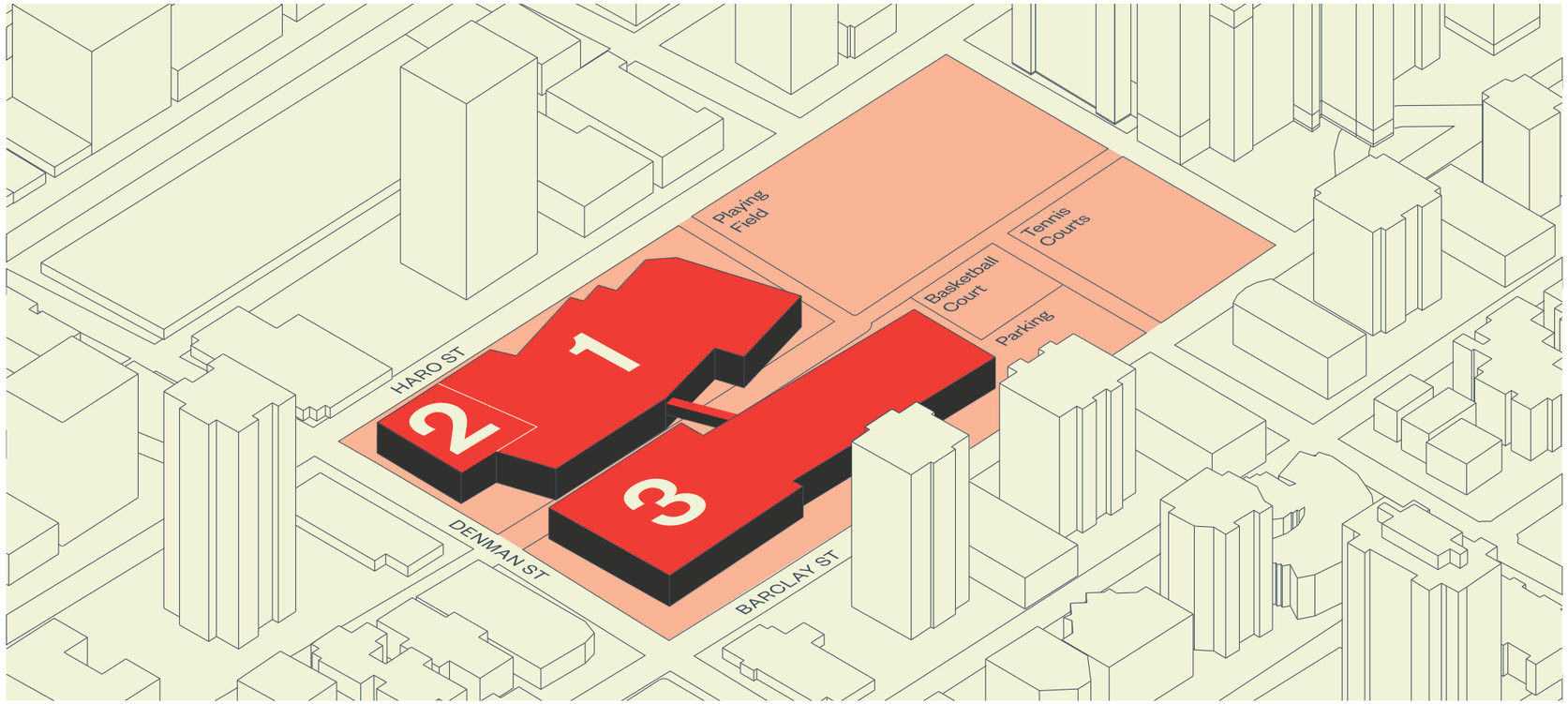
▲ Site plan identifying project location

01 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.

02 Joe Fortes Branch, Vancouver Public Library: This well-used branch needs a larger library space.

03 King George Secondary School: The District is committed to building a safer, larger and modern learning environment to better serve the educational programming needs of students and the broader West End community.

04 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 a relocation of Firehall No. 6, childcare facilities, seniors' spaces, arts and culture facilities.

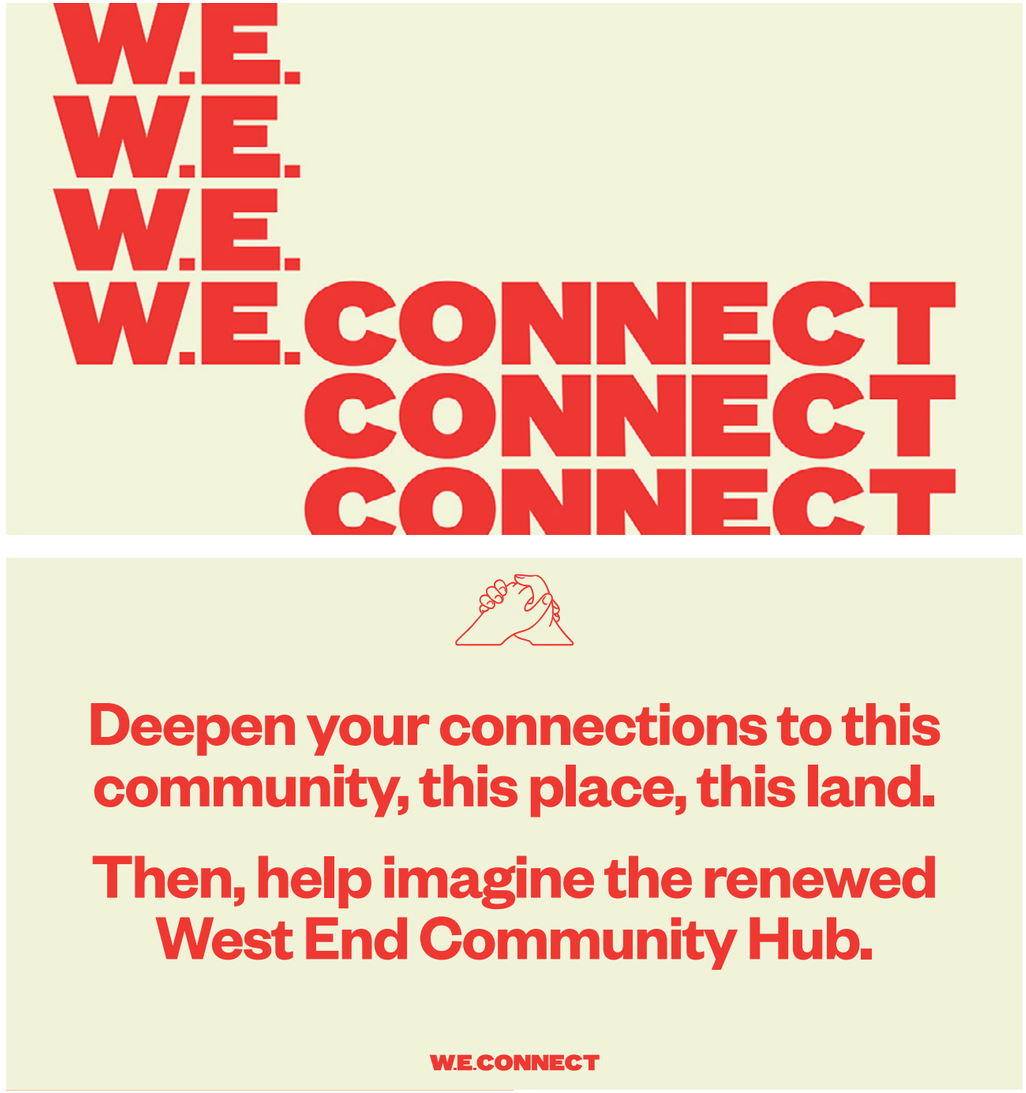


▲ Site area identifying existing amentities

The renewal and expansion of the critical community amenities and services on this site, are key to each of the partner organizations in delivering much-needed public benefits to the West End community, and the WECH Renewal Plan project was prioritized by voters and City Council and funded as part of the City's 2019-2022 Capital Plan. The Vancouver School District has applied for the expansion and seismic funding for the renewed and larger secondary school to accommodate the minimum forecasted 1000 student capacity.

W.E. Connect

W.E. Connect is the name used to describe the engagement opportunities to help develop a vision and plan for site renewal. Learn more about the methods and what we heard in Section 3.0.



▲ W.E. Connect Engagement branding and key messaging

2.2 Project Purpose

The WECH Renewal Plan aims to create a long-term vision and plan to renew and expand the buildings and outdoor spaces at the site, which includes the West End Community Centre, King George Secondary School, Joe Fortes Branch, and other important facilities.

The renewal plan will be co-created based on input from the community, Coast Salish Project Associates (see Section 3.0), and the project partners. Based on strong foundational vision and principles, the renewal plan is expected to advance Indigenous reconciliation, anticipate current and future service needs, build on directions from previous related plans, (see 2.1 Project Background) and will balance necessary trade-offs, and be responsive to the financial context.

2.3 Project Timeline

The work to develop the WECH Renewal Plan is broken into five phases. The Vision and Principles Phase creates goals to guide future phases of work. Visioning began in early 2021 with the development of an engagement strategy, which focused on learning from xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations teachings, and West End community lived experiences.

The engagement campaign – W.E. Connect – was launched publicly in the late summer of 2021.

The next phase, *Space Needs Identification* builds on the Vision and Principles and begins in early 2022. This phase will explore how people currently use the site and how they want to use it in the future, which will result in a high-level plan (functional program) that establishes design criteria including requirements for accessibility, inclusivity, sustainability, and other community priorities and policy directions identified throughout the process.

Following phases will include developing and getting feedback on initial options for how the community hub spaces take shape, followed by developing and inviting feedback on a preferred option. Lastly, the final WECH Renewal Plan will be publicly shared and submitted to the partners for approval.



▲ Project timeline and phasing

2.4 Creating a vision, together

A vision is the future we hope to create. This phase of renewal planning co-developed a vision statement to declare the purpose and aspirations of the future West End Community Hub. Together, the vision and principles will help define space use needs for the West End Community Hub.

The visioning engagement process was designed to focus on story, relationship, art and values – a change from traditional planning processes. Hundreds of community members were inspired by Coast Salish art and stories, shared their own experiences of the West End, worked together to interpret those stories, and developed directions for the new facilities, programs and spaces.

During Fall 2021, the project partners of the WECH Renewal Plan held community engagement opportunities to create a vision and principles that followed four steps - Inspire, Gather, Explore, Shared Vision (see section 5.1 for more details):

FALL 2021 PROCESS TO CREATE A VISION:

1. Inspire

Participants were invited to connect with West End stories from artists and storytellers from the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, as well as local community artists, to deepen our connections to these lands.

2. Gather

Everyone was invited to share their experiences of the neighbourhood through an online survey and in person engagement opportunities

3. Explore

At workshops, participants explored community experiences and drew from local First Nations perspectives to help build a vision for the future West End Community Hub.

4. Shared Vision

The draft vision and principles for the West End Community Hub, as developed by the local community, will be shared at a December 2021 public online event and on the web.

2.5 Co-created Engagement

W.E. Connect, relied on a collaborative and co-created approach that involved three Coast Salish artists (known during the project as Coast Salish Project Associates), two W.E. Connect Community Artists (known during the project as Community Artists) with strong connections to the West End community, and collaboration with community groups active in the neighbourhood. These artists and groups helped co-host workshops, identified important priorities for the project, gave input on the design of the engagement process, and provided outreach for raising awareness of the project and promoting events.

Coast Salish Project Associates

Three local Coast Salish Project Associates were involved as artists and knowledge holders from the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, who have strong historical and cultural ties to the West End. Through a co-design process, the Coast Salish Project Associates:

- Shaped engagement opportunities.
- Inspired W.E. Connect participants through their stories and art.
- Involved Knowledge Holders and Mentees.
- Synthesized public input into key themes.
- Offered design considerations for the community hub by bringing their unique perspectives as storytellers, artists, and designers.



▲ W.E. Connect Engagement branding co-created with Coast Salish Project Associates to incorporate Coast Salish design elements

W.E. Connect Coast Salish Project Associates

- **Chrystal Sparrow** – xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), artist, carver
- **Cory Douglas** – Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), WE resident, Arch. Technologist and Civil Engineering Technologist, artist
- **Angela George** – Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), Coast Salish weaver and artist, representing səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) knowledge

Community Artists

Community Artists shared their unique experiences of the West End through art and presentations at W.E. Connect events and information displays.

W.E. Connect Community Artists:

- **Afuwa**– Multimedia artist, former West End resident
- **Ken Boesem** – Writer, Artist Pop Culture Historian, Comic cartoonist, West End resident











▲ **Clockwise from Top Left:** Angela George, Cory Douglas, Chrystal Sparrow, Ken Boesem, Afuwa

Collaboration with Community Groups

Project partners connected early on with West End community groups to learn about their priorities for the project, get input on the design of the engagement process, and to encourage their active involvement in W.E. Connect.

A total of 59 of community organizations received project communications, many of whom shared W.E. Connect materials through social channels, email newsletters, on site posters and more.

The following community groups met with the Project Partners, helped shape the Visioning Phase, and gave input to contribute to the project vision:

- West End Community Centre Association (WECCA) - a project partner, and contributed to Arts and Culture Workshop, Lifelong Learning and Public Spaces workshops
- Gordon Neighbourhood House - hosted a self-paced engagement sites and provided introductions for one-on-one interviews with Indigenous persons
- QMUNITY - contributed to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion workshop
- West End Act Now
- West End Arts Society (WE Arts) - contributed to Arts and Culture and Family Youth and Children workshops
- West End Business Improvement Association (WE BIA) – posted promotional materials in the neighbourhood
- West End Seniors' Network (WESN) - contributed to Seniors workshop
- West End Families in Action (WEFA)
- West End - Coal Harbour Community Policing Centre – posted promotional materials in the neighbourhood

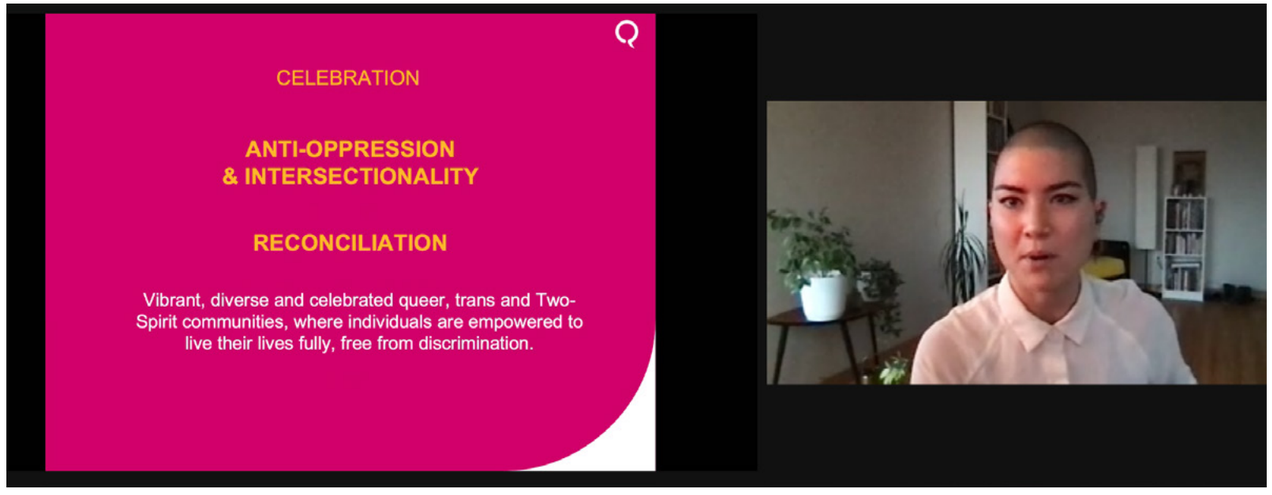
The following school community groups met with the WECH Renewal Plan team and helped shape the Visioning Phase and gave input to contribute to the project vision.

- District Parents Advisory Committee (DPAC)
- King George Secondary School Student Council
- King George Secondary School Parents Advisory Committee
- Lord Roberts Elementary School Parents Advisory Committee
- Lord Roberts Annex Parents Advisory Committee

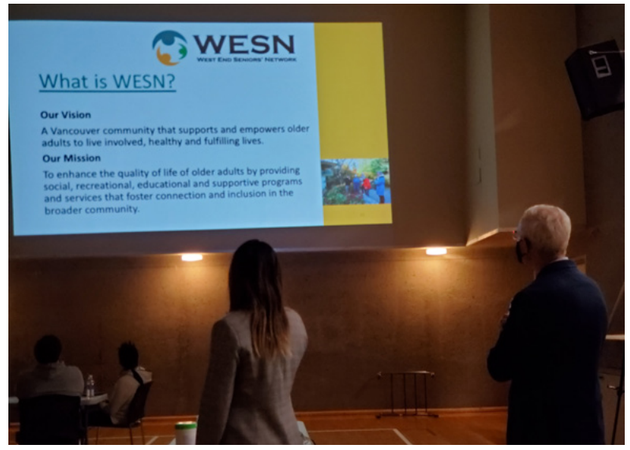
From February 2021 to July 2021, the project partners interviewed numerous interested and impacted community groups and leaders, asked them to identify key priorities and concerns for their particular field or community. Community groups were also asked in the interviews on what they thought would be the best way to engage with their represented groups and communities in the West End.

Community groups were invited to attend a pre-kick off September 14, 2021 orientation event, and a recording of the event was shared with those who could not attend.

A number of community groups were invited to co-host visioning workshops, where they presented information about a specific topic and key issues related to the project from their perspectives. In some cases, such as WE Arts and QMUNITY, community groups helped co-design activities for workshop participants.







▲ **Top:** Online workshop co-hosted with QMUNITY
Bottom Left: In person workshop co-hosted with WE Arts conducting activities with children
Bottom Right: In person workshop with WESN co-hosting and presenting background context

2.6 Engagement Opportunities

To be flexible and compliant with pandemic-related provincial health orders, and to ensure a wide reach in the diverse community of the West End, visioning activities were held both online and offline. Activities included structured workshops, informal pop-up events, self-paced engagement sites at busy areas in the neighbourhood, and an online survey.

Visioning engagement included the following opportunities:

- *Coast Salish Chronicles of the West End launch* event
- West End Experiences Survey (online and physical version)
- 2 community visioning workshops (1 online and 1 in person)
- 6 themed workshops (3 online and 3 in person)
- One-on-one interviews with Indigenous persons
- Synthesis workshop
- 7 pop-up events
- 5 self-paced engagement sites
- W.E. Stories response section on the Shape Your City project webpage



▲ In person and online Visioning Engagement workshops

Stories about the West End

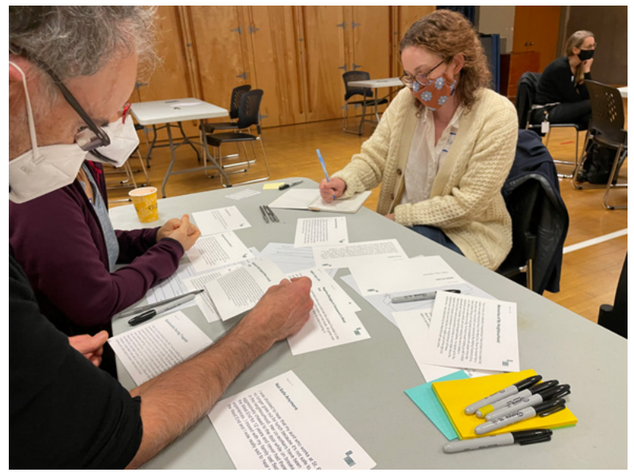
Hundreds of community members were inspired by Coast Salish art and stories, shared their own experiences of the West End, worked together to interpret those stories, and developed directions for the new facilities, programs and spaces.

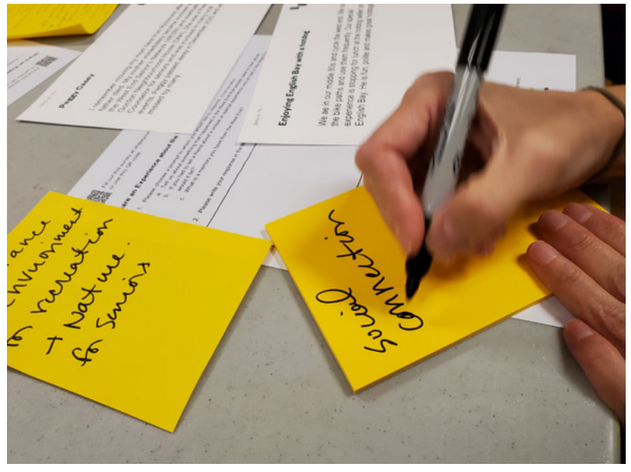
Community stories were gathered through a "West End Experiences Survey". Respondents were asked to choose one of three prompts:

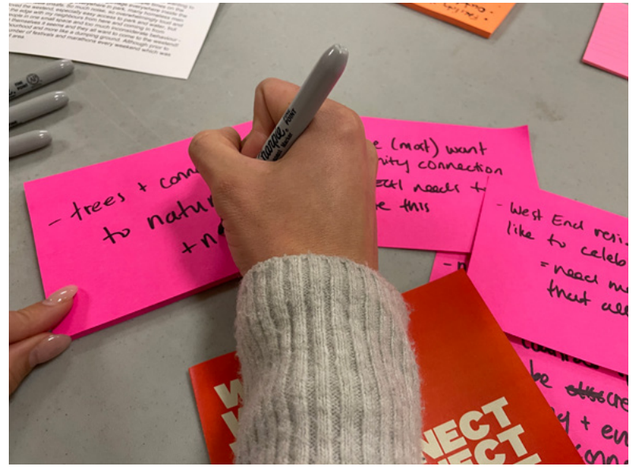
1. **What is a memory you have from the West End?**
2. **If you had to tell a friend something unique or special about the West End, what would it be?**
3. **Tell us about something that happened in the West End that people need to hear about.**

Stories gathered through the online and paper surveys -as well as those shared by W.E. Connect artists were- explored at workshops and turned into key ideas for the vision and principles for the WECH Renewal Plan. Workshop participants also identified stories that needed to be shared more broadly, and these were displayed throughout the community and online (see Appendix A).









▲ West End Experience Stories shared and synthesized by workshop participants

Afuwa

Multimedia artist, former West End resident

Afuwa was born in Guyana, on Karinya, Lokono, and Akawaio lands, and makes art on xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) territories (Vancouver), on the site known as Luk'Luk'i. 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, Briarpatch, 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 January 2022.



▲ Community Artist: Afuwa

Seraphim

Afuwa

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.



▲ Seraphim - by Afuwa. Medium: Birch panel, handmade paper, ink, paint, 23k gold leaf. Dimensions: 61cm x 91.4cm x 3.8cm (24in x 36in x 1.5in).

Ken Boesem

Writer, artist, pop culture historian, comic cartoonist, West End resident

BO 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 news-paper 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.



▲ Community Artist: Ken Boesem

Community Nest

Ken Boesem

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".



▲ Community Nest - by Ken Boesem. Medium: Acrylic and ink on canvas. Dimensions: 50.8cm x 76cm (20in x 30in)

3.0 A Foundation of Reconciliation

3.1 Rooting in Coast Salish Ways

The W.E. Connect engagement process and future West End Community Hub is rooted in xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) ways of knowing, working together, and storytelling.

Through events and information, all were invited to learn more about the West End from Host Nations Knowledge Holders, including stories of each Nation's connection to and stewardship of the area. Then, the project partners built on this knowledge by sharing West End community and visitor experiences and hopes for the site. The result is a vision for the Community Hub.

The West End Community Hub will be planned in a way that respects the presence and Knowledges of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and through this, will foster more inclusive spaces for all.

Throughout the Renewal Process

As part of the engagement strategy and the longer-term renewal planning work, the project team engaged xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations (Coast Salish) Project Associates, one from each of the three local Nations, who are both artists and knowledge holders, to ensure Coast Salish knowledge was integrated throughout the process.

3.2 Reconciliation Commitments of Project Partners

The recognition of the importance of Indigenous knowledge to be included in city amenities, and the acknowledgement of these lands being unceded xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) homelands into the overall design of new civic facilities is one key aspect of the project striving to contribute meaningfully to achieving reconciliation.

The West End Community Hub project is taking direction from all project partners to ensure all plans respect, integrate, and reflect Indigenous knowledge.



Some of the past directives that focus on reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples include the following:

City of Reconciliation, City of Vancouver – Vision and Goal

As a City of Reconciliation, the City of Vancouver will:

- Form a sustained relationship of mutual respect and understanding with local First Nations and the Urban Indigenous community, including key agencies
- Incorporate a First Nations and Urban Indigenous perspective into city work and decisions
- Provide services that benefit members of the First Nations and Urban Indigenous community
- Engage in a government-to-government relationship with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Reconciliation long-term goals:

- Strengthen local First Nations and Urban Indigenous relations
- Promote Indigenous Peoples arts, culture, awareness, and understanding
- Incorporate First Nations and Urban Indigenous perspectives for effective City services

Vancouver School District Reconciliation commitments

- (Goal 1.E) Ensure Indigenous students achieve increased academic success in Vancouver schools and that they participate fully and successfully from kindergarten through the completion of Grade 12.
- (Goal 3B) Increase knowledge, awareness, appreciation of, and respect for Indigenous histories, traditions, cultures, and contributions by all students through eliminating institutional, cultural and individual racism within the Vancouver school district learning communities.

Vancouver Public Library Reconciliation commitments

- Reflect and celebrate Indigenous culture and history
- Enhance understanding and appreciation of Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing
- Indigenous Storyteller in Residence program
- VPL Truth and Reconciliation initiatives

Park Board Reconciliation Strategies TRC Update 2018

- The Park Board recognizes the institution's colonial history and upholds the Board's commitment to the eleven Reconciliation Strategies.
- Vision: For the Park Board to be an evolvable organization in which every employee and Commissioner recognizes the humanity in themselves by recognizing and respecting the humanity of First Peoples; an organization that sets a worldwide example in treating Reconciliation as a decolonization process.

3.3 Grounded in Coast Salish Stories

W.E. Connect was grounded in Coast Salish stories, as was the rest of the WECH renewal planning process. Inclusion of Indigenous perspectives and values is not just about incorporating Indigenous art in the design process for WECH. Planning, design, and policy efforts within the project must go beyond the standard approach, and include innovative ways of demonstrating that xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) have always been the original stewards of these lands.

At the same time, it is important to recognize how the sharing of any Coast Salish cultural, historical, and ecological knowledge of surrounding lands and waters must benefit xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh)citizens and ensure that this intergenerational knowledge sharing is a part of the renewal planning process.



▲ Sunset People by Angela George

Learning opportunities about Coast Salish cultural, historical, or ecological knowledge must be shared widely. xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) have all stated their desire to see Vancouverites learn about their history and deep connection to these lands. At the same time, these Nations are working hard to ensure that their own citizens have access to learning opportunities on their histories, stories, and traditional ecological knowledge.

It is only through learning about these unique cultures, stories, and histories that widespread respect for the Nations and these lands can grow. It is only through gaining new insight about these lands through a Coast Salish worldview can a future for meaningful reconciliation really emerge



▲ Cory Douglas and Angela George explaining the artwork process presented in the W.E. Connect Artist video

3.4 Roles

The importance of intergenerational knowledge transmission for Indigenous cultures and stories to be shared for the next generation's benefit has been recognized as a key project component, as a way the renewal planning process for the WECH can integrate Indigenous knowledge, while ensuring our efforts for reconciliation can be meaningful.

Coast Salish Project Associates

Indigenous artists hold a tremendous wealth of historical information, place-based knowledge, have access to Elders and storytellers within the Nations, and have unique perspectives about their Indigenous identities and relationships to the land. Bringing Coast Salish artists into the WECH project ensures that a significant focal point for the renewal planning process is based on relevant values, stories, and contemporary understanding and experiences of an Indigenous person actively learning about and practicing their culture.

Coast Salish Project Associates have:

- Created artworks related to traditional stories of the West End area and integrated into project communications.
- Worked with young people in a mentee/mentorship role as part of WECH Renewal Plan objectives of intergenerational learning and capacity development.
- Identified and worked with a Knowledge Holder or Elder from their Nation, also as part of the intergenerational learning objective.
- Presented their artworks and stories at public engagement events.
- Provided guidance for the design team throughout this phase of the WECH project to help shape the engagement process and outcomes through a Coast Salish lens.
- Offered their interpretations of the stories heard and helped develop them into key themes for informing the future WECH Renewal Plan vision and principles.
- Shaped discussions ranging from vision and principles to early stages of strategic thinking and design by giving their unique perspectives as storytellers, artists, and designers.

The WECH is incredibly fortunate to have brought onto the project, as Coast Salish Project Associates:

Chrystal Sparrow

xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) artist and carver.

Chrystal Sparrow is a xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (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 District, 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.



▲ Coast Salish Project Associate: Chrystal Sparrow

Cedar Mother

Chrystal Sparrow

Cedar Mother is a representation of land, animals, medicines, people, and the Salish Sea. The Coast Salish People of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (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.



▲ Cedar Mother - by Chrystal Sparrow. Medium: Red cedar, acrylics, abolone and copper. Designed in Watercolour. Dimensions: 12.7cm x 25.4cm (5in x 10in)

Cory Douglas

Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) WE resident, architect and artist

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.

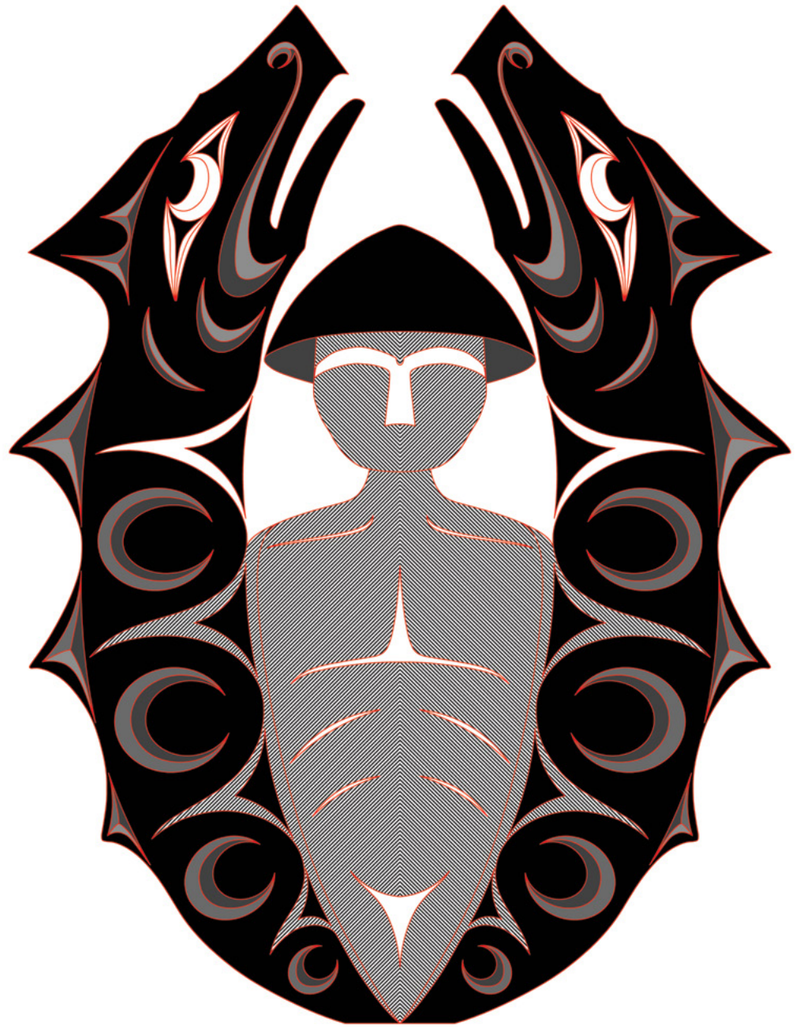


▲ Coast Salish Project Associate: Cory Douglas

Strength in Community

Cory Douglas

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 Skwxwu7mesh 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.



▲ Strength in Community - by Cory Douglas. Medium: Graphic design, digital

Angela George

Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) Coast Salish weaver and artist

Coast Salish weaver Angela George carries two ancestral names - sits'sáts'tenat and qʷənat. Originally from Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and Sts'ailes, she lives and works in the səlilwətaɬ (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 səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) 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.



▲ Coast Salish Project Associate: Angela George

Sunset People

Angela George

Sunset People~ by Skwxwú7mesh Weaver, Angela George, in collaboration with Gabriel George, səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Knowledge Holder

Chief Dan George referred to his people of səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) 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.



▲ Sunset People - by Angela George. Medium: Coast Salish Weaving, sheep's wool. Dimensions: 45.7cm x 25.4cm (18in x 10in)

Intergenerational Learning and Mentorship

Integrating cultural history and traditional ecological knowledge of these lands and waters is a vital aspect of creating the conditions for meaningful reconciliation. The forced assimilation of Indigenous peoples and the impact of Indian Residential Schools threatened Indigenous connections to family, community, language, and culture. Indigenous communities are prioritizing efforts to rebuild their connections to their histories and cultures.

Indigenous Peoples are actively re-vitalizing their cultural practices through traditional and contemporary activities. Project Partners of the West End Community Hub hope to play a small part in these efforts by bringing in the role of intergenerational learning – recognizing the importance of Indigenous Peoples connecting with Elders and Knowledge Holders for this cultural knowledge transmission to happen.

Coast Salish Project Associates were given the opportunity to identify one young person for a mentee/ mentorship role for this phase of the work. The W.E. Connect Mentees (known hereafter as Mentees) were invited to be part of various aspects of the Coast Salish Project Associates work on the project and be part of project meetings, as well as contribute their ideas, input, and learnings throughout. This mentorship inclusion process will be shared with the Host Nations for the co-learning purposes of future youth mentorship programs. The project partners of the WECH Renewal Plan are happy to support this opportunity and learning journey with the Host Nations.

W.E. Connect Youth Mentees:

- Jonas Jones, səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) - Mentee of Angela George
- Nick Nahanee, Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) - Mentee of Cory Douglas
- Jaz Whitford, Secwepemc (Shuswap) - Mentee of Afuwa





▲ **Top image:** Cory Douglas, alongside his Knowledge Holder, Aaron Nelson Moody, and Mentee, Nick Nahanee, presenting at the Community Visioning Workshop
Bottom Image: Cory Douglas and Angela George presenting at the Synthesis worksop

Each MST Project Associate also had the opportunity to identify a storyteller/ knowledge holder from their Nation to share traditional stories about the West End area. This then formed the basis of inspiration for the Coast Salish Project Associates artworks. These stories were filmed and shown at the kick-off public engagement event, *Coast Salish Chronicles of the West End.*

Host Nation Knowledge Holders

- Gabriel George - səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Knowledge Holder for Angela George
- Aaron Nelson Moody - Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) Knowledge Holder for Cory Douglas
- Chrystal Sparrow - xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Knowledge Holder for herself





▲ **Top image:** Knowledge Holder: Gabriel George
Bottom Image: Knowledge Holder: Aaron Nelson Moody

3.5 Engagement with Indigenous Peoples

One of the goals of the W.E. Connect engagement plan was for broader xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) community members to participate. At the same time, the engagement process had to be mindful that there is a community of Urban Indigenous Peoples in the West End neighbourhood who also hold experiences and knowledge to share.

One-on-one interviews were conducted with Indigenous persons to gather input on how Coast Salish and Indigenous knowledges can guide the renewal of the Community Hub. In the interviews, participants were asked to:

- Express their connection to the West End;
- Identify what's important to them about the future of the West End Community Hub;
- Share what it would mean to integrate Coast Salish knowledge and identity in the programming and spaces of the future site; and
- Respond to emerging themes from Coast Salish Knowledge Holders shared at W.E. Connect events (see section 5.3).

For a summary of what was shared by interviewees, see section 5.6.

4.0 Vision & Principles

4.1 Overview

The following framework, vision and principles describe the future we hope to create with the West End Community Hub.

The framework offers important context to support the partners' commitments to reconciliation. The vision declares the purpose and aspirations of the future West End Community Hub. Together, the vision and principles will inform space use and design of the future site.



4.2 Reconciliation Framework for Vision and Principles

Framework

Vision

Principles

Framework

The West End of Vancouver is a culturally and historically rich location for Coast Salish Peoples. Through art and storytelling, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) perspectives guided the process of developing a vision and principles for the West End Community Hub.

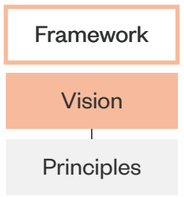
The WECH Project Partners know that Vancouver's identity is strengthened by connecting, learning, and celebrating xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) culture.

Given the importance of Coast Salish teachings to planning this community hub, and the commitments to reconciliation made by all project partners, the following framework offers important guidance for the WECH vision and principles while supporting neighbourhood

The WECH Project Partners are committed to advancing reconciliation by:

- Reflecting Coast Salish culture and identity throughout the project.
- Working to understand and respect the protocols of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.
- Making visible the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations' history, culture, and spiritual connections in the West End.
- Working to understand Coast Salish laws for environmental stewardship, and how these can be applied to WECH, so that the site can support Vancouverites to connect with their responsibility for the health of these lands and waters.

4.3 Vision and Principles



Vision

Vision for the West End Community Hub :

The West End Community Hub celebrates Vancouver's connection to xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) cultures, and supports play, learning, creativity and wellness for all people.

Principles

The West End Community Hub will...

make visible and strengthen connections to Coast Salish people, history, and culture.

weave the fabric of our communities together, creating a safe, inclusive, accessible, equitable place that is welcoming to all.

be integrated, flexible, and responsive to changing community needs.

bring in sounds, sights, and experiences of the natural environment.

provide spaces and plant the seeds for creativity, innovation and co-learning across cultures and generations.

offer a mix of social spaces for celebrating, ceremony, spontaneous connections, or finding quiet.

grow community and individual resilience by using seven-generation thinking.

5.0 Community Engagement

5.1 Overview

Story Sharing to Define a Vision for the Community Hub

During fall 2021, the West End community helped create a vision for the future community hub by drawing on xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations perspectives, and West End community lived experiences.

Hundreds of community members were inspired by Coast Salish art and stories, shared their own experiences of the West End, worked together to interpret those stories, and developed directions for the new facilities, programs and spaces.



Four Steps for Visioning

The visioning process engaged the community through four collaborative steps:

1. Inspire

The West End was invited to connect with stories about the land and its people. Artists and storytellers from the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations shared traditional and contemporary knowledge about the neighbourhood, so that the community could learn and deepen connections to these lands.

An online event, *Coast Salish Chronicles of the West End*, launched the visioning process with presentations from Host Nation Knowledge Holders. Coast Salish Project Associates as well as their Knowledge Holders and Mentees presented at visioning workshops. Videos of this art and perspectives were hosted online. Large posters of the W.E. Connect artworks were displayed throughout the neighbourhood.

2. Gather

Community members shared stories about their experiences with the neighbourhood, people and land. Efforts were made to hear from a wide range of voices and perspectives. Stories were shared online, during workshops, at pop-ups and through information stations in the community.

3. Sense-make

Community members reviewed the submitted stories and analyzed them to find patterns and themes to guide a vision for the community hub. Participants did this during workshops, as well as pop-ups and with self-paced engagement sites in key West End locations.

4.Return

Results of the visioning and storytelling were reported back to the West End community during an online event and on the project webpage. The vision and principles will guide all future stages of planning the West End Community Hub.

5.2 Who Participated

Hundreds of West End community members participated in the visioning activities.

A total of 310 people participated in W.E. Connect workshops. About a third or 33% of the participants attended in-person workshops, compared to 66% for the online workshops. For the W.E. Connect Children, Youth, and Families Workshop, eight children also attended and participated in co-designed activities led by the community group WE Arts. In parallel with the workshops, one-on-one interviews were held with Indigenous persons to gather input on how Coast Salish and Indigenous knowledge can guide the renewal of the Community Hub.

An estimated 400 people were involved through seven pop-up engagement events at high-foot traffic community spots in the West End (including one inside King George Secondary School during the lunch break)

310 total participants in W.E. Connect Workshops

132 In-person participants

- Community Visioning workshop #1
- Arts and Culture workshop
- Seniors workshop
- Families workshop
- Synthesis workshop

178 Online participants

- W.E. Connect: Coast Salish Chronicles of the West End
- Community Visioning workshop #2
- Justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI) workshop
- Health and Wellness workshop
- Lifelong Learning and Public Spaces Workshop

7 1-on-1 interviews with indigenous people

7 pop-up engagement events

400 estimated people engaged at these events

5 youth ambassadors

For five weeks, W.E. Connect installed self-paced engagement sites at the Vancouver Aquatics Centre, the West End Community Centre, the Joe Fortes Branch of the Vancouver Public Library, King George Secondary School, and in the parklet outside Gordon Neighbourhood House.

The Project Partners team also presented to two parent advisory council meetings in the fall, one with the King George Secondary School P.A.C., the feeder school for King George Secondary School.

The West End Experiences Survey gathered input from the West End community from the last week of September to the first week of November. A total of 375 stories were collected through the TalkVancouver website.

5 community self-paced engagement sites in the community

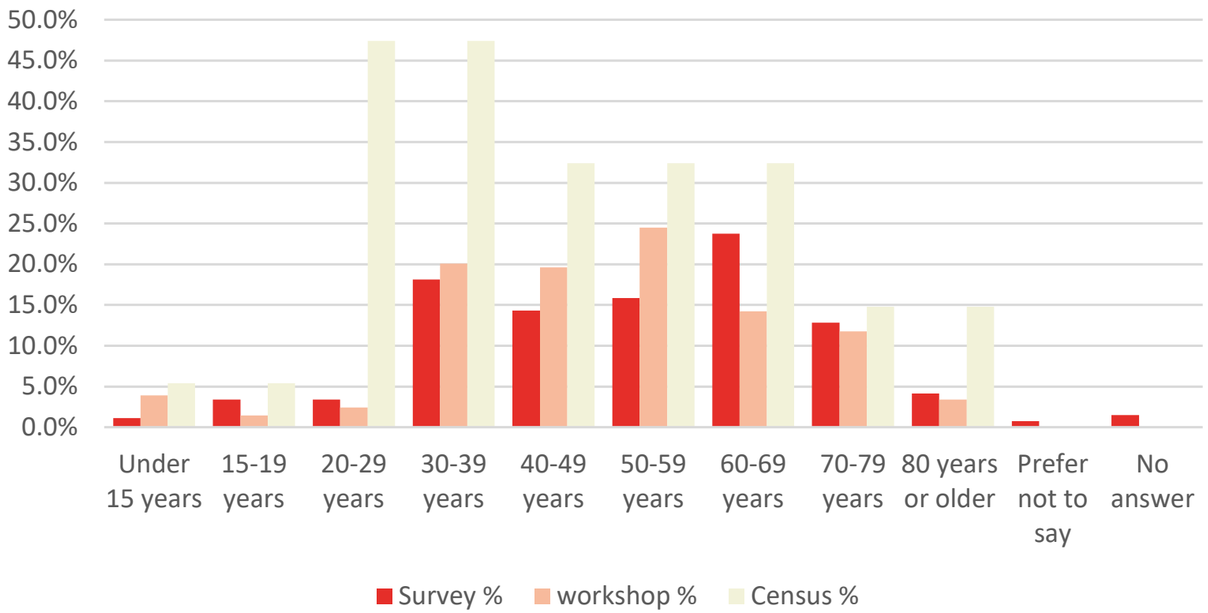


375 West End Experiences Surveys Submitted

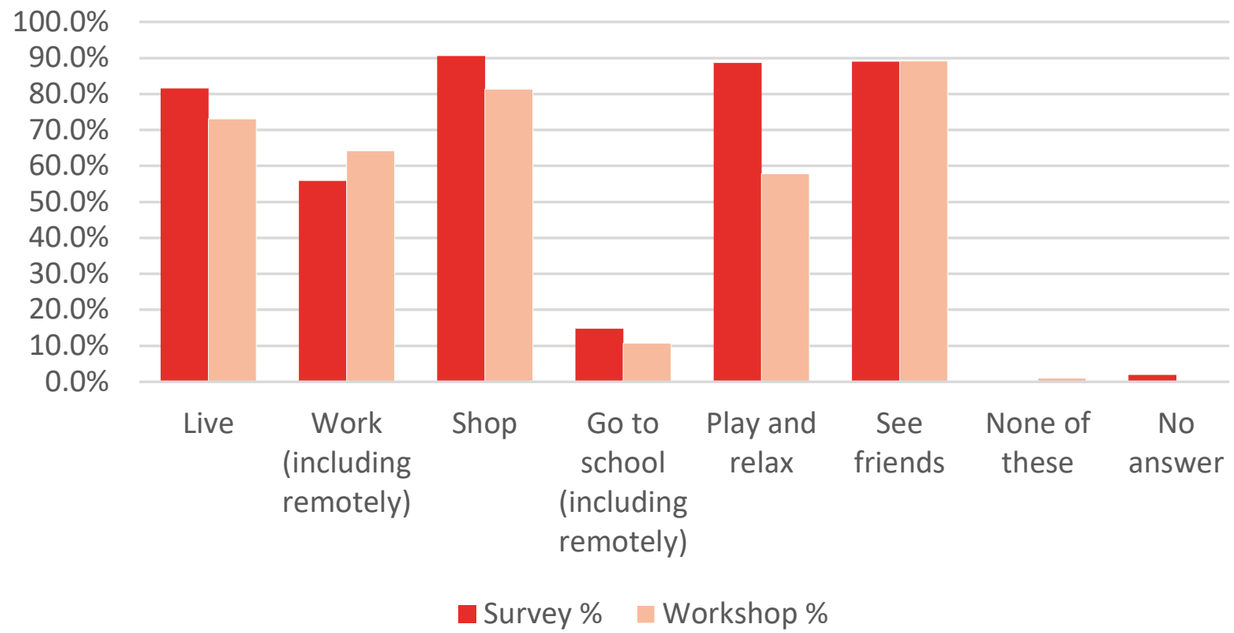
4 languages available

- English
- Korean
- Spanish
- Farsi

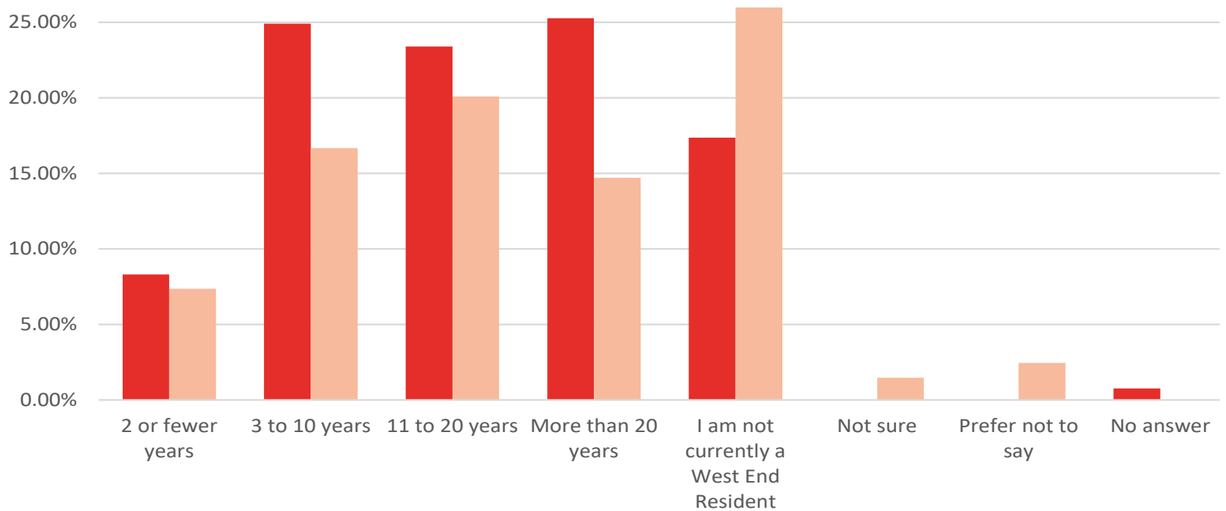
Participant Age: W.E. Connect



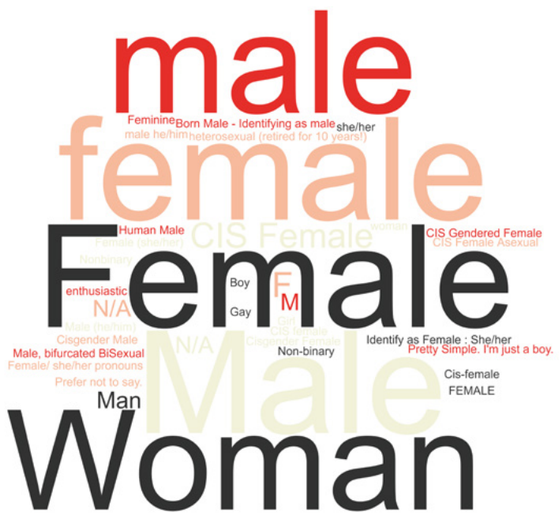
Participant Relationship with the West End: W.E. Connect



Participant Length of Residence in the West End: W.E. Connect



Participant Demographic: W.E. Connect





Involving the West End's Diversity in Future Phases

Future phases of WECH Renewal Plan project will continue to work with community groups and the Vancouver School District to ensure less-heard voices are supported to be involved. For example, W.E. Connect hopes to engage Indigenous Peoples at community events, hear from underhoused populations and organizations that work with vulnerable people, host events targeted at school-aged youth and children and their families, and continue to offer translated materials and sessions.

5.3 Launch Event: Coast Salish Chronicles of the West End

Coast Salish Chronicles of the West End kicked-off the W.E. Connect project with an online event that shared knowledge about the West End from Vancouver's three Host Nations.

The September 21 evening event featured xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), artist and carver Chrystal Sparrow, Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), artist Cory Douglas and carver and Knowledge Holder Aaron Nelson-Moody, and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Knowledge Holder Gabriel George and Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), weaver Angela George.

After hearing from Knowledge Holders and artists, participants met in small groups to reflect ideas they gained from the evening to keep in mind for the planning process of the West End Community Hub, as well as to say what inspired them from what they heard that evening.





▲ **Top image:** Knowledge Holder, Aaron Nelson Moody, conducting the land acknowledgement through tradtional song.
Bottom image: Chrystal Sparrow speaking to the story behind her artwork

Over 100 people participated in the two-hour long event. A recording of the presentations is available on the project webpage.

Ideas Shared by Participants

- There is too little Coast Salish representation in the West End. There needs to be more visibility for the Host Nations to communicate the living history of the people of this land.
- Incorporate xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) cultural content into design and programming for the West End Community Hub.
- The Hub should be a place to connect to learn and share, learn about different cultures, like we're doing tonight.
- The West End is a place of unity, a place where people came together for trade and harvesting. The Hub can continue to foster this.
- Embed the spirit of learning and mentorship.
- Look back to our ancestors and forward to those younger than us, alive and not yet born.
- Foster connection to nature, land, and seasons. Promote the importance of stewardship of the land, and why all people should care for this land.

5.4 West End Experiences Survey

At the core of the 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. Through the collaborative interpretation of those stories in workshops and other engagement opportunities, key ideas were drawn out and synthesized into a vision and principles for the future community hub.

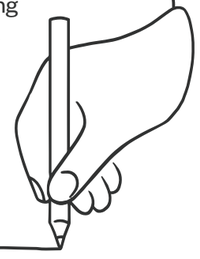
Participants of the West End Experiences Survey were asked to choose one of three prompts for sharing their experience about the West End:

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.**

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.

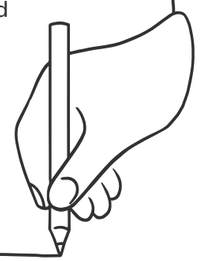
West End Experience Shared by W.E. Connect Participant



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.

West End Experience Shared by W.E. Connect Participant



Then, participants responded to questions like how common they think their experience is, how long it lasted, how they felt about the story, and what emotions they associated with their experience. Participants could submit as many experiences as they wished.

A marvelous assortment of lived experiences of the West End was shared through the survey. Please see Appendix A to read these stories.

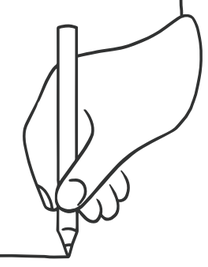
The West End Experiences Survey was available online at ShapeYourCity.ca with the option of completing the survey in Korean, Spanish, and Farsi, which are three of the most common additional languages spoken in the West End.

Printed copies of the survey were available at each of the 5 self-paced engagement sites, with staff available to help participants find and fill out the surveys. The survey was also on hand at the 7 pop-up events, where two of the Youth Ambassadors could speak Farsi, two could speak Spanish, and one could speak Arabic.

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.

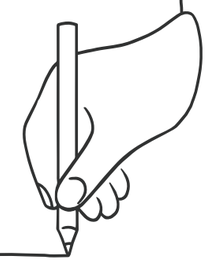
West End Experience Shared by W.E. Connect Participant



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.

West End Experience Shared by W.E. Connect Participant



5.5 Visioning Workshops

Eight visioning workshops explored collected stories from the West End Experiences Survey and identified themes to guide a vision for the future community hub.

What's important to you about the future West End Community Hub?
As people entered the in-person workshop location, or at the start of the online workshops, many participants responded to the question: What's important to you about the future West End Community Hub? The following are responses shared by participants,reflecting ideas heard across all the sessions:

- It should be a welcoming meeting place for all people.
- Reflect Coast Salish heritage and knowledge.
- Build connection with nature.
- Provide creative spaces, rehearsal and performance spaces.
- Include safe spaces for gay, queer, trans, two-spirit people.
- Ensure there is care for seniors and safety.
- Be welcoming for kids.
- Ensure it is accessible to people with disabilities.
- Offer free public spaces - you don't need to pay to access
- Include flexible spaces that can adapt to different future demands.
- Outdoor spaces should be beautiful and usable.
- Have places to connect, share stories, and find common ground.
- Provide spaces to share food.
- All aspects of the name are important: "West End" and "Community" and "Hub" - the sense of coming together is important.





▲ Visioning workshops with diverse participation from community engagement

The Public Engagement Process

Pre-Engagement

JUL - SEP 2021

- Interested and impacted community groups/Partners Interviews
- Interviews with Coast Salish Project Associates
- Project Orientation workshop

Vision and Principles Engagement Events

SEP - DEC 2021

- Launch Event: Coast Salish Chronicles of the West End
- 2 Community Visioning Workshops
- Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Workshop
- Health and Wellness Workshop
- Arts and Culture Workshop
- Seniors Workshop
- Children, Youth, and Families Workshop
- Indigenous Persons interviews
- Synthesis Workshop
- Public Information Session on Visioning Results

LEGEND: Project Partners; Community Organizations; Coast Salish Project Associates; Community Artists; Public Input

Community Visioning Workshop
Sunday, September 26, 3 - 5 PM (West End Community Centre)

This in-person Community Visioning Workshop featured Coast Salish artist Cory Douglas, who introduced his artwork for W.E. Connect, *Strength in Numbers*, along with his mentor and Knowledge Holder, Aaron Nelson Moody, and his Mentee, Nick Nahanee. Together, they explained the meaning behind Strength in Numbers with reference to the Skwxwú7mesh Nation legend which inspired it.

Ideas Shared by Participants:

- The West End has a strong sense of community - we look after each other.
- The diversity of the neighbourhood is important and should be reflected in the design of the facility, especially for LGBTQIA2S+ and immigrant communities.
- We need to think about where we have come from and where we are going.
- The neighbourhood has a strong connection to trees and nature.
- It is important to have intergenerational activities and gathering spaces.
- Improve access to arts and culture .
- The West End Community Hub should have all-in-one accessibility and family-friendly spaces.
- There have to be places to visit, wander, pass through, and public spaces.

Community Visioning Workshop
Wednesday, September 29, 6 - 8 PM (Online)

Coast Salish artist and female carver Chrystal Sparrow introduced her artwork for W.E. Connect, *Cedar Mother*, which represents land based knowledge and the land as medicine. Chrystal reflected how this artwork is part of the beginning of her journey to reconnecting with her past and the stories of her ancestors, as well as a way of finding her own ground in Vancouver, which she has felt alienated from at times.

Ideas Shared by Participants:

- The community provides support for each other in times of need (i.e. solidarity for LGBTQIA2S+).
- Art can help us learn about and be a mode for education (i.e. for learning about environmental and Indigenous information issues).
- The West End is a destination and our home, making it a unique place.
- Increase local First Nations visibility.
- West Enders are deeply connected to one another - family, friends, neighbours, community.
- Stanley Park's history and proximity is important for the West End.
- The neighbourhood's walkability is important for all - especially seniors.

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Workshop
Thursday, October 7, 6 - 8 PM (Online) with QMUNITY

This online workshop was hosted with QMUNITY, who presented on their role in the West End, what intersectionality and identity mean, and why intersectionality and justice, equity, diversity and inclusion are important for developing a vision for the future West End Community Hub. Community Artist and writer Ken Boesem also showcased his artwork, *Community Nest*. Participants particularly liked the imagery of a nest with multi-coloured eggs as a metaphor for inclusive community building.

Ideas Shared by Participants:

- The West End is a place where everyone feels like an equal— it's a place to be free.
- We appreciate our neighbours' differences— it's what makes the neighbourhood special.
- Safety to be yourself is what supports diversity and inclusion.
- It feels like there are fewer and fewer shared public spaces where everyone is welcome.
- People with perceived barriers/otherness come to the neighbourhood to feel seen, safe, and cared for despite gender identity, race, sexual orientation, socio-economic standing.
- We celebrate diversity, but sometimes we forget about the others who are less fortunate.
- Connection with nature and the sunset — helps people feel friendly — might be why this place is so unique.
- The West End needs to work on being more family-friendly.

Health and Wellness Workshop
Wednesday, October 13, 6 - 8 PM (Online)

Chrystal Sparrow shared the story behind her carving design for *Cedar Mother,* which is a representation of land, animals, medicines, people, and the Salish Sea. She also reflected on her grandmother's connection to Stanley Park, and how she collected red cedar roots there to make baskets and for medicine. This helped frame the discussions on the main topic of the workshop, health and wellness in the community.

Ideas Shared by Participants:

- The West End has a sense of place and belonging. Strangers talk to each other.
- Gathering, celebrating and sharing food is healing.
- We need a mix of quiet and active spaces, where all are welcome to bump into each other, to combat isolation.
- Consider people's vulnerability: Poverty, housing affordability, mental health, disability, safety.
- How do we make spaces safe and accessible? How do we be open to people who are going through addiction?
- Community centre is so important in times of extreme heat and extreme cold; it provides shelter, recreational space, and a refuge.
- Learn from First Nations' ideas of the four quadrants, nature, healing, connection to the land.

Arts and Culture Workshop
Sunday, October 17, 3 - 5 PM (West End Community Centre) with WE Arts, and West End Community Centre Association

This in-person workshop was co-hosted with WE Arts and the West End Community Centre Association (WECCA). WECCA offered a welcome and described the importance of the Renewal Plan. WE Arts gave a presentation on the West End Art Plan and the short-term and long-term priorities of the organization for nurturing and enabling arts and culture in the community.
Community artist and writer Afuwa presented her artwork *Seraphim*, which tells her personal story of connecting with the West End's history through the stories of past community members of Stanley Park and the West End. Afuwa's piece helped inspire discussions of the role of art in telling stories about place, as well as the larger role of arts and culture in the West End.

Ideas Shared by Participants:

- Art offers light in what can be a city of isolation and classism.
- Compared to other districts we lack spaces for art and culture on a regular basis.
- Find a balance between supporting visual and performing arts in the West End.
- Art creates shared experiences, vision, and purpose.
- Repurpose existing spaces and parks for arts and culture.
- Art can and needs to be expressed in multi-use spaces, outdoor spaces, and indoor public spaces.
- Art sustains communities, draws people here, while vice versa, a vibrant community allows for art to bloom.

Seniors Workshop
Tuesday, October 19, 1 - 3 PM (West End Community Centre) with West End Seniors Network

This in-person workshop was co-hosted with the West End Seniors Network, which presented on the demographic context of the West End and key needs and services identified by older adults, stressing the need for a holistic approach where older adults are connected with the community, and where the knowledge, experiences, and stories of older adults are valued.

Ideas Shared by Participants:

- Encourage intergenerational connections.
- Offer services and programs that support active living, aging in place.
- Ground the future Hub in Indigenous stories.
- Create spaces and address people's needs to enable safety for all.
- The West End needs vibrant social spaces, and social connections through events, recreation and facilities.
- The neighbourhood offers nature close at hand for all ages and abilities.
- Ensure a continuity of programming and spaces during and beyond construction.

Children, Youth, and Families Workshop
Sunday, October 24, 10 AM - noon (West End Community Centre) with, WE Arts, and Gordon Neighbourhood House.

This in-person workshop was co-hosted with Gordon Neighbourhood House and supported by WE Arts, whose representatives ran engaging workshop-related activities for youth. Community artist and writer Afuwa introduced her artwork *Seraphim*. She reflected on her personal journey to finding connection and shared meaning with the West End through engaging with community stories of past West End residents.

Ideas Shared by Participants:

- This neighbourhood is welcoming to all, and is an entry point for many newcomers.
- Our children experience diversity and inclusion from birth. Cross-cultural community building is part of the West End identity that our kids live every day.
- We have a sense of community and support. The future hub needs to be safe and inclusive so kids can be independent.
- Services need to be provided to meet all community needs (underhoused folks).
- Families are feeling pressure from lack of housing affordability.
- Youth in West End feel like they don't have their own space.
- The West End builds community and connections through intergenerational experiences.
- West End greenery counteracts the neighbourhood's density.

Lifelong Learning and Public Spaces Workshop
Monday, November 1, 6 - 8 PM (Online) with artist and writer Ken Boesem and West End Community Centre Association

This in-person workshop featured Community Artist and writer Ken Boesem and WECCA. Ken Boesem showcased his artwork, *Community Nest*, a personalized avian metaphor that reflects his own queerness, finding a home, and gratitude for his time as a guest on this territory. The imagery of the nest as a metaphor for community building helped participants frame discussions on shared public spaces and the need to strengthen community ties with more accessible communal spaces. WECCA described the many valuable offerings of the West End Community Center, which is supported by a volunteer board that runs the community center in partnership with Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation.

Ideas Shared by Participants:

- There needs to be opportunities for people to connect, meet, and also have space to be on their own.
- Encourage interaction to occur within the space - the neighbourhood has many small overlapping communities.
- There needs to be programmable spaces both inside and outside throughout all seasons (especially in the rain).
- Safety in the West End is changing. The Hub needs to be a place that feels and is safe for everyone.
- Connection to nature is very important. West Enders do not have their own backyard, so community outdoor spaces are very important.
- The West End needs spaces for people to express their knowledge, creativity and hobbies.
- There needs to be support for grassroots, community led initiatives and support the community to feel ownership and pride over future spaces.

5.6 Indigenous Persons Interviews

Indigenous persons one-on-one interviews
November (phone and online)

One-on-one interviews were held with Indigenous persons from the West End to discuss how Coast Salish and Indigenous knowledge can guide the renewal of the West End Community Hub.

Ideas Shared by Participants:

- Continue to maintain consistency with respect to protocols and consultation with Host Nations.
- The West End Community Hub should not stop at just having aesthetic Indigenous components in the building like in other places, but should foster transformative relationships like hiring and engaging Host Nations staff, programmers, and participants.
- If there are to be aesthetic elements, ensure accurate representation of Coast Salish culture (i.e. totem poles are from northern Indigenous cultures in B.C.).
- Have programming for traditional learning (i.e. cedar weaving).
- Integrate Indigenous art, stories, and acknowledgment of lands in public spaces and at the entrance of the future West End Community Hub.
- Build relationships with other ongoing projects in the City (i.e. Britannia) and think about how Urban Indigenous Peoples may feel towards the future West End Community Hub.
- The future West End Community Hub should be a place for healing, for trauma and mental health support.
- Connect Indigenous Peoples with cultural activities on the water and X̱wáýx̱way (Stanley Park) so they feel part of this place again.
- Integrate programming and spaces for First Nations Peoples to build capacity and knowledge.
- The future West End Community Hub should be a place that supports a community that has been displaced.
- Make inclusive spaces where everyone is accepted and can feel safe.
- The future site should hold space for different cultures, but be held together by, or represented as a whole, by Coast Salish culture.

5.7 Self-Paced Engagement Boards in Community

W.E. Connect hosted five self-paced engagement stations during the Visioning Phase at:

- Joe Fortes Branch of the VPL
- West End Community Centre
- Kinge George Secondary School
- Vancouver Aquatics Centre
- Gordon Neighbourhood House

At each self-paced engagement site, there were large boards describing the project and a rotation of nine West End Experience stories selected by workshop participants to be shared more widely.

The artworks of the W.E. Connect Coast Salish Project Associates and Community Artists were featured across these sites.

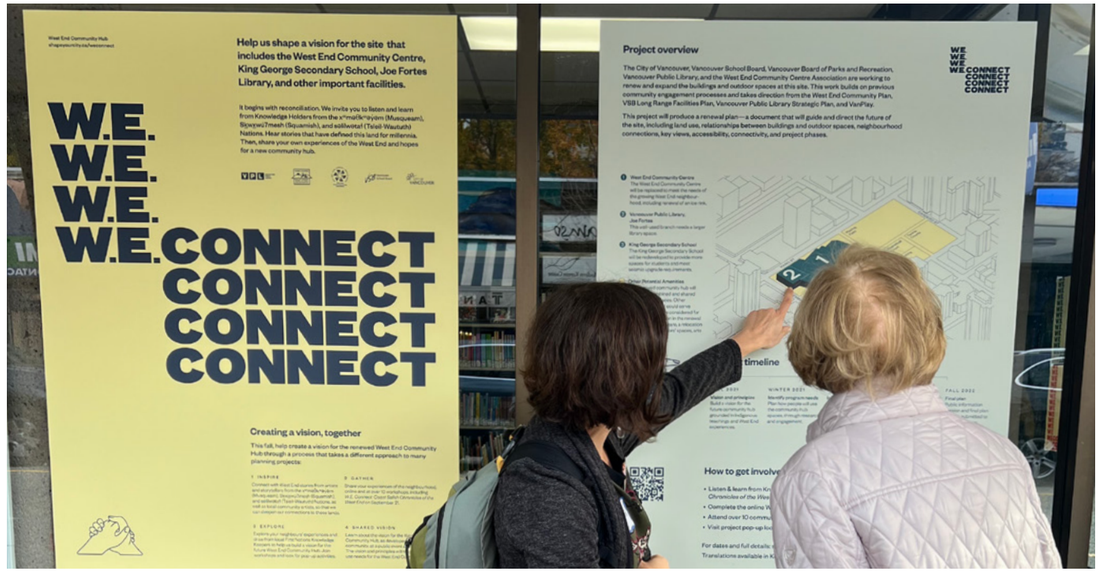




▲ Self-paced Engagement boards located at the Vancouver Aquatics Centre



▲ Self-paced Engagement boards located at the West End Community Centre



▲ Self-paced Engagement boards located at the Joe Fortes Branch of the VPL

5.8 Pop-up Events

To make it easy for West Enders to participate in creating a shared vision for the future West End Community Hub, W.E. Connect Youth Ambassaodors helped lead pop-up events in high foot-traffic areas in the neighbourhood, and once inside King George Secondary School during the lunch break.

The Youth Ambassadors were a group of 6 proactive and self-motivated students who attend King George Secondary School. Along with repre-sentatives of project partners or a member of the W.E. Connect team, each pop-up event was led by 2 Youth Ambassadors.



▲ Pop-up events at West End Farmers Market (top image) and VPL outdoor plaze (bottom image)

5.9 Synthesis Workshop

Throughout the fall, W.E. Connect participants were invited to volunteer for a final workshop to synthesize all the input received, and help create a draft vision and principles for the future West End Community Hub.



▲ Story synthesizing activity at the Synthesis workshop with community volunteers

Synthesis Workshop
November 9, 6 - 8 PM (SFU Wosk Centre for Dialogue)

At the Synthesis Workshop, West Enders came together with project partners to review the input gathered through the previous workshops, as well as pop-ups, online engagement, and self-paced engagement sites. The almost 40 participants worked through the input gathered over the fall and turned it into advice on WECH principles. Groups also drafted "postcards from the future" to help draft a vision statement.

Coast Salish Project Associates Angela George and Cory Douglas shared their reflections on the project, and Cyrus George, offered a welcome song. Community artists Afuwa and Ken Boesem participated in discussion tables.



▲ Collaborative participation at the Synthesis workshop

Key ideas synthesized at this workshop, from previous community input:

- There needs to be spaces and opportunities for co-learning across cultures and generations.
- Indigenous history, culture, stories and connection to land and people should be visible in the design and programming.
- The future WECH should be a reflection of the natural space where we live – grounded in the land.
- The future WECH should be a space that can grow and change.
- Keep the community involved in the ongoing realization of the vision in the future of the building - responsive to the wants /needs of the community into the future.
- Make room for meeting spaces to break isolation.
- The future WECH should offer spaces for unplanned connections, for people to stop and talk and share, and pass the time.
- Provide places for the community to connect together through food.
- Include spaces that are flexible, inclusive, accessible, low-cost, safe, intergenerational, and representative.
- Recognize the history and role of the LGBTQIA2S+ community in shaping the neighbourhood.
- Ensure the future WECH has flex-emergency space and is ready to provide disaster support.
- Make the future WECH a place that has an expansive and inclusive understanding of health and wellness.
- Build for the future while honouring the past.

Graphic recording samples from Synthesis workshop discussion (see Appendix C):

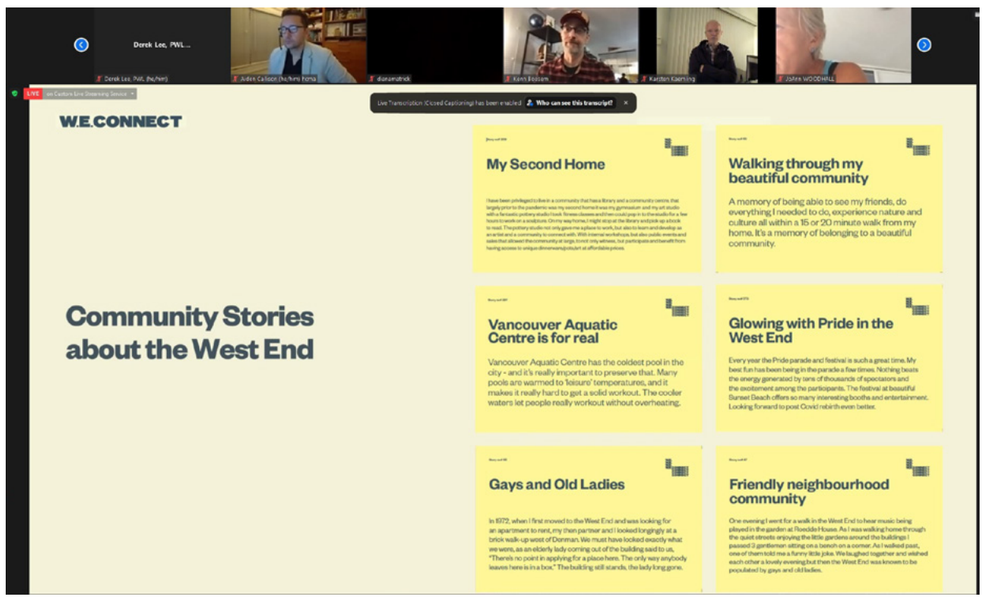


▲ Graphic recordings samples from Synthesis workshop

5.10 Public Information Session on Visioning Results

Public Information Session on Visioning Results
Wednesday, December 8 , 6 - 7:30 PM (Online)

The draft framework, vision, and principles for the future Community Hub was shared with the community during an online session. Coast Salish artist and weaver Angela George shared her artwork, Sunset People, and offered insights about the importance of this reconciliation-focused Renewal Plan, saying, “we are re-storying the history of Vancouver together.” Angela also helped to celebrate all the contributions of the community, project partners and all the people who shared their stories and experiences to help develop the vision for the future site. “The blanket has been laid and we build from here,” said Angela.



▲ Online Public Information on Visioning Results presentation

The results were then presented back to the community at an online event for final review and feedback, in early December. Over 60 people attended, plus it was streamed on Facebook Live to 20 viewers. During the week after this session, the recorded event was viewed 886 times. Participants gave feedback on the draft framework, vision, and principles including:

- Appreciation for the focus on inclusivity
- Support for the emphasis on Coast Salish and Indigenous culture and world view
- Appreciation that the framework, vision, and principles embody kindness and respect
- Support for the use of 7 generation thinking, layering of history and intergenerational approaches.
- Emphasis on the need to ensure the vision and future site addresses the needs of newcomers, seniors experiencing isolation, caregivers, people who live with disabilities, and those who may not be currently served by the site.
- Emphasis on remembering the needs of peoples' beyond the West End who will use this site.
- Appreciation for the importance of responsiveness — ability to be flexible to changing future community needs
- Emphasis that the site design needs to reflect the West End’s character.

Participants also learned about the upcoming project phase, and shared their guidance about future engagement as well as the site planning and design.

5.11 Outreach and Promotion

Mailed postcards.

In early September, more than 43,000 postcards were sent to West End and Coal Harbour residents and businesses.

Posters and flyers.

In September, 250 posters were placed on street poles and public places across the West End/downtown. Over 1,000 information leaflets and 500 postcards were printed and distributed them to Joe Fortes Branch of the VPL and West End Community Centre. Leaflets were also sent to Lord Roberts Elementary School and Lord Roberts Annex. These materials included QR codes that were used over 650 times.

Social media.

The City of Vancouver published a total of 65 social media posts that resulted in nearly 400,000 impressions.

Webpage.

From September to early November 2021, the project's Shape Your City webpage, Shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect, received 2,300 visitors.

Partners' websites.

Each of the project partners featured W.E. Connect related contents, outreach messages, and links to the main project webpage.

Materials to share.

Online promotion packages, which included graphics and easy-to-share material, were prepared and shared with key community organizations and project partners to pass on to their contacts.

43,557 postcards mailed to houses, apartments and businesses in the West End

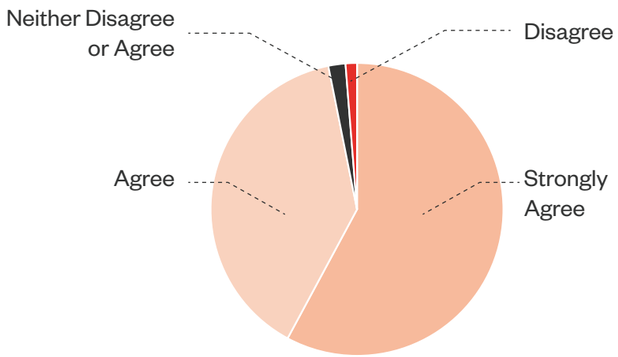
2,300 Shape Your City visits September-early November 2021

250 printed posters distributed to civic buildings and community partners.

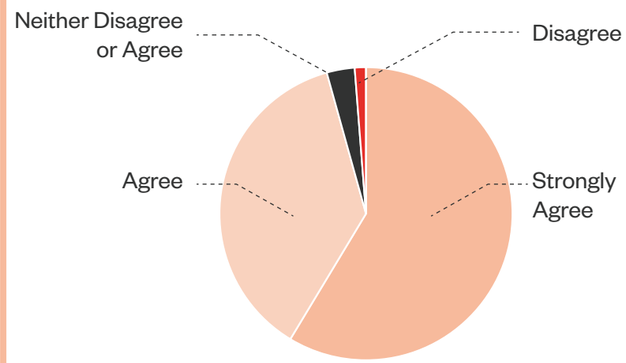
5.12 Evaluation of Engagement Sessions

At the end of each engagement event, participants were invited to share their feedback:

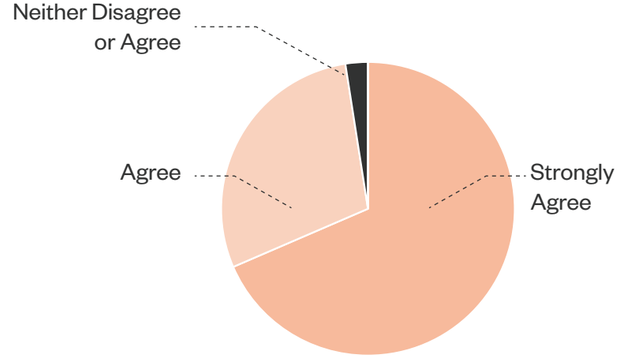
1. This meeting was a good use of my time



2. I was sufficiently able to express my views or ideas



3. I learned from others' contributions





W.E.CONNECT

For more information, please visit shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

For any inquiries, please contact weconnect@hcma.ca

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West End Community Centre Association

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CITY OF VANCOUVER