



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 1, 2017
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Meeting Date: November 29, 2017

TO: Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities
FROM: General Manager of Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability
SUBJECT: Places for People: Downtown - Project Update

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive for information an update on the Places for People: Downtown Strategy.

REPORT SUMMARY

On March 29, 2017 Council approved an 18-month work program to prepare a public space strategy for the Downtown: *Places for People: Downtown*. The strategy will provide a framework to shape the future public space network in the Downtown and coordinate public space delivery over the next 30 years. This report provides a progress update, including key public engagement and project findings.

In June 2017 staff launched the *Places for People: Downtown* engagement process to create a Downtown public space strategy. The first phase of this process has provided a variety of ways for the public, community organizations, visitors and businesses to participate in the conversation about public space, including a series of launch events, walking tours, information on the City's website, online surveys and favourite places asset mapping, "pop up" engagement, and social media storytelling. During this time staff have also been meeting with community groups, local businesses, and stakeholders to get their input and provide feedback on the process.

In September 2017, the first part of a two-part (summer and winter) Public Space and Public Life Study (PSPL) was undertaken with Gehl Studio - a world leader in the study of public life and public space. This in-depth study of public space and public life included the participation of over 250 volunteers, covering nearly thirty-five (35) public spaces across the Downtown study area.

In early 2018 staff will undertake a winter PSPL Study (early 2018) and continue to engage with the public and stakeholders through a series of upcoming events and activities. Staff will report back to Council later in 2018.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- Downtown Places and Spaces Strategy Council Report - work program (March 2017)
- Healthy City Strategy Action Plan (2015)
- Mayor's Engaged City Task Force (2014)
- West End Plan (2013)
- Transportation 2040 (2012)
- Vancouver Economic Action Strategy (2011)
- Greenest City Action Plan (2011)
- Council motion directing staff to prepare a Downtown Public Space Plan (2010)
- Downtown South Guidelines (Excluding Granville Street) (1991; last amended 2004)
- DD (Except Downtown South) C-5, C-6, HA-1 and HA-2 Character Area Descriptions (1975; last amended 2003)
- Downtown (Except Downtown South) Design Guidelines (1975; last amended 1993)
- Plaza Design Guidelines (1992)
- Central Area Plan (1991)

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability and City Manager RECOMMEND approval of the recommendations of this report.

REPORT

Background/Context

Places for People: Downtown Strategy

The strategy will provide a strategic framework to prioritize and coordinate the delivery of public space initiatives in the Downtown to create a complete public space network.

Places for People: Downtown is the planning process shaping the Downtown public space strategy. Vancouver's public spaces — plazas, squares, streets, laneways, pathways, parks and waterfront — are where public life happens. These places and spaces are where we interact with the city on a daily basis, as we work, play, create, explore and connect with each other. *Places for People* is an approach to public space planning that starts with an understanding and appreciation of public life and how people use public space on a daily basis. *Great public spaces are Places for People!*

Downtown is the heart of the city, and home to some of the most popular public spaces in Vancouver. It's also an area that's growing with more residents, businesses and visitors each year. This means increased demand on the existing public space network in the future. Since space and opportunities are limited in the Downtown core, we need to be creative and strategic in how public space is delivered. Through *Places for People: Downtown* a

comprehensive strategy will be created to coordinate and deliver Downtown public space over the next 30 years.

The study area for the *Downtown Places and Spaces Strategy* includes the Central Business District, Coal Harbour, West End, Downtown South, Yaletown, False Creek North and Northeast False Creek (see Figure 1).



Figure 1: The Downtown Study Area

The work program for *Places for People: Downtown* consists of four main phases - each phase includes public engagement opportunities and technical and consultant work:

- Phase 1: Vision, Opportunities and Favourite Places
- Phase 2: Public Space and Public Life Study and Policy Testing
- Phase 3: Strategic Directions
- Phase 4: Draft Strategy and Report to Council

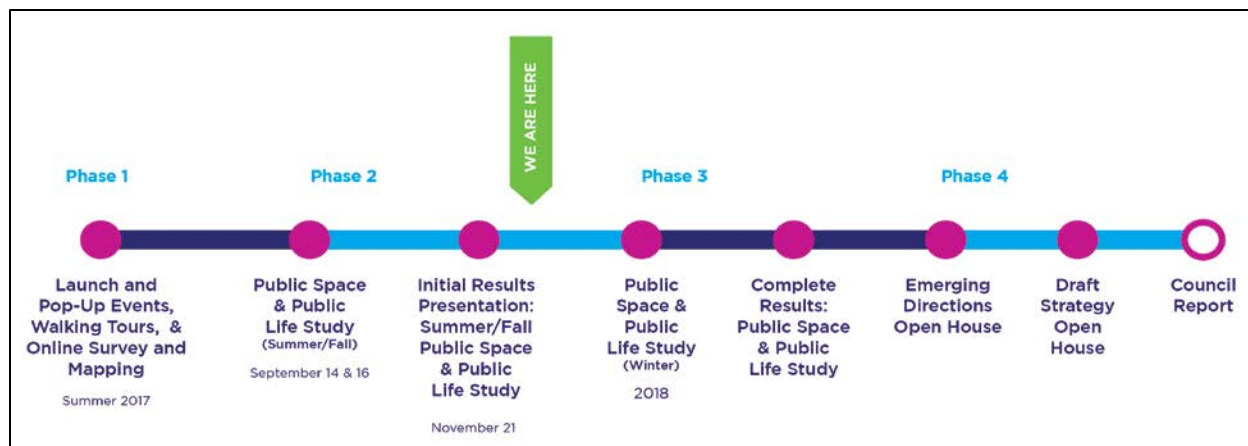


Figure 2: Place for People: Downtown Engagement Timeline

Public Space

The Charter of Public Space provides a useful definition and description of public space, put forward by the Biennial of Public Space and adopted by the United Nations Program on Human Settlements (UN-Habitat):

Public spaces are all places publically owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive. Public spaces are a key element of individual and social well-being, the places of a community's collective life, expressions of the diversity of their common, natural and cultural richness and a foundation of their identity. The community recognizes itself in its public spaces and pursues the improvement of their spatial quality.

Public spaces contribute significantly to our city's attractiveness, health, social well-being, sustainability and economic vitality. They help build a sense of community, promote civic identity, support diverse cultural expression, and encourage social connection and an open and democratic society. The liveliness and continuous use of public space generally leads to urban environments that are well maintained, healthy and safe, making the city an attractive place in which to live, work and visit.

Places for People: Downtown will consider opportunities for public spaces in the street right-of-way (wider sidewalks, street-to-plaza conversions and laneway improvements), public spaces on City-owned or other public land (plazas and open spaces), and privately-owned public spaces (POPS), such as office plazas.

Public Life

Public life is that part of our social lives that occurs in public spaces – the streets, plazas, parks and spaces between buildings. These are the everyday activities that Vancouverites naturally engage in when they are outside of their homes, workplaces and cars. Public life thrives when all people can enjoy being in public together and is encouraged by quality public spaces that foster social connection. A vibrant public life promotes civic agency, builds social capital, and connects people to their local communities.

Backgrounder - Downtown Vancouver in Focus

Staff have prepared a background document - Downtown Vancouver in Focus - that provides the context for the project, and an overview of the Downtown neighbourhoods and character areas (see Appendix A).

Other Public Space Initiatives

There are a number of public space initiatives that are being undertaken by the over the upcoming year. This includes: VIVA Vancouver initiatives, the City's tactical urbanism and public space innovation program; the preparation of a Plaza Stewardship Strategy; and the creation of the Park Board's Parks and Recreation Master Plan ("VanPlay").

Staff are working together to coordinate these initiatives and share information, allowing for a unified and elevated public dialogue on public space in Vancouver. These and other initiatives have included partnerships with community groups, business improvement associations, and other stakeholders, such as the Vancouver Public Space Network.



Figure 3: Vancouver Art Gallery stairs at Robson Square

Public Engagement

As part of *Places for People: Downtown*, staff have developed an innovative and inclusive public and stakeholder engagement strategy that includes a variety of ways that residents, community organizations, visitors and businesses in Downtown's diverse communities can get involved in shaping the strategy.

Phase 1 of the process, from June to August 2017, was the public launch of the initiative. This phase included broad engagement with a variety of events and activities, both online and onsite, that provided opportunities for input from a range of residents, workers and visitors. Staff installed an engagement kiosk at special events throughout the Central Business District, Yaletown, Coal Harbour and the West End, and partnered with local community and business groups, to learn what people thought about Downtown Vancouver's public spaces.

During the first phase of public engagement staff:

- Launched the process with events in four (4) locations throughout Downtown, which kicked off in Robson Square (800 Robson), followed by launch events in Coal Harbour (Coal Harbour Park), Yaletown (Bill Curtis Square) and the West End (Jim Deva Plaza);
- Participated in pop-up engagement events and collaborations, at nine (9) different locations and events;
- Provided a survey that ran between June 28 and August 7, provided as an online survey through Talk Vancouver and made available for in-person responses at engagement events (approximately 1700 respondents);
- Ran a favourite places mapping exercise, online and in-person;
- Led walking tours (guided and self-guided), in six areas of the Downtown;
- Partnered with Achieve Magazine on a street photography competition;
- Developed social media storytelling - Instagram, Facebook and other City of Vancouver social media tools;
- Updated Civic Advisory Committees; and
- Partnered with Society for Children and Youth of BC (SCY) and local elementary and high schools on the Urban Explorers - Youth-Centred Engagement program.

There was significant interest and input from a variety of people at these and other public events and online forums. Staff engaged with over 4,500 people through this process. Additionally, an online survey and asset mapping exercise were launched that received 1,925 responses. Participants provided feedback on the issues that need to be addressed for a successful strategy, as well as the ideas and opportunities that will help guide its delivery.

See Appendix B for full description of Phase 1 engagement events.

Downtown Public Space Champions

The Downtown Public Space Champions group represents a diversity of interests and community organizations throughout Downtown Vancouver, including BIAs, active transportation groups, public health organizations, and seniors and accessibility groups.

The intent of this group is to convene at key moments in the process to:

- Provide advice on the City's communications and engagement approach with the general public and key stakeholders;
- Test ideas that address issues/opportunities for improving the Downtown public space network and leading practices related to fostering public life in the Downtown;
- Aid the City in establishing community contacts for the purpose of engaging stakeholders to discuss *Places for People: Downtown* and disseminating related updates and information through your respective networks; and
- Champion opportunities for public space in the Downtown.

MST Nations

In September, staff took part in the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations (MST) Intergovernmental Meeting hosted by the City of Vancouver, to provide an introduction to the *Places for People: Downtown* project and discuss opportunities for the involvement of the MST Nations and their contributions. Ideas and opportunities discussed included:

- Potential naming of future and under-named public spaces (including naming of the Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza and Queen Elizabeth Theatre Plaza); and
- Visibility on the land and storytelling through way-finding, signage, public space design and public art.

Staff will continue to meet the MST Nations and seek feedback and explore opportunities for meaningful representation through this work to recognize and reflect the history of the land on which the Downtown was built, and celebrating the history and culture of the First Nations.

STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

Who We Heard From

Through the first phase of engagement staff heard from Downtown residents, workers and visitors, reflecting the diversity of the area and those who use public space in the city. The Phase 1 *Places for People: Downtown* survey, was completed by approximately 1700 respondents, and included a diverse range of people from across the city:

- The majority of respondents (50%) identified as female, while 40% identified as male, 6% preferred not to say, 1% were transgendered, and 2% did not identify with any of these groups.
- The largest age-group of respondents were adults (31%) between 30-39; while ages 20-29 (19%), 40-49 (19%), 50-59 (18%) were generally equally represented.
- 44% of respondents lived in the Downtown, and 46% lived outside of the Downtown. 39% worked in the Downtown. 10% were local or international visitor.
- The majority of respondents (79%) had no children, and 17% had children under the age of 19 at home.

While the first round of engagement involved a broad group of the public and key stakeholders, some gaps in the representation of respondents has been noted, specifically youth and seniors. Staff will seek opportunities to connect with those groups who are underrepresented. To provide targeted engagement opportunities, staff are participating in the Urban Explorers program focused youth-centred engagement, and are arranging meetings with Downtown seniors groups.



Figure 4: Places for People Launch Event at Robson Square (June 29, 2017)

What We Heard: Phase 1 Feedback Summary

At the completion of the first phase of public engagement a *Phase 1 Engagement Summary* document was prepared that outlines what was heard through the process so far. This has been made available to the public at Vancouver.ca/placesforpeople (also see Appendix B).

Generally, the responses illustrated a desire for public spaces that:

- support public gathering, social connections and conversations;
- include public art, natural features, community markets, enhanced eating and drinking options, and an increased number of patios;
- provide improved weather protection, to ensure comfort year round; and
- ensure accessibility to all users.

The results of the favorite places mapping highlighted a variety of opportunities and issues, including specific favourite spaces clusters at the beaches, Stanley Park and along the seawall, and challenged pedestrian spaces in the downtown core, along sections of Granville Street and Robson Street, as well as Denman Street.



Figure 5: Kaleido seating and Places for People kiosk at the Robson Square Launch Event (June 29, 2017)

Emerging Downtown Public Space Themes

Coming out of the engagement process and based on what was learned from the public, a number of themes emerged, representing what people care about in terms of public space in the Downtown. These public space themes will continue to be refined through the process, based on further feedback received from the public, stakeholders and city staff, and will inform a vision for the Downtown public space network and the creation of the final strategy

(a full description of the Emerging Downtown Public Space Themes can be found in Appendix B):

- **Inclusive of All People**
Public spaces should be inclusive of all people. They should be safe, clean, welcoming, and accessible to all ages and abilities, and all income and ethnic groups.
- **Freedom of Expression**
Public spaces should be places to freely express opinions and ideas.
- **Places to Connect**
Public spaces should support social connections, as well as community and civic engagement, with people-centered planning that encourages gathering and meeting.
- **Active & Attractive**
Public spaces should foster exceptional and memorable experiences of the Downtown with a mix of attractive spaces that balance a range of activities and uses; and support a diverse public life.
- **Walkable Spaces**
Public spaces should encourage enjoyable walking experiences and be well connected, where people can walk safely, easily and comfortably on all streets and in all public spaces.
- **Connection to Nature**
The public space network should integrate green and natural spaces, and incorporate climate resilient systems into the public realm.
- **Distinct Placemaking**
Public spaces should strengthen the unique qualities of the Downtown as a special place - in the city and the world, by reflecting local communities and civic identity.
- **Cultural Expression**
Public spaces should provide opportunities for artistic and cultural expression.
- **Community Partnerships**
Residents, community groups and businesses contribute to improving the use and enjoyment of Downtown public spaces, and these partnerships should continue to be encouraged and supported.
- **First Nations Culture, History & Reconciliation**
Downtown Vancouver is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. For thousands of years these lands have been their home. The public space network should recognize and reflect the history of the land on which the downtown was built, by celebrating the history and culture of the First Nations.

The Phase 1 Engagement Summary was presented at open houses at three different locations across the Downtown. A follow-up survey was used to assess how well this summary captured public feedback and the themes that have emerged from what we heard. This survey was made available online through Talk Vancouver and copies were made available at the open houses. The results will be made available shortly through vancouver.ca/placesforpeople.



Figure 6: Walking Tour - Downtown, Waterfront and the Convention Centre

Phase 2: Public Space & Public Life Study

A key part of *Places for People: Downtown* is to better understand how public space functions, and this requires measuring how and where people choose to spend time in spaces, as well as what they do based on their current options. This helps to explain how to improve public spaces, and which design or policy changes might best contribute to the city's public life. This type of observation through a Public Space and Public Life survey (PSPL) involves going directly to the people, meeting them where they are, as part of their everyday routine out in the city, and will inform how the current built environment and regulations directly affect people's behavior and sense of place.

Applying people-centered metrics enables evidence-based recommendations for change, and will help to define success for the *Places for People: Downtown* strategy, providing a methodology to prioritize public-realm investments based on how they affect people, and will inform future City-led initiatives. Combined with other engagement feedback, project surveys, and the collection of quantitative data on the physical makeup of public spaces, these metrics will provide a comprehensive understanding of the entire public space network from the perspective of the people who use public space on a daily basis, and are participating in public life.

In July 2017 the City retained Gehl Studio - a global leader in people-centred urban design and the study of public life - as part of a consultancy to support *Places for People*:

Downtown. As part of the consultancy, Gehl Studio have worked with staff to deliver a Public Space and Public Life Study (summer/fall 2017 and winter 2018) and a Public Space Assessment, which will inform the *Downtown Public Space Strategy*.

Pioneered by Jan Gehl, and refined over 40 years of research and development, the Gehl Public Space and Public Life survey method enables the development of a comprehensive understanding of how people move through and use the space between buildings, and the character, quality and programming of the public space network. The Gehl team has conducted public life studies in over 50 cities, the outcomes of which have resulted in a dramatic improvement in the quality of life for urban residents.

As part of Phase Two of the planning process the Gehl Studio worked with staff to develop a Public Space and Public Life Study of the Downtown study area. A summer/fall study and winter study were recommended to capture seasonal variations in public life. The Public Space and Public Life Study is comprised of two major components, and include:

1. Public Space and Public Life Survey
 - a. Stationary Mapping and User Counts
 - b. Intercept Surveys
2. Public Space Assessment
 - a. Mapping of structural characteristics and activity, built form, street and sidewalk conditions, etc.
 - b. Public Space Quality Assessment

The Gehl team will also be facilitating a workshop with staff from various departments, including Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability and Engineering, to explore public life data collection and protocols, managing citywide public life data, and to build capacity in integrating public life data into city wide policy, planning and project implementation. This will help inform a Public Life Data Collection Plan for the City that will guide future public life studies.



Figure 7: Public Space & Public Life Study - Summer/Fall (September 14 and 16, 2017)

Part1: Summer/Fall Public Space and Public Life Survey

The summer/fall Public Space and Public Life Survey was conducted on Thursday, September 14 and Saturday, September 16, and included both observational analysis of movement and stationary activity, and intercept surveys. Over 250 volunteers participated in the survey, including members of the downtown BIAs, Vancouver Public Space Network, University of British Columbia planning students, local residents, and staff. A variety of public spaces were observed, with nearly thirty-five (35) public spaces across the Downtown including plazas, parks, streets, and pathways, representing diverse space typologies and varying levels of activity.

Shifts were conducted throughout the course of the day across the selected locations in the Downtown study area - from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm.

The initial findings from the summer/fall Public Space and Public Life Survey were not available at the time of the report, but will be presented to the public, stakeholders and staff. The results will be considered together with the winter Public Space and Public Life Survey to inform the Places for People: Downtown strategy.

Public Space Assessment

Staff conducted a Public Space Assessment of the Downtown study area with Gehl Studio that corresponded with the PSPL study. This assessment involved a comprehensive study and documentation of the Downtown public space network (streets, sidewalks, plazas, pathways, etc.). The assessment included observing and recording:

- Structural characteristics (block scale, intersection density and views)
- Built form (quality of building facades and edges)
- Street and sidewalk character and quality, accessibility assessment, amenity mapping
- Analysis of public space quality (e.g. protection, comfort and delight).



Figure 8: Public Space & Public Life Study - Summer/Fall (September 14 and 16, 2017)

Next Steps

In early 2018 staff will prepare the follow-up winter Public Space and Public Life Study. The winter study will document public life habits and the performance of Downtown public spaces when the weather and climate shifts to colder, rainy, and shorter days. After the completion of the winter PSPL, Gehl Studio will prepare a summary of the PSPL study findings and then provide Emerging Strategic Recommendations to inform the Downtown Public Space Strategy.

Through 2018 staff will also continue to engage with the public and stakeholders, collaborating with VIVA Vancouver, BIA's and the Vancouver Public Library on a series of events and activities, including:

- Lumière Festival – Speaker series on Seasonal Design Solutions for Public Space
- Raincouver/Name-your-Rain – making the connection between public space and social isolation, through a seasonal mobile engagement campaign, gathering feedback for improving public space during the winter months
- Themed Workshops – stakeholder workshops on emerging Downtown public space themes
- “Action While Planning” pilot projects – potential test projects to bring the strategy from vision to action (2018); and
- Analysis of underrepresented stakeholder groups and following-up surveys.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

CONCLUSION

This report provides Council with a progress update on the *Places for People: Downtown* engagement, and summarizes staff work to date.

Over the next few months staff will continue to engage with the public and stakeholders, complete the Public Space and Public Life study and analysis, which will contribute to the strategy. Staff will report back on the strategy later in 2018.

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Appendix A



Background: **Downtown Public Space in Focus**



Contents

1. Public Space Overview
2. History
3. Downtown Experience
4. Character Areas
5. Neighbourhoods By the Numbers
6. Addressing Challenges



Downtown Public Space

- Plaza
- Privately-Owned Public Space (POP)
- Park
- Interior Public Space
- Mini-Park
- Parklet / Activated Laneway

A Brief History of Downtown Vancouver's Public Space Network



Salmon catch
(1893)

16,000-11,000 BC to 1800's: The Musqueam (Xw'muthk'i'um), Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations were situated on the traditional territory that is now Vancouver. For many thousands of years there have been seasonal camps along the waterfront of this area, an abundant place for fishing, harvesting, and hunting by these Nations.

1862: The streets west of Burrard Street are laid out by the Three Greenhorns.

1885: The downtown area grew quickly with the establishment of the western terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), setting a pattern for the street grid and laying the foundation of the public space network. This street pattern distinguished Granville Street and Hastings Street as the prominent shopping streets, and Georgia Street and Burrard Street were laid out as high streets. An extensive network of laneways are also featured throughout the downtown.



English Bay beach, Sylvia Court Apartments and bathhouses from the English Bay Pier (1919)



Waterfront Station (1923)

1898: English Bay Beach became major public attraction after sand was added to the waterfront.



Seawall in Stanley Park (1930)

European exploration in the late 18th century brought trade and forestry, and eventually early settlement in the area.

1791: José María Narváez of Spain explored the coast of present-day Point Grey and parts of Burrard Inlet.



"Gassy Jack's Tree" Maple Tree Square (1880)

Forest clearing - present day Denman Street

1865: Hasting's Mill is established on the shore of the Burrard Inlet and a settlement in the area started to take shape around the original makeshift tavern established by "Gassy" Jack Deighton, which came to be known as Gastown

1886: The City is incorporated.

1890: Street cars further establish a pattern of shopping streets anchored around stations and streetcar lines.



1000 block of Robson (1890)

1917: The seawall, began construction with a section around Stanley Park.

1929: Bartholmew Plan: This was the first (and only) master plan for the City of Vancouver — but was never officially adopted.



Looking west on Georgia Street from Granville Street on a rainy day (1930)



Robson Street (1950)



1979 and 1983: Construction of Robson Square begins, encompassing three city blocks in the heart of downtown. Designed by Arthur Erickson to function as Vancouver's landmark civic centre and public plaza, the project much needed open space to the downtown core. But it wasn't until 2016 when a motion from Vancouver City Council provided the decision to permanently close the 800 Block of Robson Street to traffic and open it as a pedestrian public space.



1990's Waterfront Redevelopment: Following Expo, and with nearly all of the industry relocated, a new vision for the waterfront emerged, particularly around the North False Creek, Yaletown and Coal Harbour areas. This urban design vision was one for the first to include rowhouses and carefully distributed retail activity along the street in combination with slim, point towers as a housing model – a form of development that would earn the moniker "Vancouverism."

Beyond extending the street grid and expanding the waterfront walkway, great emphasis was placed on creating a high quality public realm that was meant to create an enjoyable street level experience for people. This protected public views and coordinated public realm treatment, with wide and tree-lined sidewalks, and a mix of gathering places and parks. Many of the downtown's most popular public spaces were shaped during this period, including Hamilton and Mainland Streets, Emory Barnes Park, and the Roundhouse Plaza.



1959: Queen Elizabeth Theatre and Plaza Opens.



1984: BC Place Opened

1985: Skytrain Opens

1986: Expo '86 is held along the shoreline of False Creek where a defunct industrial waterfront was transformed into a vibrant promenade of venues and public spaces, demonstrating the potential of future development in the area.



1995: Vancouver Public Library Central Branch and Library Square Opens



2009: Convention Centre Expansion and Jack Poole Plaza Open

2010: The 2010 Winter Olympics are hosted with major venues located downtown – Canada Line Opens, and Robson Square and Granville Street are closed to traffic for pedestrian only spaces to gather over Olympic festivities.

2016-Present: Laneways are activated, and 800 Robson and the North Plaza are unified and updated, while a new neighbourhood is planned for in Northeast False Creek, with new plazas, parks and active streets





Downtown in Focus

Vancouver has an active, diverse and densely populated downtown, set against a stunning natural backdrop. With opportunities for working, living and playing in close proximity, Downtown offers a complete urban experience. But, an intensifying core also brings complex challenges that require a comprehensive strategy to ensure a welcoming and well-connected public space network.

Bounded by waterfront on three sides, with Stanley Park to the west and the historic downtown neighbourhoods to the east, Downtown Vancouver is comprised of a number of distinct neighbourhood areas and multicultural communities that contribute to the rich downtown experience.

The Downtown Experience

Living, Working, Visiting & Enjoying Downtown

Living Downtown

Downtown Vancouver is comprised of a number of distinct neighbourhood areas and multicultural communities that contribute to the rich downtown experience. Over 100,000 people call Downtown home - families, seniors, and newcomers - primarily residing in apartment buildings, where the majority are tenants.



Visiting Downtown

More than ten million people visited Vancouver in 2016, with many of them touring and staying downtown. With over 14,700 tourist hotel rooms, convention facilities and a cruise ship terminal, downtown Vancouver is a natural centre of tourist activity in the region.

Downtown public spaces – the seawall, Robson Square, Granville and Robson Streets, and countless others – are another key part of the draw and how Vancouver presents itself to the world. Whether taking in the spectacular settings of the seawall and views of the North Shore Mountains, strolling colourful sidewalks through its diverse neighbourhoods, or soaking in a wide range of cultural offerings, downtown Vancouver offers a one of a kind experience for visitors near and far.



Working Downtown

It is estimated that in 2011 there were approximately 100,000 employees working in the downtown and the West End, of which 82,500 work in the Central Business District. During lunch hour, you will find lots of people enjoying plazas and patios, and socializing or staying around to take in some of the night life after work.



Shopping

Shopping is a major draw to the downtown for Vancourites and visitors. Downtown Vancouver's popular shopping streets include Granville, Robson, Denman, Davie, Alberni, Mainland and Hamilton Streets.

Granville Street, which is arguably the city's most important thoroughfare, is a significant downtown transit hub, generating large volumes of foot traffic at all times of day. A mix of large and small retailers line lively stretches of wide, tree-lined sidewalks, and an emerging cluster of restaurant patios and sidewalk cafes are beginning to enliven less frequented portions of the street.

Robson Street is Vancouver's busiest shopping street, where nearly everyday throngs of people fill its narrow sidewalks, as attractive shop fronts draw shoppers and window-shoppers alike.



Events and Festivals

Downtown Vancouver hosts a number of premier annual events that draw thousands of locals and visitors, including the Vancouver Pride Festival, Celebration of Light, Jazz Festival, and Vancouver International Film Festival - and has a reputation for hosting major international events, including the 2010 Winter Olympics.

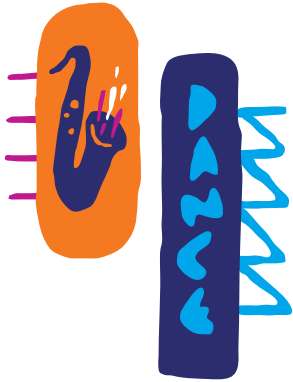
Downtown Vancouver is also home to a number of Vancouver's professional sport teams, where tens of thousands of people attend games throughout the year at both Rogers Arena and BC Place, and use adjacent plazas and streets to celebrate before and after games.



Hollywood North

Vancouver is the third largest film and TV production centre in North America, with 353 productions recorded in 2015 alone - a record-setting year - earning it the nickname "Hollywood North." In addition to plying itself, the city has impersonated dozens of cities ranging from Seattle to Mumbai, in films and TV shows such as Deadpool and Riverdale. Some of the of the most popular filming locations are located downtown, including Granville Street, the Marine Building and a number of laneways where brick walls and wrought iron fire escape staircases make for gritty and urban backdrops on film.





Downtown at Night

Downtown Vancouver's nightlife has shifted around the peninsula over the years, and has recently found a foothold in and around the adjacent Gastown neighbourhood, while more established entertainment destinations like Granville Street, still boast the highest concentration of clubs, dance halls and concert venues in the city. Davie Street and the Stadium Entertainment area are also perennial favorites of Vancouverites.



- Restaurant
- Liquor Primary

Dining and Patios

Downtown Vancouver has the largest concentration of restaurants in the city, where you can find an assortment of options and experiences - from food trucks to fine dining. Patios - both private and on-street - invite people outside and contribute to lively street activity. The addition of windscreens, awnings, pillows and blankets help to manage climate conditions on patios and encourage people to use patios through out the year.





Downtown Neighbourhoods & Character Areas

The Downtown is comprised of a number of neighbourhoods, including the West End, Yaletown, Coal Harbour, the Central Business District and Northeast False Creek. Each is distinct from one another in their public spaces, placemaking elements, buildings, history, and people. Feelings about a place can differ between a long-time resident, a newcomer, employee, or a visitor, and a neighborhood's identity may shift and change over time.

Within each neighbourhood there are smaller character areas that invite locals and visitors to stroll local shopping streets, enjoy a sidewalk patio, and take in a mix of cultural offerings. Some areas are bursting with activity, while others offer quiet respite in the heart of the city. Located close in close proximity, you can see many sides of the downtown in a single day, while traversing its neighbourhoods.



Central Business District

The Central Business District is defined by its tall office towers, prominent civic buildings, spacious plazas, and the more intimate gathering places dotted throughout. This is the regional center of employment and is well-connected by transit. Unlike other cities, Vancouver has many people living near or in the business district making it a lively place in the evenings and weekends.



1 Robson Square

Robson square is Vancouver's civic centre. This three-block area includes the Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza and the 800-block of Robson, which have long been the centre for Vancouverites to socialize and display civil democracy and creative expression. In the heart of downtown, it is a hub of activity, surrounded by the BC Law Courts and the Vancouver Art Gallery, as well as countless bustling shops and restaurants. The square features a seasonal ice rink, sprawling stairs and benches for sitting, public art, buskers, food vendors, and draws large numbers of people hanging out and passing through at all hours of the day.

Providing approximately 121,000 square metres of space, the Robson Square complex is the largest public space in downtown Vancouver, aside from the Seawall and Stanley Park

By the Numbers

- Population: 10,130
- Density: 45.2 people/ha
- Median Income: \$60,461
- Median Age: 38.3
- Average Household Size: 1.9
- Tenure: 57.5% renter / 42.5% owner

2 Library Square

Located within an entire city block on the downtown's ceremonial street - Georgia Street - the unique spiral architecture of the Central Library forms a series of public plazas around its perimeter. Layers of sunny steps and a public atrium attract groups of people in all seasons.



800 Robson

Arthur Erickson originally designed 800 Robson Street as a traffic-free pedestrian public space, seamlessly connecting the blocks to the north and south at the street level as a single connected site. However, after construction was completed, the block was opened to traffic, and it wasn't until a Council decision in 2016, and after several years of VIVA Vancouver-led testing of the street as a seasonal plaza, that it would become a permanent a pedestrian public space.

Downtown in Focus

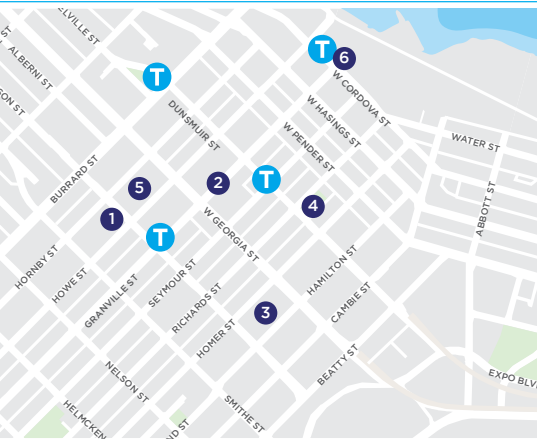
3 Granville Street

Running through the middle of downtown, Granville Street is where you'll find the city's main entertainment district. Colorfully lit by neon lights, countless restaurants, bars and nightclubs keeping the area busy late into the night. Connecting Waterfront Station, south to the Granville Street Bridge, many bus lines transit through Granville, while wide sidewalks make room for shoppers strolling side-by-side and cafe patrons enjoy buskers from a patio.



3 Waterfront Station

This is an important regional transportation hub where the Skytrain, Canada Line, West Coast Express rail line, and Seabus ferry converge. It is also within walking distance to the cruise ship terminal, seaplane terminal, and helicopter terminal. The forecourt of the station also acts as a connection between the Central Business District, Coal Harbour and Gastown.



Places

1. Robson Square
2. Granville Street
3. Library Square
4. Cathedral Square
5. Vancouver Art Gallery
6. Waterfront Station

POPS

There are a number of privately owned public spaces (POPS) located throughout the Central Business District, providing gathering space adjacent to privately owned offices and other commercial properties. They are popular with office workers and shoppers looking for a place to take a break or enjoy a bite to eat, such as Oceanic Plaza and Lot 19 on Hastings Street.



West End

The West End is a truly vibrant and diverse neighbourhood, home to new-comers, families, students, seniors and the city's LGBTQ2+ community. While adjacent Stanley Park and the beaches are often the main attraction for visitors, the three shopping villages are the centre of activity for locals. Escaping the action, leafy green side streets provide a tranquil experience in what is the city's most densely populated residential area.



1 Davie Village

Traditionally a center for the city's LGBTQ2+ community, Davie Village has locally-serving businesses and restaurants and fabulous nightlife activities. Anchored by Jim Deva Plaza, it helps knit together the surrounding high density neighbourhoods and serves as an important community hub.



2 Denman Village

Often considered to be the West End's "main street," Denman Village is a summer time beach stroll. It connects English Bay and Davie Street to Robson Street and Coal Harbour. Its low-rise buildings feature a mix of local businesses and community amenities.

By the Numbers

- Population: 41,200
- Density: 214.2 people/ha
- Median Income: \$42,907
- Median Age: 38.8
- Average Household Size: 1.5
- Tenure: 80.9% renter / 19.1% owner

Rainbow Crosswalks

The Davie Street Rainbow Sidewalk Crossings - added in 20__ - reflects the original eight colored design of the "gay flag," which was created by Gilbert Baker, a San Francisco Artist, in response to a local activist's call for the need of a community symbol borne out of love, and not hate. The crosswalk is an iconic fixture of the neighbourhood and the city's LGBTQ2+ community.



3 Robson Village

A major regional shopping and entertainment district, Robson street is ideal for window shopping and people-watching. The Village is a favorite shopping and restaurant destination for locals and visitors.

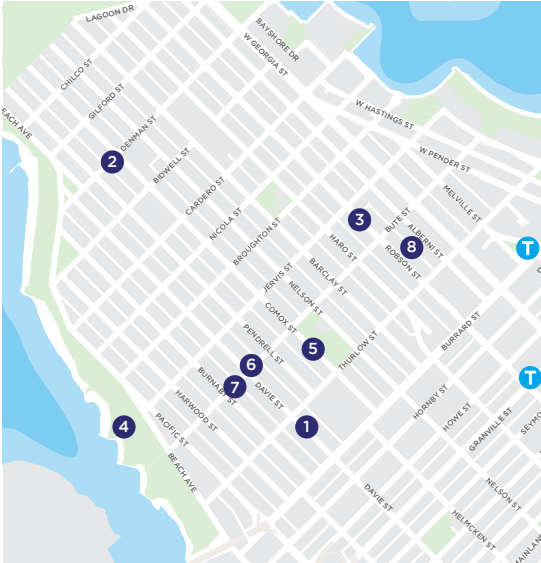


4 Sunset and Beach Waterfront

Often featured in iconic photographs of Vancouver, the beach waterfront connects False Creek to Stanley Park. It is a popular destination for visitors and locals alike who you will find suntanning, socialize or strolling along the sandy beaches.

4 Mole Hill

A unique block of preserved and reconstructed heritage homes, Mole Hill is a green oasis in the heart of the West End. It's an award-winning sustainable building project that consists mostly of city-owned social housing. A walk down the lush and welcoming laneway takes you out of the hustle-and-bustle of the surrounding city..



Places

- 1. Davie Village
- 2. Denman Village
- 3. Robson Village
- 4. Sunset Beach & Waterfront
- 5. Mole Hill
- 6. Rainbow Crosswalks
- 7. Jim Deva Plaza
- 8. Alberni Laneway



Coal Harbour

Coal Harbour is a relatively newer downtown neighbourhood made up of high-rise residential apartment and condo towers, with townhouse podiums, built upon former shipyards next to the railway terminus. Locals and visitors congregate along the seawall to enjoy the sweeping views of the North Shore Mountains, while a mix of neighbourhood cafes and restaurants, marinas and grassy lawns contribute to a pleasant experience of the public realm. The Convention Centre, Canada Place and Waterfront Station are also major tourist destinations and important regional transportation hubs.

1 Coal Harbour

This area is defined by gleaming residential glass towers and waterfront parks along the seawall, offering a spectacular view of the North Shore Mountains. This area has many restaurants and photo opportunities, making it a popular stroll for locals and visitors.



By the Numbers

Population: 10,130
Density: 224 people/ha
Median Income: \$60, 461
Median Age: 38
Average Household Size: 1.9
Tenure: 57.7% renter / 42.3% owner

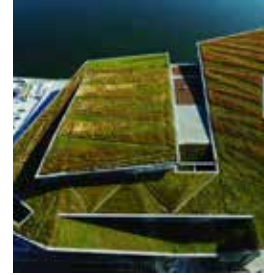
Seawall

Extending between Stanley Park Seawall to the Vancouver Convention Centre, this section of the seawall is one of the most popular attractions in the city, where you will pass prominent buildings and an intricate network of lush green spaces, with plenty of places to sit and take in the epic views.



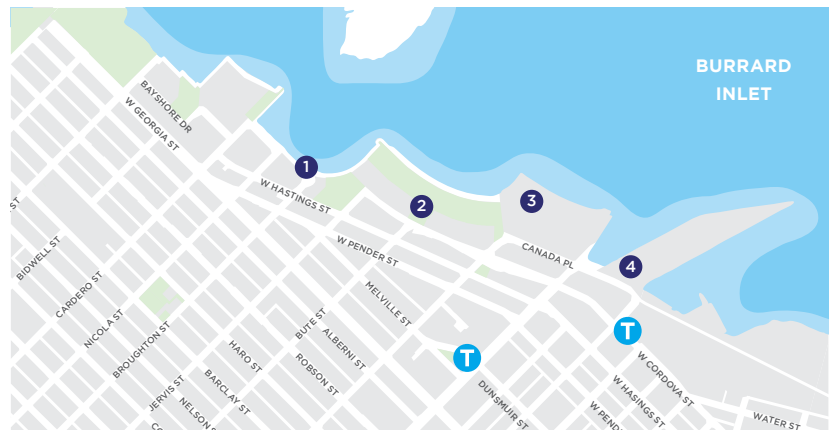
2 Vancouver Convention Centre

A recognizable icon of Vancouver with its expansive "living green roof," the Convention Centre reaches out and over the waters of Vancouver Harbour, encircled by the seawall and a number of gathering places, including Jack Poole Plaza, home to the 2010 Olympic Cauldron. The equally iconic Canada Place building featuring a fabric roof that resembles sails, houses a cruise ship terminal, the Pan Pacific Hotel, additional convention centre spaces.



Places

1. Seawall
2. Harbour Green Park
3. Jack Poole Plaza
4. Canada Place



Yaletown

Named after the town of Yale, which moved its settlement as the Canadian Pacific Railway established its works yards along the Northern edge of False Creek, Yaletown is now an attractive mixed use neighbourhood. Following Expo '86, and with nearly all of the industry in the area relocated, a new vision for the waterfront and the adjoining warehouse district emerged, transforming into one of the city's most popular neighbourhoods, filled with residential towers, loft spaces, sidewalk cafes, restaurant patios, unique shopping, and leafy parks and plazas.



False Creek North

Buildings and streets in this area are oriented around large parks along the seawall. Streets, mews and walkways are lined with broad trees and generous planting. Townhomes with small patios adjoin the podiums of the residential towers with the wide sidewalks.



By the Numbers

Yaletown

Population: 20,070

Density: 261.6 people/ha

Median Income: \$58,233

Median Age: 34.9

Average Household Size: 1.6

Tenure: 43.2% renter / 56.8% owner

False Creek North

Population: 14,110

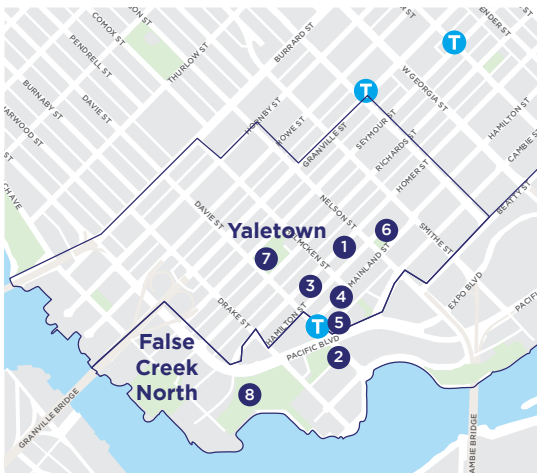
Density: 140.3 people/ha

Median Income: \$74,741

Median Age: 35

Average Household Size: 1.9

Tenure: 44.3% renter / 55.7% owner



Places

1. Old Yaletown
2. Roundhouse Plaza
3. Hamilton Street
4. Mainland Street

5. Bill Curtis Square

6. Yaletown Plaza

7. Emory Barnes Park

8. David Lam Park

1 Old Yaletown

Spanning two blocks, old Yaletown is a historical area of 4- to 6-storey brick warehouses. Restaurant patios line the red brick platforms that were originally loading docks. Above the restaurants, there are offices, some residential homes, and the occasional rooftop patio.



Docks & Warehouses

Yaletown was originally developed as a compact warehousing district, characterized by tall brick buildings, with raised loading docks and large canopies. With the removal of the railway in the early 1980's, the loading docks remained as heritage structures and in the mid-'90s as land use in the area transformed towards residential, office, retail, and restaurant uses portions of Mainland and Hamilton Streets between Nelson and Drake Streets were improved for pedestrian use with walkways and patios.



New Yaletown

Yaletown is a mix of old and new and commercial and residential. It is close to bustling commercial streets, and encircles Old Yaletown. It has the convenience of downtown living, yet still has the high quality streetscape and greenery of the North False Creek character area.

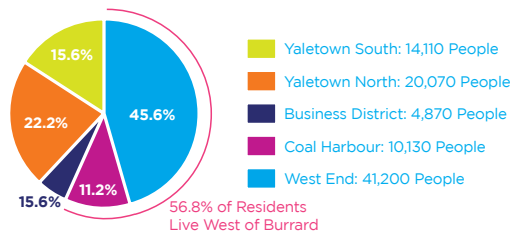


Neighbourhoods by the Numbers

Population & Jobs

(2011 Census Data)

More than half of all residents live west of Burrard in the downtown. The business district has the highest number of commercial and office buildings in the City, having a lower population of residents compared to the rest of downtown. Downtown functions as a job centre for the rest of downtown,



90,380 Live Downtown

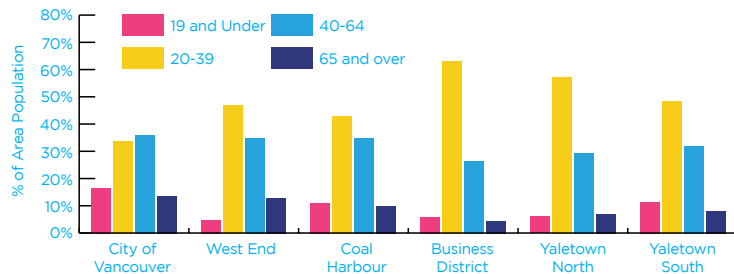
>150,000 Work Downtown

12,000 Hotel Rooms are Downtown

Age

(2011 Census Data)

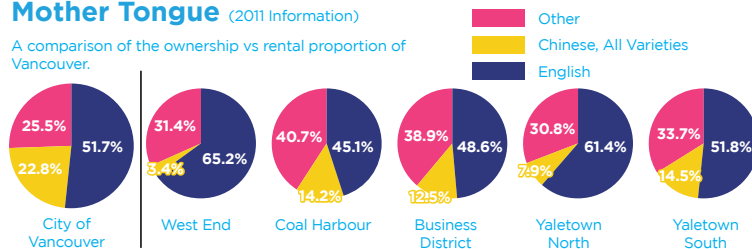
A comparison of the demographic makeup of Vancouver.



Mother Tongue

(2011 Information)

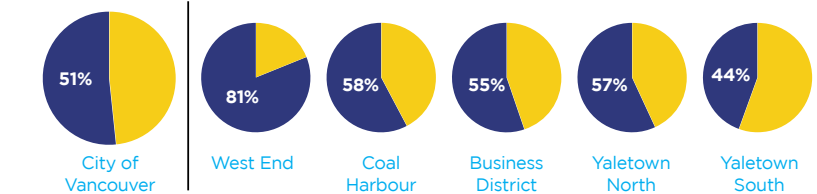
A comparison of the ownership vs rental proportion of Vancouver.



Places for People Downtown

Tenure (2011 Information)

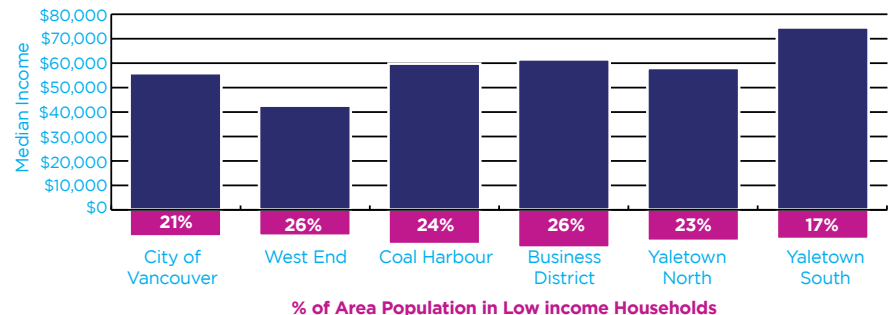
Renter
Owner



Median Income & Poverty

(2011 Information)

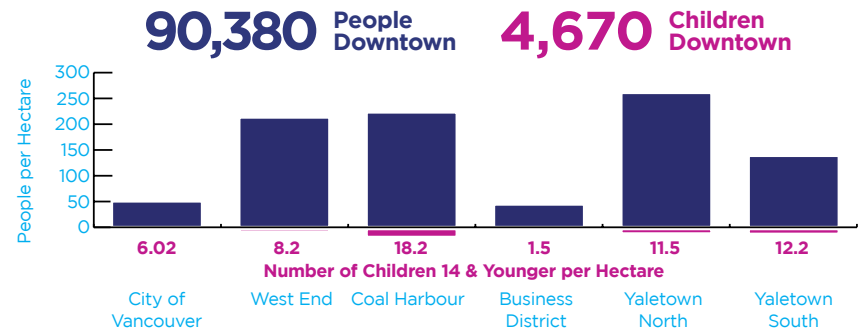
A comparison of the median income of each downtown region part of the study area as well as the proportion of the study area.



Population & Density

(2011 Information)

A comparison of the population density and density of children for each downtown region part of the study area.



Places for People Downtown

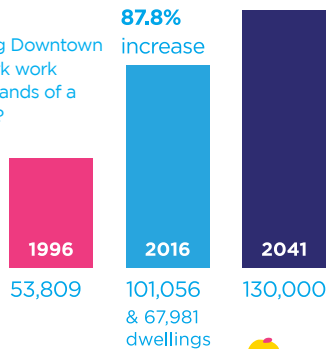
Addressing Challenges

Downtown has experienced substantial population growth over the last few decades, drawing people of all ages, including families and new-comers, with its attractive urban living. More recently this has been matched by significant employment and office growth.

Like other attractive urban centres around the world, an intensifying core brings both opportunities and challenges, where competing priorities for a constrained land base test the delivery of a welcoming and connected public space network.

A Growing Population

How can the existing Downtown public space network work harder to meet demands of a growing population?



Changing Attitudes

New ways of living and working are having profound effects on how we use and interpret our cities. Many people can now work anywhere and just as easily they can move from city to city, or around the globe.

—How do we consider a more mobile population who want unique and active urban experiences when planning and designing our public spaces?

Feeling Connected

According to research by the Vancouver Foundation, it's hard to make friends in Vancouver, leading to a sense of disconnection and isolation.

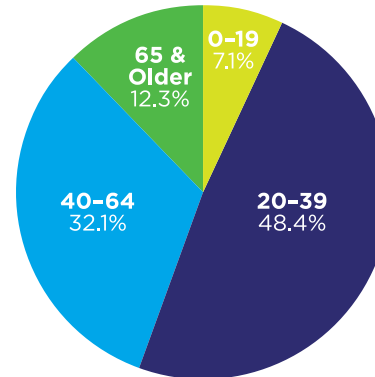
—How do we promote stronger community ties and social connection through the design, programming and use of our public spaces?



Young and Old

Downtown residents are generally younger than those living elsewhere in the city

—How do we ensure public spaces are accessible and attractive to Vancouverites of all ages and abilities?



Urban Families

There are 4,000 children aged 14 or under living in the Downtown, primarily in the West End and False Creek North. In 2011, there were 8.51 children/ha, which exceeds the citywide average of 6.2 children/ha.

—How do we ensure safe and fun spaces for kids of all ages?

More Compact Spaces

Nearly all downtown residents live in apartment buildings, and the majority are tenants. Neighbourhood plazas, parks, and streets tend to act as the backyards and patios for many residents.

—How do we meet the various needs of residents living in smaller homes to ensure they have the places and spaces they require to relax and enjoy the city?

Community Momentum

There is significant interest from the public, business and community groups in creating more and better public spaces, including the business improvement associations (BIAs) that are actively engaged in a number of public space initiatives in recent years.

—How do we continue to build upon community partnerships and empower the public to get involved in the creation, stewardship and activation of our public spaces?

Other challenges to consider

—How can we ensure public and semi-public spaces truly feel public?

—How can we design spaces that balance mobility and access with great placemaking?

—How do we determine whether corporate-sponsored activities might be appropriate, while balancing the need for community-based events and spontaneous activities?

Limited Land

—How do we deliver new spaces with a limited land supply?

4% of the city's land
20.2% of the population

What issues are important to consider when planning Downtown public spaces?





Phase One Engagement Results & Emerging Strategic Themes

2017



Official Launch Event at
Robson Square



Contents

1. Context
2. Overview
3. Public Space Survey Feedback
4. Asset Mapping Results
5. Emerging Public Space Themes & Opportunities
6. Next Steps

Appendix

Context

Places for People

Vancouver's public spaces — plazas, squares, streets, laneways, pathways, parks and waterfront — are where public life happens. These places and spaces are where we interact with the city on a daily basis, as we work, play, create, explore and connect with each other.

Places for People proposes an approach to public space planning that starts with an understanding and appreciation of public life and the people who use public space on a daily basis.

Great public spaces are Places for People!

A strategy for public life and public space in Downtown Vancouver

Downtown is the heart of the city, and home to some of the most popular public spaces in Vancouver. It's also an area that's growing with more residents, businesses and visitors each year. This means increased demand on the existing public space network in the future. Since space and opportunities are limited in the Downtown core, we need to be creative and strategic in how we deliver public space.

Through Places for People | Downtown we will create a comprehensive strategy to coordinate and deliver Downtown public space over the next 30 years.



Downtown Study Area

The strategy will cover the each neighbourhood area on the downtown peninsula, including: the West End, Yaletown, Coal Harbour, Central Business District, and Northeast False Creek (ongoing planning process: vancouver.ca/hefc)





Project Timeline

The 18-month planning process consists of four main phases:



- 1 SUMMER 2017**
Launch: Vision, values & favourite places
- 2 FALL 2017**
Public space/public life study & policy testing
- 3 WINTER /SPRING 2018**
Strategic directions
- 4 SUMMER/ FALL 2018**
Draft strategy & report to council

2 Overview

In June 2017 the City of Vancouver's Department of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability launched Places for People: Downtown, a planning process to create a strategy that will shape the future of public space and public life in Downtown Vancouver over the next 30-years.

Throughout summer 2017 there was a great deal of interest and input from a variety of people at a series of public events and online forums, as part of the first phase of the planning process and public engagement. Over the span of six weeks, the Places for People team installed the engagement kiosk in public spaces and special events throughout the Central Business District, Yaletown, Coal Harbour and the West End, and partnered with local community and business groups, to learn what people thought about Downtown Vancouver's public spaces.

We connected with over 4,500 people through this process. Additionally, an online survey and asset mapping exercise were launched that received 1,925 responses. Participants provided feedback on the issues that need to be addressed for a successful strategy, as well as the ideas, opportunities and values that will help guide its delivery.

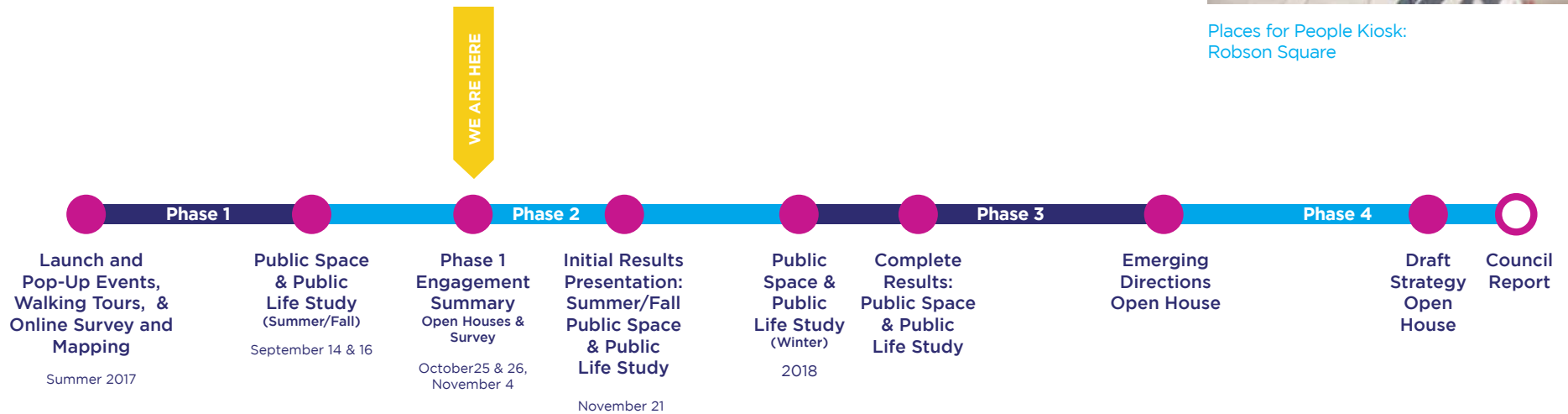
This document outlines what was heard through the process so far, and will help frame the focus of the planning work as the process transitions to the next phase of our public engagement, and look to deliver a compelling vision for the Downtown that fosters public life through an attractive public realm for all - where we work, play, create, explore and connect with each other.

Feedback from Public Engagement

The results from this Phase 1 Engagement Summary, combined with the findings from the Public Space and Public Life Study and technical planning work conducted by City of Vancouver staff will inform the strategic directions which will come forward as part of phase 3 in 2018. Together, these elements will inform the Downtown Public Space Strategy due in 2018.



Places for People Kiosk:
Robson Square



Places for People Launch Event: Robson Square

Launch Events

On June 29, Places for People Downtown kicked off its summer engagement campaign in Robson Square, followed by launch events in Coal Harbour, Yaletown and the West End. Designed to be friendly, colourful and welcoming, the engagement kiosk was designed with the help of local illustrator Jeff Kulak, with seating provided by FSOARK.





Gathering ideas,
opportunities
and issues



Kaleido

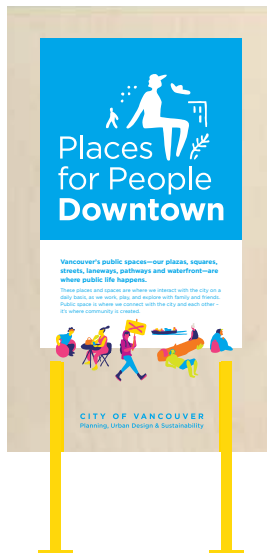
Made from a single piece of recycled craft cardboard, FSOARK's Kaleido is portable, ready-to-assemble furniture that can be folded into shape as easily as a paper box. The structure is derived from investigating the elemental form of the equilateral triangle.

Kaleido can be used singularly or in numbers, creating patterns of seating and open surfaces for large gatherings. Featuring illustrations by Jeff Kulak, Kaleido was commissioned by the City of Vancouver's Places for People Downtown as multipurpose, temporary street furniture that is environmentally conscious, versatile and economical.

The word "kaleido" is a combination of the Greek words "kalos", meaning "beautiful", and "eidos", meaning "form."

Custom panels of the Kaleidos (below)

Customized
Places for People
Engagement Kiosk



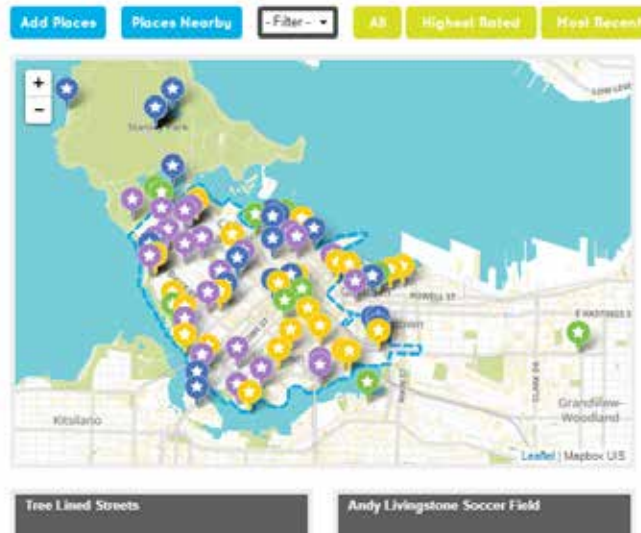
Online Survey

Between June 28 and August 7, an online survey for Places for People Downtown was launched through Talk Vancouver. The purpose of the survey was identify issues and opportunities to improve the Downtown public realm, while testing a set of values and gathering feedback and ideas that will help shape a vision for public space and public life in the Downtown.



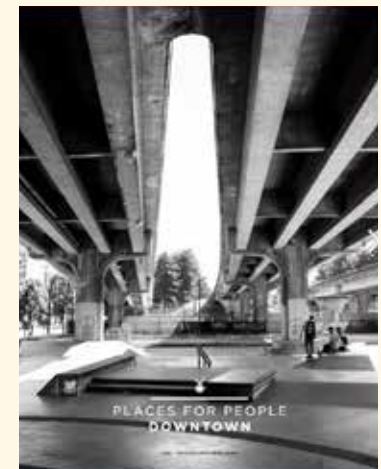
Asset Mapping

Asset mapping was conducted with an online format in addition to the mapping exercise at the launch and pop-up events. The asset mapping was used to collect information on favourite and challenged spaces in the Downtown, specifically asking: “What are your favourite public spaces in Downtown Vancouver, and why?” and “If you could change or add a public space in Downtown Vancouver, where and what would it be?” A total of 225 people participated in the exercise.



Street Photography Competition - Archive Magazine

Places for People partnered with local photography magazine, Archive Vancouver, as part of a street photography competition that features photos of Downtown public spaces and public life - in the October 2017 issue.



Pop-Ups & Collaborations

Places for People Downtown connected with a variety of organizations and popular summer festivals to “pop-up” at various community events over the summer, including collaborations with the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, Tourism Vancouver, Vancouver Farmers Market, The Drum is Calling, Vancouver Pride Festival and VIVA Vancouver.



Social Storytelling

Supported by photographer Alison Boulier and illustrator Jeff Kulak, a Places for People social storytelling campaign was launched to showcase Downtown Vancouver's public spaces and celebrate the community of public space activators helping to animate these spaces.



Public Space Walking Tours

Through July and August, a series of public space walking tours were conducted throughout Downtown Vancouver's neighbourhoods. Led by the City of Vancouver's Planning staff, the events were designed to familiarize participants with Downtown Vancouver's existing public spaces, while engaging in a dialogue to receive their feedback, ideas and opportunities for improvements, and shared experiences of the Downtown, as well as self-guided tours.



Stakeholder Meetings

The Downtown Public Space Champions, a diverse group representing a variety of interests and community organizations throughout Downtown Vancouver and citywide will convene at key moments in the process to provide advice and a stakeholder's perspective on related issues and champion opportunities for public space in the Downtown.



Phase One Engagement Highlights

From June to August 2017 over 6,400 people were engaged at a series of events throughout the Downtown.



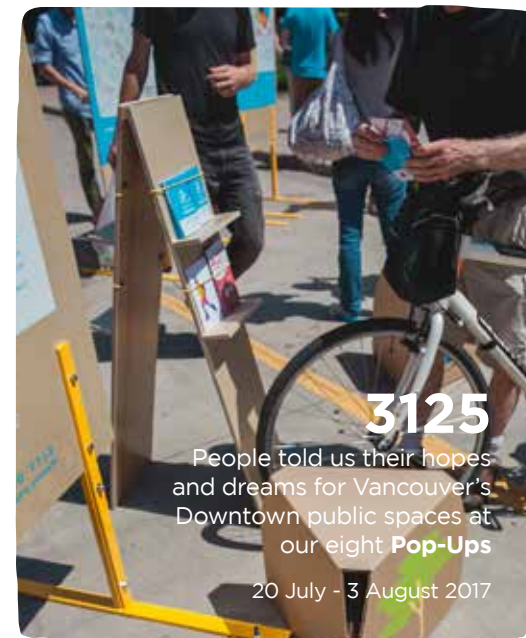
500
people attended
the **official launch**
in Robson Square
29 June 2017



850
people were informed
about the process at
one of our four project
Launch Events and
provided feedback
and ideas on a variety
of issues
6 - 13 July 2017



1700
people provided feedback
through the online **Public
Space Survey**.
June 28 to Aug 7



3125
People told us their hopes
and dreams for Vancouver's
Downtown public spaces at
our eight **Pop-Ups**
20 July - 3 August 2017



40

representatives from a diversity of stakeholder organizations have been invited to participate in the **Public Space Champions stakeholder meetings**

First meeting - 5 July 2017



Social Storytelling

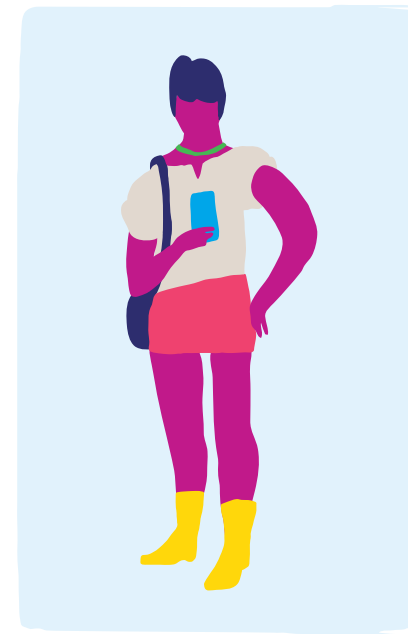
A Places for People social storytelling campaign was launched to showcase Downtown Vancouver's public spaces and celebrate the community of public space activators helping to animate these spaces



66

people participated in five **Walking Tours** that covered Coal Harbour, the West End, Robson & Alberni Streets, Yaletown and the Central Business District

20 - 22 July 2017



225

people participated in the online **Asset Mapping Exercise** identifying favourite and challenged spaces

June 28 to Aug 7



3 Public Space Survey Summary

At a high level, the public space survey illustrated a desire for more public spaces that support public gathering, social connections and conversations. Participants also highlighted a strong desire for public art, natural features, community markets, enhanced eating and drinking options, and increasing patios in the public realm.

Improving weather protection, to ensure comfort year round and ensuring accessibility to all spaces were also mentioned regularly throughout the survey. The “BIG (or little) ideas on public space in Downtown Vancouver,” highlighted several responses to make sections of Downtown car-free or pedestrian only streets - including Granville Street and Robson Street, which were the clear preferences.

The following section provides a summary of the responses from each of the questions from the survey that was conducted between June 28 and August 7.



Survey Highlights

Many big ideas for downtown involved sitting & gathering, and pedestrianized streets.



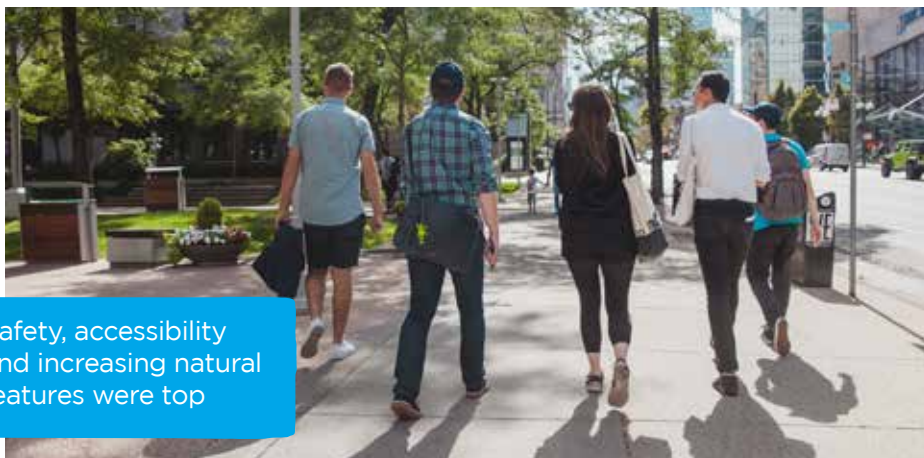
Provide ways to connect to one another



Weather protection should be prioritized at public space edges



Safety, accessibility and increasing natural features were top

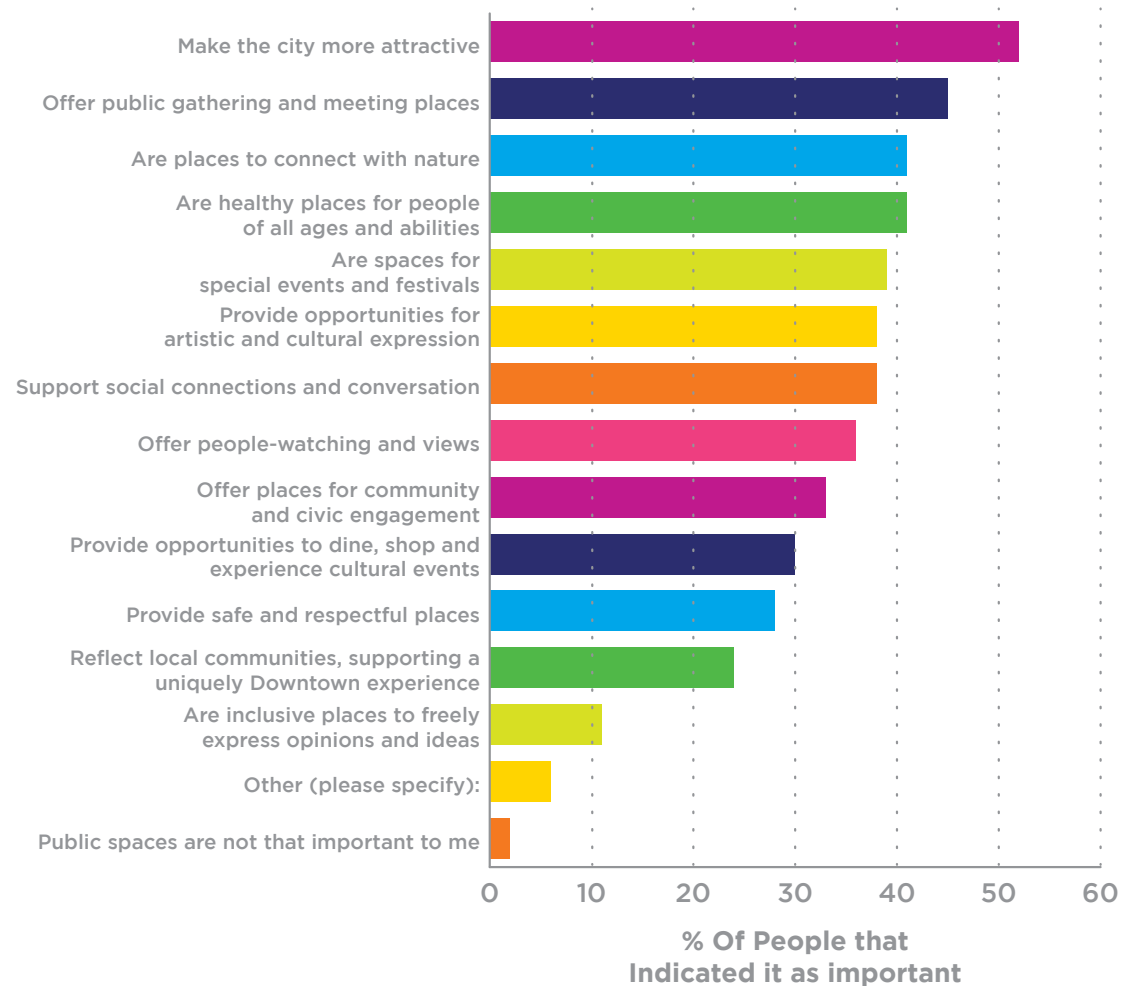


>50% Of people who responded to our survey want more public art, natural features, markets and eating / drinking options in our downtown public spaces.

Why is Public Space important to you?

Understanding why public space is important as it provides insight into the values people hold in regard to these spaces and how they experience the downtown. Feedback to this question highlighted:

- Making the city more attractive as most important, followed by places for gathering and meeting, and places to connect with nature
- Overall, there was a general balance in the responses to the public space values that were highlighted



Top Responses



To make the city more attractive or connect with nature.

Support safe, equitable spaces.



Cultural and artistic events, dining & shopping.



Community engagement & space to freely express oneself



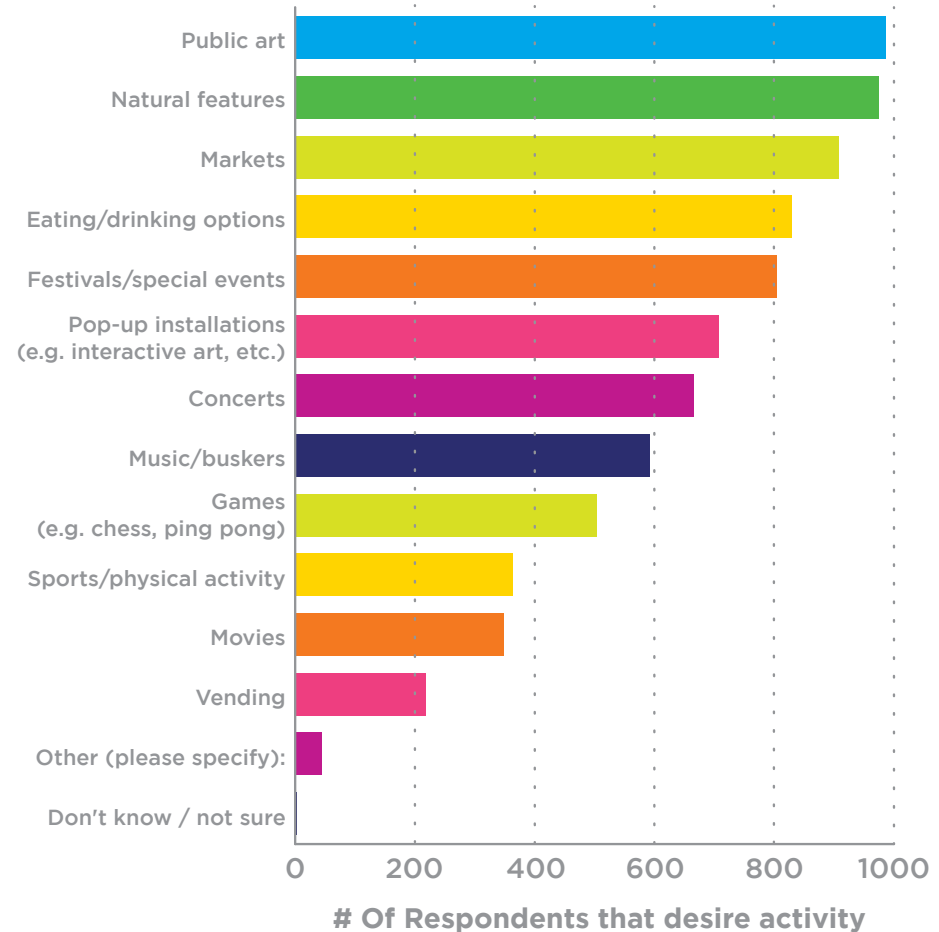
Support public gathering, social connections & conversation

What would you like to see more of and do in public spaces generally?

Public spaces must respond to a wide range of needs and demands from vibrant activity, to passive recreation to quiet enjoyment. A mix of responses to this survey question demonstrates the diversity of uses required in Downtown public spaces and the importance of building flexibility into these spaces.

The majority of respondents identified a strong desire for public art, natural features, community markets, enhanced eating and drinking options, and spaces for festivals and special events.

Top Four Responses



In the Downtown, do you have a space to...



Responses and ideas to these questions and others will help us plan the right space and places for everyone to enjoy Downtown life to the fullest!

Notable ‘Other’ Responses

Plazas

- “I love the pop up park on Bute at Robson, built in a day, and full of people immediately. We clearly need more of this form.”
- “Just space to be sitting down, like the benches on Bute and Robson near Breka. I love that!”

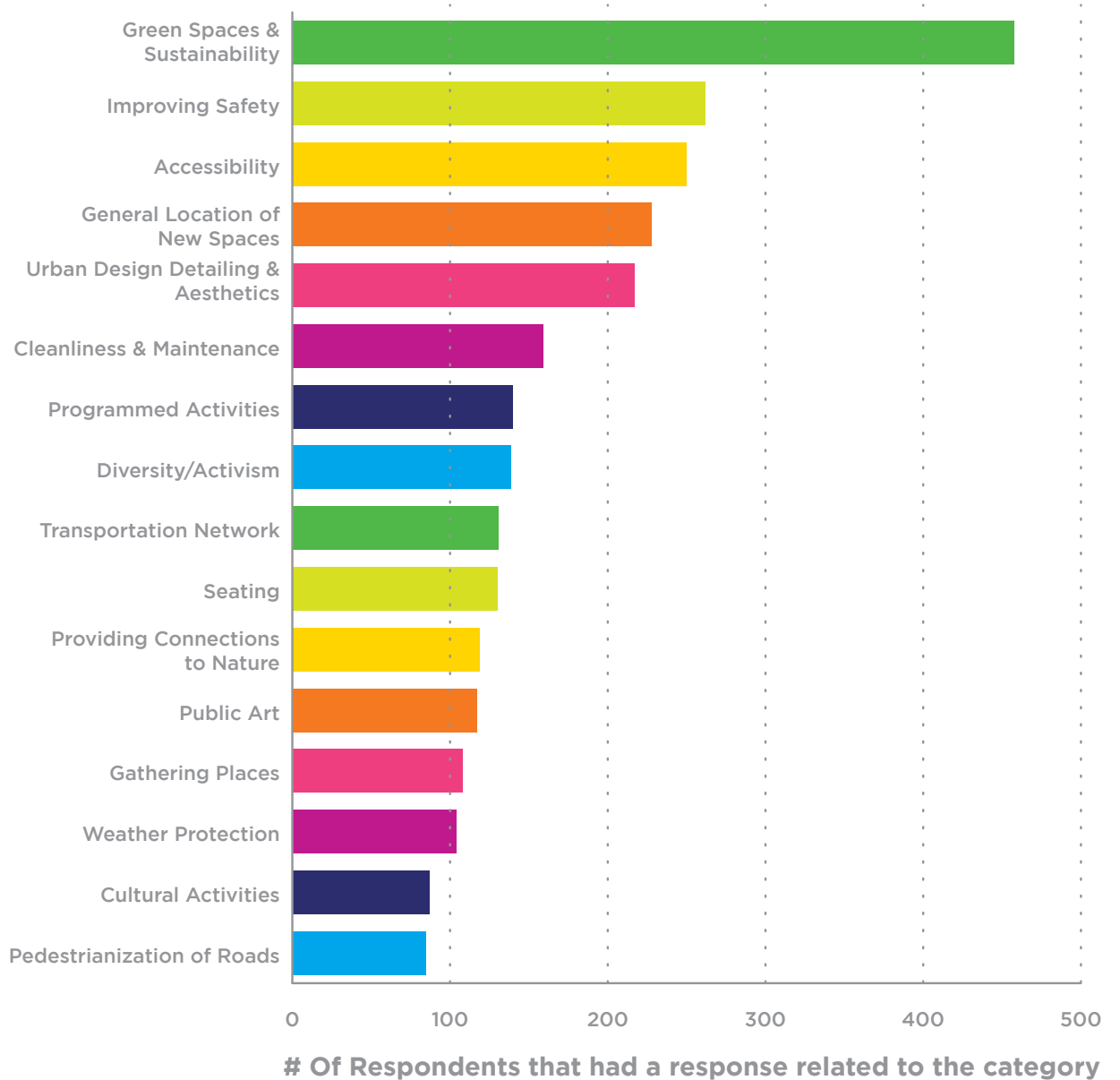
Places for Fun

- “Places for people to sit and interact, e.g. the urban beach that they did one year - chairs and tables are boring.”
- “Playful elements for children.”

Places for Quiet

- “Relaxation. A backyard feeling of being able to use it for your own quiet enjoyment.”
- “Quiet events - there is already too much noise in the West End/downtown area.”

What are top three priorities to consider when planning Downtown Vancouver's public spaces over the next 30 years?



“ What we heard:

Visually compelling! Use a variety of colours and textures and materials to not just be useful, but be interesting as well.

Make sure they are environmentally conscious. Adding more greenery everywhere is great. Creating regulations for new buildings to keep it green not only keep it quick!

Arts and culture. The cost of living here has put unsustainable pressure on the arts community and public spaces should be structured to facilitate arts and cultural life.

Ensuring that public spaces are safe and pedestrian-friendly - ensuring that no cyclists or skate-boarders or drivers of other sorts of vehicles are kept out of such public places, so that people feel safe and welcome and able to circulate freely there, socializing with other Vancouverites or tourists.

Create more all-weather spaces and kid-oriented outdoor spaces especially where residential spaces are small and dense (West End, Gastown, Yaletown).

Accessibility. A lot of public spaces (like the beaches or parks in the west) are pretty hard to get to. Impossible in car (no parking) and little to no transit that runs out there.

... Public spaces should be accessible to all people, regardless of their physical ability. Likewise, spaces should be open to people of all class, race, cultural, and economic backgrounds.

More a community space, plazas or squares that are widely accessible and multi-purpose, only for people. Latin America and Europe have figured out the value of car-free spaces that foster community, why can't we?

Make it easier for smaller food and drink vendors to thrive in these spaces: some of the lowest hanging fruit is reducing alcohol regulation, have shared patio space for multiple vendors, shared stages for music

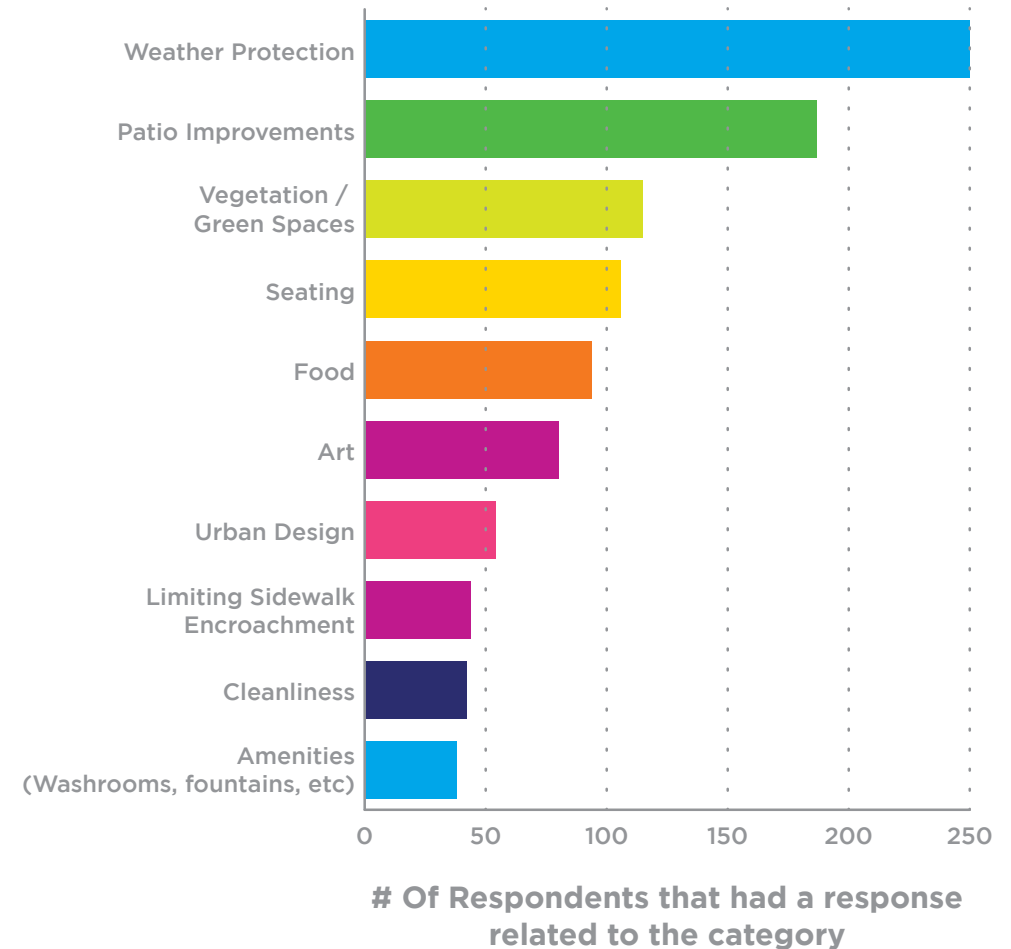
More 'dead blocks' should become plaza space (like Jim Deva Plaza and the new temporary space at Robson and Bute). I'm sure we have dozens of these odd roads that are more useful as plazas.

”



What are your ideas for how adjacent buildings, businesses, or other 'edge features' could enhance your experience in Downtown public spaces?

- A large number of responses dealt with comfortable long stays for eating, sitting, and interactive art
- 27% of respondents wanted more weather protection
- 20% wanted more patios
- 13% wanted more nature or more shade at public space edges



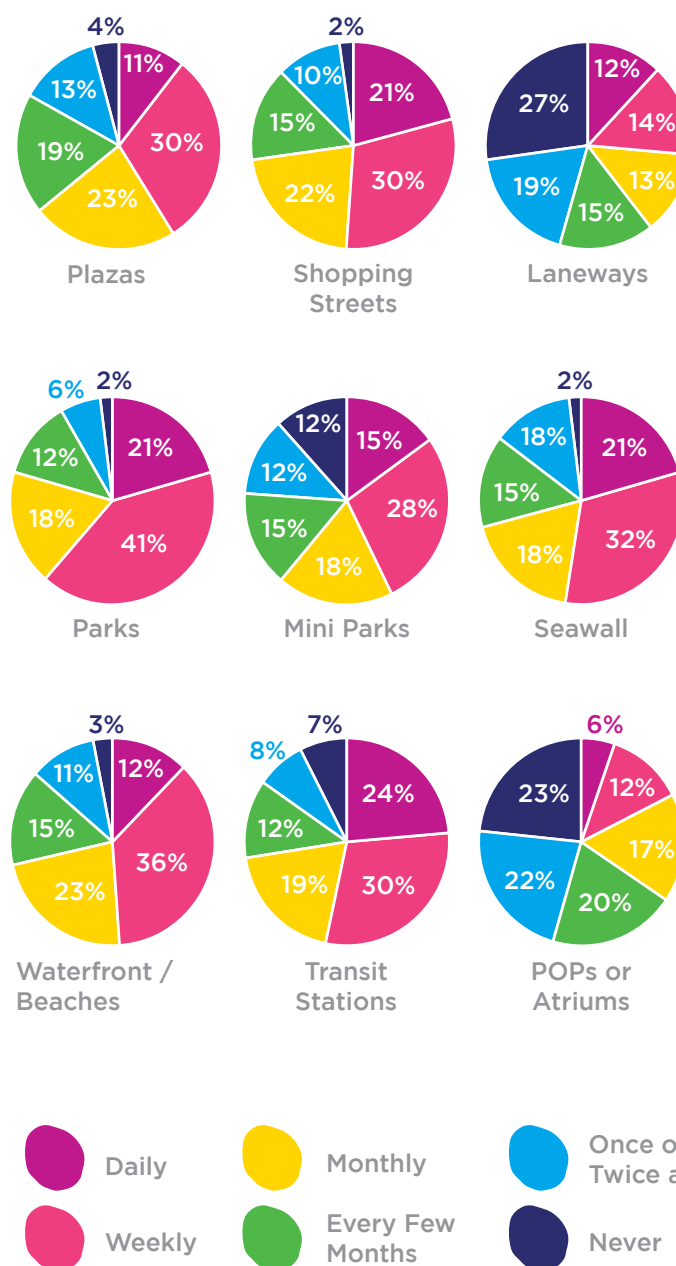
How often did you visit these Downtown Vancouver public spaces over the last year?

“ Sidewalks where live music is played, along Granville St. (between West Georgia and Nelson Street).

“ The problem with Vancouver is it doesn't have enough good public spaces besides the waterfront. I struggle to come up with good examples.

“ [...] I spend time in the plaza at the Woodward's complex daily or almost-daily, and work nearby Victory Square; that park seems to me a poster child for a public space which reflects its local community.

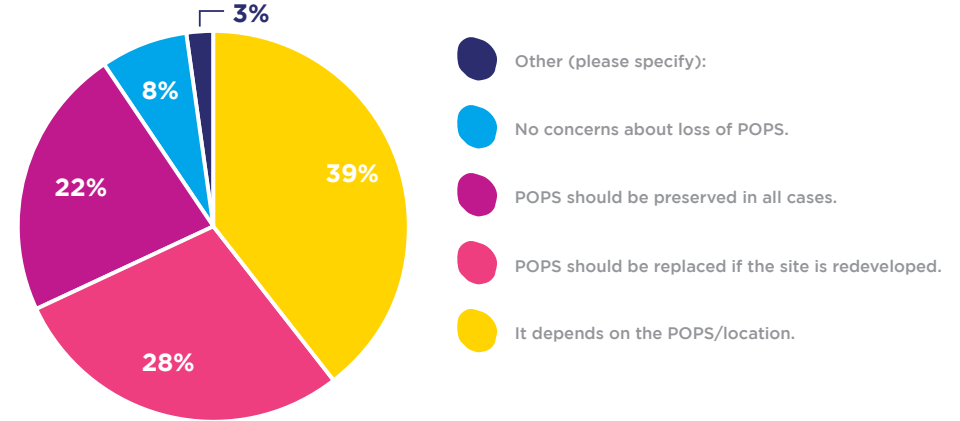
“ VPL indoor atrium. HSBC Georgia indoor atrium (which I was delighted to discover is a public space). Pacific Centre glass dome where Take 5 Cafe is, beside 4 Seasons Hotel. Art gallery grounds.



What are your thoughts about POPS retention?

Privately-owned public spaces (POPS) are publicly-accessible open spaces primarily found in front of office buildings and retail in the Downtown's central business district. In some cases POPS are being lost because they are used to accommodate new development, such as retail or office buildings.

Fifty percent (50%) of respondents recommended that POPS should be preserved or replaced in some form, and 39% of respondents claimed that retention of these spaces ought to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.



General POPS Comments

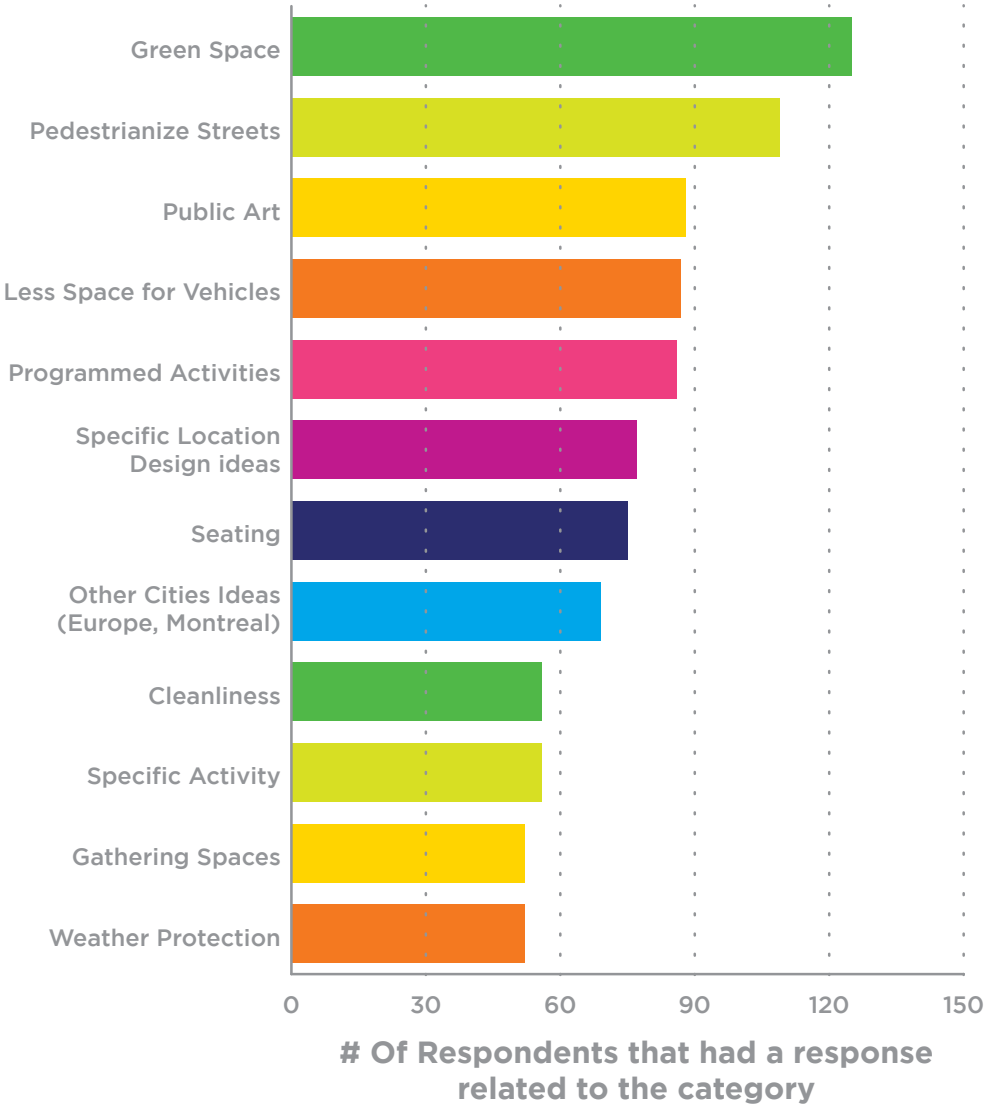
- I work downtown, but never think to go downtown on weekends. Downtown spaces are bustling on week days, but seems pretty dead on weekends. This seems especially true for all the POPS, like all the plazas around the Bentall Centre. Maybe there are alternative uses for weekends in these spaces that could attract people downtown.
- Cafes, restaurants and bars with patios on the edges of POPS would increase the use of these spaces. Patios encourage people to enjoy these outdoor spaces more frequently. Awnings to protect against rain (or sun) would help as well.
- POPS, once created, should never be built on. The developer obtains concessions for creating these spaces
- Create more POPS - public spaces aren't the only solution.
- There are some gorgeous waterfalls and fountains; they really add to the ambiance of POPS and parks. Great to sit and chat and eat lunch...
- Many POPS around downtown were designed and built around 70s and 80s, they don't feel welcoming and inviting, often hidden from public view.



POPS: Plaza in Bentall Place
on Burrard Street

What's your BIG (or little) idea for public space in Downtown Vancouver?

The responses to the BIG (or little) ideas on public space in Downtown Vancouver highlighted a desire for more green spaces as a clear preference, as well as ideas for making sections of Downtown car-free or car-light – with Granville Street and Robson Street as the clear favourites.



More opportunities to sit, gather, or actively use spaces Downtown

“ I was in Bend Oregon at a brewery. They had a beer garden the size of a soccer field. There they had beanbag toss games, frisbee space, along with adirondack chairs and tables for sitting and lounging. All about were adults with their kids hanging out and laughing with their adult friends without kids. Dogs running about would have been lovely. Why can we not create an ANYTHING GOES SPACE?

“ Playgrounds for all - (aka Action Parks) different types of spaces designed for physical play, including parkour courses, pump tracks, multi-sport courts and climbing playgrounds.

“ A plaza each on Denman, Robson and Granville streets.

“ Create a framework of co-designing the public spaces with the community. Maybe several parklets that foster people's creativity to “take ownership” of the space and use it in a different way.

“ Your strategy should EXPLICITLY include a rainy-weather strategy for public spaces. How can we keep our spaces usable all year round?

Big Ideas involved adding green spaces to the city

Making sections of Downtown car-free: Granville & Robson Streets were favourites

“ Make Granville Street a Pedestrian-only street, just like what has been done in many other great cities. This would provide a safe space (from vehicles and bicycles), great for people watching, great for shopping, great for special events.

“ Fruit trees and vines would be great. Also, the artist in residence programs at rec center are great. Let's extend that concept to outdoor spaces.

“ Green, diverse, live music, people watching. Reminiscent of European piazzas.

What's your **BIG (little)** idea for public space in Downtown Vancouver?

Write your idea.



Take a picture with it



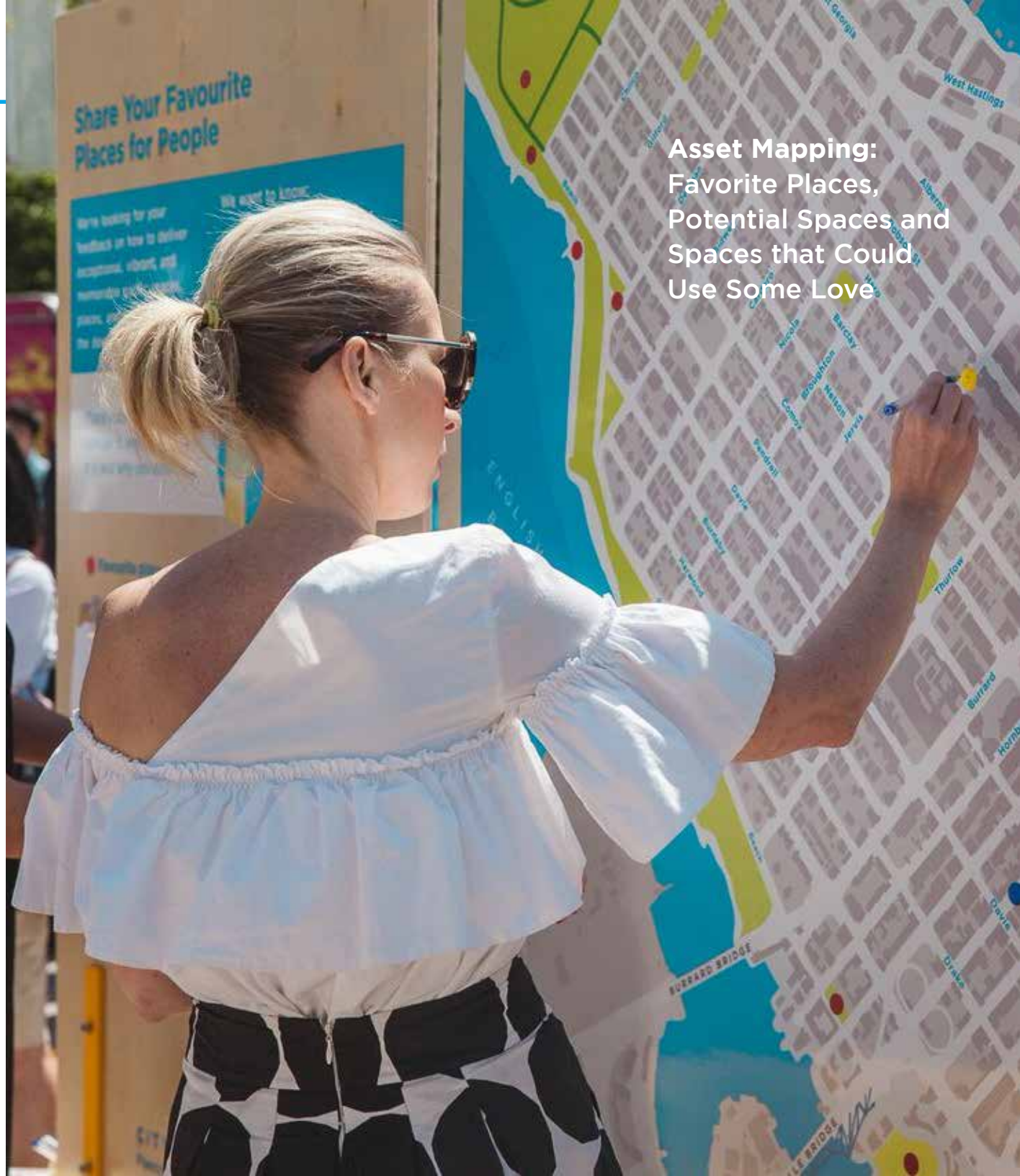
Post it! **#placesforpeoplevan**

4

Asset Mapping Responses

To help understand how particular public spaces function, respondents were asked to identify their favourite spaces, spaces they thought were challenged, and spaces they would like to add. Several patterns emerged with clusters around specific locations, including favourite spaces at the beaches and along the seawall, and challenged spaces in the downtown core, along sections of Granville Street and Robson Street.

Asset Mapping:
Favorite Places,
Potential Spaces and
Spaces that Could
Use Some Love



Asset Mapping Feedback Summary



Legend

- Parks
- Streets
- Favourite Place
- Change a Place
- Add a Place
- Concentration of Responses

Favourites, Changes & Additions

Summary Highlights of the Asset Mapping Exercise

This section provides a summary of the feedback on several prominent public space clusters.



A English Bay Beach

Changes & Additions

- Playgrounds / waterpark
- Allow approval of drinking alcohol on beach
- Add more public BBQs
- More restaurants with patio space

Favourites

- Urban connection to the water

B Alexandra Park

Changes & Additions

- Playgrounds / waterpark
- New grass
- Incorporate picnic tables
- Great use of the band stand (performances)

Favourites

- Great place for picnics and listening to concerts from the bandstand



C May & Lorne Brown Park / Seawall

Changes & Additions

- Noise from nearby businesses is unpleasant
- Need to fix awkward waterfront pedestrian and bike connection
- Need new open space here
- Add stairs to both ends of Burrard and Granville Bridges
- Expand, widen, and develop the park areas adjacent to the seawall
- Have festivals and parades along seawall to support fireworks, boat races, and Canada Day celebrations



D Morton Park & Denman Street

Changes & Additions

- Make Beach Ave pedestrian only
- Improve pedestrian crossings
- Great place for a plaza
- Wider sidewalks
- Add more light features
- Have parklets along Denman St.

E Nelson Park & Bute Street

Changes & Additions

- Make Bute St. pedestrian only
- More exciting features
- Add a water feature
- More pedestrian shortcuts through blocks

Favourites

- Love the shortcuts through the blocks nearby

F Sunset Beach

Changes & Additions

- Have a kids waterpark
- Expand dog park to include the west of the ferry dock
- Playground / outdoor gym
- Parking lot could be space for shops, restaurants & play spaces
- More active patio spaces for coffee/beer/food
- Have an ice area
- Add a dog beach
- Have tennis courts

Favourites

- The sunset
- Place for volleyball, frisbee, & BBQs

G Robson and Bute Trial Plaza

Changes & Additions

- Robson St. to be car free
- Making Bute St. pedestrian only from Robson St. to Davie St.

Favourites

- “Make it permanent”
- Pleasant cut through
- Nice place to spend time in
- Excellent improvement to the space
- Robson St. great for Vancouver shopping



H Jim Deva Plaza

Changes & Additions

- Allow drinking in public spaces
- Should be quiet days in public space
- More dog friendly features
- Ideal space for future parklets

Favourites

- “Terrific addition to the West End”
- Colours are perfect
- Rainbow crosswalks



I Barclay Heritage Square Park

Changes & Additions

- Make laneway into park space
- Murals painted on roadways and fences
- Have container community gardens, outdoor ping pong, and hopscotch
- Activate park space behind weeks house
- Have an outdoor exercise space, introduce a seesaw

Favourites

- Enjoy the Barclay Heritage Square, the West End Seniors Network and the Roedde House Museum

J Robson Square

Changes & Additions

- Better landscaping needed at Robson Square
- Public space outside the Pacific Centre has been lost to development
- Robson Square not well connected between the street level and the lower rink

Favourites

- “The bike lane is awesome!”
- Great green elevated walkway acts as a getaway from the bustle of downtown street traffic



K Denman St. Corridor

Changes & Additions

- A new plaza should be built here
- Create a gathering space for buskers, snack stands, weekend craft markets and flower shops
- Have lights strung overhead of the street with unique colours
- Better intersections for pedestrians
- Cleanliness
- West End community centre is run down
- More colourful spaces
- Traffic calming and signage to slow down - traffic is loud and fast



L Waterfront Station & Water Street

Changes & Additions

- Water St. to Carrall St. could be pedestrian only
- Incorporate European style standing expresso bars, delis, breakfast places, and farmer's market stalls.
- Have outdoor screens to provide SeaBus and West Coast Express departure times.
- Have a bike path, outdoor patios, small kiosks, and places for music



N George Wainborn Park

Changes & Additions

- Have a large floating platform to create a foot/bike bridge in order to allow access from Downtown to Granville Island

Favourites

- “Love the water feature”
- A place with free events to enjoy art, music, and dance
- Good park space

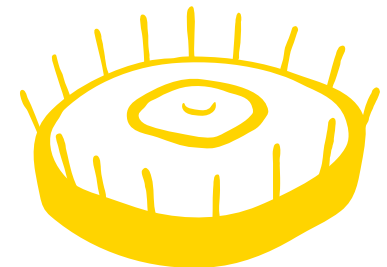
M Plaza of Nations

Changes & Additions

- Needs more greenspace
- Day to day users need more amenities
- Add more trees and temporary seating

Favourites

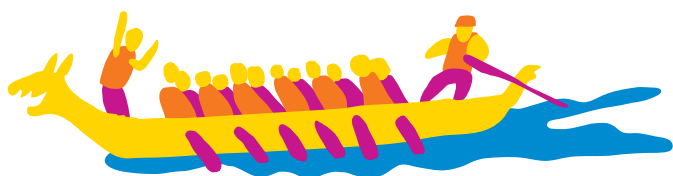
- Great for celebrations and events
- Enjoy the cruise ships and people watching
- Enjoy the views, benches and ocean breeze



Coopers Park & Cambie Bridge

Changes & Additions

- Have skate park and basketball court underneath Cambie Bridge
- Vacant space used as playground
- Build a new outdoor and free climbing place
- Have a park with lots of shade and grass for picnics along seawall



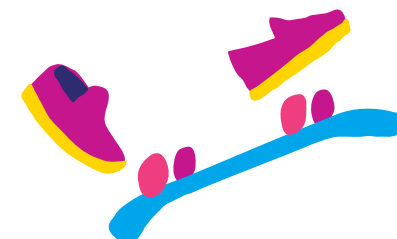
P Andy Livingstone Park & Viaducts

Changes & Additions

- Park needs programming
- Have a night market, street market, farmers markets and food trucks
- Could have movie nights, community festivals, and symphony in the park
- Paint the roadway
- Have stake board events

Favourites

- Great views every morning



5

Emerging Public Space Values & Strategic Themes

Developing Emerging Downtown Public Space Themes

Coming out of the engagement process and based on what was learned from the public, a number of themes emerged, representing what people care about in terms of public space. These public space themes will continue to be refined through the process, based on further feedback received from the public, stakeholders and city staff, and will inform a vision for the Downtown public space network and the creation of the final strategy



Emerging Downtown Public Space Themes

Inclusive of All People

Diversity is central to our civic identity, and Downtown attracts people from around the world, contributing to the rich urban experience that defines our city. *Public spaces should be inclusive of all people. They should be safe, clean, welcoming, and accessible to all ages and abilities, and all income and ethnic groups.*

Freedom of Expression

The free expression of ideas and the ability to exercise free speech and peaceful assembly, serve as the foundation for a broad range of civil liberties and democracy. *Public spaces should be places to freely express opinions and ideas.*

Places to Connect

Public spaces are where we interact with the city on a daily basis, as we work, play, create, explore and connect with each other. *Public spaces should support social connections, as well as community and civic engagement, with people-centered planning that encourages gathering and meeting.*

Active & Attractive

The Downtown is alive with people who are moving and gathering throughout the public realm, engaged in a variety of social and recreational activities - from quieter places that provide respite, to more active and bustling areas. *Public spaces should foster exceptional and memorable experiences of the Downtown with a mix of attractive spaces that balance a range of activities and uses; and support a diverse public life.*

Walkable Spaces

The Downtown is a place where people have easy access by foot to the places they work, play, shop and live. *Public spaces should encourage enjoyable walking experiences and be well connected, where people can walk safely, easily and comfortably on all streets and in all public spaces.*

Connection to Nature

The magnificent natural setting of the city defines the Downtown. *The public space network should integrate green and natural spaces with a strong connection to this natural environment, and incorporate climate resilient systems into the public realm.*

Distinct Placemaking

Downtown Vancouver is comprised of distinct neighbourhood and character areas, and multicultural communities that contribute to the rich downtown experience. *Public spaces should strengthen the unique qualities of the Downtown as a special place - in the city and the world, by reflecting local communities and civic identity.*

Cultural Expression

Arts and cultural activities express the creativity and vitality of our city and its diverse communities. *Public spaces should provide opportunities for artistic and cultural expression.*

Community Partnerships

Residents, community groups and businesses all work to improve the use and enjoyment of Downtown public spaces, and these *partnerships should continue to be encouraged and supported.*

First Nations Culture, History & Reconciliation

Downtown Vancouver is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. For thousands of years these lands have been their home. *The public space network should recognize and reflect the history of the land on which the downtown was built, by celebrating the history and culture of the First Nations.*

Emerging Opportunities

These emerging opportunities reflect the feedback from the public during the first phase of engagement - including the online survey, asset mapping, walking tours and other engagement events. The highlighted opportunities that have emerged so far include:

A Downtown for People

Develop a compelling vision for the downtown that fosters public life through an attractive, lively, safe, resilient and healthy public realm that encourages social interaction, brings community together, and contributes to a friendly and inviting city for all people, regardless of age, background or ability.

Expanded and Connected Public Space Network

Create a continuous and connected network of public spaces throughout the downtown, building on the success of the existing public realm and pathways, where pedestrians move safely, easily and comfortably on all streets and where walking, supplemented by transit and cycling, is the primary means of moving around.

Hierarchy of Streets that Foster Public Life

Develop criteria for a hierarchy of great streets that differentiates each street's role as a part of the broader public realm, reflecting function, urban design features and neighbourhood character. This would highlight ceremonial and high streets, and neighbourhood streets, and encourage the creation of a seamless relationship between streets and other elements of the public realm that expands the use of these spaces for pedestrians and gathering places.



Spaces for All Seasons

Create comfortable outdoor public spaces where people gather year-round through the promotion of weather protection, maximizing sun exposure, and encouraging design and lighting features that embrace all seasons and the city's climate.

Access to Nature and Integrating Climate Resiliency

Ensure strong connections to the downtown's natural setting, protecting and expanding green and natural spaces, while encouraging public space design and landscaping that is integrated with the natural systems and incorporates climate resilient features.

Lively Laneways

Expand and build on the use of laneways as a distinct and vital function of the downtown public space network for a variety of activities, including events and commercial activity, to foster new urban experiences, encourage unique gathering spaces and improve pedestrian connections, while protecting their unique character.

Sit-able Spaces & Gathering Places

Foster social connection and gathering through site-specific placemaking, including seating, landscaping, active uses at grade, way-finding, public art and programming. Encourage a diversity of seating options – movable, fixed and informal – at regular intervals throughout the downtown along streets and in public spaces that promotes gathering and provides places to rest.

Shore-to-Core Connections

Improve connectivity between the waterfront and the downtown core with new and improved connections from the seawall and into the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Pedestrianized Streets

Identify locations for pedestrian priority streets, particularly in areas that currently support a high level of pedestrian activity, to provide safe and enjoyable walking experiences that blend the street with neighbourhood public spaces and improve the connectivity of the broader public space network.

Unexpected Places and Rethinking Infrastructure

Look for opportunities for new public spaces in unexpected places, such as laneways and parkade rooftops, and explore placemaking through the rethinking of existing infrastructure, including the use of bridges as weather protection. Encourage pilot projects to test and demonstrate the viability and benefits of these potential space and other ideas to enhance the public realm and promote public life.

Privately-Owned Public Spaces (POPS)

Existing Privately-Owned Public Spaces (POPS) should be retained and made to be more inviting, while new spaces should be encouraged, and should be located and designed to be accessible and visible while serving the local population as part of a larger public space network.

Reflect and Respect First Nations Culture, History & Reconciliation

Recognize and reflect the history of the land, on which the downtown was built, by celebrating the history and culture of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and following the City of Vancouver Reconciliation Framework.

Support a Diversity of Uses & Flexibility

The downtown public space network must respond to a wide range of demands from physical activity, passive recreation to quiet enjoyment. In addition to supporting the needs of active and passive users, public spaces also need to accommodate spaces for community events and civic and cultural expression. Planning and designing flexible use of public spaces improves the overall quality of life today and allows for unforeseen future opportunities and uses.

Continue to Build and Foster New Partnerships

Truly successful public spaces require collaboration with members of the public, community and business groups, businesses and property owners. These partnerships will expand the public space network, encourage the stewardship of local public spaces, and assist the City to respond to local programming needs.



Stay Involved

Help us create exceptional, vibrant, and memorable public spaces, places, and experiences in the Downtown. We want to hear about your favourite public spaces, what you like or dislike about current spaces, your ideas for the future and more! Visit us online to learn about ways to get involved and provide feedback, including the upcoming Winter Public Space and Public Life Study in early 2018:

vancouver.ca/placesforpeople

Vancouver.ca/placesforpeople

[#placesforpeoplevan](https://twitter.com/placesforpeoplevan)



Appendix

Survey Questions

What's your vision for public space in Downtown Vancouver?

Take our survey and share your thoughts on Downtown public spaces! Your feedback will help us shape the vision, values and emerging strategic directions for the Downtown Public Space Strategy.

Questions or concerns? Contact placesforpeople@vancouver.ca. The results of this survey will be made available on vancouver.ca/placesforpeople. All responses will be kept anonymous.

1.) Why is public space important to you? (check your top five).

- ☐ Are inclusive places to freely express opinions and ideas
- ☐ Offer places for community and civic engagement
- ☐ Offer public gathering and meeting places
- ☐ Are healthy places for people of all ages and abilities
- ☐ Support social connections and conversation
- ☐ Provide opportunities for artistic and cultural expression
- ☐ Provide safe and respectful places
- ☐ Make the city more attractive
- ☐ Are spaces for special events and festivals
- ☐ Offer people-watching and views
- ☐ Are places to connect with nature
- ☐ Provide opportunities to dine, shop and experience cultural events
- ☐ Reflect local communities, supporting a uniquely Downtown experience
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ Public spaces are not that important to me [EXCLUSIVE CHOICE]

2.) How often did you visit these Downtown public spaces in Vancouver over the last year?

	daily	weekly	monthly	every few months	once or twice a year	never
Plazas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shopping Streets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laneways with special programming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mini Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seawall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waterfront/Beaches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transit stations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Privately-owned plazas or atriums	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2a) Are there any other Downtown public spaces in Vancouver you visited over the last year?

3.) What would you like to see and do more of in public space generally? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Markets
- ☐ Concerts
- ☐ Music/buskers
- ☐ Movies
- ☐ Vending
- ☐ Games (e.g. chess, ping pong)
- ☐ Festivals/special events
- ☐ Public art
- ☐ Eating/drinking options
- ☐ Natural features
- ☐ Pop-up installations (e.g. Robson Redux, interactive art, etc.)
- ☐ Sports/physical activity
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____
- ☐ Don't know/ not sure [EXCLUSIVE CHOICE]

4.) What do you think should be the top three priorities to consider when planning Downtown Vancouver's public spaces over the next 30 years?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4.) Are there any challenges or barriers that prevent your enjoyment of Downtown public spaces? (check all that apply)

- ☐ None, I use Downtown public spaces often. [EXCLUSIVE CHOICE]
Availability: the types of public spaces I like to spend time in are not available
- ☐ Downtown, or there aren't enough of these spaces.
(Please specify): _____
- ☐ Physical accessibility: the public spaces that I'd like to visit are not accessible to me.
(Please specify): _____
- ☐ General accessibility: the public spaces that I'd like to visit are hard for me to get to because of poor transportation network connectivity.
(Please specify): _____
- ☐ Safety: I don't feel safe in Downtown public spaces.
(please specify): _____
- ☐ Feeling welcome: I don't feel welcome in public spaces or at events in these spaces
(please specify): _____
- ☐ Information: there is a lack of information and awareness about these public spaces.
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

5.) Privately-owned public spaces (POPS) are publicly-accessible open spaces primarily found in front of office buildings and retail in the Downtown's central business district. In some cases POPS are being lost because they are used to accommodate new development, such as retail or office buildings. What are your thoughts about POPS retention? (check all that apply)

- ☐ POPS should be preserved in all cases.
- ☐ POPS should be replaced if the site is redeveloped.
- ☐ It depends on the POPS/location.
- ☐ No concerns about loss of POPS.
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____ (set character limit...200?)

6.) Features on the edges of public spaces (e.g. weather protection, store displays, patios, etc.) contribute to the enjoyment of these spaces and support a vibrant public life. What are your ideas for how adjacent buildings, businesses, or other 'edge features' could enhance your experience in Downtown public spaces? (please note specific changes and the types of spaces/locations, if possible)

7.) What do you think should be the top three priorities to consider when planning Downtown Vancouver's public spaces over the next 30 years?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

8.)

What's your **BIG** (little)
idea for public space in
Downtown Vancouver?

