



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: January 30, 2024
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Meeting Date: February 27, 2024
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Deputy City Manager
SUBJECT: West End Community Hub Renewal Plan

Recommendation

THAT Council approve in principle the West End Community Hub Renewal Plan (attached as Appendix A) to guide the renewal of community-serving facilities and optimization of the site over the next 15-20 years to support the West End Community Plan.

Purpose and Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the West End Community Hub (WECH) Renewal Plan which is the culmination of a comprehensive multiple-partner planning and community engagement process.

The Renewal Plan lays out a long-term vision for the renewal of the West End Community Centre, Joe Fortes Branch Library, King George Secondary School (KGSS) and the combined 1.8 hectare (4.4-acre) site on which they sit. The project represents a significant collaboration of the five (5) project partners: City of Vancouver (COV), Vancouver Public Library (VPL), Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (VPB), Vancouver School Board (VSB) and the West End Community Centre Association (WECCA).

The Renewal Plan provides a flexible framework to guide redevelopment of the West End Community Hub site in future years. Key features in the Renewal Plan include:

- Renewing, expanding and relocating the secondary school to the eastern portion of the site (lead: VSB);
- Renewing and expanding the community facilities on the western portion of the site (lead: COV); and
- Renewing and expanding the school sport field and outdoor education space in the centre of the site (lead: VSB).

The Renewal Plan was shaped through a robust public engagement process. Key partner and community values, sound urban planning principles, and important city objectives addressing liveability, sustainability, and reconciliation formed the foundation of the WECH Renewal Plan.

Staff engaged with partner boards at significant milestones throughout the project, including sharing the renewal plan concepts in Spring 2023. The final Renewal Plan report is being shared with partner boards for endorsement. West End Community Centre Association provided approval in principle on November 7, 2023, and staff will bring the Renewal Plan to the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation on February 26, 2024, and the Vancouver Public Library Board on February 28, 2024, to seek their endorsement.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

Funding for the WECH Renewal Plan was provided in the City's 2015-2018 and 2019-2022 Capital Plans, with VSB contributing funding towards their share of the Renewal Plan.

The relevant policies and strategies include:

- West End Community Plan (2013)
- City of Reconciliation Framework (2014)
- Making Space for Arts and Culture (2019)
- Spaces to Thrive: Vancouver Social Infrastructure Strategy (2021)
- Greenest City Action Plan (2011, updated 2015)
- Transportation Plan 2040 (2012)
- Healthy City Strategy 2014-2025 (2014)

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

The existing WECH facilities (*Figure 1*) span over two parcels of land, 71% of which is owned by VSB and 29% owned by COV with reciprocal and equal nominal lease agreements in place to suit the location of respective COV and VSB programs. The WECH Renewal Plan defined the scope, priorities and phasing of the renewal of the entire 4.4-acre site. It was developed with the full participation and support of the five (5) project partners (COV, VPB, VPL, VSB, and WECCA) and a robust public engagement process that builds on community direction established through the West End Community Plan.

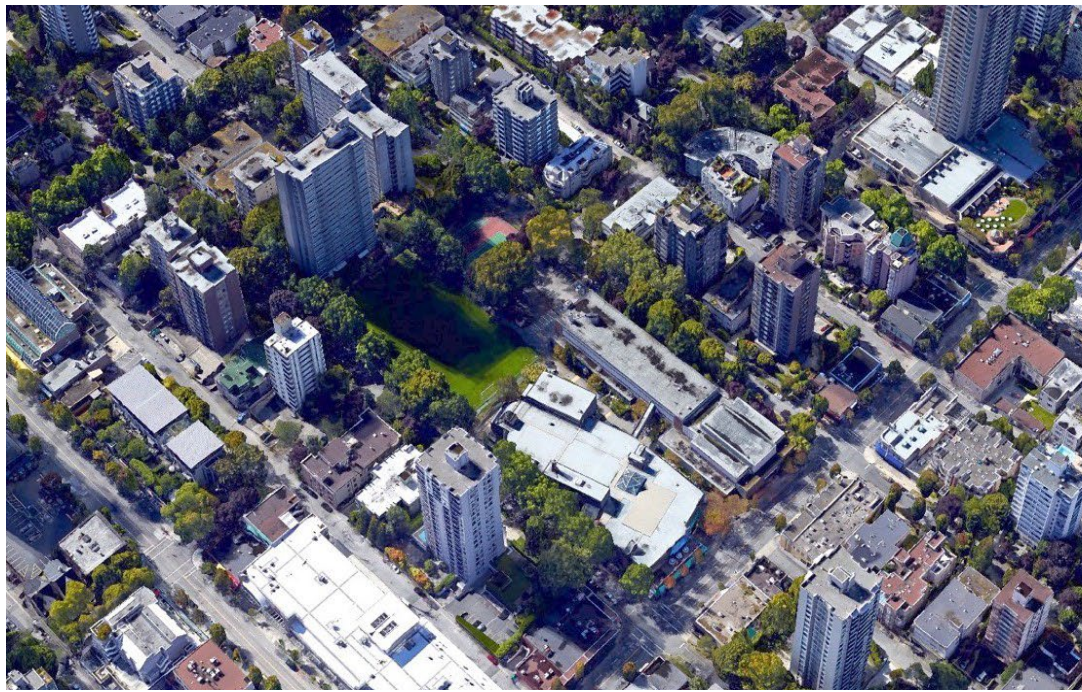


Figure 1 – Aerial of Existing WECH Site

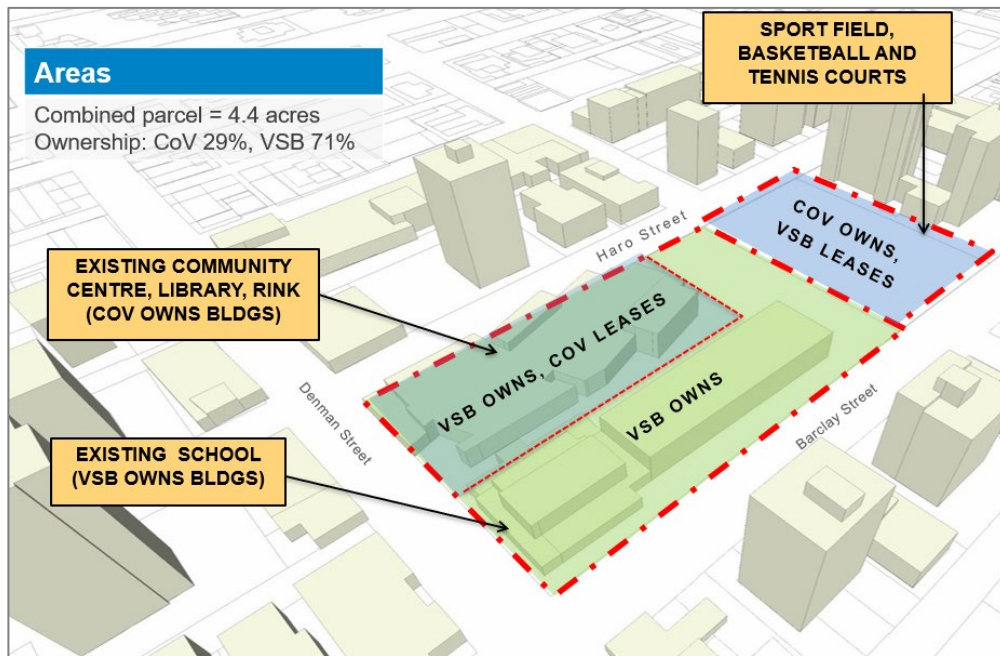


Figure 2 – Existing buildings and land ownership

The Renewal Plan requires a significant investment on the part of both the City and VSB and future phasing and delivery will need to take place over multiple capital plans and will not commence until funding from all partners is secured.

Discussion

Reconciliation

The City of Vancouver's UNDRIP Strategy notes that *"the government-to-government relationship is at the heart of reconciliation and the work to undo and redress colonial impacts and dispossession on the rights and title holders of these lands."* The Renewal Plan process has included government-to-government referrals with quarterly project updates sent to the three local Nations beginning in September 2021. To date, the City and VSB project teams have met with staff from Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations to outline potential opportunities for collaboration during future phases of work.

Community Engagement

An in-depth community consultation process was undertaken to gather feedback and ideas from the community including service providers, non-profit organizations, students, teachers and school staff, residents in the area, current users of the West End Community Centre and Joe Fortes Library, and those who do not currently access the facilities.

Over 7,000 touchpoints have been recorded in the overall engagement process. Engagement activities and events throughout all phases included:

- Coast Salish Chronicles of the West End (project launch event)
- Visioning workshops
- Open house events at key milestones
- Public Surveys and pop up events
- Focus Groups (Including recreation and ice arena users, arts and culture groups, library users, and community organizations serving diverse populations)
- Spaces and Activities Workshops
- Workshops with Secondary School students
- Workshops with Elementary and Secondary School parents and PACs
- Individual interviews with caregivers, newcomers, Indigenous residents, and attendees at Gathering Place and WECC Warming Centre
- Postcards mailed to West End residents, posters, and leaflets in public spaces
- Outreach by partners and key community organizations

Program of Spaces and Activities

The community placed a high value on the role the existing WECC & KGSS play as a multi-use community services hub. Through a series of Spaces and Places workshops and Program Verification sessions, space needs were identified for broad program areas as follows:

- Gathering Spaces – public plaza, entrance and lobby with space for casual connection;
- Multipurpose and Arts and Culture Spaces – flexible spaces to meet community needs;
- Social Development – full-time licensed childcare, youth and seniors spaces, community kitchen, and space for non-profit partner programming;
- Library - a service hub to foster intergenerational activities – children's area, teen zone, and adult collections to foster life-long learning;
- Recreation - active living facilities supporting sport for life including ice rink, gymnasium, fitness centre, and multipurpose fitness studios;
- Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Hub – spaces for cultural practices and ceremony;
- Firehall – renewing and expanding the essential life safety services that Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services provides within the existing response zone;

- Secondary School – pending approval and funding from the Ministry of Education, the proposed expansion to provide a new seismically safe 1,000 to 1,200 student capacity secondary school, sport field and outdoor education areas.

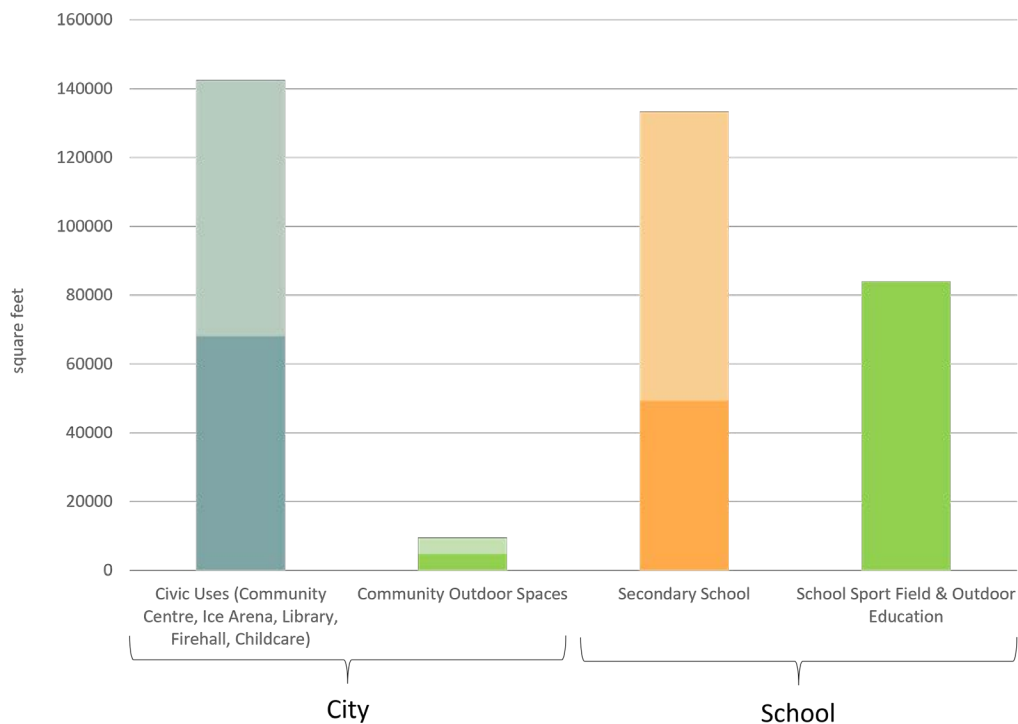


Figure 3 - Potential renewal areas (saturated colour) and growth areas (lighter colour above)

The Renewal Plan evolved from a combination of technical requirements, partner policies and objectives, urban design best practices, and community input from the Visioning, Spaces and Activities, and Site Development Scenarios consultations. The WECH Renewal Plan will serve as the basis for renewing and transforming the site over the coming years.

Key features and planning elements of the Plan include:

- Community facilities and a public plaza located along Denman Street;
- Secondary School located in a peaceful setting for public education;
- Accessible and safe pedestrian connections and improved public realm;
- Vehicular access concentrated on Barclay Street and elimination of surface parking lots;
- Firehall located to allow optimal response times for emergencies.

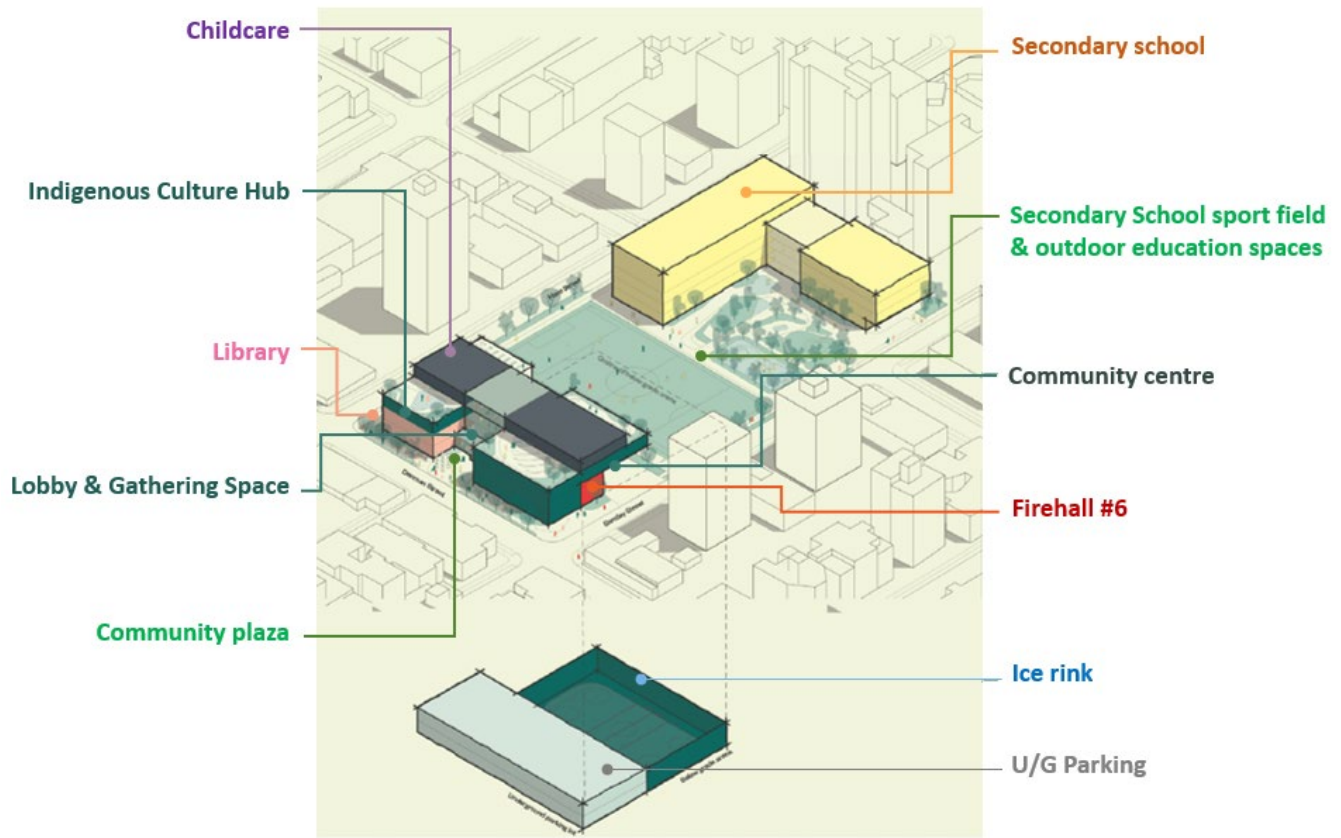


Figure 4 – The Preferred Renewal Plan
(colours and massing are not intended to represent building form or design)

Recognizing the different funding sources and the timing and availability of funds for project partners, the Renewal Plan identifies two alternative implementation scenarios to ensure the Plan is a flexible framework that can respond effectively to a range of future funding sequences optimizing the Renewal Plan’s feasibility for success. As the Alternate Plans (Figure 5) contain the same spaces, activities and similar outdoor spaces, the cost estimate, renewal and expansion areas are similar to the Preferred Plan.

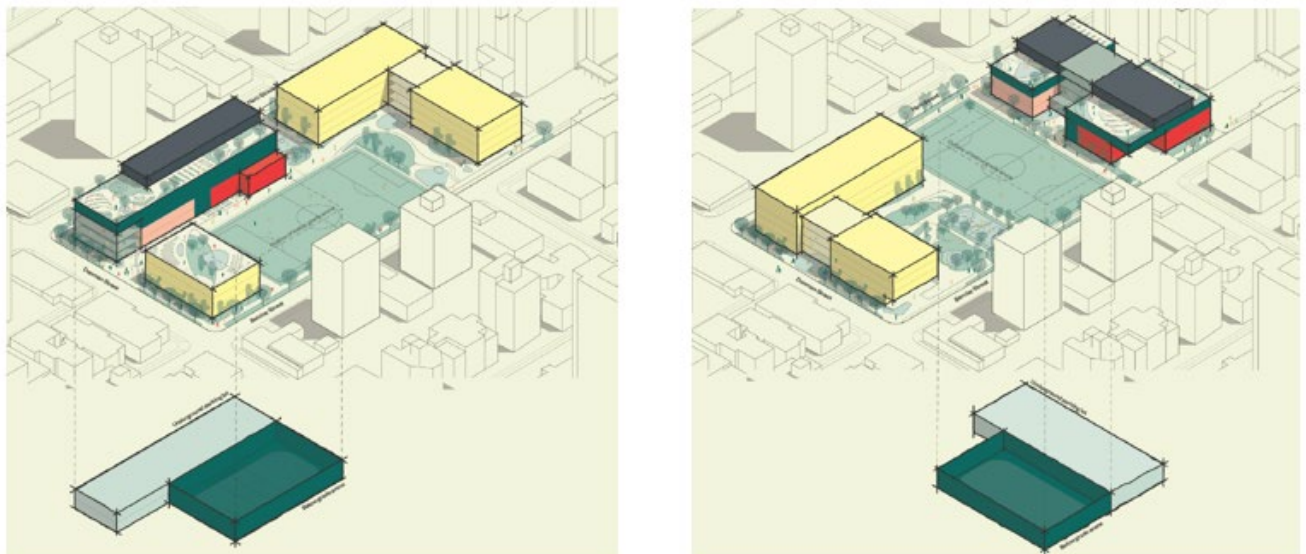


Figure 5 – Alternate Plans - colours and massing are not intended to represent building form or design.

Financial Implications

The cost to prepare the WECH Renewal Plan is approximately \$2.25 million, with the City contributing \$2.025 million and VSB contributing \$0.225 million.

The City's component of the Renewal Plan contemplates ~150,000 sf of community-serving space, including ~70,000 sf of renewal and ~80,000 sf of expansion. The proposed size is equivalent to that of Hillcrest Centre, Vancouver's largest community facility. The proposed floor area is preliminary and subject to future site planning and funding availability. The cost (2023 \$) to implement the City's component is estimated to be \$300 to \$350 million, of which ~45% is renewal and ~55% is expansion. Renewal is primarily funded from property tax while new and expansion is primarily funded from development contributions. The City will also pursue senior government and partner funding opportunities.

The timing and funding for the WECH project will be considered as part of the City's mid to long-term capital planning process (10-year Capital Strategic Outlook and 4-year Capital Plan) and integrated into the implementation of the West End Community Plan and Public Benefits Strategy.

All the costs associated with the renewal and expansion of King George Secondary School, the school sport field and outdoor education spaces will be funded by the VSB.

Given the scale of the project, implementation of the Renewal Plan will not proceed until funding from all partners is secured.

Legal Implications

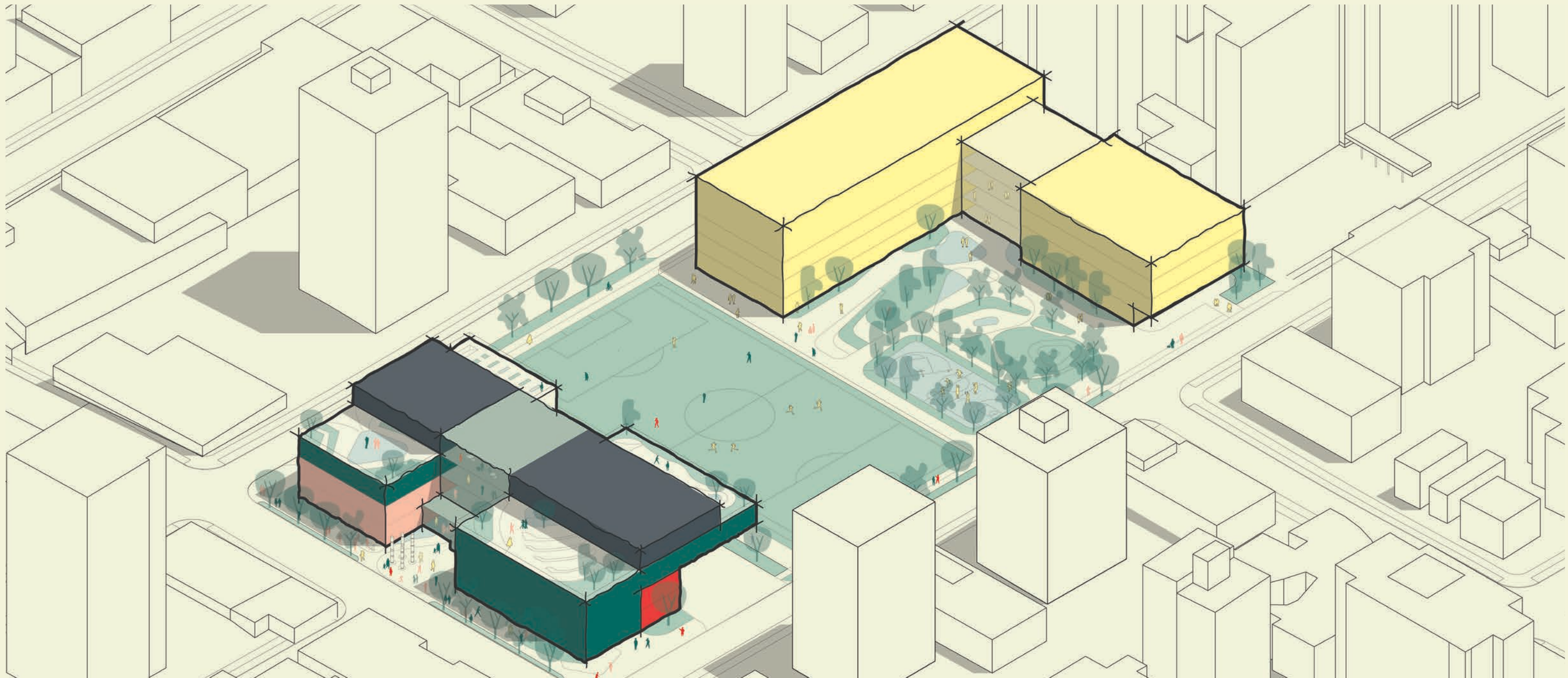
VSB, VPL, VPB and WECCA operate shared facilities and outdoor amenities on these sites with day-to-day operational and cost-sharing responsibilities defined for each party through existing agreements. The approval of the Renewal Plan will not alter any of these existing agreements or day-to-day operation of the facilities.

* * * * *

West End Community Hub Renewal Plan

Published February 2024

Appendix A



The West End Community Hub site is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Peoples. Along with being home for the local Nations, Vancouver is also home to a large and diverse community of Urban Indigenous residents. Despite systematic and institutional efforts to eradicate their communities and cultures, the resilience, strength and wisdom of the Nations has led to a revitalization of Indigenous languages and cultures, and a resurgence of self-determination over their lands and waters.

Settler residents of Vancouver have a responsibility to the Nations and the Indigenous Peoples that have stewarded these lands to learn the history of these lands they call home, to learn what role they can play in supporting the stewardship of these lands and waters, and to take tangible actions for meaningful reconciliation. With respectful recognition of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm

(Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) and the Urban Indigenous community, West End Community Hub project partners are committed to reconciliation as a key value guiding the renewal of the future West End Community Hub. As a key value, reconciliation has been embedded throughout the project and this renewal plan. Further information on specific partner commitments to reconciliation can be found on page 37.

[Visit the partner websites.](#)



Acknowledgments

Prepared for:

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Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (VPB)
Vancouver Public Library (VPL)
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Special Thanks:

Referral staff from Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations
Coast Salish Project Associates: Chrystal Sparrow, Cory Douglas, and Angela George

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1.0 Community Summary

1.1 Introduction

Introduction

The heart of Vancouver’s West End neighbourhood includes the West End Community Centre, the Joe Fortes Branch of the Vancouver Public Library (VPL) and King George Secondary School (KGSS).

The West End Community Plan (2013) identified the renewal and transformation of this site as a key 30-year goal. The renewal plan is a collaborative effort to develop a comprehensive direction and dynamic vision for the site and is planned in partnership between:

- City of Vancouver (CoV)
- Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (VPB)
- Vancouver Public Library (VPL)
- Vancouver School Board – School District #39 (VSB)
- West End Community Centre Association (WECCA)

Purpose of this Renewal Plan Document

This WECH Renewal Plan report is a document to guide and direct the future of the site, including land use, relationships between buildings and outdoor spaces, neighbourhood connections, key views, accessibility, connectivity and phasing.

In addition to replacing and expanding the existing public amenities and services on site, the renewal plan will include other uses that could improve services in the West End, such as the relocation and expansion of Firehall No. 6, new full-time childcare facilities (0 to 5 years), seniors’ spaces and arts and culture facilities.

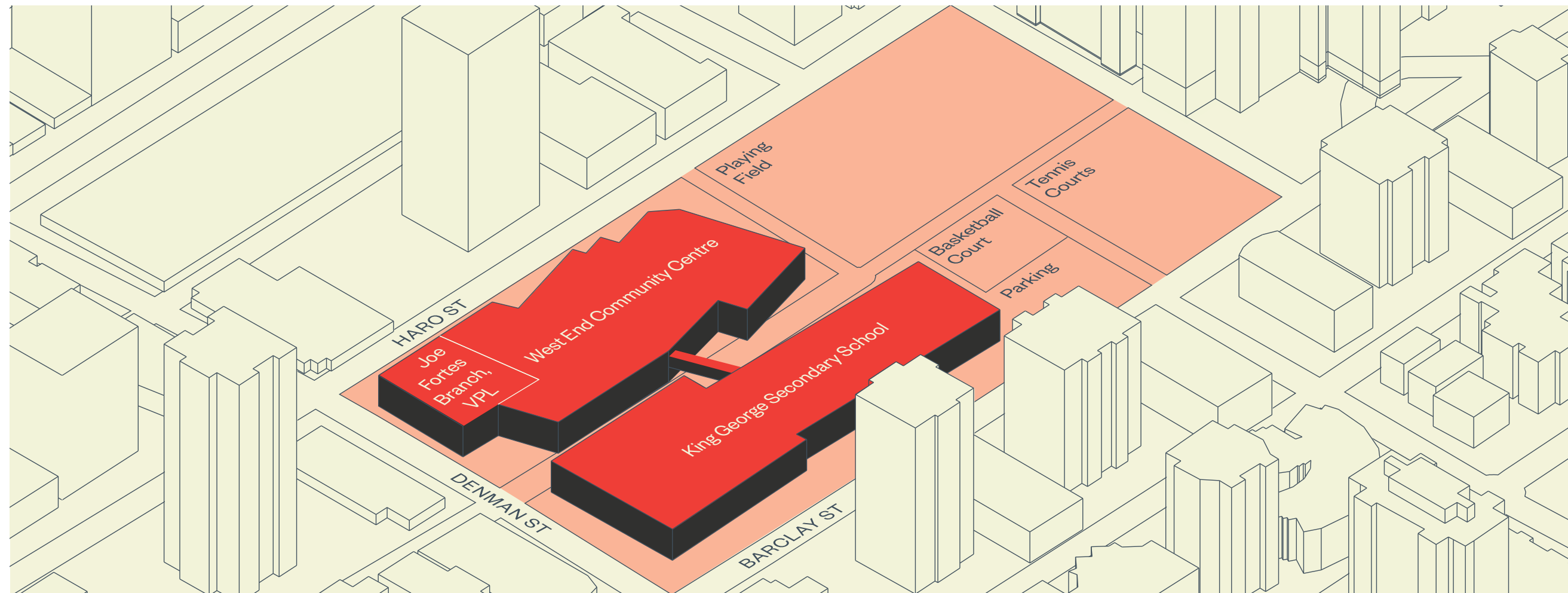
The WECH Renewal Plan celebrates Vancouver’s connection to *xʷməθkʷəy̓əm* (Musqueam), *Sḵwx̱wú7mesh* (Squamish) and *səlilwətał* (Tseil-Waututh) cultures, while supporting play, learning, creativity and wellness for all people.

About the site

The site for the future West End Community Hub is bounded by Haro and Barclay streets to the east and west, Denman street to the north and a mid-block location between Bidwell and Cardero streets to the south. Currently, the 4.4-acre site includes the following amenities:

- Secondary school with an official capacity of 375 students and related outdoor sports amenities, including a non-regulation size playing field, basketball and tennis courts
- Community centre that includes a non-regulation sized ice arena
- Public branch library
- Combination of underground and surface parking

The Vancouver School Board owns 71 percent of the land and the City of Vancouver owns the remainder of the land. The West End Community Centre is currently jointly operated and staffed by the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and the West End Community Centre Association. The Vancouver Public Library staffs and operates the Joe Fortes branch. Vancouver School Board staffs and operates King George Secondary School.



1.2 Project considerations

Renewal funding

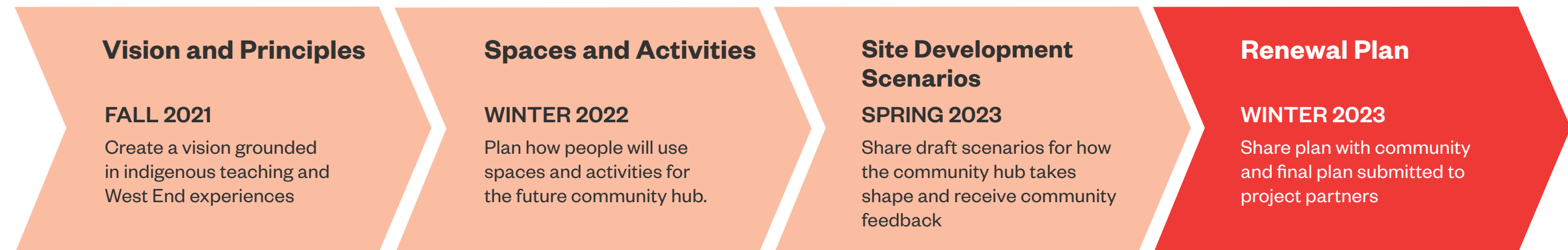
Renewing and expanding community amenities and services on this site are an important part of the commitments by partners to support a growing West End neighbourhood. The creation of the WECH Renewal Plan was funded by the City’s 2019-2022 Capital Plan. The VSB has initiated a capital funding request for expansion and seismic upgrades of King George Secondary, with the goal of a renewed and expanded school to accommodate a minimum forecasted 1,000 – 1,200 students.

Given the scale and complexity of this future project, implementation of the Renewal Plan will require significant investment on the part of both the City of Vancouver and Vancouver School Board. Renewal will likely take place over several capital plans and will not start until funding is secured.

The WECH site is heavily constrained within a dense urban neighborhood. Existing buildings offering important educational and community functions take up a large portion of the site and efforts have been made to develop plans that minimize disruption to existing services during future redevelopment.

Project timeline

The work to develop the WECH Renewal Plan took place over four phases:



Learn more about our previous phases:

[WECH Vision and Principles report](#): explore the Renewal Plan’s Framework for Indigenous Reconciliation, Vision for the future, and Principles to guide the plan

[WECH Site Scenarios report](#): Learn about the location of buildings, spaces and activities on the site

[WECH Activities and Spaces report](#): learn about the spaces and activities being planned for the renewed West End Community Hub.

Reports are also available at shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect.

Reconciliation

The West End of Vancouver is a culturally and historically rich location for Coast Salish Peoples. Through art and storytelling, xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) cultural perspectives guided the process of developing a vision and principles for the West End Community Hub.

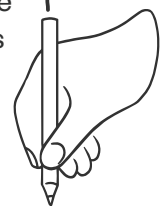
WECH project partners know that Vancouver's identity is strengthened by connecting, learning and celebrating xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) cultures.

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

Planning, design recommendations and policies for the project include innovative ways of demonstrating that xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Peoples have always been the stewards of these lands.

The West End is the Best End

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



▲ Story gathered from members of the community during fall 2021 engagement

Government-to-government protocol

The City of Vancouver's UNDRIP Strategy notes:

The government-to-government relationship is at the heart of reconciliation and the work to undo and redress colonial impacts and dispossession on the rights and title holders of these lands. As Aboriginal title holders, Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh have unique rights with respect to governance, self-determination and other rights of sovereign Indigenous Nations.

As part of government-to-government relationships, the City of Vancouver sends project referrals, written overviews with suggested opportunities for involvement, to x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations' staff teams and updates are sent on a quarterly basis. Based on interest from Nation staff so far, the project team has met with staff from Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Reconciliation commitments of project partners

The WECH Renewal Plan is guided by each project partner's ongoing commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, including existing policies and commitments such as:

- City of Vancouver Reconciliation Framework and City of Vancouver UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) Strategy
- Vancouver School District Education Plan Equity Statement
- Vancouver Public Library Reconciliation commitments
- Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation Reconciliation Strategies
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission Update 2018

For more details about these project partner commitments, [visit the partner websites](#).

Coast Salish Project Associates

As part of the engagement strategy and the longer-term renewal planning work, the project team engaged one individual from each of the three local Nations, each of whom are both artists and Knowledge Keepers, to ensure Coast Salish knowledge was integrated throughout the process. These Coast Salish Project Associates do not represent their Nation's government. Their advice, guidance and recommendations for future phases of work will be brought forward in government-to-government conversations.

Coast Salish project associates:

- Chrystal Sparrow – x^wməθk^wəy'em (Musqueam), artist, carver
- Cory Douglas – Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), West End resident, architectural technologist and civil engineering technologist, artist
- Angela George – Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Coast Salish Weaver and Artist, and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) mother, grandmother, community member.



▲ Photos of various visioning workshops events

1.3 Engagement to create the Renewal Plan

Public engagement strategy

W.E. Connect was the name used to describe WECH engagement opportunities. W.E. Connect featured a range of engagement approaches between September 2021 and June 2023 including:

- Public engagement opportunities for West End residents and anyone in the City of Vancouver with an interest in the future WECH, using a mix of online and in-person methods.
- West End community organization engagement through early interviews and collaboration on public workshops.
- Engagement with Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, artists and young people from the local Nations, as well as Urban Indigenous community members.
- Project partner engagement to ensure the plan is aware of the needs and interests of the participating organizations (City of Vancouver, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver School Board and West End Community Centre Association) and the individuals and communities they serve.

The COVID-19 pandemic was a challenging reality during many phases of the renewal plan development. As needed, engagement was modified to support participant safety and comply with local health orders, such as by offering online and outdoor options, ensuring in-person participants were masked and providing hand sanitizer and increased air circulation.

Visual communication played an important role in the engagement process. Social media, posters and postcards raised awareness about opportunities to get involved. To ensure community members understood the information being discussed, the project team developed information boards, translated materials, and developed physical scale models of the site. Summary reports were created after each of the three rounds of public engagement to share what was heard back to the community.

Participation in renewal planning engagement

Survey 2,564 participants

Pop-ups 650 event interactions

Open Houses 485 participants

Virtual Open Houses 3,300 visits

School community



47 secondary school students engaged in student council and urban studies classroom workshops



6 secondary school student ambassadors



34 local elementary school parents and principals.

Focus groups 29 meetings held

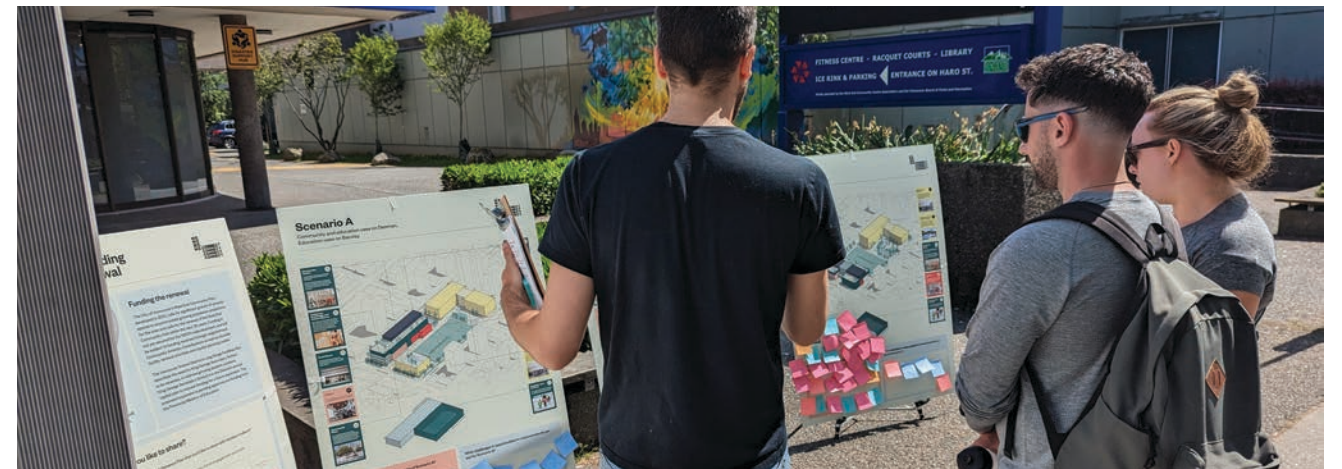
Interviews 48 discussions

Sites 5 different locations with self-paced engagement materials

Community organizations

9 community organizations involved in shaping and co-hosting engagement

59 community organizations received project communications, many of whom helped promote engagement



▲ Self-paced information boards, open house and pop-up events held at West End Community Centre

1.4 Framework, vision and principles

Engagement to create the renewal plan

The first phase of renewal planning co-developed a vision, purpose and aspirations for the future WECH. This visioning process focused on story, relationship, art and values. Participants included community members, West End organizations, secondary school students, project partners and Coast Salish Artists and Knowledge Keepers. The resulting framework, vision and principles helped to define space use needs for the future WECH.

In fall 2021, hundreds of community members were inspired by Coast Salish art and stories, shared their own experiences of the West End, worked together to interpret those stories and developed directions for the new facilities, programs and spaces.

This phase relied on a collaborative and co-created approach that involved three Coast Salish artists (known during the project as Coast Salish Project Associates), two W.E. Connect Community Artists (known during the project as Community Artists) with strong connections to the West End community and collaboration with community groups active in the neighbourhood. Dozens of West End community organizations helped inform the engagement process by sharing advice prior to the engagement launch.

Engagement opportunities ran from September through December 2021, including:

- Coast Salish Chronicles of the West End — an online event featuring Knowledge Keepers and artists from xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil- Waututh) Nations;
- West End Experiences Survey, which collected memories and experiences of the neighbourhood (over 375 stories were shared);
- Self-paced engagement stations in five locations around the West End that showed original artwork created by the Coast Salish Project Associates and

- two Community Artists;
- Seven pop-up events hosted by 6 Youth Ambassadors, connecting with over 400 people;
- Eight visioning workshops, some held online and others in-person, with over 310 participating in total;
- Synthesis Workshop held in November 2021, led by project partners and volunteers, to review and draft the vision and principles for the future community hub; and
- Public report-back event, held online December 2021, connecting with 80 community members, to share and get feedback on the draft framework, vision and principles.

The resulting co-created framework, vision and principles have guided all phases of the renewal plan and are described on the following page.

Framework

The West End of Vancouver is a culturally and historically rich location for Coast Salish Peoples. Given the importance of Coast Salish teachings to planning the future community hub and the commitments to reconciliation made by all project partners, the WECH framework outlines how WECH project partners will advance reconciliation by:

- Reflecting Coast Salish cultures and identities throughout the project,
- Working to understand and respect the protocols of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations,
- Making visible the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations' history, culture and spiritual connections in the West End, and
- Working to understand Coast Salish laws for environmental stewardship, and how these can be applied to WECH, so that the site can support Vancouverites to connect with their responsibility for the health of these lands and waters.

Vision

Vision for the West End Community Hub:

The West End Community Hub celebrates Vancouver's connection to xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) cultures, and supports play, learning, creativity and wellness for all people.



Principles

The West End Community Hub will...

Make visible and strengthen connections to Coast Salish peoples, histories, and cultures.

Weave the fabric of our communities together, creating a safe, inclusive, accessible and equitable place that is welcoming.

Be integrated, flexible and responsive to community needs for life-long learning and public education, recreation and social and cultural spaces.

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

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

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

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

1.5 Spaces and Activities

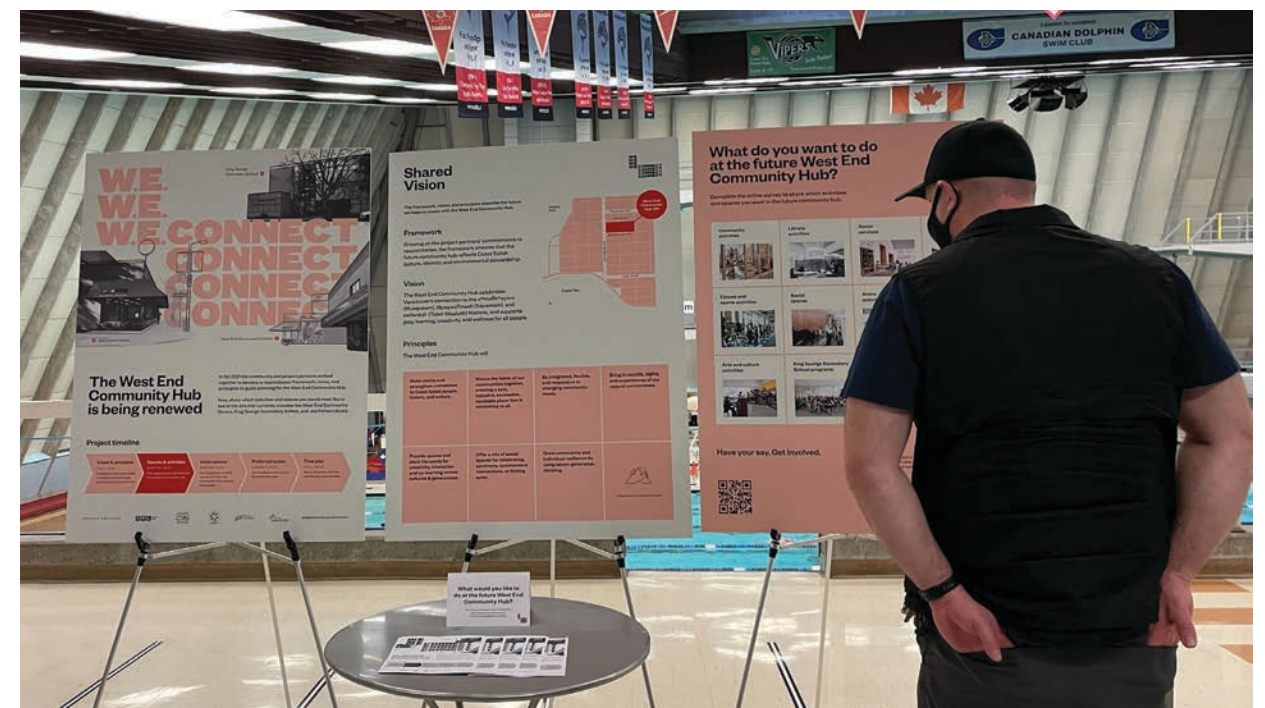
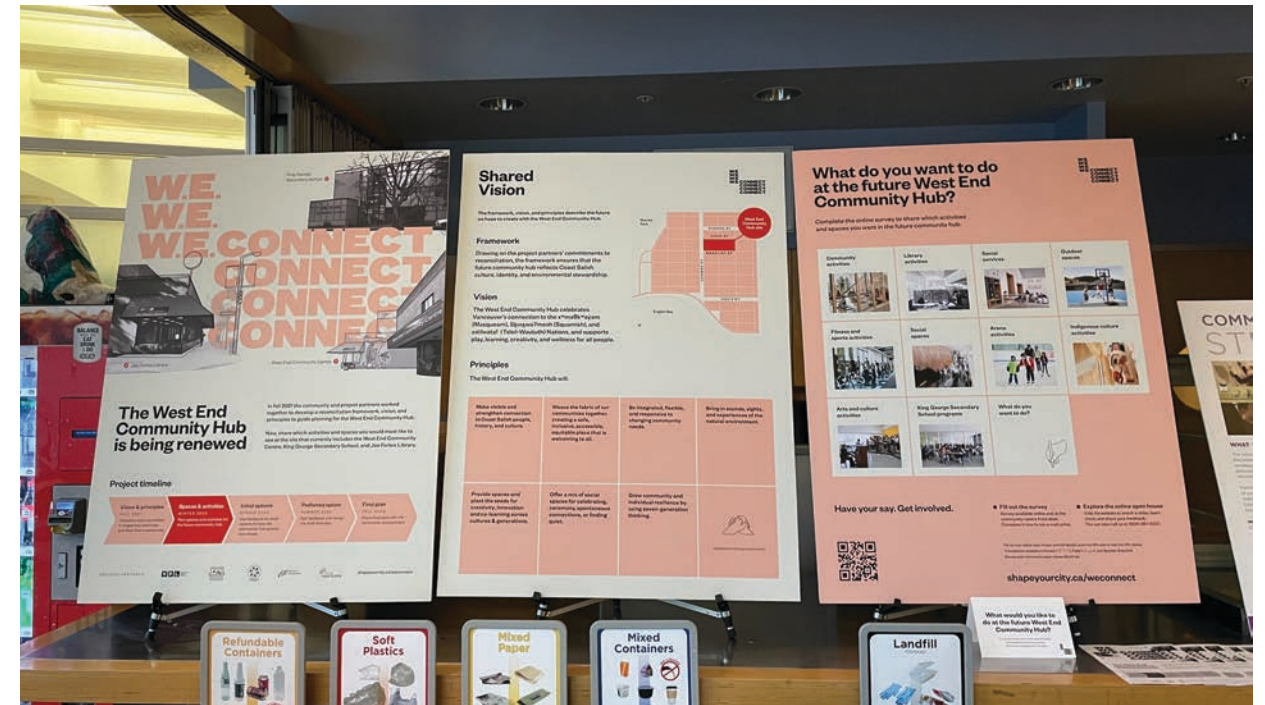
The second phase of renewal planning explored which activities, programs, services and spaces could be offered at the future West End Community Hub. The future renewal of the West End Community Hub will be successful if it maximizes public benefit by providing amenities and spaces that are accessible, inclusive and aligned with current and anticipated community needs. As such, it is important to understand what those needs are and ensure that assessments of community space needs are reviewed and validated.

This understanding is gained through a process known as a “space needs assessment” where current and future requirements for a facility are defined through the analysis of:

- Current and historical facility use,
- Partner policies, strategies, and planning documents,
- Broader city-wide, regional and national trends and best practices in activity participation and space programming,
- Population, demographics and growth projections, and
- Engagement with community members, stakeholders and user groups.

Data-driven research provides a foundation for community discussions that add context and depth ensuring the renewal plan is both responsive to current community needs and flexible enough to adapt in the future.

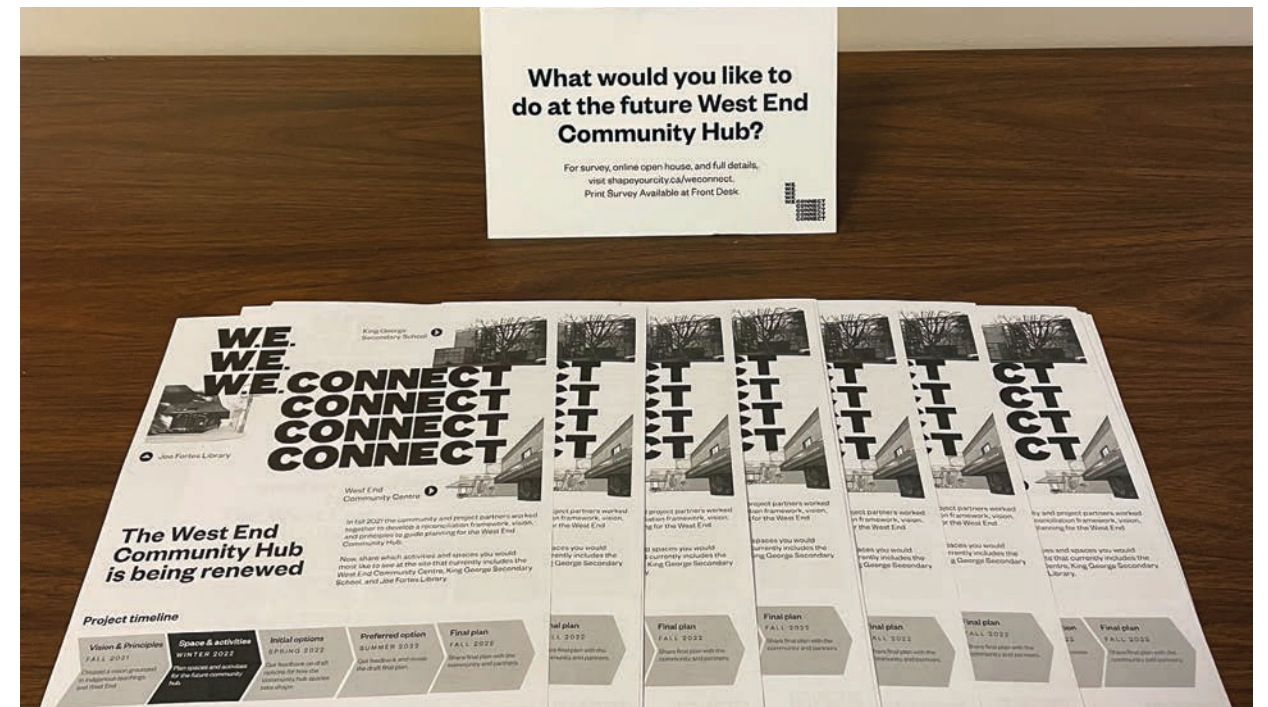
The result of this quantitative and qualitative study is an outline of the activities and spaces that could be included in the community hub as well as details about their required size, relationship to other spaces and any key technical requirements. This list of spaces and activities was used as a basis for the development of site development scenarios in the next phase of planning work.



The space needs assessment included comprehensive engagement with community members in spring 2022. Engagement activities reached a wide cross-section of the public, and included opportunities for the general public and discussions with specific stakeholder and user groups, including people accessing low-barrier services. This engagement helped to identify the spaces desired in the future facility. The purpose of this engagement was to understand how people currently use the site and what they would like to do at the future community hub. Public engagement included:

- Meetings with King George Secondary School (KGSS) students and presentation to KGSS Parent Advisory Council.
- Meetings with arena users, recreation users, arts and culture groups, library users, community service groups, staff and programmers.
- 24 focus group sessions with representatives from community groups, on-site staff and volunteers to explore specific interests, current space use and future needs.
- Activities and Spaces survey, which asked for ideas about spaces and activities for the future WECH, and which was completed or partially completed by over 2,120 people.
- Interviews with unhoused people at the Gathering Place Community Centre and West End Community Centre warming centre.
- Meeting with West End caregivers and newcomer residents at Gordon Neighbourhood House, and

The result of this phase was a list of activities and spaces identified for the WECH Renewal Plan.



▲ Engagement boards and paper surveys during Activities and Spaces phase

Space and activity options for the WECH Renewal Plan

In response to the input provided through winter 2022 engagement, as well as the space needs assessment, the following spaces were identified for WECH:

King George Secondary School



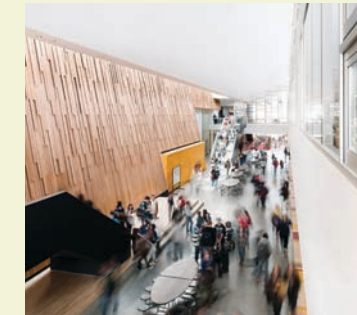
- **Secondary school**, pending approval and funding from the Ministry of Education and Childcare, the proposed expansion to provide a new seismically safe 1,000 to 1,200 student capacity secondary school, which would respond to the growing youth population in the school catchment area.
- **Adult Learning Centre** incorporated into the secondary school facility.
- **School sport field** and **outdoor education spaces** to meet the needs of the secondary school curriculum. School outdoor spaces could be used for community programs when not needed by the school.

Arts and culture spaces



- Mix of **dedicated arts and culture spaces**, which can accommodate a wide range of specialized programs, including music, pottery, visual and performing arts and other creative activities.
- **Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Spaces** that may include collaborative spaces for cultural practices, spaces for ceremony and performance, as well as spaces for accessing Indigenous knowledge, arts, history and food.
- **Weight room and fitness studios**
- **More fitness centre space and dedicated fitness studios** along with associated support space, as well as non-gendered change rooms.
- **Youth and senior spaces**
- **Dedicated youth spaces** that can primarily be used after school, including drop-in, informal and structured social and recreational activities for young persons
- **Seniors-focused spaces** that provide affordable, inclusive and accessible opportunities for older adults to participate in a variety of active living and creative pursuits.

Social spaces and activities



- **Entrance and lobby** which could be the main reception point and social space for the community hub, a large community gathering place, and the main area connecting different services together.

Multipurpose spaces and gymnasium



- Mix of **multi-purpose rooms** within the community centre and library that provide flexibility and can be reconfigured to meet a variety of community needs.
- **Gymnasium** that will serve as both a sports facility and multipurpose space that is dedicated for full-time community use within the community centre, designed to be dividable and adjustable to allow for different activities. Additional Gymnasium spaces will be located within the Secondary School.

Joe Fortes Branch Library



- **Larger branch library** with spaces that can be shared and ones that are dedicated for library use, including a service hub to foster intergenerational activities, a children's area with an early literacy focus, a teen zone, adult collections area and a staff work area.

Firehall No. 6 replacement



- **Firehall No. 6 replacement**, as the essential life safety services that Vancouver Fire Rescue Services provides from the current location are constrained due to the building's heritage status and the site being too small for expansion to serve the growing population. A larger site within the existing response zone and co-location with other community facilities would allow for enhanced efficiency.

Support spaces



- **Administrative offices, building services, and back-of-house spaces**, which include office spaces and storage for programming, equipment and operation of the community hub.

Childcare



- **Childcare areas** that will include new licensed 0-5yr programs.

Arena



- **Regulation-size ice arena** that can accommodate hockey games and practices, figure skating, short track speed skating and sledge hockey, community leisure skating and community dry-floor events if the ice is removed during parts of the year.

Public realm



- **Public plaza** and other programmed outdoor activity areas as well as outdoor play space associated with the licenced childcare

1.6 Site development scenarios

About the WECH site development scenarios

The third phase of renewal planning involved the development of three site development scenarios for how the future West End Community Hub's buildings and spaces could take shape. The scenarios were developed to support the vision identified through collaborative workshops, a list of potential activities and spaces identified through public engagement, as well as technical and operational considerations and requirements.

All three scenarios included the same interior spaces and activities and similar outdoor spaces. Each scenario responded to valuable community feedback, planning research and project partner priorities. The primary difference among the scenarios was the location of spaces and activities on the site.

One of the outputs of this phase was an inventory of the community's perspectives on scenario's strengths, challenges and opportunities for improvement.

Supported by the findings from the previous phases, spatial relationships and synergies were explored in order to meet the programmatic and community needs. Together, three potential site scenarios were developed which responded to various design parameters and priorities. All project partners conducted further evaluation of the three site scenarios, considering the valuable input of community members and technical advisors.

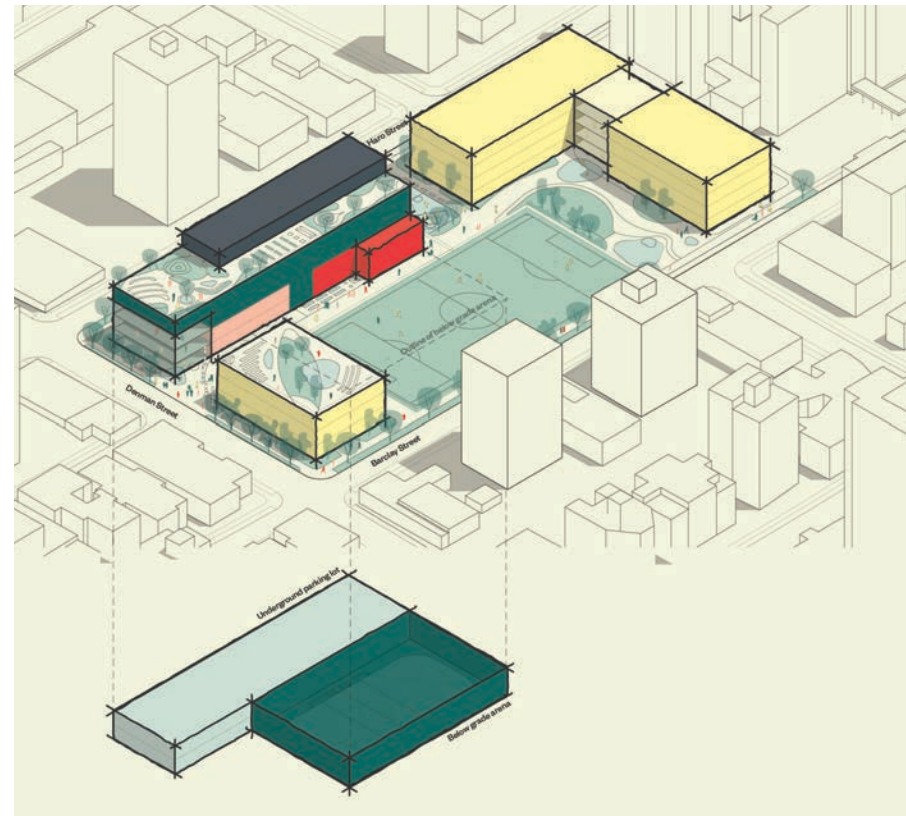


▲ Open house at West End Community Centre

Each scenario responds to valuable community feedback, planning research and project partner priorities. visit the [project website](#) for more details.

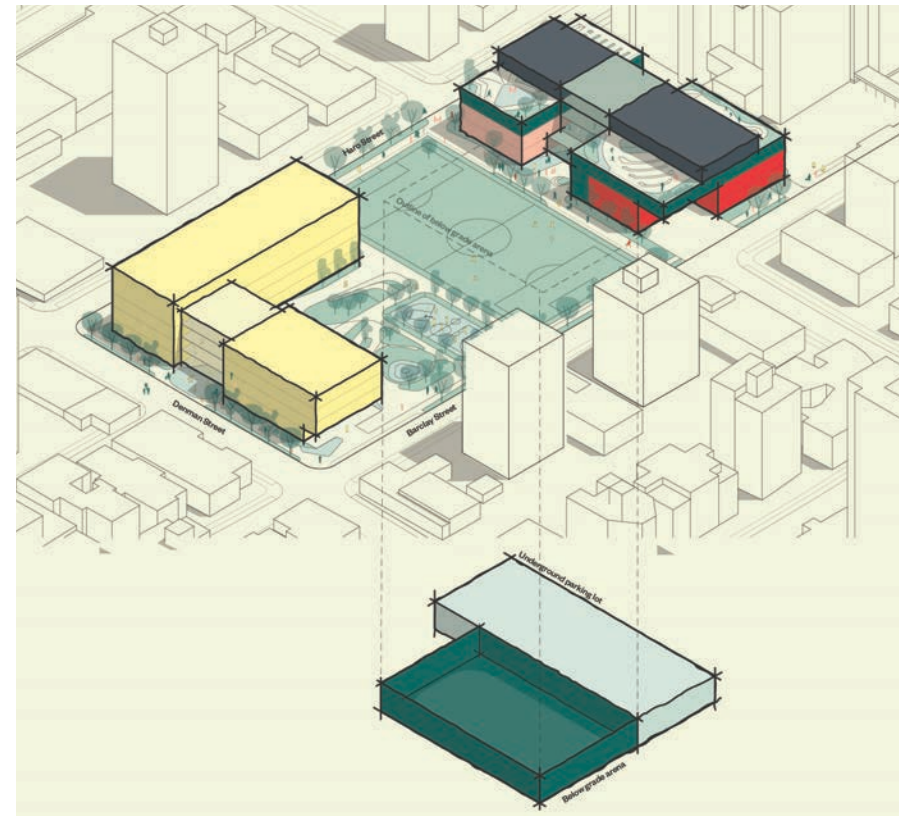
Scenario A

Community uses on Denman and Haro, Education uses on Barclay



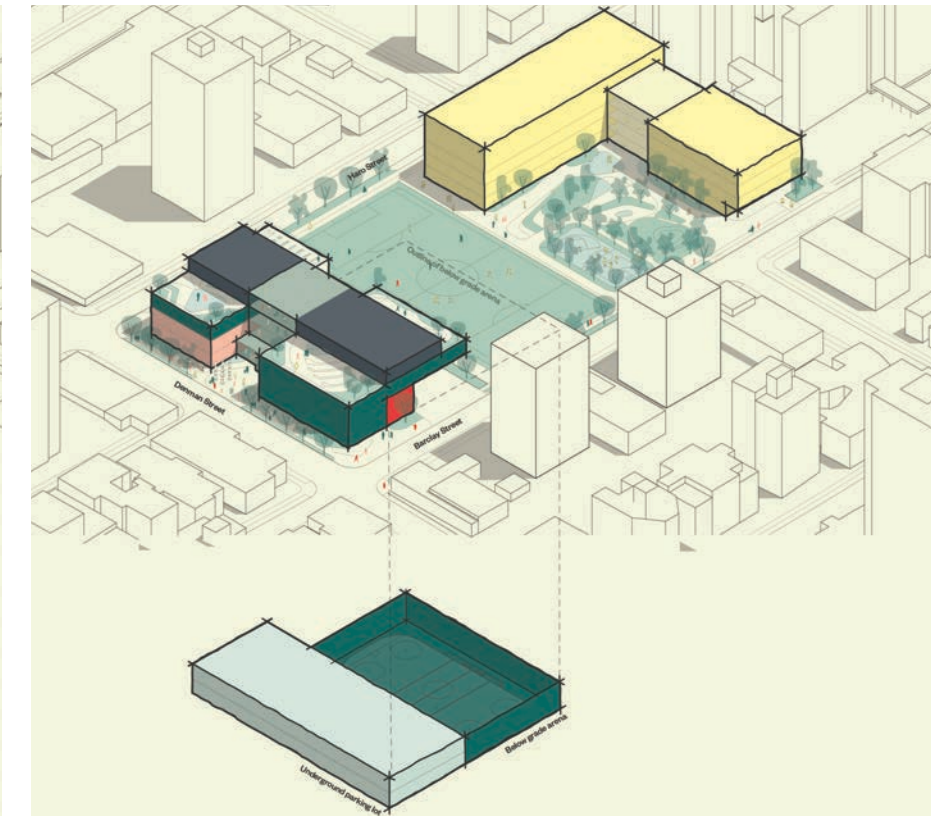
Scenario B

Community uses on Barclay, Education uses on Denman



Scenario C

Community uses on Denman, Education uses on Barclay



The images above represent three-dimensional test-fits of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and do not represent the design of the site's future buildings.

What we heard : site development scenarios

During spring 2023, community members provided input on how they would like to see the future WECH buildings and spaces take shape on the site.

In May and June, 2023, community members were invited to share their views on the strengths and challenges of three potential site scenarios for the future community hub. Engagement opportunities included:

- Online survey including translated versions in Korean, Spanish and Farsi.
- Two open houses and three pop-up events with information boards, physical scale models and opportunities to directly share feedback and talk to project partners.
- Paper surveys, information leaflets and binders with detailed information about the scenarios, including large-print material distributed by the West End Seniors' Network and translated surveys and leaflets available in Korean, Spanish and Farsi.
- School community focused engagement, including a presentation to the parent advisory councils (PACs) from King George Secondary School (KGSS) and its surrounding elementary schools, and two workshops with an urban studies class at KGSS.
- Self-paced engagement materials were located in the display case of the West End Community Centre with information boards and site scenario models.
- Large-print informational posters were installed on the Denman facing windows at the Joe Fortes branch library.



▲ Open house, high school's urban studies workshop and pop-up events held at West End Community Centre and King George Secondary School



▲ Photo of a pop-up event held near West End Community Centre.

Park(let) Connections

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



▲ Story gathered from members of the community during fall 2021 engagement

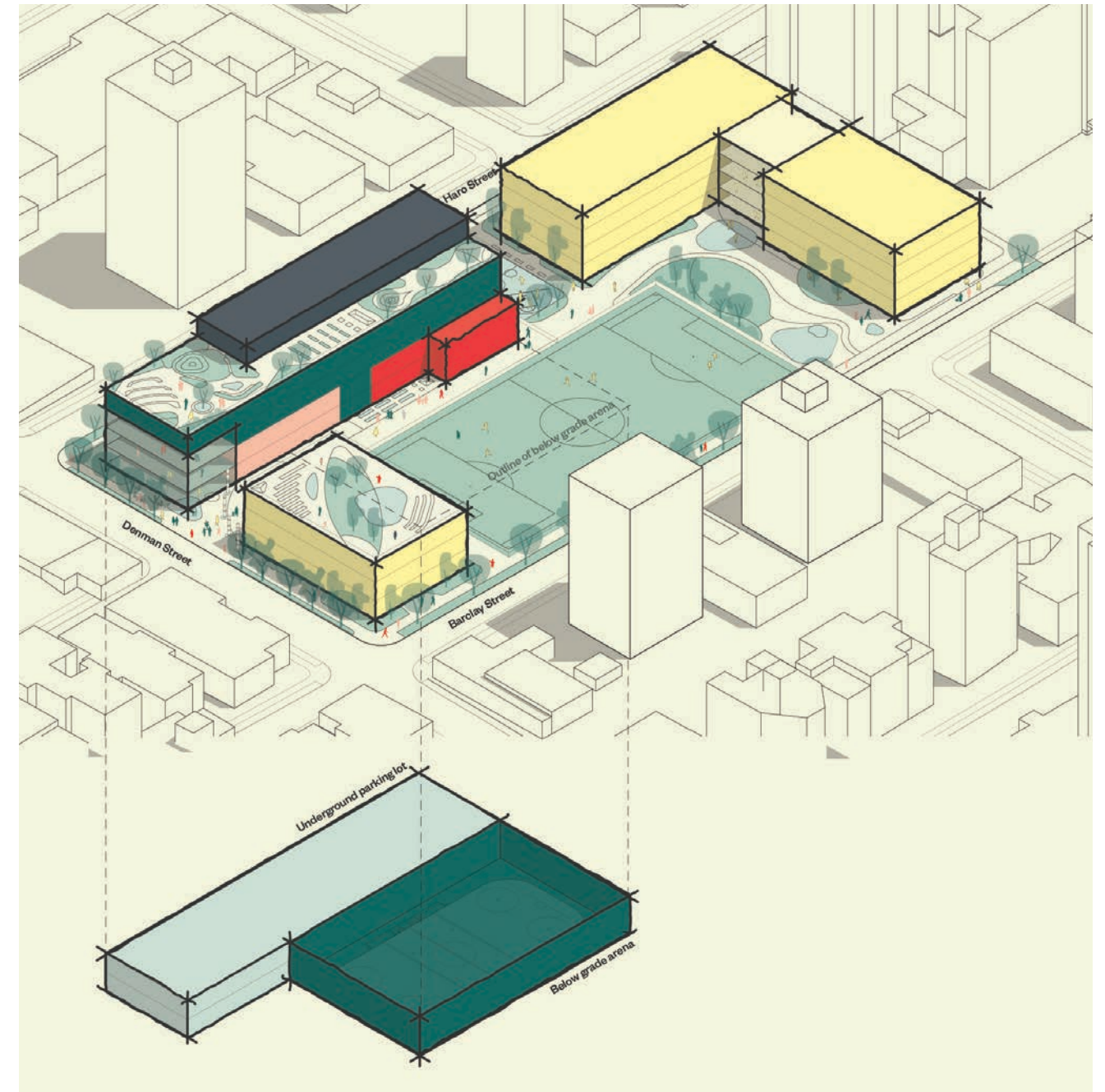
What we heard : site development scenarios

Community members were asked to provide feedback on three potential future site development scenarios by identifying each of their strengths, challenges and opportunities for improvement.

The online survey asked participants to select strengths from lists provided, with an option to write in additional strengths and/or any potential challenges. At the open houses and pop-ups, participants were invited to express any ideas they wanted to share.

Feedback on Scenario A:

Community uses on Denman and Haro, Education uses on Barclay



The image above represents a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and does not represent the design of the site's future buildings.

Strengths of Scenario A

When asked about the strengths of Scenario A, about half of all survey respondents selected the following options from lists provided:

- *Denman Street location of an expanded community plaza*
- *Denman location of the library*
- *Denman location of the community centre*
- *Denman connection to the community centre lobby or social space*

Pop-up and open house comments about the strengths of Scenario A were mainly about the Denman-facing aspects of this scenario. The main strengths about Scenario A expressed by the community were:

- *Atrium facing onto Denman Street, which could act as a combined entrance for the library and community centre*
- *Expanded community plaza on Denman Street*

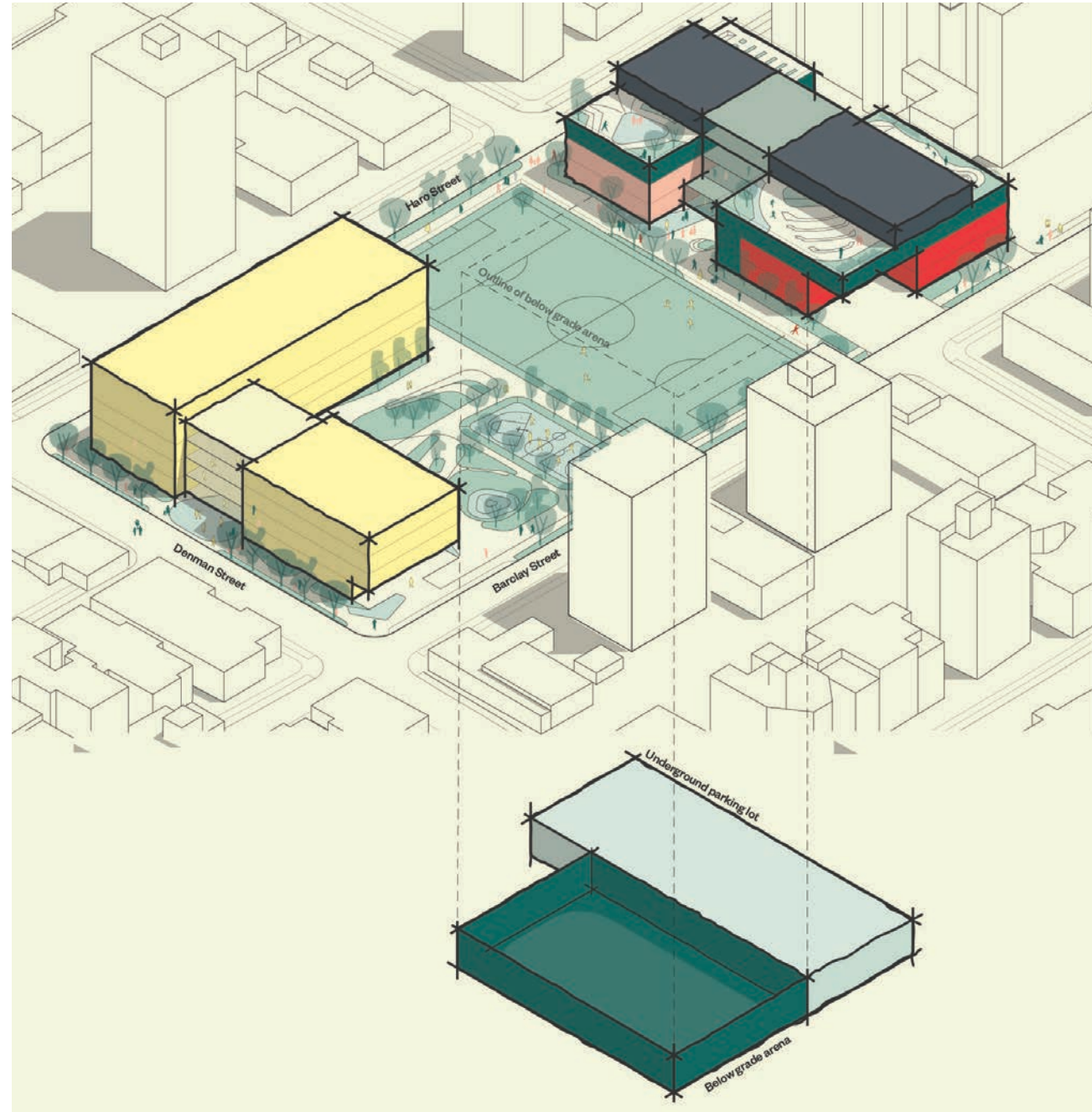
Challenges and opportunities for improvement for Scenario A

All participants (survey, open house, and pop-up) provided their feedback about challenges and opportunities for improvement through open-ended comments. The main themes about challenges or areas to improve Scenario A were:

- *Separation of school buildings between the east side of site and along Denman*
- *Haro Street location of Firehall No. 6*
- *Denman Street location of a part of the school*
- *Denman Street location of the expanded community plaza*

Scenario B feedback:

Community uses on Barclay, Education uses on Denman



The image above represents a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and does not represent the design of the site's future buildings.

Strengths of Scenario B

Scenario B had lower overall levels of public support in comparison to the other scenarios. When asked to select strengths of Scenario B from a provided list, survey respondents identified moderate support and approximately one quarter of survey respondents identified:

- *Haro Street Greenway location of a community plaza*
- *Barclay Street connection to Firehall No. 6*
- *Movement of foot traffic around buildings*

Comments about the scenario strengths were collected at the pop-ups and open houses. The relatively moderate strengths about Scenario B expressed by the community were:

- *Barclay Street connection to Firehall No. 6*
- *Haro Street location of the community centre and library*
- *Denman Street location of a secondary school*
- *Haro Street Greenway location of community plaza*

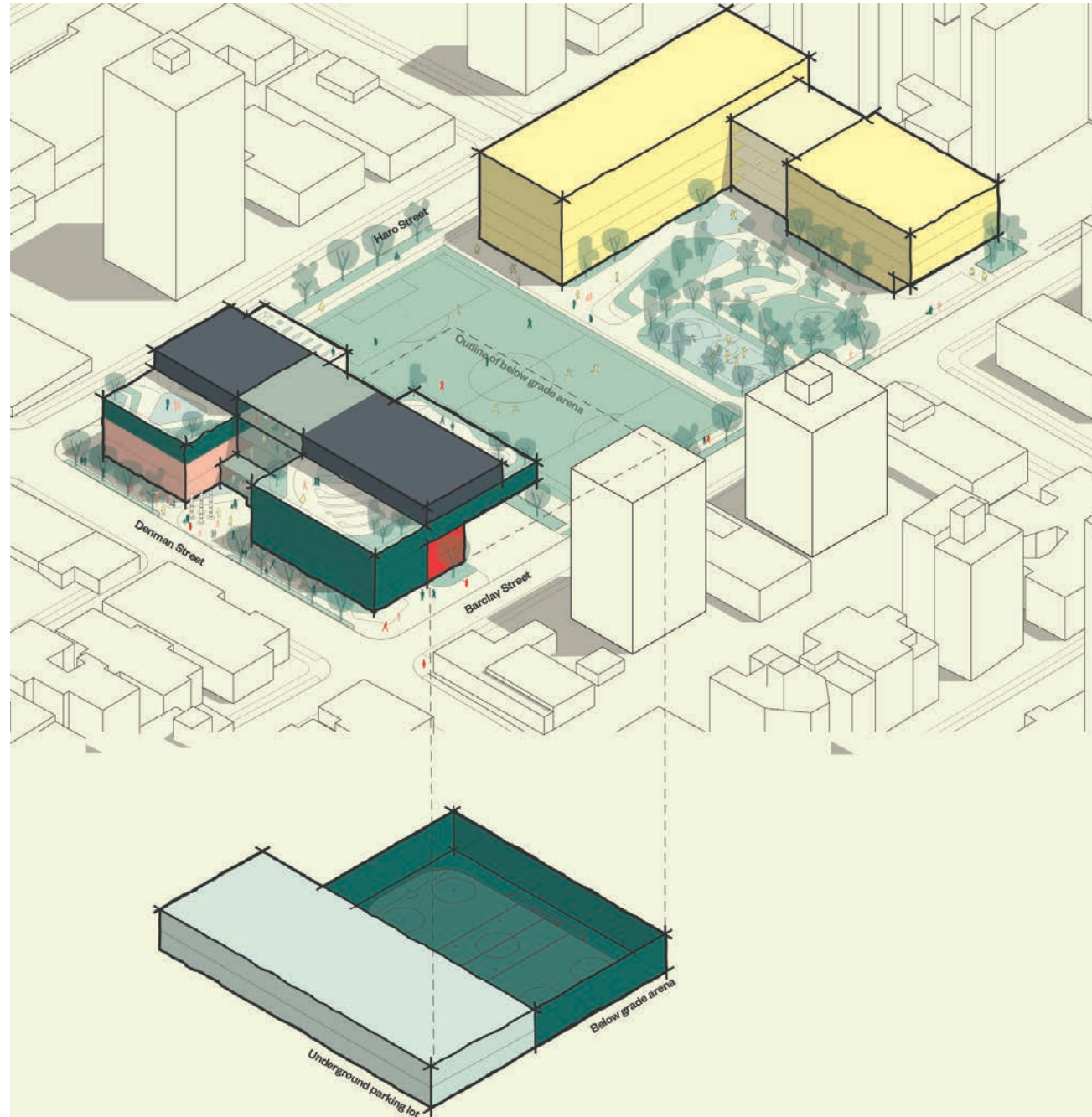
Challenges and opportunities for improvement for Scenario B

The main challenges or opportunities for improvements identified by survey respondents, open house attendees, pop-up visitors and other streams of input were:

- *Denman Street location of secondary school*
- *Barclay Street connection to Firehall No. 6*
- *Haro Street locations of the community centre and library*
- *Haro Street Greenway location of the community plaza*

Scenario C feedback:

Community uses on Denman, Education uses on Barclay



The image above represents a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and does not represent the design of the site's future buildings.

Strengths of Scenario C

When asked about the strengths of Scenario C, approximately two-thirds of survey respondents identified the following from provided lists:

- Denman location of the community centre
- Denman location of the library
- Denman location of the community plaza
- Denman location of the community centre lobby or social space
- The secondary school's location on the east side of the site

About a third of respondents supported the remaining elements listed about this scenario. Pop-up and open house participants shared additional perspectives about the strengths of Scenario C. The main strengths expressed by the community were:

- *Denman locations of the library and community centre*
- *Secondary school located on the east side of the site*
- *Denman connection to the community centre lobby/social space*
- *Denman location of an expanded community plaza*

Challenges and opportunities for improvement for Scenario C

The main challenges or opportunities for improvements identified by survey respondents, open house attendees, pop-up visitors and other streams of input were:

- *Denman Street location of secondary school*
- *Barclay Street connection to Firehall No. 6*
- *Haro Street locations of the community centre and library*
- *Haro Street Greenway location of the community plaza*

Preferred Renewal Plan

In summer 2023, partners reviewed the public engagement findings alongside the three site scenarios. Keeping community feedback in mind, project partners determined which scenario they could support moving forward as the recommended renewal plan for the West End Community Hub.

Scenario C was selected as the preferred direction for the West End Community Hub Renewal Plan due to it being broadly supported by community feedback, complementing other city development initiatives, such as the West End Community Plan, and closely meeting each partner's objectives and requirements.

The scenarios were developed to generally show how the spaces and activities could be located on the site but should not be considered as a defined architectural design. As the renewal plan advances with the spaces and activities location, the architectural expression and articulation may evolve into a redefined design.

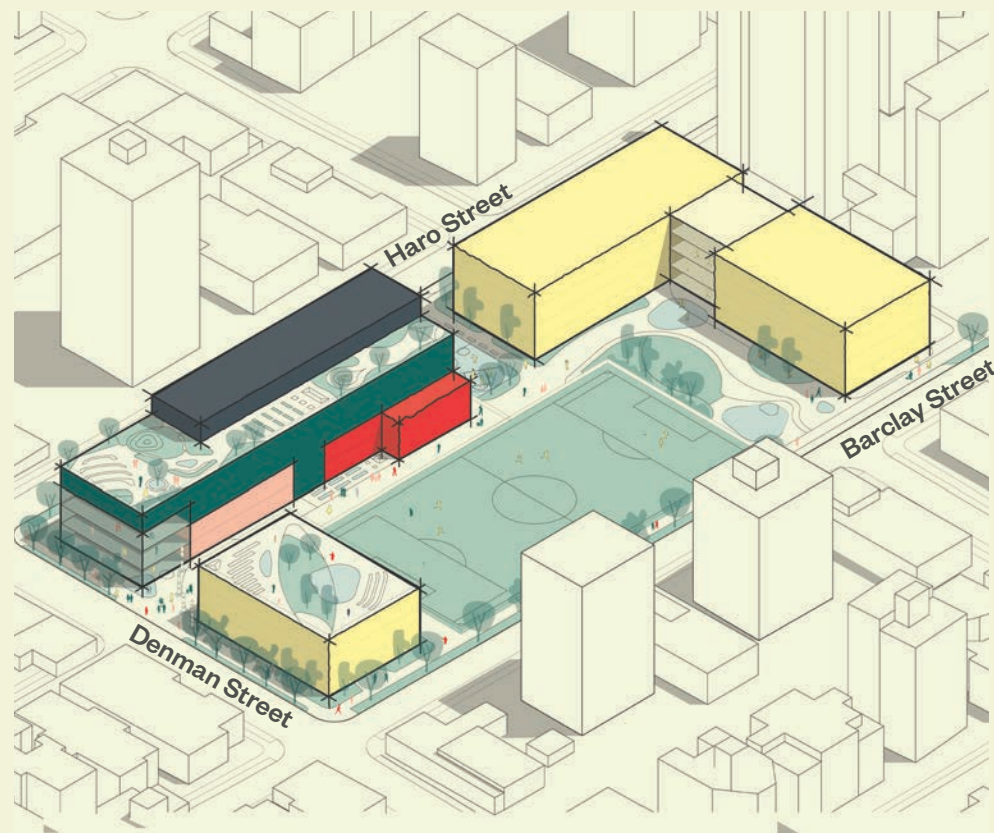


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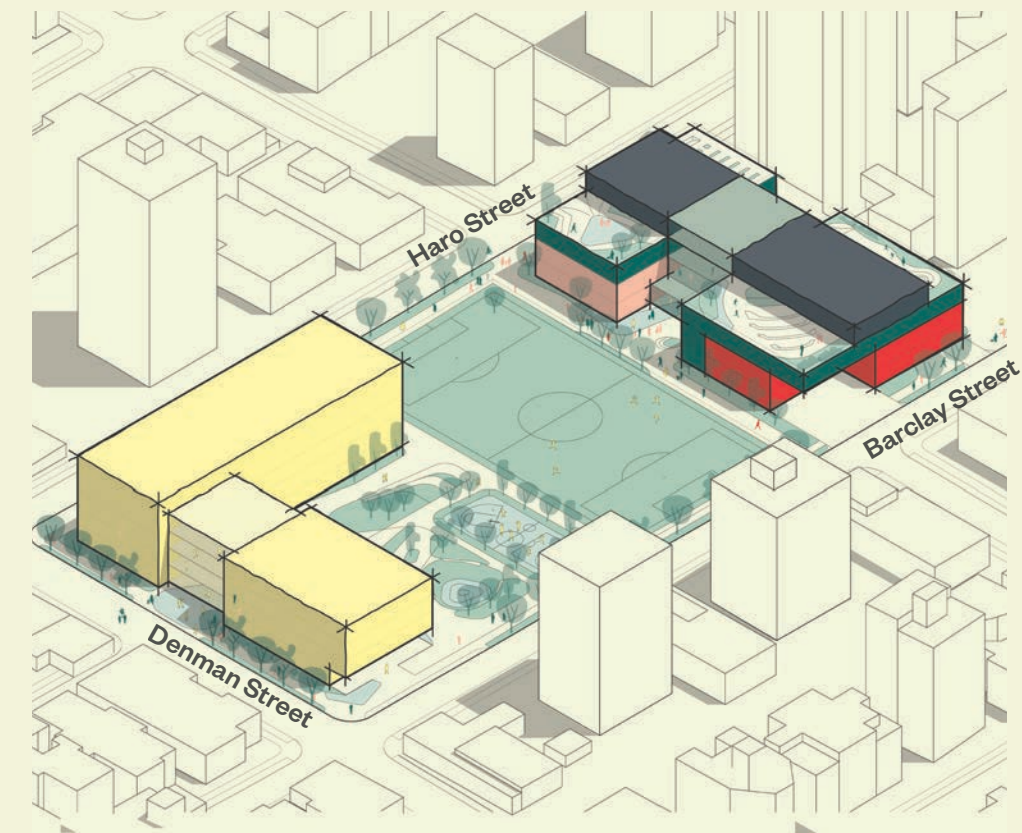
Alternate plans

The redevelopment and construction of the renewal plan will take place as funding is secured. Given the different funding sources for project partners, the renewal plan also identifies two alternate scenarios to ensure the plan is a flexible framework that responds to timing and availability of redevelopment funds. Scenario A and B are retained as potential alternate site scenarios that could meet each partner's objectives and requirements for the sites. While technically feasible, Scenario B is the least supported option by both public and project partners, and further review would be needed before pursuing any alternate options.

Scenario A Community and education uses on Denman, Education uses on Barclay



Scenario B Community uses on Barclay, Education uses on Denman



The images above represent three-dimensional test-fits of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and do not represent the design of the site's future buildings.

Looking forward

The WECH Renewal Plan is important for project partners to continue to deliver needed amenities and services to a growing community. Project partners will use the WECH Renewal Plan as the basis for renewing and collaboratively transforming the site as funding is secured.

The West End Community Hub Renewal Plan achieves one of the key 10-year policies set out in the 2013 West End Community Plan to work with on-site partners to develop a renewal and expansion strategy for this site and to explore opportunities to co-locate other community facilities. The community plan also included the goal to renew recreation facilities (including the West End Community Centre and West End Ice Rink) within 30 years, designing those facilities to meet anticipated population growth. Work to secure funding for this renewal continues, and construction will not start until funding is secured. Construction will need to be implemented through multiple phases and capital plans, based on funding and renewal priorities.

The Vancouver School District's Long Range Facilities Plan describes the need for King George Secondary School to be renewed and expanded to address growing student numbers. King George Secondary School is in the district's annual capital plan to request funding for a future expansion. The proposed expansion is pending approval and funding from the provincial Ministry of Education and Childcare.

The Water Lady!

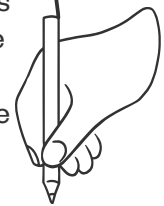
During the last two heat waves this year, one woman was sitting on a sidewalk patio with an adult beverage with her friends and asking (and getting consent) to spray people with a water gun. She was such a bully personality who understood the situation and provided some hilarity and relief. These are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



▲ Story gathered from members of the community during fall 2021 engagement

A stop on the way through life

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



▲ Story gathered from members of the community during fall 2021 engagement

2.0 A foundation of Coast Salish Knowledge

2.1 Introduction

The planning process for the future West End Community Hub was informed by xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tseil-Waututh) ways of knowing and storytelling, and focused on uplifting the aspirations Coast Salish People have for their homelands.

As part of the engagement strategy and the longer-term renewal planning work, the project included Indigenous engagement designed to help ensure Indigenous values and knowledge were layered through a thoughtful planning process. Indigenous engagement was guided by Ginger Gosnell-Myers, the Indigenous engagement lead on the consultant team. Ginger explored how to link and interweave xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tseil-Waututh) ways of knowing with other consultation work.

The project team engaged Coast Salish Project Associates, one from each of the three local Nations, and each of whom are both artists and Knowledge Keepers, to ensure Coast Salish knowledge was integrated throughout the process. The Coast Salish Project Associates do not represent their Nation's government. Their advice, guidance and recommendations for future phases of work on the West End Community Hub will be brought forward in government-to-government conversations.

- Chrystal Sparrow – xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Artist, Carver
- Cory Douglas – Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), West End resident, architectural and civil engineering technologist, Artist
- Angela George – Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Coast Salish Weaver and Artist, and səliwətał (Tseil-Waututh) mother, grandmother and community member

Through a collaborative decolonial planning process the Coast Salish Project Associates actively shaped:

- The engagement opportunities throughout all phases
- The interpretation of the stories heard during the visioning phase into key themes.
- The translation of themes into design recommendations in the renewal plan by bringing their unique perspectives as storytellers, artists and designers.



2.2 Commitment of project partners

The West End Community Hub project is taking direction from project partners to ensure all plans respect, integrate and reflect Indigenous knowledge. Partners have ongoing commitments to reconciliation with local Nations and Urban Indigenous Peoples, including policies and commitments such as:

City of Vancouver City of Reconciliation (2014)*

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

- Form a sustained relationship of mutual respect and understanding with local First Nations and the Urban Indigenous community, including key agencies
- Incorporate a First Nations and Urban Indigenous perspective into city work and decisions
- Provide services that benefit members of the First Nations and Urban Indigenous community
- Engage in a government-to-government relationship with xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Reconciliation long-term goals:

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

City of Vancouver UNDRIP Strategy (2022)*

- 1.8 Work with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh to develop and fund sustained public education about their history, culture, laws, contributions, etc. for visitors and residents.
- 3.5 Ensure the City funds Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh with capacity funding and personnel support for any process the City wishes the Nations to participate in. Ensure the diverse Indigenous populations living in the city are also funded for engagement.
- 4.9 Develop policies and practices which look at a range of spaces such as community centres, parks, recreation centres, art institutions, etc. and prioritize providing governance, affordable access and space for Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh and Urban Indigenous spaces for cultural practice and culturally safe community programming.
- 4.10 Expand supports to return the original languages to the land, through naming, grants for cultural programming, and public education on hə́qəmiñə́m and Skwxwú7mesh .
- 4.11 Prioritize Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh public art and other cultural programming within cultural recognition, in ways that allow for self-determination over cultural expression on the land and in the public realm.

Vancouver School District Education Plan 2026

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

Vancouver Public Library Reconciliation commitments

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

Park Board Reconciliation Strategies TRC** Update 2018

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

* The UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) Strategy was developed during the course of the project. The City of Reconciliation vision and goals provided guidance prior to the UNDRIP Strategy and continues to guide the work alongside the UNDRIP Strategy.

**TRC stands for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

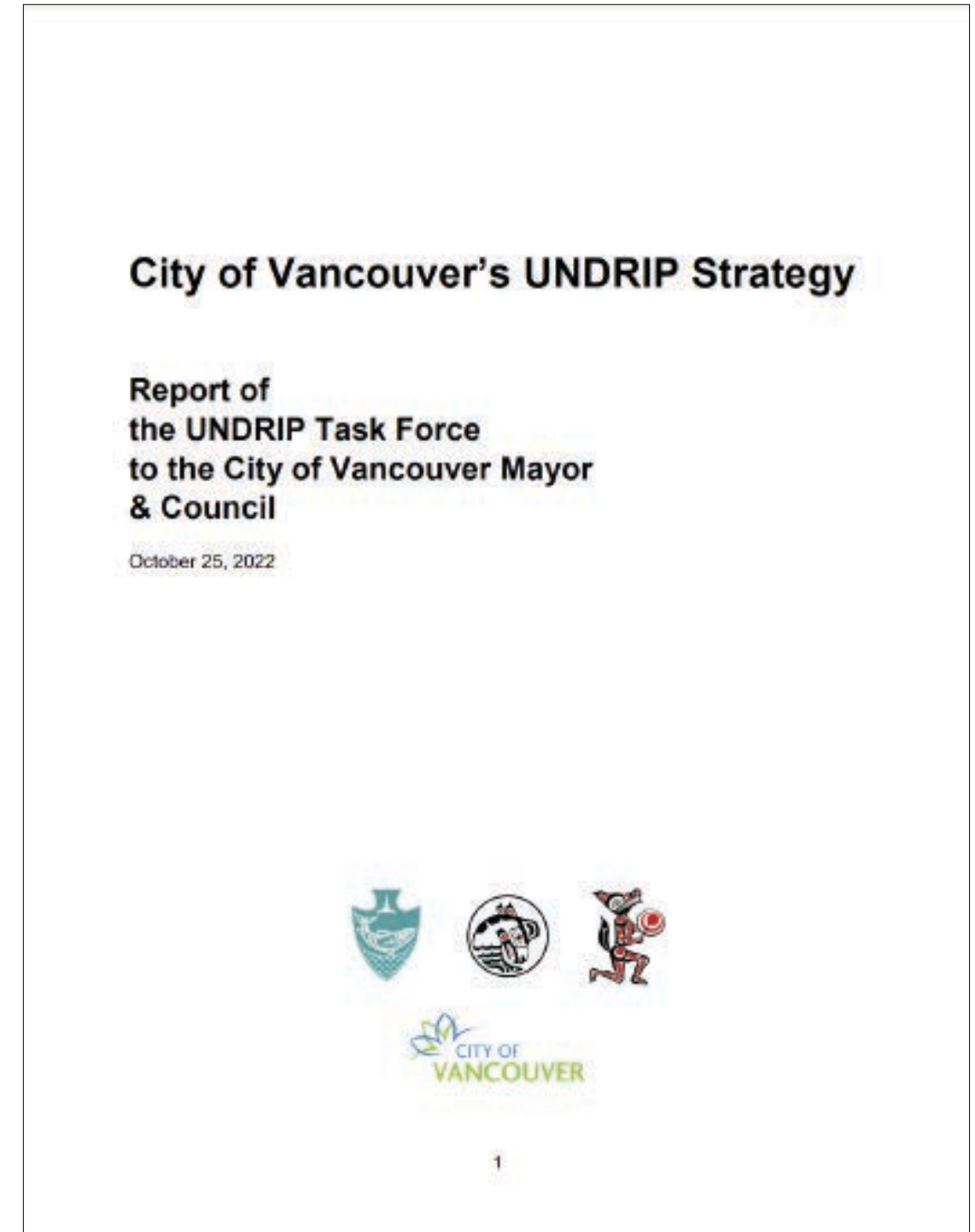
2.3 Government-to-government protocol

Government-to-government protocol

The City of Vancouver's UNDRIP Strategy notes:

The government-to-government relationship is at the heart of reconciliation and the work to undo and redress colonial impacts and dispossession on the rights and title holders of these lands. As Aboriginal title holders, Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh have unique rights with respect to governance, self-determination and other rights of sovereign Indigenous Nations.

As part of government-to-government relationships, the City of Vancouver sends referrals, which are project overviews with opportunities for involvement, to xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations staff teams. Project updates were sent on a quarterly basis. Based on interest from Nation staff so far, the project team has met with staff from Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



▲ Cover of the City of Vancouver's UNDRIP Strategy

2.4 Grounded in Coast Salish history

Important considerations for reconciliation in the project

Inclusion of Indigenous perspectives and values is not just about incorporating Indigenous art in the design process for WECH. Planning, design and strategic efforts within the project include innovative ways of demonstrating that x^wməθk^wəy^{əm} (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) have always been the stewards of these lands.

Learning opportunities about Coast Salish cultural, historical or ecological knowledge must be shared widely. x^wməθk^wəy^{əm} (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations have all stated their desire to see Vancouverites learn about their history and deep connection to these lands. At the same time, these Nations are working hard to ensure that their own citizens have access to learning opportunities about their histories, stories and traditional ecological knowledge. It is important to recognize how the sharing of any Coast Salish cultural, historical and ecological knowledge of surrounding lands and waters must benefit x^wməθk^wəy^{əm} (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) citizens. This intergenerational knowledge sharing was included as part of the renewal planning process.

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



▲ Sunset People by Angela George

2.5 A decolonial planning process

The WECH Renewal Planning process was grounded in Coast Salish stories. The project was launched with the Coast Salish Chronicles of the West End event featuring Knowledge Keepers and artists from x^wməθk^wəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. The Knowledge Keepers' stories reflected each Nation's unique connection to the West End.

The Coast Salish Project Associates created artworks related to traditional stories of the West End area that were shared at the beginning of visioning workshops. Hundreds of community members shared their own experiences of the West End, and then worked together to interpret both Coast Salish and community stories to develop directions for the new facilities, programs and spaces.

The Coast Salish and community stories continued to influence the remainder of the renewal planning process. The Activities and Spaces survey asked community to expand upon the stories that were shared to identify ideas about Indigenous centred spaces and activities for the future. These responses helped inform the location of buildings and specific site opportunities.

Mixed memories of picnics at Hallelujah Point in Stanley Park

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



▲ Story gathered from members of the community during the fall 2021 on the theme of reconciliation

Coast Salish Project Associates

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

Roles

Intergenerational knowledge transmission features in the renewal plan's process and outcomes. For example, the visioning stage featured sharing of Indigenous cultures and stories for the next generation's benefit. Spaces and activities in the future WECH will also foster intergenerational sharing of Indigenous knowledge and culture.

During the renewal planning process, Coast Salish Project Associates:

- Created artworks related to traditional stories of the West End area to be integrated into project communications,
- Worked with young people from the local Nations in a mentee/mentorship role as part of WECH Renewal Plan objectives of intergenerational learning and capacity development,
- Identified and worked with a Knowledge Keeper or Elder from their Nation, also as part of the intergenerational learning objective,
- Presented their artworks and stories at public engagement events,
- Provided guidance to the design team throughout the vision and principles phase to help shape the engagement process and outcomes through a Coast Salish lens,
- Offered their interpretations of the stories heard and helped develop them into key themes for informing the future WECH Renewal Plan vision and principles,
- Shaped discussions ranging from vision and principles to early stages of strategic thinking and design by giving their unique perspectives as storytellers, artists and designers,
- Attended specific project meetings, workshops and site visits with other project partners,
- Provided guidance in the identification of spaces and activities that can meet the needs of Indigenous Peoples,
- Ensured the vision and principles were created, reflected and implemented in a culturally appropriate and respectful way,
- Shaped the design of the site scenarios for the renewal plan through an Indigenous-centred lens,
- Through a co-design process, supported the development of multiple site strategies,
- Provided guidance on key considerations for meaningful Indigenous people involvement in future design phases.

Project partners are grateful for the guidance and contributions that the Coast Salish Project Associates have brought to the renewal plan process.



Chrystal Sparrow

x^wməθk^wəy̓əm (Musqueam) artist and carver.

Chrystal Sparrow is a x^wməθk^wəy̓əm (Musqueam) artist and female carver. She was traditionally mentored by her late father Irving Sparrow, a master carver. Chrystal is both a traditional and contemporary Coast Salish artist who designs feminine art to express her culture and family teachings. She has public art at the YVR International Airport, Vancouver School District, Starbucks Canada, BC Children’s Hospital, and many other locations. Chrystal believes her work is a living art language that expresses her culture, teachings, and perspectives.



Cory Douglas

Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) WE resident, architect and artist

Cory Douglas was born and raised in Coast Salish Territory ‘Vancouver’ and brings over 25 years of local experience in art and architectural design. He is a Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) Nation member with Xaayda (Haida) and Ts’msyen (Tsimshian) ancestry. Cory began his business as a graphic artist and continues to redefine himself as he merges his academic architectural vocation with his innate creativity.

Cory is connected to the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Nation through his parents and has been studying traditional Xaayda form and Formline and Coast Salish design. Cory’s intention is to communicate the cultural history of Canada, alongside the development and design of strategies through decolonization.



Angela George

Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), Coast Salish Weaver and Artist, and səliiwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) mother, grandmother and community member

Coast Salish weaver Angela George carries two ancestral names - sits’sáts’tenat and q^wənat. Originally from Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and Sts’ailes, she lives and works in the səliiwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nation with her husband Gabriel George, children, and grandchildren. Traditionally groomed, Angela carries the gift of weaving with integrity and a responsibility to create awareness, stewardship, and harmony. Angela holds an MBA in Indigenous Business Leadership at SFU, where she researched səliiwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) laws of the land and sacred waters of the Burrard Inlet, then designed it into a 10’ Weaving Governance panel to demonstrate that Coast Salish weavings are Holders of Knowledge and living, guiding documents.

The importance of intergenerational learning and mentorship

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

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

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



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

W.E. Connect Youth Mentees:

- Jonas Jones, səliiwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) - Mentee of Angela George
- Nick Nahanee, Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) - Mentee of Cory Douglas
- Jaz Whitford, Secwepemc (Shuswap) - Mentee of Afuwa

Each Coast Salish Project Associate also had the opportunity to identify a storyteller/Knowledge Keeper from their Nation to share traditional stories about the West End area. This formed the basis of inspiration for the Coast Salish Project Associates artworks. These stories were filmed and shown at the kick-off public engagement event, *Coast Salish Chronicles of the West End*. [Watch these stories](#)

Knowledge Holders

- Gabriel George - səliiwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Knowledge Holder for Angela George
- Aaron Nelson Moody - Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Knowledge Holder for Cory Douglas
- Chrystal Sparrow - xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Knowledge Holder for herself



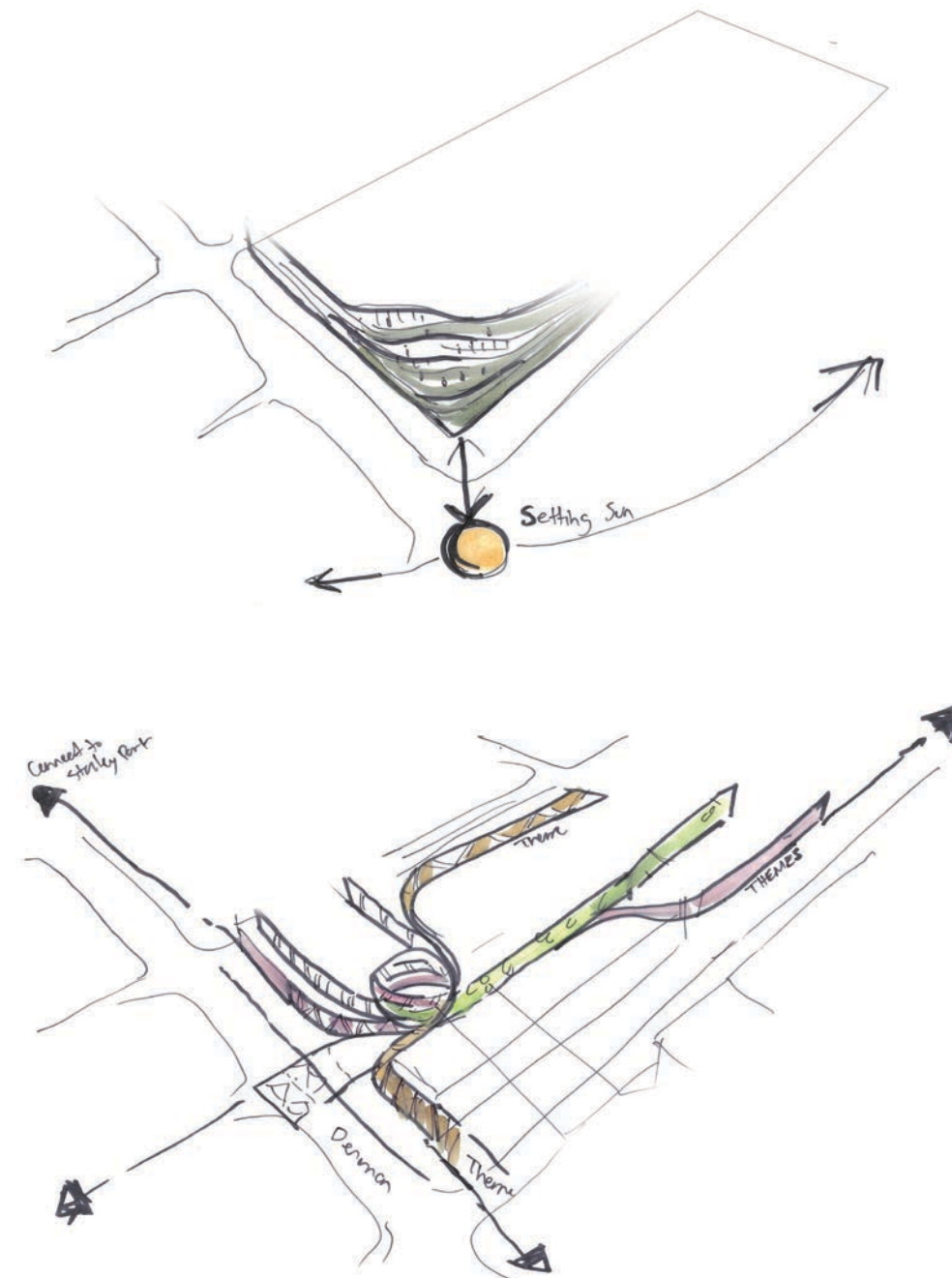
▲ Coast Salish Chronicles of the West End: Gabriel George: Knowledge Holder. [Watch here.](#)

Engagement with Indigenous Peoples

One of the goals of the W.E. Connect engagement plan was for broader xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) community to participate. At the same time, the engagement process had to be mindful that there is a community of Urban Indigenous Peoples in the West End neighbourhood who also hold experiences and knowledge to share.

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

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



▲ Site diagram explorations during the Coast Salish Project Associate workshop

2.6 Response to TRC Calls to Action and UNDRIP

In January 2022, the project partners, Indigenous consultant team and Coast Salish Project Associates collectively reviewed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) to expand the thinking and consideration over how reconciliation could be meaningfully included in the WECH renewal. Workshop participants looked at five TRC Calls to Action and four UNDRIP articles and discussed how the WECH could address their implementation.

The TRC Calls to Action and UNDRIP Articles.

TRC Call to Action #10

- iii. Developing culturally appropriate curricula.
- iv. Protecting the right to Aboriginal languages, including the teaching of Aboriginal languages as credit courses.

TRC Call to Action #14

- i. Aboriginal languages are a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society, and there is an urgency to preserve them.
- iv. The preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities.

TRC Call to Action #63

Build student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect.

TRC Call to Action #83

Establish a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process.

TRC Call to Action #90

Provide support and funding for, and access to, community sports programs that reflect the diverse cultures and traditional sporting activities of Aboriginal peoples.

UNDRIP Article #11

Indigenous peoples have the right to practice and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.

UNDRIP Article #13

Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.

UNDRIP Article #25

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

UNDRIP Article #32

Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

Recommended actions

This TRC & UNDRIP workshop led to the creation of a number of recommended actions for consideration during future stages of the project. Moving forward with any of these recommendations will require conversations with the local Nations and many will require ongoing collaboration and coordination with the project partners responsible for staffing and programming activities on site.

1. Culture

- Purpose-built cultural practices collaborative space.
- Spaces that hold knowledge, archives of knowledge, literature, art.
- Build on work by West End artists to date i.e., art drawing form history, local stories, community.
- Spaces for ceremony including burning sage, smudging.
- Places for sharing accessing Indigenous knowledge, arts, history.
- Food programming on Indigenous food-based ceremonies, activities, and programs, along with regular monthly seasonal activities based around Indigenous ceremonies.
- Cultural exchange space.

2. Elders

2.1 Elder in-residence space

- Mentorship for Indigenous students with Indigenous elders. Indigenous language courses.
- Elders in residence becomes a bridge between all aspects of the site a place for the school community centre libraries etc. to unite and be guided by.
- Ensure elders and spiritual leads are engaged to determine relevant ceremonies are upheld i.e., ground-breaking, ceremony is critical step to follow.
- Opportunities for teaching from elders to youth.
- Elder in residence through the school or centre wide available for conversations and mentorship for all.
- Indigenous storyteller in residence.

3. Languages

3.1 Language projects

- Create audio and short films that feature Indigenous languages attached to artwork and the stories histories and law.
- Create short films that document all three Nations speaking their languages to teach and inspire its relevance in today's society. This could be a collaboration project between the West End Community Centre and the Nations.
- Create audio recordings of Coast Salish languages so that community members can listen and learn how to pronounce specific words.
- Include fire safety materials in Indigenous languages.
- Explore language and art conferences hosting to share language learning and art techniques to promote sharing of best practices.

3.2 Language programming

- Invite x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) current language programs and fluent speakers to implement language programs and fun activities using their languages.
- Modify recreation guides to be more culturally inclusive with activities and language. Recruit Indigenous instructors.
- The idea of recording language and song as part of a shared space between the community centre and library where kids teams can participate in song dance, spoken word, etc.
- Educating the general public on pronunciation and meaning behind names.
- Programs to support community learning of local Indigenous languages.
- Create a language program where all community centres in Vancouver share learning and teaching opportunities through programs and workshops.
- Provide a resource centre or space where Indigenous language teachers can operate or to offer language teachings.
- Opportunities to learn local Indigenous languages, Indigenous reads book clubs, and audio stations to hear local languages.

4. Design

4.1 Language + Signage

- Produce short films incorporating audio clips in indigenous languages, focusing on art, narratives, history and legal traditions.
- Place names signage in traditional spelling along with English translation and phonetic spelling with audio where feasible.
- Entrance space to the school that reflects xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) spiritual cultural historical and ancestral relationship to this area.
- xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) names for the different buildings' rooms and spaces.
- xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) collaboration to name rooms and the overall site.

4.2 Culture + Design

- Indigenous design in the playground.
- Make visible any archaeological significance of the site.
- Highlight the entrance space to reflect xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) cultural protocols of welcoming.
- Identify and create art pieces based on Coast Salish laws to land and stewardship that helped teach all how to live here respectfully.
- Design the buildings (including HVAC systems) to accommodate cultural practices such as smudging or brushing off.
- Provide collaborative arts opportunities in the designing and building of spaces i.e., implement Coast Salish art into floor tiles.
- Invest in artists to produce work that engages with seven generation thinking, sustainability, and resilience.
- Interior spaces to evoke local plants, trees, ocean, and animals
- Work with artists and knowledge holders to thread the histories of the land into contemporary uses as a means of educating and building common ground.
- Make xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) culture in history visible throughout the site, and integrate urban Indigenous art and culture in supportive elements.

4.3 General landscape

- Small natural area that looks like untouched by humans.
- Native species plants.
- The indoor-outdoor relationship is often colonial, how to design differently, using design, natural materials, spaces for medicinal plants.
- Extension of physical building to exterior and outdoors.
- Opportunity for controlled outdoor spaces that can be smaller and contained at various levels with intimate connections with indoor programmed spaces.
- Ensure outdoor spaces support learning an engaging with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) relationship to the natural world.
- Ethnobotany as the inspiration, food, textiles, tools.
- Landscape and focused on Indigenous planting coupled with co-learning an interpretation around the role that various planting play in Indigenous culture.
- Display Indigenous art.
- Connecting outdoor experience programs with inside displays within the school and centre library etc. displaying artifacts.

4.4 Shared spaces

- Thinking about what goes in the middle? A place where there is a small audience to observe. Avoid generic spaces that end up catering to no one.
- Central atrium with shared spaces.
- Shared spaces for Indigenous courses that are offered to everyone.
- Since the space is meant to be flexible and responsive to changing community needs, engage students and community users in intercultural reflections about the space future.
- Open or multipurpose spaces where programming is constantly changing yet exciting and inviting for a safe intercultural learning space.
- Maintain physical connections between school spaces and community centre spaces to give students and community members more opportunity to interact in a safe and nurturing environment.
- All weather activity spaces.

5. Program-specific

5.1 Program development

- Create an xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) plus urban Indigenous committee for the creation of new programs, supports existing ongoing programs and activities including any protocol that may need to happen.
- Ensure committee are paid positions to ensure equity.
- Develop specific youth programs around mental health trauma and mentorship for healing.
- Dissect programming guide, inclusive program offering.
- Expand program offering for all cultures and people.
- Create a regular community centre budget for cultural activities, program, materials for ongoing support.
- Help provide support hub for accessing funding for new programming or activities.
- The future school should be designed and programmed to allow for Indigenous-focused curriculum changes to be tested unrefined for possible rollout across the district.
- Collaboration with Knowledge Holders and artists and language leads to determine strategic programming and representation.

5.2 Arts

- Include Indigenous art workshops and courses.
- Coast Salish art revitalization space, for xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) community members to learn the differences of Coast Salish and form line design.
- Artists for kids programming.
- Artist in residence and mentor in residence programs for Coast Salish community.
- Artist in residence program to be located such that it is visible upon the arrival to the site. Connected to covered exterior art production and carving space.
- Connection between the artist and resident space and the creative spaces in the school. Wood workshops and fine art classrooms can benefit from this connection.
- Larger art storage for long term carvings, cultural productions, explore opportunity to use art spaces beyond school hours to facilitate collaboration between students and broader community.
- Dedicate time to an artist meet up once a month where artists can meet, share ideas and a coffee. Include supplies for spontaneous art making that may happen for the artists.
- Artist in residence programs commissioning artwork produced by Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists.
- Provide opportunities for arts-based education and expressive arts that hold in shared knowledge.
- Spaces for creating traditional and contemporary Indigenous art.

5.5 Performance

- Performance space for xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) artists.
- Performance space that accommodates Indigenous celebration and cultural performance.
- Dedicated Knowledge Keeper space, determine specific needs related to Indigenous arts and culture performance including storage.
- A space where West End community members can register to meet and greet xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) artists Knowledge Keepers safely.
- Spaces for practicing and performing arts for Indigenous and community arts.
- Performance and rehearsal spaces.
- Multi-generational and multi-use learning spaces for traditional practices and sharing events.

5.4 Library

- Library to include specific collections and a unique space and zone in the library focused on learning more about Indigenous cultures.
- Ask Indigenous communities what programming they would like to see offered at the library.
- Programming and storytelling spaces for intergenerational learning for all cultures. Encourage all generations and cultures to attend.
- Creating safe social spaces for youth and Elders to share experiences and stories in a fluid environment. Open spaces to encourage and invite all community members to learn.
- Intergenerational educational opportunities. Learnings from the past. Last rigid setting more casual.
- Library recording booth to document stories, connection to Elders in resident space. Is developed so that it is culturally welcoming.
- Story archives space to listen and learn from growing collection of recordings.
- Connection to kith and kin Indigenous genealogy.
- Indigenous-focused book clubs and reading groups.
- Innovative library building e.g., weavings and other future artifacts are holders of knowledge, display them and provide access to the accompanying stories.

5.3 Makerspace

- An ultra makerspace with Coast Salish design, a beautiful space for various workshops such as beating wool working, identifying medicines, natural dyes, fabric making etc.
- Maker space is for creating Indigenous and all arts by community members
- Woodcarving or art work development space for cultural exchange or sharing of knowledge with West End community
- Outdoor wood carving space or fabrication space for opportunity for cultural exchange.

5.6 Recreation

- Indigenous recreation activities, learning about and teaching and hosting events.
- Encourage greater diverse participation and recreational activities.
- Invite Nations sports teams that play soccer, basketball, lacrosse, and bone games to the community centre through tournament opportunities.
- How we approach sport, consideration of outdoor programmed activities during operating hours but can be transformed to more flexible spaces off hours.
- Many Indigenous sports and recreation activities are unsure how to access city funding - offer communication on what is available for tournament spaces and funding.
- Canoe shed storage, start hosting canoeing as a West End community hub program, start a secondary school team, have a flex use canoe for people to sign out, and offer lessons.
- Determine how arena space could meet the needs for diverse Indigenous sporting activities.
- Determine specific needs related to Indigenous sports different to non-Indigenous sports such as All Native Basketball Tournament compared to a non-Indigenous tournament.
- Organize a variety of competitive league events in the arena, ranging from province-wide Indigenous hockey tournaments to regional leagues.
- Host Indigenous games.
- Recreation includes exploratory programs off site to take advantage of proximity to Stanley Park for recreation for students and community members, Indigenous focus.

6. WECH future development process

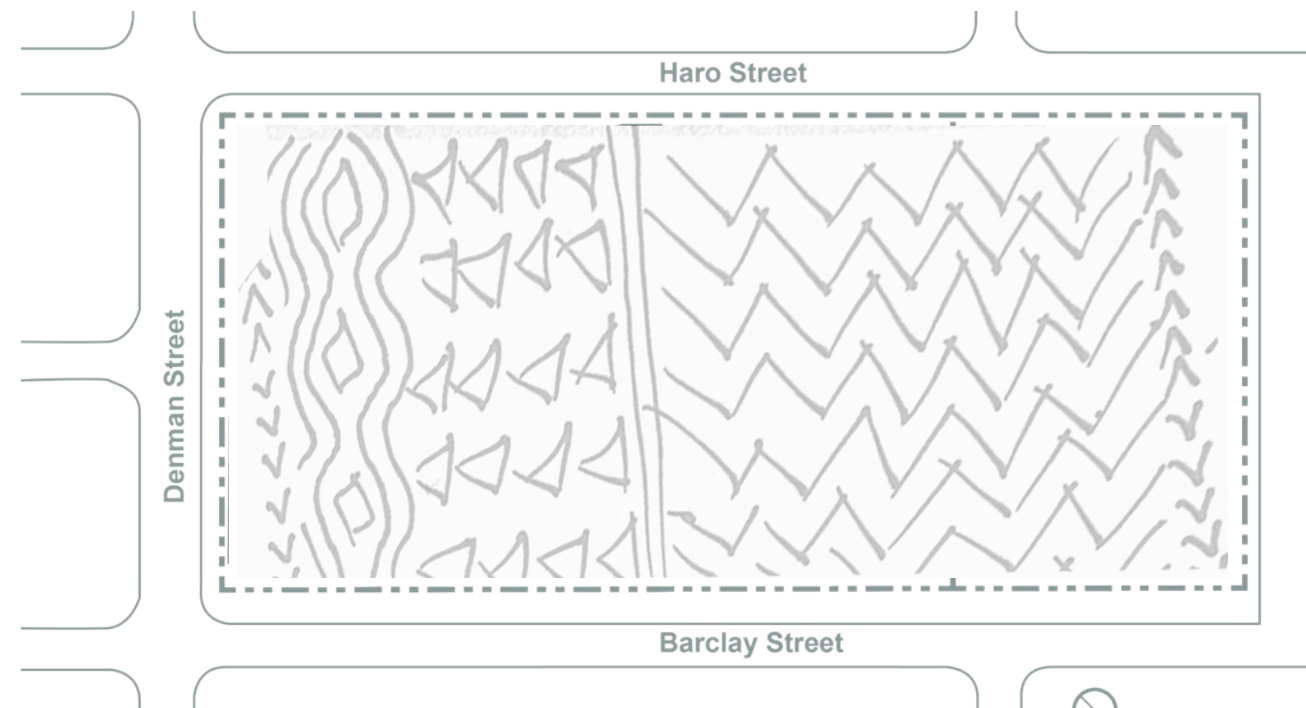
- Project RFP stage embeds budget to appropriately integrate art, procurement coordinator, Indigenous liaisons, language holders, and the budget for artists to ensure these goals can be realized.
- Technical support group for artists who want to apply to RFPs, webinars.
- Training and mentorship opportunities across this and all other professions on site
- Indigenous-led resilience planning for the site.
- Continue resourcing the project and budget appropriately to allow for meaningful engagement with the Nations and urban Indigenous community.
- Continue to provide project information to xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) through formal staff-to-staff updates coordinated by the City's Indigenous Relations team.
- Continue Coast Salish Project Associates involvement throughout all phases of the project.
- Ongoing xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) committee to help ensure the site is responsive to changing community needs.



▲ Coast Salish Project Associate workshop conducted by architectural and landscape consultants

2.7 Learning from the land - Coast Salish site walk and observations

During the site scenarios phase, the Coast Salish Project Associates took part in a site walk to develop a deeper connection with the site. The sitewalk led to design considerations that build upon the stories shared in the visioning phase and honour the recommendations of the TRC Calls to Action and UNDRIP articles. The walk generated observations that informed a series of site opportunities expanded upon in [section 2.9](#)



- ▲ Site walk-through with Coast Salish Project Associates
- ▲ Site impressions and opportunities explored during the Coast Salish Project Associates workshop
- ◀ Angela George sketch illustrating the potential to integrate the fabric of our lands into design

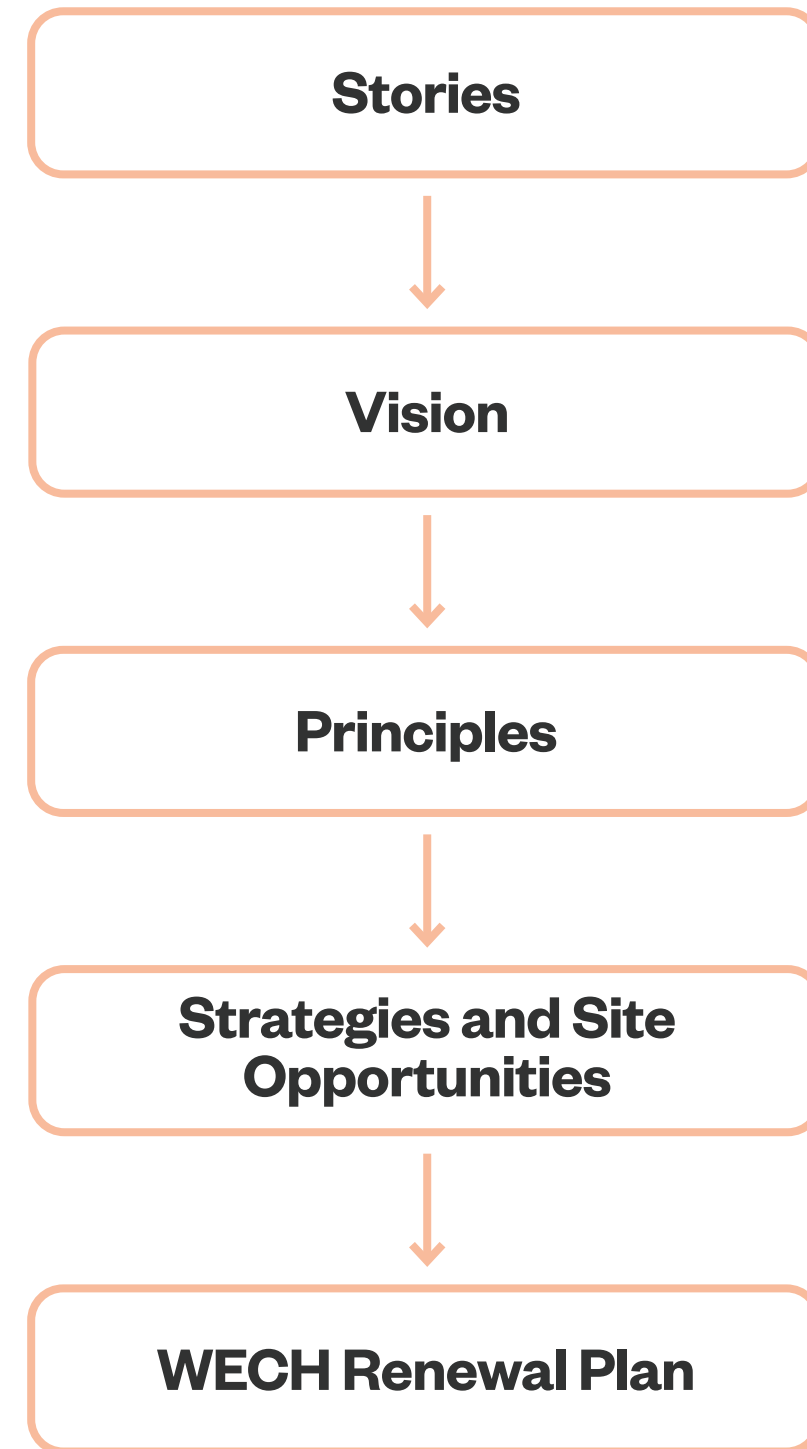
2.8 Coast Salish site opportunities

Site opportunities are actionable approaches outlining how the project's principles will be upheld and steps taken to realize the vision. Coast Salish site opportunities developed for the WECH Renewal Plan range from general considerations to opportunities that focus on a particular space, activity or exterior area of the project.

It is important to outline that the following cultural site opportunities are recommended with the understanding that the development and implementation of these initiatives will require active collaboration with local Nation governments. Any recommendation with continuous operational impacts will also necessitate meticulous planning and coordination with project partners and on-site staff. These recommendations are presented with the intent to foster future collaboration and ensure that the development aligns with both its cultural values and operational aspirations.

Together, these elements form a cohesive framework that guides the decision-making process, ensuring that the WECH Renewal Plan upholds its commitment to reconciliation.

"The blanket has been laid and we build from here"
- *Angela George*



2.9 Strategies and site opportunities

The following reconciliation focused strategies and site opportunities were co-created with Coast Salish Project Associates and informed by feedback from the December 2021 Visioning - Synthesis Workshop, the project principles, and project partners' commitments to reconciliation. Future collaboration with local Nation governments will be required to further develop and implement any of the recommendations below.

Strategy: invest in Indigenous inclusion from design to programming. Create Pathways of welcome that reflect xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səlilwətaʔ culture and hold spaces for creativity, mutual respect and trust.

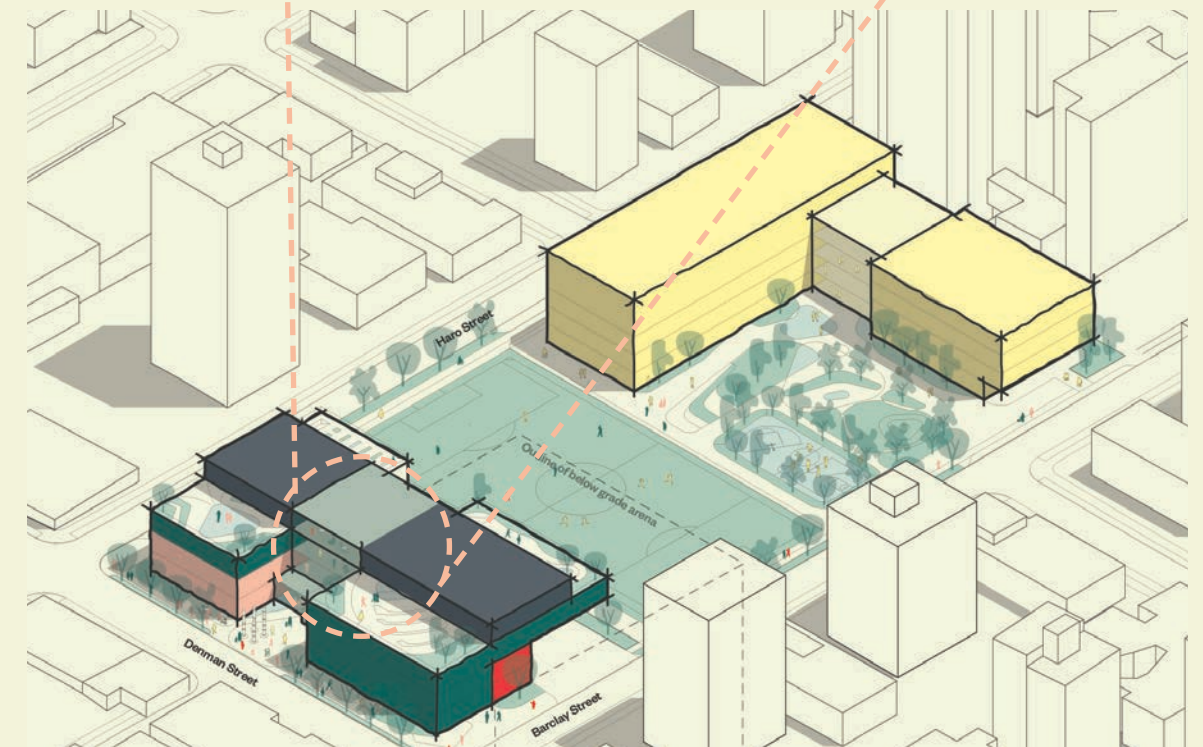
Site opportunities:

- Prioritize the inclusion of an Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Space within the future facility. This space should highlight and strengthen connections to Coast Salish people, history, and culture while ensuring it is welcoming to everyone and celebrate diverse cultures. This space should stand out architecturally, be clearly visible from the main entrance, and incorporate distinct cultural elements like house posts that both structurally and visually connect the space.
- Create a connection to broader network of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səlilwətaʔ learning and important sites.
- Integrate learnings woven throughout the site that reflect xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səlilwətaʔ and community stories / themes.
- Integrate three mural walls on the site for a local Nation artist, Urban Indigenous artist, and community artist. The goal of this program would be to provide ongoing opportunities for emerging artists and youth, ongoing mentoring opportunities, and rotate yearly integrating new themes, cultural teachings and stories.
- Offer educational spaces and programs in collaboration with local First Nations.

Featured **house posts** can be designed to support and extend within the Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Space

Connection to community centre and library spaces

Indigenous and Culture Hub can be designed as an **elevated architectural feature** visible from within main atrium



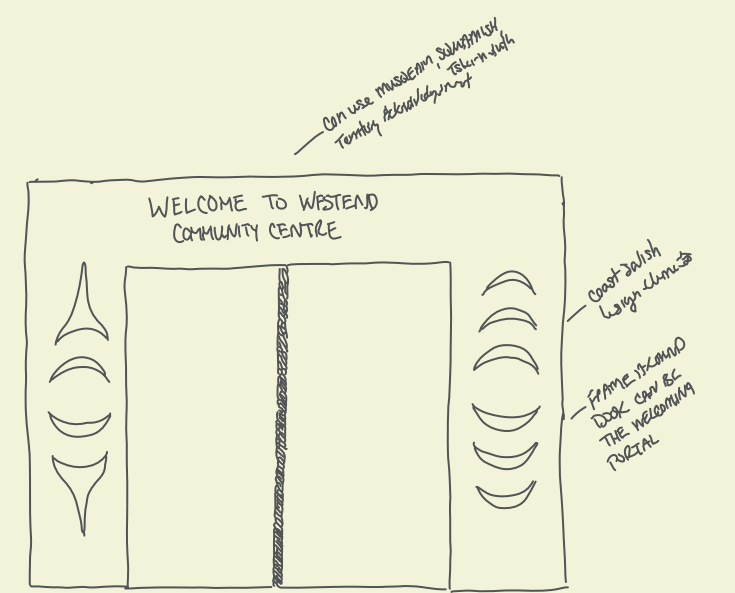
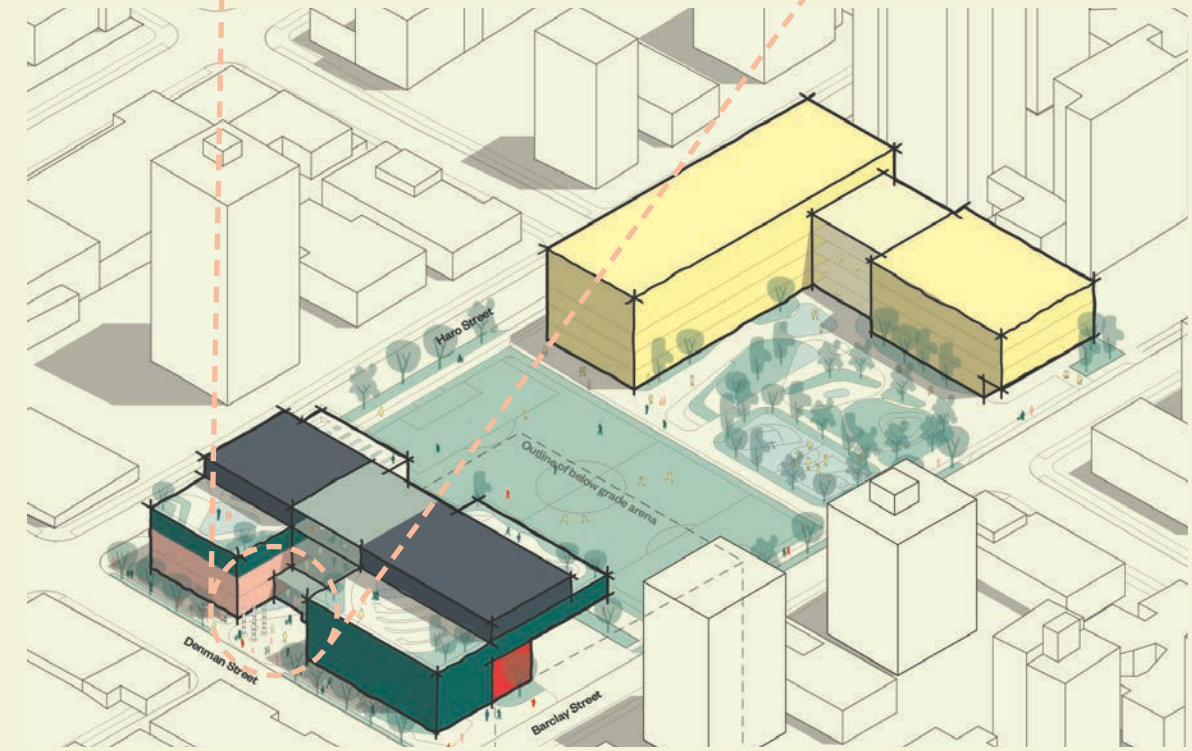
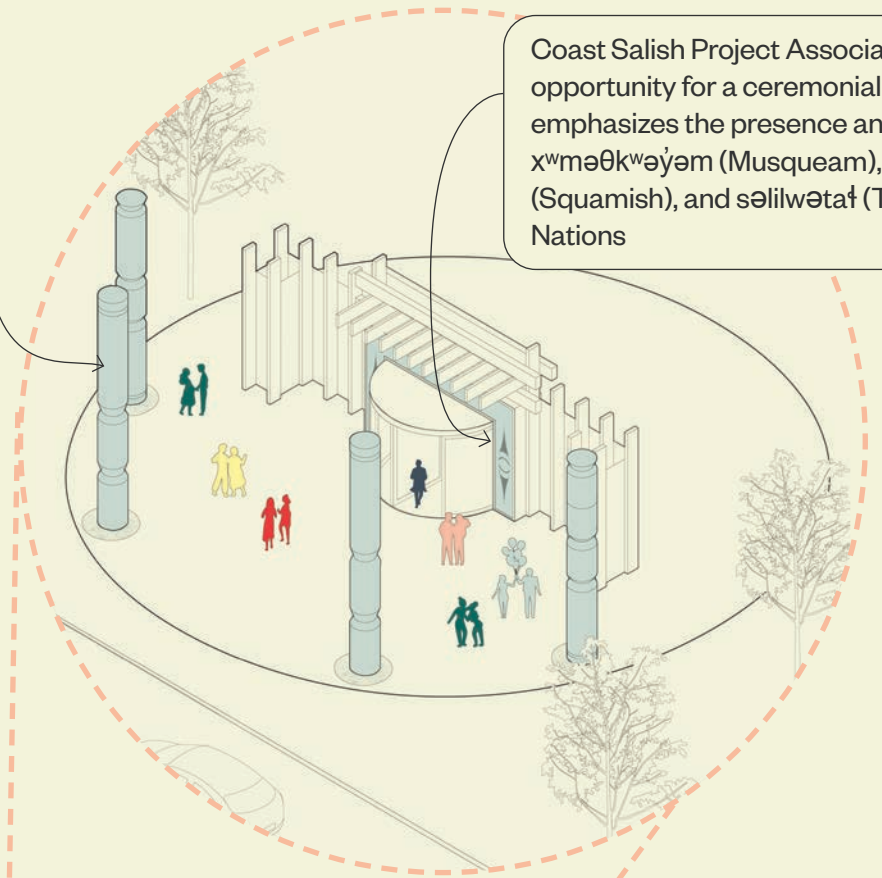
Strategy: locate Coast Salish cultural elements at entrance so guests are greeted upon entry and have cultural activities and programming visible for all to see.

Site opportunities:

- Ensure the presence and history of the local Nations is legible as the context for the site.
- Integrate protocol markers at the main entrance to the site. Four protocol markers could be located in the public plaza representing the three local Nations and the Urban Indigenous community. The design could encourage an invitation for multiple ways to engage with the markers including text and language, tactile elements, audio, web links or QR codes so that stories connected with the markers and context can be provided in many ways.
- Create a ceremonial entry that emphasizes the presence and history of the Nations on the site. Integrate Coast Salish art at the point of arrival and in conjunction with xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) protocols.
- Identify up to ten Coast Salish stories to be integrated into the symbolic and functional design of the site. Coast Salish design should be formally expressed at multiple scales.

Coast Salish Project Associates described Protocol Markers at main entry to communicate culturally important approach to sharing space as a community

Coast Salish Project Associates identified opportunity for a ceremonial entry that emphasizes the presence and history of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations



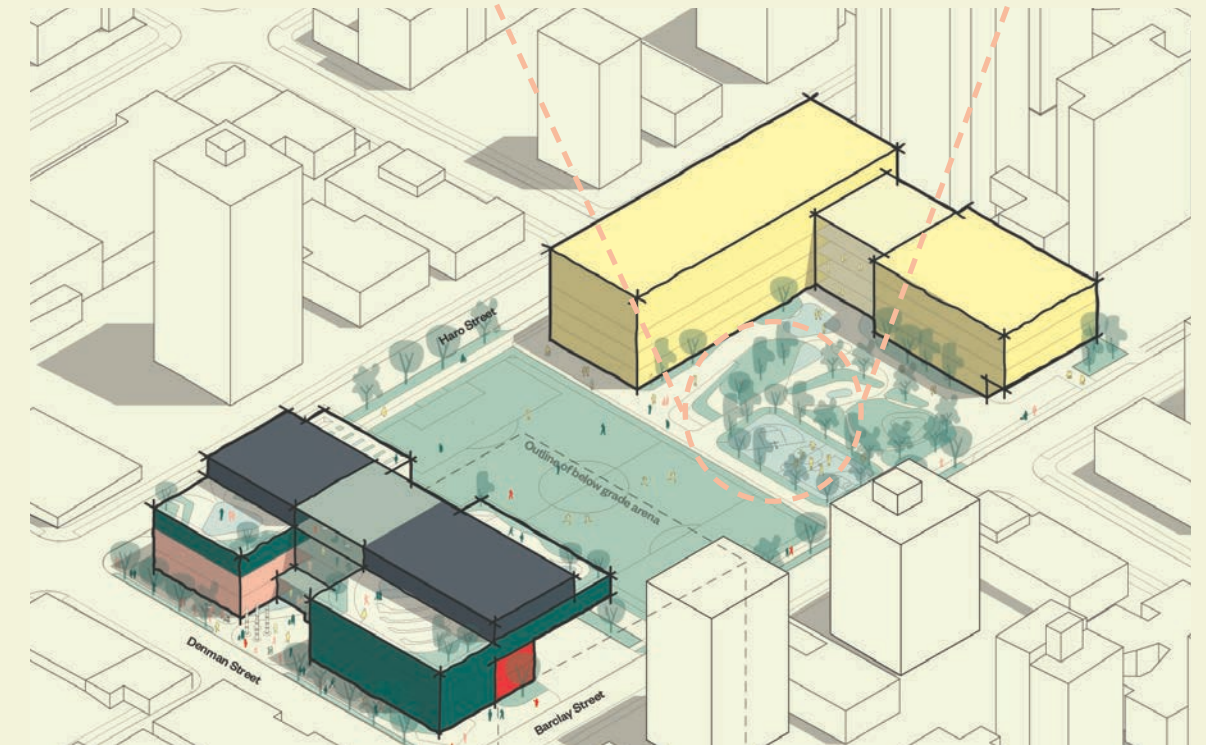
▲ Chrystal Sparrow sketch of ceremonial entry into facility

Landscape design could integrate symbols showcasing stories, histories, values and connections.

Strategy: weave Coast Salish art and architecture and ways of being, both symbolically and functionally.

Site opportunities:

- Expand upon the concept of “lay the blanket” and show the fabric of our land through representing Coast Salish weaving. Recognize that weaving holds stories, histories, values, laws, connections to each other and the environment. Weaving connects us to the past but weaves us all together as a collective fabric of our society. Consider developing weaving design and patterns that tell the vision of the project and express the project principles. Consider expressing this weaving throughout the project design in the form of pathways, artwork, lighting and detail elements.
- Embrace new thinking inspired by ancient Coast Salish wisdom on social health, well-being and connection to Nature.



▲ Portion of Angela George sketch illustrating the potential to integrate the fabric of our lands into design

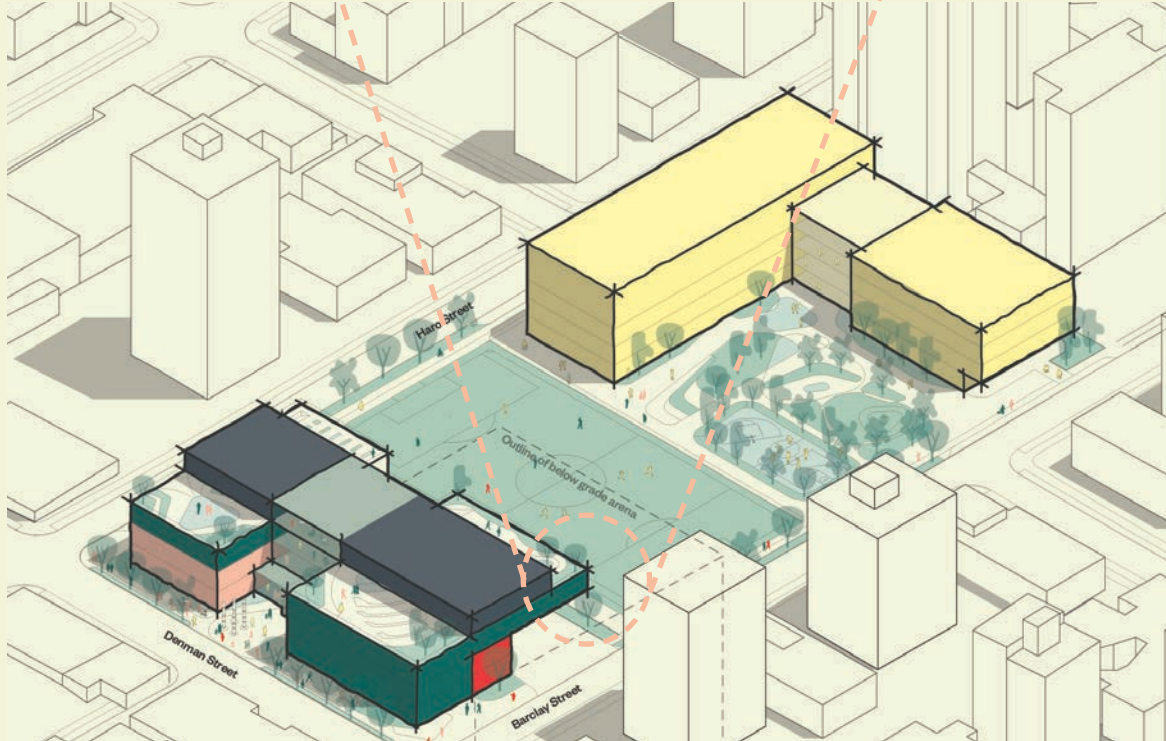
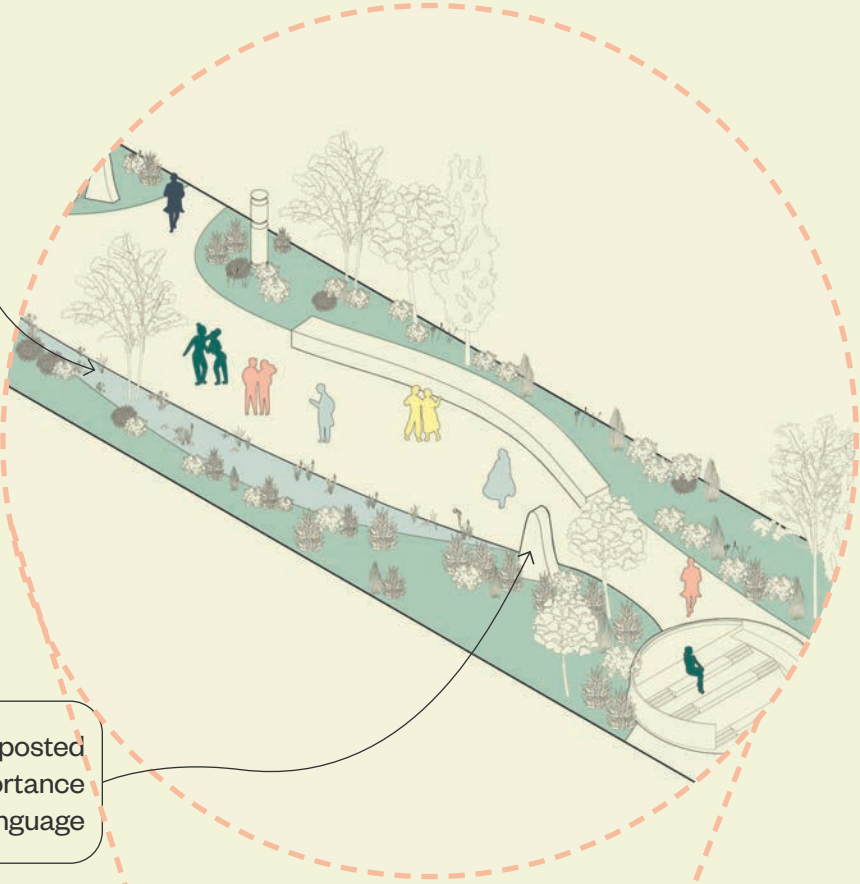
Strategy: provide connections to outdoors and nature throughout and at many scales. Blur the indoor and outdoor spaces.

Site opportunities:

- Consider integrating a Medicine Walk Pathway to showcase the cultural importance of native plants and the integration of Indigenous language. The Medicine Walk Pathway could provide a secondary access to the Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Space for those not comfortable entering a main entrance.
- Maximize opportunities to integrate urban ecology into the planning with the goal of developing a “living building.”

Medicine pathway could integrate culturally significant native plants

Educational signs can be posted to describe the plants importance and integrate Indigenous language

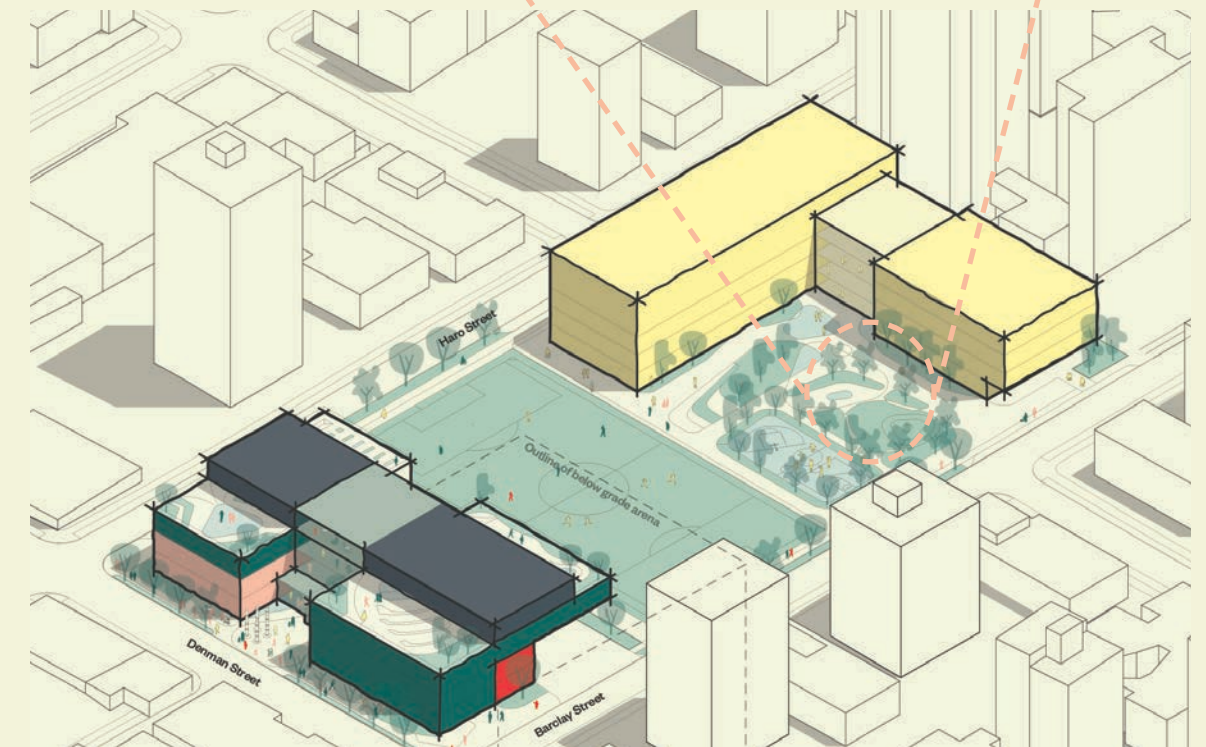


Coast Salish Project Associates proposed an interactive and immersive landscaping installation that honours the story of the Cedar Mother.

Strategy: the building should reflect the importance of nature, the water, and the sunset.

Site opportunities:

- Indoor and outdoor spaces should connect visitors to the land, water, and sunset by leveraging views.
“The setting sun [...] reminds us to uphold the integrity of our ancestors, conducting ourselves according to the laws of nature, giving thanks, striving to illuminate the warmth and light of the Sun” Sunset people – by Angela George
- Ensure the centre protects and celebrates the natural world and can withstand the effects of climate change.
- Push the boundaries of environmental and social sustainability.
- Honour the story of Cedar Mother and its role in sharing the importance of our connection to the land and environment. Consider integrating the Cedar Mother carving physically on the site in the form of a sculpture in association with outdoor education spaces. Within the area on the site students can learn about Cedar Mother, about how cedar is used in many ways from medicine, travel, art and tools. Cedar Mother's presence can emphasize cedar's symbol of its medicine in Coast Salish culture.
- Consider integrating cedar and other traditionally used materials throughout the design and programming. Cedar weaving design can be integrated throughout materials and planting. Workshops can be held to understand the importance of cedar and to learn traditional weaving techniques.



Plaza space can be designed to accommodate open markets and exhibits showcasing crafts and elements of all cultures

Strategy: offer educational spaces and programs in collaboration with local First Nations

Site opportunities:

- Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Space could support programming offered through the secondary school, the broader WECH community and in collaboration with local Nations.
- Consider integrating art and stories in public spaces and buildings so that the history of land and people is visible.
- Consider showcasing all kinds of multicultural art – textiles – music – video.
- Ensure spaces are intergenerationally inclusive.
- Provide places for the community to connect together through growing, harvesting, making, sharing.



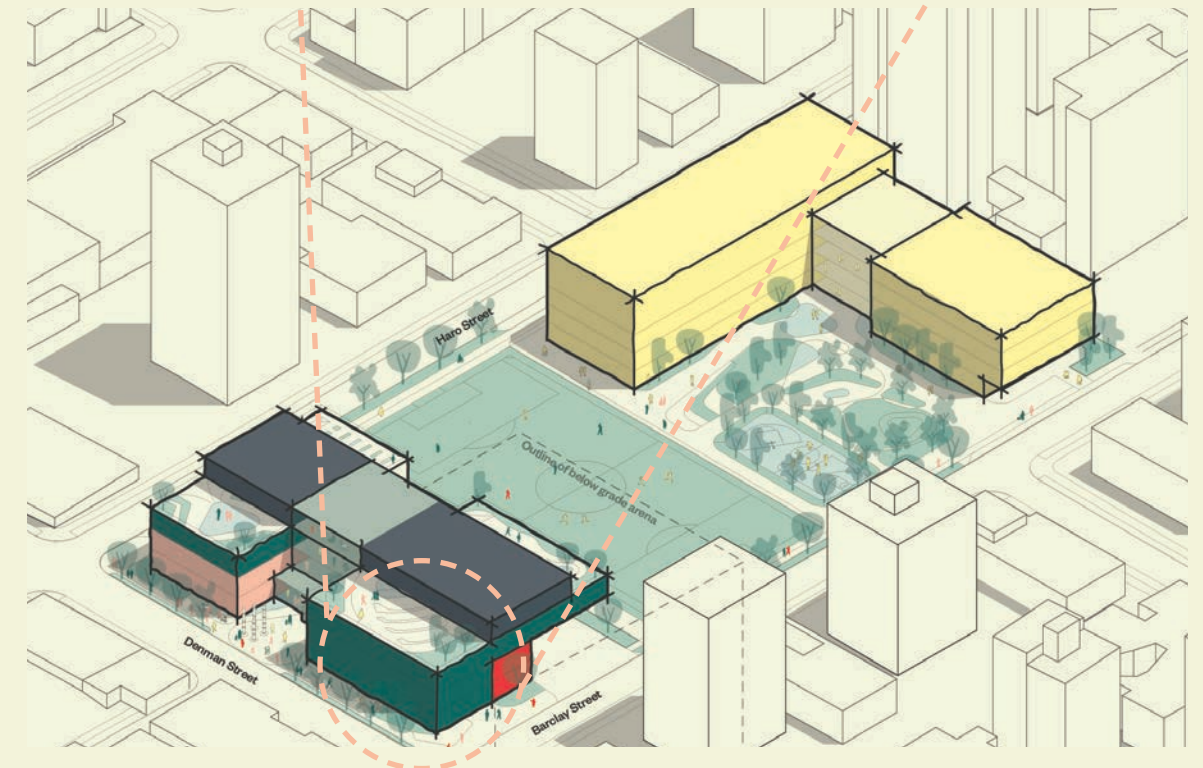
Strategy: recognize the history and role of the 2SLGBTQQIA+* community in shaping the neighbourhood, ensuring that Indigenous members of the community, including Two Spirit individuals, are welcome.

Site opportunity:

- Consider creating a safe visually recognizable landmark for the 2SLGBTQQIA+* community in shaping the neighborhood and consider how the built form interacts with celebrations like the pride parade.

* Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, plus people who identify as part of sexual and gender diverse communities and use additional terminologies.

Terraced balconies can be shaped to create lookout points for community events (e.g. pride parade)



Considerations for future design and development processes

The Coast Salish Project Associates identified opportunities for involvement in future design phases beyond the renewal plan process. The following suggestions have been identified that would build upon the approach taken on the renewal plan to ensure Indigenous perspectives continue to be integrated in the future. These recommendations for future phases of work will be brought forward in government-to-government conversations with x^wməθk^wəy^{əm} (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətał (Tseil-Waututh).

Cultural continuity: ensure project planning integrates roles and appropriate equity to support the involvement of Coast Salish Project Associates in all future phases of the project.

Professional development opportunities: identify subject matter experts in language, art and culture, design and programming to continue to guide the project.

Allow for co-creation: ensure that future phases allow time and processes for future Coast Salish Project Associates to define and co-create the involvement they want to have on a project and the process.

Creative expression: there will be no expectation that artistic expression is required of the Coast Salish Project Associates in the future. They may choose to collaborate on creative expression or their role may be to identify design opportunities or to liaise with artists that are integrated.

Remove barriers: ensure that ongoing project management and systems are developed to remove barriers to Coast Salish Project Associates inclusion. This may include removing barriers to invoicing.

Senior Indigenous Advisor: ensure future project teams include someone that can act as the key liaison with Coast Salish Project Associates to ensure their involvement is being honoured, their time and voice is respected and a culturally safe space is provided.

Intergenerational Learning and Mentorship: ensure that the spirit of intergenerational learning and mentorship is honoured through future phases recognizing the importance of Indigenous Peoples connecting with Elders and Knowledge Keepers for this cultural knowledge transmission to happen. Continue to include a mentee/mentorship program to build cultural capacity in Coast Salish youth.

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3.0 Vision and Principles

3.1 Introduction

The work to develop the WECH Renewal Plan was broken into four phases and the first, the Vision and Principles Phase, created goals to guide future phases of work. Visioning began in early 2021 with the development of an engagement strategy, which focused on learning from xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations teachings, and West End community lived experiences.

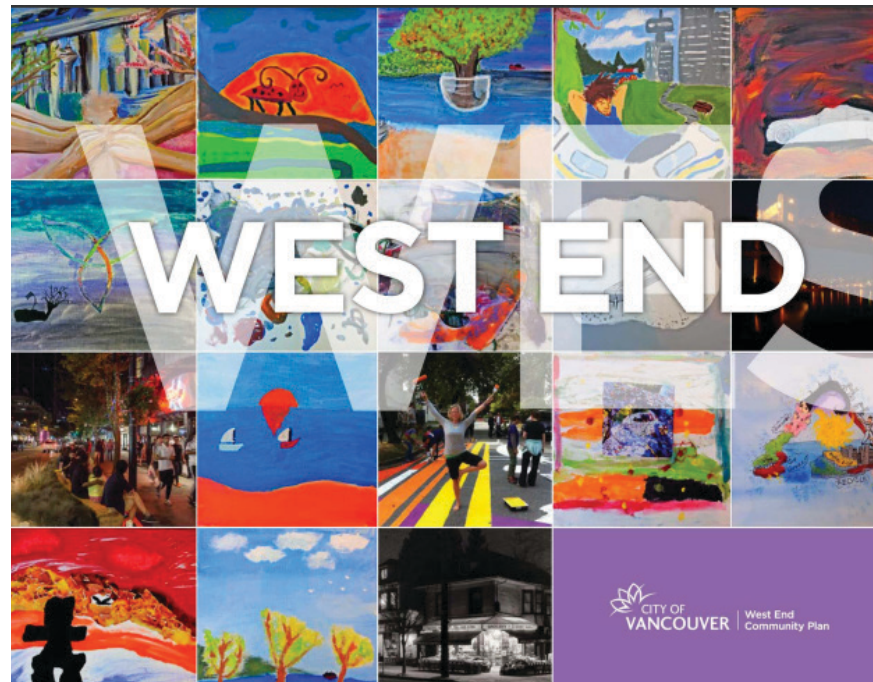
Building on existing strategies

The vision for the WECH Renewal Plan builds on a range of foundational existing work including:

- West End Community Plan (2013)
- Vancouver School District Long Range Facilities Plan
- Vancouver School District Education Plan 2021 and the forthcoming VSB Education Plan 2026
- Vancouver Public Library Strategic Plan 2020-2023
- VanPlay: Vancouver’s Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan (2019)
- Making Space for Arts and Culture (2019)
- Vancouver Fire Rescue Service Needs Assessment Study (2018)
- Spaces to Thrive, the Vancouver Social Infrastructure Strategy (2021)

See [Section 2.2 Commitments of Project Partners](#) for existing partner strategies for reconciliation.

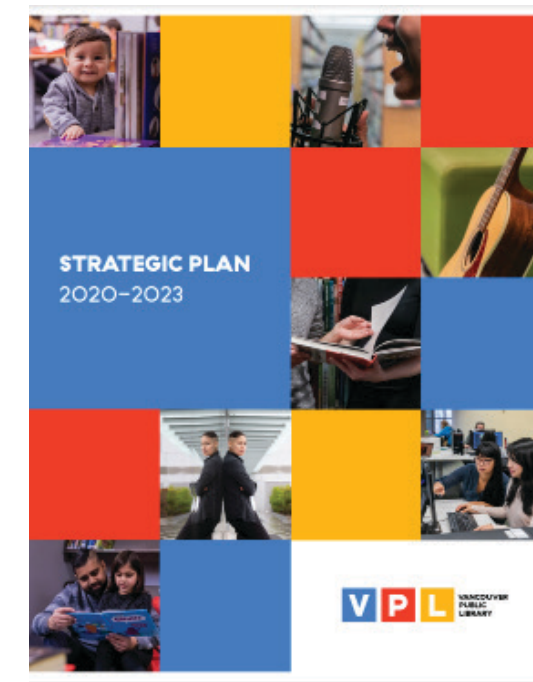




West End Community Plan

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

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



Vancouver Public Library Strategic Plan 2020-2023

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

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



Vancouver School District Long Range Facilities Plan

The Vancouver School District Long Range Facilities Plan calls for redevelopment of the King George Secondary School to accommodate increasing enrollment in a seismically safe school.

- Vancouver School District commits to continue to work in partnership with the City of Vancouver on the King George and West End Community Centre master planning process.
- King George is currently experiencing enrollment pressures and does not have capacity for all secondary students in the neighborhood.
- An expansion of King George was included in the VSB 2021-2022 Five-Year Capital Plan submission. To date, this project, within the capital plan request, has not been supported by the Ministry.
- Should the Vancouver School District receive capital funding from the province, a new school to accommodate a minimum of 1000 students is envisioned on this site.

The Vancouver School District has completed the [2026 Education Plan](#)



VanPlay: Vancouver Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan

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

- Grow and renew parks, community centres and other assets, to keep pace with population growth and evolving needs.
- Protect existing parks and recreation spaces from loss encroachment and densification.
- Prioritize the delivery of resources to where they are needed most.
- Focus on core responsibilities of the Park Board and be a supportive ally to partners.
- Adapt our parks and recreation amenities to a changing climate.
- Create a green network that will connect our parks, waterfront and recreation areas.
- Restore Vancouver's wild spaces and vital biodiversity.
- Foster a system of parks and recreation spaces that are safe and welcoming to all
- Seek truth as a foundation for reconciliation with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam),
- Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh).
- Secure adequate and ongoing funding for the repair, renewal and replacement of our aging parks and recreation system.



Vancouver Citywide Community Centre Strategy 2022

Vancouver Park Board's Community Centre Strategy was developed to guide future investment into community centres and optimize the services provided by these highly valued public assets. The Principles, Criteria and prioritized list will be reviewed every 10 years as city-wide needs, values and the inputs used to undertake prioritization evolve. The Strategy outlines 17 optimal level of service targets organized into three categories:

- Foundational Service Targets- fundamental targets that all community centres should aspire to at all times and are independent of any need for capital reinvestment.
- Planning Service Targets: Anchor and support future planning and asset management processes.
- System Side Service Targets: targets for the overall quantity of community centre space within the system.



Making Space for Arts and Culture

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

- Cultural Heritage, Equity, and Accessibility.
- Self-determined xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), and Urban Indigenous Spaces.
- Remove Regulatory Barriers.
- Expand Tools to Prevent Displacement and Secure Spaces.
- Expand Community Partnerships.
- Increase Community Ownership and Support a Cultural Land Trust.



Spaces to Thrive: Vancouver Social Infrastructure Strategy

The vision of Spaces to Thrive is that Vancouver residents, especially those from equity deserving populations, can access spaces to thrive and help meet diverse needs in a dynamic and changing city. Priority populations include Indigenous, black and racialized people, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, people experiencing homelessness, people with mental health challenges, and people with addictions. The strategy goals include:

- Co-located social facilities and community-serving spaces with civic buildings including civic centres, community centres, and libraries.
- Increased access to affordable, suitable and secure spaces for non-profits with limited capacity
- Supported Indigenous-led and Indigenous-serving spaces and program.
- Plan for new and expanded City-owned social facilities where needed, considering population growth, shifts in demand and existing facility capacity.



Vancouver Fire Rescue Services Strategic Plan

The Vancouver Fire Rescue Services Strategic Plan identifies the large number of high-rise buildings and lack of space for aerial vehicles in Firehall No. 6 in the West End as a unique challenge.

3.2 Creating a vision, together

A vision is the future we hope to create. This phase of renewal planning co-created a vision statement to declare the purpose and aspirations of the future West End Community Hub. Together, the vision and principles will help define space use needs for the WECH. With the support of the Coast Salish Project Associates, a reconciliation-focused framework was developed to offer important context to the vision and principles and support project partners' commitments to reconciliation.

The visioning engagement process focused on story, relationship, art and values. Hundreds of community members were inspired by Coast Salish art and stories, shared their own experiences of the West End, worked together to interpret those stories and developed directions for the new facilities, programs and spaces.

During fall 2021, the project partners held community engagement opportunities to create a vision and principles that followed four steps - inspire, gather, explore, shared vision:

FALL 2021 PROCESS TO CREATE A VISION:

1. Inspire

Participants were invited to connect with West End stories from artists and storytellers from the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations as well as local community artists to deepen our connections to these lands.

2. Gather

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

3. Explore

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

4. Shared vision

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

3.3 Co-created engagement

This collaborative and co-created approach involved three Coast Salish artists, two artists with strong connections to the West End community, and collaboration with community groups active in the neighbourhood. During the visioning phase, these artists and community groups helped host workshops, identified important priorities for the project, gave input on the design of the engagement process and provided outreach for raising awareness of the project and promoting events.



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



▲ Artwork created by the Coast Salish Project Associates and Community artists



▲ From left to right: Angela George, Cory Douglas, Chrystal Sparrow, Afuwa, Ken Boesem

Chrystal Sparrow

x^wməθk^wəy^{əm} (Musqueam), artist, carver

For artist biography, [see section 2.6](#)



▲ Coast Salish Project Associate: Chrystal Sparrow

Cedar Mother

Chrystal Sparrow

Cedar Mother is a representation of land, animals, medicines, people and the Salish Sea. The Coast Salish Peoples of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) have shared land, food, teachings and many of the uses of red cedar for thousands of years.

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

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



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

Cory Douglas

Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), West End resident, Architectural and Civil Engineering Technologist, artist

For artist biography, [see section 2.6](#)

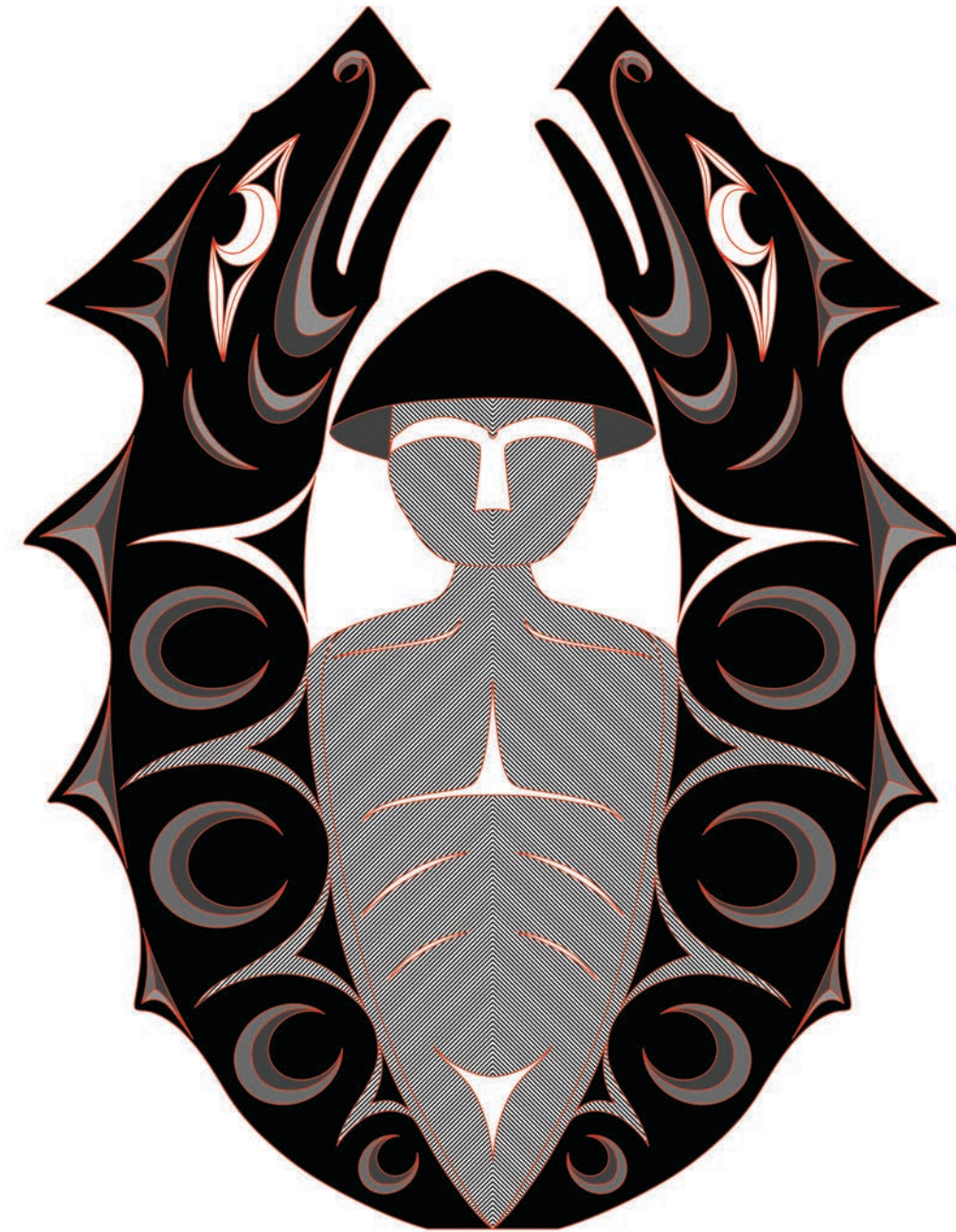


▲ Coast Salish Project Associate: Cory Douglas

Strength in Community

Cory Douglas

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



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

Angela George

Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Coast Salish Weaver and Artist, and səlilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) mother, grandmother and community member

For artist biography, [see section 2.6](#)



▲ Coast Salish Project Associate: Angela George

Sunset People

Angela George

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

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



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

In addition to the Coast Salish artists and described above, two additional artists, each with strong ties to the West End community, shared their unique experiences of the West End through art and presentations at engagement events and information displays.

Afuwa

Multimedia artist, former West End resident

Afuwa was born in Guyana, on Karinya, Lokono and Akawaio lands, and makes art on x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sḵwḵwú7mesh (Squamish) and səilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) territories (Vancouver), on the site known as Luk'Luk'i. Locally and internationally exhibited, her work encompasses language, the body and diasporic memory and has appeared in publications such as Room Magazine, PUBLIC, Asparagus, GUTS, The Capilano Review, The Feminist Wire, Briarpatch, West Coast Line, sub Terrain and in *Performing Utopias in the Contemporary Americas* (2017). Her multi-sensory painting/ installation *Still Salt, Dark Stories* is currently in the Vancouver Art Gallery's Vancouver Special exhibit, which runs until January 2022.



▲ Community Artist: Afuwa

Seraphim

Afuwa

The story of a place begins long before you arrive. My entry point was Joe Fortes (1863-1922), the Trinidadian-born local hero after whom the branch library is named. Joe's story led me to discover the lives of the residents of Stanley Park, outlined by Jean Barman in her excellent book *Stanley Park's Secret: The Forgotten Families of Whoi Whoi, Kanaka Ranch and Brockton Point* (Harbour, 2005). Within these lives are themes that encircle us today: marginalization, resilience, resistance and bonds that form in times of upheaval. Through the window frame of my old apartment, these community stories entwine with local plants - extending across generations, asking us how we can be in place beyond now, beyond the future, and move consciously and with grace towards a practice of land back.



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

Ken Boesem

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

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

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

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



▲ Community Artist: Ken Boesem

Community Nest

Ken Boesem

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

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

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



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

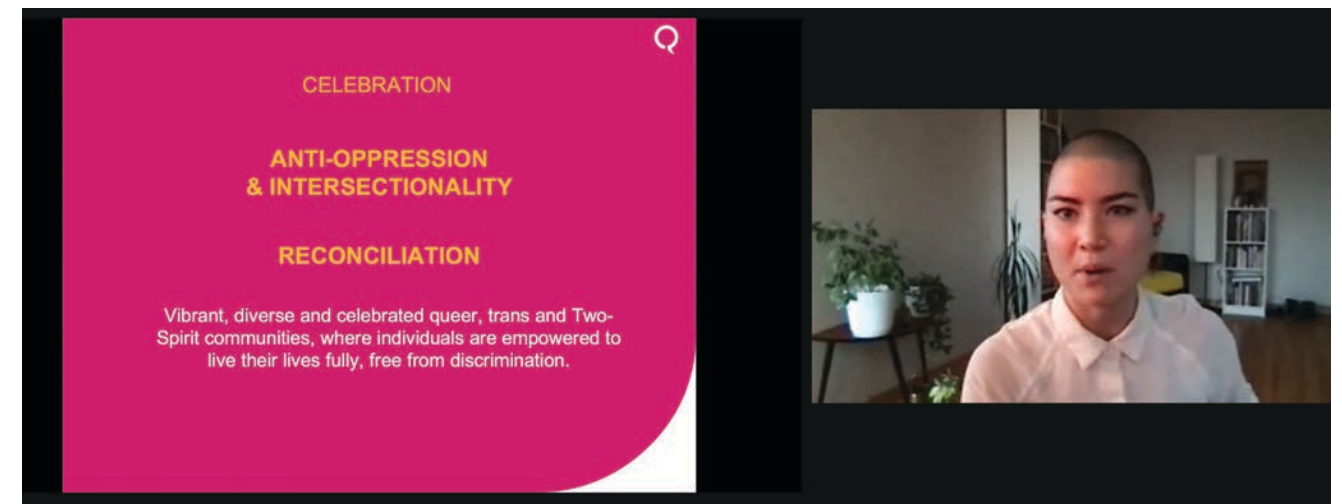
Collaboration with community groups

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

4 West End community organizations helped host visioning workshops:

- West End Community Centre Association (WECCA), a project partner — contributed to the Arts and Culture Workshop and the Family Youth and Children Workshop
- QMUNITY — contributed to the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion workshop
- West End Seniors Network (WESN) — contributed to the Seniors Workshop
- West End Arts Society (WE Arts) — contributed to the Arts and Culture Workshop and the Lifelong Learning and Public Spaces Workshop

In addition, Gordon Neighbourhood House hosted one of the self-paced engagement sites during the visioning phase and provided introductions for some of the one-on-one interviews with Indigenous persons. The West End Business Improvement Association (WEBIA) and the West End - Coal Harbour Community Policing Centre helped post promotional materials in the neighbourhood for each phase of engagement.



▲ **Top:** Online workshop co-hosted with QMUNITY

Bottom Left: In person workshop co-hosted with WE Arts conducting activities with children

Bottom Right: In person workshop with WESN co-hosting and presenting background context

The following groups met with project representatives, helped shape the visioning phase and gave input to contribute to the project vision:

Community groups:

- West End Community Centre Association (WECCA)
- Gordon Neighbourhood House
- QMUNITY
- West End Seniors' Network (WESN)
- West End Arts Society (WE Arts)
- West End Business Improvement Association (WE BIA)
- West End Act Now
- West End Families in Action (WEFA)
- West End - Coal Harbour Community Policing Centre

School groups:

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

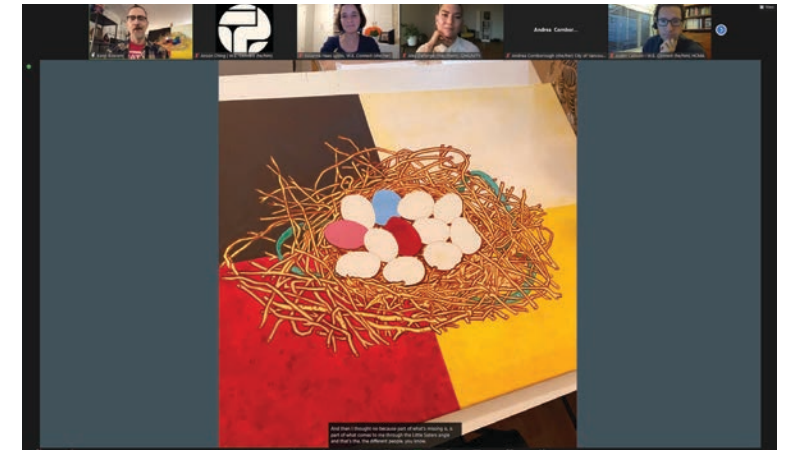


3.4 Public engagement opportunities

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

Engagement in this phase included the following opportunities:

- Coast Salish Chronicles of the West End launch event.
- West End Experiences Survey (online and physical version).
- Two general community visioning workshops (one online and one in-person).
- Six themed workshops (three online and three in-person).
 - Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Workshop (online).
 - Health and Wellness Workshop (online).
 - Arts and Culture Workshop (in-person).
 - Seniors Workshop (in-person).
 - Lifelong Learning and Public Spaces Workshop (online).
 - Children, Youth and Families Workshop (in-person).
- One-on-one interviews with Indigenous community members.
- Synthesis workshop.
- Seven pop-up events.
- Five self-paced engagement sites.
- W.E. Stories section of the Shape Your City project webpage, which invited members of the public to publicly comment on posts about eight stories from community members and the five works of art by the community artists and the Coast Salish Project Associates.



▲ In person and online visioning engagement workshops

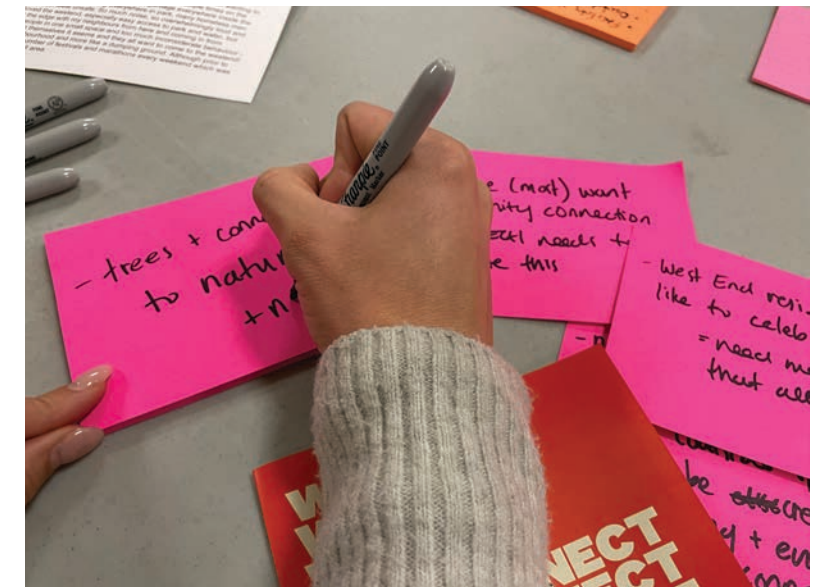
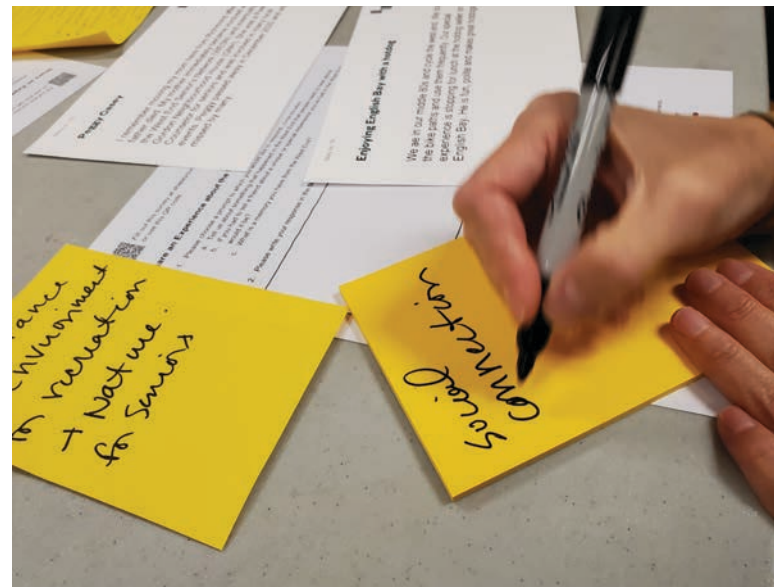
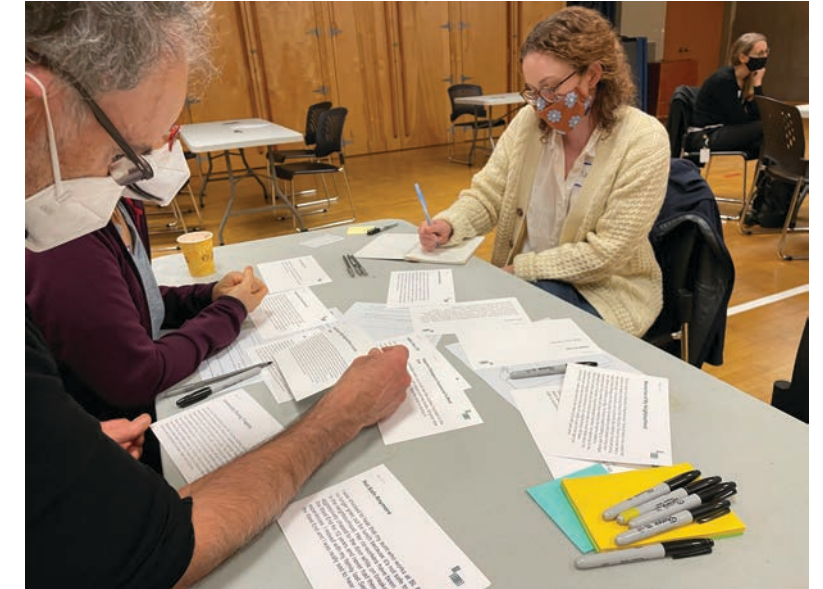
Stories about the West End

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

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

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

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



▲ West End Experience Stories shared and synthesized by workshop participants

My second home

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



Memories of My Neighbourhood

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



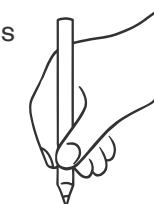
Love and Recovery

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



Love and Recovery

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▲ On this page - Stories gathered from members of the community during the fall 2021 engagement

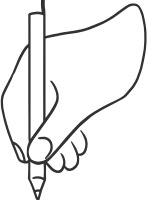
The ocean makes friends

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



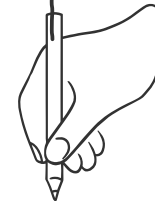
A life in the West End

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



Gays and old Ladies

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



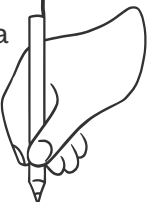
Living in the fun destination

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



Busy Yet Quiet

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



▲ On this page - Stories gathered from members of the community during the fall 2021 engagement

Engagement participation

More than 300 people participated in W.E. Connect workshops. About a third attended in-person workshops, compared to two-thirds attending the online workshops.

In parallel with the workshops, one-on-one interviews were held with Indigenous persons to gather input on how Coast Salish and Indigenous knowledge could guide the renewal of the community hub.

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

W.E. Connect workshops

310 total participants including:

132 In-person participants

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

178 Online participants

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

Pop-ups 7 pop-up events

400 estimated people engaged at these events

5 youth ambassadors

Interviews



7 one-on-one interviews with indigenous people

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

The project partners team also presented to two parent advisory council meetings in the fall, one associated with King George Secondary School, and one with Lord Roberts Elementary School, one of the nearby feeder schools for King George Secondary.

The West End Experiences Survey gathered input from the West End community from September 27 to November 5 2021. A total of 375 stories were collected through the Shape Your City website.

For further details about who participated in the visioning phase, [please see Appendix A.](#)

Self-paced engagement 5 sites

- King George Secondary School
- West End Community Centre
- Joe Fortes Branch - Vancouver Public Library
- Gordon Neighbourhood House
- Vancouver Aquatics Centre

West End Experiences Survey

375 Surveys submitted

4 languages available

- English
- Korean
- Spanish
- Farsi

3.5 Framework, vision and principles

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

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



Framework

The West End of Vancouver is a culturally and historically rich location for Coast Salish Peoples. Through art and storytelling, xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) perspectives guided the process of developing a vision and principles for the West End Community Hub.

The WECH project partners know that Vancouver's identity is strengthened by connecting, learning and celebrating xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) culture.

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

The WECH Project Partners are committed to advancing reconciliation by:

- Reflecting Coast Salish culture and identity throughout the project,
- Working to understand and respect the protocols of xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations,
- Making visible the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations' history, culture and spiritual connections in the West End, and
- Working to understand Coast Salish laws for environmental stewardship, and how these can be applied to WECH, so that the site can support Vancouverites to connect with their responsibility for the health of these lands and waters

Vision

The West End Community Hub celebrates Vancouver's connection to x^wməθk^wəy'əm (Musqueam), Sk^wx^wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) cultures, and supports play, learning, creativity and wellness for all people.

Principles

The West End Community Hub will...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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4.0 Spaces and Activities

4.2 Space needs assessment

Community centres, libraries and schools often serve as the heartbeat of many neighbourhoods. However, these facilities also come with a significant cost to build and operate, and therefore need to be planned in such a way that maximizes benefits while ensuring financial viability. Activity needs and preferences within a community, a region and beyond are also highly dynamic – continually evolving based on demographic shifts, the growth or decline in the popularity of different activity types, market supply and a host of other factors. For example, in recent years many community facilities have adapted to fulfill non-traditional roles such as cooling, warming and clean air shelters during climate emergencies, facilitate public health services (e.g., testing and vaccination centres during pandemics), and ensure services and spaces adequately support vulnerable residents.

A needs assessment provides the opportunity to comprehensively explore space needs in a neighborhood and ensure that future facility planning is informed by well-rounded engagement and research. Typically (and in the case of the West End Community Hub project) a needs assessment identifies the types of activity spaces required to meet existing, emerging and projected activity needs and inform the future design of spaces.

As a diverse neighbourhood in a dynamic urban setting, robust community space planning was especially important given the wide-ranging interests, activities and services that will need to be accommodated in the future West End Community Hub. The research, engagement and analysis used to assess current and future space needs included:

- A comprehensive engagement process with a variety of different groups (refer to section 4.3).
- Review of current and historical facility use.
- Review of previous partner planning documents.
- Broader city-wide, regional and national trends in activity participation and space programming, population, demographics and growth projections.

The previously noted inputs guided a number of space recommendations which are summarized as follows:

- Maximize gymnasium and similar large span flexible indoor recreation spaces.
- Provide a mix of dedicated and multi-purpose visual and performing arts spaces.
- Consider arena needs in alignment with a city-wide strategy for expanded ice infrastructure.
- Ensure a balance of community programming within multi-purpose spaces that are adaptable/flexible.
- Include dedicated youth space and determine how youth programs within the community centre can be integrated coordinated with secondary school programs.
- Include seniors focused spaces and continue to refine specific amenity needs and space characteristics for seniors through key partner and stakeholder discussions.
- Include spaces reflecting Indigenous culture and connection to the land.
- Integrate indoor and outdoor spaces, and connect with the surrounding community.
- Provide spaces and infrastructure that helps advance food security.
- Consider all residents as space needs and components are further refined in the future.

4.3 Space needs assessment: engagement

The space needs assessment study included comprehensive engagement with the broader public in spring 2022. Engagement activities reached a wide cross-section of the community, and included opportunities for the general public and discussions with specific stakeholder and user groups, including people accessing low-barrier services. This engagement helped to identify the spaces desired in the future facility. The purpose of this engagement was to understand how people currently use the site and what they would like to do at the future community hub. Public engagement included:

- Meetings with King George Secondary School (KGSS) students and presentation to KGSS Parent Advisory Council.
- Meetings with arena users, recreation users, arts and culture groups, library users, community service groups, staff and programmers.
- 24 focus group sessions with representatives from community groups, on-site staff and volunteers to explore specific interests, current space use and future needs.
- Activities and Spaces at the Future West End Community Hub survey, which asked for ideas about spaces and activities for the future WECH, and which was completed or partially completed by over 2,120 people.
- Interviews with unhoused people at the Gathering Place Community Centre.
- Meeting with West End caregivers and newcomer residents at Gordon Neighbourhood House, and
- Interviews with unhoused people at the West End Community Centre warming centre.

The West End Community Centre Association also surveyed their membership between December 2021 and March 2022 to further understand how members interact with the current programs offered through the community centre and what they would like to see in the future. This survey had a total of 91 responses, which was reviewed alongside other engagement inputs.



▲ Community kitchen event

Community members shared their ideas about spaces and activities for the future WECH during the engagement conducted from February 2 to March 8, 2022. The purpose of this engagement was to understand how people currently use the site, and what they'd like to do at the future community hub. Questions included:

- What kinds of spaces and activities would you like to see at the site that currently houses the West End Community Centre, Joe Fortes Branch of the VPL and King George Secondary School (KGSS)?
- How do you currently use this site?

For the complete community engagement summary, [see Appendix B](#).

Engagement participation

Survey 1,449 participants completed the survey

Virtual open house 3,300 visits

Informative video 500 views

Focus groups

10 meetings with arena users, recreation users, arts and culture groups, library users, community service groups, staff, and programmers.

1 Focus group with West End caregivers and newcomer residents at Gordon Neighbourhood House

Interviews 41 unhoused people interviewed total

2 locations

at the Gathering Place Community Centre (36)

at the West End Community Centre warming centre (5)

School community



1 focus group with **30 King George Secondary School students**



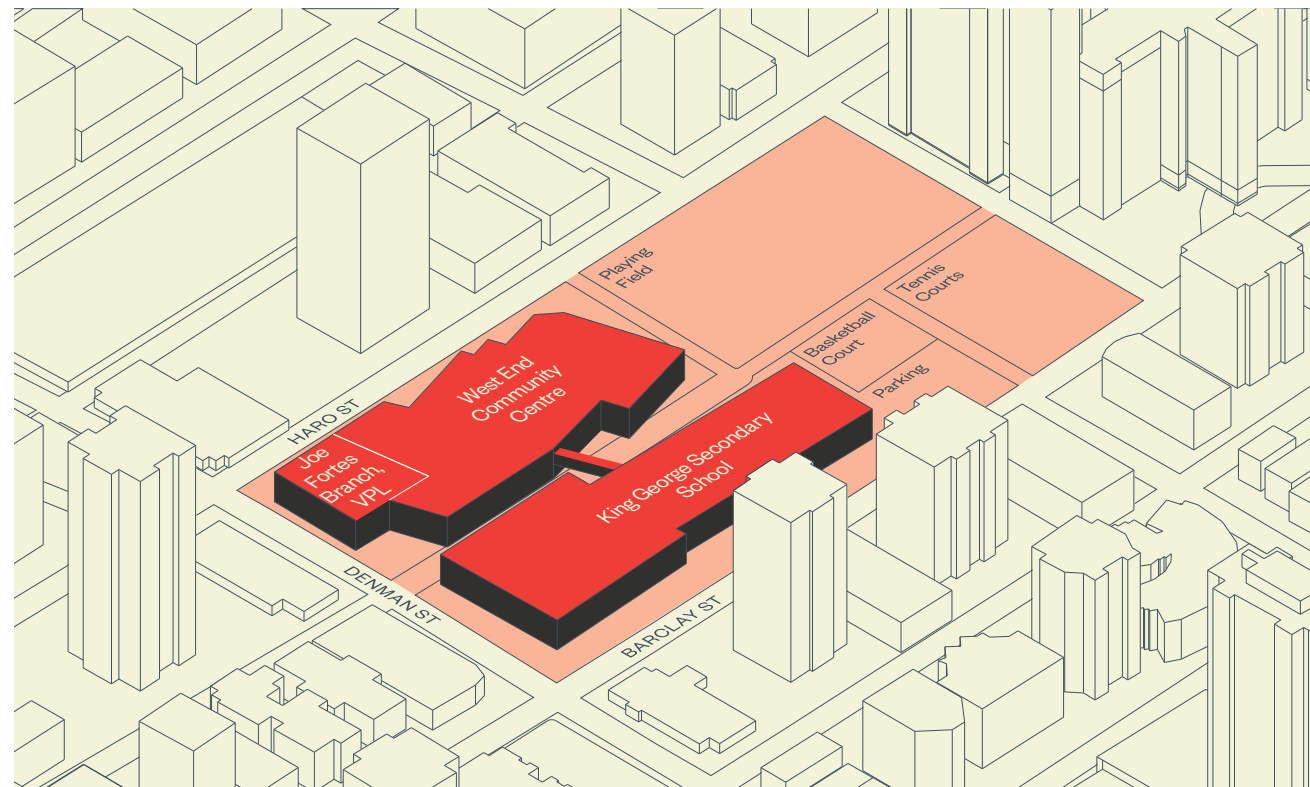
1 presentation to **15 parents** at a King George Secondary School Parent Advisory Council meeting

What we heard

In the survey, participants were asked to share their hopes for spaces and activities at the future WECH, and describe how they use the current site.

What people value most about the current facilities

- Location of the site within Vancouver, as well as being along Denman Street.
- Co-location or connection between King George Secondary School, the West End Community Centre and the Joe Fortes Branch Library.
- Accessibility via transit is valued by nearly all users.
- People go to the West End Community Centre to access fitness and sports facilities and programs offered above all else.



▲ Site area identifying existing amenities

Limitations of the current facilities

In general, the age and condition of facilities



• King George Secondary School:

- Insufficient social and quiet space
- Limited choices of programs
- Lack of outdoor spaces
- Too small size of the school



• West End Community Centre:

- Lack of programs
- Scheduling conflicts for programming
- Overcrowded facilities
- Lack of space in programs
- Competition with other opportunities elsewhere



• Joe Fortes Branch Library:

- Lack of social services and spaces offered
- Lack of programs offered
- Limited size of the library collection
- Lack of social or quiet spaces
- Overcrowding



• Outdoor Spaces of the West End Community Hub

- Lack of access to outdoor sports amenities (i.e. sports field locked outside site operating hours)
- Lack of outdoor spaces for the gathering of small groups
- Lack of weather- and season-appropriate design in outdoor spaces

Focus group

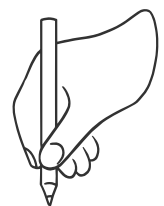
Between January and March 2022, a series of focus group sessions were convened to explore specific interests, trends and future needs with representatives from community interest groups, volunteers and on-site staff. These were active workshops with the goal of refining key aspects of the community hub spaces such as their function, programs and activities, workloads and methods, zones and any other needs to allow for the proper functioning of each area in the hub. Participants for the sessions were identified by the project partners and were invited to the session(s) that best fit their area of interest and expertise. The attendees for the session included staff and user groups, volunteers, program and service providers and project partner representatives.

The Coast Salish Project Associates participated in all focus group sessions to help guide the development of the list of spaces and activities. Discussion was further supported by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Through reviewing each focus area individually, the Coast Salish Project Associates developed recommendations and strategies to help ensure Indigenous cultures and connection to the land remained prominent considerations for the development of the list of spaces and activities. These collaborative focus group meetings ensure that Indigenous cultural elements and artwork can be thoughtfully integrated within the future design.

Saturdays at the Fitness Centre

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



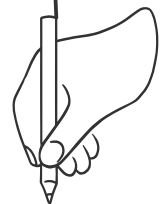
▲ Story gathered from members of the community during the fall 2021 Visioning workshop on the theme of reconciliation



▲ Examples of proposed activities and spaces

Stumbling across performative art on the beach

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



▲ Story gathered from members of the community during the fall 2021 Visioning workshop on the theme of reconciliation

Hopes for the future West End Community Hub

Participants were also asked to share the spaces and activities they'd like to see in the future community hub. Key themes from participants included:

Incorporating Indigenous design

- Ensure that Indigenous design and Indigenous knowledge are incorporated into the building.
- Many ideas were suggested to advance reconciliation, including having more Indigenous staff members, programs led by Indigenous persons, cross-cultural programming, dedicated space for reconciliation-focused programming, as well as hosting Indigenous events, games and tournaments.

King George Secondary School

- Expand on programs for athletics and the arts.
- Provide a wider range of courses and programs.
- Provide more services for students with special needs.
- Improve outdoor facilities for students.
- Expand and update school equipment and facilities, including more social and quiet spaces.

Social services

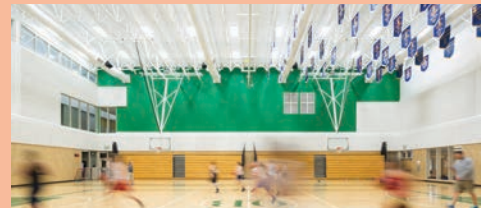
- Provide services and programs that meet the unique needs of unhoused people, LGBTQ2SAI+* people and newcomers.
- Maintain and expand childcare services.
- Provide access to low-barrier services.

* Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, plus people who identify as part of sexual and gender diverse communities and use additional terminologies.

Arts and culture

- Maintain and expand arts and culture programs and facilities, including pottery and photography.

Sports, fitness and arena



- Near unanimous support for a fitness centre and fitness and wellness classes.
- Provide drop-in or casual sports. There is less interest in sports activities and sports-specific facilities (i.e. for rock climbing or gymnastics).
- Strong support for the ice rink, including drop-in programming.
- Interest in aquatics programming. Aquatics spaces and activities are not planned for the WECH site. However, this feedback will be considered as the Park Board redevelops the Vancouver Aquatic Centre in the West End (1050 Beach Ave.).

Outdoor spaces and activities



- Include trees and plants in the outdoor landscape.
- Offer open space adjacent to the site facilities.
- Provide access to programmed outdoor space for community use off-hours.

Social and community spaces



- Offer seniors activities and programming for parents with young children.
- Offer support for newcomers, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and unhoused people.
- Offer tool and equipment borrowing.
- Include places to study, read and hang out.
- Offer places to gather for celebrations, ceremonies or special events.
- Little interest in providing on-site affordable food purchasing options.

Joe Fortes Branch of the VPL



- Continue traditional uses for accessing print materials.
- Continue to provide Internet access and more computers.
- Ensure space for work and study, as well as for casual seating.
- Mixed levels of support for devoting early learning space for children at the library.
- Consider providing collaborative study tables and breakout meeting rooms, as well as maker space for crafts or digital creation.

Firehall



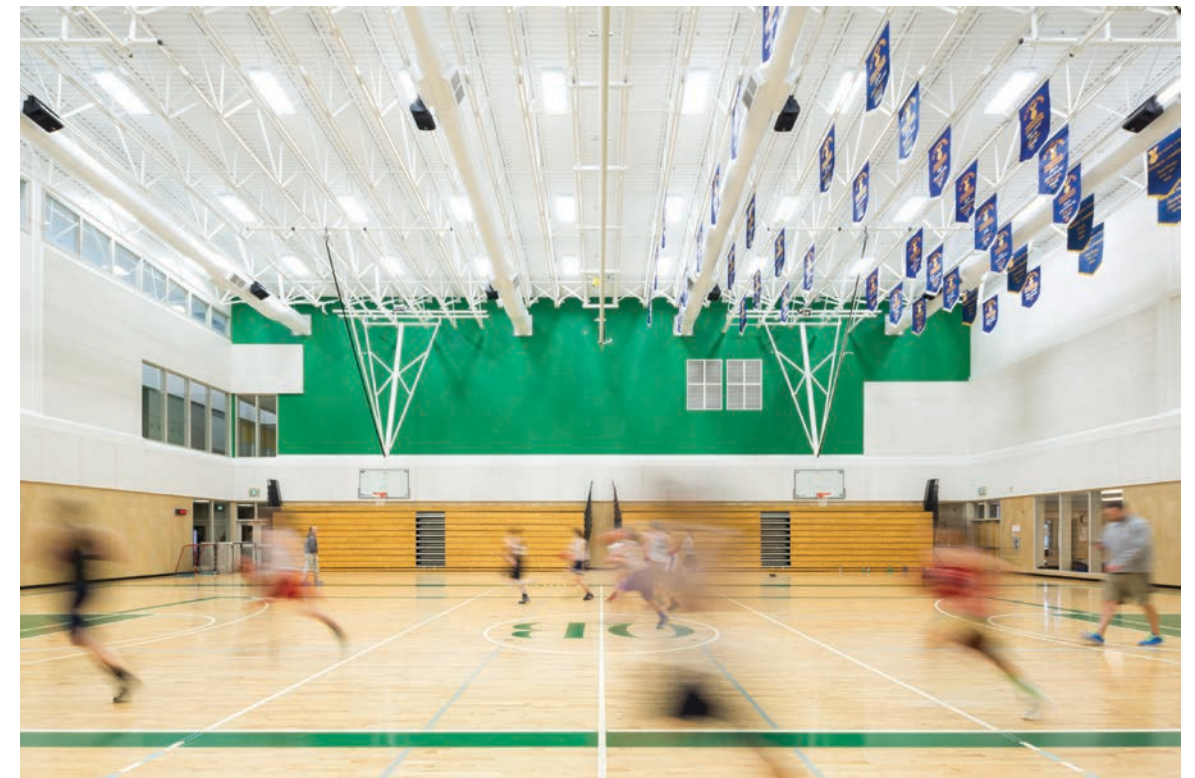
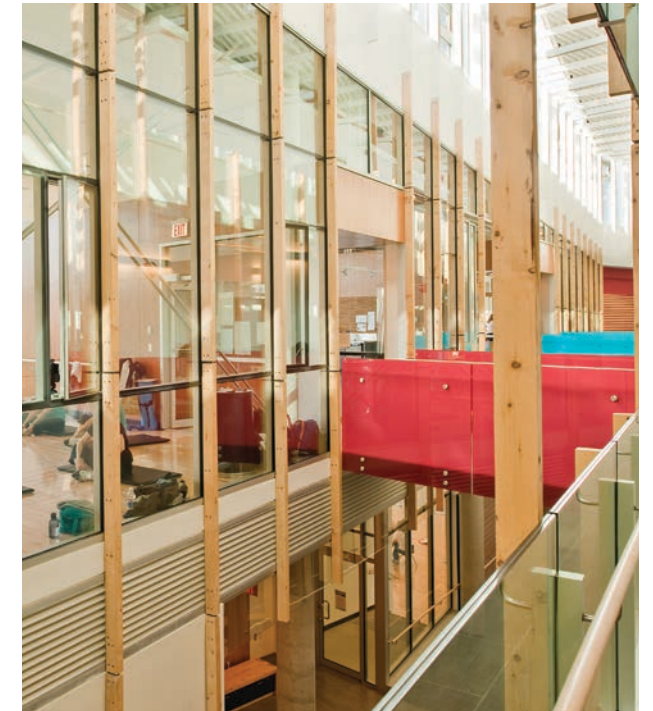
- Spaces and activities for fire services in the future WECH were not a topic of the winter 2022 public input activities.
- The need to relocate and expand Firehall No.6 was identified as part of a City-wide risk profile and resource analysis that the Vancouver Fire Rescue Services commissioned by subject matter experts in 2018 and that further informed VFRS Strategic Plan 2019-2021.
- VFRS City-wide assessment found that most growth in emergency incidents has occurred downtown and long-term strategic recommendations include planning new firehall locations and expanding downtown capacity to overcome challenges such as a densely populated West End with an abundance of high-rise buildings.

4.4 List of spaces and activities

A list of spaces and activities was developed based on findings from the space needs assessment and the insights gathered during community engagement and focus group sessions. This functional space list catalogues the activities that might take place in the future development and the facilities required to accommodate them and ensures a continuation of the project vision and principles.

The functional list of spaces and activities below translates the information gathered into a tangible plan that supports the creation of site development scenarios in the next phase of work by outlining the size of every space, the desired relationship between spaces, and functional and operational requirements.

The following pages list the spaces and activities that are proposed as part of the WECH Renewal Plan.



▲ Examples of proposed activities and spaces

4.5 Spaces and activities

Community centre and arena

We heard that it's important for the spaces in the future community centre to be accessible, inclusive and aligned with current and anticipated community needs.

VanPlay is the decision-making guide for the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation. VanPlay identified the need for five new ice sheets throughout the City by 2040 and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is considering the WECH site for a regulation-size ice arena.

Indigenous Culture and Knowledge spaces will be integrated into the future community centre and library to make visible and strengthen connections to Coast Salish Peoples, history and culture, while ensuring these spaces are welcoming to all.

Project partners understand the importance of community access to outdoor spaces. The West End Community Plan sets out a commitment to deliver on several community benefits in the neighbourhood. This includes improvements to outdoor spaces that are currently underway across the West End such as: West End Waterfront Plan, Bute Greenway, Georgia Gateway Complete Street and public space improvements to Davie, Denman and Robson streets.



▲ Example of spaces and activities for the new West End Community Hub

What's being proposed:

- Public entrance plaza.
- Outdoor natural play space, event and informal gathering spaces
- Lobby, which could be the main reception point and social space for the community hub, a large community gathering place and the main area connecting different services together.
- Gymnasium that will serve as both a sports facility and multipurpose space that is dedicated for full-time community use, designed to be divisible and adjustable to allow for different activities. Additional gymnasium spaces will be located in the new secondary school.
- Fitness centre, studio and change facilities.
- Mix of multipurpose rooms that provide flexibility and can be reconfigured to meet a variety of community needs.
- Space for warming/cooling shelter.
- Community and teaching kitchen.
- Mix of dedicated arts and culture spaces, which may include music, pottery, photography and a performing arts space.
- Non-profit program space to deliver low-barrier programs.
- Dedicated youth spaces that can primarily be used after school, including drop-in, informal and structured social and recreational activities for young persons.
- Seniors-focused spaces that provide affordable, inclusive and accessible opportunities for older adults to participate in a variety of active living and creative pursuits.
- Expanded licensed childcare space.
- Before and after school space.
- NHL Regulation-size ice arena that accommodates league games and practices, figure skating, short track speed skating and sledge hockey, community leisure activities and also accommodates community events if the ice is removed during the summer months.
- Administrative offices, building services and back-of-house spaces, which include the office and support space for programming and operation of the community hub.

Indigenous Knowledge and culture spaces

The WECH project aims to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples while supporting neighbourhood aspirations.

An Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Hub is made possible by re-framing spaces that might be included in a typical library or community centre through the lens of reconciliation. This leads to an innovative grouping of programs and spaces that together create an opportunity to make visible and strengthen connections to Coast Salish Peoples, history and culture while ensuring these spaces are welcoming for all.

What's being proposed

Based on community feedback, proposed spaces and activities for the Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Spaces include:

- Indigenous library collections
- Indigenous focused audio and learning exhibits
- Cultural display spaces
- Elder-in-residence space
- Recording booths to support language revitalization
- Indigenous cultural practice studio
- Multipurpose room dedicated to cultural exchange
- Outdoor Coast Salish medicinal garden
- Outdoor program space

The future King George Secondary School

The Vancouver School Board has identified King George Secondary School in its annual capital plan to request funding for future expansion. Pending approval and funding from the Ministry of Education and Childcare, the proposed expansion will provide a new seismically safe 1,000 to 1,200 student capacity secondary school, which would respond to the growing youth population in the school catchment area.

What's being proposed

The future King George Secondary School spaces and activities include:

- Instructional spaces established in alignment with provincial standards
- Space for administration, health and counseling services established by the province
- Outdoor sport field
- Outdoor education space

In addition to the required curriculum, the school will offer a wide range of electives in the liberal arts (math, language arts, science and humanities), performing and visual arts, physical and health education and applied skills, design and technology.

The new school will be designed to support student programming choice with spaces to support the delivery of exceptional and varied educational programs as well as facilitate co-curricular and extra-curricular involvement of students and staff and the school community. The Vancouver School Board is committed to exploring opportunities with partners to develop additional education spaces such as:

- Enhanced performing arts space available to both the school community and broader community.
- Additional space with dedicated access for an adult learning centre or to meet other emerging educational programming needs.

The Vancouver School Board owns the majority of the land on site and the priority for outdoor space is to deliver educational programming and school sponsored extracurricular events. Project partners will explore potential opportunities to offer community programming that does not conflict with school priorities.

Library

With the growing downtown and West End population, a revitalized Joe Fortes branch of the Vancouver Public Library will help meet the need for an inspiring place to study, work, relax and connect with others. This space will also make visible and strengthen connections to Coast Salish Peoples.

What's being proposed

Based on community feedback, proposed spaces and activities for the library include:

- Service hub for all ages and to foster intergenerational activities
- Children's area with early learning space and hands-on exploration
- Teen zone
- Adult collection and space
- Collaborative work and study space
- Casual seating and lounge space
- Booths for technology use (e.g., videoconferencing)
- Public computers (desktop or lendable laptops)
- Meeting rooms with digital screen for small and large groups
- Multipurpose rooms for library programming and community use
- Inspiration Lab (digital creation space) with creative software and recording booths
- Indigenous collection and space
- Staff work area.

Firehall No. 6 Relocation

Firehall No. 6 is currently located in a heritage building at 1001 Nicola Street at Nelson Street and will be relocated to the WECH site. As the West End community grows, additional fire crew and trucks are needed to ensure enhanced fire-safety response and efficiency in the neighbourhood.

Priorities for the relocated Firehall No.6

In addition to standard firehall building requirements, the relocated Firehall No. 6 will include:

- Four-bay fire vehicle space, including space for a ladder truck
- Community spaces for outreach programs, including emergency preparedness

Firehall No. 6 also provides specialized response to fires within Stanley Park. A larger building will allow for more specialized equipment on site, enhancing service to the park.

The number of high-rise buildings are increasing in the West End and a ladder truck is required for incidents at these buildings. The existing heritage building on Nicola cannot accommodate this type of equipment and the neighbourhood currently receives this service from another Firehall at Haro and Thurlow streets.

Spaces and activities program

Joe Fortes Library 	Community Centre 	Ice Arena 	Childcare 	Nonprofit Space 	Fire Hall 	Outdoor Spaces 	Secondary School 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library collections • Casual seating Areas • Children's and Teen Zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby • Seniors and youth spaces • Fitness and multipurpose spaces • Arts and culture spaces • Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Space • Community kitchen • Informal social spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHL regulation-size ice arena • Skate shop • Dressing rooms • Spectator seating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed 0-5yrs Childcare space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apparatus bay • Staff support spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public open space • Childcare outdoor space • School sport field • School outdoor education spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classrooms • Gymnasiums • Adult Learning Centre • Neighbourhood Learning Centre • Administrative spaces • Multipurpose spaces

The spaces and activities illustrated above have evolved from a combination of the City policy requirements, partner priorities and community needs as summarized in the Vision.

The areas listed are for planning purposes and will be confirmed during future design and development processes. The saturated portion of each bar above represents renewal area and the lighter colour represents growth.

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5.0 Site development scenarios

5.1 Introduction

Three site development scenarios were created to realize the WECH vision and principles and to support the desired spaces and activities. All three site development scenarios included the same interior spaces and activities and similar outdoor spaces. Each scenario responds to valuable community feedback, planning research and project partner priorities. The primary difference among the scenarios is the location of spaces and activities on the site.



5.2 Site scenarios development: key considerations

The following considerations were key for the development of the West End Community Hub Renewal Plan. Should any of these aspects change in the future, additional studies may be needed to adapt the renewal plan accordingly.

Phasing development

It is important for project partners to continue to deliver amenities and services to a growing community while new facilities are built. The renewal plan will take place over multiple phases of design and construction. All scenarios proposed for the renewal plan maintain continuity of service for the existing King George Secondary School and minimize disruption to community and library services. Phasing is dependent on available funding.

Funding the renewal

Renewing and expanding community amenities and services on this site are an important part of the commitments by partners to support a growing West End neighbourhood. The creation of the WECH Renewal Plan was funded by the City's 2019-2022 Capital Plan. The VSB has initiated a capital funding request for expansion and seismic upgrades of King George Secondary, with the goal of a renewed and expanded school to accommodate a minimum forecasted 1,000 – 1,200 students.

The WECH site is heavily constrained within a dense urban neighborhood. Existing buildings offering important educational and community functions take up a large portion of the site and efforts have been made to develop plans that minimize disruption to existing services during future redevelopment. Given the scale and complexity of this future project, implementation of the Renewal Plan will require significant investment on the part of both the City of Vancouver and Vancouver School Board. Renewal will likely take place as over several capital plans and will not start until funding is secured.



Land allocation

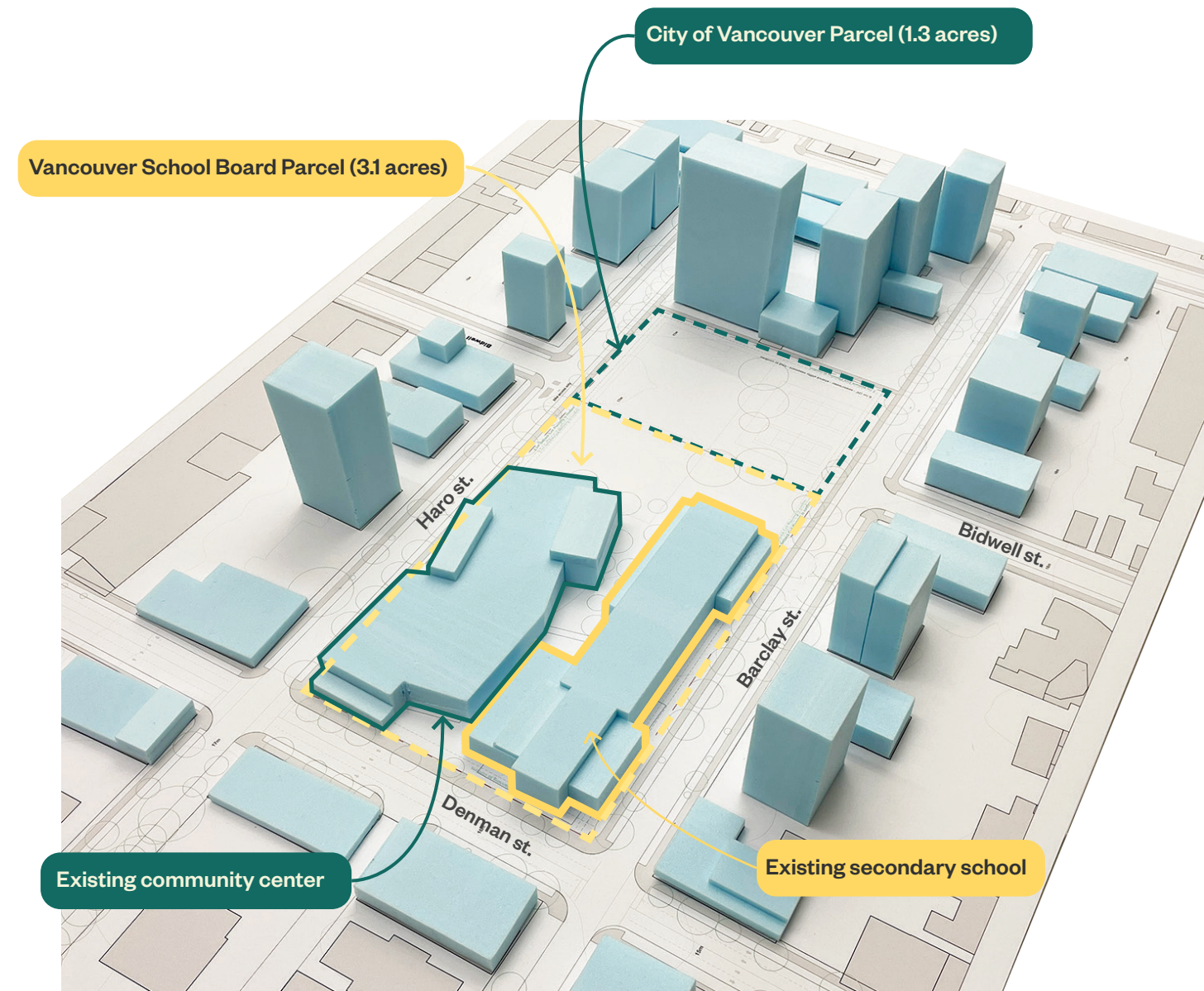
The WECH site is currently divided in two legal parcels of 1.3 and 3.1 acres, which are owned by the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver School Board, respectively. The requirement to deliver the associated school and community spaces and activities within their respective parcel is a core element for all three site development scenarios. The proportion and total area of land ownership will remain the same after the renewal and the internal property lines will be redrawn accordingly during future design stages.

City of Vancouver Parcel (1.3 acres)

Within this parcel all three site development scenarios deliver a community centre, library, public plaza and associated outdoor spaces, childcare with associated outdoor play space, Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Space, Firehall No. 6, and an underground parkade. The location and shape of this parcel differs for each scenario.

Vancouver School Board Parcel (3.1 acres)

Within this parcel all three site development scenarios deliver the secondary school activities and spaces required to meet provincial education standards and enrollment growth to 1,000 - 1,200 students. This parcel will also contain a playing field, sport courts and outdoor education areas. The location and shape of this parcel differs in each scenario. In all scenarios, the community ice arena will be located underground below part of the school playing field, within the VSB parcel, and accessed through the community centre.



▲ Diagram of land allocation on an aerial view of a site model.

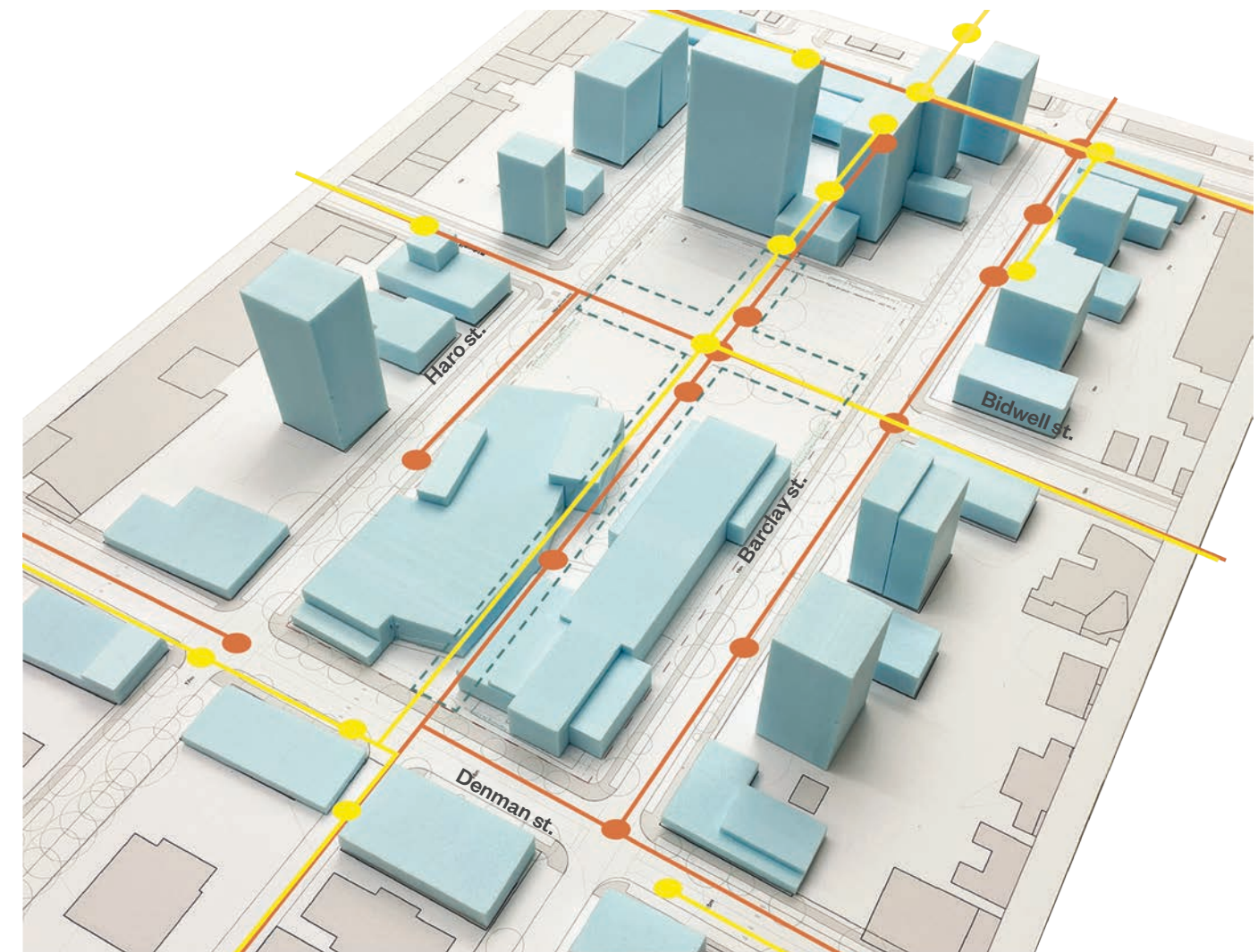


5.3 Site development scenarios: site considerations

The creation of the three site development scenarios began with an analysis of the existing site conditions. The following findings considerations were identified:

Existing underground servicing and statutory rights-of-way

There are a number of existing underground utility systems running in both the north-south and east-west directions across the site. These utility services are currently captured within statutory rights-of-way. This significantly limits where future buildings can be placed. All three scenarios anticipate the relocation of underground services and the removal of the statutory rights-of-way to allow for the redevelopment of the expanded secondary school and community facilities. Details to be determined during future design phases.



Existing storm main Existing sanitary main Existing Right-of-ways ← N

▲ Right-of-ways diagram on an aerial view of a site model.

Planning considerations

All three site development scenarios are compatible with current applicable RM-5A zoning bylaws, district schedule, policies and guidelines. The following items will be reviewed in detail during future design phases.

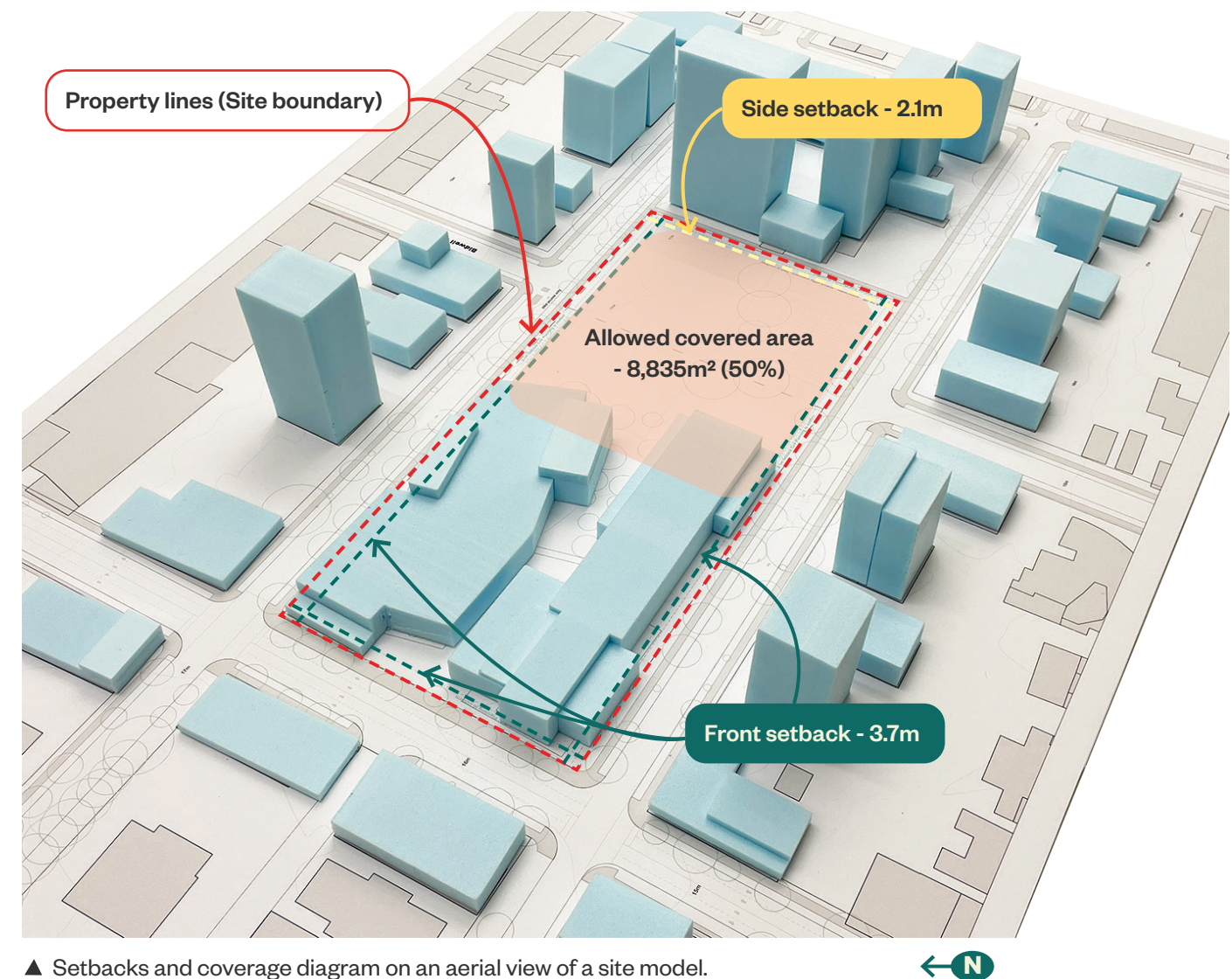
Site setbacks

The building placement for all three site development scenarios follows City planning guidelines set forth by the RM-5A zoning district schedule. The zoning district schedule is a planning tool used by the City to manage and regulate land use within a specific area. It sets standards for building size, placement, height and relationship to property lines. Adhering to zoning by-law helps ensure that development is in line with the needs and expectations of the community.

For the WECH site, placement of all future buildings will adhere to zoning by-law and maintain the required minimum front setback of 3.7 metres to Denman Street and side and rear setbacks of 2.1 metres to Haro and Barclay Streets and the residential development immediately to the east of the site. These setbacks are important and allow all scenarios to retain an attractive streetscape and a harmonious relationship with the surrounding neighborhood.

Site coverage

All three site development scenarios prioritize the preservation of as much open and inviting green space as possible.



Building height

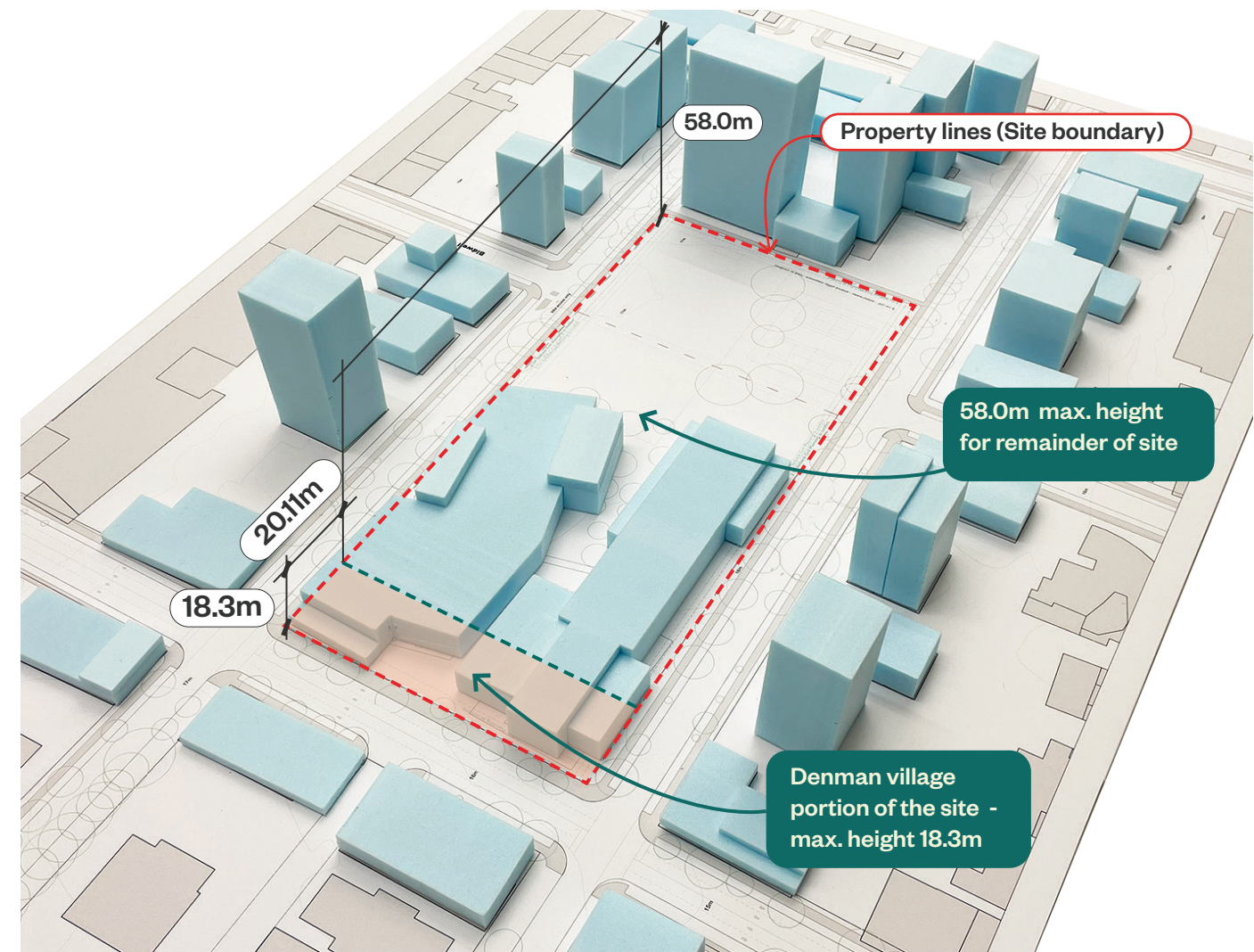
The renewal plan will maintain the character of the existing neighborhood and comply with the zoning height regulations. The typical maximum height allowed for the site is 18.3 metres with a potential increase of up to 58 metres with the approval of the City's director of planning.

West End Community Plan policies

A portion of the site is planned to strengthen the low-scale, pedestrian-friendly frontage of the Denman village identified in the [West End Community Plan](#).

The building will conform to the policies set out in the community plan by retaining a maximum height of 18.3 metres to a depth of 20.11 metres along Denman Street. This will help maintain a sense of openness at street level. The activities and spaces that front onto Denman will also provide visual interest, a comfortable atmosphere with large windows and community focused spaces.

The community plan also called for an expanded public plaza on this site and the renewal plan responds with people-focused features like a generous paved and planted buffer between the street and the buildings, trees and planting that offer shade and enhance the aesthetic appeal of the streetscape, and outdoor furnishings that contribute to a comfortable and well-serviced walking environment.



▲ Maximum building heights diagram on an aerial view of a site model.

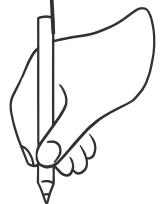


Adjacencies, exposure and existing site conditions

- There are two existing buildings on the site, the West End Community Centre, Ice Arena and Joe Fortes Library, and the King George Secondary School. There is also an existing non-regulation size playing field, two tennis courts, a basketball court, a surface parking lot and paved exterior pathways.
- The site is bordered by Denman Street to the west, a bustling commercial street that draws considerable foot traffic.
- The north side of the site faces Haro Street, a designated AAA network bike path and greenway.
- The south side of the site faces Barclay Street.
- The eastern edge of the site occurs mid-block between Bidwell and Cardero Streets and borders a neighboring residential development.
- An east-west pedestrian path is maintained through the site connecting to Bidwell Street.
- Like most of the downtown peninsula, the WECH site is oriented approximately 45° from solar north.
- Winds primarily arrive from the east and flow westward across the site.

The Under Bridge Garden.

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



▲ Story gathered from members of the community during the fall 2021 engagement

5.5 Exterior spaces and activities principles

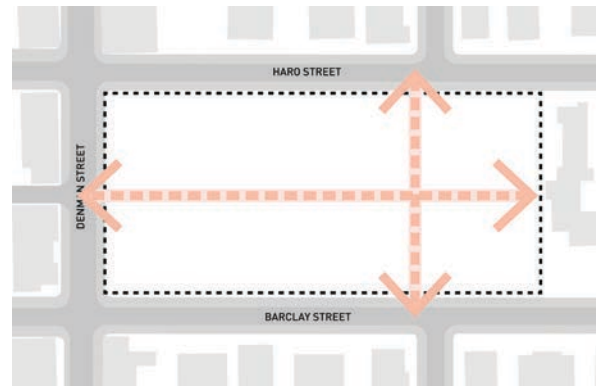
The design recommendations for outdoor spaces at the future West End Community Hub are rooted in the vision, principles and strategies developed through community engagement and in collaboration with Coast Salish Project Associates. Outdoor spaces will help ground the WECH site in the rich cultural, social and ecological context of the West End within xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) lands. Outdoor spaces are planned to balance a variety of important community uses, make space for connections of all kinds, and welcome community members and visitors to the West End with open arms.



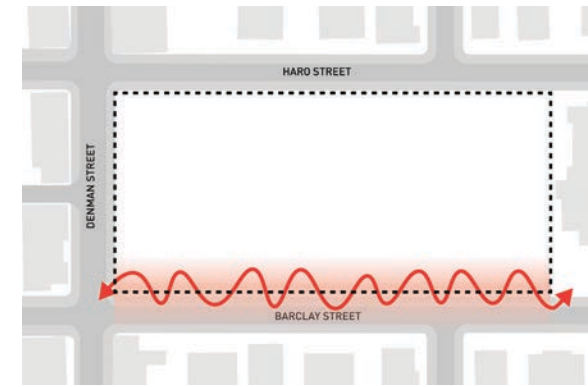
▲ Above: Entrance of the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre in Whistler

▲ Below: Activated street during Vancouver's Pride Parade in the West End

Exterior spaces principles



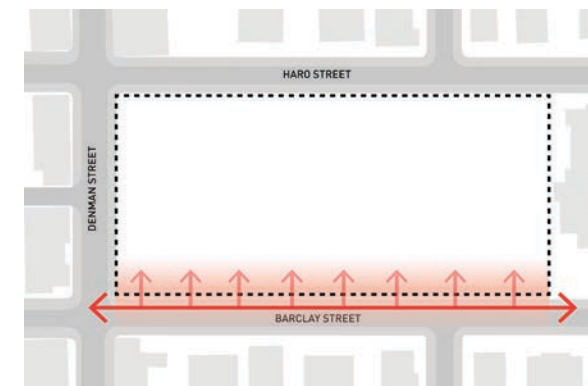
1. Maintain and enhance pedestrian circulation within the site in balance with VSB programming needs and student safety considerations.



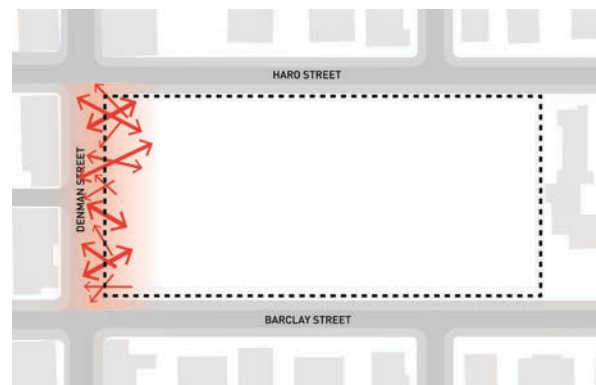
2. Create an active and open connection to Barclay Street.



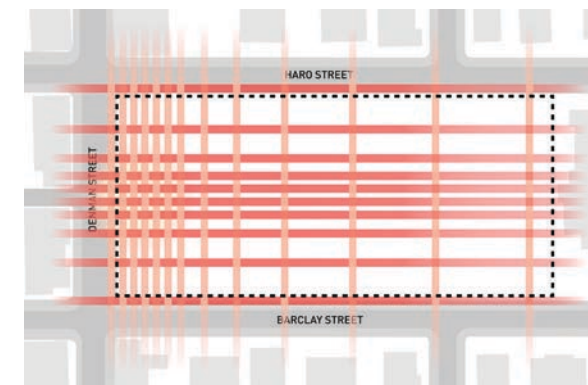
3. Integrate with and support existing and future amenities along Haro Street, including the Haro Street Greenway.



4. Locate vehicle access points along Barclay Street wherever possible.

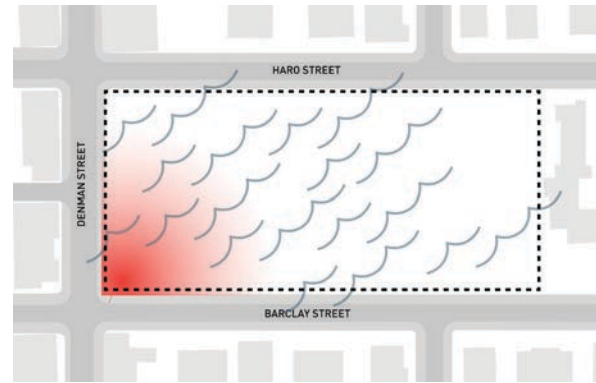


5. Provide pedestrian connection and visibility to and from Denman Street.

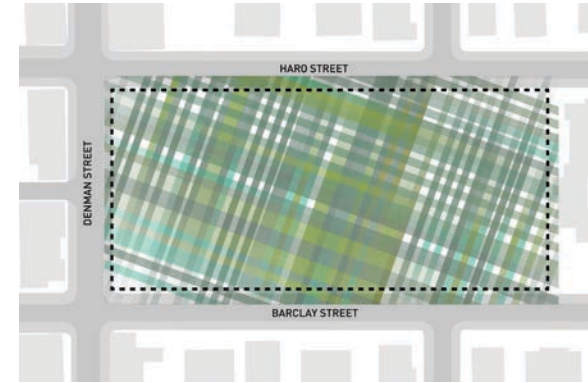


6. Focus the entrance experience around a welcome from local Nations and weave cultural stories into the fabric of the site.

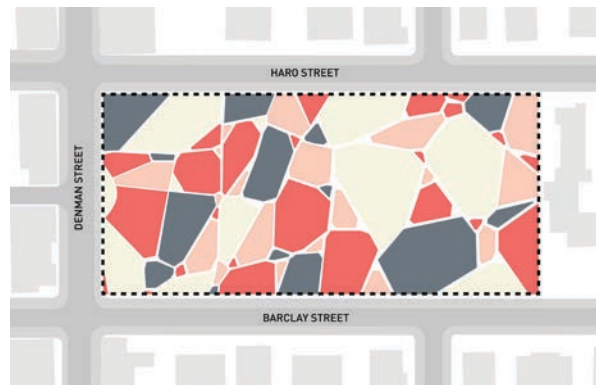
Exterior spaces principles



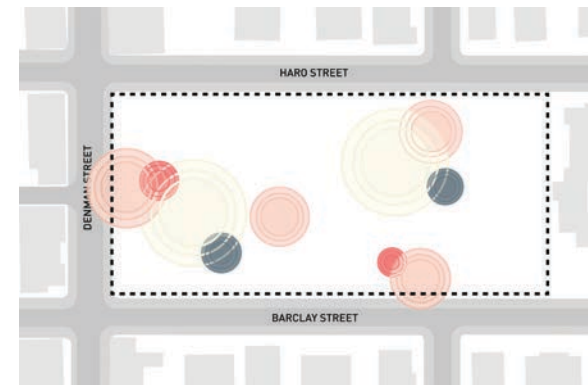
7. Celebrate the connection to the ocean and the sunset.



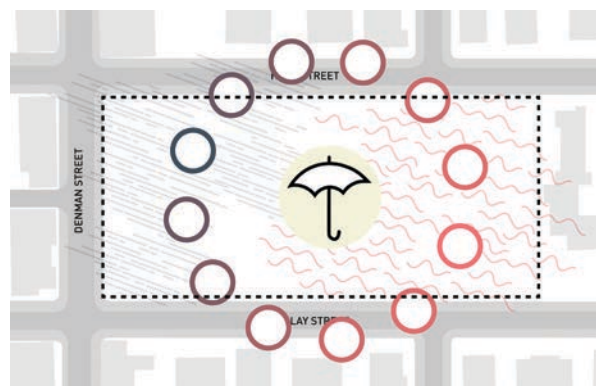
8. Embed connection to nature at grade and all upper levels. Blur the line between earth and building, and the boundary between indoor and outdoor.



9. Provide a diversity of spaces, from intimate to large, to welcome everyone.



10. Provide a diversity of spaces, from intimate to large, to welcome everyone.



11. Maximize winter sun, shade from summer sun, and protect from wind and precipitation.



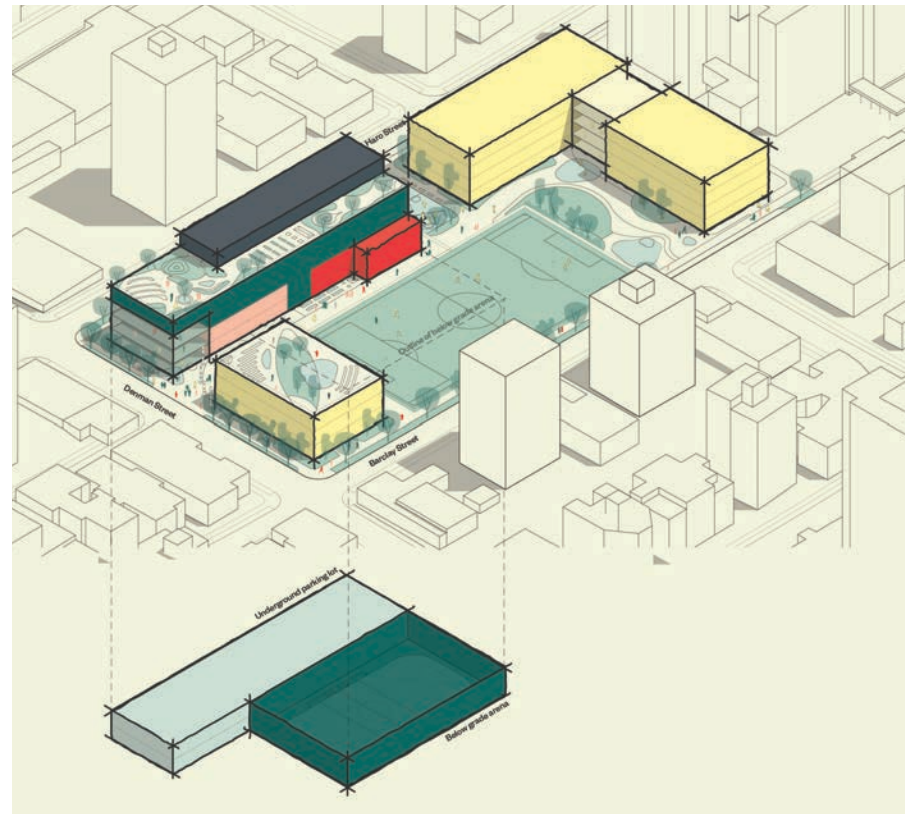
12. Provide a landscape rich with local natural history, cultural uses, and habitat value.

5.6 Site development scenarios

Three site development scenarios were created to explore how the West End Community Hub could take shape on the site. Each development scenario responds to valuable community feedback, planning research and project partner priorities. All three of the following scenarios include the same indoor and outdoor spaces and activities. The primary difference between each scenario is where these spaces and activities are located.

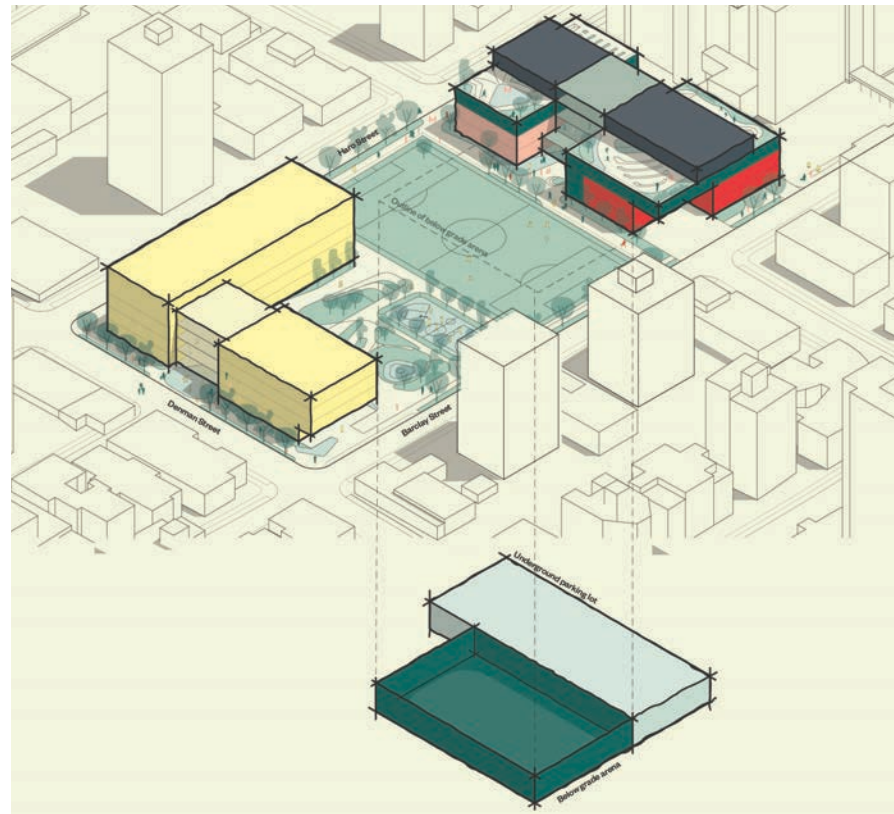
Scenario A

Community uses on Denman and Haro, Education uses on Barclay



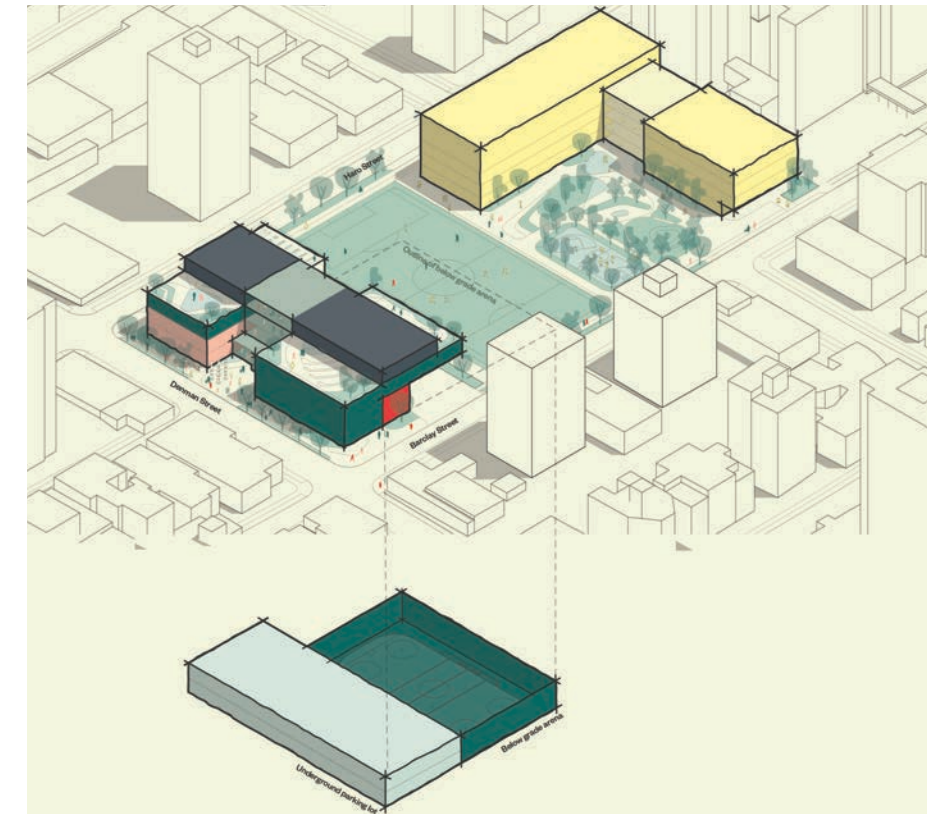
Scenario B

Community uses on Barclay, Education uses on Denman



Scenario C

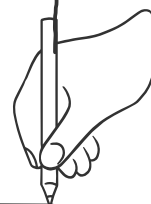
Community uses on Denman, Education uses on Barclay



The images above represent three-dimensional test-fits of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and do not represent the design of the site's future buildings.

Spring time in the West End

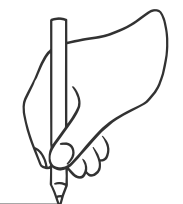
I've lived in the West End for 14 years since I was in my late 20s. What I love most about living in the West End is watching the trees and plants bloom and blossom again every spring. How Barclay becomes filled in with tree cover each April and May. How the rhododendron garden blooms in April. How the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



▲ Story gathered from members of the community during the fall 2021 engagement

Families form the fabric of the West End in many ways.

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



▲ Story gathered from members of the community during the fall 2021 engagement

Scenario A

Community and education uses on Denman, Education uses on Barclay.



1. Community Centre

An expanded community centre brings activity to the corner of Denman and Haro Street.

A new Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Space is integrated into the library and community centre, making visible and strengthening connections to Coast Salish Peoples, history and culture.



2. Community plaza

An expanded plaza located along Denman Street creates opportunities for socializing, public markets and activities. It also extends into the heart of the site, connecting to outdoor spaces, as well as community centre and library spaces.



3. Social space

The social space created within an expanded lobby connects to Denman Street and includes a shared front desk for community centre and library programs and services.



4. Library

An expanded two-storey library maintains a connection to Denman and Haro Street.



5. Children's space (including childcare spaces)

Children's activities will take place throughout the Community Centre and a licensed childcare facility will be located on the uppermost floor with south-facing outdoor play areas



6. Regulation-size ice arena

An arena is located underground, allowing for a regulation-size ice sheet on the site, as well as expanded spectator seating.



7. Secondary school

A seismically safe 1,000-1,200 student capacity secondary school is located on the east side of the site next to residential buildings. An additional portion of school programming will be located on Denman Street.



8. Secondary school sport field and outdoor education spaces

The proposed placement of the buildings create a large open space at the centre of the site that will allow the School to provide a sport field and outdoor education spaces.



9. Relocated Firehall No. 6

A relocated Firehall No. 6 is integrated into the future community centre, connecting to Haro Street.

**Children's space
(including childcare
spaces)**



**Community
centre**



**Indigenous
Knowledge and
Culture Spaces**



**Lobby and social
space**



Library



Community plaza



Secondary school



**Secondary school
outdoor education
spaces**



Firehall No. 6



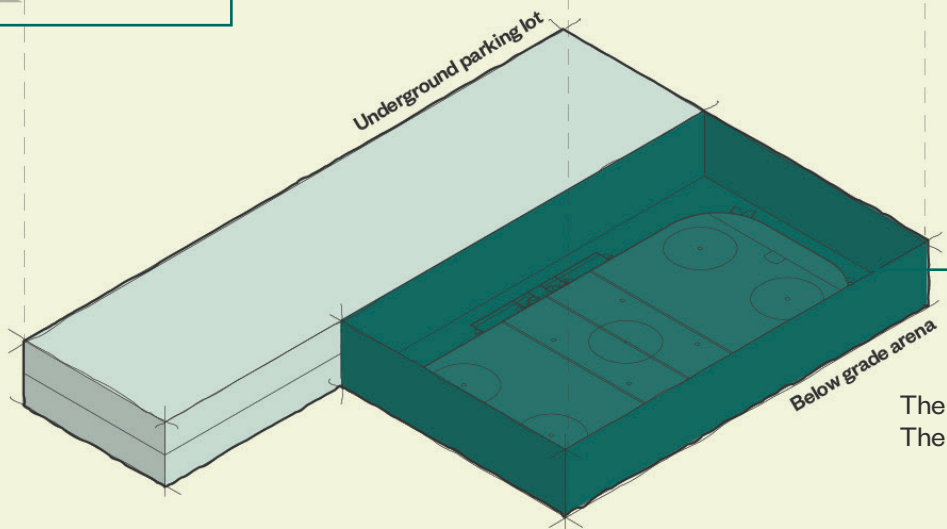
**Secondary school
sport field**



**Secondary school
spaces**



**Regulation-size
ice arena**

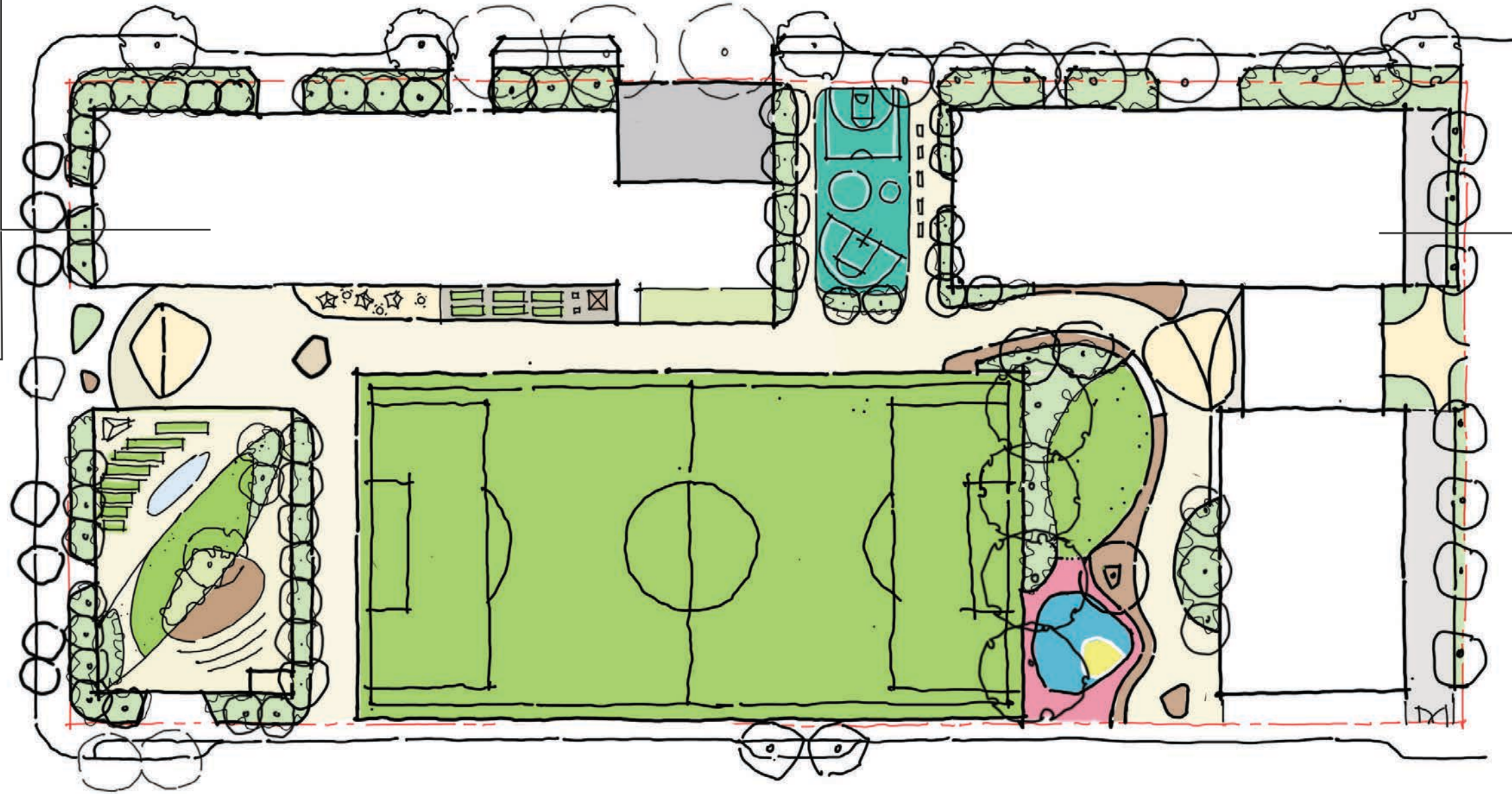


This image represents a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and does not represent the design of the site's future buildings.

The arena and parkade are located underground. The spaces have been visually moved down for clarity.

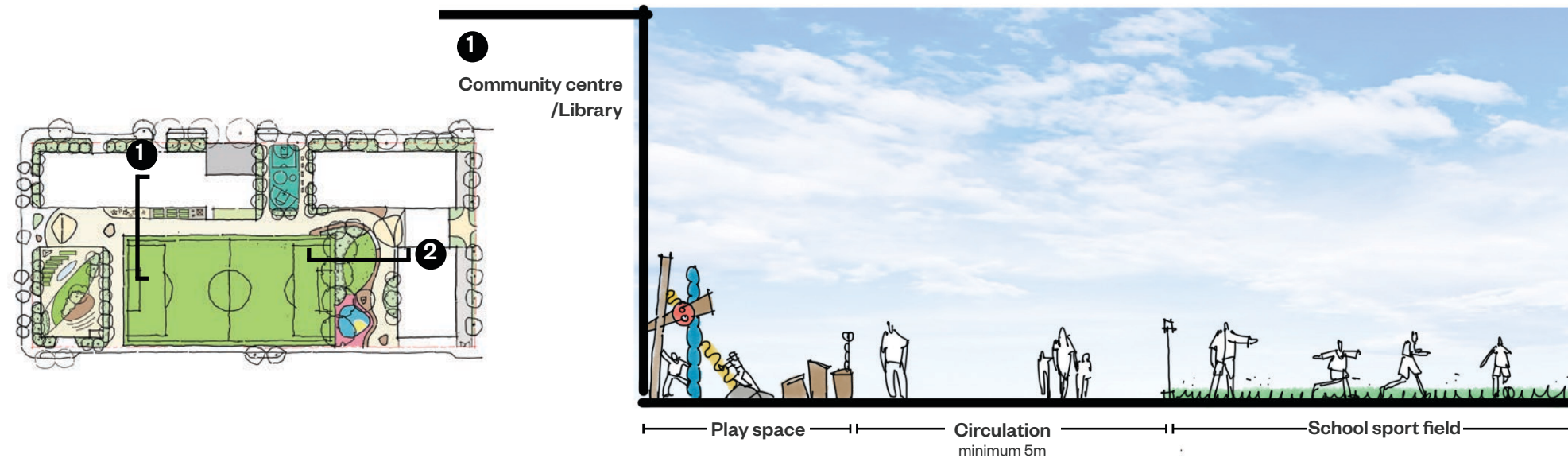
Scenario A - Landscape site plan

- Community Centre
- Firehall No. 6
- Library
- Regulation-size ice arena
- Children's space (including childcare spaces)
- Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Spaces



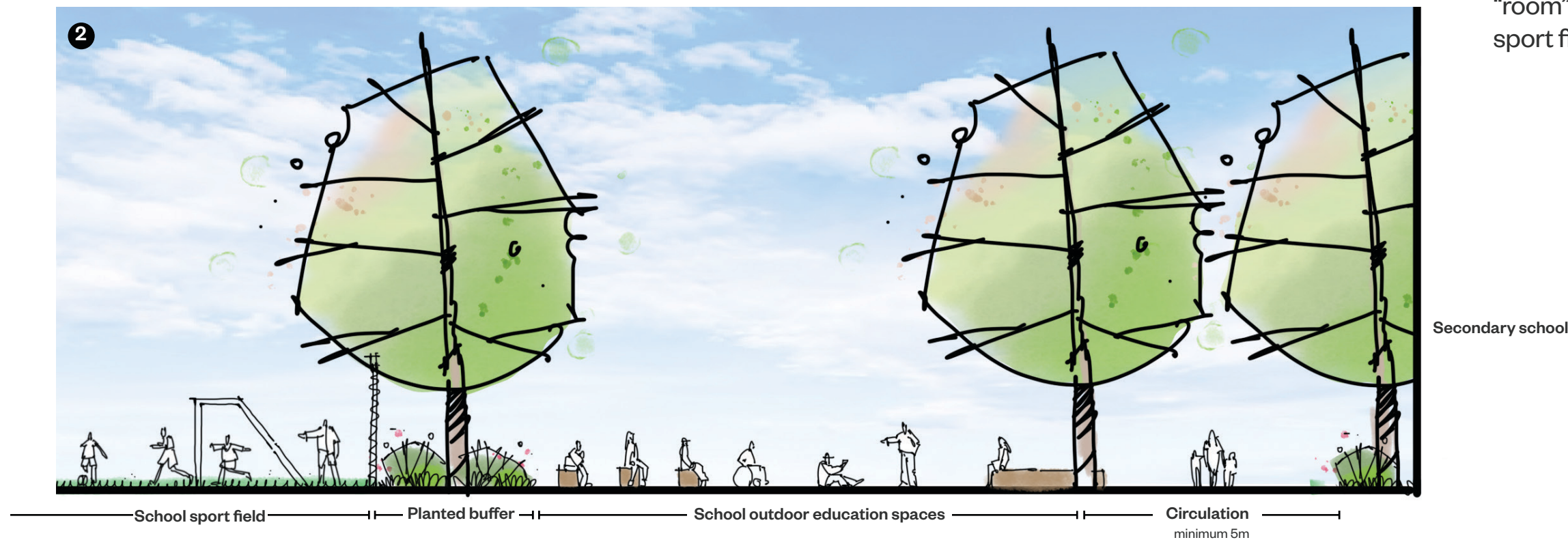
Secondary School

Scenario A - Landscape site sections



Section 1 illustrates the relationship between West End Community Centre program, circulation, and the school sport field. The proximity and relative size of the play space would benefit from a fencing approach emphasizing playfulness and interactiveness.

Section 2 illustrates the relationship between the school sport field, the school outdoor education area, and King George Secondary School. This scenario provides ample opportunity for trees and planting buffer, creating a comfortable outdoor "room" next to the openness of the school sport field.



Scenario B

Community uses on Barclay, Education uses on Denman



1. Community centre

An expanded community centre brings activity to Haro Street with a Bidwell Street pedestrian connection to Robson Street.

A new Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Space is integrated into the library and community centre, making visible and strengthening connections to Coast Salish Peoples, history and culture.



2. Community plaza

A new plaza is located along the Haro Street greenway creating opportunities for socializing, public markets and activities. It also connects to the community centre and library spaces.



3. Social Space

The social space created within an expanded lobby connects to Haro Street, opening up into the centre of the site and includes a shared front desk for community centre and library programs and services.



4. Library

An expanded two-storey library connects to Haro Street and the outdoor spaces in the heart of the site.



5. Children's space (including childcare spaces)

Children's activities will take place throughout the Community Centre and a licensed childcare facility will be located on the uppermost floor with East and West-facing outdoor play areas.



6. Regulation-size ice arena

An arena is located underground allowing for a regulation-size ice sheet on the site, as well as expanded spectator seating.



7. Secondary school

A seismically safe 1,000-1,200 student capacity secondary school is located along Denman Street between Haro and Barclay Street.



8. Secondary school sport field and outdoor education spaces

The proposed placement of the buildings create a large open space at the centre of the site that will allow the School to provide a sport field and outdoor education spaces.



9. Relocated Firehall No. 6

A relocated Firehall No. 6 is integrated into the future community centre connecting to Barclay Street.

Secondary school sport field



Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Spaces



Lobby and social space



Library



Community plaza



Secondary school



Secondary school outdoor education spaces



Children's space (including childcare spaces)



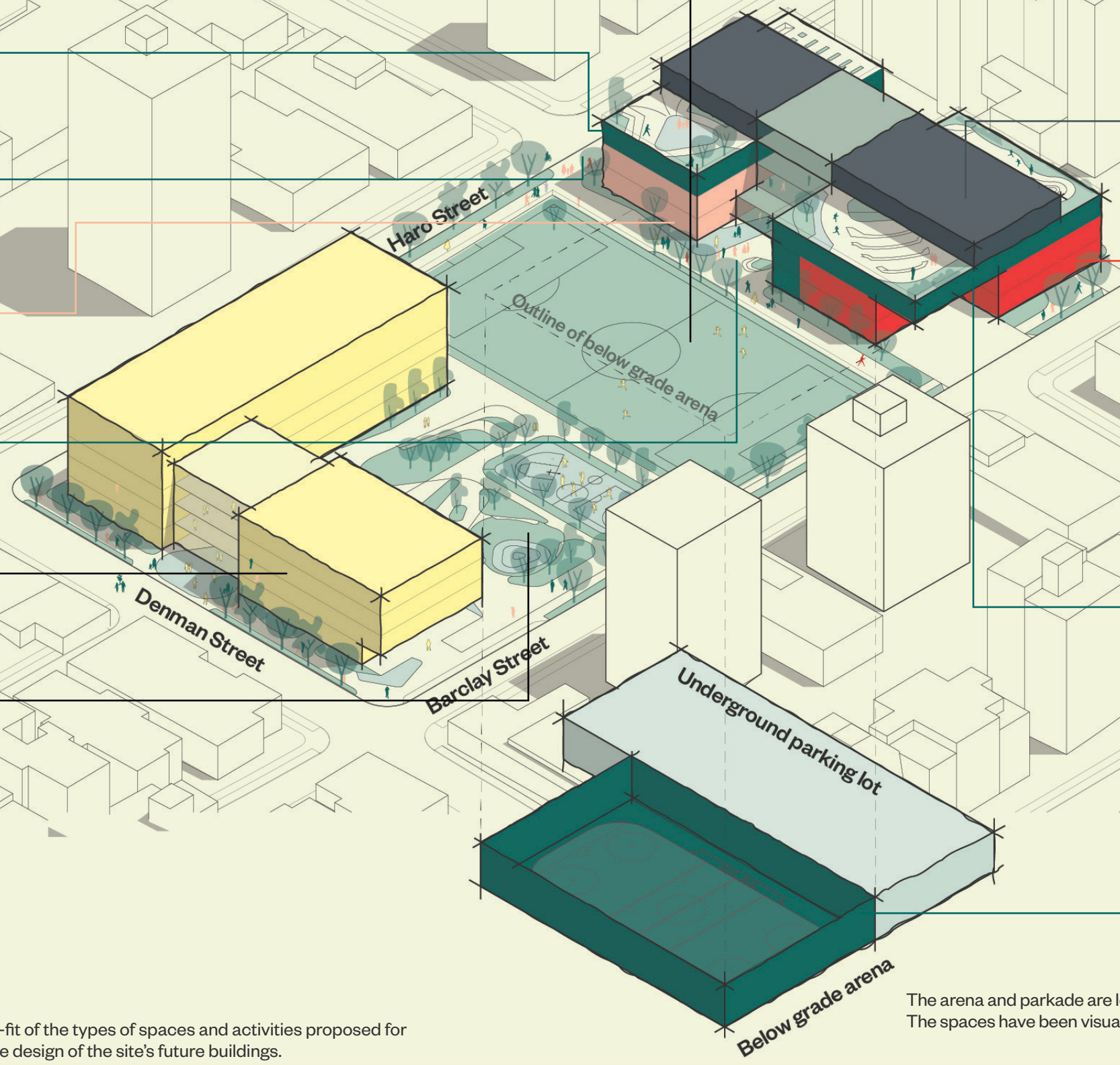
Firehall No. 6



Community centre



Regulation-size ice arena

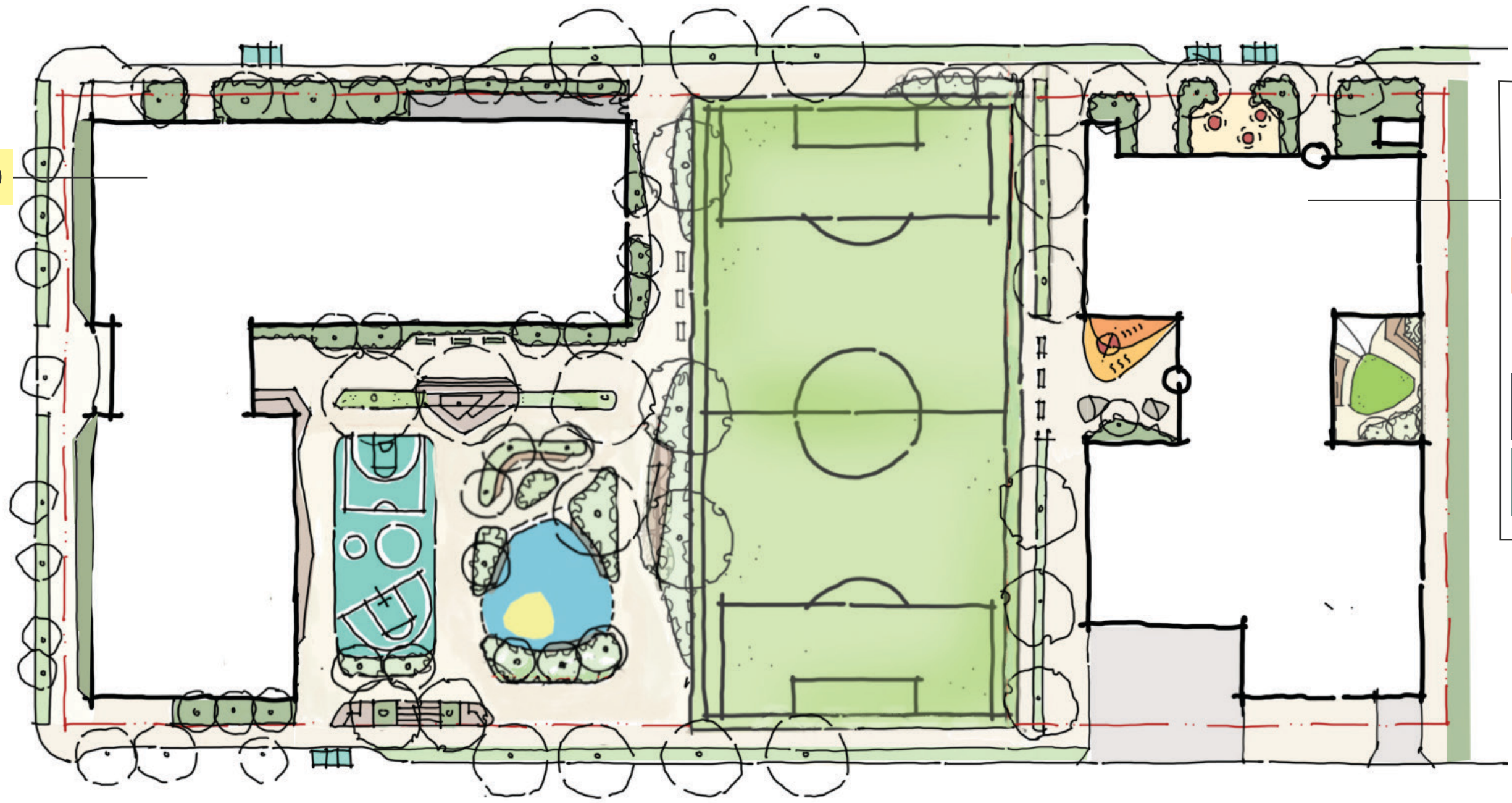


This image represents a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and does not represent the design of the site's future buildings.

The arena and parkade are located underground. The spaces have been visually moved down for clarity.

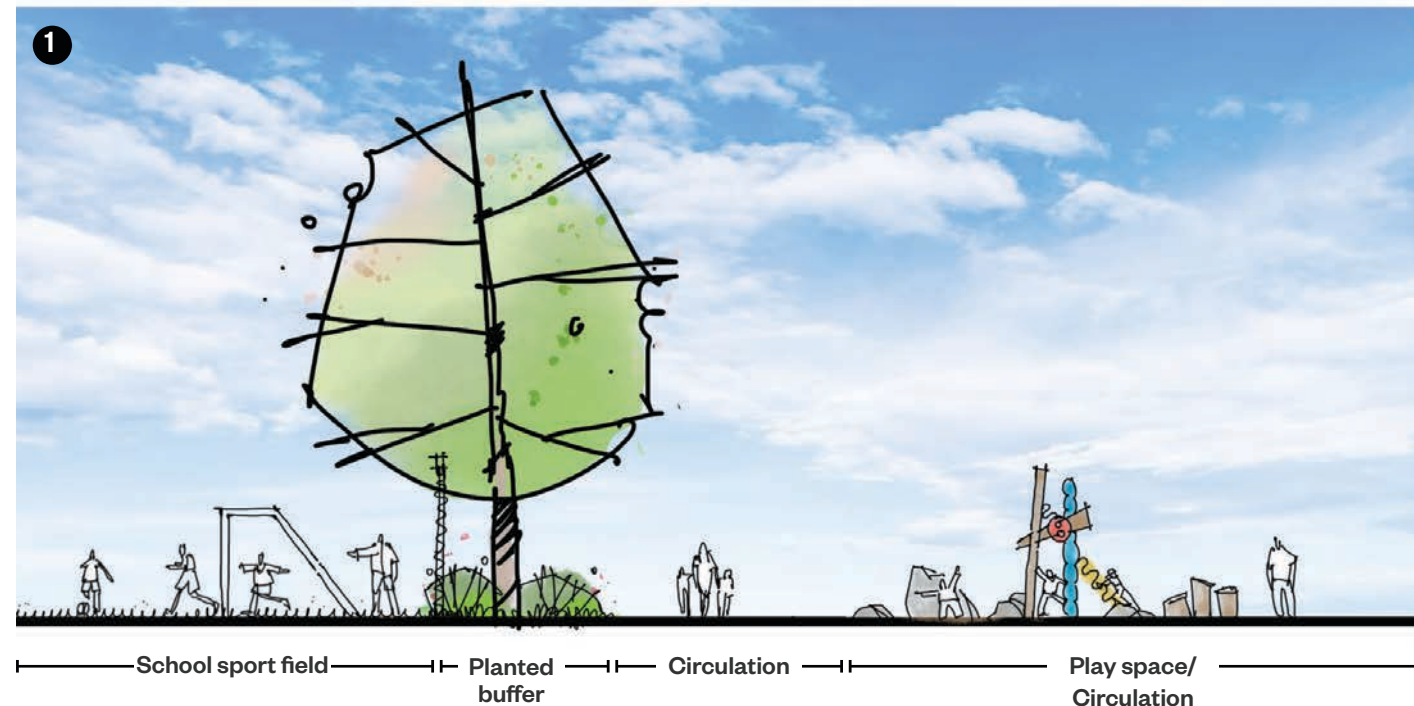
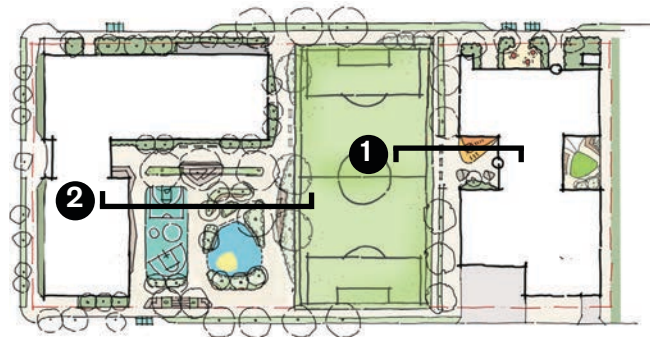
Scenario B - Landscape site plan

Secondary School

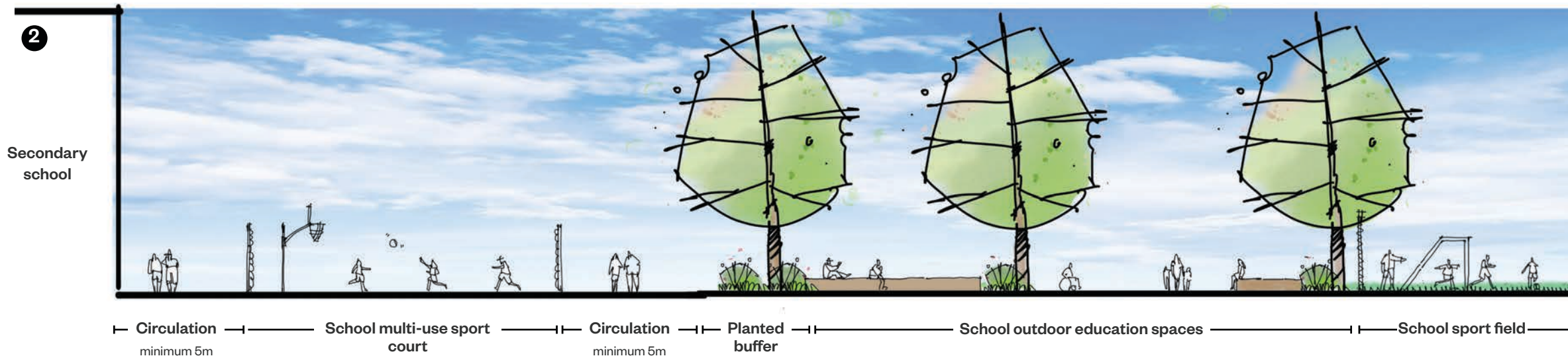


- Community Centre
- Firehall No. 6
- Library
- Regulation-size ice arena
- Children's space (including childcare spaces)
- Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Spaces

Scenario B - Landscape site sections



Section 1 illustrates the space adjacent to the main entrance of the West End Community Centre and Joe Fortes Library. The planted buffer provides a parklike edge and softens the impact of the fencing around the playing field. Together, the building and planting create a comfortably sheltered space for an entry plaza and play space.



Section 2 shows the relationship between several adjacent programs. The outdoor education area is contained by generous planting and tree cover, while the circulation route adjacent to King George Secondary is relatively exposed. This area would benefit from a fencing approach that emphasizes visual connection to the multi-use sport court, and provides seating for spectators or informal socializing.

Scenario C

Community uses on Denman, Education uses on Barclay



1. Community centre

An expanded community centre brings activity along Denman Street between Haro and Barclay Streets.

A new Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Space is integrated into the library and community centre, making visible and strengthening connections to Coast Salish Peoples, history and culture.



2. Community plaza

An expanded plaza located along Denman Street and close to the building's main entrance, creates opportunities for socializing, public markets and activities.



3. Social space

The social space created within an expanded lobby connects to Haro Street, opening up into the centre of the site and includes a shared front desk for community centre and library programs and services.



4. Library

An expanded two-storey library maintains a connection to Denman Street.



5. Children's space (including childcare spaces)

Children's activities will take place throughout the Community Centre and a licensed childcare facility will be located on the uppermost floor with East and West-facing outdoor play areas.



6. Regulation-size ice arena

An arena is located underground allowing for a regulation-size ice sheet on the site, as well as expanded spectator seating.



7. Secondary school

A seismically safe 1,000-1,200 student capacity secondary school is located on the east side of the site connected to the residential areas of the neighbourhood.



8. Secondary school sport field and outdoor education spaces

The proposed placement of the buildings create a large open space at the centre of the site that will allow the School to provide a sport field and outdoor education spaces.



9. Relocated Firehall No. 6

A relocated Firehall No. 6 is integrated into the future community centre connecting to Barclay Street.

**Children's space
(including childcare
spaces)**



**Indigenous
Knowledge and
Culture Spaces**



Library



**Lobby and Social
Space**



**Community
Plaza**



Secondary school



**Secondary school
education outdoor
spaces**



**Secondary school
sport field**



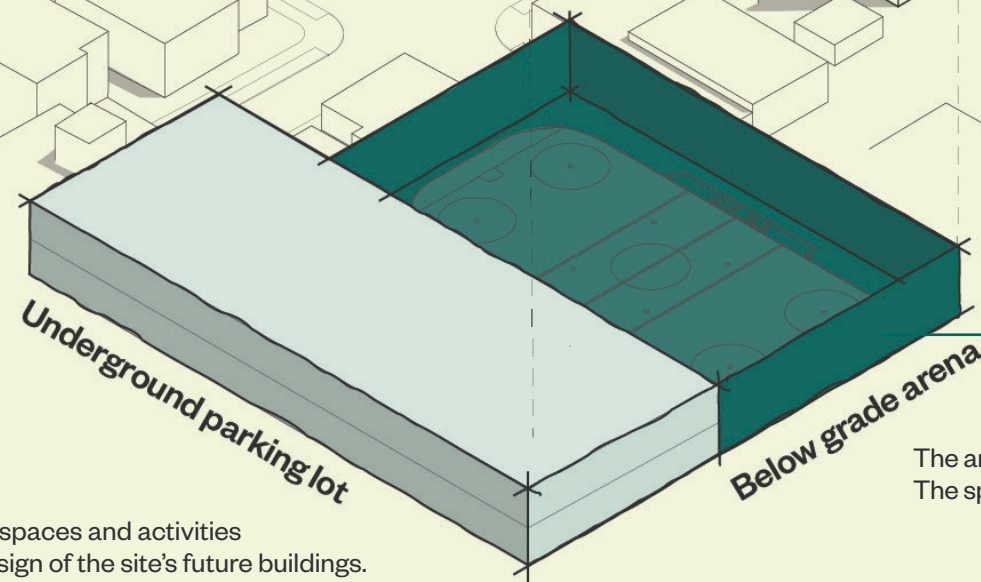
**Community
Centre**



Firehall No. 6



**Regulation-size
ice arena**



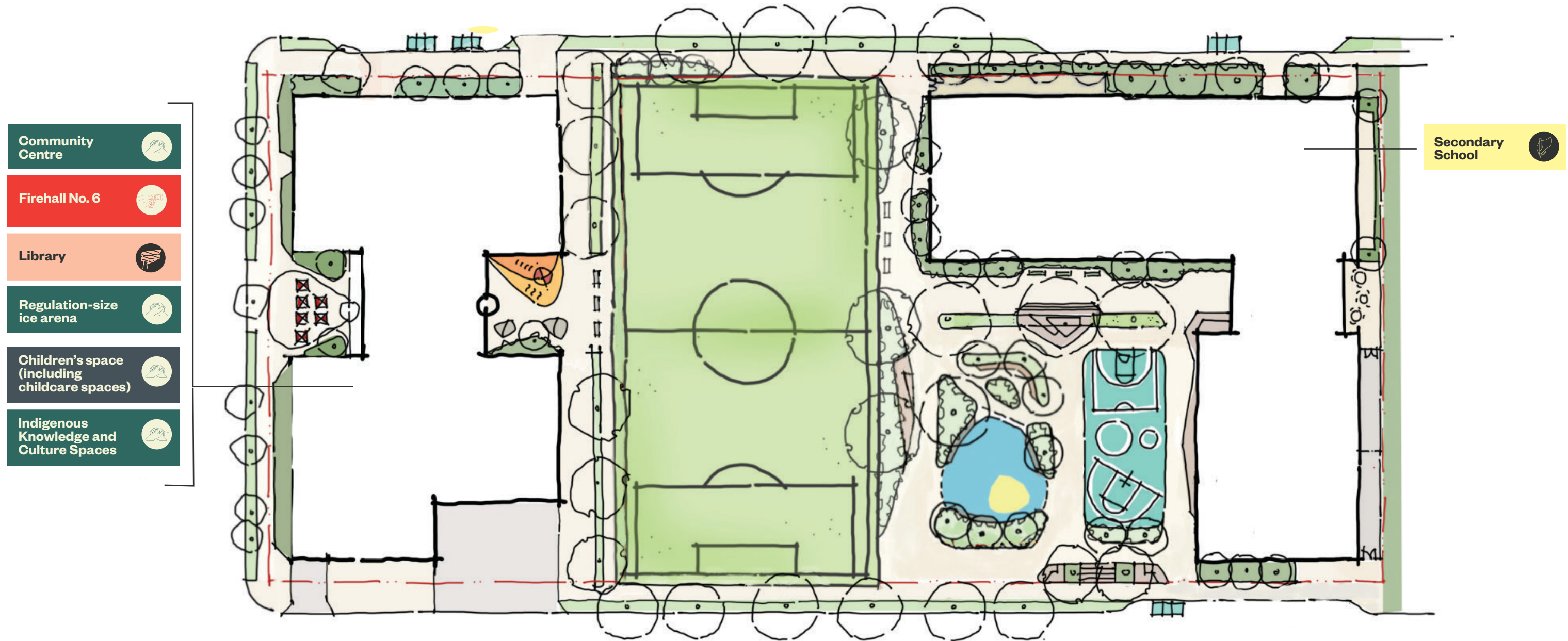
The arena and parkade are located underground. The spaces have been visually moved down for clarity.

This image represents a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and does not represent the design of the site's future buildings.

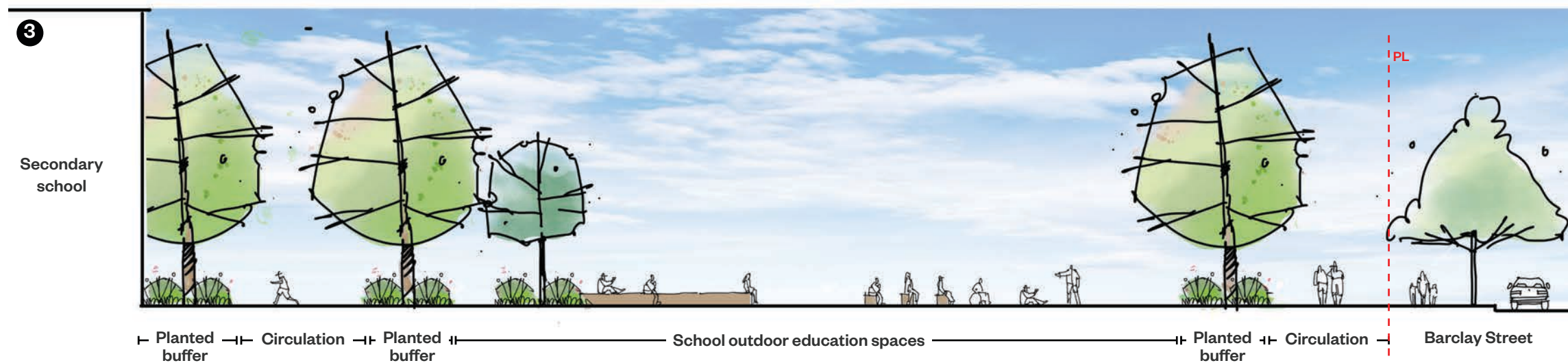
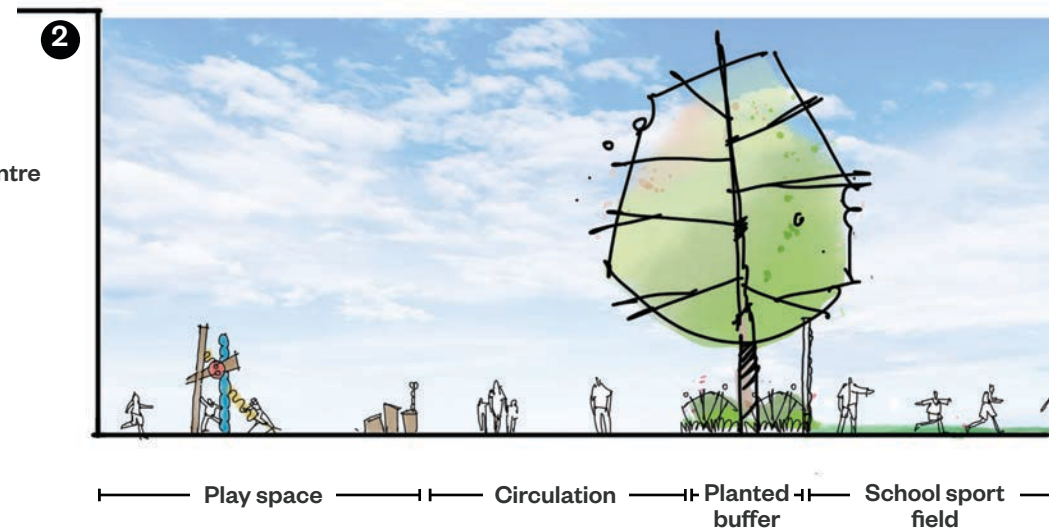
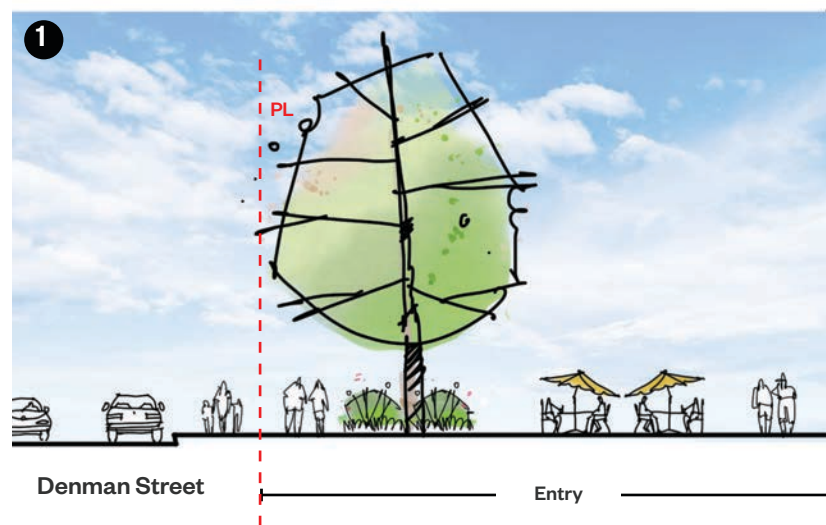
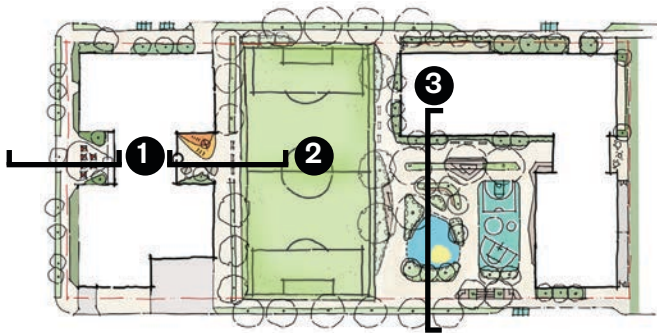
Scenario C - Landscape site plan

The ground level entry plaza fronting onto Denman creates a public open space along a busy high street that has an otherwise constrained pedestrian edge. A second public space, for quieter gathering or natural play, faces toward the secondary school sport field and outdoor education spaces at the centre of the site.

Outdoor spaces associated with the West End Community Centre and Joe Fortes Library, are located on upper levels that face both onto Denman Street affording a visual connection to street life and onto the central open space for views of the school fields and surrounding neighborhood.



Scenario C - Landscape site sections



Section 1 illustrates the relationship between the West End Community Centre / Joe Fortes Library and the Denman Street frontage, providing an opening into an entry plaza from a relatively narrow sidewalk condition.

Section 2 illustrates the relationship between the play space, north/south circulation, and the playing field. Similar to Scenario B, the relationship between the buildings and the planted buffer provides the feeling of an outdoor room for the play space.

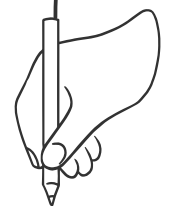
Section 3 demonstrates the relationship between King George Secondary and its associated programs with Barclay Street. This street frontage provides a visually permeable, green, parklike edge.

5.4 Spaces and activities considerations

Throughout the creation of the three site development scenarios, project partners identified important priorities and considerations that helped determine the location of spaces on the site. The diagrams in this section describe key priorities and objectives of each partner organization. The objectives and planning considerations illustrated in this section formed a key part of both the development and evaluation of each of the three scenarios to arrive at a preferred option. For a description of the spaces and activities included in the renewal plan, [refer to section 4.4.](#)

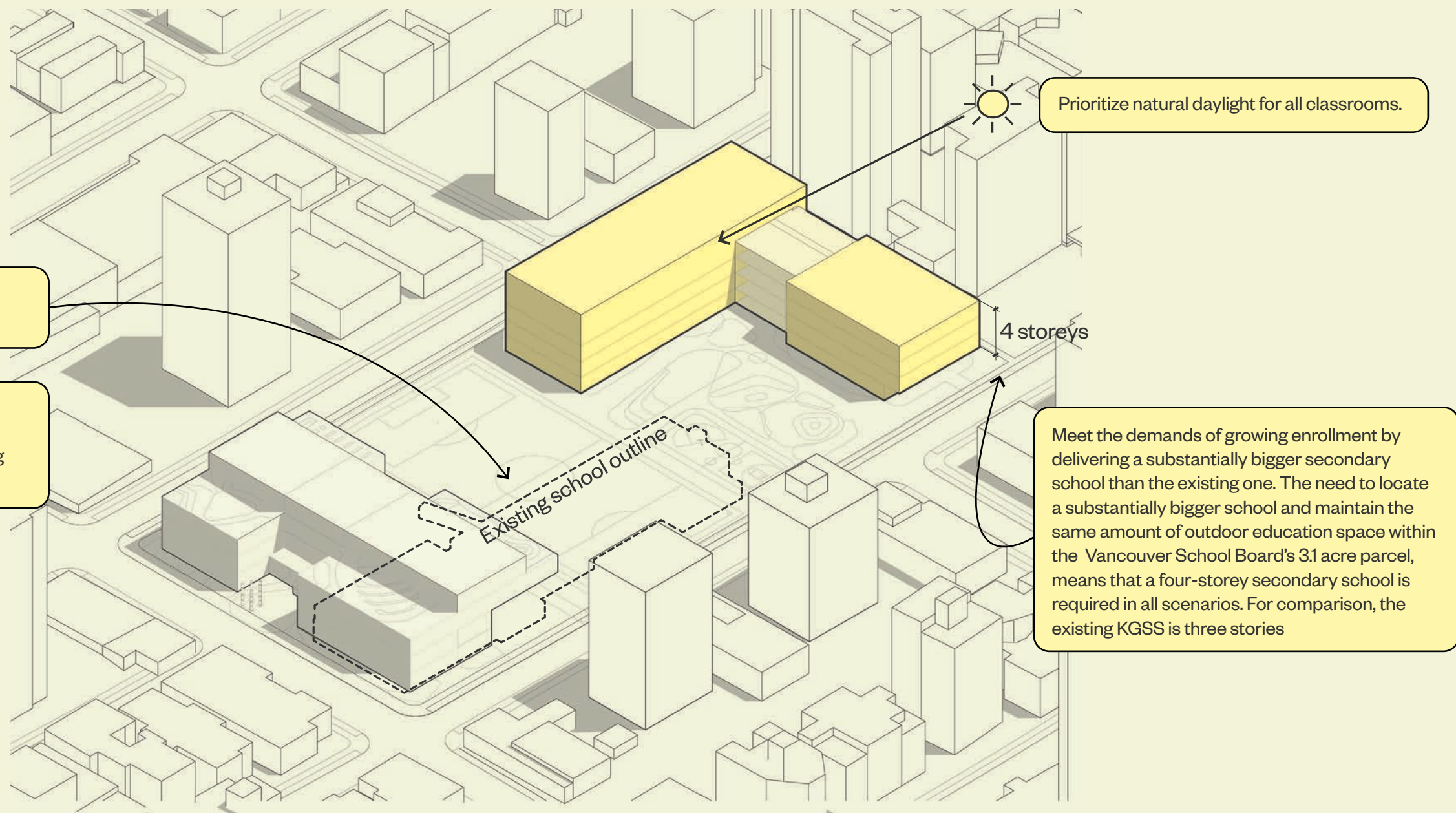
Playground Connections

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



▲ Story gathered from members of the community during the fall 2021 engagement

 **Secondary school**



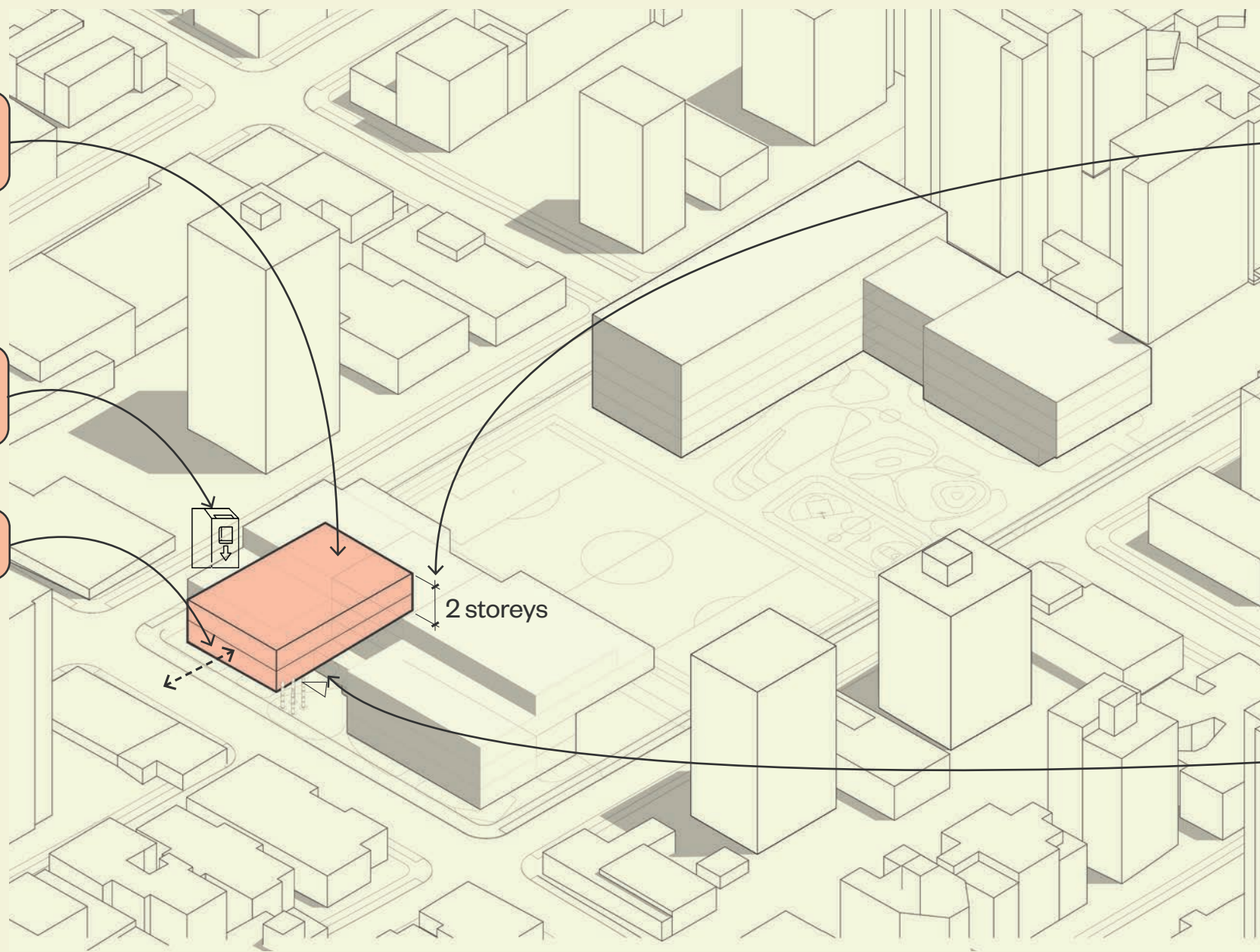
▲ **Spaces and activities considerations influences**
 This image represents a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and does not represent the design of the site's future buildings.

 **Library**

Provide direct access to a service loading space for multiple daily deliveries.

Allow direct outdoor access to a book-drop at street level.

Make the library visible from Denman Street.



Deliver a significant expansion for the future Joe Fortes Library. Given site constraints, the library will be built over two floors with spaces of roughly equal size on each level.

Delivers a significant expansion for the future Joe Fortes Library.

Locate the library entrance close to the main entrance of the building.

▲ **Spaces and activities considerations influences**

This image represents a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and does not represent the design of the site's future buildings.

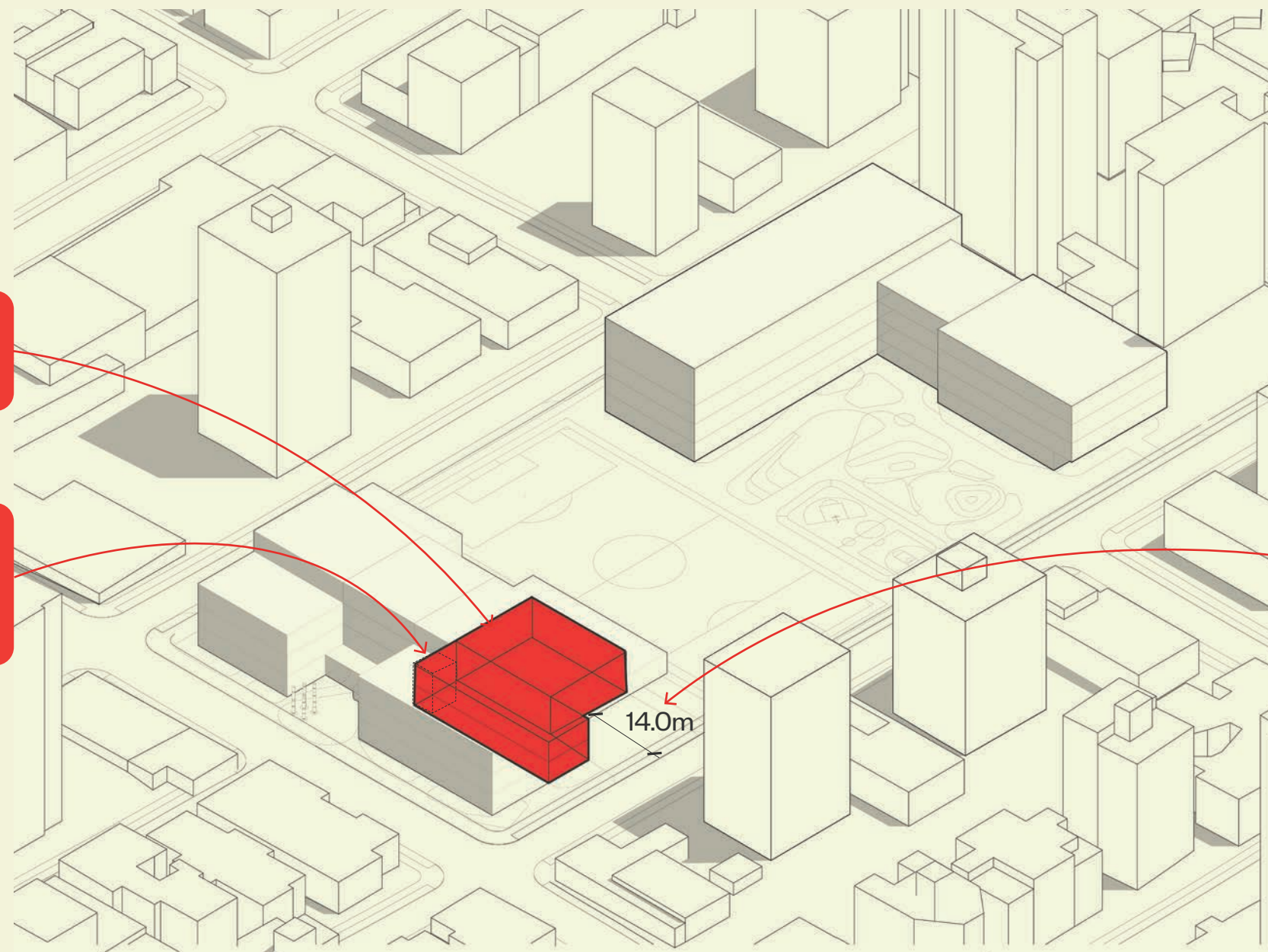


Firehall No. 6

Deliver a two-storey firehall allowing an efficient layout between staff support spaces and the double-height truck bays.

Deliver a half height hose drying tower that can fit within a two-storey firehall, allowing other community spaces to be located above the firehall.

Maintain a minimum 14-metre long driveway in front of the firehall. To allow optimal response times for emergencies, the driveway should be located away from Denman street and face onto either Haro or Barclay streets.



▲ Spaces and activities considerations influences

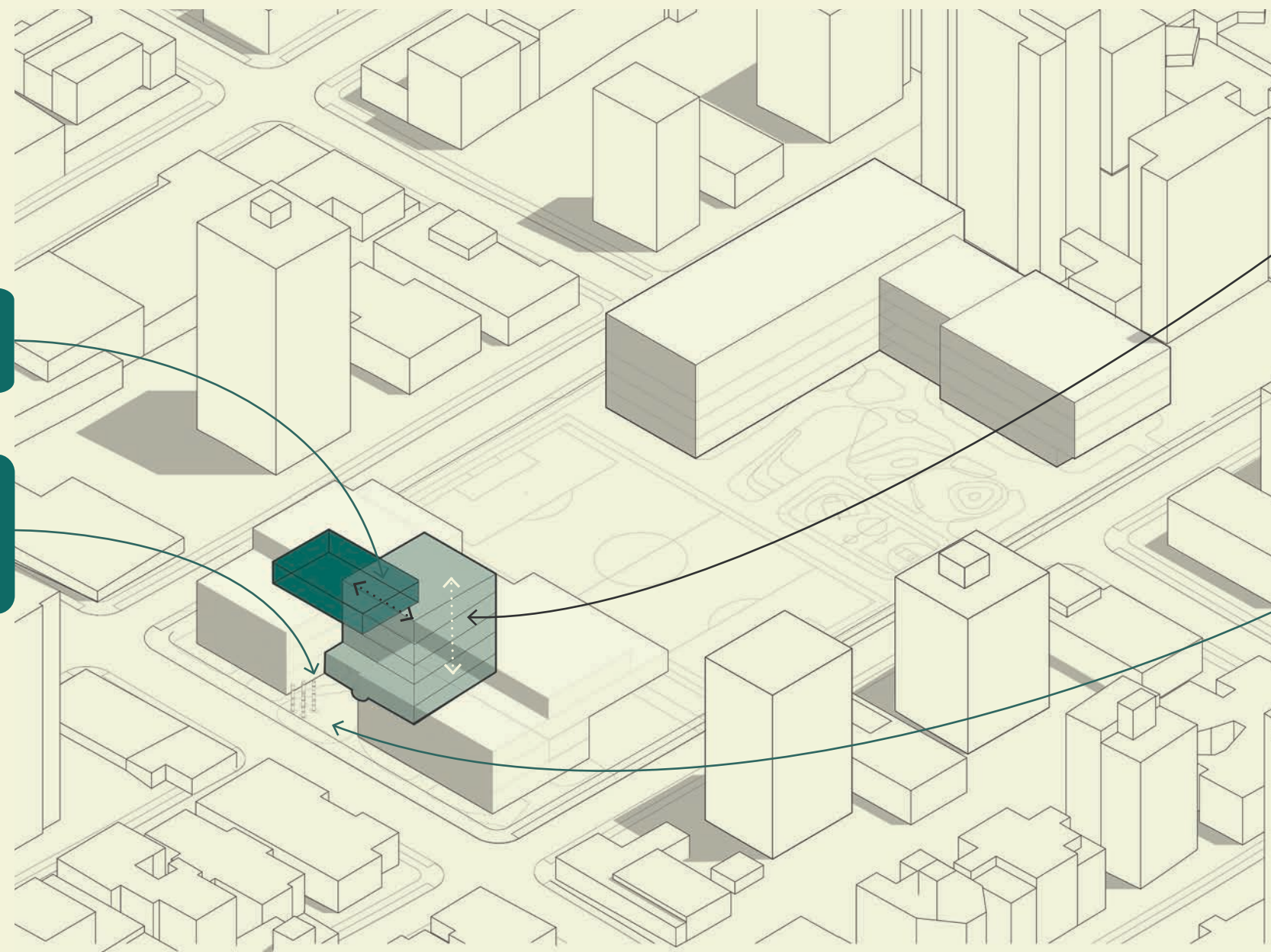
This image represents a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and does not represent the design of the site's future buildings.



Lobby and Indigenous Knowledge and Culture space

Create visual connections between the main entrance lobby and the Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Space.

Create a distinct grouping of community centre and library spaces to form a central place for Indigenous cultural expression, ceremony and events within the building.



Create vertical connections over multiple levels as well as access, visibility and natural light to any underground spaces such as the ice arena.

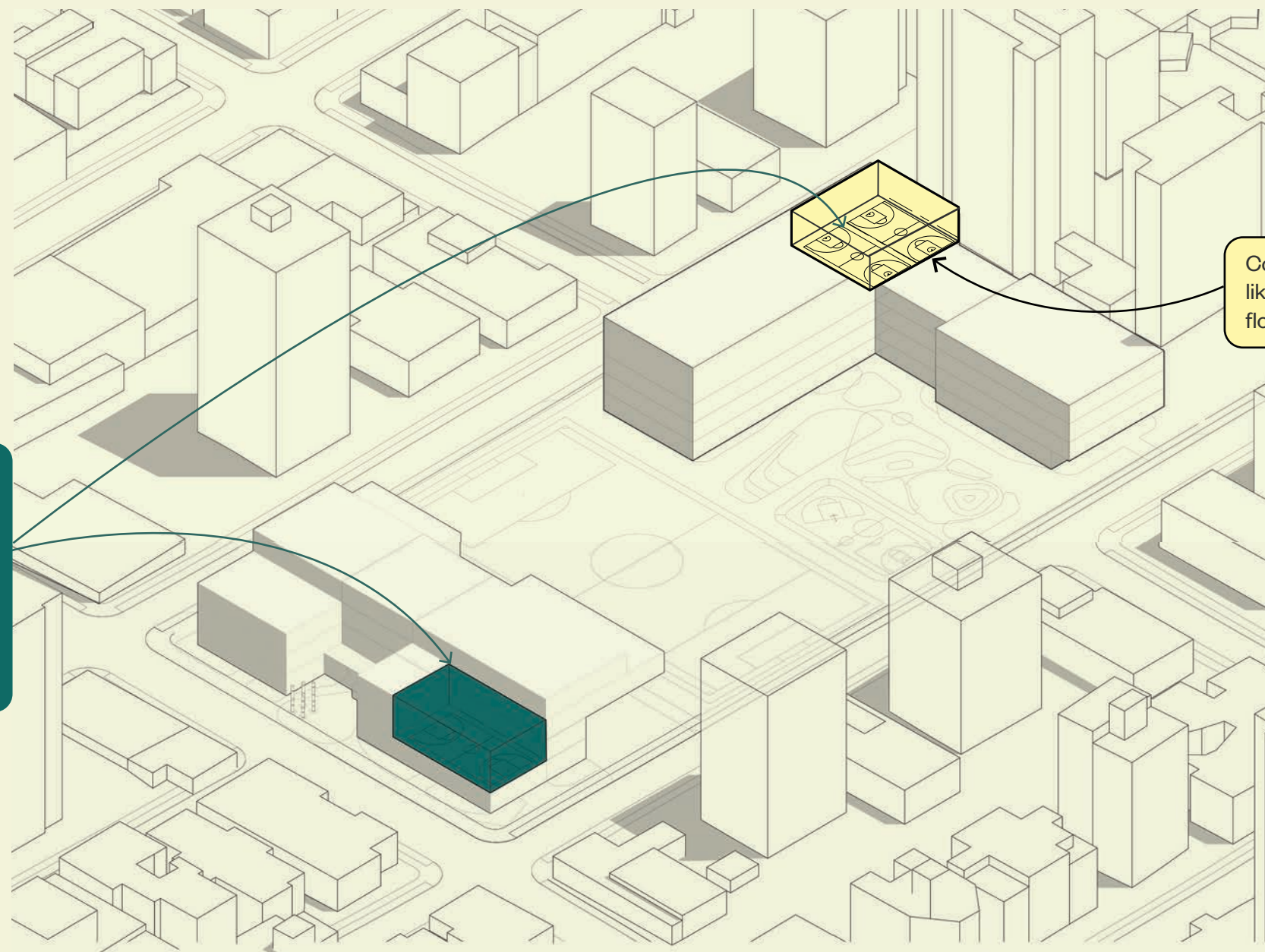
Locate the main entrance and lobby next to the public plaza and as close to Denman Street as possible.

▲ **Spaces and activities considerations influences**

This image represents a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and does not represent the design of the site's future buildings.



Gymnasium and fitness spaces



Active areas like gymnasium and fitness spaces should be carefully located to avoid noise disruption to any sound-sensitive spaces around them.

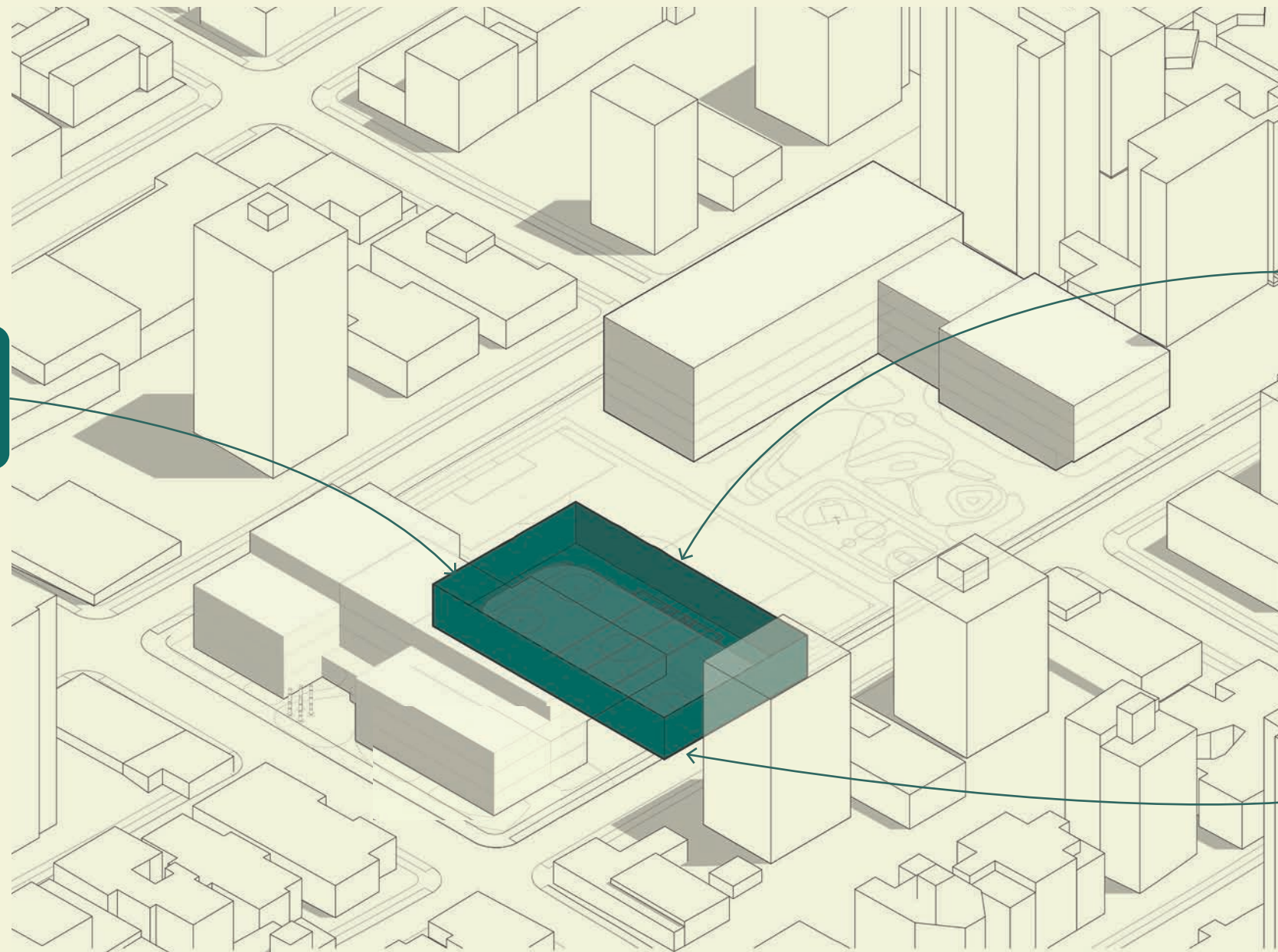
Gymnasium and fitness spaces cannot be located above or adjacent to any performing arts spaces.

Consider locating school double height spaces like the gymnasium on the top floor to conserve floor space on lower levels.

▲ Spaces and activities considerations influences

This image represents a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and does not represent the design of the site's future buildings

 **Arena**



If the current standard ammonia refrigeration system is included in the future, the building design will have to accommodate a safe exhaust stack.

The ice resurfer (Zamboni) needs a loading area with an overhead roll-up door.

Provide convenient loading access and emergency exit to the exterior from the refrigeration plant.

In all scenarios, locating the ice arena below ground and beyond the footprint of the building above is the best option for fitting all of the community serving spaces within the City's 1.3 acre parcel while also meeting the functional needs of an ice arena. Detailed arena requirements will be studied further during future design phases.

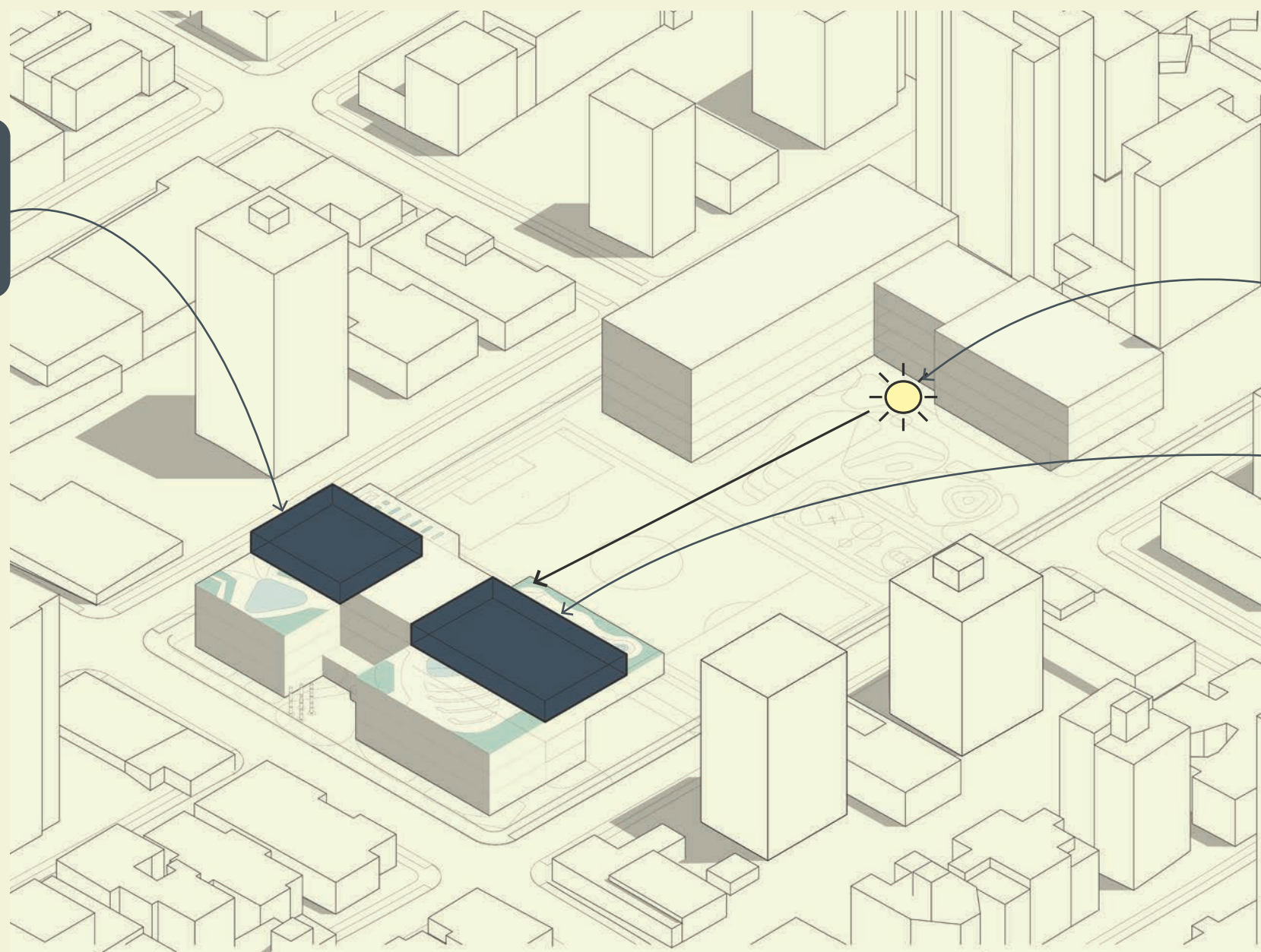
▲ **Spaces and activities considerations influences**

This image represents a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and does not represent the design of the site's future buildings



Childcare spaces

The childcare will be located on the roof to provide direct connection to a large secure outdoor play space, a portion of which will be covered. Provide an easily accessible childcare pick-up/drop-off location.



Locate the childcare to allow for enough natural light throughout the day.

The childcare program spaces should be located next to each other for connection and operational efficiency.

▲ Spaces and activities considerations influences

This image represents a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and does not represent the design of the site's future buildings.

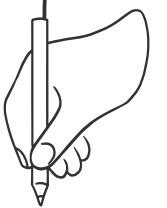
5.7 Public engagement overview

During spring 2023, community members were invited to share their feedback on the strengths and challenges of three potential site development scenarios for the future community hub. Between May 17 and June 19 2023, engagement opportunities included:

- An online survey hosted on shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect, including translated versions in Korean, Spanish and Farsi.
- Two open houses and three pop-up events with information boards, physical scale models and opportunities to share feedback and talk to project partners.
- Paper surveys, information leaflets and binders with detailed information about the scenarios, including large-print material, were distributed by the West End Seniors' Network and translated surveys and leaflets were available in Korean, Spanish and Farsi.
- School community engagement including a presentation to the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) from King George Secondary School (KGSS) and another to the PACs of its surrounding elementary schools and two workshops with an urban studies class at KGSS.
- Self-paced engagement materials were located in the display case of the West End Community Centre with information boards and physical scale models.
- Large-print informational posters were installed on the Denman-facing windows at the Joe Fortes branch library.

Nature in abundance

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



▲ Story gathered from members of the community during the fall 2021 engagement

Engagement participation

Survey 390 participants

Open Houses 175 participants

Pop-ups 250 visitors

School community



17 students in the high secondary school's urban studies class



16 high school parents



34 local elementary school parents and principals.



▲ Self-paced boards at the West End Community Centre, Open house and pop-up events at West End Community Centre plaza and King George Secondary School

What we heard from the community

The online survey asked participants to identify strengths for each scenario from provided lists, with an option to share additional strengths and challenges. At the open houses and pop-ups, as well as in the online survey's challenges section, participants expressed any ideas they wanted to share. Results of this input are provided on the following pages.



▲ Open house at West End Community Centre, Urban Studies workshop at King George Secondary School, and pop-up events held in the plaza outside West End Community Centre and King George Secondary School

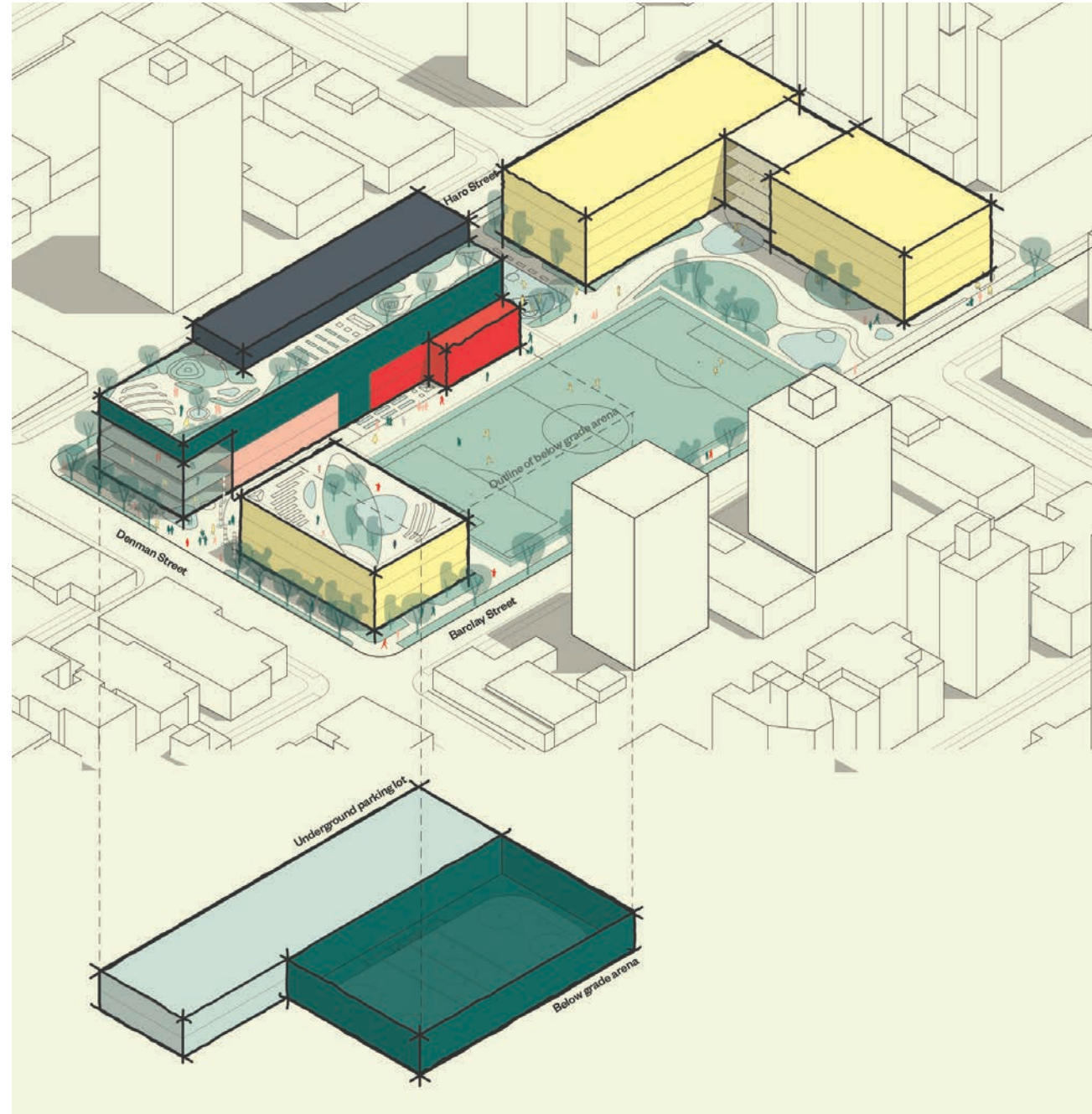


▲ Open houses and pop-ups held at West End Community Centre and King George Secondary School

▲ Open house at King George Secondary, Urban Studies class workshop at King George Secondary, and self-paced information boards at West End Community Centre

Scenario A feedback:

Community uses on Denman, Education uses on Barclay and Denman



This image represents a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and does not represent the design of the site's future buildings.

Strengths of Scenario A

When asked about the strengths of Scenario A, about half of all survey respondents selected the following options:

- *Denman Street location of an expanded community plaza*
- *Denman location of the library*
- *Denman location of the community centre*
- *Denman connection to the community centre lobby or social space*

Pop-up and open house comments about the strengths of Scenario A were mainly about the Denman-facing aspects of this scenario:

Atrium facing onto Denman Street, which would act as a combined entrance for the library and community centre, as it could:

- Allow for easy accessibility for patrons of the future community hub, whether it be for the library, community centre, or childcare facilities

Expanded community plaza located on Denman Street, as it could:

- Create public space in a high profile location and help integrate the various uses of the site

Challenges and opportunities for improvement for Scenario A

All participants (survey, open house, and pop-up) provided their feedback about challenges and opportunities for improvement through open-ended comments. The main themes about challenges or areas to improve Scenario A were:

Separation of school buildings between the east side of site and along Denman, as it could:

- Lead to logistical constraints due to the lengthier time for travel between the buildings
- Divide the school community if used for a special program or unique classes
- Be awkward or inconvenient to travel between buildings
- Raise safety considerations due to increased school access points

Haro Street location of Firehall No. 6, as it could:

- Interfere with other Haro Street users, which is a traffic-calmed and designated cycling street
- Impede fire truck maneuverability and efficiency
- Create challenges for merging onto connecting key roads, Denman Street and Robson Street
- Not align with the site's community-oriented objectives
- Disrupt patrons of the community hub, especially the library and childcare facility

Denman Street location of a part of the school, as it could:

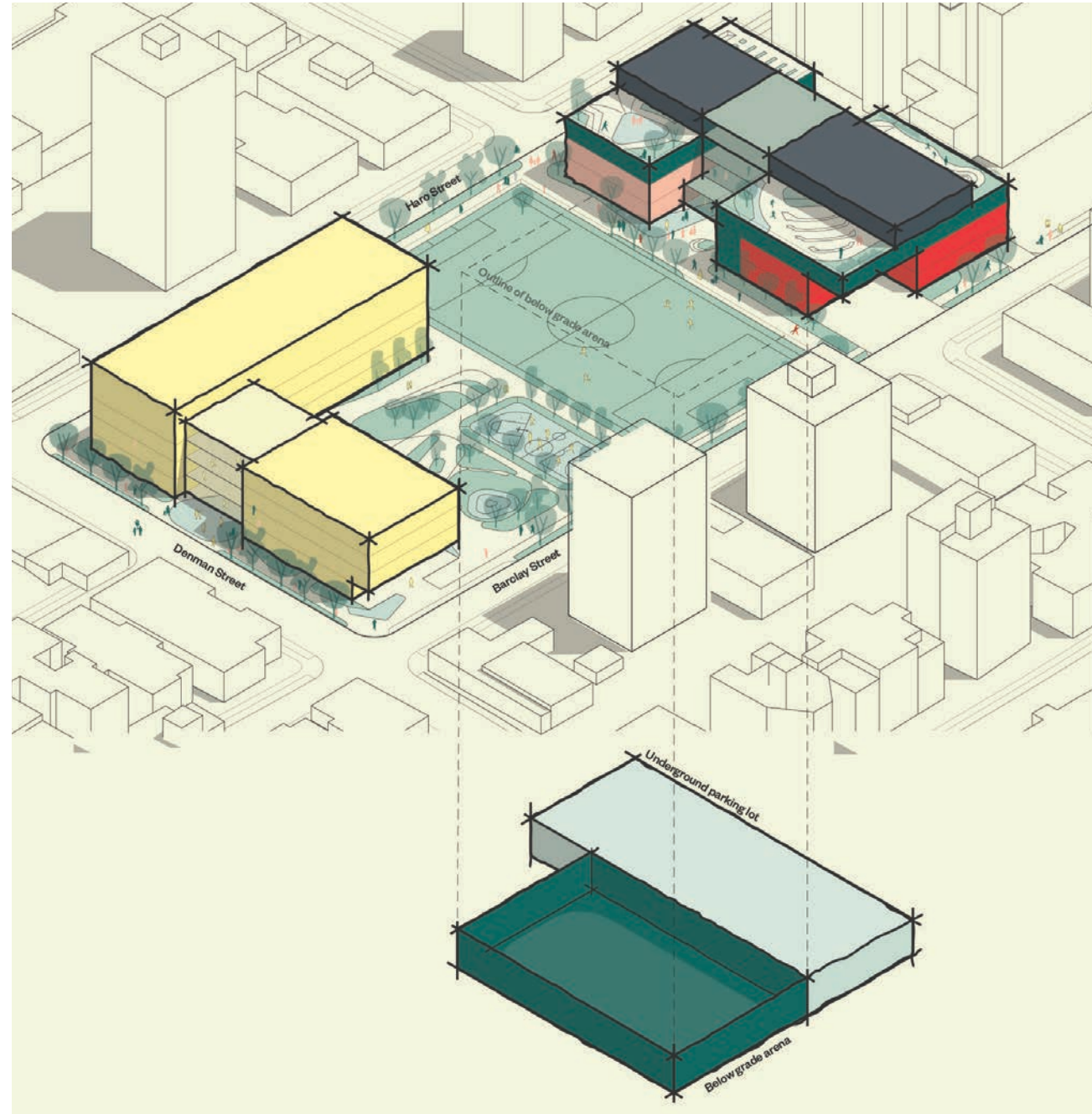
- Lead to incompatibility with the commercial and social nature of the rest of Denman Street

Denman Street location of the expanded community plaza, as it could:

- Face challenges to be both safe and inclusive

Scenario B feedback:

Community uses on Barclay, Education uses on Denman



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Strengths of Scenario B

Scenario B had lower overall levels of public support in comparison to the other scenarios. When asked about the strengths of Scenario B, survey respondents identified moderate support and approximately one quarter of survey respondents identified:

- Haro Street Greenway location of a community plaza
- Barclay Street connection to Firehall No. 6
- Movement of foot traffic around buildings

Comments about the scenario strengths were collected at the pop-ups and open houses. The relatively moderate strengths about Scenario B identified by the community were:

The Barclay Street connection to Firehall No. 6, as it could:

- Allow for more options for how firetrucks can exit the firehall
- Cause less disruption to the surrounding community

The Haro Street location of the community centre and library, as it could:

- Be insulated from noise pollution and more distracting aspects of Denman Street
- Allow for easy connection to Robson Street via Bidwell Street
- Offer a village feel by having a community hub nestled within the neighbourhood

The Denman Street location of secondary school, as it could:

- Allow for increased accessibility and more dynamic liveliness for student experience

The Haro Street Greenway location of community plaza, as it could:

- Allow for a more tranquil and scenic path for patrons to move across the site

Challenges or opportunities for improvements for Scenario B

The main challenges or opportunities for improvements identified by survey respondents, open house attendees, pop-up visitors and other streams of input were:

The Denman Street location of secondary school, as it could:

- Be noisy and potentially disrupt the school environment
- Reduce opportunities to further activate Denman Street, and may create a passive space on Denman Street
- Produce security and safety challenges
- Reduce integration of the hub with the rest of the West End community

The Barclay Street connection to Firehall No. 6, as it could:

- Face challenges with fire trucks exiting the firehall in a quick manner during peak traffic periods
- Interfere with and disrupt community uses of the site

The Haro Street locations of the community centre and library, as it could:

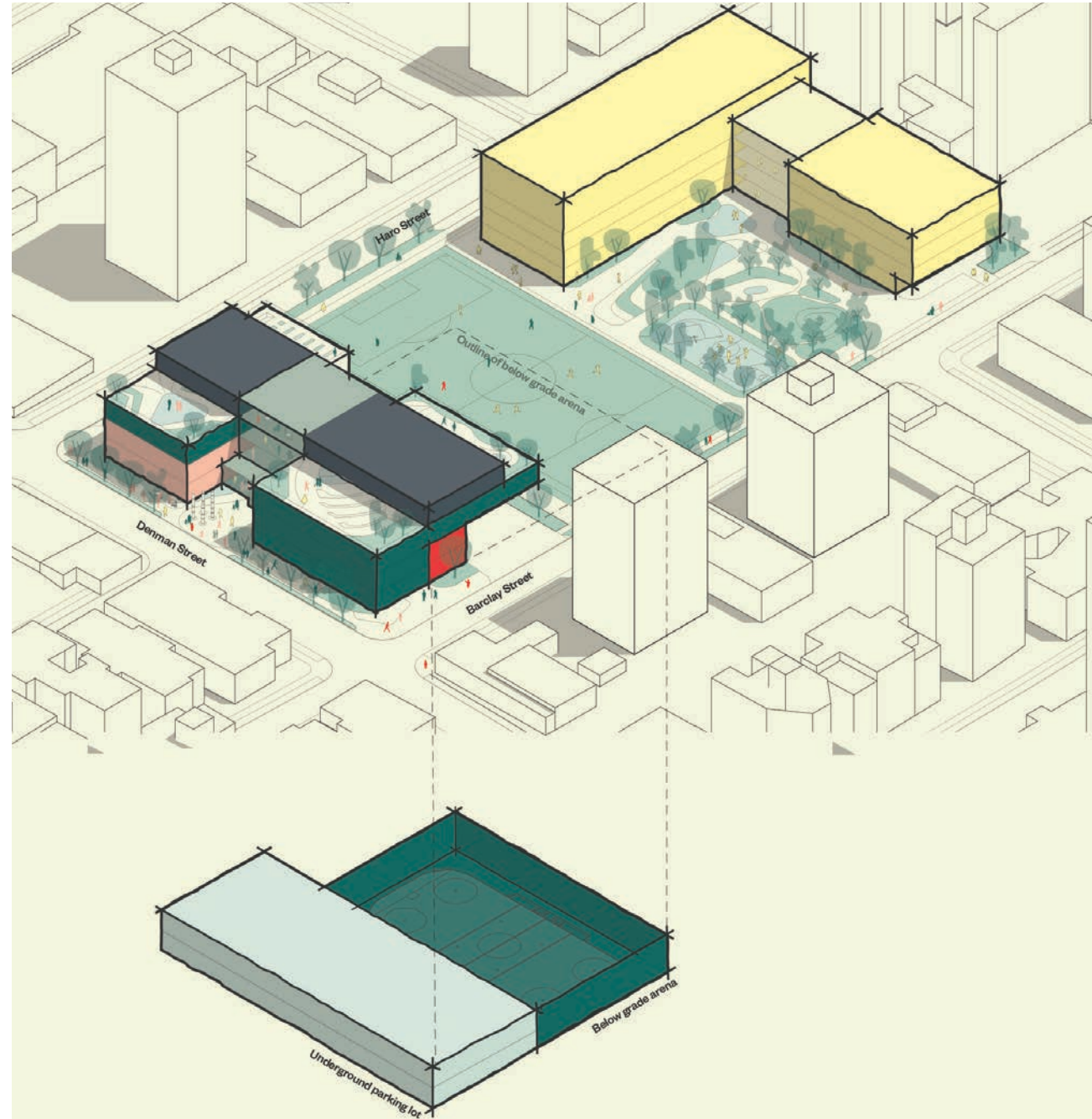
- Be less accessible for a wide range of people in the community
- Be harder to discover for passersby and newcomers if community resources are “hidden”
- Not support the site’s objective as serving as a community hub

The Haro Street Greenway location of the community plaza, as it could

- Be hard to discover and access from the main areas of foot traffic in the community
- Be too narrow to create a meaningful public space for community connection

Scenario C feedback:

Community uses on Denman, Education uses on Barclay



This image represents a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and does not represent the design of the site's future buildings.

Strengths of Scenario C

When asked about the strengths of Scenario C, approximately two-thirds of survey respondents identified:

- *Denman location of the community centre*
- *Denman location of the library*
- *Denman location of the community plaza*
- *Denman location of the community centre lobby or social space*
- *The secondary school's location on the east side of the site*

About a third of respondents supported the remaining elements of this scenario.

Pop-up and open house participants shared additional perspectives about the strengths of Scenario C. The main strengths identified by the community were:

Denman locations of the library and community centre, as together they could:

- Offer easy exposure and discoverability for passersby and newcomers to the community in a welcoming way
- Integrate well with the community due to having continuity with the foot traffic on Denman Street
- Be accessible and safe for a wide range of people in the community
- Activate the sidewalk and continue the liveliness along Denman Street

The secondary school located on the east side of the site, as it could:

- Be protected from disruptions and noise pollution
- Be a safer and more secure environment for students
- Offer easier pickup logistics for parents

Denman connection to the community centre lobby/social space, as it could:

- Be more welcoming and inviting to patrons and passersby alike

The Denman location of an expanded community plaza, as it could:

- Serve as a central public space for social gatherings, while being a welcoming area to the rest of the community hub

Challenges or opportunities for improvements for Scenario C

The main challenges or opportunities for improvements identified by survey respondents, open house attendees, pop-up visitors and other streams of input were:

The Barclay location of Firehall #6, as it could:

- Disrupt community hub patrons and the wider residential community
- Prevent easy maneuverability and efficiency for exiting fire trucks

The Denman location of the expanded community plaza, as it could:

- Be restricted in space and flow
- Be unattractive to some users by being adjacent to a busy commercial street

The location of the childcare spaces, as it could:

- Be disruptive for the childcare users

5.8 Additional input on the future WECH

Beyond feedback about how the buildings and spaces could take shape, community members shared additional input on a variety of topics related to the future West End Community Hub. In the survey and at pop-up events and open houses, participants offered ideas about activities and programming, landscape design and outdoor spaces, as well as general comments regarding the inclusion of Firehall No. 6 on the site.

In engagement specific to the school communities, we received additional questions and input related to the school such as the location of the school for each site scenario, considerations for VSB funding, understanding around current timelines and expectations to be considered during construction. A summary of key points raised during these conversations includes:

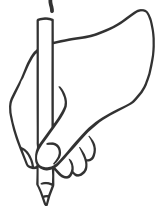
Additional input on the future WECH

Beyond feedback on how the buildings and spaces could take shape for the future West End Community Hub, we received additional input, such as:

- Desire for clarity on the need for the firehall at the WECH and information on its impacts on local noise and traffic
- Questions on future school capacity, accessibility and the school experience
- Interest in construction phasing and continuity of services during construction
- Urgency for a new and bigger secondary school in the West End
- Considerations for outdoor spaces, landscaping and access to the outdoor spaces

Holding Hands

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



▲ Story gathered from members of the community during the fall 2021 engagement

Considerations for outdoor spaces and landscaping

Many participants addressed the need to maximize lighting, shading, covered public spaces, view corridors and privacy for the outdoor spaces at the future community hub. Some people also commented on the need to preserve the heritage trees on site. Participants also wanted to know more about how outdoor spaces might be shared between the school and community centre programs and the general public at the future WECH.

Response to input

The renewal plan outdoor areas strategy is committed to fostering spaces that promote safety, belonging, and community engagement, understanding the complexities and competing interests that come with diverse urban use. The goal is to ensure that these spaces serve as harmonious, equitable destinations for all.

Inclusion of firehall on site

Many survey respondents, open house attendees and pop-up visitors were uncertain about why a firehall needs to be co-located with other facilities at WECH. Community members are also curious about plans to mitigate disruptions to patrons and students at the community hub and how the logistics for the firehall would work in day-to-day operations, especially considering traffic congestion on Denman Street. Some participants raised that they were not confident about assessing whether the firehall was a strength or challenge in any site scenario because of information gaps and the necessary assumptions required to fill those gaps.

Response to input

The proposed Firehall No. 6 relocation allows for larger and specialized equipment. The number of high-rise buildings are increasing in the West End and larger trucks are required for incidents at these buildings. The existing heritage building on Nicola cannot accommodate this type of equipment and the neighbourhood currently receives this service from another Firehall at Haro and Thurlow streets. Prior to development, Vancouver Fire Rescue Services will provide more information about mitigating traffic and noise impacts to the nearby community.

Future school capacity

Some local parents, as well as some current students at King George Secondary School, raised concerns about how the current site could support a school with a substantially enlarged student body. Participants wanted a fuller picture of what the future school might look like, in order to understand how the scenarios would perform on accessibility and the student experience. Parent Advisory Council (PAC) members and parents also expressed the need to promptly address seismic upgrades and VSB capacity shortages in the downtown area. [See section 4.5](#) for additional information surrounding the school proposed configuration.

Response to input

In order to meet the demands of growing enrollment and respond to limited site area, a 4-storey secondary school is proposed.

Construction phasing and continuity of services

Continuity of service during construction of the future WECH was a recurring concern throughout the engagement. This was heard from both library and community centre patrons. Parents also expressed the importance for classes to go as uninterrupted as possible and that students continue their schooling on site. [See section 5.2](#) key considerations for information surrounding phasing and continuity of services for the renewal.

Response to input

All scenarios proposed for the renewal plan maintain continuity of service for the existing King George Secondary School and minimize disruption to community and library services. Phasing is dependent on available funding.

Specific considerations about the scenarios

In addition to feedback on the strengths and challenges of the three site scenarios, some community members shared additional input and questions about the scenarios, including:

Inputs

- Library should not include two floors to increase accessibility.
- Additional consideration needed about required capacity for the library and the school for future growth.
- Need to widen the sidewalk on Denman Street to accommodate for foot traffic.
- Childcare would benefit with having more connection with the library.
- Maintenance and management of the social space/community plaza are crucial for a vibrant community gathering place.
- Consider the right level of parking space needed for school staff compared to the public.
- Need ways to make the open field be less of a barrier for travel to the wider community.
- Housing could be included on site to fund the project.
- Need to back idea of onsite firehall with a traffic study of the area.
- Need to clarify boundaries and expectations for collocation in outdoor spaces.
- Need for some outdoor public space to accommodate rainy weather.
- Need good outdoor lighting. Consider that large trees can block lights, and people need to be able to see snow on sidewalks.

Questions

- Will the two heritage maple trees onsite, as well as other trees, be preserved?
- Will there be a policy for when the sirens of fire trucks leaving the firehall can be turned on to minimize disruption?
- How will construction be phased to ensure continuity or minimize disruption to current services and students?

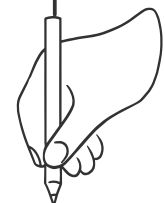
Additional ideas for programming and spaces

Although programming and the type of spaces the future WECH might have was not part of the scope of this phase of engagement (this was part of the previous [Spaces and Activities engagement report](#)), additional input was shared about potential programming and spaces for the future West End Community Hub:

- Include a seniors centre
- Larger basketball court
- Courts for various racquetball sports, including pickleball
- Have separate auditorium space for the school
- Share use of the school gymnasium in evenings
- Include community gardens
- Include a coffee shop and/or restaurant on site
- Add a skylight to the underground ice rink
- Incorporate Indigenous programming
- Incorporate Indigenous cultural spaces
- Include public washrooms and water fountains
- Include of bicycle racks and ensure good integration with cycling lane on Barclay
- Include a recycling or zero-waste station
- Include a warming centre and public showers
- Include a public pool

Reigniting the Fight Against Non-Local Traffic

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



▲ Stories gathered from members of community during the fall 2021 engagement

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6.0 Renewal Plan

6.1 Preferred Renewal Plan

Introduction

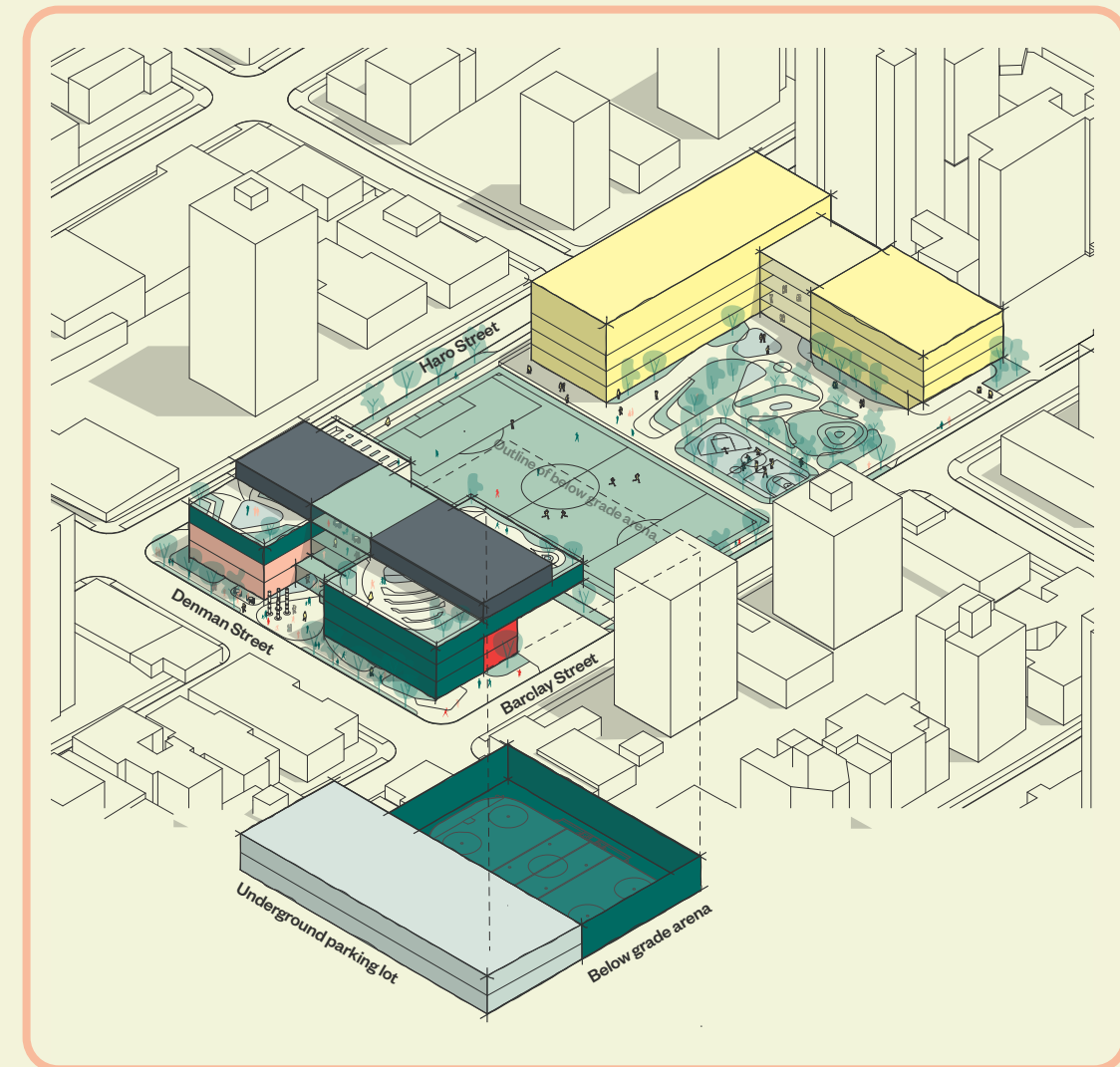
During summer 2023, all project partners conducted further evaluation of the three site scenarios, considering the valuable input of community members and technical advisors. Partners worked together to select Scenario C as the recommended renewal plan for the future West End Community Hub.

This recommendation is based on Scenario C's strong alignment with community feedback, various policy initiatives including the West End Community Plan, and most closely fulfilling the objectives and requirements of each project partner for the site.

Preferred plan

Scenario C

Community uses on Denman, Education uses on Barclay



This image represents a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and does not represent the design of the site's future buildings.

Preferred Renewal Plan

Children's space
(including childcare spaces)



Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Spaces



Library



Lobby and Social Space



Community Plaza



Secondary school



Secondary school education outdoor spaces



Secondary school sport field



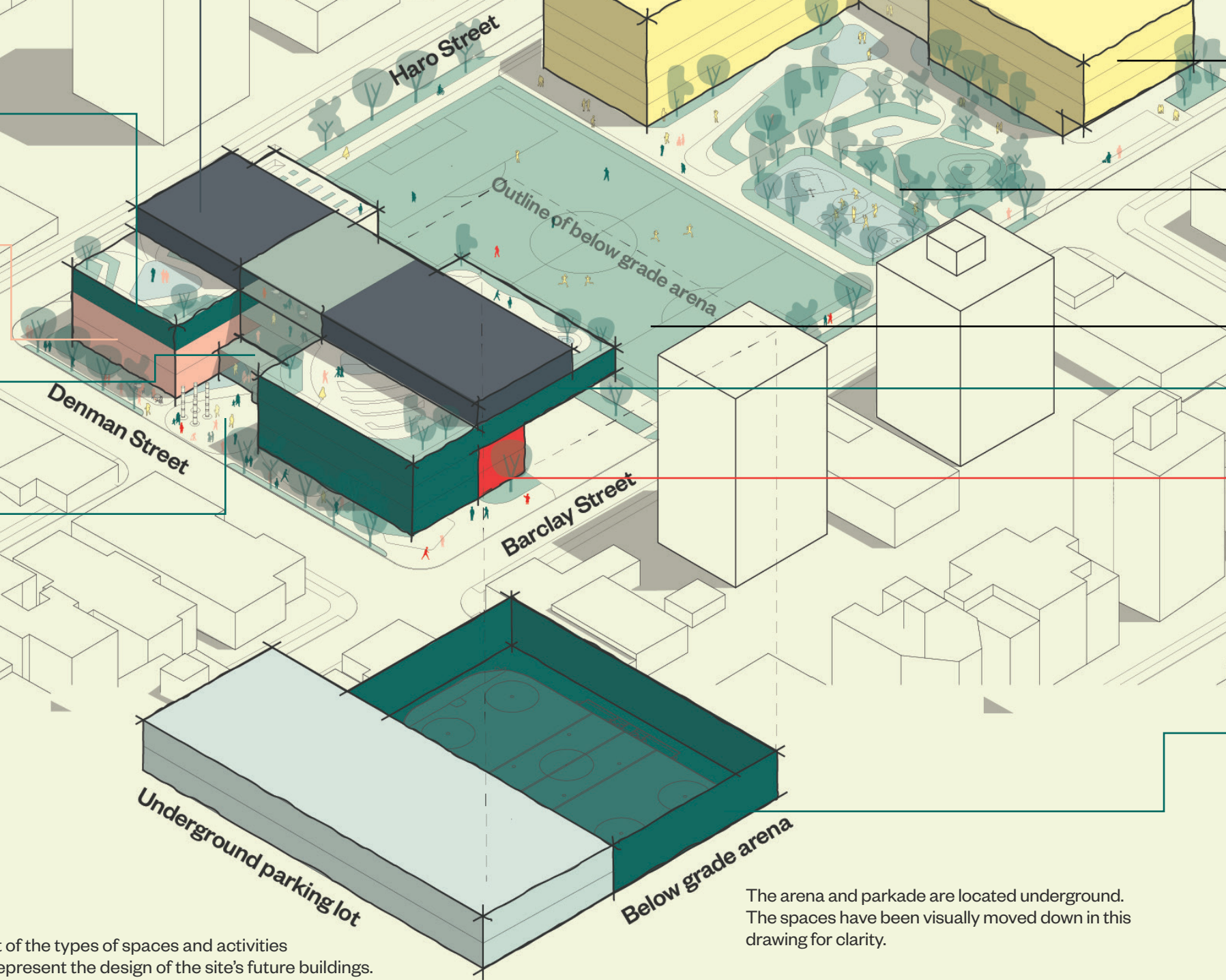
Community Centre



Firehall No. 6



Regulation-size ice arena



This image represents a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and does not represent the design of the site's future buildings.

The arena and parkade are located underground. The spaces have been visually moved down in this drawing for clarity.

Support for Preferred Renewal Plan

Scenario C supports the vision for the West End, locating active and community-oriented spaces along commercial Denman Street and educational spaces on the quieter residential part of the site.

The renewal plan recommendation meets the objectives, priorities and requirements of each partner for the site as well as gaining substantial support from the community.

When asked about the strengths of Scenario C, approximately two-thirds of respondents pointed to the Denman location of the community centre, library, community plaza and social space within the community centre lobby. The secondary school's location on the east side of the site also received high support.

Below are some notable quotes from the survey respondents:

||

"This design makes the most sense for ensuring accessibility to the library and community centre by having them on the main walking street of Denman."

"It puts the new community hub front and centre on Denman St and focuses all that energy and vibrancy in a unified building towards the neighbourhood shopping street!"

"Parking and pickup for school works best in this configuration."

"Foot traffic flow around buildings is natural and gives some level of privacy to the school and kids that attend it."

||

Features of the Preferred Renewal Plan

The recommended renewal plan provides a large public plaza in the heart of Denman village offering a flexible space for community gatherings, markets and other public uses. This outdoor plaza connects to an expanded social space within the lobby and through to the central courtyard where a variety of outdoor spaces are located.

The renewal plan includes a larger community centre, based on neighborhood population growth, and integrates an Indigenous knowledge and culture space to serve as a cultural focal point and educational resource that connects the community to and celebrates the x^wməθk^wəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, their histories and cultures.

The renewal plan includes a new licensed childcare space on the uppermost floor of the community centre, with outdoor play areas on both the east and west sides.

The significantly larger Joe Fortes branch library will flow over two levels while maintaining visibility and access from Denman Street. A below ground ice arena can accommodate a regulation-sized ice sheet while allowing large outdoor spaces and activities to remain at street level.

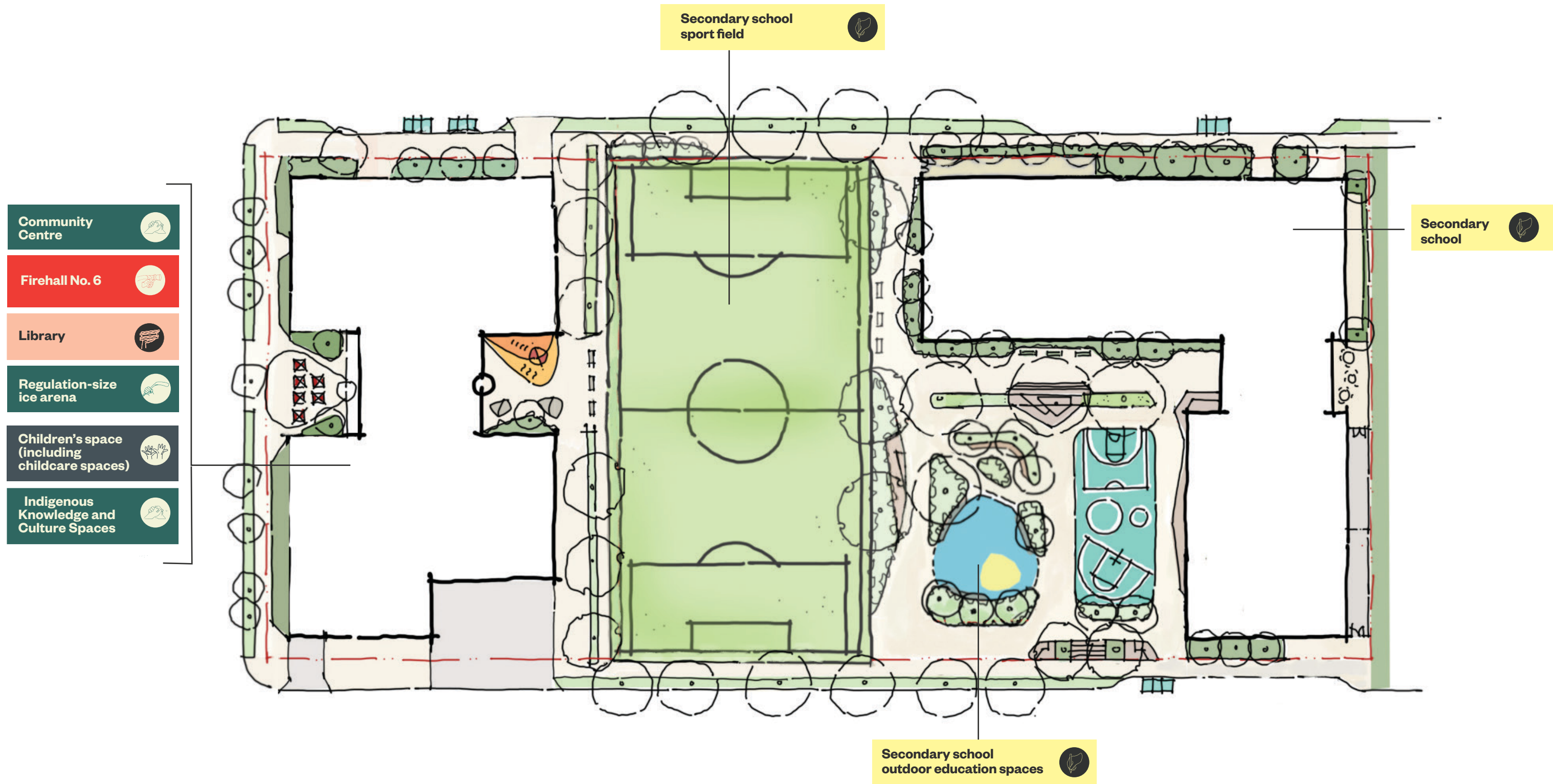
A new secondary school with a capacity for 1,000 to 1,200 students will be built to modern seismic safety standards on the quieter east side of the site. The plan allows the secondary school to provide a regulation size sport field and additional outdoor education spaces that could enhance the visual connections through the site and to the community centre buildings.

Balancing community and partner priorities, the associated phasing plan maintains service continuity for school functions within the existing school building while the new school facility is constructed and the placement of all buildings on the site will allow for maximum design flexibility during future detailed design phases.

Firehall No. 6 is integrated into the community hub, with vehicle access from Barclay Street near Denman Street, ensuring that it remains an integral part of the community's emergency infrastructure.

The recommended renewal plan presents a straightforward blueprint to guide the renewal and transformation of this site over the years to come. It anticipates a community hub that weaves together recreation, education and community services, setting the stage for a connected and culturally rich neighborhood amenity.

Landscape site plan



Outdoor spaces

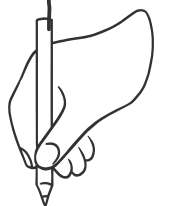
The ground level entry plaza fronting onto Denman creates a public open space along a busy high street that has an otherwise constrained pedestrian edge. A second public space, for quieter gathering or natural play, faces toward the secondary school sport field and school outdoor education spaces at the centre of the site. Other outdoor spaces associated with the West End Community Centre and Joe Fortes Library, are located on upper levels that face both onto Denman Street affording a visual connection to street life and onto the central open space for views of the school fields and surrounding neighborhood.

The outdoor spaces associated with King George Secondary School are concentrated along a quieter Barclay Street, supporting the park-like character of the plan.

The renewal plan includes new and retained trees, a mix of hard and softscape areas with seating and outdoor furnishing, and bike parking amenities distributed across the site.

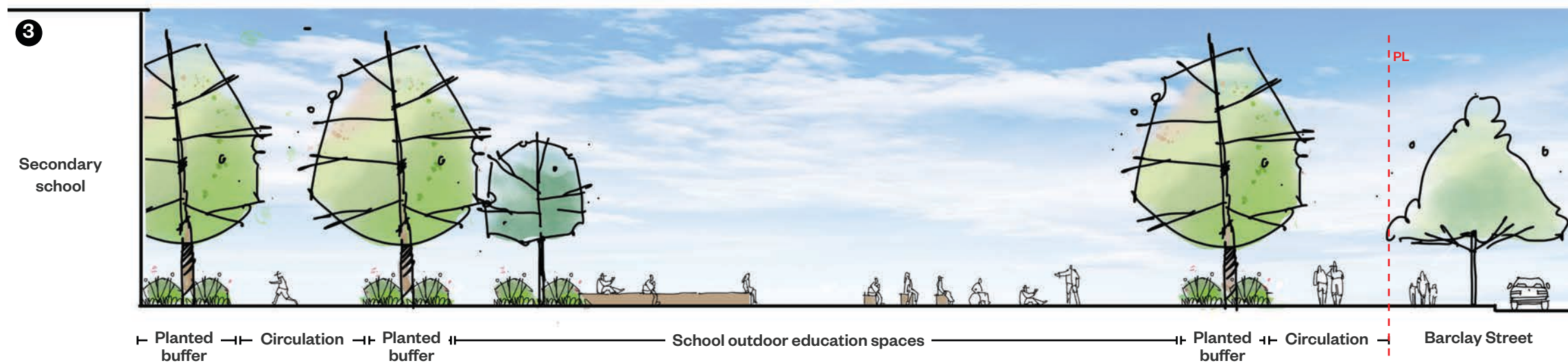
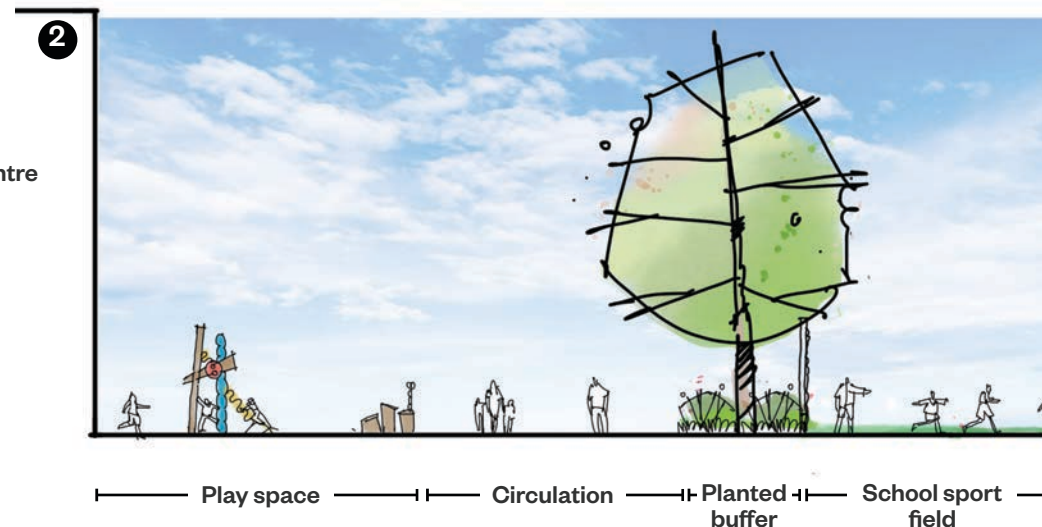
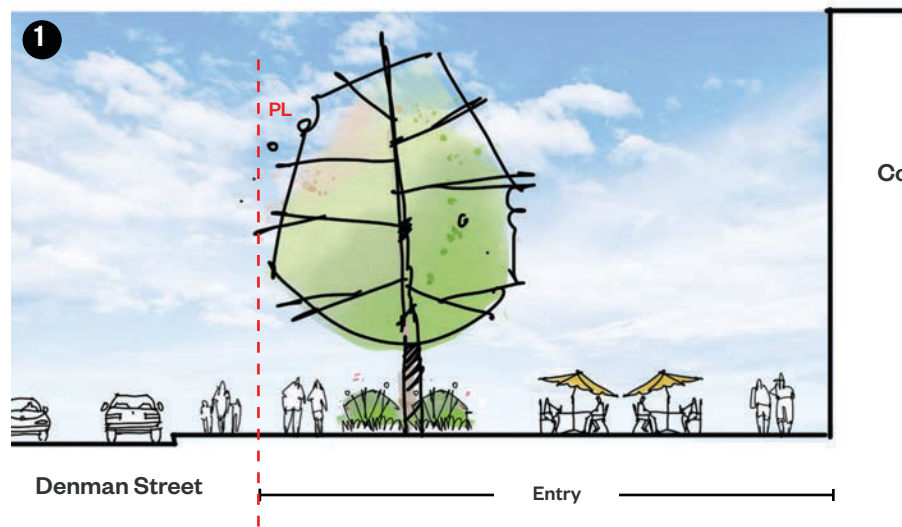
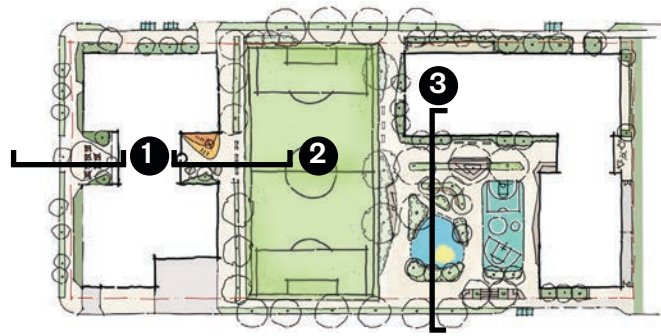
My Arborous West End Welcome

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



▲ Story gathered from members of the community during the fall 2021 engagement

Landscape site sections



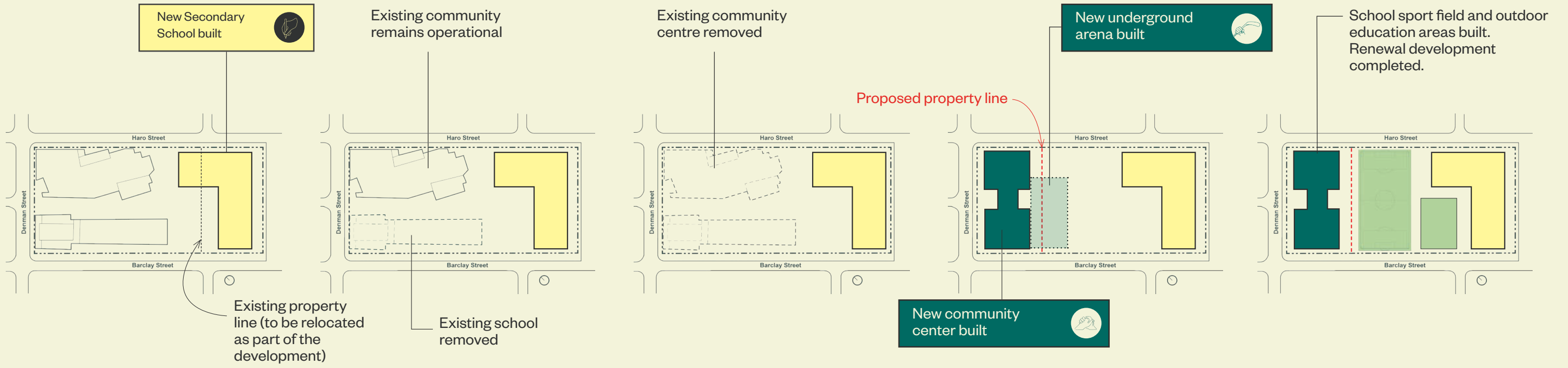
Section 1 illustrates the relationship between the West End Community Centre / Joe Fortes Library and the Denman Street frontage, providing an opening into an entry plaza from a relatively narrow sidewalk condition.

Section 2 illustrates the relationship between the play space, north/south circulation, and the playing field. Similar to Scenario B, the relationship between the buildings and the planted buffer provides the feeling of an outdoor room for the play space.

Section 3 demonstrates the relationship between King George Secondary and its associated programs with Barclay Street. This street frontage provides a visually permeable, green, parklike edge.

School sport field

Preferred Renewal Plan - Phasing



Step 1

The recommended renewal plan proposes building the new secondary school first on the eastern part of the site while the existing school remains in service. This will require the removal of the **school playing field, sport courts and school surface parking lot** to enable construction of the new school in that location.

School sport field and outdoor education spaces are not available during completion of this step.

Step 2

After the **new secondary school** is complete and operational, the **existing school** can be removed. The **existing community center** remains in operational.

School sport field and outdoor education spaces are not available during completion of this step.

Step 3

The **existing community centre** building would be removed.

School sport field and outdoor education spaces are not available during completion of this step.

Step 4

The **new community centre, library, childcare, firehall, ice arena and underground parkade** would be built along Denman street.

School sport field and outdoor education spaces are not available during completion of this step.

Step 5

The **playing field, sport courts, outdoor education spaces** and other **exterior landscaped areas** would be completed.

6.2 Technical review summary

Exterior spaces principles

Throughout the creation of the three site development scenarios, project partners consulted broad external technical expertise listed below as well as a wide range of internal subject matter experts advising on aspects of the plan that relate to Recreation and Park Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, Civil and Transportation Engineering, Arts Culture and Community Services, and Indigenous Relations.

A final comprehensive technical review took place following community engagement during summer 2023. The purpose of this review was to capture and identify key technical considerations for the overall project and the individual site development scenarios. The technical review process identified strengths and weaknesses of each scenario in the context of their respective architectural and engineering disciplines, helping the project partners make informed decisions for the future. Additionally, the process helped identify areas that will need further study as the project progresses into future detailed design phases.

The proposed renewal plan underwent review by the following technical experts:

- Architectural
- Landscape Architecture
- Structural Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Code consulting
- Acoustic consulting

6.3 Costing

Summary

During fall 2023, a high-level cost estimate was conducted to assess an order of magnitude project budget for capital planning purposes. Order of magnitude costing is a term used to describe a high-level cost estimate that provides ballpark figures rather than a detailed cost breakdown and is used to assess the feasibility of a planned renewal. It typically reflects potential variation in costs due to the limited information available at this time and is expressed as a range rather than a single dollar value.

This cost estimate was based on the list of spaces and activities, functional and technical information, and concept site scenarios developed during the renewal plan process. The purpose is to support the project partners in facilitating capital planning and budgeting discussions. It will also be an important tool to assist with future decision-making, risk identification and budget management during future design phases.

As the Alternate Plans contain the same spaces, activities and similar outdoor spaces, the cost estimate, renewal and expansion areas are similar to the Preferred Plan. Recognizing the different funding sources, timing and availability of municipal and provincial funds, project partners will conduct a more detailed cost review and update once redevelopment timelines are confirmed.

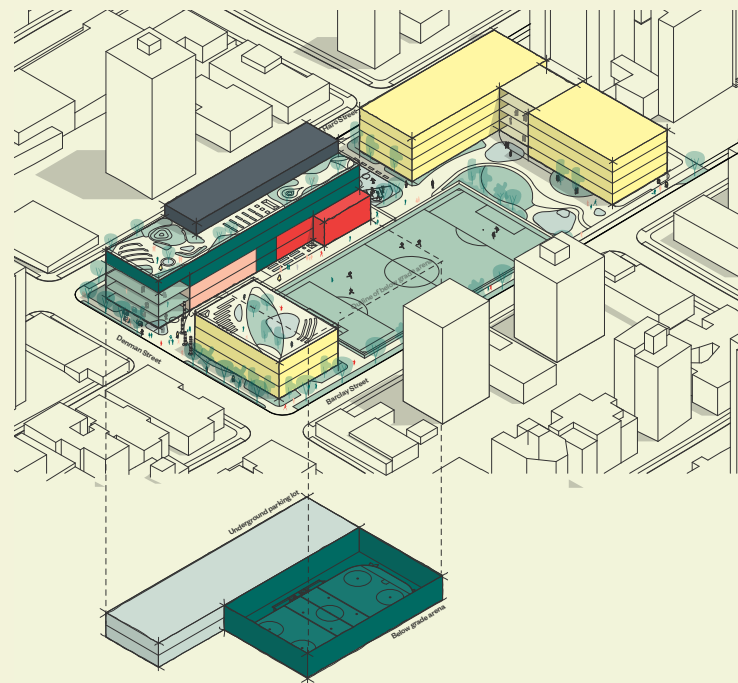
6.4 Alternate Plans

Construction of the renewal plan will take place as funding is secured and, as such, the plan needs to be adaptable to different funding and implementation timelines. The renewal plan identifies two alternate scenarios to ensure that there is a flexible framework that responds to timing and availability of funding given that the funding sources vary for project partners.

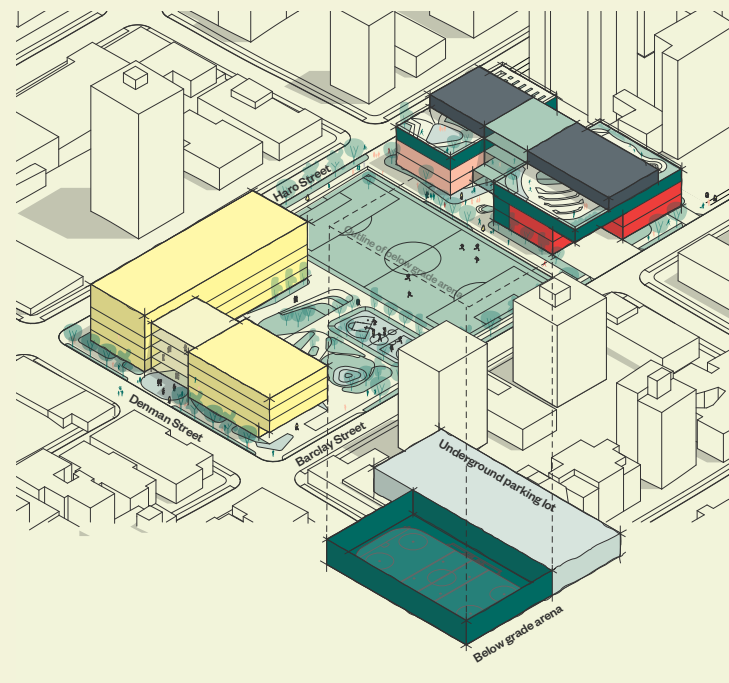
Alternate scenarios A and B have both garnered moderate support from the community while being aligned with most of the objectives and requirements of project partners. While technically feasible, Scenario B is least supported by both public and partners. Further review would be needed before pursuing any alternate options. Retaining alternate development scenarios ensures that the renewal plan can respond effectively to a range of implementation timelines optimizing the plan's long-term feasibility and success.

Alternate Plans

Scenario A
Community and education uses on Denman and Haro, Education uses on Barclay

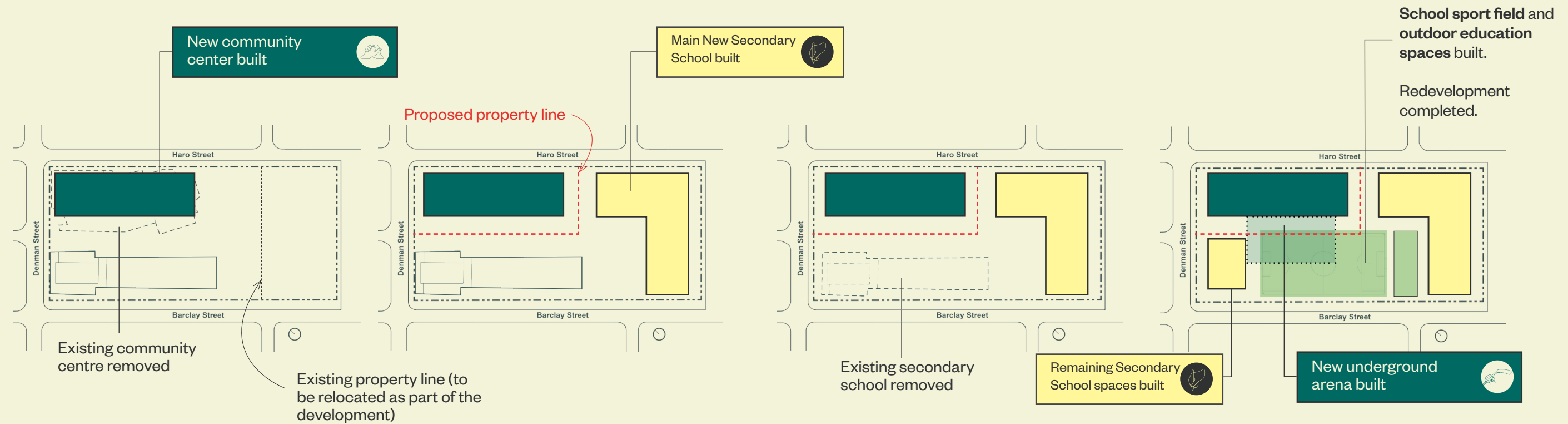


Scenario B
Community uses on Barclay, Education uses on Denman



These images represent a three-dimensional test-fit of the types of spaces and activities proposed for the future WECH site and do not represent the design of the site's future buildings.

Alternate Plan Scenario A - phasing option 1



Step 1

The **existing community centre** is removed and construction of the **new community centre, library, childcare, firehall and underground parkade** is completed.

Step 2

The **new main secondary school building** is built on the eastern side of the site. This will require the removal of the **school playing field, sport courts and school surface parking lot** to enable construction of the new school in that location.

School sport field and outdoor education spaces are not available during completion of this step.

Step 3

After the **new main secondary school** is complete and operational the **existing school building** can be removed.

School sport field and outdoor education spaces are not available during completion of this step.

Step 4

The below ground ice arena is constructed and connected to the community centre. The **remaining secondary school spaces** are built at the corner of Denman and Barclay and the playing field, sport courts, outdoor education spaces and other exterior landscaped areas are completed.

Alternate Plan Scenario A - phasing option 2



Step 1

The new **main secondary school building** is constructed on the eastern part of the site while the existing school remains in service. This will require the removal of the **school sport field, sport courts and school surface parking** lot to enable construction of a **new school building** in that location.

Step 2

After the new **main secondary school** is complete and operational, the **existing school building** can be repurposed for interim community uses.

Afterward, the **existing community centre** can be removed.

School sport field and outdoor education spaces are not available during completion of this step.

Step 3

A new **community centre, library, childcare, firehall, and underground parkade** are built on the site of the existing community centre.

School sport field and outdoor education spaces are not available during completion of this step.

Step 4

Once the new community centre is complete and operational, the **existing secondary school building** can be removed.

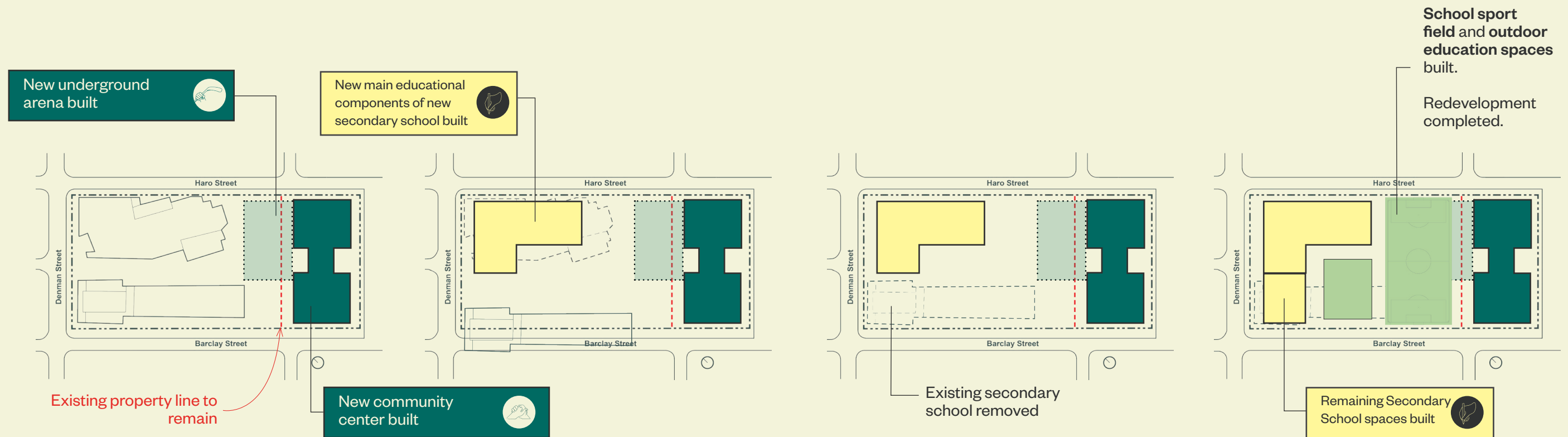
School sport field and outdoor education spaces are not available during completion of this step.

Step 5

The **underground ice arena** is constructed and connected to the new community centre building.

The **remaining secondary school spaces** are built at the corner of Denman and Barclay along with the playing field, sport courts, outdoor education spaces and all other exterior landscaped areas.

Alternate Plan Scenario B - phasing



Step 1

A new community centre, library, childcare, firehall, underground parkade and ice arena are all built on the eastern part of the site. The **existing community centre and library** remain in service while the new building is built.

This will require the removal of the **existing school playing field, sport courts and school surface parking lot** to enable construction of the new community facilities in that location.

Step 2

After the new community centre building is complete and operational, the **existing community centre** can be removed. The **main educational components of a new secondary school** can then be constructed at the corner of Haro and Denman Streets.

School sport field and outdoor education spaces are not available during completion of this step.

Step 3

After the **main educational components of the new secondary school building** are complete and operational, the **existing school** can be removed.

School sport field and outdoor education spaces are not available during completion of this step.

Step 4

The **remaining secondary school spaces** can then be built at the corner of Denman and Barclay and connected to the main part of the new school. The **school sport field, sport courts, outdoor education spaces** and all other exterior landscaped areas are completed.

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7.0 Looking forward

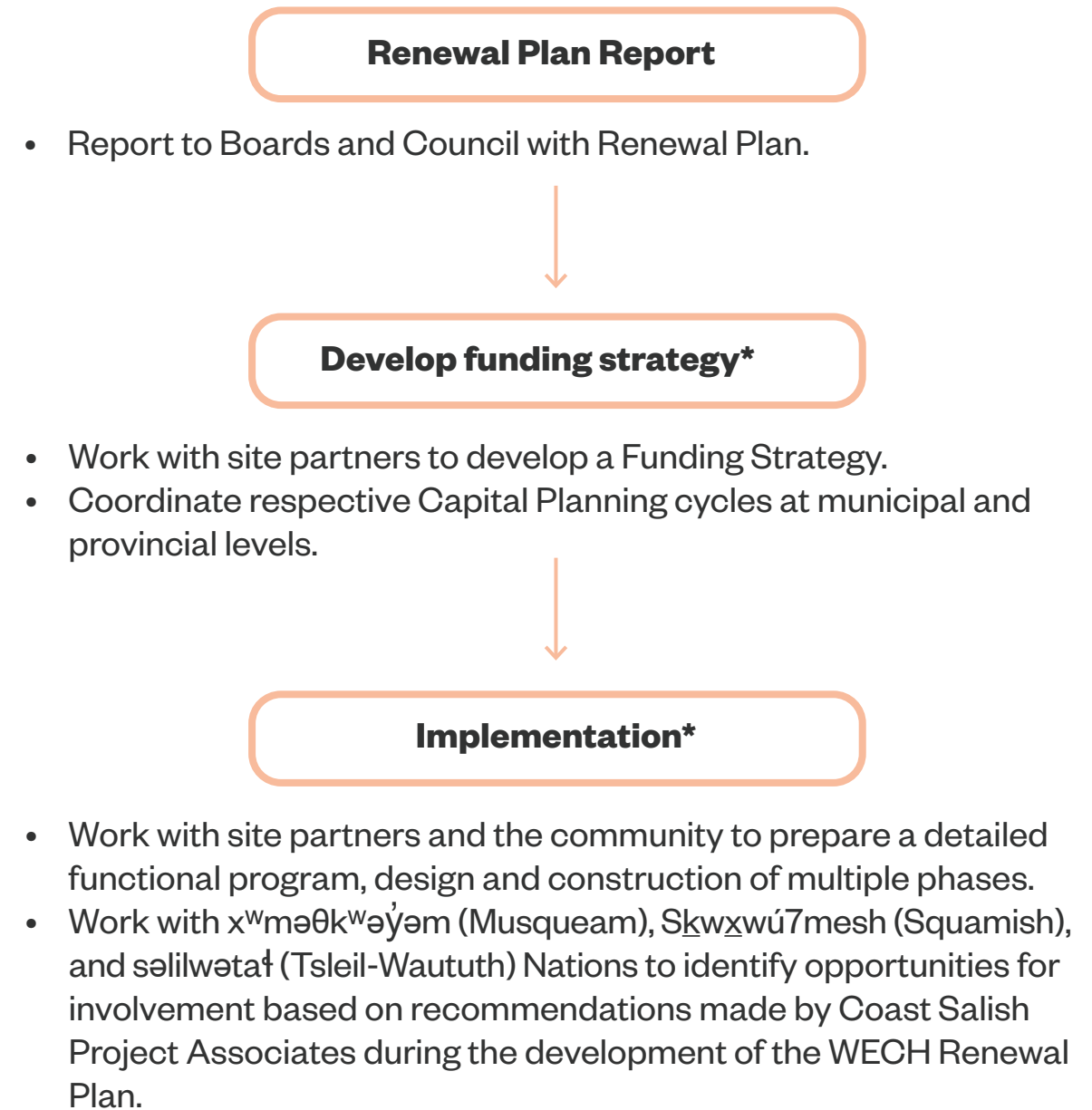
7.1 Looking forward

The WECH Renewal Plan is important for project partners to continue to deliver needed amenities and services to a growing community. Project partners will use the WECH Renewal Plan as a guide for renewing and collaboratively transforming the site as funding is secured.

The West End Community Hub Renewal Plan achieves a goal set out in the 2013 West End Community Plan that on-site partners work together to develop a renewal and expansion strategy for this site within 10 years, and to explore opportunities to co-locate other community facilities. The community plan also included a goal to renew recreation facilities (including the West End Community Centre and West End Ice Rink) within 30 years, designing those facilities to meet anticipated population growth. Work to secure funding for this renewal continues, and construction will not start until funding is secured. Construction will need to be implemented through multiple phases and capital plans, based on funding and renewal priorities.

The Vancouver School District's Long Range Facilities Plan describes the need for King George Secondary School to be renewed and expanded to address growing student numbers. King George Secondary School is in the district's annual capital plan to request funding for a future expansion. The proposed expansion is pending approval and funding from the provincial Ministry of Education and Childcare.

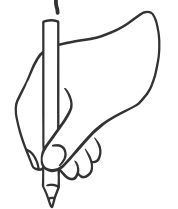
The following graphic summarizes the future steps required to deliver on the renewal plan:



* timing of this stage of work to be determined following completion of the Renewal Plan.

Lovely West End

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



▲ Story gathered from members of the community during the fall 2021 engagement

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Appendices

Appendix A. Visioning Engagement Details (December 2021)

- Engagement summary
- West End experiences stories
- Public survey
- Engagement boards and story cards
- Supporting materials

Appendix B. Spaces and Needs Engagement Details (June 2022)

- Engagement summary
- Survey
- Engagement boards
- Supporting material

Appendix C. Site Scenarios Engagement Details (September 2023)

- Engagement summary
- Survey
- Engagement boards
- Supporting material

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Appendix A.

Visioning Engagement Details

This appendix provides an overview of the visioning engagement process and summary of findings throughout the first phase of the public engagement, including the West End Stories submitted by community members in fall 2021, engagement materials and workshop outputs.

West End Experiences Stories

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Love and Recovery

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

Living in the fun destination

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

Saturdays at the Fitness Centre

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

Reigniting the Fight Against Non-Local Traffic

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

Memories of My Neighbourhood

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

The Water Lady!

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

Busy yet Quiet

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

Park(let) Connections

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

My Arborous West End Welcome

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

Friendly neighbourhood community

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

Holding Hands

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

Spring Time in the West End

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

Many memories

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

1980's Gay Life

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

The Under Bridge Garden.

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

My West End Walk Home

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

My second home

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

Stumbling across performative art on the beach

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

Walking through my beautiful community

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

People don't pay for art.

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

A new food experience

First time I ever had sushi

Gays and Old Ladies

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

Nature in abundance

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

Lovely West End

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

The ocean makes friends

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

Support change.

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

Families form the fabric of the West End in many ways.

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

Playground Connections

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

Building a garden

helping build a community garden in a back lane

Beach Community

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

A life in the West End

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

Walking in our community.

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

This is the West End

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

Springtime in Stanley Park

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

More stories shared through the West End Experiences Survey

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

Additional submissions that were more directly related to spaces and activities will be considered during future design and development processes.

1970 memories

As I child walking around the streets always happy

1990 Pride

1990 Gay Games.

5 Downtown bus

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

A Damn Beaver in Stanley entrance!

I saw a beaver in the roughage near second beach pool

A high schoolers take on the West End community

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

A place to be

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

A real neighbourhood

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

A Societal Failure

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

A stop on the way through life

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

A Stroll through West End

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

A walk down Barclay.

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

A Walk on the Wild Side of WE

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

Amazing Escape

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

An unexpected cry at Denman and Comox

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

Barclay Manor needs accessibility upgrades

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

Barclay Square Concert

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

Beach garden

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

Beach Views

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

Breast Cancer Survivors Learn to Run

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

Changed Place

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

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

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

Community Blooms When

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

Community connectiveness

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

Community During Tragedy

I was one of the tenants of the 998 Thurlow building that experienced a horrible fire in October 2018. While our residents lost our homes, it was heartwarming to experience the community response. Neighbours drove myself and my pet to the emergency hospital. The Gordon Neighbourhood House provided vouchers to The Attic Thrift Store so we could get some much needed clothing. A Facebook group was set up for the residents so we could share resources. I cannot accurately describe just how touching these acts of service were during this time. Community was why I loved the West End, and while I ended up finding a temporary home in nearby Yaletown, a year later I was able to move into a different West End building and come back to where I feel most at home.

Community Games night

Community games night at the bandstand park on Beach

Contradictions

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

Conversations on the Beach

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

Coyote Attacks in Stanley Park

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

Culturally Speaking

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

Cycling right to Denman and Davie

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

Dads love to barbeque.

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

Denman Street traffic.

Always being stuck in vehicle traffic on Denman Street.

Densification raises stress levels

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

Dirty old fitness centre with lots of memories

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

Diverse community

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

Divine Encounter

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

Downtown Community Garden

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

Drivers will do what they think they can get away

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

Drugs

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

Eat, Love, and Connect

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

Enjoying English Bay with a hotdog

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

Everything and more

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

Everything we imagined Canada to be

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

Family Unfriendly

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

Farmers' Market

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

Favourite beach summer and weekday duathlon

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

Fire Hall Visits

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

First dinner

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

First skates

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

Fix It

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

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

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

FUN and FUNDraising

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

Fun Times

Spending time with friends at the bars on Davie Street.

G.O.A.T West End Story

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

Generous neighbour

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

Get out and Dance!

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

Getting back into my art

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

Glowing with Pride in the West End

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

Greenhill in Stanley Park

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

Growing up in the West End

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

Growing up in the West End

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

Gym and Council

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

Happy memories

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

Harder to live

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

'Hello.'

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

Hockey or Soccer should not take over Sunset beach skate park

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

Hollywood in the hood.

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

I Have Arrived

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

I live here!

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

I'm a lucky senior prairie girl

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

If You Lose a Cat..Let It Be Here

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

Inclusive Haven

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

Lovely West End

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

Lucky

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

Majestic Park

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

Making friends at the community garden

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

Manners: Ontario vs BC

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

Many memories

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

Marketing

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

memories of the West End

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

Mental Health Issues

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

Mixed memories of picnics at Hallelujah Point in Stanley Park

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

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

Mole Hill Makes Community Happen

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

Moving in with two drag queens I knew

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

Moving to Vancouver from Ontario

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

Mr. Prince meets new friends

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

Music at the beach.

Musicians regularly come to play on the beaches.

Music matters in the West End

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

My everyday, ordinary dream

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

My families paradise

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

My first and probably last home in the West End

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

My good fortune

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

My home!

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

My Introduction to the West End

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

My second home

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

My West End

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

Nature in abundance

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

Near Mishap at Robson Street

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

Negative Changes in Vancouver's West End

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

New to the West End

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

Nights in the West End Library

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

No car required.

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

Not diverse anymore

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

Not safe anymore

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

OUR EDEN.

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

Our park, Our backyard

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

Out for a run

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

Overdue for an Overhall

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

Paddleboarding English Bay

Paddleboarding around Sunset Beach and English Bay

Paradise

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

Peggy Casey

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

Picking up trash with humility

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

Pink slippers

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

Pool Pals

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

Positive Retirement Program

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

Pride in protecting our own

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

Quaintness

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

Relax Cat

Saw a cat sitting in his own mini lawn chair.

Saving the best for last

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

Sayers It Isn't So for much longer!

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

Saying Hello

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

Seawall and Sylvia Memories

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

Seawall artist Jock

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

Sharing my Artwork

I had a show of my artwork in the window of the Van City branch in 2015, also in the foyer of my PAL building every year since 2010 for one month each.

Skating Safely

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

Small community feeling.

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

Small work-out world

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

Snow on the beach

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

So much to see creates connection & growth

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

Special events in the West End.

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

Spontaneous Street Performance

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

Spring is on its way

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

Spring Time in the West End

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

Springtime in Stanley Park

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

St. John's Nightmare

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

Stanley Park

Just wonderful experiences in Stanley park.

Stanley Park Manor

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

Story time and hockey

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

Street Party Gay Pride

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

Street people outside the hospital

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

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

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

Summer Art Market Dance Party

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

Summer Beach Walk

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

Sunset @ local beach!

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

Super Soaker Corner

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

Swinging worms

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

Tennis with friends, close to home

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

The Beauty Salon

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

The best birds

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

The Best Part of Going to School in the West End

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

The Bird Cage

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

The day we met

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

The Dead Rat

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

The grand dame

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

The Immigrant Experience

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

The Joy of Art & A Relaxing Chat!

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

The Magic Bus Ride

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

The neighborhood that was

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

The Old and New West End

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

The Only Hope

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

The Pier and the Aquarium

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

The reason to live here

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

The roof incident

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

The West End Can Feel Unsafe and Sad

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

The West End in the 1960s

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

The West End is Green and I love it!

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

The West End is the Best End

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

The West End provides a community to residents

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

Things I Missed During Covid

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

This is the West End

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

Too small but too big

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

Ukulele in the cold

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

Untitled #0001

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

Untitled #0002

Having a safe and happy pride

Untitled #0003

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

Untitled #0007

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

Vancouver Aquatic Centre is for real swimmers

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

Vermin Verity

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

Vertical Suburb

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

W.E Euphoria

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

Walk Home

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

Walking in our community.

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

Walking through my beautiful community

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

Warmth

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

Watching sunsets at the beach.

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

WE

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

We can still have Pride

The gay pride parade we used to have.

WE Community Centre is our Hub

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

We helped me

The West End helped me to get through the pandemic.

We play and do stuff with friends.

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

Welcoming & Warm Neighbourhood

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

WELCOMING WEST END PLACE

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

West End diversity

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

West End hubs

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

West End Journal

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

West End Kids

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

West End love

Walking among 100 year old trees

West End Neighbourly Love

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

West End proud

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

West End Wanderings

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

West End Fatigue

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

When we moved to the West End

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

Where I belong

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

Who knew?

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

Why do we allow hatred and discrimination to go unpunished?

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

Wildlife in the West End

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

Winter Wonderland Ice Skating

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

Wonderfully Extraordinary!

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

Won't you be my neighbour?

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



W.E. Connect: Creating a vision of the future West End Community Hub

What's this about?

Help shape the future West End community hub—the site that includes the West End Community Centre, King George Secondary School, Joe Fortes Library, and other important facilities. This process is called W.E. Connect. Find out more at shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

To support this renewal, the City of Vancouver, Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Public Library, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, and the West End Community Centre Association invite you to help reimagine a space where everyone can come together to connect, relax, learn, and play.

How can I help?

Help create a vision for the future West End community hub by filling out this survey.* We are collecting stories of all kinds of different experiences of the neighborhood.

Early next year, there will be a more traditional survey asking about how West Enders use the current site and what features you would like to see in the new community hub. The result of W.E. Connect will be a renewal plan that details a shared vision for the future of the buildings, programming, and outdoor spaces at the site.

This form will take about 5 minutes to complete. Respond as many times as you like. Please return this form to the box by the information boards or at the front counter.

*By sharing your story here, you are giving the City of Vancouver permission to use the content as part of its engagement work. Stories gathered here may be shared with community partners, other community members, and decision-makers. If names of people are shared in a story, these will be removed before public use.

Share an Experience about the West End

1. Please choose a prompt to which you would like to respond. *(Circle the letter)*
 - a. Tell us about something that happened in the West End that people need to hear about.
 - b. If you had to tell a friend about a unique or special experience you've had in the West End, what would it be?
 - c. What is a memory you have from the West End?

2. Please write your response in the box below.

3. Please give your story a title.

4. How common do you think this experience is?

Please mark a point on the line below to show where you think this experience fits between those two statements.

This almost never happens This happens all the time

5. The situation in this story...

Please mark a point on the line below to show where you think this experience fits between those two statements.

Was over in an instant Lasted forever

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



Very positive



Positive



Neutral



Negative



Very negative

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

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

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

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

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

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

10. What is your age? (Choose one)

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

11. How do you describe your gender:

Thank you for completing the survey!

What's this about?

For the online version of this survey, for more ways to get involved, and for the project timeline, go to shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect.

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

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

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

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

West End Experiences



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

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



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

shappysourcity.ca/wecconnect

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

Story no# 209



My Second Home

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

Story no# 63



Walking through my beautiful community

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

Story no# 7



Saturdays at the Fitness Centre

My partner and I went to a community centre fitness class every Saturday morning for over three years. It had an extremely affordable drop-in rate which helped as we were students and just starting out in the city. The class was special in that people of all ages came to it to work out. The friends we made in the class led to waves on the sidewalk as we moved about the community during the week recognizing

people as we ran our errands. Babies were born and brought to the class, news was shared, and brunch was had after the class. Covid hit and the class hasn't been there since. We miss it, we miss our little Saturday community, and I hope that however the community centre shapes up that there continues to be accessible, and importantly, affordable options for community building.

Story no# 200



Where I belong

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

Story no# 282



People don't pay for art.

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

Story no# 227



Stumbling across performative art on the beach

We took our friend, who was back from Toronto for a short visit, kayaking. Since he only had the evening left to spend with us, we did a short trip. We kayaked from Kits over to Second Beach. When we got there, there was a crowd of people on the beach, all gathered around a chair placed in the sand, facing towards the sea. We had no idea what they were there for. We beached our kayaks, had our picnic dinner, and just as we were finished, a man in a robe and airy pants came running down the beach to the crowd. They applauded, and he said a few things, including how he was late because he overshot

the location on his way over. Then he did some ceremonial acts with a cedar branch and sang a little, I think, before sitting on the chair. It was interesting to see the performative art as people who didn't expect to see it. The meaning is a lot more personal, but also, like a lot of things you see in life without being privy to the explanation, I think it will weave itself into my memories as something memorable yet cryptic. Why did we see someone doing that thing on the side of the road that one time, or why was that woman yelling at that old man with the cane? etc.

Story no# 91



Love and Recovery

I met my soulmate here. But that's not the important part of the story! What really matters is exactly where that happened - we met at an AA meeting. AA is not a dating service by any means, but our coming together was a byproduct of us both being sober, healthy, happy, and reinstated as contributing members of society. We people in recovery are very fortunate to have all sorts of anonymous 12-step meetings in the West End - AA, NA, Al-Anon, Nar-Anon, OA, and OMA are the few

that I know of, and I would guess that there are many more! My hope for the future of this site is that there will be affordable spaces for 12-step meetings to rent out so they can continue to meet. Groups are slowly but surely being priced out of suitable meeting places due to the shameful, atrocious rents in this city, so a public site with affordable meeting rooms for rent would help alleviate this stress. God knows, we need as many recovery spaces as we can get in the city of Vancouver!

Story no# 126



Living in the fun destination

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

Angela George



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



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

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

Instagram: @anggeorge_weaver
Facebook: /ang.george

Artist bio

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



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

shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

Artwork synopsis

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

Chrystal Sparrow



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



Cedar Mother
Chrystal Sparrow (2021)

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

Instagram: @chrystalsparrow
Facebook: /chrisalcarver



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

shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

Artist bio

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

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

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

Artwork synopsis

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

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

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

Cory Douglas



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



Strength in Community
Cory Douglas
(2021)

Graphic design, digital

Instagram: @modernformline
Facebook: /corydouglas7



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

shapeyourcity.ca/wecconnect

Artist bio

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

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

Artwork synopsis

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

Afuwa



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



Seraphim
Afuwa
(2021)

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

Website: afuwa.wordpress.com
Instagram: @afuwapaints



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

shapeyourcity.ca/wecconnect

Artist bio

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

Artwork synopsis

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

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

Ken Boesem



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



Community Nest (West End)
Ken Boesem
(2021)

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

Website: @kboanuck
Instagram: @kenboesem



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

shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

Artist bio

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

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

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

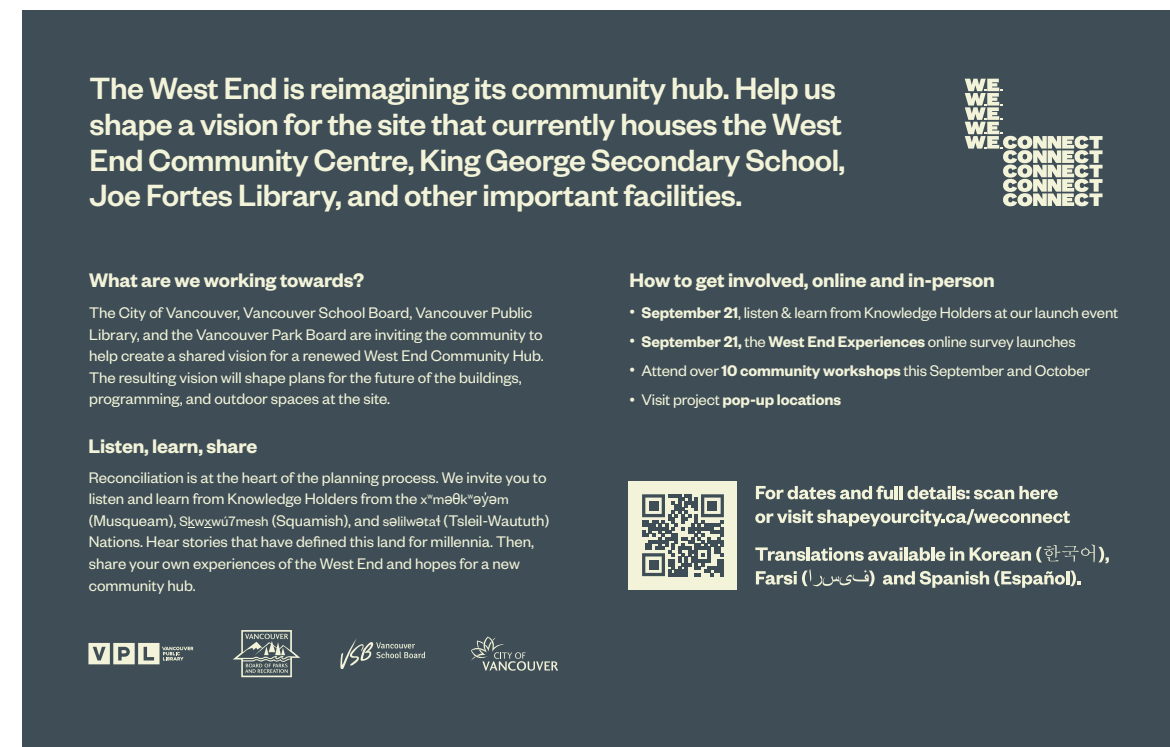
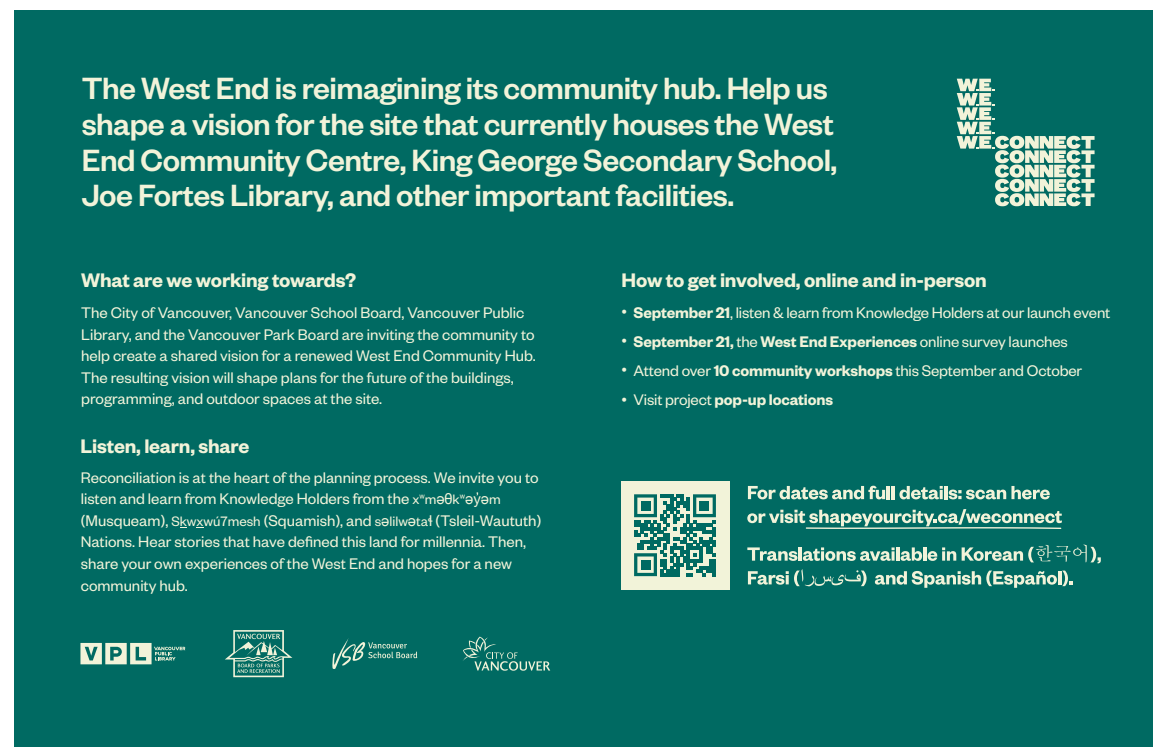
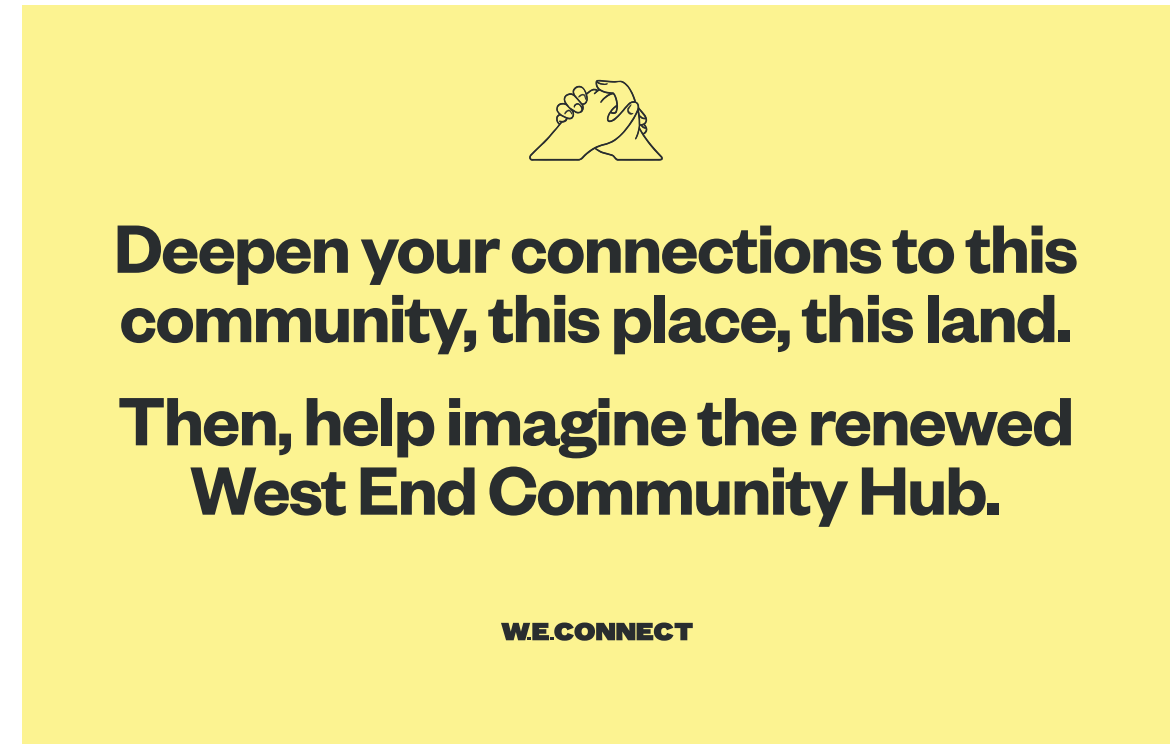
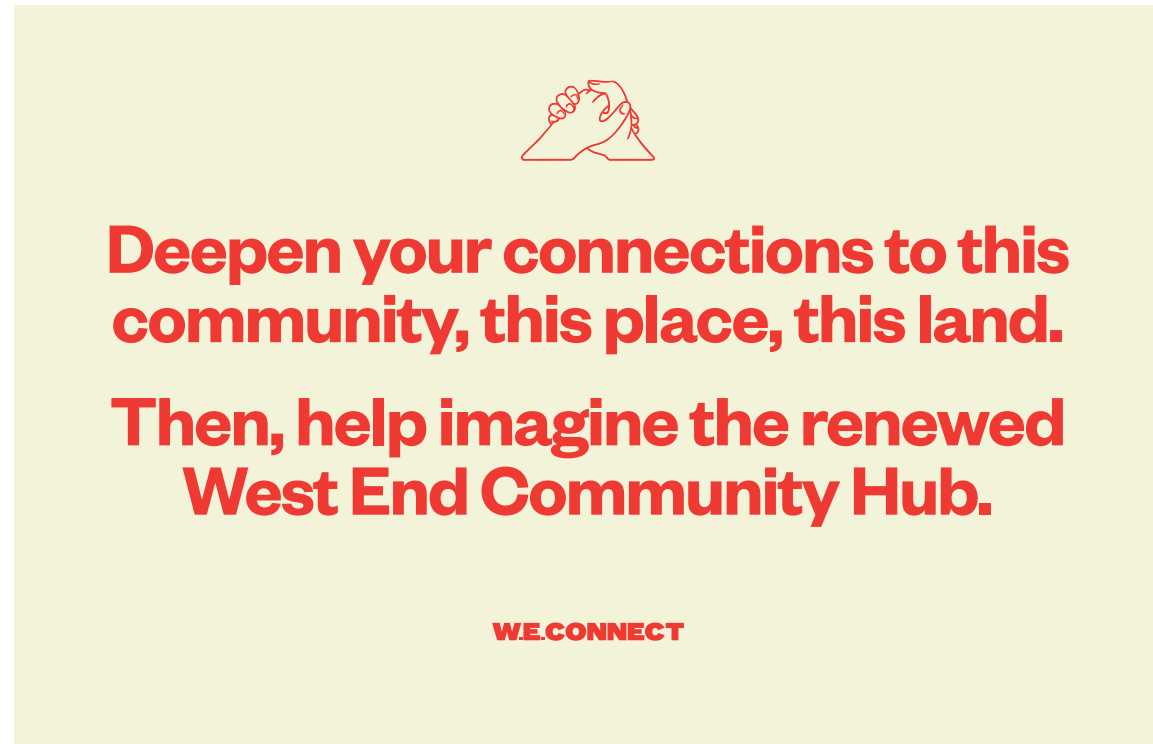
Artwork synopsis

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

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

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

Engagement postcards



Engagement leaflet

West End Community Hub
shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

604-257-8333
weconnect@vancouver.ca

How to get involved, online and in-person

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

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

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

Community Visioning Workshop Online
 Wednesday September 29 6-8pm

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

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

Education Workshops (students only)
 Throughout October

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

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

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

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

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

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

Register to attend at shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

Listen and learn

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

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

Share your West End experiences

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

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

W.E.
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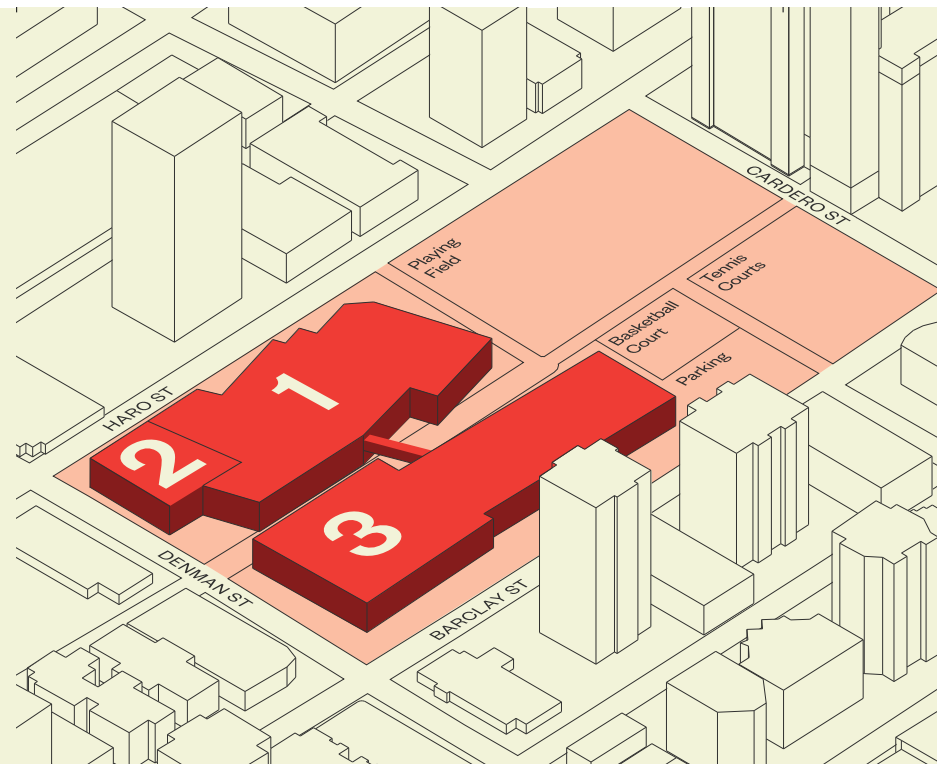


Deepen your connections to this community, this place, this land. Then, help imagine the renewed West End Community Hub.

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

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

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



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



Project timeline

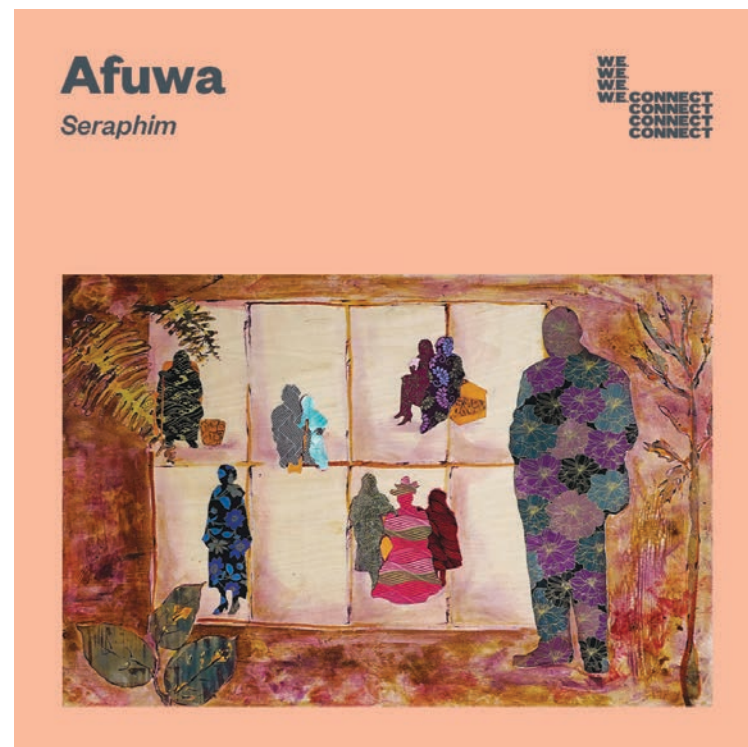
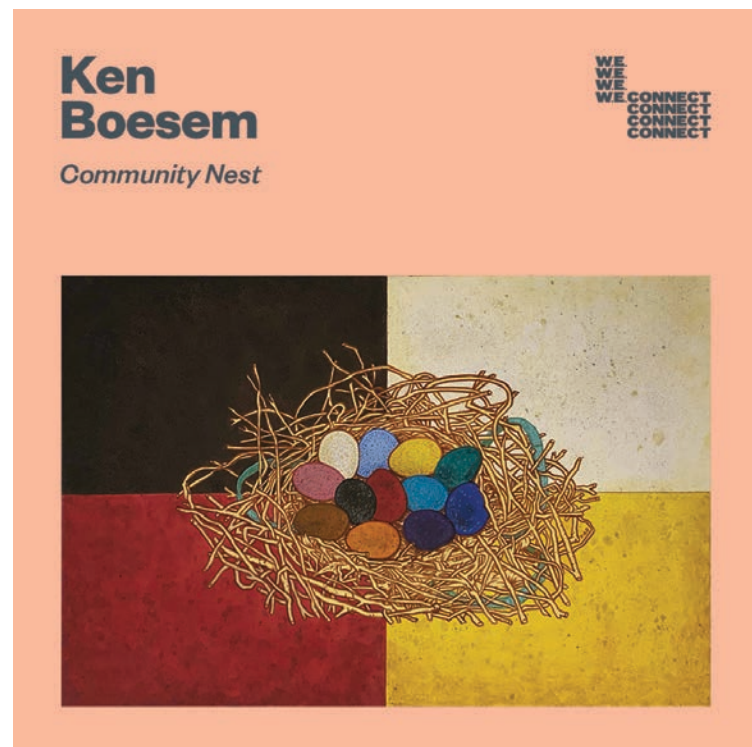
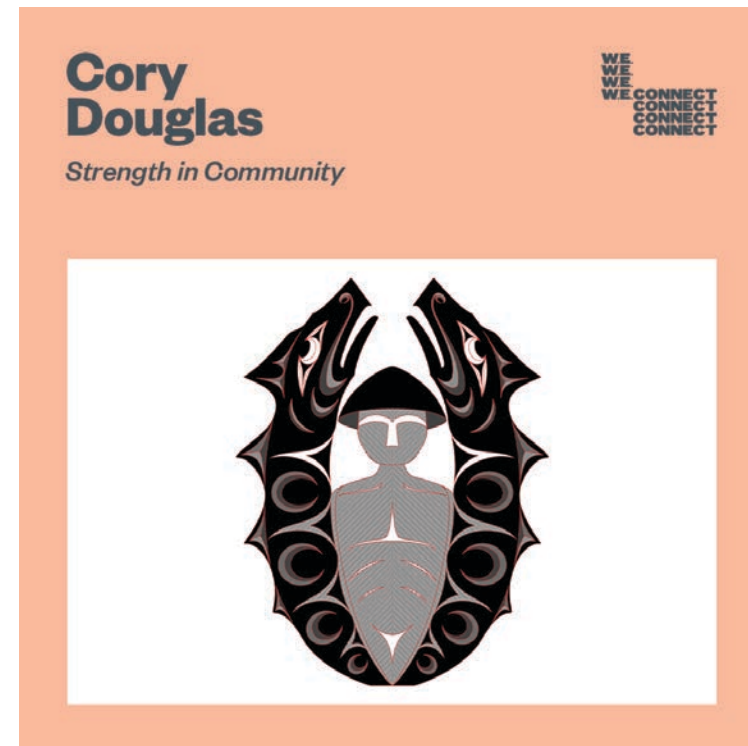
FALL 2021	WINTER 2021	SPRING 2022	SUMMER 2022	FALL 2022
Vision and principles Build a vision for the future community hub grounded in Indigenous teachings and West End experiences.	Identify program needs Plan how people will use the community hub spaces, through research and engagement.	Initial options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



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



City of Vancouver Instagram posts




City of Vancouver Instagram posts

TODAY'S ARTIST FEATURE

Angela George

Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) artist and Coast Salish weaver.

ARTWORK
Sunset People
 Coast Salish weaving, sheep's wool
 In collaboration with Gabriel George, səliłwətał knowledge-holder (2021)




This weaving reflects knowledge of past generations of səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) woven into the present.

TODAY'S ARTIST FEATURE

Cory Douglas

Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) artist and West End resident with a background in architectural design.

ARTWORK
Strength in Community
 Graphic design, digital (2021)




Representing the legend of the Two Headed Snake, told coastwise by First Nation communities.

TODAY'S ARTIST FEATURE

Chrystal Sparrow

xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) artist and carver.

ARTWORK
Cedar Mother
 Red cedar, acrylics, abalone and copper (2021)



This carving watercolour is a representation of land, animals, medicines, people, and the Salish sea.

ARTWORK SYNOPSIS

Chief Dan George referred to his people as the Sunset People. He composed a prayer song recognizing that we turn to the Sunset at the end of each day and give thanks. His grandson, Gabriel George, shares this history which is reflected in this weaving.

FIND OUT MORE

Connect with the stories and art of Angela George and help inspire the future West End Community Hub.

FOLLOW
 @anggeorge_weaver

VISIT
shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

ARTWORK SYNOPSIS

Inspired by the legend as told by Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation knowledge-holder Aaron Nelson-Moody.

It is a story of hope, resilience and becoming stronger as a community.

FIND OUT MORE

Connect with the stories and art of Cory Douglas and help inspire the future West End Community Hub.

FOLLOW
 @modernformline

VISIT
shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

ARTWORK SYNOPSIS

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

FIND OUT MORE

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

FOLLOW
 @chrystalsparrow

VISIT
shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

TODAY'S ARTIST FEATURE

Afuwa

Born in Guyana, now making art on x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skw̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliwətał (Tseil-Waututh) territories (Vancouver), on the site known as Luk'Łuk'í.

ARTWORK

Seraphim
Birch panel, handmade paper, ink, paint, 23k gold leaf (2021)



The story of a place begins long before you arrive. Afuwa was inspired by the lives of past residents of Stanley Park.

ARTWORK SYNOPSIS

Within these lives are themes that encircle us today: marginalization, resilience, resistance, and bonds that form in times of upheaval.

FIND OUT MORE

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

FOLLOW
[@afuwapaints](#)

VISIT
shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

TODAY'S ARTIST FEATURE

Ken Boesem

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

ARTWORK SYNOPSIS

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

ARTWORK

Community Nest
Acrylic and ink on canvas (2021)



Boesem symbolically posits the West End as a communal nest, as a safe place of incubation and growth.

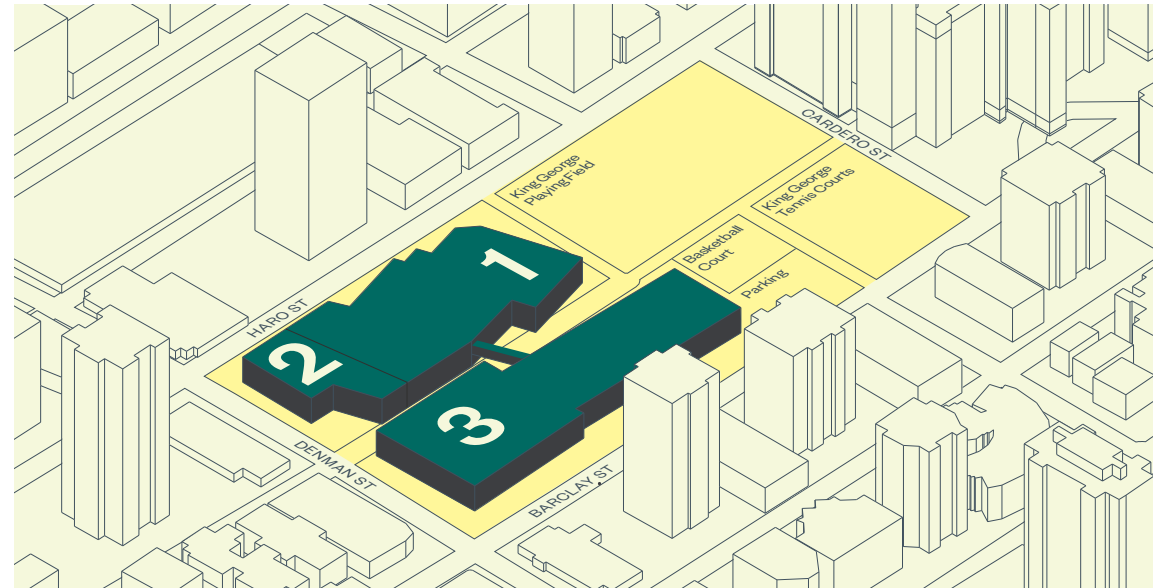
FIND OUT MORE

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

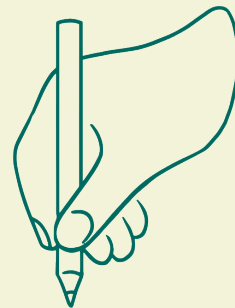
FOLLOW
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King George Secondary School student survey engagement



Shape the Future of KGSS



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

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

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



SHARE YOUR OWN WEST END EXPERIENCE

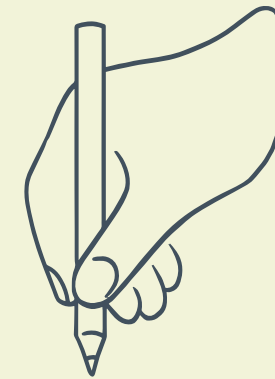
Scan the QR code to share your own experience through the West End Experiences online survey. Complete the survey and enter as many times as you like.

Contest closes November 4

shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect



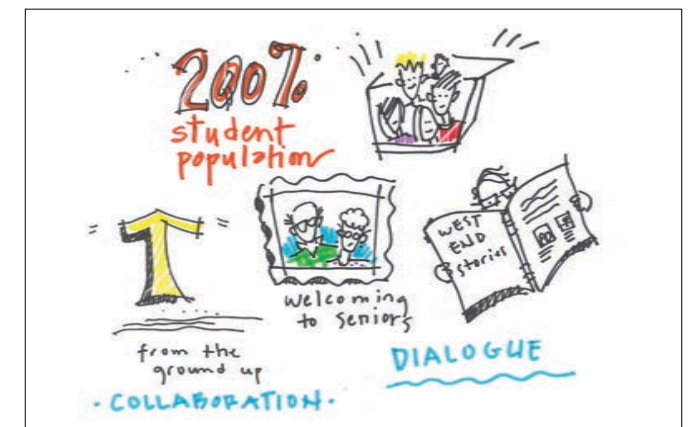
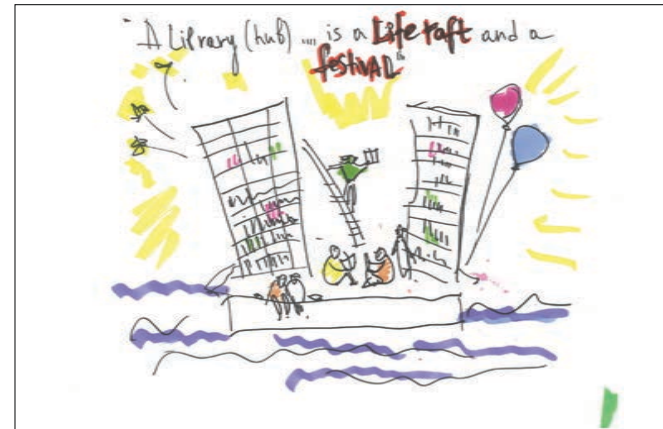
Shape the Future of KGSS

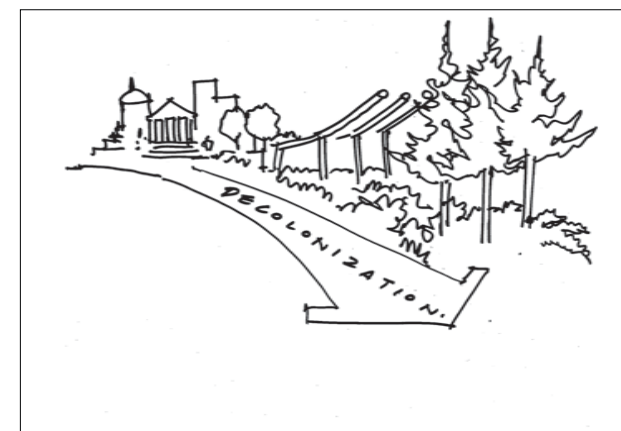
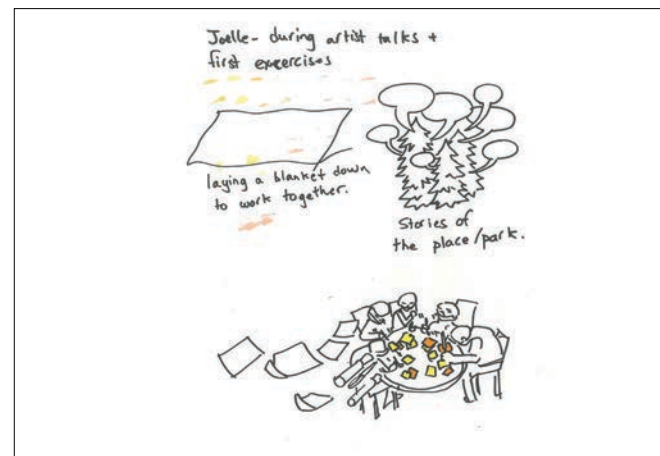
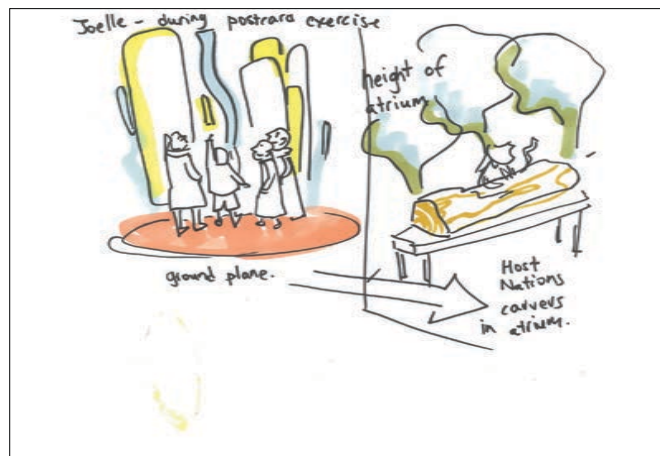
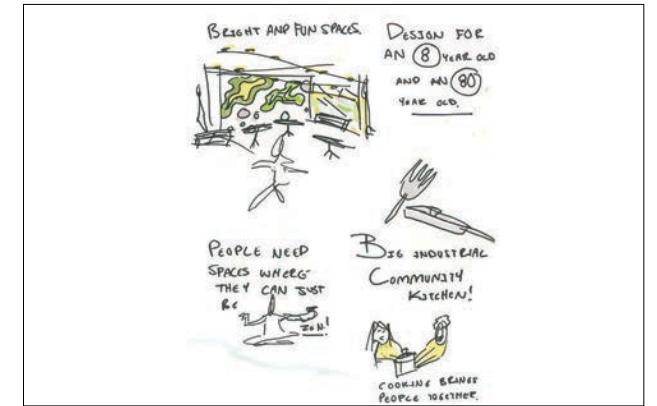
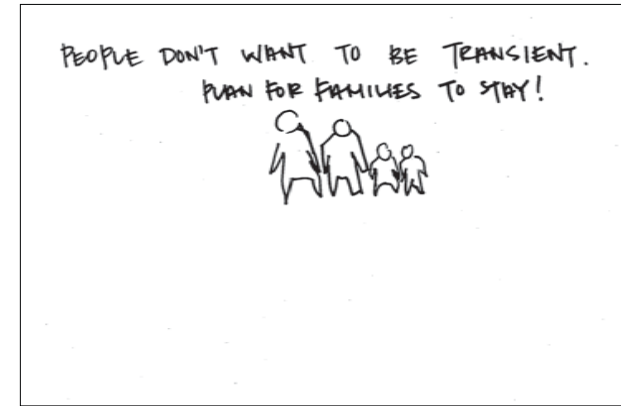


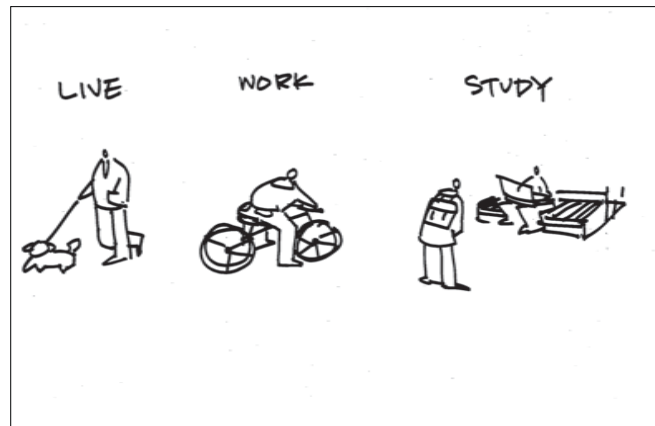
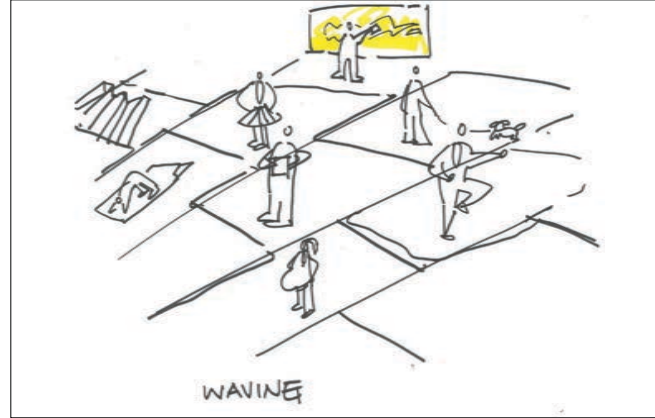
**Enter to win a \$25 Visa gift card
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WE.CONNECT

Synthesis Workshop graphic recordings







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Appendix B.

Spaces and Activities Engagement Details

This appendix provides an overview of the engagement process during the spaces and activities phase described in section 4.3. The appendix provides additional data from the engagement as well as workshop assets and promotional graphics.

Spaces and Activities - Public Survey Findings

W.E.CONNECT

Phase 2 Engagement

1,449 completed survey responses

5 boards in community and additional materials
Tables at WESN sites

43,759 postcards, 250 posters, 300 leaflets, 250 paper surveys

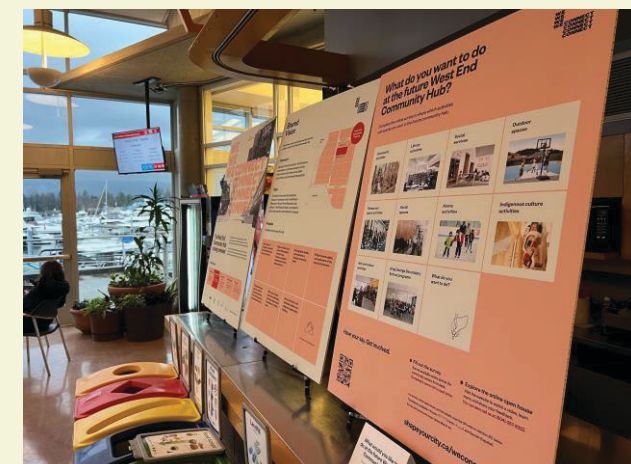
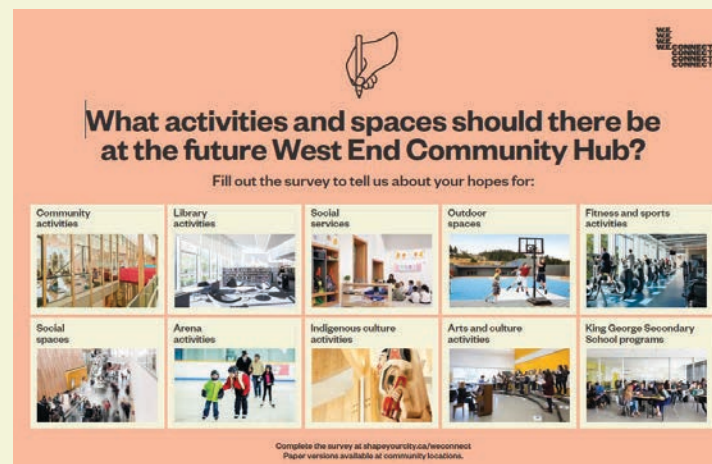
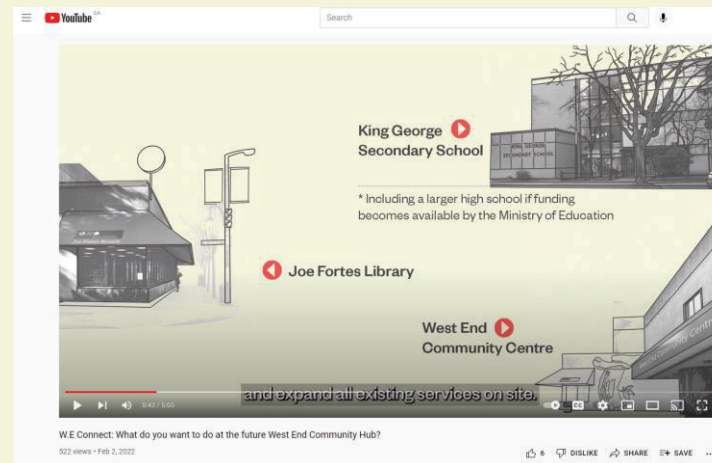
Gordon Neighbourhood House workshop

Interviews with underhoused people

KGSS

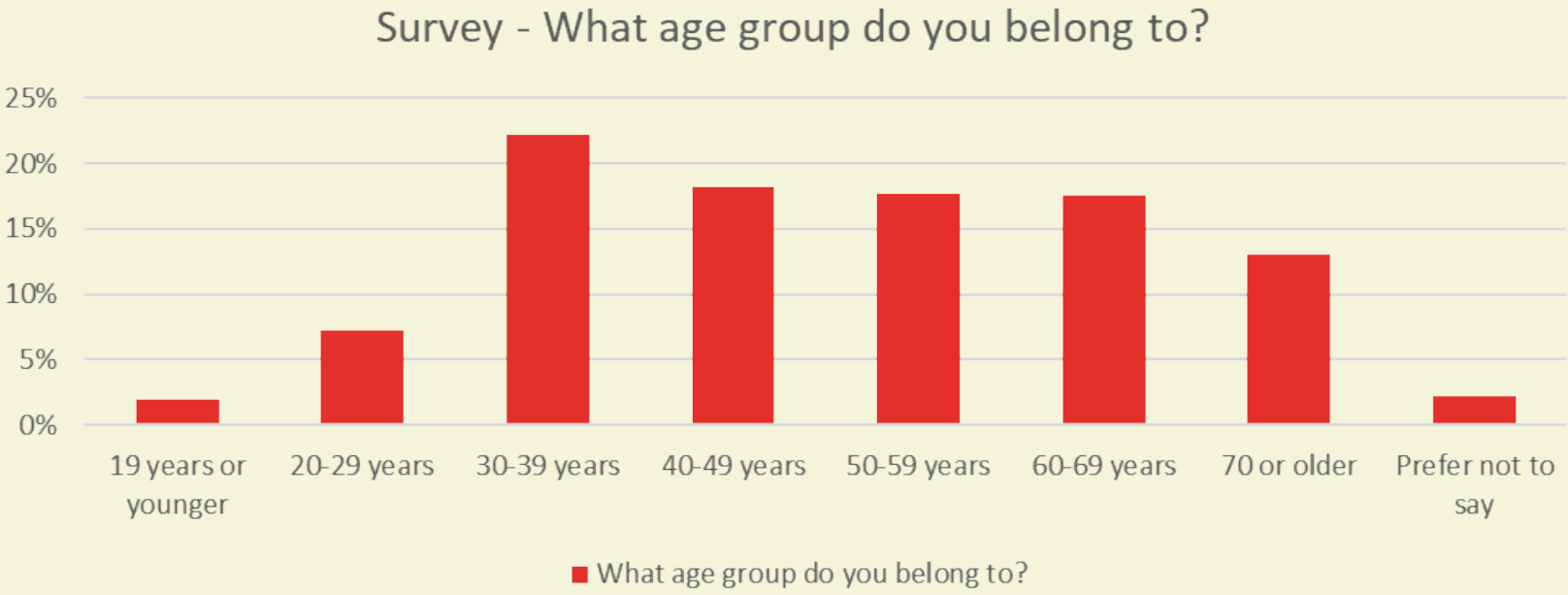
- Student Council focus group (upcoming)
- PAC presentation
- Video and youth-oriented promotional materials

Outreach through community organizations
Outreach through KGSS feeder school PACs



Who Participated?

1,449 completed submissions (18 in languages other than English)



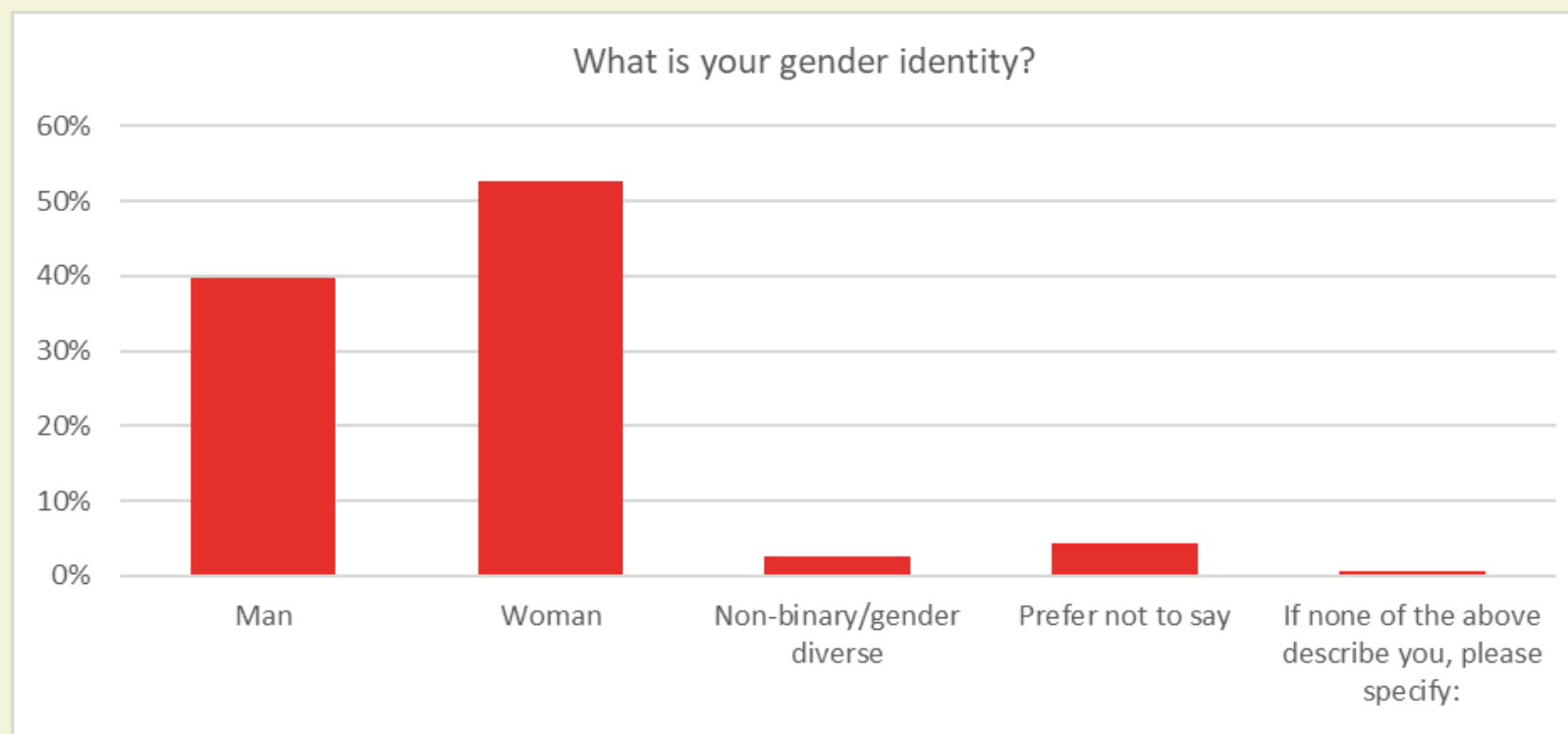
Who Participated?

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Who Participated?

1,449 completed submissions (18 in languages other than English)



What Limits Their Desire to Use the Current WECH Facilities

Limits to Current Facilities

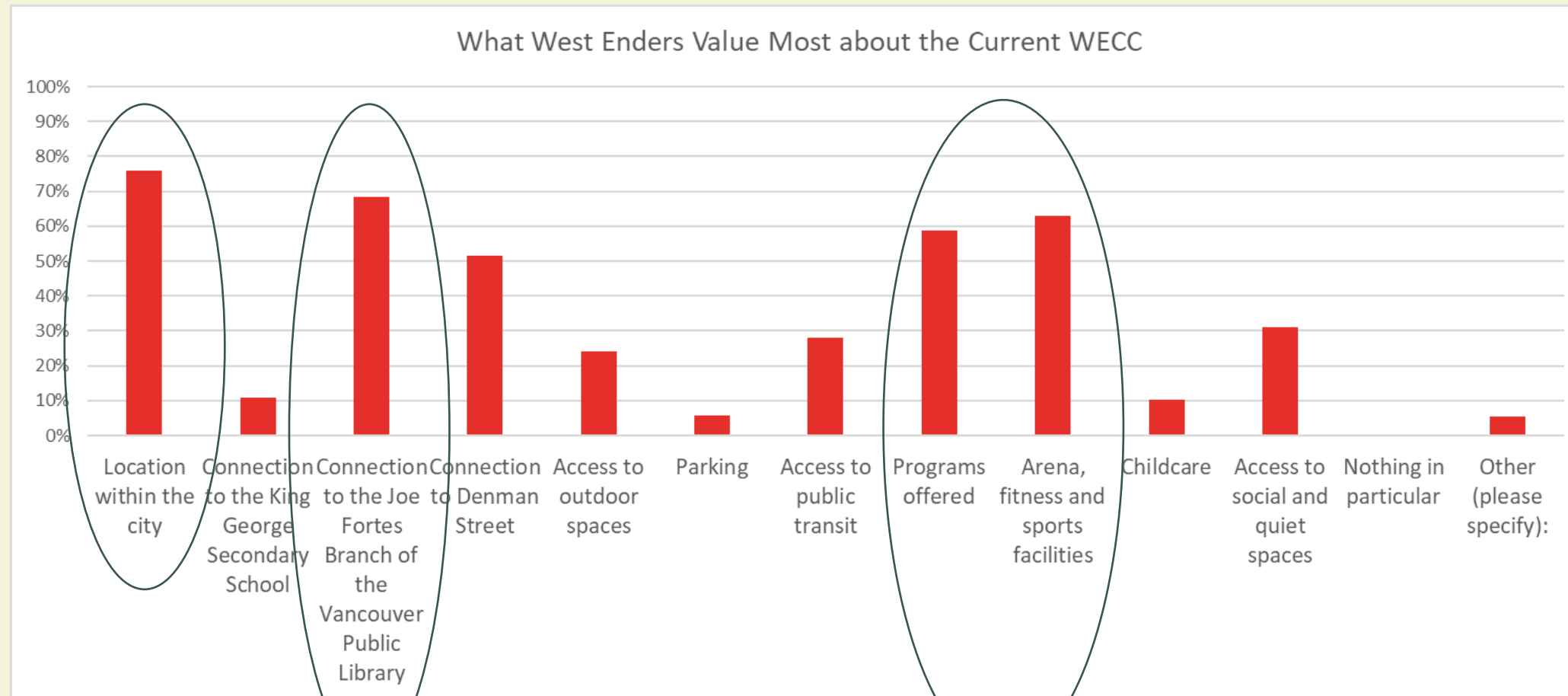
- Building size, aging facilities, and lack of space are most common challenges identified.
- Social and quiet spaces at King George Secondary School as common limits identified.
- Lack of range in programming at the current King George Secondary School, plus size.
- 30% of respondents say scheduling conflicts and lack of programs are major reasons why people do not use the community centre facilities.
- Few survey respondents identified programs, social services and spaces as being a major draw for the Joe Fortes Library.
- Size of the library collection was identified by 40% of survey respondents as a limit.
- Displeasure in the limited seating public seating.
- Desire for more outdoor space; need more weather- and season-appropriate design, as well as flexible outdoor spaces that can see multiple kinds of uses.
- Some survey respondents also added the need for small spaces to book.

What Limits Their Desire to Use the Current WECH Facilities

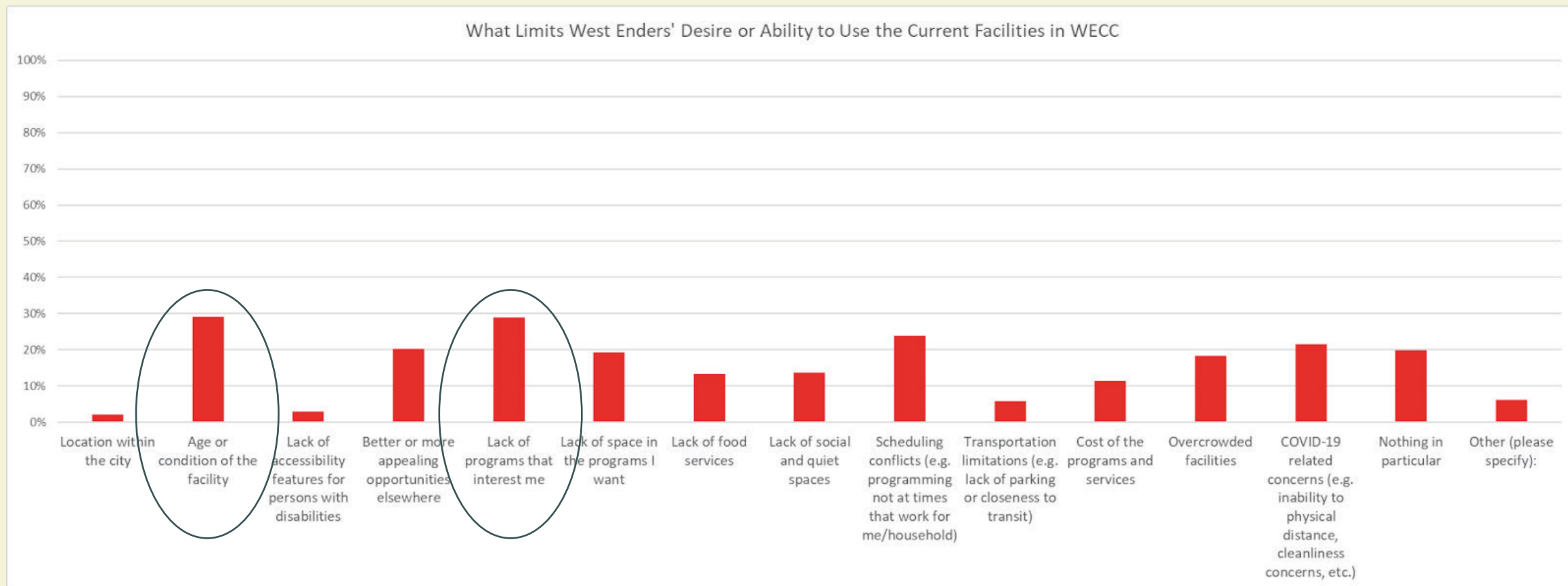
Safety and Security Concerns

- Tension between the need to be inclusive and provide low-barrier services while being uncomfortable at the presence of folks who may appear to be underhoused or with mental health issues.
- Overwhelming majority of comments on safety, however, highlighted the need for more inclusion and a sense of welcome for marginalized or racialized folks, as well as those with disabilities.
- Other comments include the presence of needles, poor nighttime lighting, and things such as the need for a culturally safe library collection or a bedbug oven for processing books at the library.

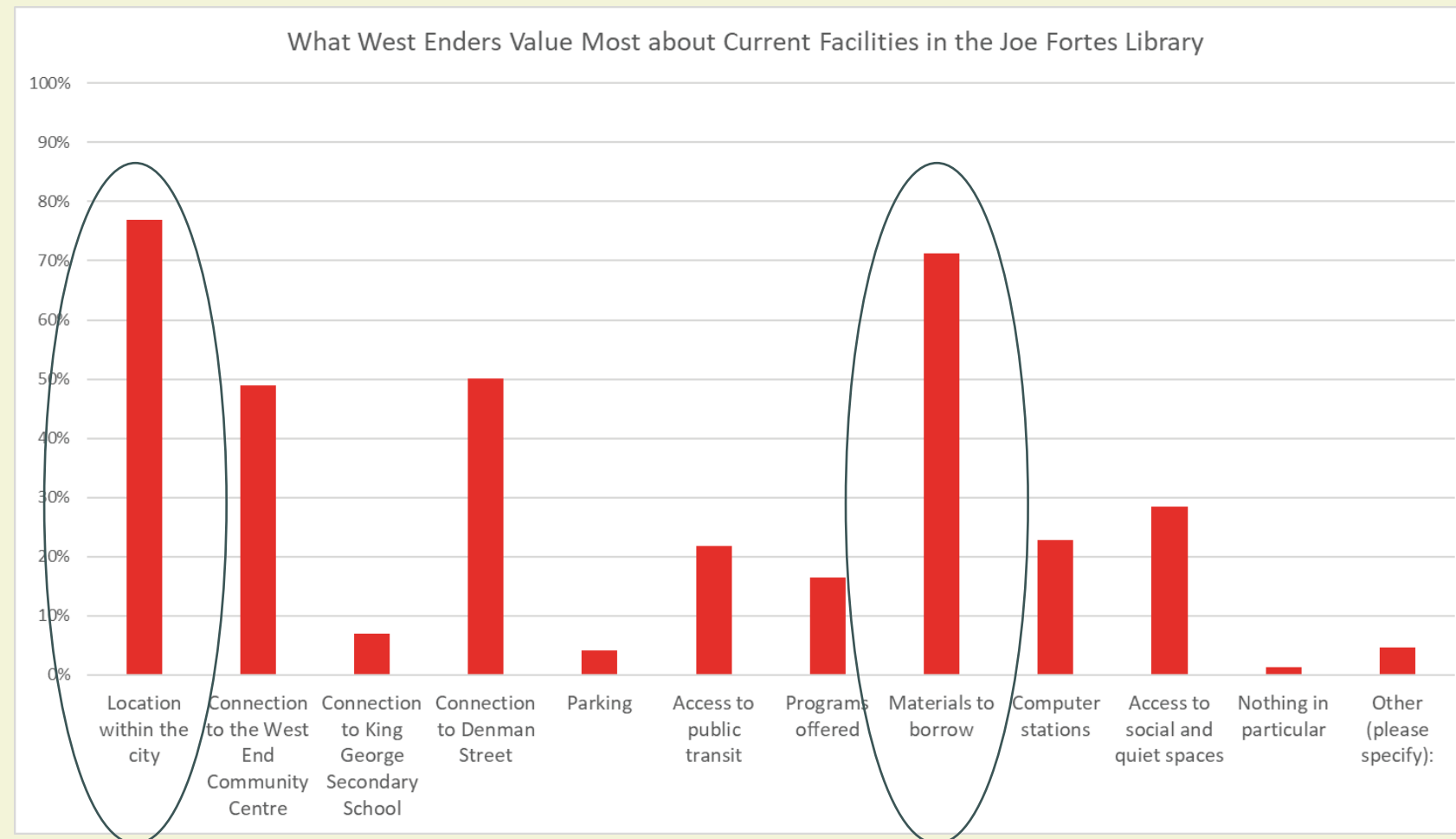
What People Value: Current Facilities at the West End Community Centre



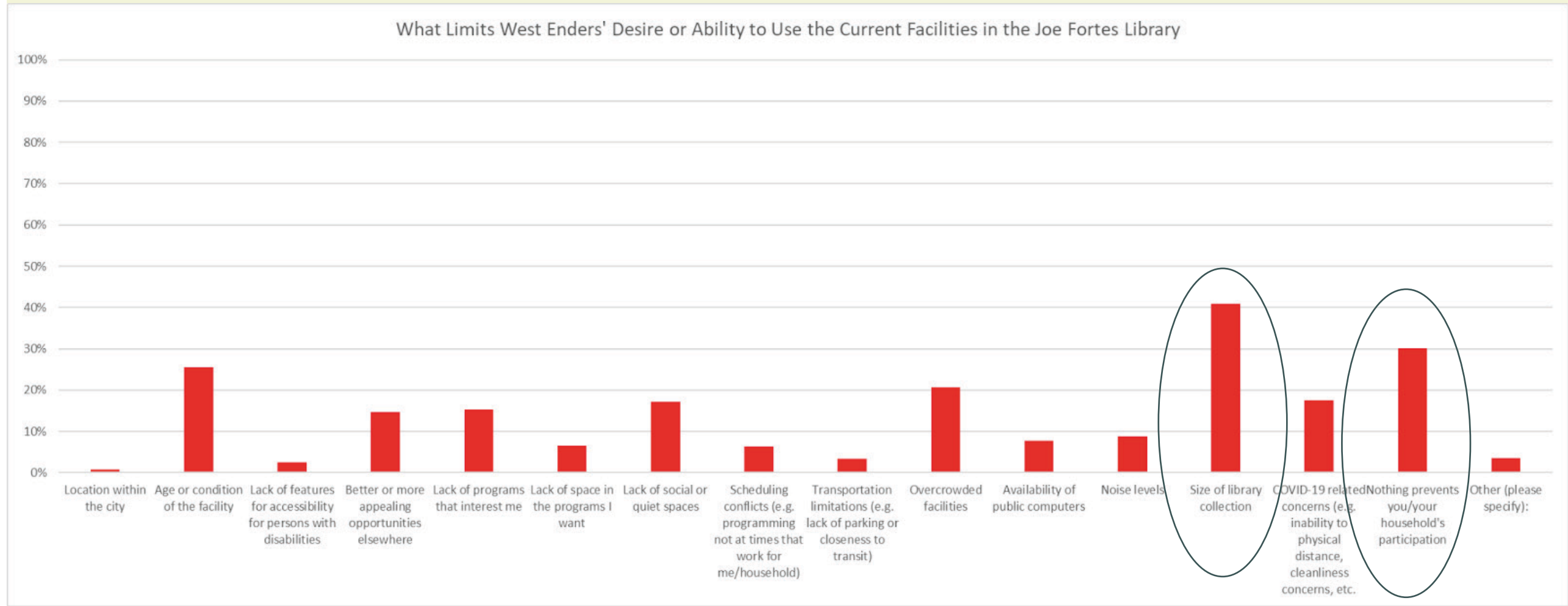
What Limits Their Desire to Use the Current Facilities at the West End Community Centre



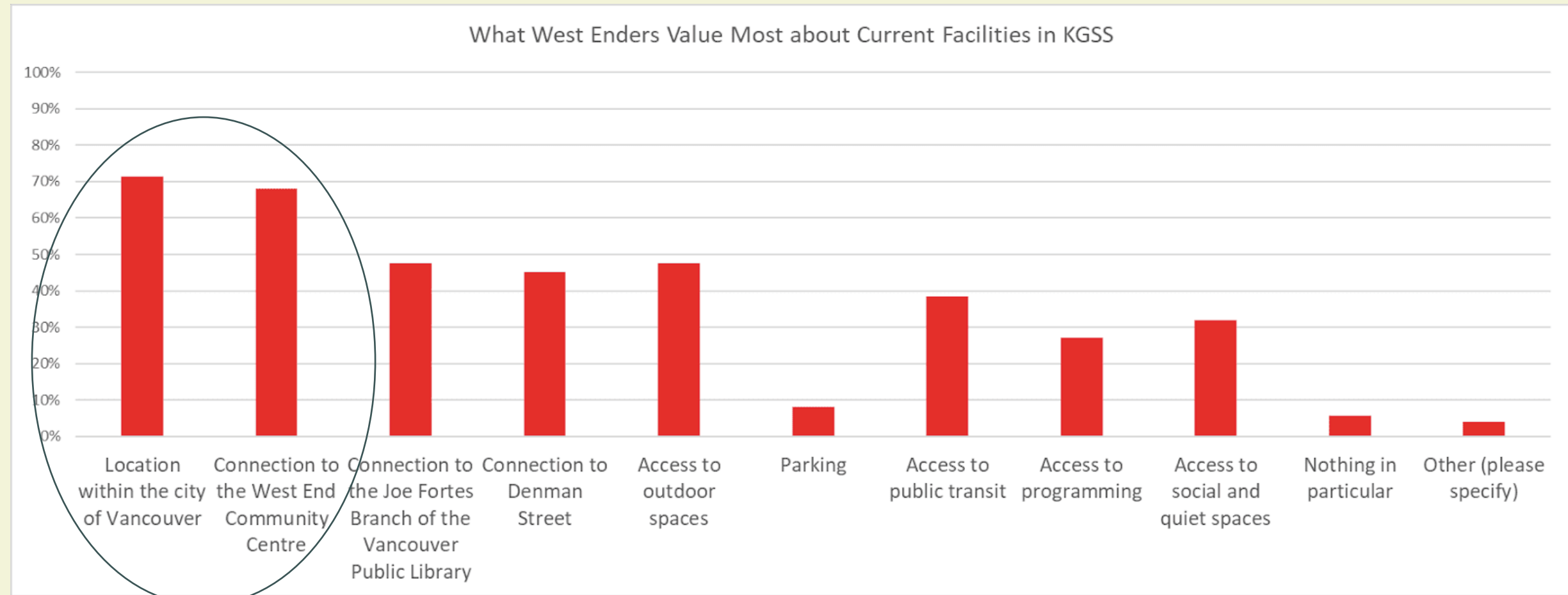
What People Value: Current Facilities at the Joe Fortes Library



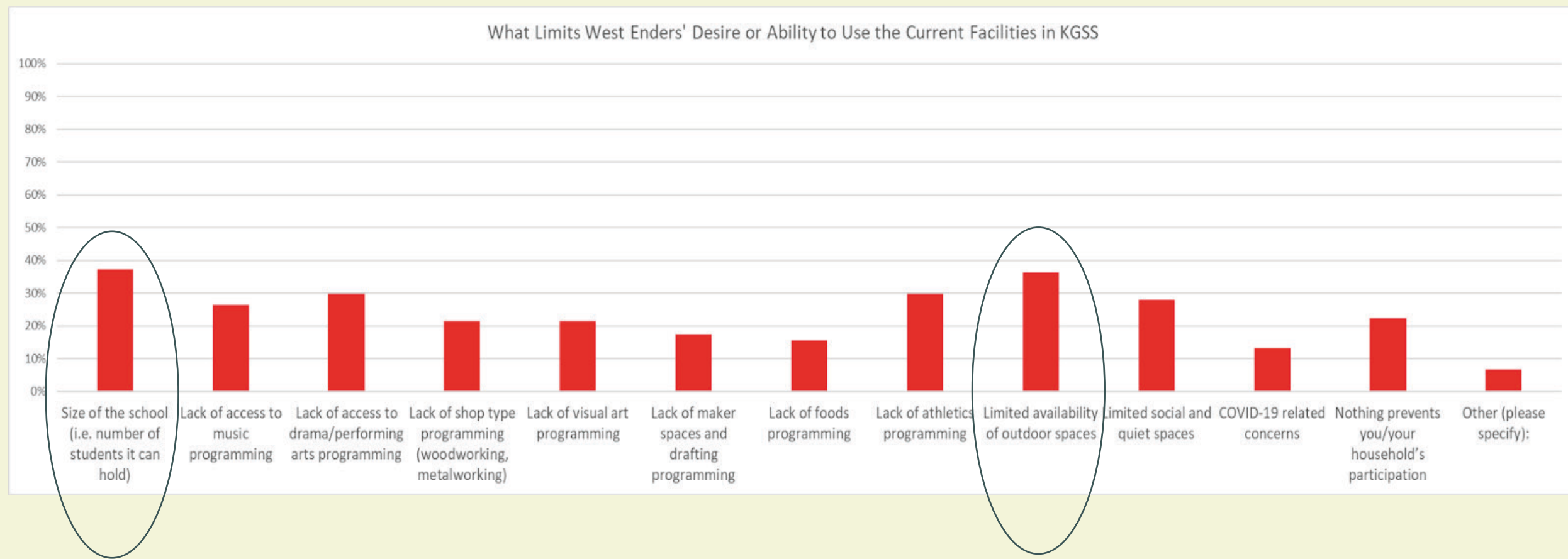
What Limits Their Desire to Use the Current Facilities at the Joe Fortes Library



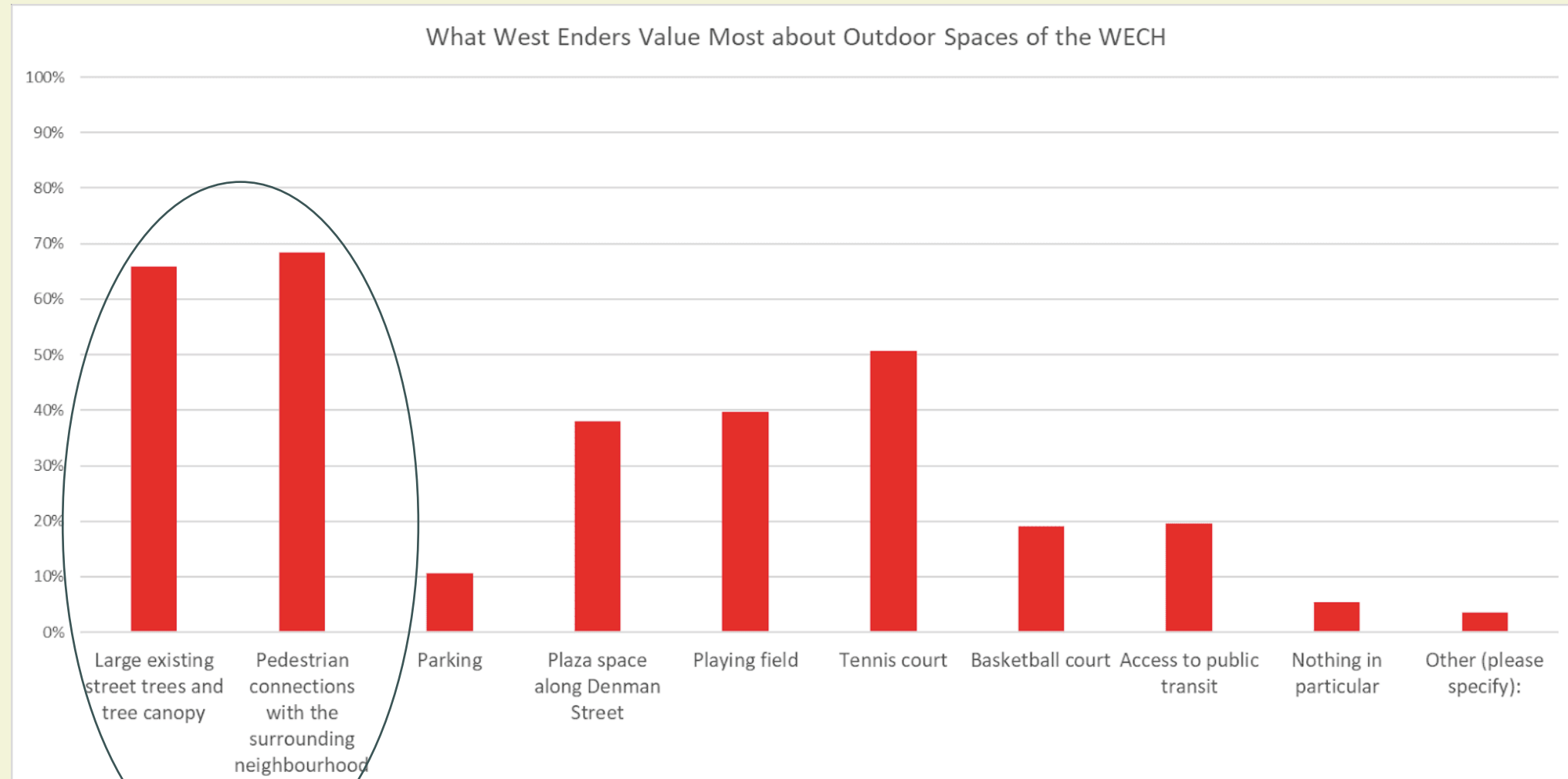
What People Value: Current Facilities at King George Secondary School



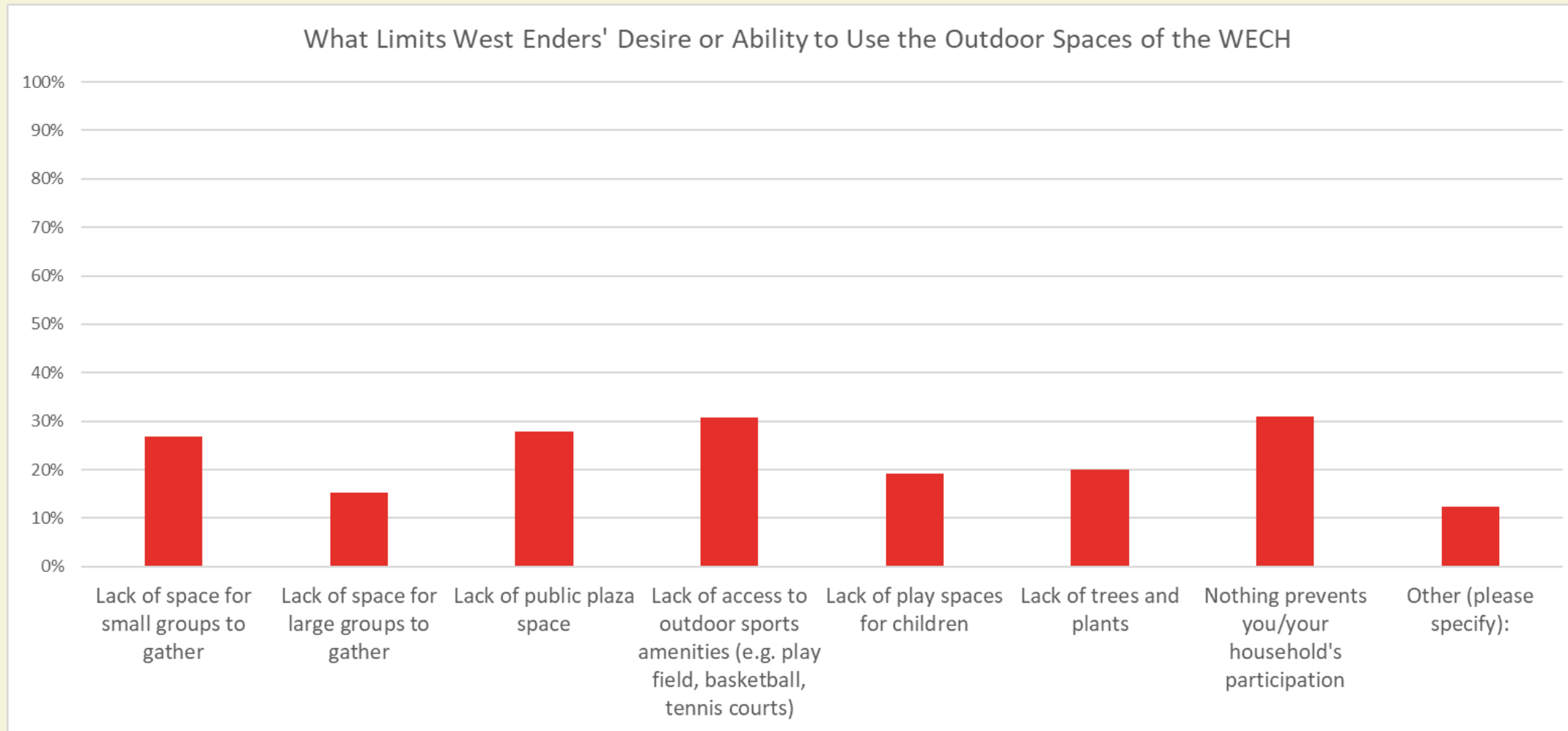
What Limits Desire to Use the Current Facilities at King George Secondary School



What People Value: Current Outdoor Spaces of the WECH



What Limits Their Desire to Use the Current Outdoor Spaces of the WECH

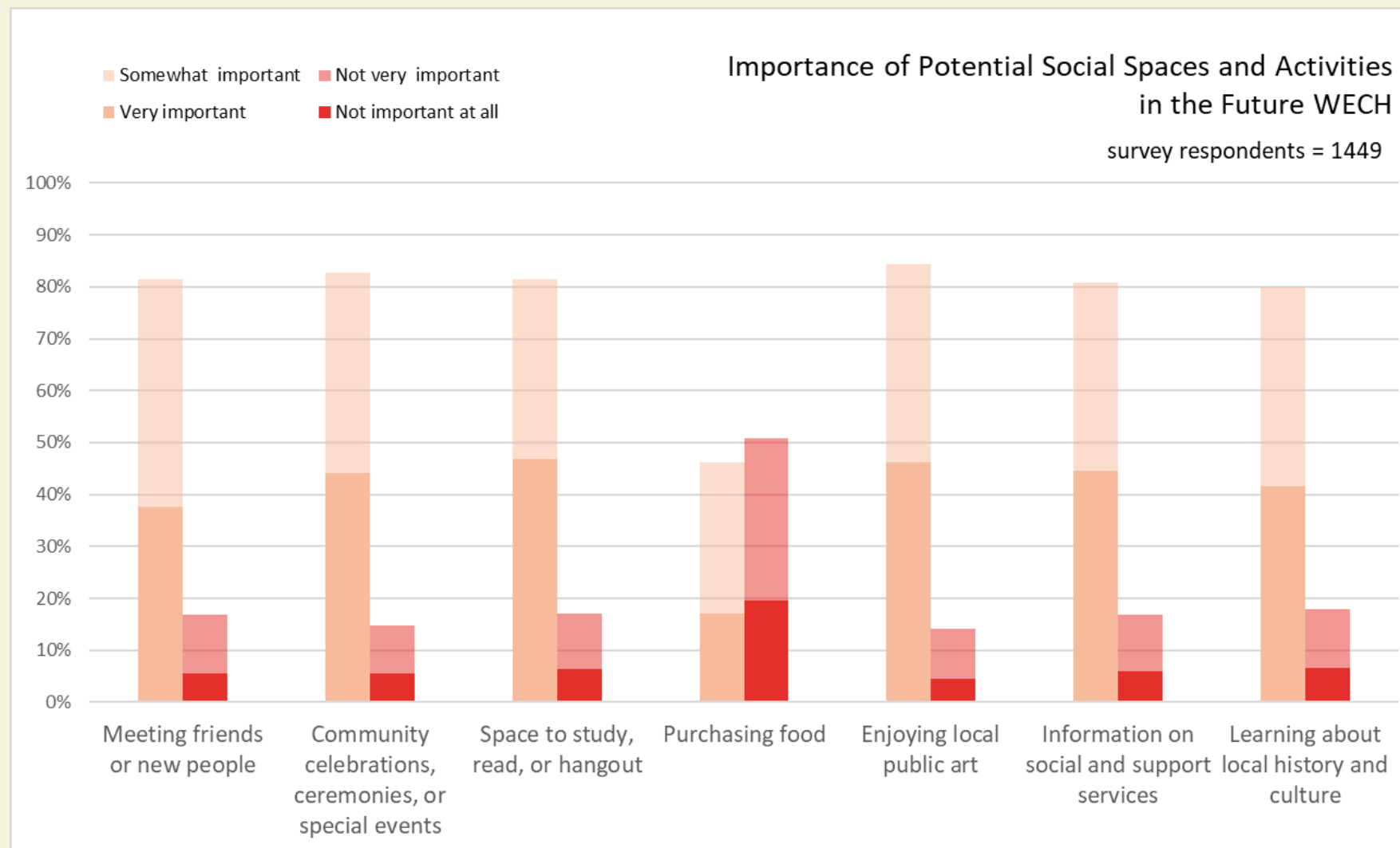


WE.CONNECT

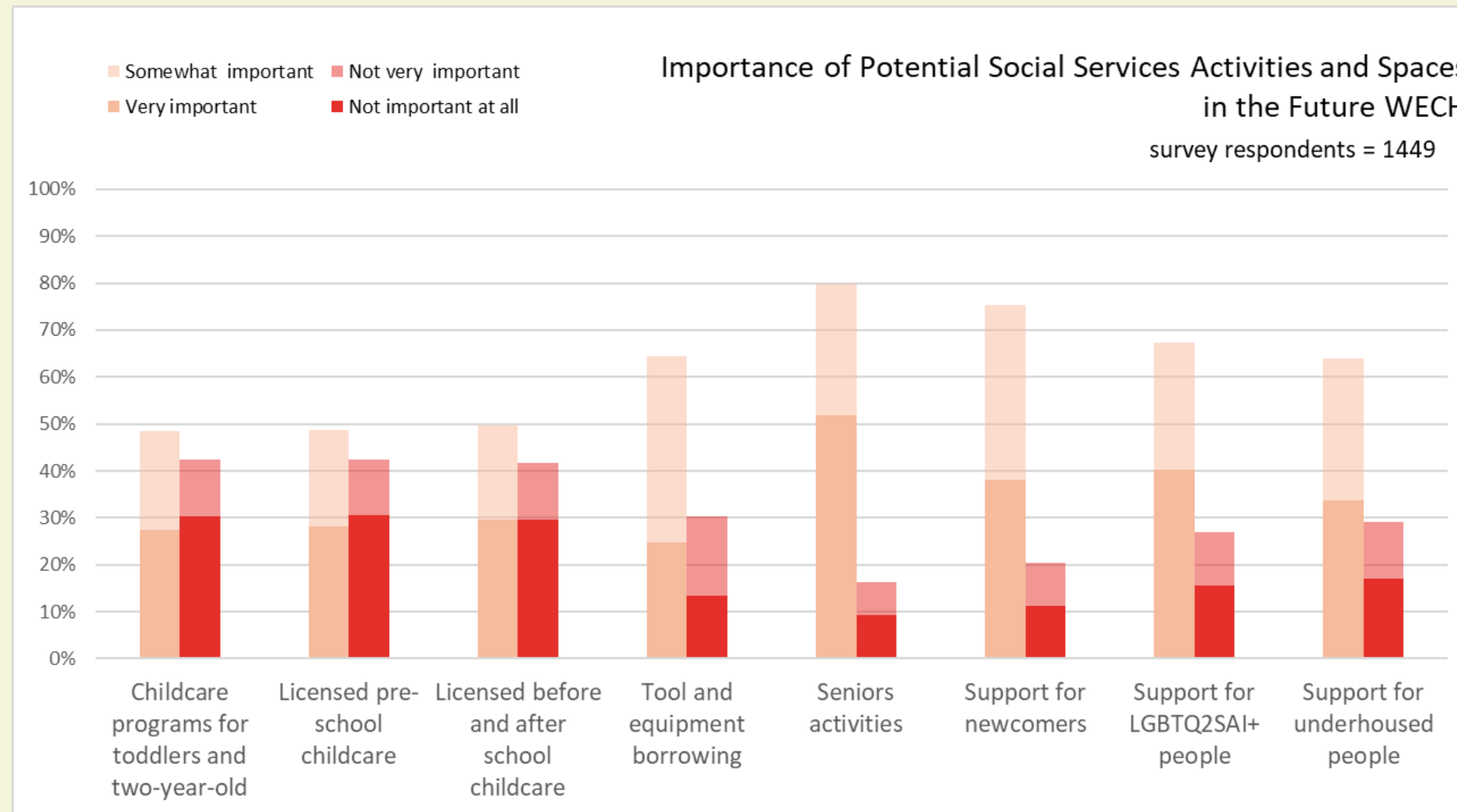
Social services and community activities



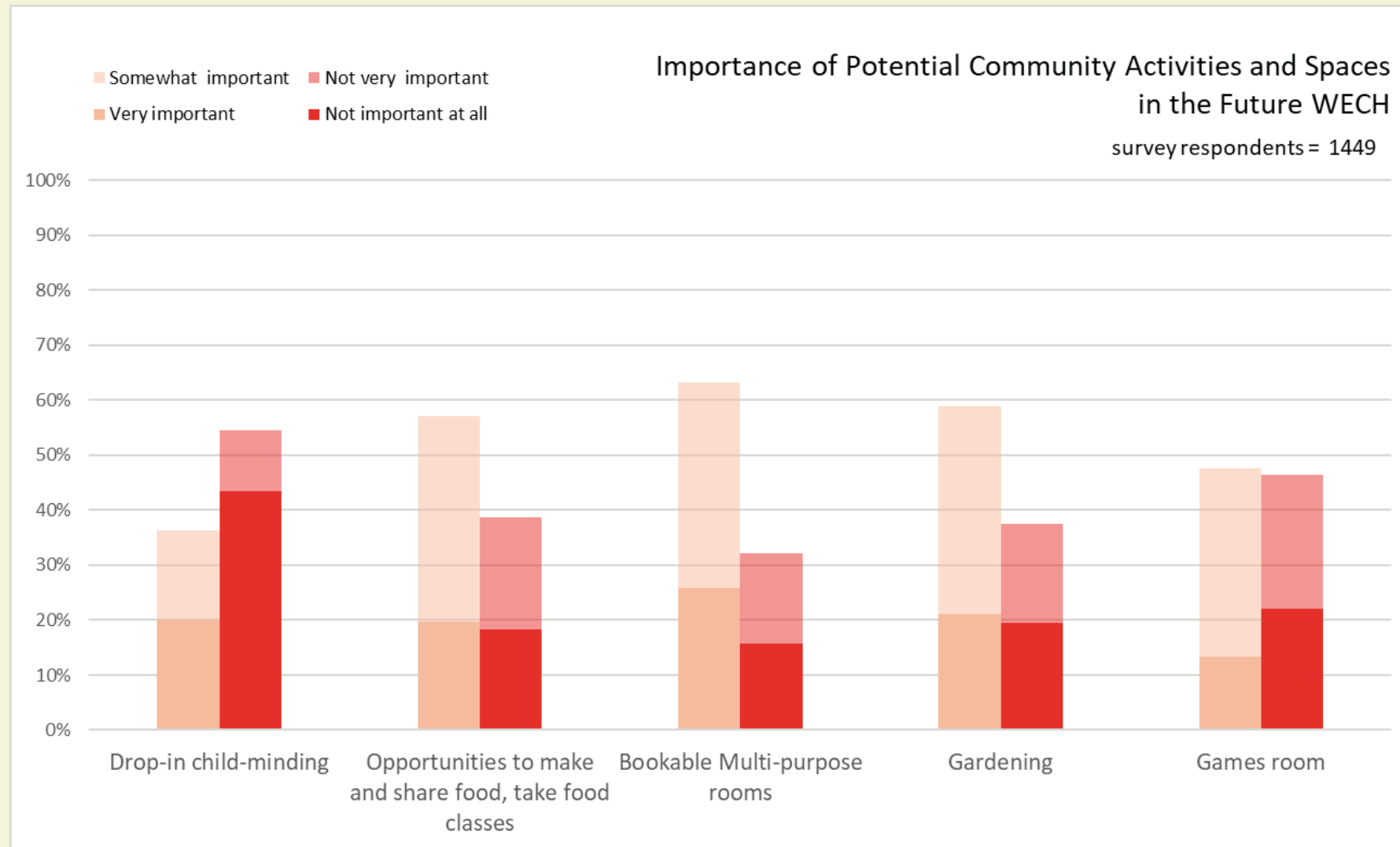
Social Spaces and Activities for the Future WECH



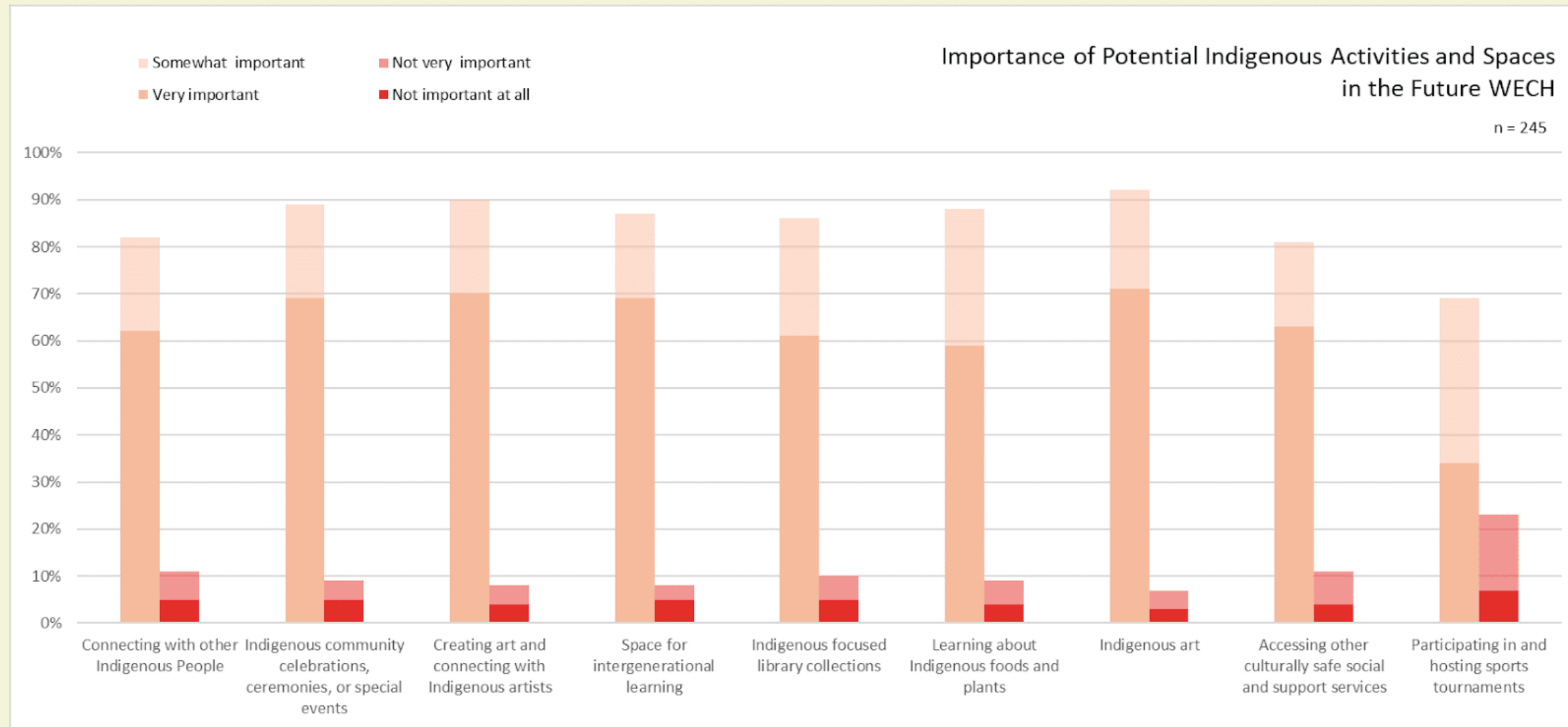
Community Activities for the Future WECH



Social Services for the Future WECH



Support for Meeting the Needs of Indigenous People



Support for Meeting the Needs of Indigenous People

Some survey respondents noted the need for more initiatives to help advance reconciliation:

- More Indigenous persons working as staff.
- More programs led by Indigenous persons.
- Cross-cultural programming.
- Dedicated space for reconciliation.
- Hosting slahal (bone game) tournaments.

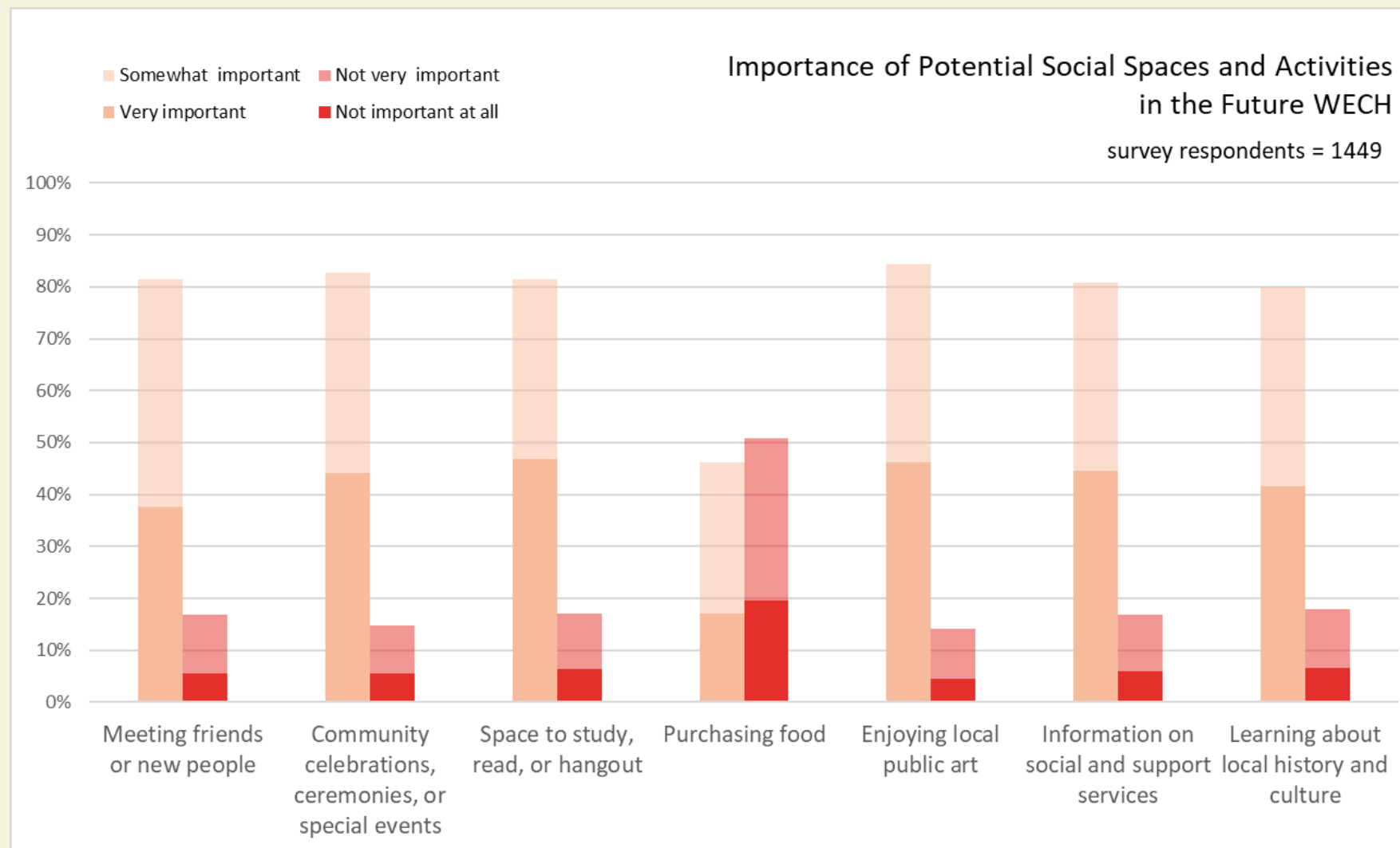
WE.CONNECT

Social Spaces

A principle guiding the development of the future site is “Offering a mix of social spaces for celebrating, ceremony, spontaneous connections, or finding quiet.”



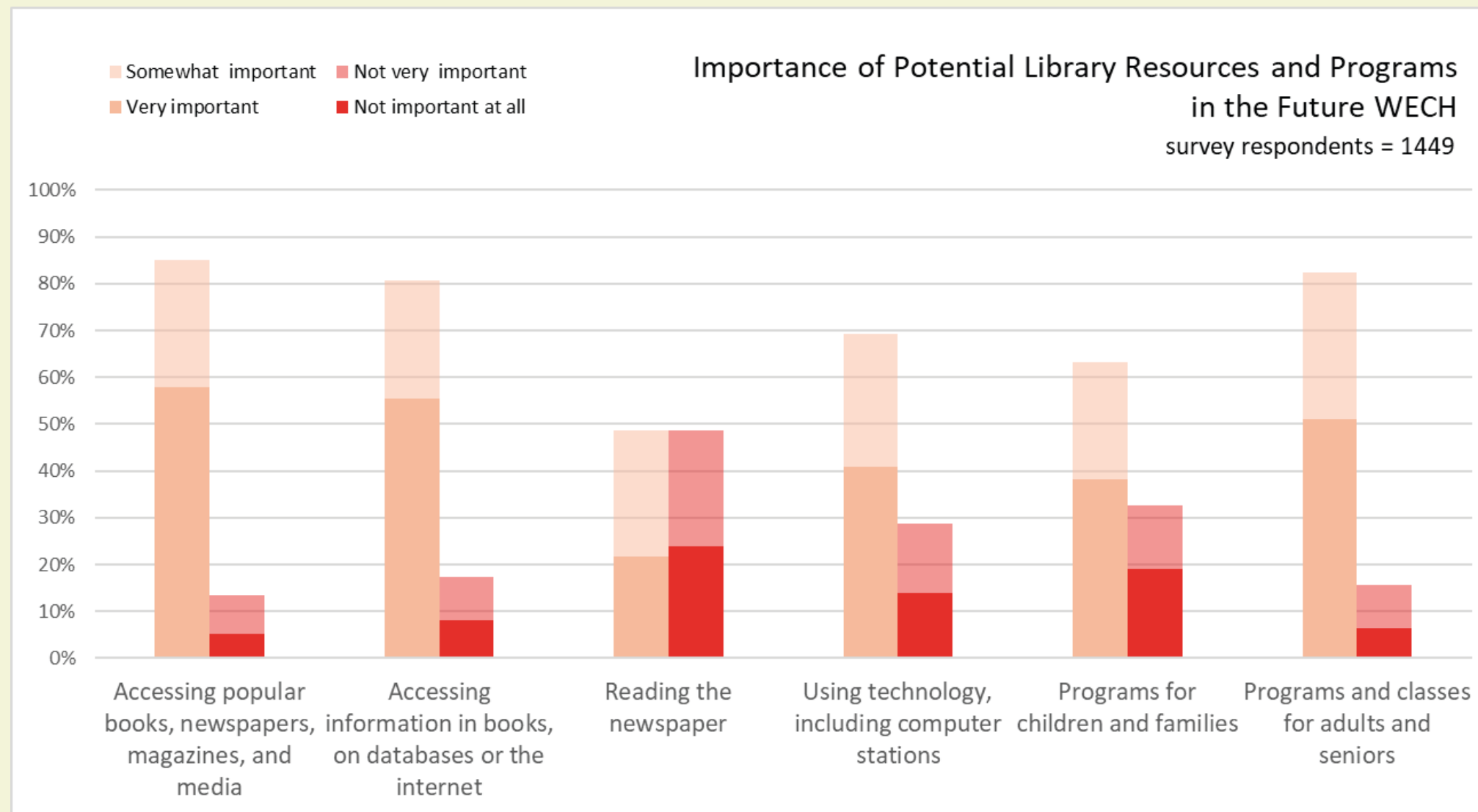
Social Spaces and Activities for the Future WECH



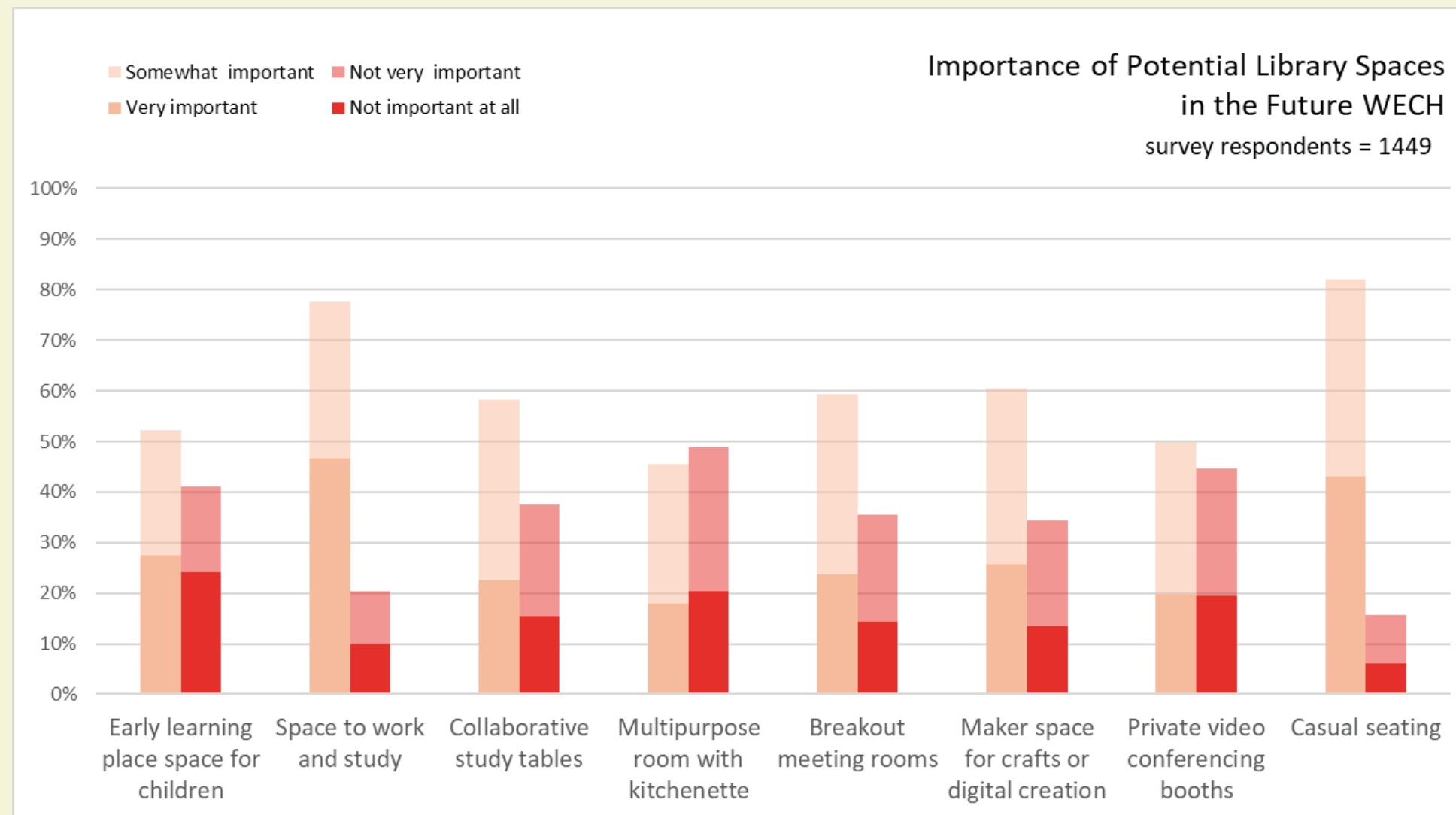
Library Activities



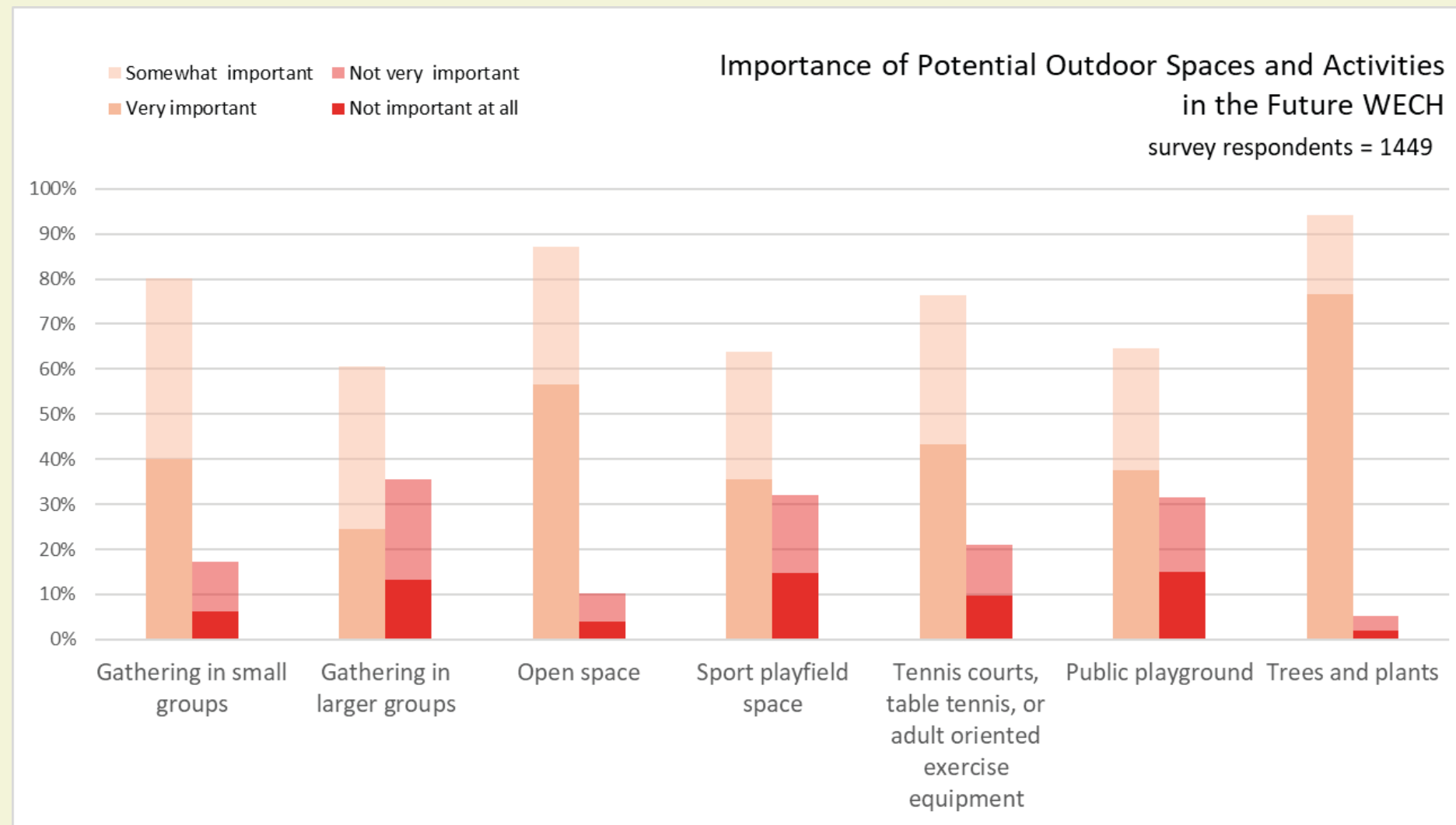
Future Library Resources, Activities, and Spaces:



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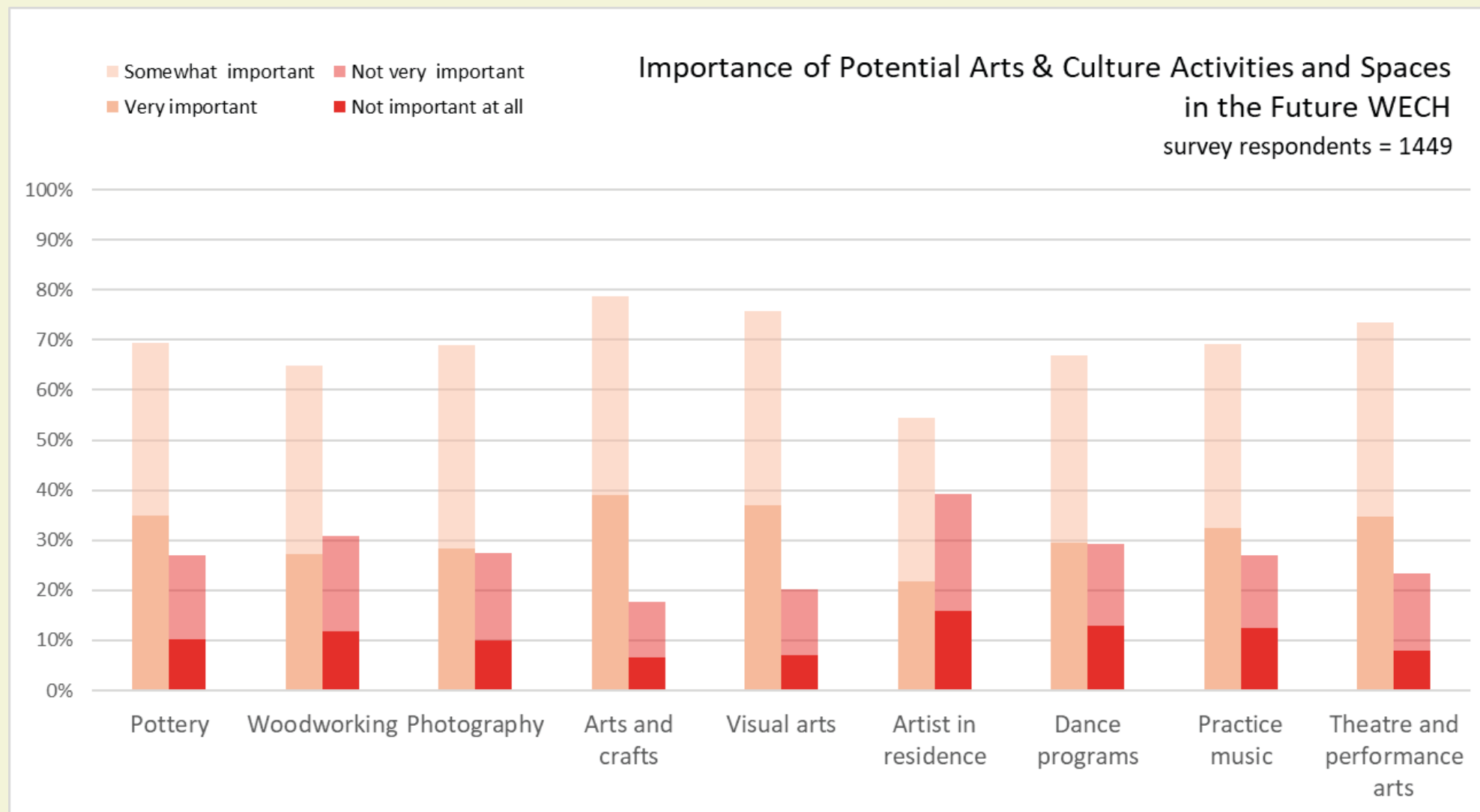
Outdoor Spaces for the Future WECH



Arts and Culture activities



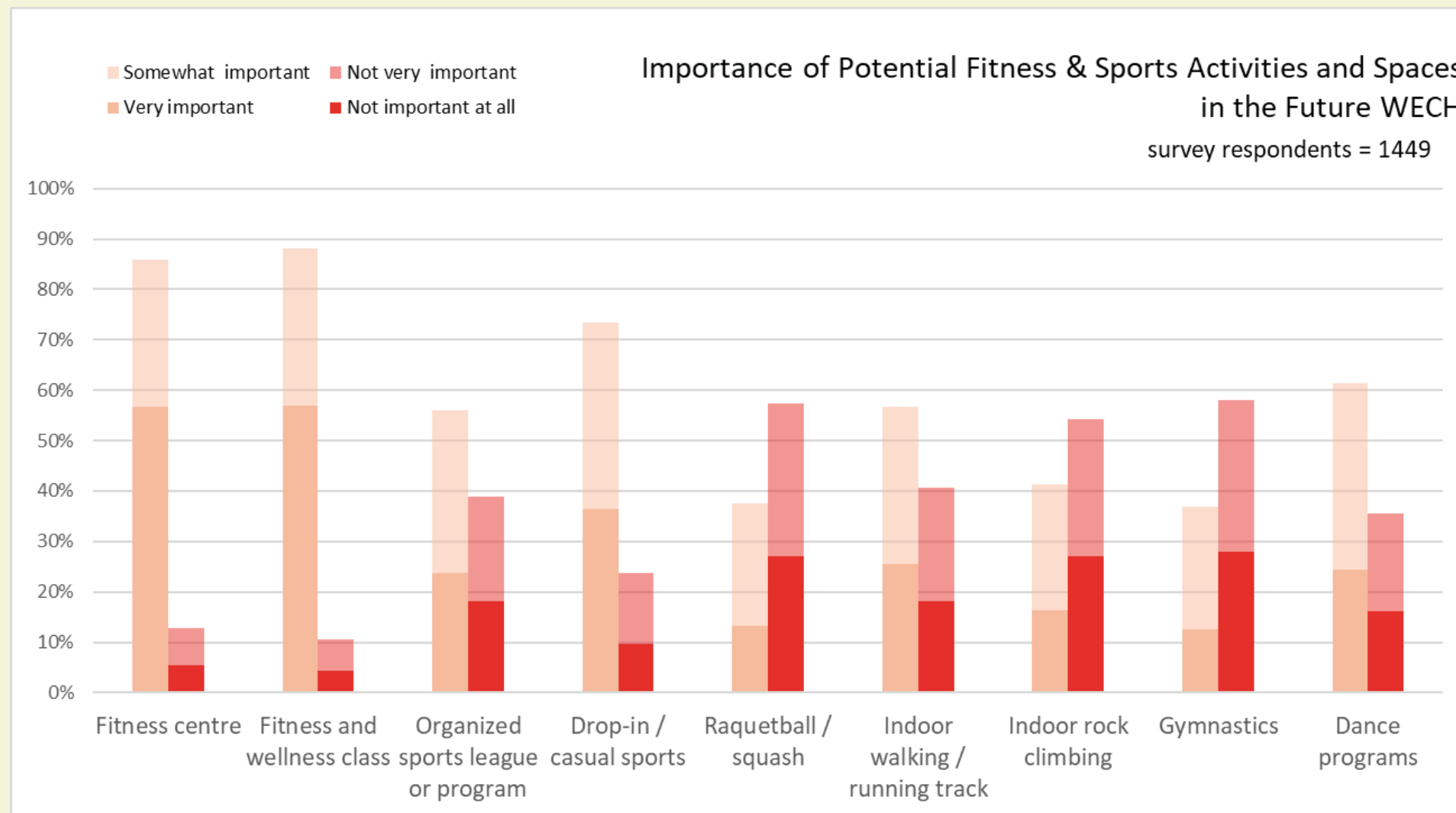
Arts and Culture for the Future WECH



Fitness and Sports



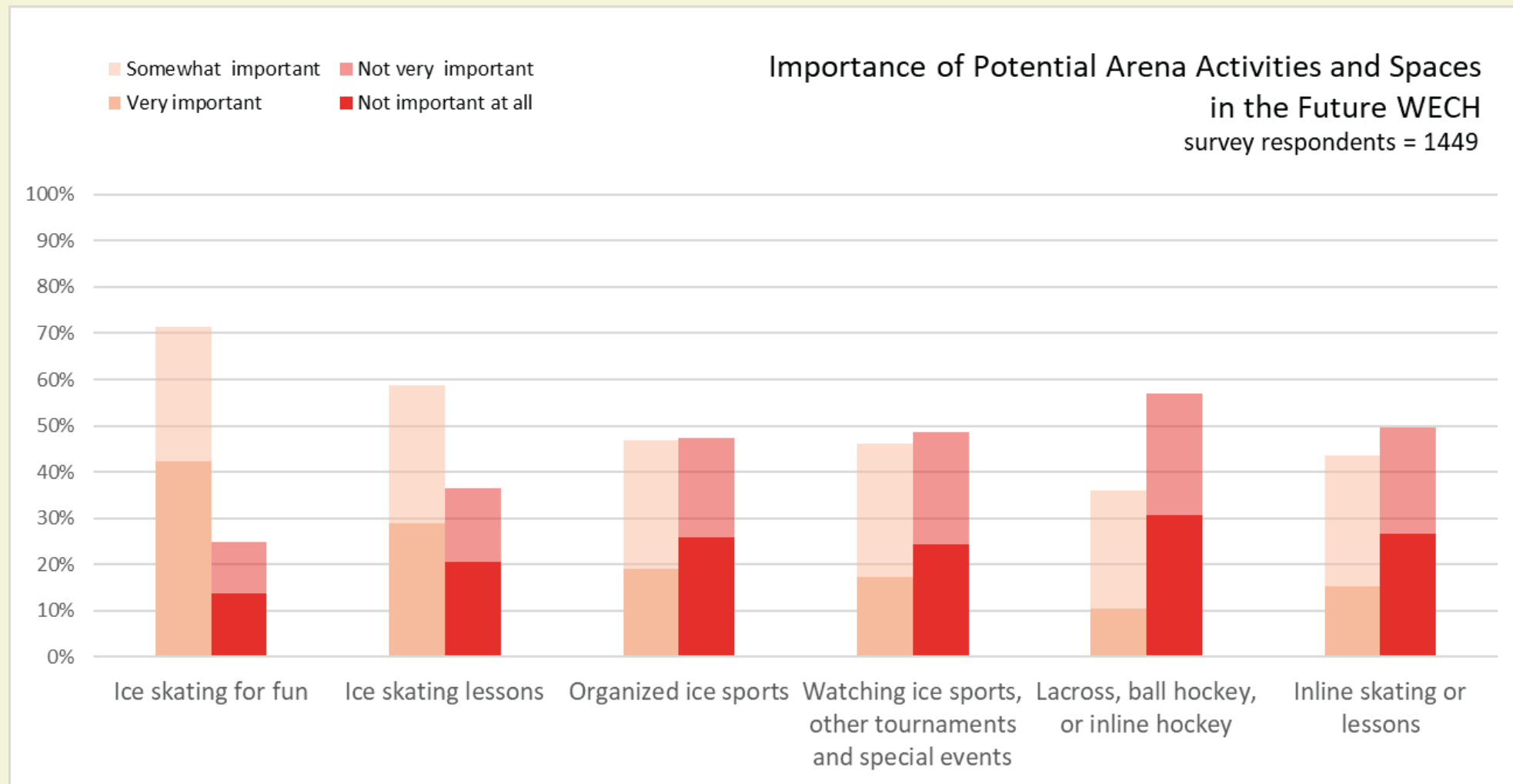
Fitness, Sports, and Arena for the Future WECH



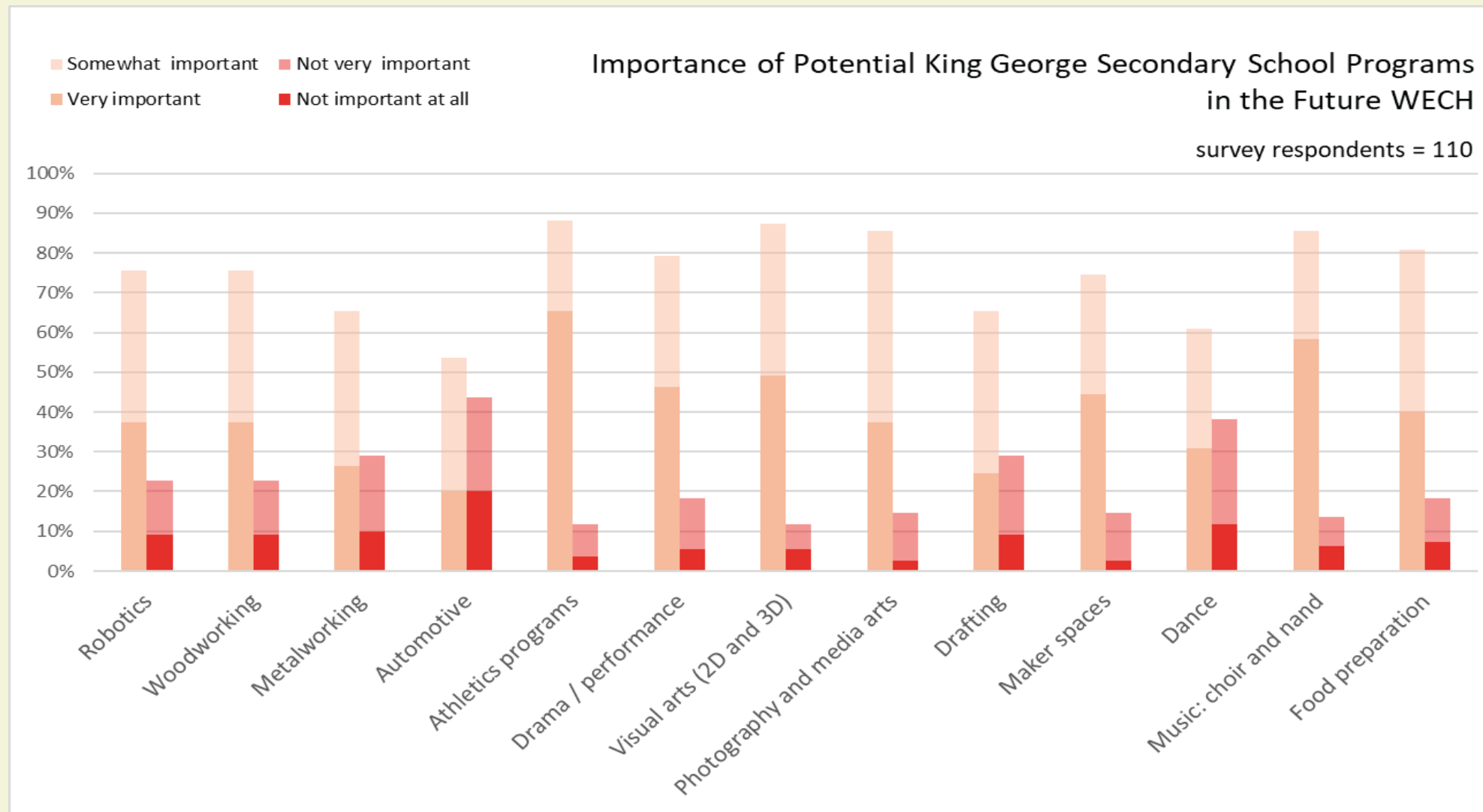
Arena activities



Arena for the Future WECH



Programs for the future King George Secondary School:



Programs for the future King George Secondary School:

High levels of support for more athletics and the arts, though not as much for dance.

Dance seemed to scale lower compared to other artistic forms.

Appreciation for both more traditional and more future-oriented technical skills programs like woodworking and robotics, respectively.

Automotive program has the lowest support. Survey respondents noted the need for bicycle shop programs instead.

Notes on improving outdoor facilities (i.e. basketball court) and equipment (computers, more seating etc.)

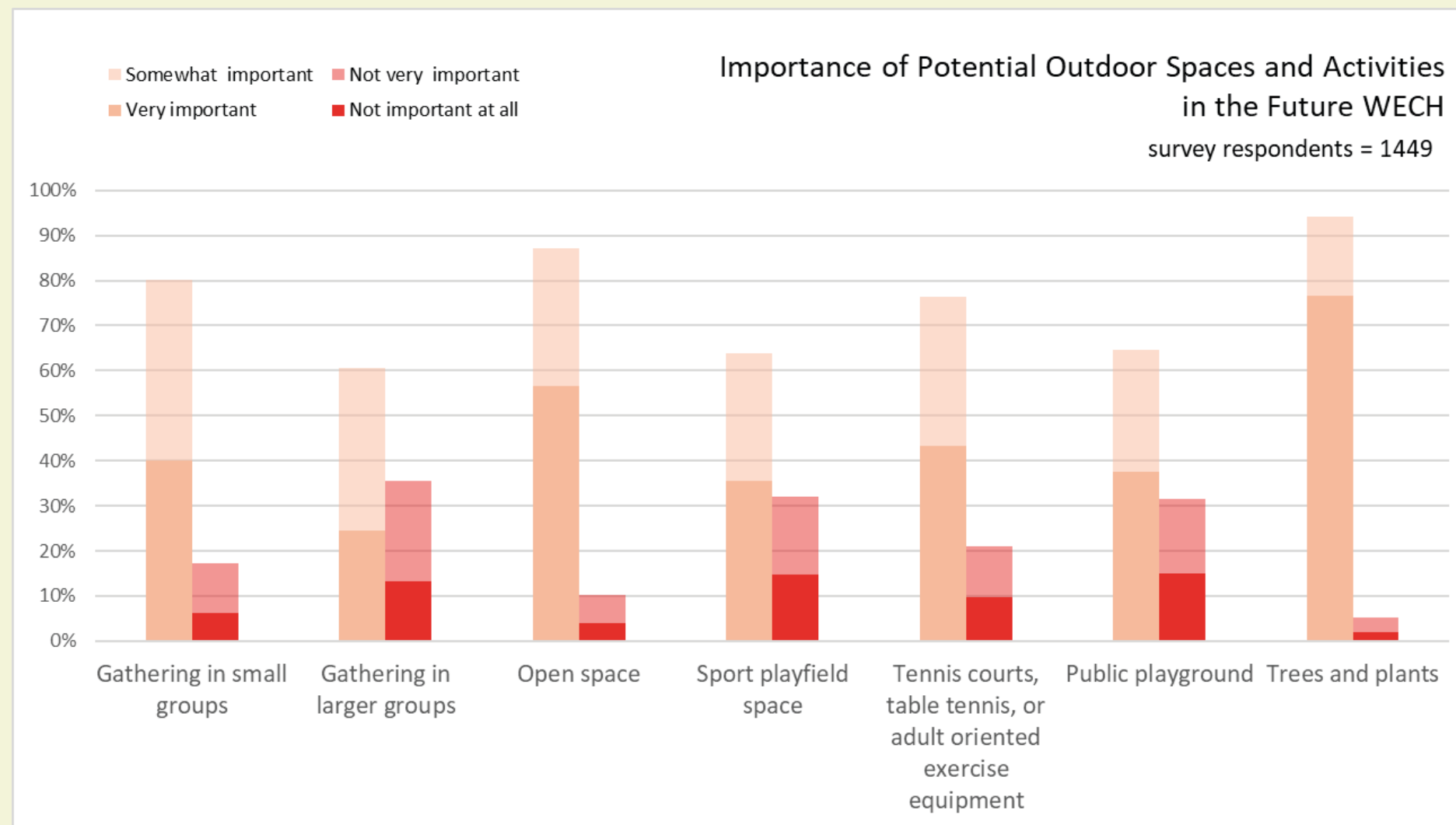
W.E.CONNECT

Outdoor Spaces

A principle guiding the development of the future site is “Bring in sounds, sights, and experiences of the natural environment”.



Outdoor Spaces for the Future WECH



Engagement boards

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

King George Secondary School

Joe Fortes Library

West End Community Centre

The West End Community Hub is being renewed

In fall 2021 the community and project partners worked together to develop a reconciliation framework, vision, and principles to guide planning for the West End Community Hub.

Now, share which activities and spaces you would most like to see at the site that currently includes the West End Community Centre, King George Secondary School, and Joe Fortes Library.

Project timeline

Vision & principles FALL 2021 Created a vision grounded in Indigenous teachings and West End experiences.	Spaces & activities WINTER 2022 Plan spaces and activities for the future community hub.	Initial options SPRING 2022 Get feedback on draft options for how the community hub spaces take shape.	Preferred option SUMMER 2022 Get feedback and revise the draft final plan.	Final plan FALL 2022 Share final plan with the community and partners.
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PROJECT PARTNERS: VPL, Vancouver Planning Department, VSB, Vancouver School Board, CITY OF VANCOUVER, shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

Shared Vision

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

Framework


Drawing on the project partners' commitments to reconciliation, the framework ensures that the future community hub reflects Coast Salish culture, identity, and environmental stewardship.

Vision

The West End Community Hub celebrates Vancouver's connection to the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations, and supports play, learning, creativity, and wellness for all people.

Principles

The West End Community Hub will:

Make visible and strengthen connection to Coast Salish people, history, and culture.	Weave the fabric of our communities together, creating a safe, inclusive, accessible, equitable place that is welcoming to all.	Be integrated, flexible, and responsive to changing community needs.	Bring in sounds, sights, and experiences of the natural environment.
Provide spaces and plant the seeds for creativity, innovation and co-learning across cultures & generations.	Offer a mix of social spaces for celebrating, ceremony, spontaneous connections, or finding quiet.	Grow community and individual resilience by using seven-generation thinking.	 shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

What do you want to do at the future West End Community Hub?



Complete the online survey to share which activities and spaces you want in the future community hub.

<p>Community activities</p>	<p>Library activities</p>	<p>Social services</p>	<p>Outdoor spaces</p>
<p>Fitness and sports activities</p>	<p>Social spaces</p>	<p>Arena activities</p>	<p>Indigenous culture activities</p>
<p>Arts and culture activities</p>	<p>King George Secondary School programs</p>	<p>What do you want to do?</p>	

Have your say. Get involved.



- **Fill out the survey**
Survey available online and at the community centre front desk. Complete it now to win a cash prize.
- **Explore the online open house**
Visit the website to watch a video, learn more, and share your feedback. You can also call us at (604)-257-8333.

For survey, online open house, and full details, scan the QR code or visit the URL below. Translations available in Korean (한국어), Farsi (فارسی) and Spanish (Español). Survey and community input closes March 1st.

shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect



What would you like to do at the future West End Community Hub?

In fall 2021 the community helped create a vision for the West End Community Hub. Now, share which activities and spaces you would most like to see at the site that currently includes the West End Community Centre, King George Secondary School, and Joe Fortes Library.

The result will be a plan to celebrate and strengthen Vancouver's connection to the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Ḡkwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations, and support play, learning, creativity, and wellness for all people.

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shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

Survey and community input closes March 1st.

Engagement survey

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

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Joe Fortes Library

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Project timeline



Shared Vision

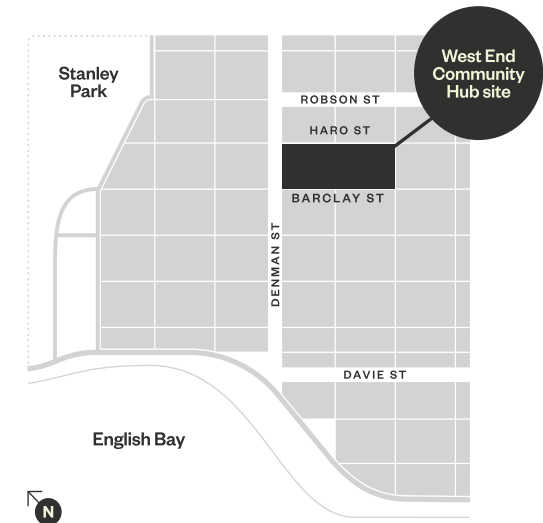
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What do you want to do at the future West End Community Hub?

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Community activities	Library activities	Social services	Outdoor spaces	Fitness and sport activities
Social spaces	Arena activities	Indigenous culture activities	Arts and culture activities	King George Secondary School programs

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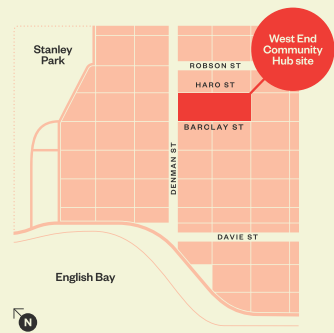
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shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect



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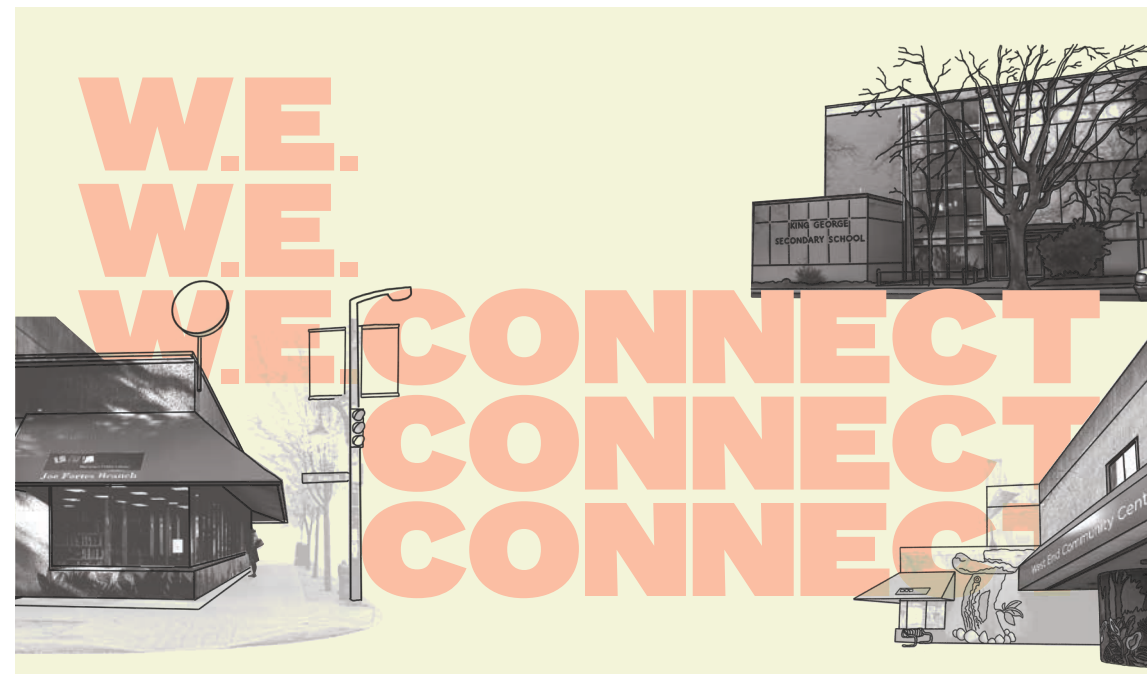
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Ways to get involved.

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Survey available online and at the community centre front desk.

- **Explore the online open house**
You can also call us at **(604)-257-8333** to learn more about the project.

shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

Please visit [Shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect](https://shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect) or contact staff at the West End Community Centre or Joe Fortes Library in-person or by phone at **604-257-8333** for more details on how to participate.



Engagement online open house boards

King George Secondary School

Joe Fortes Library

West End Community Centre

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About the Project

The West End Community Hub (WECH) Renewal Plan will be the document that guides and directs the future site, including future renewal and expansion of all existing services.

A key part of the WECH Renewal Plan is the project partners' ongoing commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. The West End Community Hub (WECH) Renewal Plan will be the document that guides and directs the future site, including future renewal and expansion of all existing services.

Leading this effort is a group of partners including the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver School District and the West End Community Centre Association.

WE ARE HERE!

- Vision & principles (FALL 2021):** Created a vision grounded in Indigenous teachings and West End Experiences.
 - Launch Event
 - West End Experiences Survey
 - Themed Visioning Workshops
 - Synthesis Workshop
 - Public Presentation
- Space & activities (WINTER 2022):** Plan spaces and activities for the future community hub.
 - Survey
 - Online Open House
 - Focus groups meetings
- Initial options (SPRING 2022):** Get feedback on draft options for how the community hub spaces take shape.
 - Open Houses
 - Pop Ups
 - Focus groups meetings
- Preferred option (SUMMER 2022):** Get feedback and revise the draft final plan.
 - Open House
- Final plan (FALL 2022):** Share final plan with the community and partners.
 - Public Presentation

The Site

The West End Community Hub (WECH) is the site that currently houses the West End Community Centre, Joe Fortes Branch of the Vancouver Public Library, and King George Secondary School.

A principle guiding the development of the future site is "Weave the fabric of our communities together, creating a safe, inclusive, accessible, equitable place that is welcoming to all."

- West End Community Centre:** The West End Community Centre will be replaced to meet the needs of the growing West End neighbourhood, including renewal of an ice rink.
- Joe Fortes Branch, Vancouver Public Library:** This well-used branch needs a larger library space.
- King George Secondary School:** The District is committed to building a safer, larger and modern learning environment to better serve the educational programming needs of students and the broader West End community.

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

The Vancouver School District owns the majority of the land, approximately 70% of the site, and the City of Vancouver owns the remainder of the land.

West End Experiences

In fall 2021, hundreds of community members helped create a vision for the future community hub. Opportunities to be involved ran from September through December including:

- Engagement advice from dozens of West End community organizations
- Coast Salish Chronicles of the West End — an online event featuring Knowledge Holders and artists from xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliiwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations;
- West End Experiences Survey, which collected memories and experiences of the neighbourhood
- Self-paced engagement stations
- Seven pop-up events hosted by Youth Ambassadors, connecting with over 400 people
- Eight visioning workshops
- Synthesis Workshop, led by project partners and volunteers
- Public report-back event, held online, to share and get feedback on the draft Framework, Vision and Principles

Knowledge Holders, artists and youth from each of the three Host Nations — xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliiwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) — guided the engagement process and helped develop the vision and principles.

Fall 2021 Engagement



A Framework for Reconciliation



Drawing on the project partners' commitments to reconciliation, the framework for site renewal was co-developed with members of local First Nations to advance reconciliation while supporting neighbourhood aspirations.

Project Framework

The West End of Vancouver is a culturally and historically rich location for Coast Salish Peoples. Through art and storytelling, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliiwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) perspectives guided the process of developing a vision and principles for the West End Community Hub.

The WECH Project Partners know that Vancouver's identity is strengthened by connecting, learning, and celebrating xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliiwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) culture.

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

The WECH Project Partners are committed to advancing reconciliation by:

- Reflecting Coast Salish culture and identity throughout the project.
- Working to understand and respect the protocols of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliiwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.
- Making visible the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliiwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations' history, culture, and spiritual connections in the West End.
- Working to understand Coast Salish laws for environmental stewardship, and how these can be applied to WECH, so that the site can support Vancouverites to connect with their responsibility for the health of these lands and waters.

A Shared Vision

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




Vision

The West End Community Hub celebrates Vancouver's connection to xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliiwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) cultures, and supports play, learning, creativity and wellness for all people.

Principles

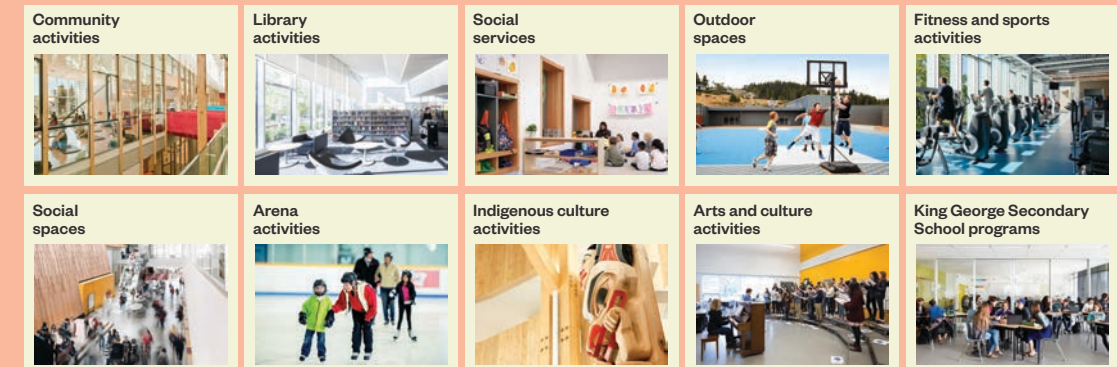
The West End Community Hub will:

Make visible and strengthen connection to Coast Salish people, history, and culture.	Weave the fabric of our communities together, creating a safe, inclusive, accessible, equitable place that is	Be integrated, flexible, and responsive to changing community needs.	Bring in sounds, sights, and experiences of the natural environment.
Provide spaces and plant the seeds for creativity, innovation and co-learning across cultures and generations.	Offer a mix of social spaces for celebrating, ceremony, spontaneous connections, or finding quiet.	Grow community and individual resilience by using seven-generation thinking.	 shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect



What activities and spaces should there be at the future West End Community Hub?

Fill out the survey to tell us about your hopes for:



Complete the survey at shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect
Paper versions available at community locations.

What kind of community activities should there be?



The West End Community Centre will be replaced to better serve a growing, diverse, and dynamic neighbourhood. We would like to understand what community activities and spaces you want to see in the future community hub.

Community activities

Potential spaces and activities:

- Drop-in child-minding
- Opportunities to make and share food, take food classes
- Bookable multi-purpose rooms
- Gardening
- Games room
- Other



What types of programs should be offered to students?



The Vancouver School District has identified King George Secondary School in its annual capital plan to request funding for a future expansion.

In addition to the primary instructional spaces established by provincial standards, the Vancouver School District is interested in understanding what potential elective programs students and families would like to see in their future proposed school.

Pending approval and funding from the Ministry of Education, the proposed expansion would be larger than the existing school, with a potential 1000-student capacity. This expansion would respond to the growing youth population in the school catchment area.

Visit govsb.ca/weconnect for specific information.

Educational Programs

Possible elective programs:

- Athletics programs
- Woodworking
- Metalworking
- Automotive
- Drama/performance
- Visual arts (2D and 3D)
- Photography and media arts
- Drafting
- Maker spaces
- Robotics
- Dance
- Music: choir, band
- Food preparation
- Other



What kind of social services are most important?



The social services currently offered at the West End Community Centre will be replaced to better serve a growing, diverse, and dynamic neighbourhood. We would like to understand what social services activities and spaces you want to see in the future community hub.

Social services

Potential spaces and activities:

- Childcare programs for toddlers and two-year-olds
- Licensed pre-school childcare
- Licensed before and after school childcare
- Tool and equipment borrowing
- Seniors activities
- Support for newcomers
- Support for LGBTQ2SAI+ people
- Support for underhoused people
- Other



What fitness and sports activities do you want to see?



The fitness & sports facilities currently offered at the West End Community Centre will be replaced to better serve a growing, diverse, and dynamic neighbourhood. We would like to understand what fitness & sports activities and spaces you want to see in the future community hub.

Fitness and Sport activities

Potential spaces and activities:

- Fitness centre
- Fitness and wellness class
- Organized sports league or program
- Drop-in / casual sports
- Racquetball / squash
- Indoor walking/running track
- Indoor rock climbing
- Gymnastics
- Dance programs
- Other



What arena activities are most important to you?

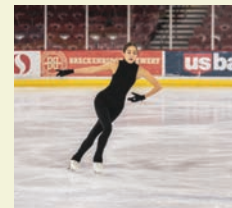


The existing arena at the West End Community Centre will be replaced to meet current standards. We would like to understand what activities you would like offered in a renewed arena in the future community hub.

Arena activities

Potential spaces and activities:

- Ice skating for fun
- Ice skating lessons
- Organized ice sports
- Watching ice sports, other tournaments and special events
- Lacrosse, ball hockey, or inline hockey
- Inline skating or lessons
- Other



What arts and culture activities should there be?

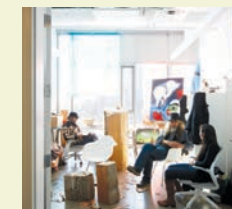
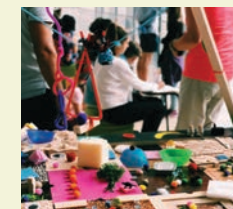


Dedicated arts and culture spaces are a growing need in the West End community. We want to understand how the future West End Community Hub can best meet the West End's arts and cultural space needs.

Arts and culture activities

Potential spaces and activities:

- Pottery
- Woodworking
- Photography
- Arts and crafts
- Visual arts
- Artist in residence
- Dance programs
- Practice music
- Theatre and performing arts
- Other



What library activities are important to you?

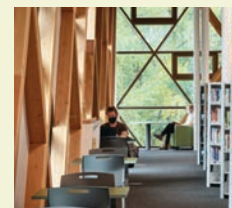
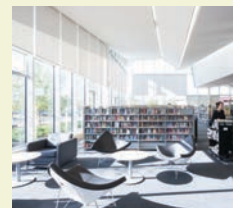


With the growing downtown and West End population, a revitalized Joe Fortes branch of the Vancouver Public Library is important for this community to meet the growing need for library services. A new Joe Fortes branch will help meet the need for an inspiring place to study, work, relax, and connect with others. We would like to understand what library activities you want to see in the future community hub.

Library activities

Potential spaces and activities:

- Accessing popular books, newspapers, magazines and media
- Accessing information in books, on databases or the internet
- Reading the newspaper
- Using technology / computer stations
- Programs for children and families
- Programs for adults and seniors
- Early learning play space for children
- Collaborative spaces to work and study
- Multipurpose room with kitchenette
- Breakout meeting rooms
- Maker space for crafts / digital creation
- Private video conferencing booths
- Casual seating
- Other



What should outdoor spaces look like?

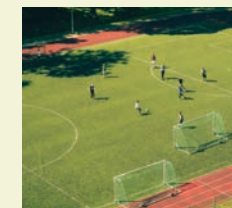
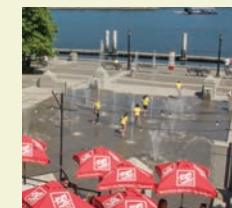


A principle guiding the development of the future site is "Bring in sounds, sights, and experiences of the natural environment". The future outdoor spaces could offer social connection, recreation, and celebrate Indigenous culture, while creating a safe and inclusive environment for co-learning and spontaneous connections. We would like to understand what outdoor spaces you want to see in the future community hub.

Outdoor spaces

Potential spaces and activities:

- Gathering in small groups
- Gathering in larger groups
- Open space
- Sport playfield space
- Tennis courts, table tennis, or adult oriented exercise equipment
- Public playground
- Trees and plants
- Other



How could social spaces connect us?

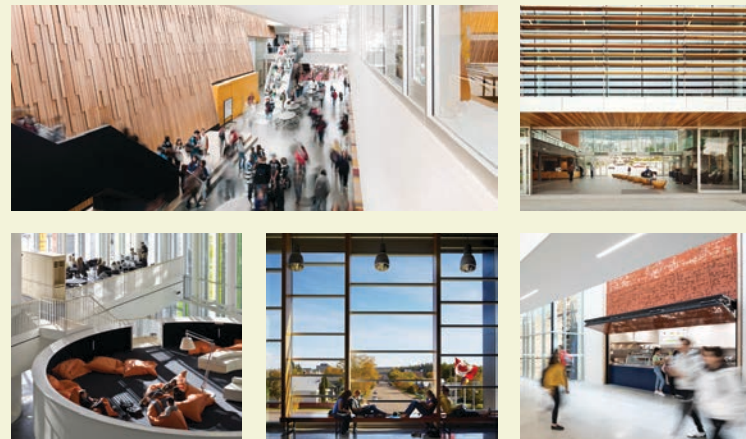


A principle guiding the development of the future site is "Offering a mix of social spaces for celebrating, ceremony, spontaneous connections, or finding quiet." We would like to understand what social spaces and activities you want to see in the future community hub.

Social spaces

Potential spaces and activities:

- Meeting friends or new people
- Community celebrations, ceremonies or special events
- Space to study, read, or hangout
- Purchasing food
- Enjoying local public art
- Information on social and support services
- Learning about local history and culture
- Other



How can Indigenous Peoples' needs be met?



A principle guiding the development of the future site is "Make visible and strengthen connections to Coast Salish people, history, and culture." The WECH project aims to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples while supporting neighbourhood aspirations

We would like to understand how the future community hub can meet the needs of Indigenous Peoples. We would particularly like to hear from people that identify as Indigenous.

Indigenous culture activities

Potential spaces and activities:

- Connecting with other Indigenous people
- Indigenous community celebrations, ceremonies or special events
- Creating art and connecting with Indigenous artists
- Space for intergenerational learning
- Indigenous focused library collections
- Learning about Indigenous foods / plants
- Indigenous art
- Accessing other culturally safe social and support services
- Participating in and hosting sports tournaments
- Other



Have a chance to win a \$50 cash prize

What do you want to do at the future West End Community Hub? Respond in the survey.

Complete the survey at shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect
Paper versions available at community locations.

For survey, online open house, and full details, scan the QR code or visit the URL below.
Translations are available in Korean (한국어), Farsi (فارسی) and Spanish (Español)
Survey and community input closes March 1st.



WE.CONNECT



Engagement social media posts

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

The West End Community Hub is being renewed

What elective programs would you like to see in the future King George Secondary School?

Enter for a chance to win a \$50 cash prize

Have your say. Get involved.

For survey, online open house, and full details, scan the QR code or visit the URL below.

Survey and community input closes March 1st.

shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

**W.E.
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King George Secondary School

Joe Fortes Library

West End Community Centre

What would you like to do at the future West End Community Hub?

HAVE YOUR SAY. GET INVOLVED.

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Appendix C.

Site Scenarios Engagement Details

This appendix provides an overview of the process and summary of findings during the site development scenarios engagement in spring 2023. This appendix provides additional data, information boards used during community events and additional promotional assets shared with the community.

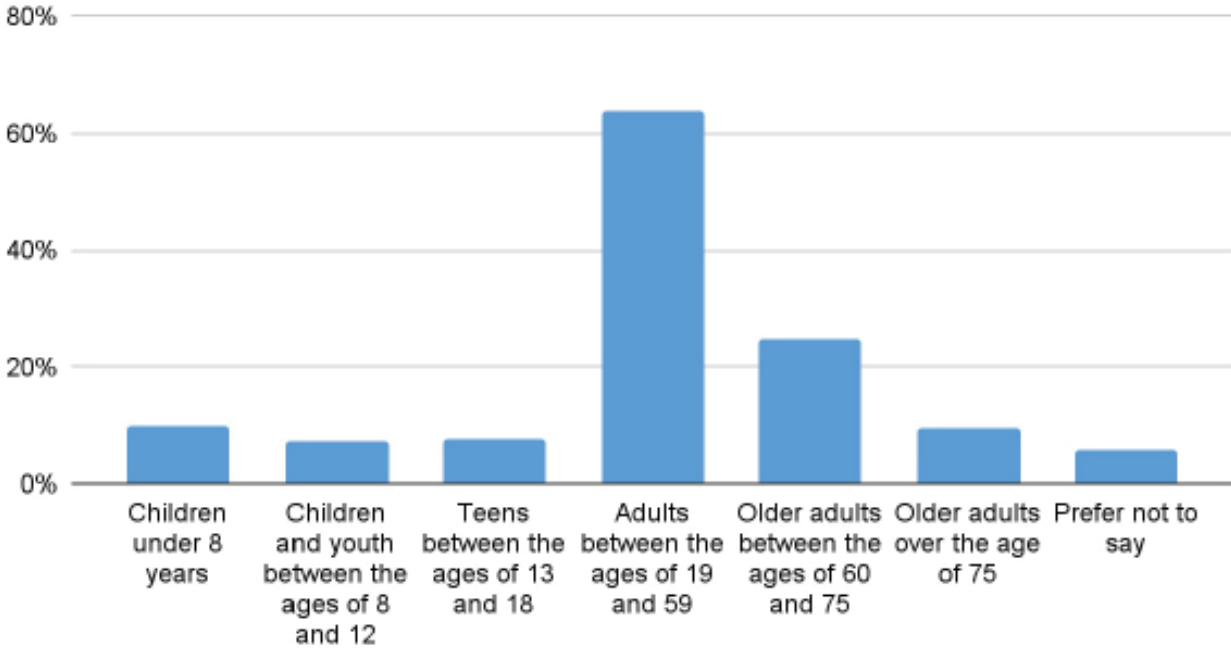
Site scenarios engagement participants

Participant ages

The survey had an optional question about the age(s) of the people in respondents' household. Over two-thirds of respondents come from households with adults between the ages of 19 and 59. A third of the respondents come from households with seniors — 25% being between the ages of 60 and 75 and 9% being over the age of 75. About a quarter of respondents come from households with youth, with 17% having children under the age of 12 and 8% having teenagers.

When people arrived at the open houses, they were invited to voluntarily answer similar demographic questions, although this time they were asked just about themselves and not their household. The data collected indicates that the open houses, despite having a modest number of participants, were successful in reaching older adults and youth. For the open house held at the auditorium of the West End Community Centre, over two-thirds indicated they were seniors—43% being between the ages of 60 and 75 and 19% being over the age of 75. For the open house held at the gymnasium of King George Secondary School, 41% of participants were youth, with almost all youth being students at the secondary school.

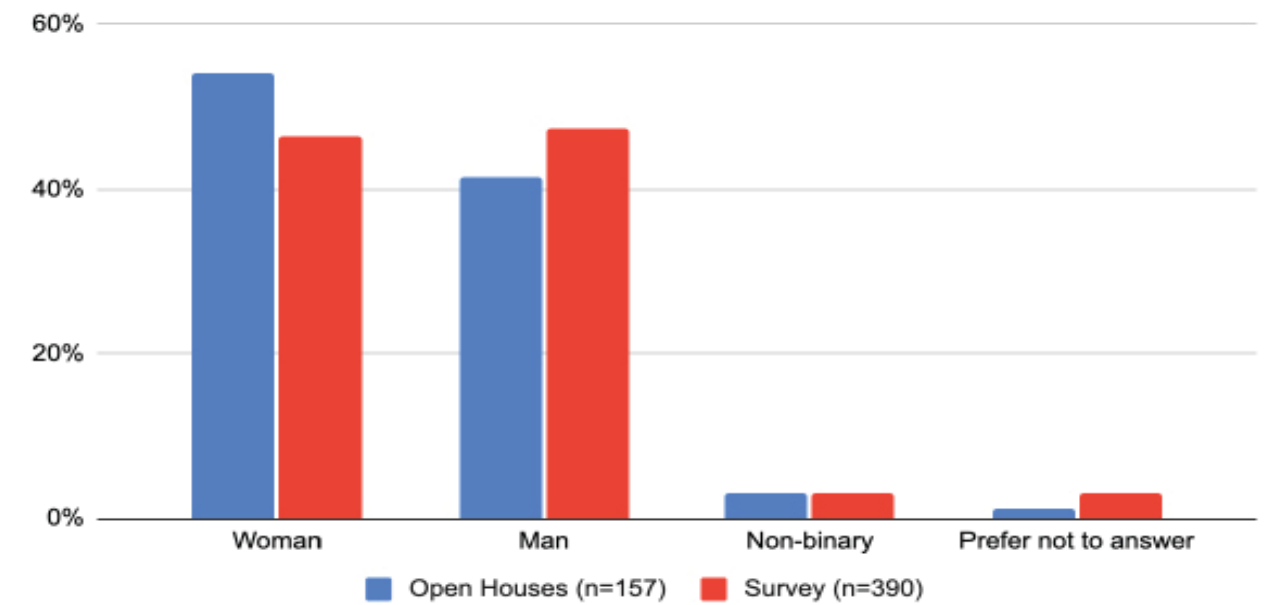
Ages of People in Survey Respondent Households (n = 390)



Participant gender

Respondents to the survey were evenly distributed with regards to identifying as man and woman, while only 3% identified as persons who are non-binary or gender fluid. Participants of the open houses had a slightly higher percentage of women represented.

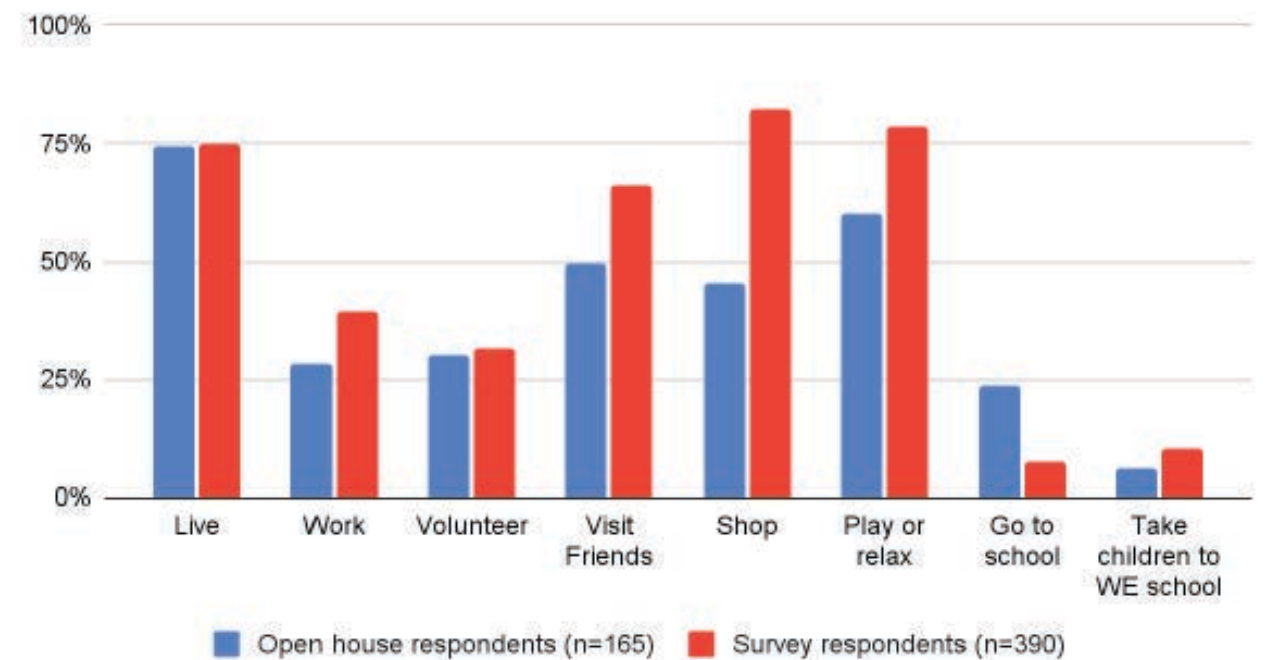
Participant Gender



Participant relationship with the West End

An overwhelming majority of all participants indicated that they live, shop, or enjoy recreation in the West End, respectively. Of note, 35% participants of the open house held at the gymnasium of King George Secondary School indicated that they attend a school in the West End (data from the two open houses is not broken out separately in this chart).

West End activities in the last year



What we heard from the community

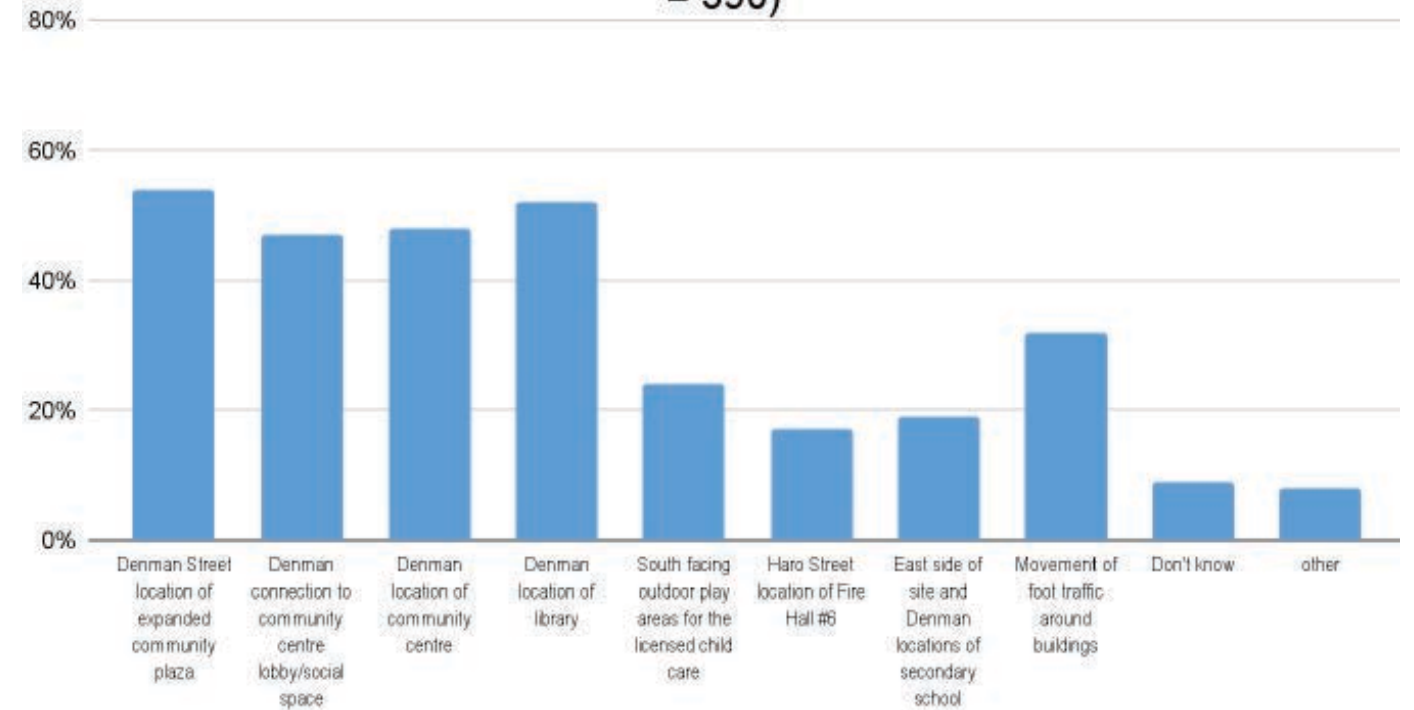
The online survey asked participants to identify strengths for each scenario from provided lists, with an option to add additional strengths. At the open houses, pop-ups, as well as in the online survey's challenges section, participants wrote down ideas they wanted to share. Results of this input are provided below.

Scenario A Feedback: Community uses on Denman, Education uses on Barclay and Denman

Strengths of Scenario A

When asked about the strengths of Scenario A, the top four survey responses were related to the types of spaces on Denman Street. Over half (54%) of all survey respondents see the Denman Street location of an expanded community plaza as a strength. The Denman location of the library was seen as a strength by 52% of respondents, while 48% saw the Denman location of the community centre as a strength. The Denman connection to the community centre lobby or social space was supported by 48% of respondents.

What do you believe are the strengths of Scenario A? Select all that apply (n = 390)

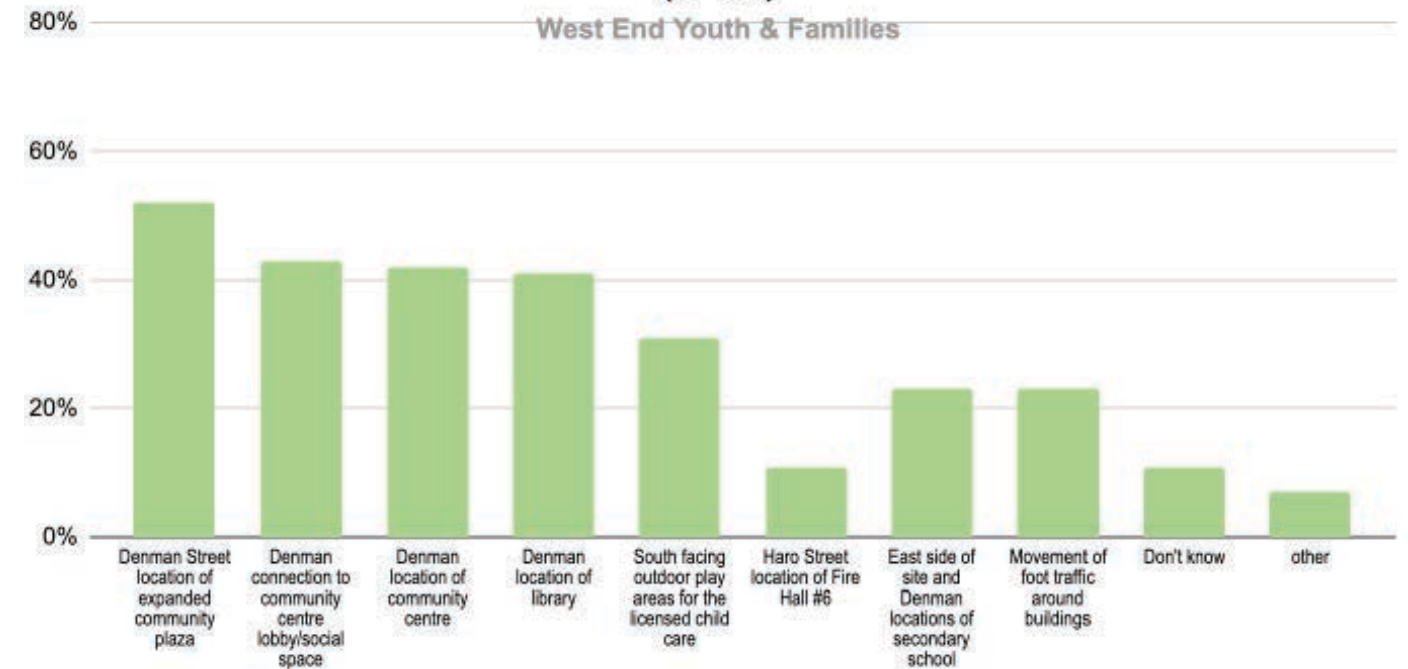


Strengths of Scenario A: youth and family perspectives

A subset of the survey respondents were people who identified as “Teens between the ages of 13 and 18,” and people who “Take my children to a West End school”. Responses from this subset group are included in the chart on the previous page. The chart on this page shows only the responses from this youth and family subset.

West End youth and families input on the strengths of Scenario A are similar to the overall group of survey respondents, but with slightly lower levels of support for the Denman location of the library and movement of foot traffic around buildings. Youth and families also had a slightly higher level of support for the south-facing outdoor play areas for the licensed childcare.

What do you believe are the strengths of Scenario A? Select all that apply (n=91)



Scenario A feedback: Community uses on Denman, Education uses on Barclay and Denman

Strengths of Scenario A

Comments about the scenario strengths were collected at the pop-ups and open houses. The main strengths shared by these participants about the features of Scenario A were also about the Denman-facing aspects of this scenario:

A. Atrium facing onto Denman Street, which would act as a combined entrance for the library and community centre, as it could:

Allow for easy accessibility for patrons of the future community hub, whether it be for the library, community centre, or childcare facilities

“Accessibility for all sites is easy from Denman.”

“The Denman entrance offers more opportunity for integrating community centre activity with the daily retail and to-and-from work activities of locals.”

B. Expanded community plaza located on Denman Street, as it could:

Create public space in a high-profile location

“Offers a real option for more outdoor play and community events and gathering spaces.”

“Like that Denman Street is broken up with public space accessible from Denman.”

Help integrate the various uses of the site

“Seems more organic and integrated but like that the bulk of the school is towards rear of site.”

“Feels like field is enclosed in an inclusive way.”

Other strengths mentioned less frequently by the community include

C. Locations of the secondary school on the east side of site and Denman Street, as it could

Offer a creative, campus-like format

“Student preferred: reminds me of a university campus format.”

“Feels more free for students’ creativity.”

Allow for unique programming opportunities for the Denman-facing building, leaving the main school building at the back of the site to hold traditional programming

“Good to have separate student programming along Denman to consider sound-sensitive programming.”

“School is still tucked behind, which makes it safe.”

D. South-facing, outdoor play areas for the licensed childcare, as it could:

Offer novel outdoor programming

“Top floors may have room for community gardens!”

“The top outdoor spaces of the community centre is cool.”

E. Movement of foot traffic around buildings, as it could:

Promote foot traffic flow through the site while providing useful connections among the site

“Path is helpful for connecting the school sections.”

“Good mobility and flow of whole site”

Connect Denman Street directly to the various components of the site

“Having school, library, and community centre all accessible from Denman.”

“Encourages people to come in to watch the games on the field from Denman.”

Scenario A feedback: Community uses on Denman, Education uses on Barclay and Denman

Challenges and opportunities for improvement for Scenario A

All participants (survey, open house, and pop-up) provided their feedback about challenges and opportunities for improvement through open-ended comments. The main themes about challenges or areas to improve Scenario A were:

A. Separation of school buildings between the east side of site and along Denman, as it could:

Lead to logistical constraints due to the lengthier time for travel between the buildings

“As a previous teacher, separation of school is not good for travelling students between classes.”

“Tight time to get to class in the split set up of school.”

Divide the school community if used for a special program or unique classes

“Splits the school community: see mini schools in Churchill and Point Grey, which are segregated.”

“Depending on the intended purposes for each of the secondary school buildings, having them separate may be a barrier to access for students.”

Might be sometimes awkward or inconvenient to travel between buildings

“I would like my son to be able to stay in one building. Rain can be an issue while travelling to a different building.”

“Having students go from the easternmost section to access school facilities in the westernmost section of this space doesn't make sense.”

B. Haro Street location of Firehall No. 6, as it could:

Clash with other Haro Street users, which is a traffic-calmed and designated cycling street

“Haro is a bike street, so it does not allow traffic to go through at Cardero. The fire trucks would have to go around the block to head east, wasting time.”

“This design would make it impossible to achieve the CoV's stated design goals for AAA bike routes at the very times (school start and finish) the street needs to be the most safe for students using active transport to travel to and from school.”

Impede fire truck maneuverability and efficiency

“Haro street is too narrow for a fire truck, especially a ladder truck.”

“Too much activity and traffic in one place; in case of emergency, it can be very problematic.”

Create challenges for merging onto connecting key roads, Denman Street and Robson Street

“Fire hall would be adjacent to a busy commercial area on Bidwell between Haro and Robson, a narrow street with lots of pedestrians.”

“Concerns around Denman traffic jam around rush hour.”

Be out of alignment with the site's community-oriented objectives

“Mistake to incorporate a firehall into a space to be shared with a school, library and recreational area that includes childcare and educational, health, and well-being classes. Fire halls are typically classified as low-hazard industrial occupancies.”

“Firehall block feels slightly out of place at the heart of the community plaza.”

Disrupt patrons of the community hub, especially the library and childcare facility

“Probably not the best for anyone in the school or library it would be a very noisy place to be.”

“Unless there is intense soundproofing, having a firehall beside/under a library and a childcare centre, where we assume babies and toddlers will be sleeping, sounds like a nightmare for people working or studying there.”

C. Denman Street location of a part of the school, as it could:

Lead to incompatibility with the commercial and social nature of the rest of Denman Street

“School shouldn’t be on the main streets like Denman because people are walking on Denman street usually, and high walls will destroy the appearance of the street.”

“Having a Secondary School so connected to the busy community space would not thrill me as a parent. I would want some obvious divisions.”

D. Denman Street location of the expanded community plaza, as it could:

Face challenges to be both safe and inclusive

“Possible tent encampments in the social space, and may become a beacon for people going there to smoke despite any “No Smoking” signs, as has happened to the Jim Deva Plaza.

“Community plaza is not welcoming right now. Only people who have nowhere else to go would use it. Future one would be the same.”

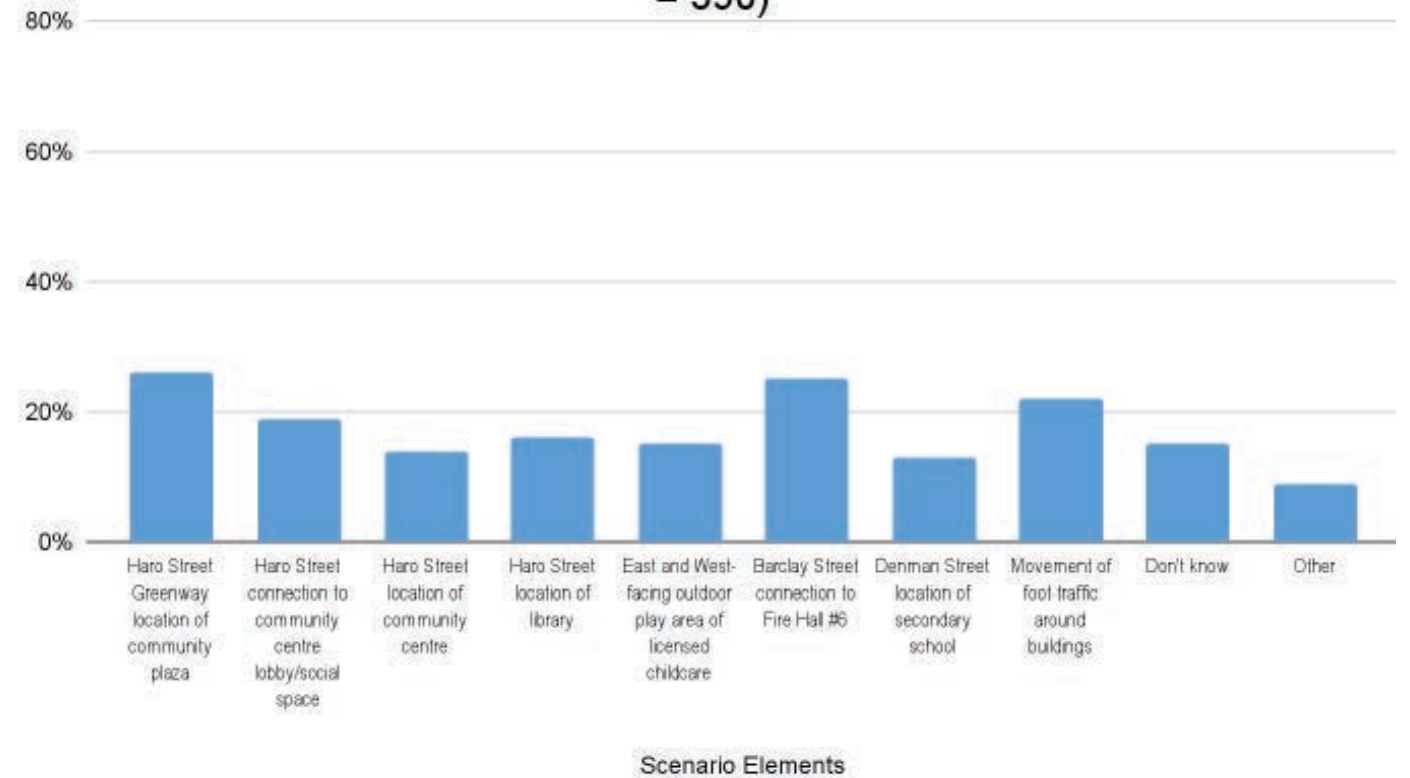
Scenario B feedback: Community uses on Barclay, Education uses on Denman

Strengths of Scenario B

Public input on Scenario B had lower overall levels of support in comparison to the other scenarios.

Survey respondents identified moderate support for the Haro Street Greenway location of a community plaza (26% support), the Barclay Street connection to Fire Hall No. 6 (25% support), and the movement of foot traffic around buildings (22% support).

What do you believe are the strengths of Scenario B? Select all that apply (n = 390)

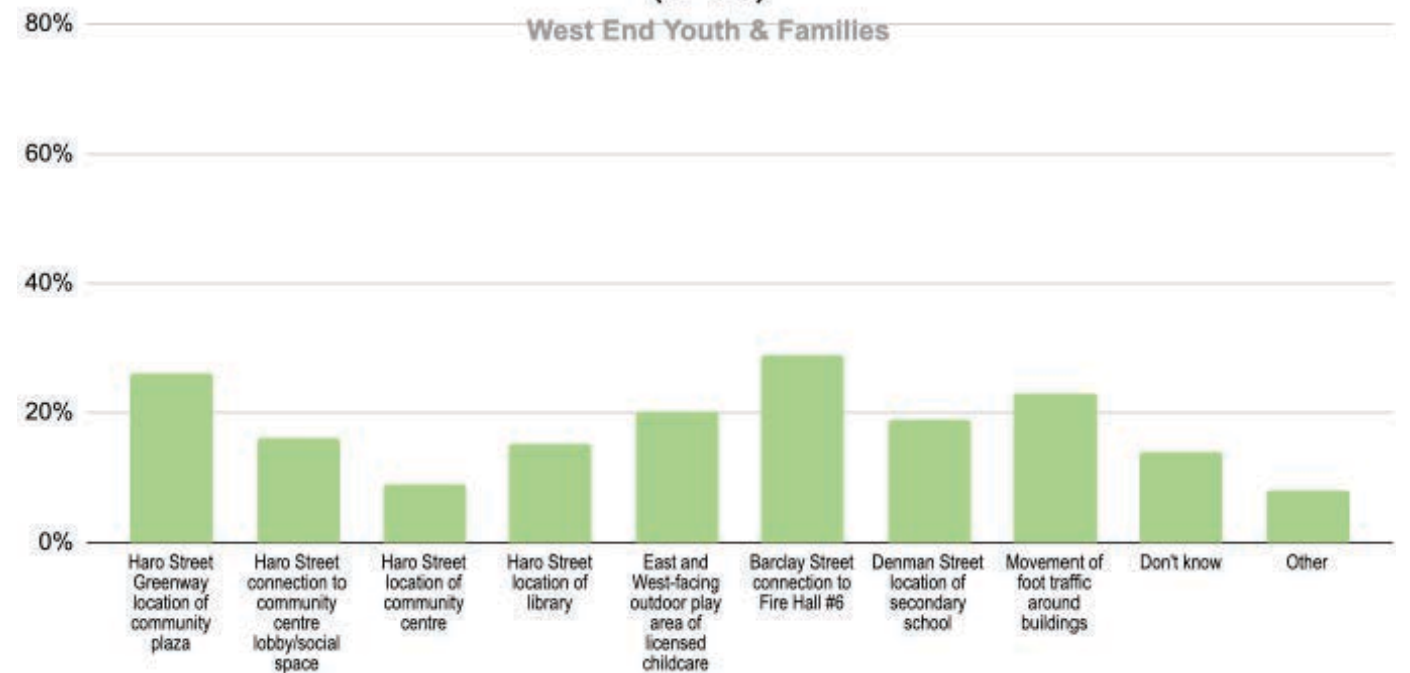


Strengths of Scenario B: youth and family perspectives

A subset of the survey respondents were people who identified as “Teens between the ages of 13 and 18,” and people who “Take my children to a West End school. Responses from this subset group are included in the chart on the previous page. The chart on this page shows only the responses from this youth and family subset.

West End youth and families input on the strengths of Scenario B are overall similar to the complete survey respondent group:

What do you believe are the strengths of Scenario B? Select all that apply (n=91)



Scenario B Feedback: Community uses on Barclay, Education uses on Denman

Strengths of Scenario B

Comments about the scenario strengths were collected at the pop-ups and open houses. The relatively moderate strengths about Scenario B identified by the community were:

A. The Barclay Street connection to Firehall No. 6, as it could:

Allow for more options for how fire trucks can exit the firehall

"The firehall is located on a really good place because is next to a quiet street which is probably easier exit for emergencies." *"Firehall has two streets to access/exit."*

B. The Haro Street location of the community centre and library, as it could:

Be insulated from noise pollution and more distracting aspects of Denman Street

"More quiet and interesting to have community service area in the back. Students can deal with cars and noise much better. Commercial aspect of Denman is more attractive for students." *"Nice to have community uses and library at the back of site to be more quiet."*

Allow for easy connection to Robson Street via Bidwell Street

"The Bidwell Street connection is very important, as it is currently awkward to walk from Barclay to Haro across the King George parking lot and field." *"It's close to Robson Street and stores, which students often go to."*

Offer a village feel to have a community hub nestled within the neighbourhood

"Community Centre and library is closer to residential areas so requires less walking for residents from Bidwell and south." *"Gives more intimate social spaces."*

C. The Denman Street location of secondary school, as it could:

Allow for increased accessibility and more dynamic liveliness for student experience

"Easier access to school by bus." *"Students may appreciate school being animated by location on Denman."*

D. The Haro Street Greenway location of community plaza, as it could:

Allow for a more tranquil and scenic path for patrons to move across the site

"Good to keep green space along Haro." *"Less obstruction of light and view of North Shore mountains."*

Scenario B feedback: Community uses on Barclay, Education uses on Denman

Challenges and opportunities for improvement for Scenario B

The main challenges or opportunities for improvements identified by survey respondents, open house attendees, pop-up visitors and other streams of input were:

A. The Denman Street location of secondary school, as it could:

Be noisy and potentially disrupt the school environment

"The secondary school would likely benefit from being located in a quieter part of the property, making it easier for teachers to teach their classes and students to work on assignments and learn without outside distractions from the busyness of Denman Street."

"With my children going to high school in the West End, I see a community centre being more appropriate or fitting to have along Denman Street to allow students to have a less distracting experience in class from being on a main street."

Reduce opportunities to further activate Denman Street, and may create a passive space on Denman Street

"This option really misses out on the opportunity to activate Denman Street in a way the current Community Centre does and which the current High School does not."

"As a pedestrian, I would avoid this block. Community amenities feel hidden away on Haro."

Produce security and safety challenges

"I really feel for the kids that they don't have a private space to learn and socialize. It's inevitable that there will be homeless people lounging on the plaza and around the library, but I feel that the design of the hub could make it so that they are less likely to lounge around the secondary school."

"I don't think school entrance should be on Denman. It is a busy sidewalk area and I don't think it is safe/manageable to add additional pedestrian traffic for school children."

Reduce integration of the hub with the rest of the West End community

"The community centre will get the most use and draw the widest variety of people in, so it doesn't make sense to 'hide' it in the back. It should have a 'front door presence' on Denman St."

"What other schools are placed on a commercial street where the building doesn't blend with the surrounding? The library and community centre are more appropriate to balance the foot traffic and nature of Denman. The existing school building on Denman is closed off and uninviting to most residents."

B. The Barclay Street connection to Firehall No. 6, as it could:

Face challenges exiting the firehall in a quick manner during peak traffic periods

"Would it make more sense for fire trucks to have direct access to Denman Street?"

"Fire hall being in that street might not be the best idea because it is a very small street to turn and also normally filled with cars on both sides of the street so it would probably be a problem during emergency time."

Interfere with and disrupt community uses of the site

"There might be a safety issue with locating a childcare centre and fire hall in the same building (eg: when parents are picking up children and there is an alarm at the same time), although this scenario seems to be better than Scenario A."

"Onsite emergency sounds good in theory but the noise from the fire hall alarm is intense. It will cause a lot of disruption of quiet spaces such as the library and children napping at the childcare centre."

C. The Haro Street locations of the community centre and library, as it could:

Be less accessible for a wide range of people in the community

"The school will wall off pedestrian access from Denman. Tucking the community centre into the residential area will undermine the new structure's profile and significance as a central hub."

"Feels like a community centre and library are hidden away behind the school. I think they should be more public-facing (i.e. on Denman), since they're there for the public and they represent the neighbourhood to some degree."

Be harder to access for passersby and newcomers if community resources are “hidden” and not along transit routes

“Removing all the public services from the most heavily trafficked street in the West End and hiding them behind a school, whose grounds community centre and library patrons will need to cross in order to access these services, makes very little sense. Denman has all the bus stops, stores, restaurants, and destinations in the West End. Forcing seniors, disabled people, the unhoused, and everyone else who needs access to public services to walk an extra city block through a high school creates unnecessary barriers when we should be focusing on how to make our public services more accessible for everyone.”

“Library should be near the bus stop on Denman for seniors and people with mobility issues.”

“I prefer to have the community centre located on Denman Street as it makes it more accessible to transit and perhaps also for people who are less mobile.”

Not support the site’s objective as serving as a community hub

“Why have a community centre that’s off the primary street and which is perhaps hard to find?”

“Community centre and associated social spaces feel disconnected from most public areas of the street. It will be harder for newcomers and people from other areas of the city to find.”

D. The Haro Street Greenway location of the community plaza, as it could

Be hard to discover and access from the main areas of foot traffic in the community

“I think the community centre and plaza entrances should be directly connected to Denman St. to enable accessibility and visibility from the businesses and foot traffic along Denman.”

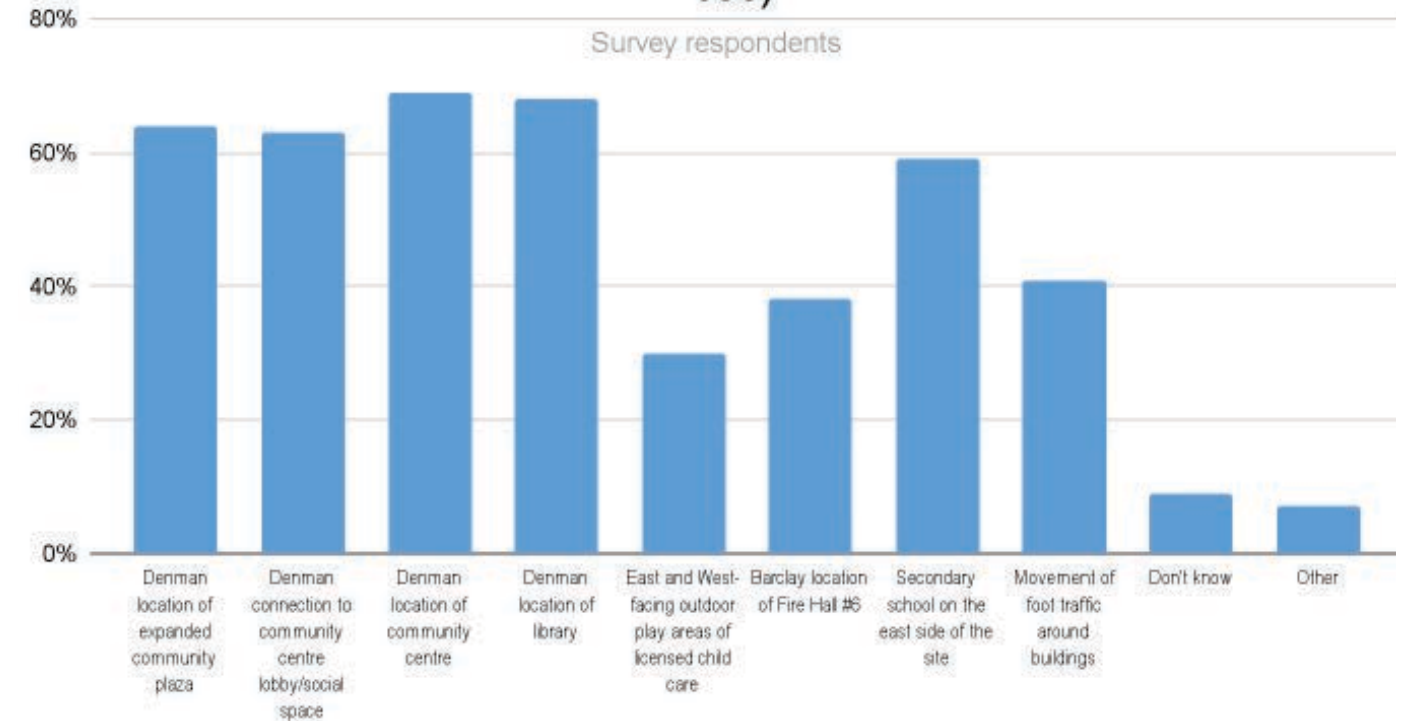
“The community plaza is hidden away with no way to draw activity from Denman or even any indication that exists.”

Scenario C feedback: Community uses on Denman, Education uses on Barclay

Strengths of Scenario C

When asked about the strengths of Scenario C, approximately two-thirds of survey respondents pointed to the Denman location of the community centre, library, community plaza, and community centre lobby or social space. The secondary school's location on the east side of the site also received high support. Many other elements of the scenario were highly supported as well.

What do you believe are the strengths of Scenario C? Select all that apply (n = 390)

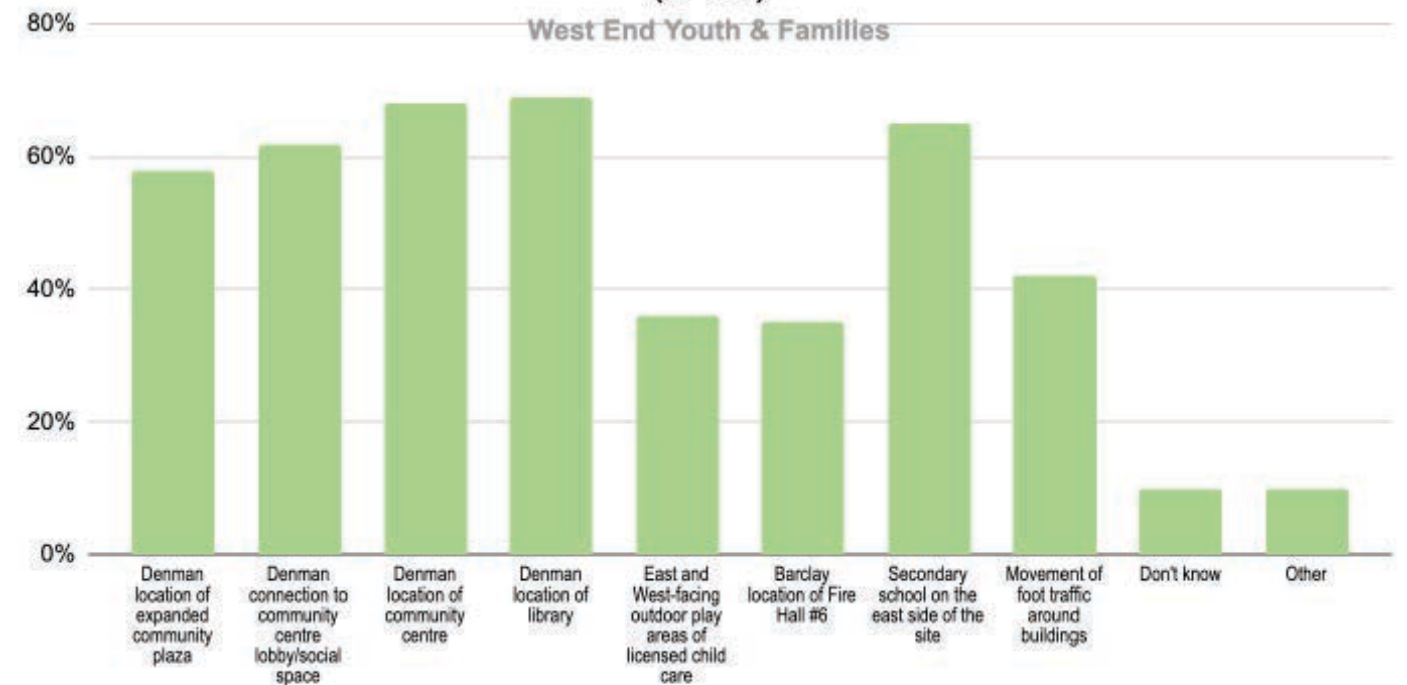


Strengths of Scenario C: youth and family perspectives

A subset of the survey respondents were people who identified as “Teens between the ages of 13 and 18,” and people who “Take my children to a West End school.” Responses from this subset group are included in the chart on the previous page. The chart on this page shows only the responses from this youth and family subset.

West End youth and families input on the strengths of Scenario C are overall similar to the complete survey respondent group, with slightly higher support for the secondary school on the east side of the site, and slightly lower support for the Denman location of expanded community plaza.

What do you believe are the strengths of Scenario C? Select all that apply (n=91)



Scenario C feedback: Community uses on Denman, Education uses on Barclay

Strengths of Scenario C

Pop-up and open house participants shared additional perspectives about the strengths of Scenario C. The main strengths identified by the community were:

A. Denman locations of the library and community centre, as together they could:

Offer easy exposure and discoverability for passersby and newcomers to the community in a welcoming way

“Walking on Denman as main street allows for good exposure for community to discover.”

“It also provides a more welcoming atmosphere for visitors who often stop by asking questions about the area and directions for the rest of the city.”

Integrate well with the community due to having continuity with the foot traffic on Denman Street

“Foster community by having the community centre on Denman rather than being tucked away.”

Be accessible and safe for a wide range of people in the community

“Seniors’ use of space should be close to transit.”

“Night visits to community centre are safer to access off of Denman.”

“This design makes the most sense for ensuring accessibility to the library and community centre by having them on the main walking street of Denman.”

Activate the sidewalk and continue the liveliness along Denman Street

“It puts the new community hub front and centre on Denman St and focuses all that energy and vibrancy in a unified building towards the neighbourhood shopping street!”

“No dead space for pedestrians.”

“With this, the block has the most active street edge.”

B. The secondary school located on the east side of the site, as it could:

Be protected from disruptions and noise pollution

“The secondary school is on the more protected “insular” eastern portion of the property.”

“Quieter location of the school for fewer disruptions to students.”

Be a more safe and secure environment for students

“Safer for kids being away from the big street.”

“Privacy and safety for students - is better to be away.”

Offer easier pickup logistics for parents

“Parking and pickup for school works best in this configuration.”

C. Denman connection to the community centre lobby/social space, as it could:

Be more welcoming and inviting to patrons and passersby alike

“I like how the atrium allows access to the various components on site.”

“Having on Denman Street an open plaza welcoming patrons and a lobby on that side as well as an open (lots of glass I hope) library.”

D. The Denman location of an expanded community plaza, as it could

Serve as a central public space for social gatherings, while being a welcoming area to the rest of the community hub

“Places the plaza up front on Denman, where most foot traffic is, highly visible location of community centre and library and allows easier transition to site with school at east end (better integrated to residential area).”

“Creates more possibility for the use of the community plaza and a hangout place for West End residents.”

Other strengths identified by the community include:

E. The Barclay location of Firehall No. 6, as it could:

Be less disruptive to the rest of the community

“Firehall does not exit onto a bike lane.”

“Firehall is separated from the school.”

Have better access to Denman Street

“Firehall is at least closer to Denman.”

“Firehall has better access to Denman.”

E. The movement of foot traffic around buildings, as it could:

Allow for a balance of easy foot traffic flow while also affording students with more privacy

“Foot traffic flow around buildings is natural and gives some level of privacy to the school and kids that attend it.”

“I think the separation between community space and school makes most sense for traffic flow on sidewalks and streets.”

Scenario C feedback: Community uses on Denman, Education uses on Barclay

Challenges and opportunities for improvement for Scenario C

The main challenges or opportunities for improvements identified by survey respondents, open house attendees, pop-up visitors and other streams of input were:

A. The Barclay location of Firehall No. 6, as it could:

Disrupt community hub patrons and the wider residential community

"Fire hall would be frightening for children and seniors, and disturbing for the students."

"Don't want a fire hall as part of this development. That's for the convenience of the service providers, not for the benefit of the community."

Prevent easy manoeuvrability and efficiency for exiting fire trucks

"The intersection at Barclay and Denman is not an easy one for emergency vehicles as it is often more congested than Haro or Nelson."

"The location of this fire hall shares the same problems as Scenario A. Barclay is too narrow and the fire hall is not situated at an intersection. Fire trucks will not be able to manoeuvre easily. I'd be surprised if a ladder truck can manage to back in."

B. The Denman location of the expanded community plaza, as it could:

Be restricted in space and flow

"I like this one, but I think the plaza location of Scenario A with the ability to walk through to the field is better."

"Breaking up the massing of community centre could allow more pedestrian access into the plaza beyond."

Be unattractive to some users by being adjacent to a busy commercial street

"Denman is a noisy, busy street and having the community plaza directly on Denman Street may discourage people, especially those with young children from fully utilizing the plaza."

"I think any community plaza would be a lot nicer away from the traffic on Denman. No loud and pollutant cars and trucks going by endlessly."

C. The location of the childcare spaces, as there could:

Be disruption for the childcare users

"I don't like that this scenario has the childcare closer to the busier street."

"Having a firehall under a childcare centre, where we assume babies and toddlers will be sleeping, sounds like a nightmare for people working there. Unless there is intense soundproofing, the kids are going to wake up every time the fire trucks go out."

Engagement boards

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



Joe Fortes Public Library

West End Community Centre

King George Secondary School

How would you like to see the future West End Community Hub take shape?

The future West End Community Hub (WECH) will include a renewed West End Community Centre, King George Secondary School, Joe Fortes Library, a relocation of Fire Hall No. 6 and other important facilities.

Leading this effort is a group of partners including the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver School District and the West End Community Centre Association.

West End Community Hub Renewal Plan

This project will produce the West End Community Hub Renewal Plan, which is a document that will guide the renewal of the WECH, including buildings, programming and outdoor spaces.

Since 2021, the community has helped create a vision and provide feedback on what activities and spaces they would like for the future WECH.

Now, we are asking the community to explore renewal scenarios and share feedback for how the buildings and spaces could take shape and come together to create the WECH.

Planning
WINTER - SUMMER 2021
Research and planning for engagement.

Vision & Principals
FALL 2021
Create a vision grounded in Indigenous teaching and West End experiences.

Spaces & Activities
WINTER 2022
Plan how people will use spaces and activities for the future community hub.

Scenarios
SPRING 2023
Share draft scenarios for how the community hub takes shape, and receive community feedback.

Final Plan
FALL 2023
Share plan with community, and final plan submitted to project partners.

PROJECT PARTNERS



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Shared Vision

In fall 2021, hundreds of community members helped create a vision for the future WECH.

Knowledge holders, artists and youth from each of the three Host Nations - xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) - guided the engagement process, helped develop the vision and principles, and refined the spaces and activities.

Vision

The West End Community Hub celebrates Vancouver's connection to xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) cultures, and supports play, learning, creativity and wellness for all people.



West End Community Hub site

Principles

The West End Community Hub will...

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

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

Be integrated, flexible, and responsive to community needs for life-long learning and public education, recreation, social and cultural spaces.

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

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

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

Grow community and individual resilience by using seven-generation thinking (*Indigenous teaching to include ancestors and future generations in decision making*).

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Reconciliation in Action



Grounded in Coast Salish Identities and Knowledge

The WECH planning process and future facility is rooted in xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) ways of knowing, working together and storytelling.

Coast Salish artists, mentees, and Knowledge Holders are guiding the WECH project to ensure that the renewal planning process is based on relevant values, stories, and contemporary understanding and experiences of Indigenous persons actively learning about and practicing their culture.



Sunset People - Angela George

Cedar Mother - Chrystal Sparrow

Strength in Community - Cory Douglas

WECH Framework for Reconciliation

Collaborating with project partners, Coast Salish artists helped develop a WECH framework to advance reconciliation:

The West End of Vancouver is a culturally and historically rich location for Coast Salish people. Through art and storytelling, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) perspectives guided the process of developing a vision and principles for the West End Community Hub.

The WECH Project Partners know that Vancouver's identity is strengthened by connecting, learning, and celebrating xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) culture.

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

The WECH Project Partners are committed to advancing reconciliation by:

- Reflecting Coast Salish culture and identity throughout the project.
- Working to understand and respect the protocols of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.
- Making visible the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations' history, culture, and spiritual connections in the West End.
- Working to understand Coast Salish laws for environmental stewardship, and how these can be applied to WECH, so that the site can support Vancouverites to connect with their responsibility for the health of these lands and waters.

Indigenous Culture and Knowledge in the WECH
To see these reconciliation efforts realized, please refer to 'Your Future Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Spaces' board.

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Your Future Community Centre & Arena



We heard that it's important for the spaces in the future community centre to be accessible, inclusive and aligned with current and anticipated community needs.

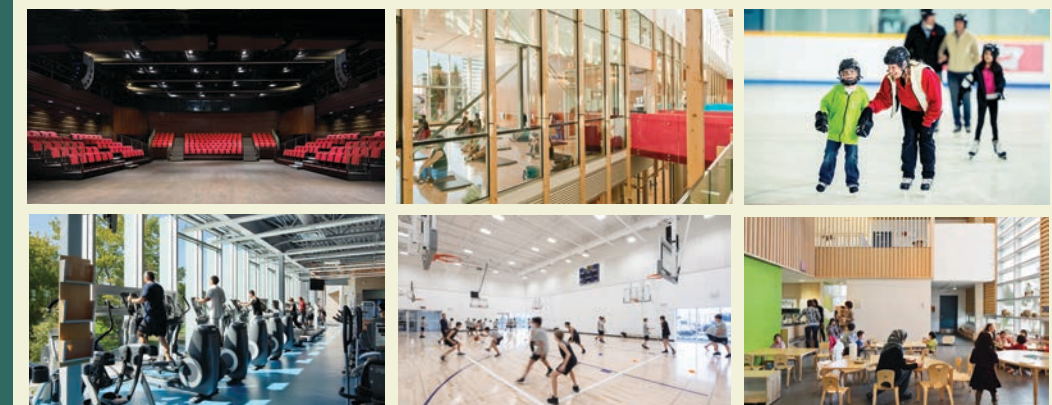
VanPlay is the decision making guide for the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation. VanPlay identified the need for five new ice sheets throughout the City by 2040 and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is considering the WECH for a regulation-size ice arena.

Indigenous Culture and Knowledge spaces will be integrated into the future community centre and library to make visible and strengthen connections to Coast Salish people, history and culture, while ensuring these spaces are welcoming to a diversity of cultures.

What we heard

Community priorities for community centre and arena spaces and activities

- Low-barrier programs that meet needs of people experiencing homelessness, LGBTQ2SAI+ people, and newcomers
- Expand childcare services
- Expand arts and culture programs and facilities, including pottery and photography
- Fitness center and fitness and wellness classes
- Activities and programming for seniors and parents with young children
- Space to study, read and hang out
- Space to gather for celebrations, ceremonies or special events
- Outdoor places to gather that include trees and plants



Images above show the types of spaces and activities proposed for the WECH, and do not represent the site's future design.

What's being proposed

Based on community feedback, proposed spaces and activities for the community centre and arena include:

- Public entrance plaza
- Outdoor natural playground, event and informal gathering spaces
- Atrium and community gathering space
- Multipurpose gymnasium
- Fitness center, studio and change facilities
- Multipurpose rooms
- Space for warming/cooling shelter
- Community and teaching kitchen
- Mix of dedicated arts and culture space, which may include music, pottery, photography, and performance space shared with King George Secondary School
- Non-profit program space to deliver low-barrier programs
- Youth and senior-focused spaces
- Expanded licensed child care space
- Before and after school space
- NHL regulation-size ice arena

Aquatic amenities will be provided by the Vancouver Aquatic Centre, which is currently under renewal.

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Your Future Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Spaces



The WECH project aims to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples while supporting neighbourhood aspirations.

An Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Space will integrate future community centre and library shared spaces that are dedicated to making visible and strengthening connections to Coast Salish people, history, and culture while ensuring these spaces are welcome to all and can host a diversity of cultures.

What we heard

Community priorities for Indigenous Knowledge and culture spaces and activities

- 44 Ensure that Indigenous design and Indigenous knowledge are incorporated into the building
- 44 Many ideas were suggested to advance reconciliation, including having more Indigenous staff members at WECH, programs led by Indigenous persons, cross cultural programming, dedicated space for reconciliation-focused programming, as well as hosting Indigenous events, games, and tournaments



Images above show the types of spaces and activities proposed for the WECH, and do not represent the site's future design.

What's being proposed

Based on community feedback, proposed spaces and activities for the Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Spaces include:

- Indigenous library collections
- Indigenous focused audio and learning exhibits
- Cultural display spaces
- Elder in residence space
- Recording booths to support language revitalization
- Indigenous cultural practice studio
- Multipurpose room dedicated to cultural exchange
- Office space for First Nations liaison
- Outdoor Coast Salish medicinal garden
- Outdoor program and pavilion space

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Your Future King George Secondary School



The Vancouver School District has identified King George Secondary School in its annual capital plan to request funding for future expansion. Pending approval and funding from the Ministry of Education, the proposed expansion will provide a new seismically safe 1,000-1,200 student capacity secondary school, which would respond to the growing youth population in the school catchment area.

What we heard

Community priorities for the future King George Secondary School spaces and activities

- 44 Provide a wider range of courses and programs
- 44 Provide more services for students with special needs
- 44 Improve outdoor facilities for students
- 44 Expand and update school equipment



Images above show the types of spaces and activities proposed for the WECH, and do not represent the site's future design.

Future King George Secondary School spaces and activities will include:

- Instructional spaces established in alignment with provincial standards
- Space for administration, health, and counselling services established by province
- Outdoor playing field
- Outdoor education space

In addition to the required curriculum, the school will offer a wide range of electives in the liberal arts (Math, Language Arts, Science, and Humanities), performing and visual arts, physical and health education, and applied skills, design, and technology.

The new school will be designed to support student programming choice with spaces to support the delivery of exceptional and varied educational programs as well as facilitate co-curricular and extra-curricular involvement of students and staff, and the school community. The Vancouver School District is committed to

exploration of opportunities for development of additional education programming space such as:

- Enhanced performing arts space available to both the school community and for broader community use.
- Additional space with dedicated access for an adult learning center or to meet other emerging educational programming needs.

The Vancouver School District owns majority of the land on site and the priority for use of outdoor space is for delivery of educational programming and school sponsored extra-curricular events. Project partners will explore potential opportunities for additional community programming that do not conflict with school priorities.

Project partners understand the importance of community access to outdoor spaces. The West End Community Plan sets out a commitment to deliver on several community benefits to the neighbourhood. This includes improvements to outside spaces that are currently underway: West End Waterfront Parks and Beach Avenue Master Plan, Bute Greenway, Georgia Gateway Complete Street, and public space improvements to Davie, Denman and Robson Streets.

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Your Future Library



With the growing downtown and West End population, a revitalized Joe Fortes branch of the Vancouver Public Library is important for this community to meet the growing need for library services. A new Joe Fortes branch will help meet the need for an inspiring place to study, work, relax, and connect with others. This space will also make visible and strengthen connections to Coast Salish people.

What we heard

Community priorities for library spaces and activities

- Access to print materials, internet and computers
- Space for work and study, as well as for casual seating
- Spaces for early childhood learning
- Collaborative study tables and breakout meeting rooms
- Space for crafts and digital creation



Images above show the types of spaces and activities proposed for the WECH, and do not represent the site's future design.

What's being proposed

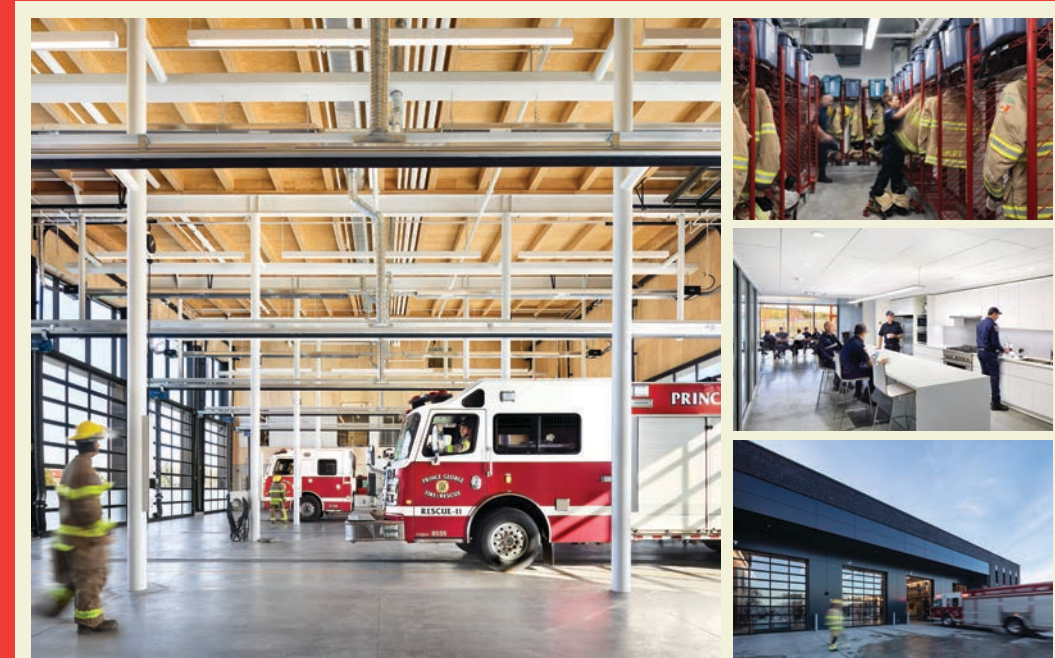
Based on community feedback, proposed spaces and activities for the library include:

- Service hub for all ages
- Children's area with early learning space with hands on exploration
- Teen zone
- Adult collection and space
- Collaborative work and study space
- Casual seating and lounge space
- Booths for technology use (videoconferencing, etc.)
- Public computers (desktop or lendable laptops)
- Meeting rooms with digital screen for small and large groups
- Multipurpose rooms for library programming and community group use
- Inspiration Lab (digital creation space) with creative software and recording booths
- Indigenous collection and space

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Your Future Fire Hall



Images above show the types of spaces and activities proposed for the WECH, and do not represent the site's future design.

Fire Hall No. 6

Fire Hall No. 6 is currently located in a heritage building at Nelson and Nicola Street and will be relocated to the WECH site. As the West End community grows, additional fire crew and trucks are needed to ensure enhanced fire-safety response and efficiency in the neighbourhood.

Priorities for the relocated Fire Hall No. 6

In addition to standard fire hall building requirements, the relocated Fire Hall No. 6 will include:

- 4 bay fire vehicle space, including space for a ladder truck
- Community spaces for outreach programs, including emergency preparedness

As the number of high-rise buildings are increasing in the West End, a ladder truck is required for incidents at these buildings. This neighbourhood currently receives this service from another Fire Hall at Haro and Thurlow.

Fire Hall No. 6 provides specialized response to fires within Stanley Park. A larger building will allow for more specialized equipment on site, enhancing service to the park.

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Scenarios for the future West End Community Hub



Explore the three renewal scenarios for how the community hub spaces could take shape.

Each scenario responds to valuable community feedback, planning research and project partner priorities.

All three scenarios include the same spaces, activities, and outdoor spaces. The key difference among the scenarios is where the spaces and activities are located.

When exploring the scenarios consider the following:

Location of spaces and activities	Location of outdoor spaces
Connection to Denman Street	Movement of foot traffic around buildings
The role of Indigenous reconciliation	Phasing of development

Scenario A
Community uses on Denman, Education uses on Barclay & Denman



Scenario B
Community uses on Barclay, Education uses on Denman



Scenario C
Community uses on Denman, Education uses on Barclay



Get involved

Fill out the survey

Survey available online and at the community centre front desk

(complete survey for a chance to win a prize)

For survey, pop-up locations and full details visit:

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

or call (604)-257-8333

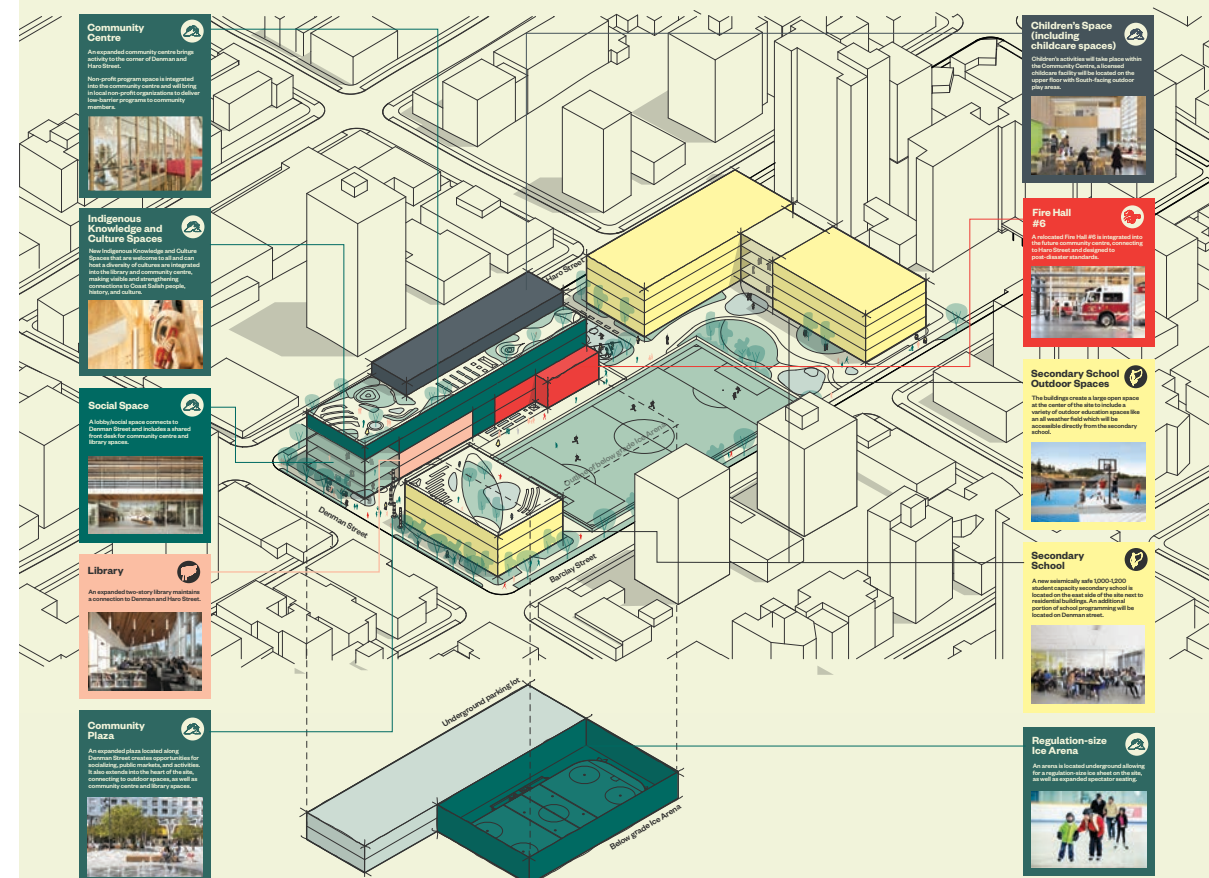


Translations available in Korean (한국어), Farsi (فارسی) and Spanish (Español).

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Scenario A

Community and education uses on Denman,
Education uses on Barclay



Scenario A

Community and education uses on Denman,
Education uses on Barclay



What do you believe are the strengths of Scenario A?

Consider in particular the location of spaces and activities

Place your sticky note here	Place your sticky note here	Place your sticky note here	Place your sticky note here	Place your sticky note here	Place your sticky note here	Place your sticky note here	Place your sticky note here



What challenges or opportunities for improvement do you see for Scenario A?

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Scenario B

Community uses on Barclay,
Education uses on Denman



Community Plaza
A new plaza to connect along Denman Street, offering a vibrant public space for community events and activities.

Social Space
A dedicated space connects to the existing library and school, providing a vibrant social space for community events and activities.

Library
An expanded library space connects to the school and the outdoor space, providing a vibrant social space for community events and activities.

Secondary School
A new secondary school, 1200-1300 students, connects to the school and the outdoor space, providing a vibrant social space for community events and activities.

Secondary School Outdoor Spaces
The building creates a large open space for outdoor activities, providing a vibrant social space for community events and activities.

Children's Space (including childcare spaces)
A new children's space connects to the school and the outdoor space, providing a vibrant social space for community events and activities.

Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Spaces
A new Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Space connects to the school and the outdoor space, providing a vibrant social space for community events and activities.

Fire Hall #6
A new fire hall connects to the school and the outdoor space, providing a vibrant social space for community events and activities.

Community Centre
A new community centre connects to the school and the outdoor space, providing a vibrant social space for community events and activities.

Regulation-size Ice Arena
A new regulation-size ice arena connects to the school and the outdoor space, providing a vibrant social space for community events and activities.

Underground parking for
Ribbon of light ice arena

Scenario B

Community uses on Barclay,
Education uses on Denman



What do you believe are the strengths of Scenario B?

Consider in particular the location of spaces and activities

Place your sticky note here	Place your sticky note here	Place your sticky note here	Place your sticky note here	Place your sticky note here	Place your sticky note here	Place your sticky note here	Place your sticky note here



What challenges or opportunities for improvement do you see for Scenario B?

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Scenario C

Community uses on Denman,
Education uses on Barclay



Children's Space (Including children's spaces)
Children's activities will take place within the Community Centre, a dedicated Children's Facility will be located on the upper floor with lawn and other flexible outdoor play areas.

Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Spaces
New Indigenous Knowledge and Culture Spaces that provide a platform for sharing their history of culture and language, including traditional and contemporary, accessible and welcoming, accessible and welcoming, history and culture.

Library
An expanded entry library space, connection to Denman Street.

Social Space
A dedicated space connects to Denman Street and includes a shared food desk for community events and other programs.

Community Plaza
An outdoor plaza located along Denman Street to create opportunities for community events and activities, and library space.

Secondary School
A new secondary with 1200-1300 students, including a dedicated community center located on the east side of the site connected to the community center by walkway.

Secondary School Outdoor Spaces
The outdoor spaces are located on the east side of the site, including a number of outdoor education spaces. An all-weather field which will be accessible directly from the secondary school.

Community Centre
An expanded community center brings together the Denman Street, Denman Street, and Denman Street.

Fire Hall #6
A new fire hall #6 will be located on the east side of the site, including a dedicated community center and a dedicated community center.

Regulation-size Ice Arena
An arena is located underground offering for a regulation size sheet on the site, and is accessible to the community.

Underground parking lot
Below grade Ice Arena

Scenario C

Community uses on Denman,
Education uses on Barclay



What do you believe are the strengths of Scenario C?

Consider in particular the location of spaces and activities

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What challenges or opportunities for improvement do you see for Scenario C?

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Key Considerations Guiding the Future WECH Renewal



Phasing development

The WECH renewal is important for project partners' to continue to deliver on needed amenities and services to a growing community. Once the WECH Renewal Plan is complete, the renewal will take place in multiple phases related to implementation of design and construction.

Phasing of the WECH renewal has not yet been determined, but will be planned in a manner that minimizes service and community disruption. Phasing is impacted by available funding.

Timing

Phasing and funding considerations will have impact on when the project will begin construction. Construction will likely take place over multiple phases and capital plans, and construction will not start until funding is secured.

Funding the renewal

The City of Vancouver's West End Community Plan, developed in 2013, calls for significant growth of amenity spaces to accommodate growing population projections for the area and calls for the renewal of the West End Community Hub within the next 30 years. Funding is not yet secured for the WECH redevelopment, and will be subject to funding received through neighborhood Community Amenity Contributions as well as citywide facility renewal priorities and capital planning cycles.

The Vancouver School District's Long Range Facilities Plan describes the need for King George Secondary School to be renewed, to address growing student numbers. King George Secondary School is in the District's annual capital plan to request funding for a future expansion. The proposed expansion is pending approval and funding from the Provincial Ministry of Education.



What else would you like to share?

Is there anything else about the West End Community Hub Renewal Plan that you'd like to share with decision-makers?

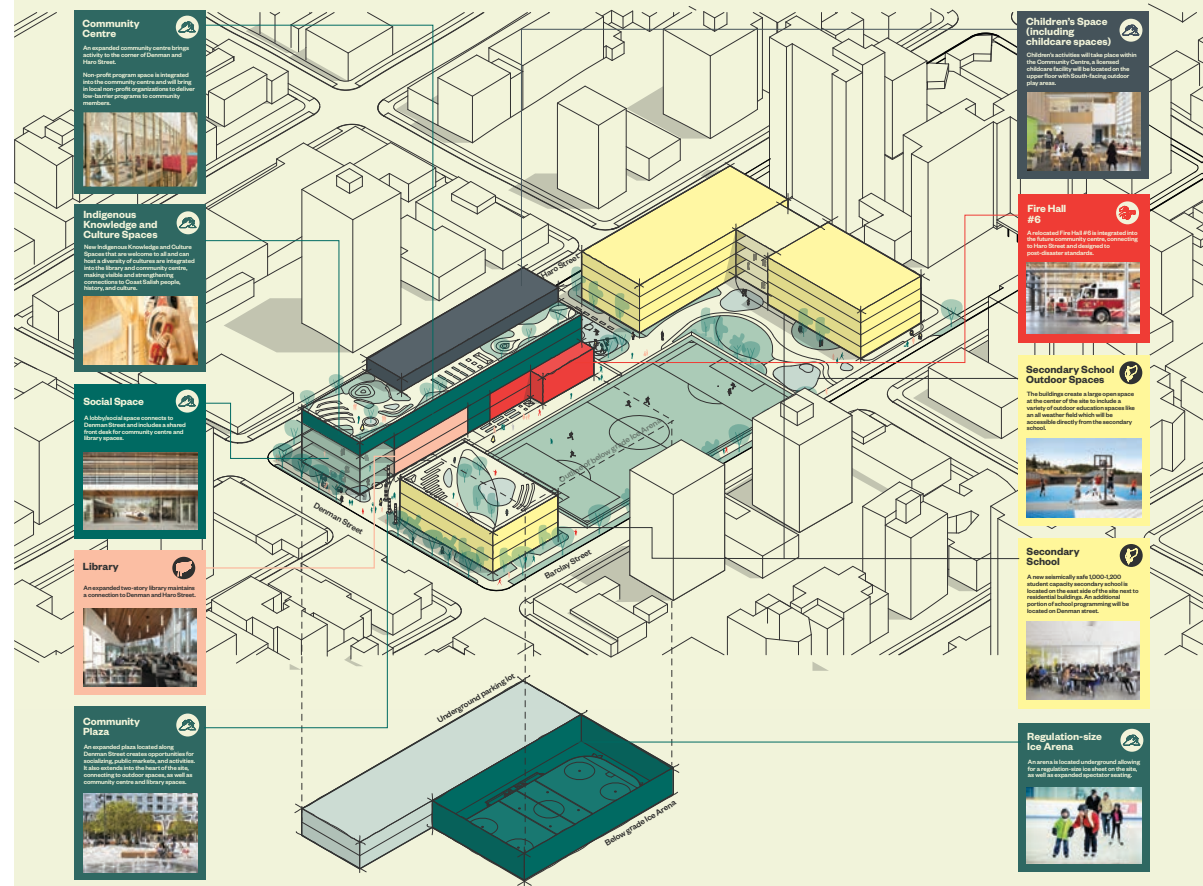
Consider for example:

The role of Indigenous reconciliation, timing of development, continuation of services, future engagement and more.

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Scenario A

Community and education uses on Denman,
Education uses on Barclay



What do you believe are the strengths of Scenario A?
Consider in particular the location of spaces and activities

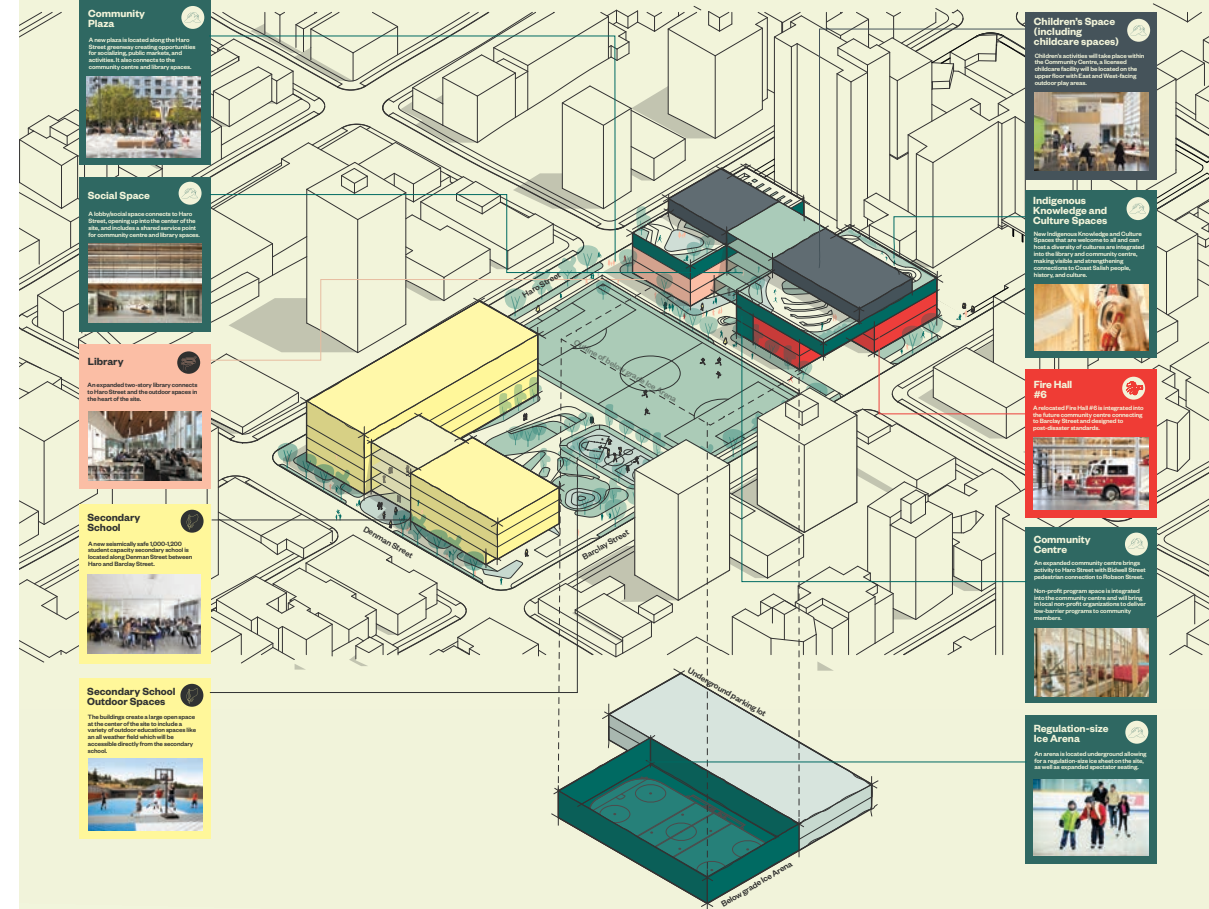
Place your sticky notes here

What challenges or opportunities for improvement do you see for Scenario A?

Place your sticky notes here

Scenario B

Community uses on Barclay,
Education uses on Denman



What do you believe are the strengths of Scenario B?
Consider in particular the location of spaces and activities

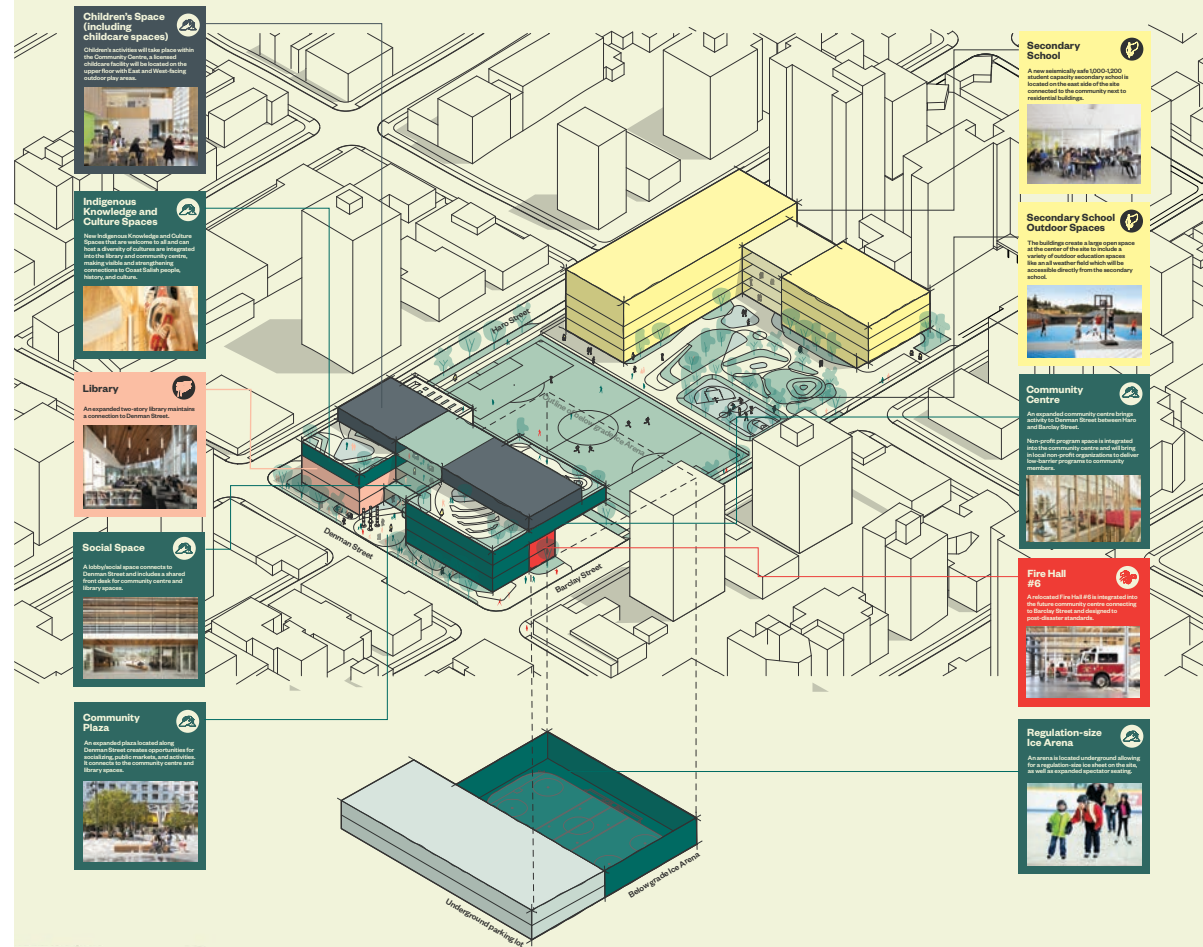
Place your sticky notes here

What challenges or opportunities for improvement do you see for Scenario B?

Place your sticky notes here

Scenario C

Community uses on Denman,
Education uses on Barclay



What do you believe are the strengths of Scenario C?
Consider in particular the location of spaces and activities

Place your sticky notes here

What challenges or opportunities for improvement do you see for Scenario C?

Place your sticky notes here


Engagement postcards

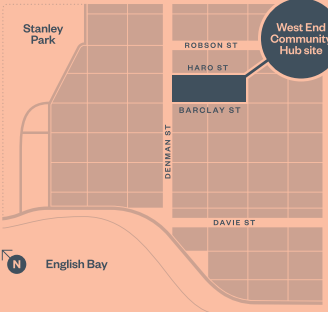


How would you like to see the future West End Community Hub take shape?

The West End Community Hub will include a renewed West End Community Centre, King George Secondary School, Joe Fortes Library and the relocated Fire Hall No. 6.

The West End Community Hub celebrates Vancouver's connection to xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwetəl (Tseil-Waututh) cultures, and supports play, learning, creativity and wellness for all people.





Get involved

- **Fill out the survey**
Survey available online and at the community centre front desk (Complete survey for a chance to win a prize)
- **Visit a pop-up event**
- **Attend an in-person open house**


JUNE 4, 2:00 - 5:00 PM
West End Community Centre


JUNE 5, 3:00 - 6:30 PM
King George Secondary School

For survey, pop-up locations and full details visit: shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

or call (604)-257-8333

Translations available in Korean (한국어), Farsi (په‌رانی) and Spanish (Español).






Engagement posters

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

Joe Fortes Public Library
West End Community Centre
King George Secondary School

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HARO ST
DENMAN ST

VPL Vancouver Public Library
VSB Vancouver School Board
CITY OF VANCOUVER
West End Community Centre Association

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

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Joe Fortes Public Library
West End Community Centre
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JUNE 4, 2:00 - 5:00 PM
West End Community Centre

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King George Secondary School

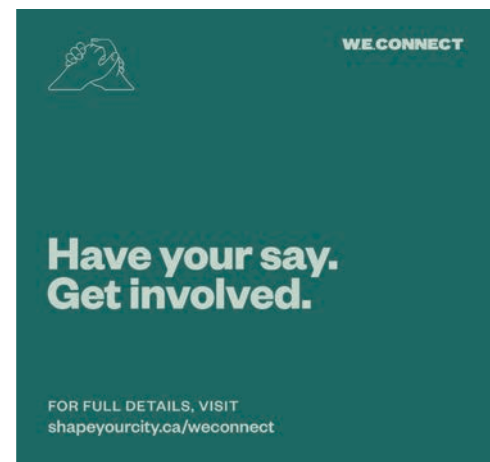
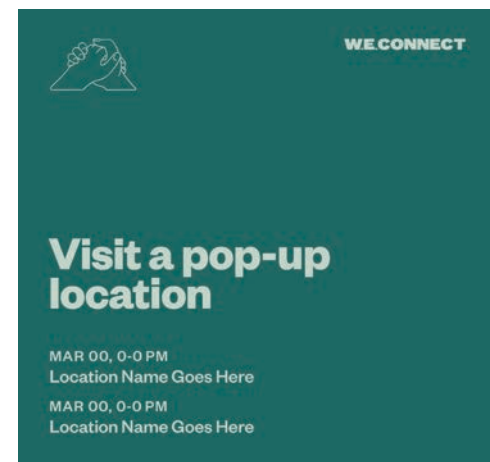
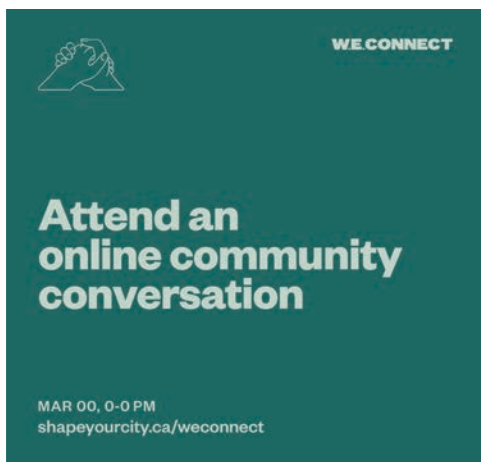
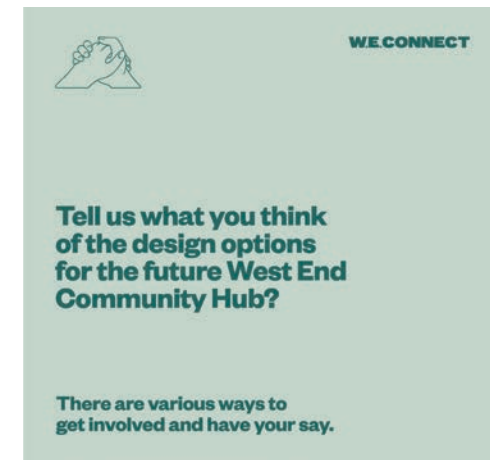
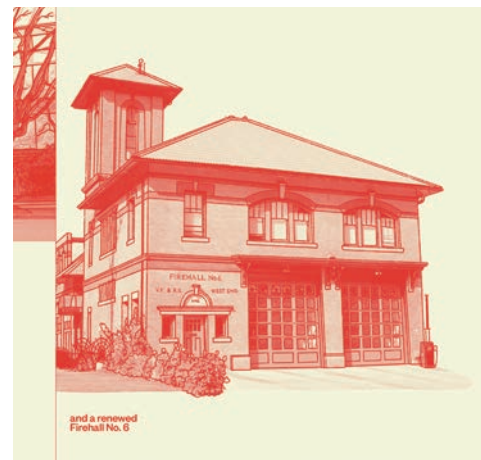
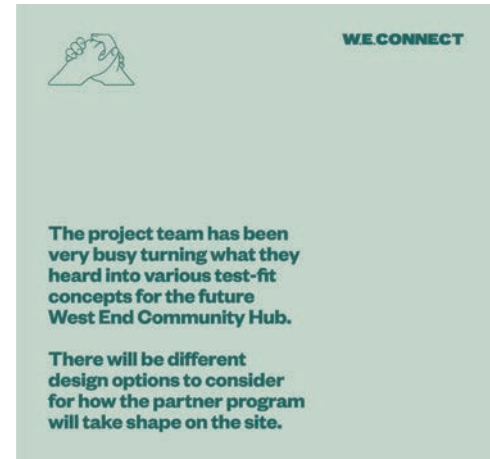
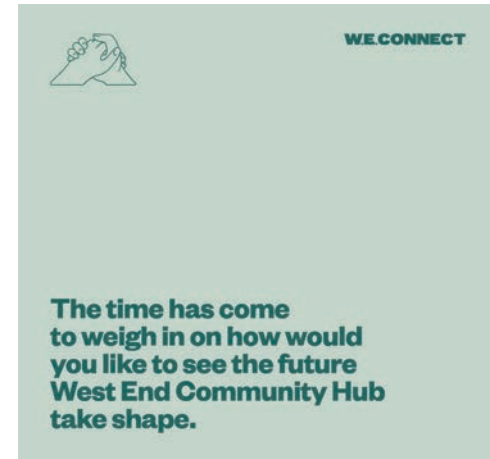
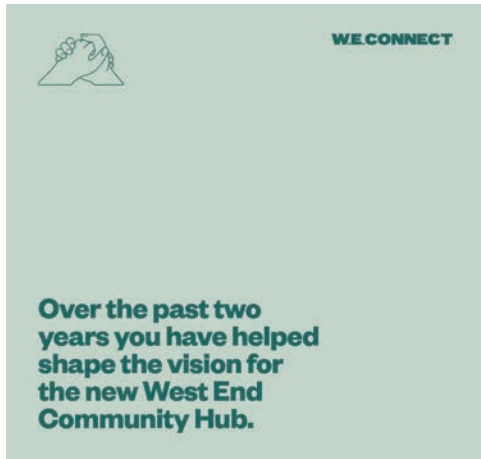
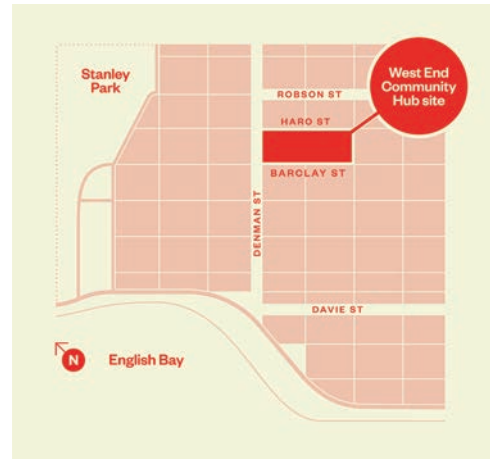
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HARO ST
DENMAN ST

VPL Vancouver Public Library
VSB Vancouver School Board
CITY OF VANCOUVER
West End Community Centre Association

Engagement Instagram posts



Joe Fortes Public Library
West End Community Centre
King George Secondary School

How would you like to see the future West End Community Hub take shape?

WE. WE. WE. CONNECT CONNECT CONNECT



WE CONNECT

Over the past two years you have helped shape the vision for the new West End Community Hub.

WE CONNECT

The time has come to weigh in on how would you like to see the future West End Community Hub take shape.

WE CONNECT

The project team has been very busy turning what they heard into various test-fit concepts for the future West End Community Hub.

There will be different design options to consider for how the partner program will take shape on the site.

a renewed Joe Fortes Public Library
a renewed West End Community Centre

The West End Community Hub will include...

West End Community Centre
a renewed King George Secondary School

and a renewed Firehall No. 6

WE CONNECT

Tell us what you think of the design options for the future West End Community Hub?

There are various ways to get involved and have your say.

WE CONNECT

Attend an in-person open house

JUNE 4, 2:00 - 5:00 PM
West End Community Centre
JUNE 5, 3:00 - 6:30 PM
King George Secondary School

WE CONNECT

Explore the virtual open house

EXPLORE OPTIONS
shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

WE CONNECT

Attend an online community conversation

MAR 00, 0-0 PM
shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

WE CONNECT

Visit a pop-up location

MAR 00, 0-0 PM
Location Name Goes Here
MAR 00, 0-0 PM
Location Name Goes Here

WE CONNECT

Have your say. Get involved.

FOR FULL DETAILS, VISIT
shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

Engagement West End Seniors Network Newsletter

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

Joe Fortes Public Library
West End Community Centre
King George Secondary School

How would you like to see the future West End Community Hub take shape?

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Please visit shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect or contact staff at the West End Community Centre or Joe Fortes Library in-person or by phone at **604-257-8333** for more details on how to participate.

Ways to get involved

- Fill out the survey
- Survey available online and at the community centre front desk (Complete survey for a chance to win a prize)
- Visit a pop-up event

Attend an in-person open house

JUNE 4, 2:00 - 5:00 PM
West End Community Centre

JUNE 5, 3:00 - 6:30 PM
King George Secondary School

West End Journal advertisement

Joe Fortes Public Library
West End Community Centre
King George Secondary School

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

How would you like to see the future West End Community Hub take shape?

HAVE YOUR SAY. GET INVOLVED.

Joe Fortes Public Library
West End Community Centre
King George Secondary School

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

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HAVE YOUR SAY. GET INVOLVED.



W.E.CONNECT

For more information, please visit shapeyourcity.ca/weconnect

For any inquiries, please contact weconnect@vancouver.ca

