

CITY SHAPERS: RESILIENT COMMUNITIES 2 PROGRAM REPORT



2020 | JUN-JUL





ABOUT CITYHIVE

CityHive is on a mission to transform the way that youth are engaged in civic processes, tackling urban sustainability challenges and decision-making in Metro Vancouver. We are a Metro Vancouver-based non-profit that works with municipal governments and city-shaping institutions to create meaningful youth engagement practices, and simultaneously works with young people to provide opportunities to address urban challenges. With a knack for convening, community-building and tackling complex challenges, we act as a bridge builder between institutions and young people, to harness the immense untapped energy, talent and brilliance of young people.

PARTNERS

Founded in 2000, the **Simon Fraser University (SFU) Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue** acts as a hub for dialogue and engagement initiatives. As a trusted convener, we create a space for respectful conversations between diverse stakeholders, where mutual curiosity and collaborative inquiry act as alternatives to adversarial approaches.

The **Strengthening Canadian Democracy Initiative** is researching what is driving views of democracy and what is shaping our democratic culture for better or for worse. We develop collaborations with institutions, practitioners, and citizens, including CityHive's City Shapers program. We then evaluate the results of these collaborations to identify what works, when, and how to improve democracy.

The City Shapers program is delivered with support from the **Vancouver Foundation**.



CITY SHAPERS

City Shapers is a cohort-based civic education program for young adults ages 18-30. This program was created to provide participants with a better understanding of civic processes through the exploration of a specific urban issue.

The first cohort of City Shapers launched in Fall 2019 on the topic of Social Isolation. While a second cohort on Public Space was planned for Spring 2020, in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the program shifted online and the topic changed to focus on resilience. With great interest from youth, we decided to run two overlapping cohorts, which were delivered online from May-July 2020.

[Click here](#) to read the report for City Shapers: Resilient Communities 1 (May-June).

Through June and July 2020, the second cohort of City Shapers: Resilient Communities delved into the many ways in which we can improve resilience in our society, democracy, and economy.

Based on a knowledge-to-action framework, the first half of the program focused on learning from thought leaders in the field of resilience and emergency response, hearing the visions from the previous cohort, and researching the many facets of resilience. In the second half of the program the cohort switched gears to develop their own projects (events, policy briefs, initiatives, and more) that will help us all to build more resilient cities.

On July 23rd, 2020 they presented their projects at a community dialogue and got to learn from the experiences of other youth organizers from the region.

These are their pathways to resilience.

FACILITATORS



Rowan Gentleman-Sylvester



Aida Mwanzia



Aarti Kamat



Rachel Cheang

THE COHORT



Alaa Akl



Aleisha Fernandes



Amy (Amandeep)
Gill



Azlan Nur Saidy



Cleo Breton



Dinushi Wickrama
Arachchi



Greyson Wang



Hannah Snider



Jay Castro



Jessica Jones



Jillian Read



Joanne Nellas



Jocelle Refol



Julia Scott Lenz



Kaylie Higgs



Kendall McLaughlin



Ksenia Stepkina



Kyle Monda



Maria Montenegro



Mariah Gastaldo



Mario Jozipovic



Melvin Sedeora



Noni Nabors



Pulkit Kathuria



Quinton Huang



Raghav Rmadya



Vanessa Sun



Wesley Lor



Wonjun Cho



THE PROCESS

LEARNING & COMMUNITY BUILDING:



WEEK ONE

Community building and collective agreements



WEEK TWO

Panel discussion with resilience thought leaders



WEEK THREE

Cohort presentations & deep-dive research

FROM KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION:



WEEK FOUR

Joining project groups and initial project ideation



WEEK FIVE

Project refinement and deeper research



WEEK SIX

Thought leaders invited into provide project feedback

SHARING & REFLECTING:



WEEK SEVEN

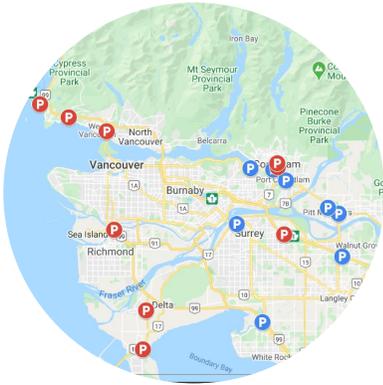
Project presentations & community dialogue



WEEK EIGHT

Program debrief and reflection

THE PROJECTS



PARK & RIDE

Group members: Aleisha Fernandes, Hannah Snider, Kyle Monda, Mario Jozipovic, and Vanessa Sun

Description: Policy brief examining the value of surface level park & ride lots in terms of land use and housing potential.



PUBLIC SPACE & RESILIENCE

Group members: Azlan Nur Saidy, Kendall McLaughlin, Ksenia Stepkina, and Wonjun Cho

Description: Policy brief advocating for equitable and safer public spaces for all.

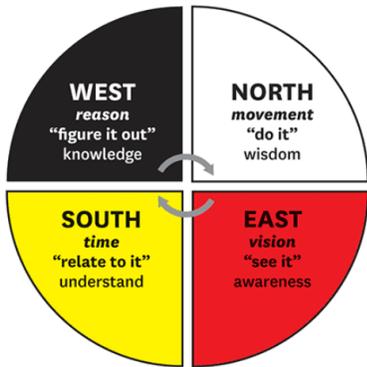


THE FUTURE IS RESILIENT

Group members: Amy Gill, Cleo Breton, Dinushi Wickrama, Kaylie Higgs, Jocelle Refol, and Julia Scott Lenz

Description: A low-barrier mental health wellness activity book for children in an effort to develop resilience in kids.

THE PROJECTS (CONT.)



TRANSFORMING OUR TIMELINE

Group members: Jay Castro, Mariah Gastaldo, and Melvin Sedeora

Description: A democratic engagement event rooted in storytelling, the teachings of the Medicine Wheel, and recorded using music, graphics, and poetry.



WRITING ON RESILIENCE

Group members: Greyson Wang, Jillian Read, Noni Nabors, and Wesley Lor

Description: A series of resilience-focused articles exploring the topics of activism, chronic illness, urban isolation, and mental health.



CHILDLY

Group members: Alaa Akl, Jess Jones, Joanne Nellas, Maria Montenegro, Pulkit Kathuria, Quinton Huang, and Raghav Rmadya

Description: An app designed to connect childcare providers with parents, supporting families whose childcare options are unavailable due to COVID-19.



SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank the speakers, mentors, and guests who helped to make this program possible:

- Abeer Yusuf, *Journalist, Writer and Community Builder*
- Anthonia Ogundele, *Ethos Lab*
- Dylan Cohen, *Consultant, Researcher, Project Manager, Communications Expert, and Strategist*
- Elodie Jacquet, *SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue*
- Jackie Obungah, *SFU Women's Center collective; Afrocentrism Conference 2019: Decolonizing Academia*
- Jennifer Reddy, *Community Building Programs, SFU; Trustee, Vancouver School Board*
- Jeremy Stone, *Community Economic Development, SFU*
- Joe Erpenbeck, *Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Institute*
- Karima Chellouf, *Chef, Nutritionist, and Educator*
- Luna Aixin, *Hey Neighbour Collective*
- Veronika Bylicki, *CityHive*
- Yolanda Clatworthy, *Community Organizer, Climate Activist, and Consultant*
- Y Vy Truong, *joss paper library (JPL); Bao Ve Collective (BVC)*

If you'd like to learn more about the program or get in touch with the CityHive team, please contact info@cityhive.ca