



CityHive

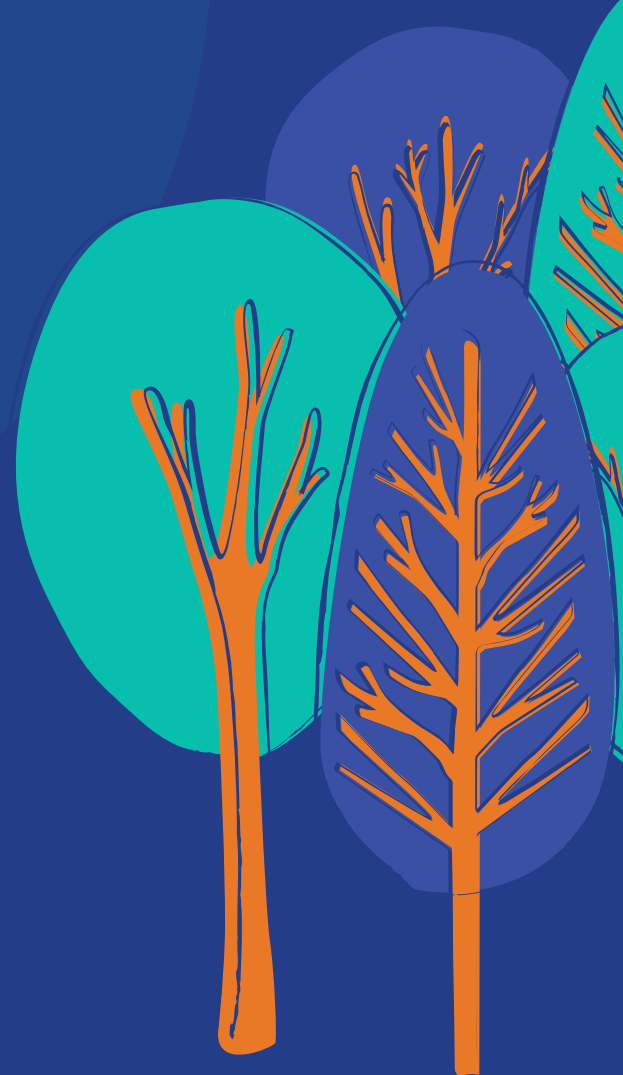


CITY
SHAPERS
PUBLIC SPACE



PROGRAM REPORT

Summer 2021





City Shapers: Public Space was delivered virtually from the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territories of the x^wməθk^wəy^əm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətəɬ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. We also recognize the Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, Qayqayt, Semiahmoo, S'ólh Téméxw (Stó:lō), Stz'uminus, scəwəθenəʔt təməx^w (Tsawwassen), and all Coast Salish peoples on whose land we do our work.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There are real barriers that limit youth engagement in BC: lack of civic education in our K-12 curriculum, low trust in government, and inaccessible engagement processes. City Shapers exists in an effort to overcome some of these, and offers civic literacy programming with a strong emphasis on agency and action.

City Shapers is a **civic education cohort program** for Metro Vancouver youth ages 18-30. Participants learn about how cities work, how decisions are made, and how they can get involved.

To keep things relevant and current, the cohort learns through the lens of a pressing urban issue. The summer 2021 cohort of City Shapers explored the theme of **Public Spaces** – how they are used, who they are for, and how our experience with COVID-19 has impacted the way we navigate them. The program culminated with projects developed in partnership with the City of Surrey and the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association.

This program is made possible by the generous support of the Real Estate Foundation of BC, the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, and the SFU Community Engagement Initiative.



THE COHORT



Aaron
Dimaandal



Aleisha
Fernandes



Alek
Hayward



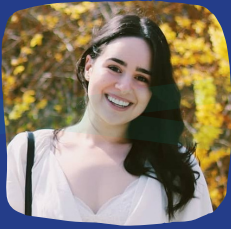
Benjamin
Chidzero



Crystal
Lao



Daphne
Stams



Demetra
Barbacuta



Dharra
Budicha



Hema
Ramnani



Jason
Adle



Kaede
Mizukoshi



Katy
Exton



Kyan
Caldwell



Lizzy
Ruta



Maria
Lizarazo



Melanie
Ng



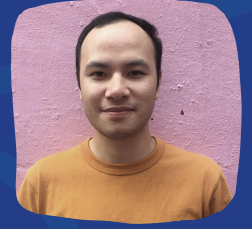
Rafayat
Ahamed



Scarlett
Leung



Shruti
Wani



Simon
Caulfield



Sofia
Azhogina



Zach
Velasco



Zarah
Monfareddi



**CITY
SHAPERS**
PUBLIC SPACE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CityHive's knowledge-to-action framework guides participants through an experiential learning process.

KNOWLEDGE

- Participants learn from guest speakers and thought leaders (elected officials, planners, city staff, grassroots organizers)
- Cohort discussions build relationships and a sense of community
- Connections and trust are built between guest speakers and youth participants



ACTION

- In project groups of 4-5, participants develop recommendations for public spaces in Surrey and Downtown Vancouver
- Projects provide the opportunity to put learning into action and flex those civic engagement muscles



KNOWLEDGE: SPEAKERS

JUNE 30: CITIES 101



Nadine Nakagawa

*New Westminster
City Councillor*



Lihwen Hsu

*City Planner &
SCARP Alumni*



Emily Huang

*New Westminster
Housing Analyst*

JULY 7: PUBLIC SPACE 101



Clare Warner

*DVBIA Public
Space Team*



David Sadler

*City of Surrey
Public Space*



JULY 14: COMPLICATING PUBLIC SPACE



Andrew Pask

*Vancouver
Public Space
Network*



Cheri Hessami

Happy City



Heather McCain

*Creating
Accessible
Neighbourhoods*



Luna Aixin

*Hey Neighbour
Collective*

KNOWLEDGE: LEARNINGS

"It is important and high time we talk about accessible designs and give a platform where community can share ideas and create their own public space for sense of belonging in the neighbourhood."

"The speakers were diverse and I learnt a lot about public space that I hadn't known already"

"Heather and Nadine in particular had the lived experiences of disability and being a woman in politics that directly informed the work that they do. I think it's crucial that folks from marginalized groups take up space!"

"Both Heather and Luna provided info that changed the way that I think about spaces, and shared experiences that are outside of my own. I wouldn't have access to these experiences through my own circles, so it is really great that I was able to hear from them. Their work is also inspiring and shows what a few dedicated people can do to change cities."

"Each one of the speakers taught me something that I continue to reflect on. Their presentations were very fluid and engaging."

ACTION: PROJECTS

Each participant worked with a small group to develop recommendations for public spaces in Surrey and Downtown Vancouver. These recommendations were delivered to our partners at the City of Surrey and the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association.



SURREY CIVIC PLAZA

Surrey, BC | Crystal, Katy, Rafayat, Sofia
Using a participatory engagement approach, they invited community input on the space at a pop-up engagement event. Plaza users were offered the opportunity to share their ideas in creative ways including painting, writing, and drawing – which modeled inclusive and low-barrier community engagement.

Full Report: [Click here](#)



CATHEDRAL SQUARE

Vancouver, BC | Dharra, Hema, Kaede, Scarlett
This group focused on learning about and serving the current users of the space, as well as related stakeholders and community groups – from current programming to the large murals. Their recommendations centered on learning and brightening up the space.

Full Report: [Click here](#)

HAWTHORNE SQUARE

Cloverdale, BC | Aleisha, Alek, Benjamin, Daphne, Demetra, Maria

Through conversations with City staff and the local Business Improvement Association, this group developed recommendations that are rooted in both the historical value of the space, as well as its potential value to neighbouring businesses.

Full Report: [Click here](#)



GRANVILLE SQUARE

Vancouver, BC | Aaron, Kyan, Jason, Zach, Zarah

Located in Downtown Vancouver, and frequented by office tower lunch-goers, this group offered the theme of Recess in the City to anchor their recommendations. Injecting play and colour into an otherwise grey cityscape.

Full Report: [Click here](#)



NEW PUBLIC SPACE TYPOLOGIES

Surrey, BC | Lizzy, Melanie, Shruti, Simon

This group was tasked with the challenge of discovering a new public space typology in Surrey. They uncovered an exciting new space on land set aside for future development but currently sitting vacant.

Full Report: [Click here](#)





"I cannot recommend City Shapers enough! The ten-weeks I participated in the program were some of the most intensive, but rewarding weeks of my life. As someone who is passionate about cities but has never been very involved, this was my opportunity to take that step forward. Getting my hands onto a project where I could see how it could have an impact was so worthwhile - more importantly though, City Shapers gave me the opportunity to connect with other like-minded youth who I could see were just as passionate about cities and public space as I was."

- *City Shapers: Public Space Participant*



BY THE NUMBERS

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, & AGENCY

75%

Have a greater willingness and confidence to improve young citizens' participation in local government

78%

Are more likely to attend a public consultation meeting as a result of their participation in the program

85%

Have an improved understanding of who to contact if they have a concern in my community

100%

Gained confidence in interacting with people involved in local decision making

PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

78%

Feel more connected to other young residents in the region

100%

Would recommend City Shapers to a friend or colleague



"City Shapers public space cohort allowed me to learn more about cities and community engagement in an enriching and supportive environment. Not only did I gain new perspectives on what it means to work and study within the urban field, but I also had some wonderful discussions with likeminded youth. I would highly recommend this well structured program to any youth interested in urbanity."

- City Shapers: Public Space Participant



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CityHive would like to thank the program facilitators:



Aarti
Kamat



Melvin
Sedeora



Rachel
Cheang



Rajdeep
Dhaliwal



Rowan
Gentleman-
Sylvester

City Shapers: Public Space would not have been possible with the support of the following people:

- Aida Mwanzia
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- Andrew Pask
- Cheri Hessami
- City of Surrey
- Clare Warner
- David Sadler
- Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association
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- Heather McCain
- Kathryn Trnavsky
- Ksenia Stepkina
- Leah Herman
- Lihwen Hsu
- Luna Aixin
- Melissa Lee
- Councillor Nadine Nakagawa
- Raghav Rmadya
- Tara Mahoney
- Veronika Bylicki
- Wonjun Cho

THANK YOU!

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