



# SURREY SHAPERS

## PUBLIC SPACE



2022-2023

PROGRAM  
REPORT



CityHive



CityHive is based on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷə́yəm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

We acknowledge and are grateful to the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt, and Tsawwassen First Nations, on whose land the City of Surrey currently resides.

We use the term ‘unceded’ in land acknowledgements because it signifies that there was never any agreement between the local First Nations and Colonial Governments. As this program inherently dealt with land and land use, it is important to recognize that the land that we were working with, while technically under the jurisdiction of the City of Surrey, belong to the local first nations of the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt, and Tsawwassen First Nations. We were grateful to be able to learn and grow together on these incredible lands and territories.

Throughout the program, two questions that continued to resurface were “What does it mean to have ‘public space’ on unceded lands?” as well as “What is public space, and whom is it designed for?” These are questions that we invite you to consider as you read through this report and encourage you to bring them into your conversations about public space in B.C. and across Canada going forward.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Surrey Shapers: Public Space (Surrey Shapers) program was a 3-month long cohort program for youth ages 18-30 who live, work, or learn in the City of Surrey, B.C. The program was designed to follow CityHive's knowledge-to-action framework, supporting youth to activate their local public spaces, as well as increase their understanding of civic governance and decision-making.

Some of the guiding questions for the program were:

1. How are public spaces designed? And who are they designed for?
2. What does it mean to interact with public space on unceded lands?
3. How can we create inclusive and active spaces that reflect our personal stories?

Surrey Shapers was our second cohort engaged in a public space activation project with the City of Surrey. The Surrey Shapers cohort consisted of 10 sessions between November 2022 and February 2023, with two weeks off at the end of December for the holidays. The cohort was facilitated by two co-leads, with two mentor-facilitators brought in to share their own specialised knowledge and expertise. Throughout the program, a variety of guest speakers were invited to speak on important themes and issues related to public space, project planning, communications, and other key skills. These guest speakers included City of Surrey staff, nonprofit managers, professors, communications professionals, and urban planners. The latter half of the program consisted of 'action sessions,' where the cohort formed groups to investigate public space in Surrey and develop a project that would activate the chosen area and engage Surrey residents.

This report outlines the success and challenges that the Surrey Shapers cohort faced, as well as lessons learned by the CityHive team. Furthermore, recommendations for future iterations of Surrey Shapers, or similar programs, are provided to improve CityHive programming for the next cohort of youth.

Surrey Shapers is a unique, cohort-based learning experience for young adults that fills a much-needed space in Surrey. This document highlights the existing strengths of the cohort to carry on future work while naming challenges to work through in further iterations of this program or other cohorts related to youth interested in civic engagement.



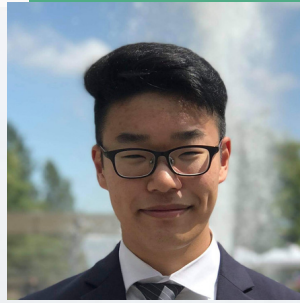
# THE COHORT



Vaidehi Gupta



Joshua Doshi



Leese Hwang



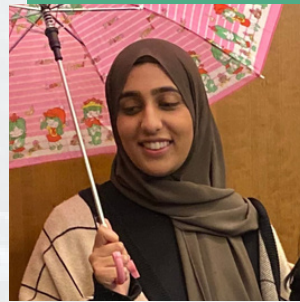
Edriane Maglinte



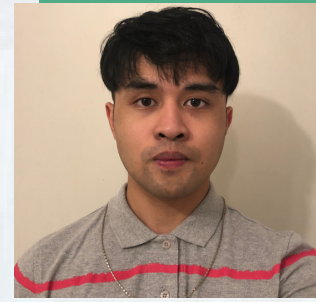
Rachel Lin



Kai Barcellos Luna



Hafsa Dastgir



Christian Banac



Dylan Reimer



Anji Rana



Gaganpreet  
Khangura



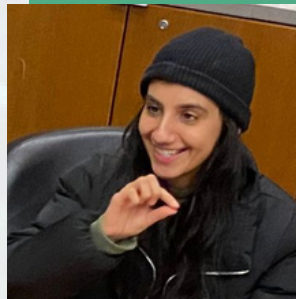
Desiree Gabriel



Roshia Budathoki



Jack Niu



Monica Cheema



Saba Fatemi



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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

## Knowledge



- Build knowledge of how local government operates, including jurisdiction, decision-making, and levers for change
- Bring youth together to create connections across educational, professional, and/or cultural silos through creative and experiential project development and learning together
- Develop a cross-cultural understanding of varied lived experiences and how they relate to individual and collective experiences of public space

- Break into groups to come up with a public space activation
- Build a set of tools and skills through the transformation of an existing public space to better understand their role in changing future spaces to create a city that better reflects them
- Create opportunities for youth in the program to tell their own stories and express their own identities through their action projects and within the program, as well as the stories associated with the land and place on which the program takes place (both recent/documented histories and oral/ancestral narratives)

## Action



# KNOWLEDGE: SPEAKERS

Cities 101  
November 23, 2022



Jao Dantes  
*Mentor-  
Facilitator*



David Sadler  
*City of Surrey  
Parks,  
Recreation, and  
Culutre*



Cheri Hessami  
*HappyCities*

15-minute Cities  
December 14, 2022



Lucy Wicken  
*SFU: REACH-  
Cities  
CHATrLab*



Aayush Sharma  
*SFU: REACH-  
Cities  
CHATrLab*





# ACTION: SPEAKERS

World Building  
January 4, 2023



Harpo Mander  
*5X*

Healing through  
Storytelling  
January 18, 2023



Arshi Chadha  
*BLAC/SolidState*

Communications  
Strategy  
January 25, 2023



Jasleen Bains  
*Mentor-  
Facilitator*

City Council  
February 1, 2023



Rowan Gentleman-  
Sylvester  
*CityHive Program  
Manager*





“

*Highly recommend this program!  
It was an amazing experience  
with lots of friendly easy going  
people. If you're at all interested in  
public spaces or doing something  
in your community, this is the  
program for you!*  
-Participant

”

“

*Surrey Shapers improved my  
understanding of the city and  
its needs, but, more  
importantly, how I can help.*  
-Participant

”

# ACTION: PROJECTS

The cohort broke into three distinct groups to work on activations in Civic Plaza.

## From Roots to Leaves: An Educational Botanical Garden

*by Jack Niu, Leese Hwang, Christian Banac, Kai Barcellos Luna*

Project Concept:

Display native plants with cultural significance and uses, making a website and/or posters that would gather different lore, stories, uses, and how to care for each plant



# ACTION: PROJECTS

## Surrey Speaks: A Community Engagement Project

*by Saba Fatemi, Vaidehi Gupta, Edriane Maglinte, Joshua Doshi, Hafsa Dastgir, Dylan Reimer*

### Project Concept:

Surrey Speaks is a community engagement initiative led by youth, for the community. This innovative project provides various platforms for Surrey residents and visitors to share their opinions and ideas about what they would like to see more of around Surrey!





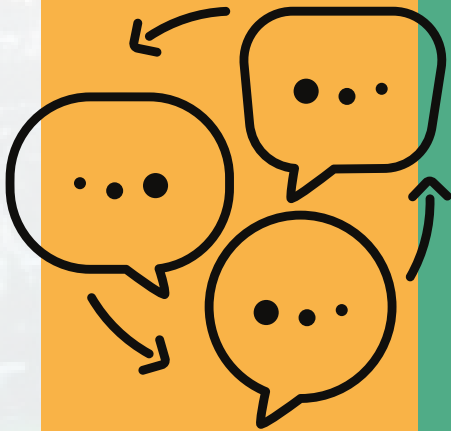
# ACTION: PROJECTS

## Seniors in Surrey

*by Gaganpreet Khangura, Rosha Budathoki, Rachel Lin, Anji Rana, Monica Cheema, Desiree Gabriel*

### Project Concept:

- CONNECT as youth cohort with seniors to gain intergenerational learnings.
- LEARN through intergenerational story-telling to understand senior's past, present, and future relationships with Surrey and its lands.
- Display visual storyboards in the Civic Plaza area with images of seniors and their stories uncovered through intergenerational interviews.



## Community Roots



“

*Surrey Shapers was an amazing time!! I was able to meet other youth who wanted to shake things up, and implement community minded interventions in Surrey Spaces. We were able to lead, ideate, and plan a project, then actually bring it to life, which is super cool! The support of facilitators and community organizations and the City of Surrey was helpful for our learning and doing.*

*-Surrey Shapers Participant*

”

# BY THE NUMBERS

75%

of participants reported gaining new skills

75%

strongly agree that they will continue to look for opportunities to engage with the City of Surrey (25% reported that they agree)

87.5%

learned how to activate a public space and continue advocating for more inclusive spaces

87.5%

learned about new ideas for younger citizens participation in public spaces

100%

made new friendships with other young Surrey residents

100%

agree that ordinary citizens can do a lot to influence their local governments if they are willing to make the effort



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CityHive would like to thank the co-lead and mentor-facilitators



Sadie Gilker



Shivneel Reddy



Jao Dantes



Jasleen Bains

Surrey Shapers: Public Space would not have been possible without the support of the following people:

- Arshi Chadha
- Aayush Sharma
- Cheri Hessami
- City of Surrey
- David Sadler
- Eyobel Michael
- Harpo Mander
- Jonathan Cauri
- Lucy Wicken
- Matthew DiSiena
- Matt Hern
- Dr. Meghan Winters
- Rowan Gentleman-Sylvester
- Shivneel Reddy
- Veronika Bylicki

# THANK YOU!

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT