



SURREY SHAPERS

PUBLIC SPACE

PROGRAM REPORT

DECEMBER 2023



CityHive

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



CityHive is based on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territories of the x^wməθk^wə́yəm (Musqueam), S_kwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Surrey is situated on the Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, Qayqayt, Semiahmoo, S'ólh Téméxw (Stó:lō), Stz'uminus, scəwaθenaʔł təməx^w (Tsawwassen). We recognize and are grateful to all the Coast Salish peoples on whose land we do our work.

Throughout this 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 moving forward.

Further, we reflected on unceded land during the time of this program both through personal reflection, learning resources, and learning through guest speakers who represented a diverse range of voices and perspectives.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Surrey Shapers: Public Space 2.0 (Surrey Shapers) program was a 3-month-long cohort for youth ages 16-30 who live, work, or learn in the City of Surrey, B.C. This iteration of the cohort had a main focus on engaging Newcomers and BIPOC youth in Surrey. 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.

The second cohort of Surrey Shapers was run in partnership with UMOJA Operations Compassion Society, Youth Leadership Millennium from the non-profit S.U.C.C.E.S.S., and the City of Surrey. During this program, youth learned how cities work and the foundations of public space. Then, youth also got the chance to connect with grassroots organizations, city staff, and community members to discuss new and innovative ways to use public space. Finally, youth created a project focusing on designing and implementing a parklet to reflect themselves and their community.

The Surrey Shapers 2.0 cohort consisted of 8 sessions and 3 youth-led activations between September 2023 and December 2023. The cohort was facilitated by two co-leads, with two support-facilitators brought in to share their own specialized 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, storytelling, and other key skills. These guest speakers included City of Surrey staff, youth groups, Surrey School staff, nonprofit managers, professors, and planning professionals. The latter half of the program consisted of 'action sessions,' where the cohort formed groups to investigate public space in Surrey and designed their own rain-friendly parklet activation that would engage residents and visitors in the Newton neighbourhood of Surrey.

Surrey Shapers is a unique, cohort-based learning experience for youth that fills a much-needed space in Surrey. This report highlights the existing strengths of the cohort while showcasing the diversity of the public space projects to further youth interested in civic engagement.

THE TEAM



VAIDEHI GUPTA



EYOBEL MICHAEL



ISAAC KOENIG-WORKMAN



ANJI RANA

Developing the Facilitation Team through Partnership

After the initial program planning was complete, 4 youth leaders - including two Surrey Shapers alumni - were brought together and tasked with leading, facilitating and delivering the program to the cohort participants. This program was co-led by Vaidehi Gupta (CityHive) and Eyobel Michael (UMOJA), and joined by two support facilitators: Isaac Koenig-Workman (S.U.C.C.E.S.S. YLM) and Anji Rana (Program Alumni). The collaboration between the non-profits, CityHive, UMOJA, and S.U.C.C.E.S.S.'s Youth Leadership Millennium, allowed for the second cohort of Surrey Shapers to reach even more youth across Surrey in order to bring together a unique cohort of participants, who all had a shared interest in public space.



CityHive



S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

Youth
Leadership
Millennium

THE COHORT



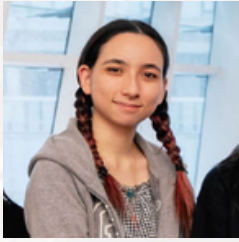
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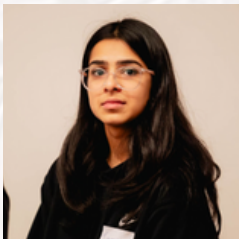
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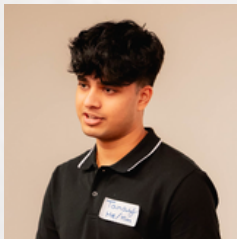
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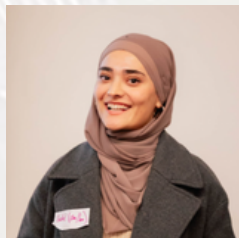
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JEANNE



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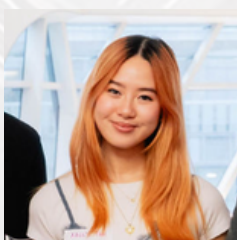
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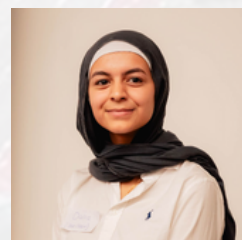
POOJA



GORDON



KELLY



DALIA

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The project component for this cohort differed from the past cohort, where participants were tasked to create community impact project: redesigning and activating a public space so that Surrey better reflects their voices, perspectives, and needs.

This cohort was tasked with designing and creating a “rain-friendly” parklet, a unique case study project that brought some extremely valuable insights to the cohort. This parklet was located outside of the Newton Library in Surrey and led youth to observe patterns during their activations, which provided them with a deeper understanding for how to program and design public spaces through the consideration of climate-adaptive weather. As a result, this cohort sought the potential to shift perspectives on public spaces in the rain and snow – with their projects addressing various barriers to public space use.



In collaboration, this cohort was able to design 3 unique community parklet activations to host in the Newton community to focus in on four key themes:

- 1 The roles of art, design, and storytelling in the activation process.
- 2 How are public spaces designed? And who are they designed for?
- 3 Understanding what does it means to interact with public space on unceded lands.
- 4 Building a connection to create inclusive and active public spaces that reflect our personal stories.



THE LEARNING JOURNEY

Surrey Shapers 2.0 Cohort Timeline

COMMUNITY BUILDING



Session 1: Introductions & Icebreakers

"This program is a nice guide into how planning works!"
- Surrey Shapers Cohort Participant

ACTION



Activation 1 / Group 1

Activation 2 / Group 2

Activation 3 / Group 3

LEARN



Session 2: What is Public Space and its Complications?

Session 3: Project Management

Session 4: Design Studio

EXPLORE & IDEATE



Session 5: Knowledge in Transportation, Urban Planning, Environmental Psychology

Session 6: Work Session

Session 7: Project Feedback Session

Session 8: Knowledge in Presenting to City Council

COMMUNITY EVENT



Community Event & Program Showcase



“

A **great, interactive** way to not only get to know more about the city we live in, but also meet really amazing and motivated people!

-Participant

”

“

Surrey Shapers is a great program that helps us, **the youth**, connect to as well as understand our city better

-Participant

”

ACTION: PROJECTS

The cohort broke into three distinct groups to work on their parklet activations in front of the Newton Library.

Team SuperShapers: Gamification Parklet

*by Kelly Tan, Gordon Mok, Sude Guvendik,
Anthony Ngo, Tanay Mishra, Jackson Li*

Project Concept:

Our parklet aims to create a space where people can interact with their community both directly (through the Christmas tree and a basketball game) and indirectly (through the moodboard). Through these various avenues, the community can spend quality time with their loved ones and greater community by channeling their creativity, youthfulness, and kindness!



ACTION: PROJECTS

Team Sharklet: Wish Upon a Tree Parklet

*by Pooja Pawar, Umang Rehsi, Tahmineh Sohangar,
Maryam Sadat, Jeanne Albutra, Kenji Johnson*

Project Concept:

We wanted to create a safe, accessible, and community-centric space where visitors feel empowered to interact with, learn and share thoughts about their community. We did this through a wish tree, seating, and take-a-seed birdhouse!



ACTION: PROJECTS

Team Sprouts: Naturified Parklet

by Joanne Dong, Via Genzon, Cassandra Horn, Mohammad Nasar Walizada, Tanya Mishra, Dalia Abed Rabbo

Project Concept:

Our objective is to make a space where people can relax, enjoy, and grow connections with the community and nature. Also, this parklet can be available and accessible to everyone anytime to enjoy!





“

The Surrey Shapers put their **knowledge into action** by adding vibrancy to a public space during the winter season. By providing a space for the public to enjoy festive decorations, interactive activities, and greenery, the youth successfully added a **tactical boost** of positivity to members of the public visiting the library. Whether it was kids stopping by to shoot some hoops, leaving positive messages on a wishing tree, or watering some plants, the activations were appreciated by passers-by because of the level of interaction they provided for **EVERYONE**.

- City of Surrey Partners

”

BY THE NUMBERS

84%

of participants reported gaining new skills

100%

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

100%

made new friendships with other young Surrey residents

50+

members of the community interacted with the youth-led activations at the Newton Library

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Surrey Shapers: Public Space 2.0 would not have been possible without the support of the following people:

- Aman Chandi
- Anji Rana
- David Sadler
- Eyobel Michael
- Hafsah Dastgir
- Isaac Koenig-Workman
- Janel Margaret Cruz
- Joanne Nellas
- Jonathan Cauri
- Stephy Liu
- Kelly Clifton
- Matthew De Siena
- Maya Graves-Bacchus
- Melanie Butt
- Naomi Kennedy
- Rowan Gentleman-Sylvester
- Sayani Mandals
- Sophia Huang
- Trisha Dulku

THANK YOU!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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United Way
British Columbia



Future Launch