CityShaping Event Input Summary:

SOCIAL INCLUSION & CULTURAL DIVERSITY – How?

co-hosted with North Shore Neighbourhood House
Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at JBCC

Listening Booth

What is the best thing happening in the City these days, in term of either social inclusion or cultural diversity?

Why did you pick that one thing? What special meaning does it have? What is the potential for the future?

What is one challenge or problem you would like to see addressed? What difference would it make?

Ideas

- more celebration of diversity
- make people feel more connected
- encourage block parties everywhere
- know your neighbours and it helps with inclusion
- celebrations bring energy, life, fun
- build stronger social networks and safer, healthier community

Opportunities

- Informal soccer ie: in Waterfront Park
- Local high school with mix of international/Canadian kids
- Visiting students challenged re: integrate
- Community could learn from what school does – cross cultural understanding
- Motto is “Strength in Diversity”
- Have events but key is discussions from different perspectives
- Cross cultural dialogue
- Youth workers can connect local youth to OCP discussions & network into the community
- Community development workers, too
- Movers & shakers & youth network forming
• Pizza & pop nights to get youth discussing topics in depth
• Forum for youth only
• Workbook for youth
• Youth in City network
• City is passively accepting of different cultures but not actively promising acceptance.
• Given location/history, should focus on connection with First Nations, esp. Squamish First Nations
• “Invisible barriers” to inclusion & diversity need to be addressed
• Potential is there, interest too (youth)
• Film/lecture series on First Nation history/culture
• Courses for ethnic ie: Persian community re: local governance (positive politics)

**Needs**

• Gap between reality and perception of homelessness & causes thereof – information gap? Wilful blindness? Values clash? If gap was closed, would have diverse housing prices, tenure, forms, etc. to meet all needs due to will, more services, too.
• Everyone has a story so we need more spaces/chances to sit down together and learn from/with each other.
• Learning this way will influence our policy discussion by deepening our understandings
• If you know your neighbour better, you can care for them & help meet their needs.
• Translation /law services to assist newcomers in their dealings with new community, eg. Real estate, banks/financial
• Help immigrants become more familiar with new rules/law/process
• Organizations to give good advice and guidance (hard to know who to trust and takes time)
• Seems like a common problem for many immigrants.
• Ensure those we try to serve are involved in policy and agency decision making.
• Ensure that services are meeting needs.

**Strengths**

• Braithwaite Centre is welcoming of all ages and cultures (not recognized enough).
• Takes stress from working families when seniors are cared for.
• Provides a focus/home for seniors, keeps them connected and not isolated.
• Brings ages together.
• Geography and nature is special and touches people’s souls – breathes life into them/us
• Provides lots of rec. opportunities.
• Seniors action committee forum on “finding homes”

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• Lead to video on “Financial Abuse of Seniors” (Jesse Sutherland).
• Created speakers list.
• Planning a street survey with youth and seniors
• Joined Suzuki Foundation.
• Want to build on assets and not let things sleep.
• Becomes more multicultural and more socio-economically diverse
• Allows for learning, connection, transformation when rich and poor interact and live together.
• The well-off have lots to offer the poor and vice versa.
• Synergy – ying/yang.
• Intergenerational too
• Soccer/sports/churches.

**Positives**

• Affluent & educated
• Strong voice for what is right
• 6,000 support services for addictions
• All influences him to be a good citizen and build a social network
• NS Multicultural – new programs – Neon city – high schools outreach

**Negatives**

• People slipping through cracks (settlement workers)
• More people – Latin American exponential growth – not as many resources/youth workers that speak Spanish
• Service providers link Squamish First Nation with non-aboriginal services.

**Challenges**

• Including/connecting with our First Nations who are right here.
• They do not want to be judged.
• Starting to discuss a cross cultural learning process with seniors at Braithwaite.
• Language barriers of culturally diverse people.
• Prevents inclusion
• Good intentions/spirit but costs are barrier.
• Isolation is result and severe effects.
Vancouver Foundation dialogues identified this and suggested affordable esc clauses.
Social inclusion means getting people out of apartments and more connected to each other and the community.
Stop ghettoizing old people in concrete buildings.
Intergenerational families model of some cultures addresses this – prevents isolation – need to address this.
It is key to real democracy to give people a say in issues that affect them and using suitable formats
Many groups not accessed – Young people/co-horts, Persian/Filipino, First Nations, Korean/Chinese.
Those with less income and education more challenging to involve.
Ill feelings and judgement to those with problem like addiction, crime and homelessness.

**Problems**

- City feels quite “white”.
- Cost of housing is an issue as is rental housing
- Gentrifying trend in opposition to cheaper rental housing
- French immersion school for Lower Lonsdale
- Edge re: race & income in City
- Keep focus on diverse housing option for S.I.
SNAKES & LADDERS
What have we missed? General comments:

- Not knowing input is wanted/appreciated.
- The feeling of powerlessness.
- Ageism – need more inclusion of youth and seniors.
- Apprehension.
- Seeing more children translating for their parents – not always appropriate.
- Language and cultural context.
- Cultural diversity that recognizes gender equality.
- Digital screen to advertise City site.
- Childcare during events/consultations.
- More youth/seniors programs together.
- Learning from others without imposing.
- Piggy-back on existing events/activities to get input (eg. Children’s programs, festivals, etc.)
- Connection between my input and plan.
- Text short code out of home advertising, no apps, get a scope.
- 160 characters right to site, keyword City of NV, SMS technology
- More cultural languages.
- More translators.
- Too many programs in Farsi only at JBCC, NSNH and the City Library – leaves other immigrants out.
- Drop-in childcare while participating.
- Go to where people are, ie. Concerts.
- It’s time to incorporate age friendly safety systems in condos.
- Increasing number of Spanish population, more inclusion.
- Native language is very important – Persian.
- Public access to have promo of events translated to reach out to everyone.
- Are play areas being considered for children living in condos?
- More longboarding opportunities (Grand Blvd.).
WALK IN MY SHOES

What is it like to experience the City from someone else’s perspective?

You are a busy parent of three school-age children, and are very involved with supporting their school sports and other extracurricular activities. You barely have time for yourself, let alone time to attend a public consultation event.

How could the City of North Vancouver make it more likely for you to participate?

- Provide child care at meetings.
- Show up at soccer/swim meet to do consultation event.
- Childcare (and something fun) for the kids while I attend the event.
- Piggy-back off existing festivals, activities (eg. Swimming lessons, sports games) – send people to us!
- Website participation.
- Newspaper ad telling “why” should attend and important to be heard in community.
- On-line survey or FAQ – link.
- During the day when kids are in school, different times of the day.

You have recently moved to the City of North Vancouver from mainland China, and while you have enrolled in free English classes, you still aren’t confident in your speaking abilities in your new language?

How could the City of North Vancouver make you feel more comfortable in your new community?

- Have more advertising for newbies re: active groups for immigrants new to North Shore and have free English classes.
- Opportunity with meet/work with a mentor.
- Opportunity for developing social contacts with a mentor.
- Join a community centre
- Get to know your neighbours.
- Churches are good at inclusion.
- “Buddy” program – at workplace as well.
- Neighbourhood block watch for adults, ie. Tell new immigrants about resources in community.
- Adults – settlement workers. School district for kids have for parents too.
- Link between settlement workers and immigrant worker would be helpful.
- Offer Chinese services but, as a taxpayer, I don’t want to pay for it.
• “Welcome Wagon” – updated version – online packages, etc.
• Let people know where to find things – information guide.
• Friendship Circles – not ESL just practising conversational English.
• Coffee circles.
• Creating opportunities to converse.

Who else should we consider? Which groups might get left behind during the OCP engagement process?

How could the City of North Vancouver make sure they are engaged?

• At risk youth – the ones who are not in school and don’t live with their families.
• Youth immigrants who live alone on the street.
• Longboarders.
• What to build – free kitchen where youth can cook and learn to eat nutriously.
• More youth and senior interaction
• At JBCC moms and kids, seniors, Persian groups use JBCC alot – get involved in small group discussions. Also fitness centre users.
• Young adults new to the region.
• Renters need to be involved.
• Language barriers, lower income.
• Don’t have computers to see/learn info.
• Accountability is not visible – see the changes actually happen.
• Mental health.
• Speakers bureau for various languages.
• Newspaper ad – like to see update on the CityShaping process.
• Persian community – not very trusting of governments
• Filipino – churches – good organized group
• Need to find a way to make Persians comfortable with government.
• Find a champion in the Filipino community and then you are good to go.
• People with mental health concerns.
• Physical and mental – differently-abled people.

You are a 16-year-old who is interested in what is going on in the City, but you don’t want to go to meetings that are designed for (and full of) old people like your parents.

How could the City of North Vancouver make it more likely for you to participate?

• Make only youth to young adult oriented meeting at schools or rec. centres, skate parks, the pool as well as make it so they get volunteer hours for attending.
Engage them through roleplay.
Door prizes, free food, not junk, sustainable sushi. A real meal, lots of youth don’t get real meals anymore (big problem).
Facebook is there.
‘Surprise’ meetings – city staff just turn up at the skate park, etc.
Short length participation opportunities eg. Days and months (not years) to do specific things re: cleaning up parks, being at recycling station, etc.
‘Pay’ via pizza.
Social opportunities to meet “cool” people.
Liaise with student councils and clubs at schools.
Hold parties – they could be “hosted” (like Tupperware parties).
Connect with the teen room at the City Library – it’s a popular spot.
Go to skateboarding parks (or other hang outs).
Let me know what’s going on by accessing my attention at school.
Youth programs especially drop-in sports and rec/discussions.
Get me involved in a project that appeals – social support for disabled youth or food bank, Harvest Project.
Getting teens together around drama, music, art events.
Info at libraries but give them their areas to chat.
Public events – food, music, bring families together, talk to them then.
Incentive programs
Mutual respect then kids would want to participate.
Events for teens at rec centre on Saturday morning.
At schools, before a teen event at C.C.
Have a youth meeting at a rec centre where kids hang out but if they are not old enough to vote, does their opinion really count?
Social media way in to youth group.
Relationships – bridging gap between government and teens, ie. Speaking language, have a “bigger” face in the youth community – hang out with them.
Inviting kids into the core of issues – inclusiveness, volunteering in community, recognizing their presence and acknowledging it.

You have Muscular Dystrophy and use a wheelchair to move around. Most of the places you frequently go are accessible, but you are hesitant to explore new areas as you are unsure how you will be able to get around.

How could the City of North Vancouver encourage you to explore your community?
- Maps directing them where to go, eg: on a wheelchair accessible route, have it show the safe and new place.
- Have all new buildings build ramps instead of stairs.
- Have colourful wheelchair tracks that direct them to accessible spaces. A cool image.
- Advertise that it is accessible.
- Make wheelchair path for beach and forest.
- Issue maps of flat and accessible areas and the paths that interconnect places.
- Have a City info centre eg. Reception desk to provide a wide range of info, ie. They become information and referral experts.
- Well, I feel this way about biking and bike trails. I like the interactive website/map that Vancouver has for bike routes. You can see it as a map, but also as satellite, so you can clearly visualize the route. For people with access issues, perhaps a tool like this, that highlights stairs, elevators, etc. Great mapping project for students/interns. (Maybe high school students could get involved with geography students at university? A class project? Or summer job?)
- Events in various locations with pre-arranged accessible transit.
- Volunteer transit assistants that know the system well and can accompany me to various areas that are new to me.
- Having info about where to go at the places they go. Fun posters, visible signage.
- Language – call it “wheels” accessible, ie. Strollers, wheelchairs, bikes even.
- Trails more accessible.
- Parks board have an “accessibility day” to learn about what can do.
- Website shows where accessible areas are – icons re: rec, shopping, etc.

You have recently moved to the City of North Vancouver from Toronto and are looking for a job. The only local employment services you can find are for newcomers and for youth under the age of 30 – you don’t fit either of these criteria.

How could the City of North Vancouver make it easier for you to transition into your new community?

- Mentor system (eg. Lion’s Club, etc.)
- Drop-in center
- Expand mandate of existing programs.
- Volunteer buddies/home families, eg. Set up volunteer chatting friends with/through community groups.
- “Philosopher Cafe” type gatherings at different venues.
- City library is a good starting place for organizing discussion group.s
- System in the free English classes for setting up paths to these community programs (or encouraging students to know about different sorts of clubs and activities where they

CityShaping Event Input Summary: Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity – How?
could do things they enjoy with other people – eg. Community gardens, dance lessons, music groups, etc. Activities are better that just conversation.)

- On City website – “how to get involved” – job opportunities.
- “Linked in” type of thing on website.
- Connect to professional groups, ie. Successful women’s group (Think Cityf of NV website is actually pretty good – use it more and tell people to go there.)
- Am I born in Canada or an immigrant who has been in Canada for 10 or more years?
- Employment service link on City website.

Other ideas:

- Wanted a question on same-sex married couples.
- United church inclusive of accepting all peoples.
- Want a seniors day in NV – acknowledge their involvement in the community, ie “Thanks for volunteering”, seniors are not a problem, they are a resource, they are honoured citizens.
-