



Dream Vancouver

CONFERENCE REPORT



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PART 1

Purpose, Vision and Planning of Dream Vancouver

On October 21, 2007, over 260 citizens from across Vancouver came together to dream, discuss, and listen at the Dream Vancouver conference. The main objective of the conference was to stimulate connections and energy around the common concerns of the citizens of Vancouver, and foster creative ideas and solutions to better the city. The intent was to provide a space for participants to talk about the issues of concern in Vancouver. At the same time the conference was designed to avoid frustration and negativity by directing attention toward the assets and possibilities associated with the city. Participants were encouraged to dream about the future, instead of feel overwhelmed with the current issues. To help facilitate this process Bliss Browne, a woman with extensive experience in Appreciative Inquiry¹ and public engagement was brought in to help guide the events of the day.

Think City, the group that sponsored this event, has a history of public engagement in Vancouver. Since 2002 they have organized a number of forums, events, and conferences, as well as, produced newsletters to encourage engagement with the issues facing Vancouver. However, Dream Vancouver was a hallmark event because it was conceived as one step in a more continuous process of citizen engagement, and



was the first attempt by Think City to facilitate an open format, where people could share their dreams for the future and discuss possible next steps.

There was both an immediate and long-term vision of Dream Vancouver: the short-term vision was to engage the public in the issues facing Vancouver, extending the opportunity which is usually reserved for officials to the citizens; the long-term vision was to take the pressing issues from the event and continue creating citizen engagement and action around these issues, for example by developing a citizens' agenda. To support both of these visions it is valuable to map out from the event the main themes of concern along with some of the thoughts and ideas connected to these themes. This approach allows Think City not only to honour what was discussed and created at the event by representing some of the work that was produced on the day, but also provides some key points of focus to move forward with in a longer term process of engagement and action. Therefore, the goal of this report is to illustrate the main concerns and ideas that arose throughout the Dream Vancouver conference.

¹ Appreciative Inquiry is an organizational development process that directs the discussion with positive questions, focusing on what is working instead of what is not. This method promotes collaboration and frames participants as subjects with the capability to enact change. (Dream Vancouver Website: http://dreamvancouver.ca/?q=conference/appreciative_inquiry)

Starting the Dreaming

In the months leading up to the Dream Vancouver conference, the organizers of the event worked to generate discussion, enthusiasm and outreach about the day. This included informing citizens about the event through sources such as the Think City Minute, the media and list serves. There was also a focused effort at outreaching to various community organizations from across Vancouver, to ensure people from a diversity of backgrounds and interests would be encouraged to attend the event. Fifty community groups signed on as community partners and helped get information about the Dream Vancouver conference out to their networks (see Appendix C).

An important part of the effort to inform people and generate some excitement and thought around the Dream Vancouver conference, was to have citizens from different backgrounds and areas of concern put forward their dreams for the future (see Appendix B). These dreamers included, professors and directors from SFU, a former premier, members from the Columbia Institute, Think City board members and many other community leaders, activists and citizens. They spoke of a wide range of hopes and dreams for the future of Vancouver, but there were a number of dreams shared by many.

Most described dreams that included a reduction of poverty, as well as more support services and social equality in Vancouver. As part of these concerns housing was a topic repeatedly raised by the Dreamers. Joy MacPhail provided a warning that was echoed by many: “If we do not increase our affordable

housing stock, the city will be the enclave of the rich, and probably the old. How boring.” Brent Granby described a future Vancouver that heeds this warning and provides housing for a range of needs: “Supportive housing would be developed to help people with their needs and this would be

Dreamers spoke of a wide range of hopes and dreams for the future of Vancouver, but there were a number of dreams shared by many.

integrated in the community of their choice. Co-op housing would be built to give families in the city enough room to grow.” David Eby detailed a dream of housing that involved tenants from different backgrounds living in the same place: “Both the rich people and the poor people live in the same buildings as the middle-income people.”

Other dreamers hoped for a diversity of people living together in mutual recognition, understanding, and respect. They dreamed of a diverse, connected, inclusive community, some mentioned their hope for peace. Gillian Maxwell, dreamed for “a place where each person is respected for their individuality, diversity, strengths, weaknesses, frailties and human beingness.” Tung Chan and Todd Wong not only dreamed about a more diverse society but gave some prescriptions of how to make this happen:

Our City, our societies and our education must embrace the continued diversity of our cultures. We must build interdisciplinary social-cultural philosophical infrastructures throughout business, society, arts, politics, academia, sports and recreation (Todd Wong).

Only when we can share our anger, our sorrow and our joy together can we truly become a community. We need to increase our capacity and our willingness to appreciate each other's culture (Tung Chan).

Others also dreamed about the preservation of history and a vibrant arts and culture community.

Many dreamers also spoke of a more sustainable city that included, great transit; a bicycle and pedestrian friendly infrastructure; less road and bridge expansion; more local agriculture; less waste; protected parks and neighborhoods; and less sprawl. Helen Spiegelman described a future Vancouver that is forced to recycle and reuse everything. A Vancouver that locally produces goods and has a “renaissance in guild-scale manufacturing,” as well as a city-wide decentralized network for composting. In Joe Foy’s future Vancouver: “housing developers would be required to pay for expanded transit services each time new housing



Beasley began by professing the importance of dreams, not only as the foundations for good ideas but as a method to go beyond constraints and limits, and get to the new unexplored great ideas.

is built. There would be a freeze on road and bridge expansion. [There would be] a car toll on every bridge and the money [would be put] into buying more buses and lowering fares.”

Finally there were also dreams around citizen interaction and participation, which included strong neighbourhoods that engaged with each other. Carmen Mills shared that her: “...dream of Vancouver is daisy-chained neighbourhoods each with its own distinctive zocalo where people meet and hang out and celebrate, demonstrate, mourn, dance, and play together.” Kerry Jang hopes for a city where there is active citizen engagement without NIMBYism: “where residents in each neighborhood play a real role in its own future.” Marc Lee provided an overall picture of Vancouver that combines some of the above issues: “My Vancouver is deeply democratic, egalitarian and sustainable. The world looks to us not just as a pretty face, but as a new social model of the good society.”

The people from across Vancouver that shared the possible, the imaginative and the necessary that made up their dreams, kicked off an exciting process of thinking about, and engaging with, the issues and possibilities surrounding Vancouver. They provided us with specific issues that needed improvement such as housing and sustainable practices, as well as, an overarching vision for a future Vancouver that included equity, compassion and sustainability.

Larry Beasley was a guest speaker who spoke of his dreams during the conference, instead of leading up to the event. After the participants at the Dream Vancouver conference spent the morning thinking about the assets and potentials of Vancouver, Larry Beasley, the former Vancouver co-director of planning, spoke about his dreams and helped to give additional thought and energy

to the conversations of the day. Beasley gave an inspiring talk that touched on some of the issues which arose in the morning and provided a good pre-empt to some of the issues groups would form around in the afternoon. He began by professing the importance of dreams, not only as the foundations for good ideas but as a method to go beyond constraints and limits, and get to the new unexplored great ideas. In line with the structure of the day, Beasley then spoke of Vancouver's many assets. Beasley warned that although the positive aspects of Vancouver are impressive, the city still has much to dream about because "we are not there yet." Beasley explained there are a number of areas where Vancouver falls short, such as in cultural life and alternative transportation infrastructure. Although Beasley named a number of areas where Vancouver could use improvement he wanted to focus on two main issues: the environment and housing.

The first dream Beasley shared with the crowd was on environmental sustainability. He mentioned a number of substantial changes that would be required to move Vancouver towards environmental sustainability including, better management of waste; more local food production; taking the emphasis off of cars; and making environmental stewardship a common part of the culture. He also pointed out that it is only a start to recognize what needs to be done, and another project to make it into reality and really change Vancouver's relationship to the environment.

The second major dream Beasley had for Vancouver was related to housing: that there would be "affordable, suitable housing for everyone." To Beasley this meant that middle- income families would be able to live in

Beasley did not think his dreams would happen on their own, but through creative, dedicated people, working with the knowledge that already exists and creating new solutions and tactics.

Vancouver instead of being pushed out to the suburbs because of high housing costs. It also meant that there would be housing, support and respect for the homeless in Vancouver:

that for every single person in our city – regardless of their background or their circumstances, or what they might have done, or what they could have done, or what they couldn't have done, whatever – that there would be a sanctuary, a home, with the supports they need and somehow for them to connect back into the love that I know is out there for every single person in the city. (Beasley)

Beasley put forward a few ideas on how the housing situation in Vancouver could be addressed. For example he suggested creating a third housing sector, which would be government regulated or work as a "semi-market" housing sector. He also raised the idea of the development potential for the False Creek Flats. Here he spoke of building a new community in Vancouver that would exemplify the dreams above, including, affordable housing, good transit and environmental practices. He named this neighbourhood Cross Town. Finally Beasley emphasized that he did not think his dreams for housing and the environment would happen on their own, but through creative, dedicated people, working with the knowledge that already exists and creating new solutions and tactics.

PART 2

Overview of the Event

To begin the day, as people registered they were directed towards tables to which they were randomly assigned. In the morning most of the activity occurred at these tables, first with one-on-one interaction and then with table wide discussions. To start the dialogue and dreaming, participants were asked to pair up and interview each other. The interview included questions about, the participants'

Participants were encouraged to make connections with people in their groups and carry forward their activities with each other outside of Dream Vancouver.

past experience with making positive change in their community, the main dreams they had for Vancouver, and finally some of the steps they thought would help to achieve these dreams. Once this process was completed the individuals brought some of the dreams that they raised in the interviews to a table-wide discussion. Browne then asked the tables to create a visible representation of their dreams for Vancouver. This first part of the day enabled people to discuss one on one and in smaller groups their personal concerns and backgrounds. In the afternoon the interactions expanded from the tables, as participants self organized by topics of interest. Participants with a strong concern or interest in a particular issue had the opportunity to raise their hand and call out the topic, inviting anyone who shared that concern to join in discussions. People then walked around the room and joined a group that represented the issue they felt the strongest about. It was inevitable that many

people were concerned with more than one of the issues that groups formed around, but participants did not have to stay with one group, and some did decide to move to another group half way through the discussions. The groups and the topics of concern gained different levels of enthusiasm, some groups had upwards of twenty people whereas others had only two or three. As the enthusiasm for topics varied and the ability to take forward all concerns was beyond Think City's capacity, participants were encouraged to make connections with people in their groups and carry forward their activities with each other outside of Dream Vancouver. Therefore this second half of the day had two important goals: one was to allow groups to productively brainstorm on an issue of common interest and come up with concrete actions for improvement; and two was to enable collaboration and connection between individuals who shared similar concerns so they could continue to work together outside of this event. Browne helped to craft the focus and flow of the day, but the crowd produced the action and the discussion. Browne directed the discussion towards assets, dreams, and actions so that although the crowd was talking about issues facing Vancouver, the discussion carried past concentrating on the problems into how things could be changed.



MORNING

- 10 –10:30 Welcome and introductions.
- 10:30–10:40 Browne provided some information on how the day would go, highlighting that it was a day of participation and she would not often be speaking.
- 10:40–11:45 Participants paired up to conduct interviews. Later in the day this process moved from sharing thoughts individually, to sharing with the group and then to sharing with the “commons” or the whole conference.
- 11:45–12 Browne called a young girl up to the front to tell the crowd about her dreams for Vancouver. Browne then asked participants to create a “dream tree” to “awaken ideas” through visual creativity. Groups created visual representations that exemplified their collective dreams for the future of Vancouver, which were then posted around the room.

AFTERNOON

- 12:30–1:30 Keynote speech: Beasley spoke about the assets and potential of Vancouver and what his dreams were for the future of the city.
- 1:30–2:15 Browne reflected on what everyone had achieved so far. People were then asked to host groups. Anyone who had an issue they felt was important had the opportunity to stand up and invite people to discuss the issue further.
- 2:15–3:45 Groups were formed, and their first task was to raise some thought provoking questions around their issue instead of trying to solve it. After this exercise the groups brainstormed ideas on how to make change. Finally groups focused on a few of their strongest suggestions for next steps.
- 3:45–4:30 Report back: groups reported to the crowd some of their key suggested actions regarding their issues. Finally the day ended with everyone forming a circle and sharing what they had taken from the day and how their behavior would change because of it.

PART 3

Themes raised by participants in interviews and dream trees

At the conference a large part of the morning was dedicated to an exercise which involved participants pairing up and interviewing one another about their experience, knowledge and dreams. This section focuses on some of the main themes captured by these interviews; specifically some of the named assets of Vancouver and the participants' dreams for the city. Another aspect

Housing was a dream that was mentioned more than any other by the respondents.

of the interviews that is relevant to this report, but will be reviewed in a later section are the next steps that people recommended for moving forward on their dreams. This issue will be raised in the final section as part of the next steps and conclusions.



Assets of Vancouver

There were two major assets of Vancouver that participants mentioned: the beauty of Vancouver and the diversity. When interviewees spoke of the beauty of Vancouver it was often with reference to: “the natural setting”; Vancouver’s “ocean and mountains”; “proximity to nature”; as well as, the green spaces and the “nature in the city.” The comments around the diversity of Vancouver included points on the multiculturalism of the city, how it is a “city of immigrants” and how Vancouver is “increasingly diverse.” Some, along with commenting on the diversity, noted that Vancouver was fairly harmonious as well. One participant mentioned there are “high level of tolerance and respect of differences,” another claimed “different groups work together despite differences.”

Although there were two major assets that were repeatedly mentioned, participants named quite a range of assets. Other named strengths of Vancouver were, it’s neighbourhoods; that it is a young city with a lot of potential; and that there is an openness to different perspectives and ideas.

Dreams for Vancouver

There were two prominent dreams that were mentioned regularly in the interviews. These two themes were housing and transportation. Housing was a dream that was mentioned more than any other by the respondents. This dream included housing affordability, as well as, an elimination of homelessness. Some dreamers hoped for a ‘housing plan to ensure all socioeconomic levels more affordable housing;’ “a place where average people can afford to live;” and a region that is “affordable...

for young people to live with their family.” Some respondents spoke of the importance of mixed housing, alternative housing, and cooperative public housing models. Finally others explicitly dreamed of a city where homelessness would be eradicated, they hoped for Vancouver to have “homes for everyone” and to “resolve homelessness in the city and region.” A number of the dreams that related to an eradication of homelessness, specified for quality housing and supports as well. One person called for “housing for all and where all basic needs are met for all”; another hoped for “homelessness sorted by 2010 but by supported social housing not shelters”; finally another person explained they wanted Vancouver to be a place “where everyone has a comfortable home.”

Connected to issues of housing affordability and homelessness were concerns around the reduction of poverty, reducing the gap between the rich and poor, and creating better programs for addictions and mental illness. Some spoke of this in terms of a general need for: “more justice and equity in the city” or “compassion and more concern for the homeless,” others suggested specific issues that needed to be dealt with such as, the “minimum wage and income assistance raised so people can live in Vancouver.”

Transportation was another dream which was of common concern to the interview participants. There was a desire to have improved infrastructure for alternative transportation. People wanted “transit-connected neighbourhoods”; “affordable rapid transit throughout Metro Vancouver.” and a “better public transit with renewable energy.” Some connected better transit with a reduced dependence on cars, others wanted no cars at

all in their future Vancouver. Some were most focused on a bike- and pedestrian-friendly city. One person commented “Vancouver should be more bike friendly and not just pay lip service to the concept” another wanted a “city where it is easy to walk or bike around.”

Sustainability and governance were two additional dreams that were not as prominent in terms of responses as housing and

Dreamers desired a future where “people want to get involved, and there are venues and methods to foster involvement”

transportation but were still issues of common concern. Sustainability, an issue connected to the dream of alternative transportation was one mentioned by many participants. This to some meant “creating a sustainable community” and a “need for a long-term view” as well as living in “ways that are responsible to further generations.” More specifically a sustainable city included “action on climate change and a zero waste society.” Some people were more focused on the agricultural issues of sustainability, their suggestions included “developing a more intimate relationship with our food supply” and “urban agriculture.”

Governance and public engagement was also a major concern of many of the respondents in the interviews. This included dreams for more public dialogue and opportunities for public participation and decision-making. Specifically, dreamers desired a future where “people want to get involved, [and there are] venues and methods to foster involvement”; “more participation and less representation”; and a

“city actively listening to its citizens.” Some wanted to see a more participatory system that was inclusive of different interests: “that people affected are always involved and given a chance to lead the process: i.e., children, youth, homeless, seniors” or a “political structure [that is] more inclusive [and] participatory, [where there are] more resources for alternative views to be heard.” Some comments focused on the existing governance system and those in power, and how they could change to improve public engagement, these comments called for a: “municipal bureaucracy [that is] more open to the public and less afraid of them: that they raise expectations versus managing them”; a “leadership who listens to the voices of people.” Related to issues of public engagement were hopes for better public spaces and a greater use of these spaces: a “fun major public square”; a “sidewalk culture”; “more people-friendly (all diverse cultural groups) streets, parks and public spaces” and a “well connected, well maintained public realm.”

Finally although not as prominently mentioned as the above issues, arts, culture and diversity were dreams raised by a number of participants. Hopes for diversity included a “multicultural city”; “peaceful diversity”; a “celebration of each others similarities” as well as an “inclusive community that provides equality of opportunity.” Participants also had dreams for arts and culture that included, a “more vibrant music and arts scene” and “more funding for arts and culture.”

Dream Trees

After everyone had shared their dreams for Vancouver on a one on one basis, the interactions expanded to the group level, and each table created a visual representation of the dreams and issues raised in the interviews. These posters or “dream trees” reflect the issues of concern, as well as issues that were not as prominent in the number of responses. As can be seen in the examples of the dream art in Appendix D, these dreams included community gardens; diversity; housing issues; citizen engagement; a stronger arts and culture scene; environmental sustainability; and better transit.



PART 4

Group Dreams

After spending the morning thinking, discussing and listening about the major issues facing Vancouver, participants were given the space to stand up and host groups on themes they thought were important. After topics were declared, everyone was free to coalesce around the different themes that they were most interested in or concerned about. The groups that formed out of this process were: heritage and history; housing; accessible civic government; public engagement of ethnic communities; public realm and public spaces; accessible

After topics were declared, everyone was free to coalesce around the different themes that they were most interested in or concerned about.

information technology (IT) for all and use of IT in civic governance; strengthening neighbourhood voice at city hall and making a better place for women; intersections between communities and schools; civic engagement of youth; cultural regeneration; livable neighbourhoods; water quality and the environment; transportation; car free city; dependency on oil; urban agriculture; how to better engage with urban aboriginals in Vancouver; and seniors in the city. Every one of these groups drew members and engaged in thoughtful dialogue around important questions regarding their topic, brainstorming the underlying issues, possible solutions and finally action plans that would engage others. In this process there were a number of key themes that had noticeable momentum and interest

from the conference attendees in terms of the number of people drawn into the groups or number of groups connected to one theme. As these issues seemed to gain the most interest from participants the results of their discussions will be presented in more detail. These themes were: housing and homelessness; alternative transportation; and the public realm. The groups had extensive discussions on their topics which cannot be represented in entirety but below is a selection of some of the questions the groups thought were important to ask, some of the recommended actions and some of the key points raised.

HOUSING

Housing was a prominent theme in the dreamer statements leading up to the event, in the interviews, and in the groups formed around issues of interest. The group created around the concern of housing named a number of key points and next steps regarding this issue, including, a need for a major change in how housing is viewed; more action by all levels of government in terms of funding and policy to ensure housing affordability; the need to continue methods of advocating on housing issues; and a need for a greater effort to educate and engage people around housing issues.

Questions around affordable housing

Why are there over 2000 people living on the streets of Vancouver?

Why don't we have a policy environment that is more conducive to creating affordable housing in B.C.?

What is adequate affordable housing?

What are the benefits of mixed neighbourhoods?

Recommended Actions

POLITICAL PRESSURE AND ADVOCACY

- Continue to advocate for affordable housing – writing letters to elected politicians.
- Encourage friends outside the norm to write letters as well – create awareness.
- Make affordable housing a political issue – ensure it's on the agenda of all the political parties in the next provincial or federal elections.
- Support local groups championing the affordable housing issue.

EDUCATION

- Ensure people are aware of the linkage between affordable housing and other issues such as homelessness, drug addiction, alcoholism.
- Promote the benefits of affordable housing.
- More efforts to get other people engaged and advocate around issues. Get people voting and caring about housing in the next election.

GOVERNMENT ACTION

- The provincial government should allocate real capital towards social housing and get in and start building.
- The federal government should get back into housing. One percent of the GDP should be put back into housing. Any increases in housing should be tied to affordability.

TRANSPORTATION

The project of making Vancouver less car dependant was another major topic that people were drawn to. Two groups formed under this issue, the larger group was around sustainable alternative transportation infrastructure and the other was concerned with car-free communities. The focus of these groups were similar in that they were trying to dream of ways to make Vancouver less dependent on cars and stronger in alternative forms of transportation, including, public transit, bikes and walking. Some of the suggested next steps and actions were to start a dialogue around transit, have 24-hour transit, and instill some car-free areas in vibrant communities.

Questions around public transit and car free communities

- How do we create enough political pressure so that policies that increase transit usage are implemented?
- What are the added benefits of alternative modes of transportation in terms of community development and society?
- What are the factors that make vehicles more appealing?
- What would you do with the land that you would save by not having roads and parking?
- How can we have more car-free days?

Recommended Actions

DEVELOP BETTER ALTERNATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Electric cars (light rapid transit, street cars), running down major streets every five minutes.
- Free or low-cost public transit.
- More express buses and increases in buses from city to city.
- Bathrooms at SkyTrains, 24-hour public transit.
- Integrated public transit system across the Lower Mainland.
- Dedicated bike lane, pedestrian lane and bus lanes, wider bike lanes.
- Bike share like in Paris, rent a bike. So that people can gain interest in using a bike instead of a car.
- Covered walkways.
- Pedi-cab, golf cart type vehicles: so people that can not walk can still get around.

LIMIT CAR OPTION

- Cancel freeway expansion and spend it on transit.
- Activism against freeways.
- Start with small, car free block party, then make permanent areas in the city.
- New Crosstown (potential community described by Beasley): make car free.
- One day a week with no cars, like on Sunday.

EDUCATE AND ADVOCATE

- Start a dialogue around transportation.
- Emphasize things happening now and the impacts on the land.
- Increase awareness of alternatives.
- Activism and coordination of NGO's to facilitate lobbying.

GOVERNMENT ACTION

- Increase government spending.
- Government intervention is needed.
- Provide incentives for communities to become car free such as cultural events and facilities.



PUBLIC REALM

A theme that a number of groups with a substantial amount of participants connected to was the public realm and how it could be strengthened. One group was concerned with public space, another with more accessible government, other groups were concerned about how to include the often excluded into the civic arena. For example, these groups were concerned with multicultural engagement, youth engagement, as well as encouraging female and neighborhood participation. All groups connected to the theme of the public realm shared a common concern regarding how to make Vancouver a more inclusive, interactive, engaged community.

There were a number of next steps and actions suggested by the groups, including making public spaces more fun for people or using public spaces in new and novel ways; using public spaces to hold discussion and dialogue and to promote democracy; creating initiatives to improve social activity in neighbourhoods and the community; having better funding for community organizations and leaders; and having resources such as friendship and youth centres to facilitate participation from different groups who generally participate less.

Questions around the public realm

- How do we support broad-based participation and leadership in neighbourhoods to build community?
- What do we need to do to motivate and support more active participation in public institutions?
- How can we make citizen engagement a permanent feature of life in Vancouver?
- How can the multicultural community be involved and support the civic programs as citizen of Vancouver?
- Why do youth on such a large level not vote?
- How can we make public space inclusive: the vicinity and the image? Most specifically for the physically disabled.
- How can we increase the sense of public ownership in public space? How can we make engagement fun?

Recommended Actions

ENGAGE, EDUCATE AND PROVIDE EXPERIENCE FOR THE POPULACE

- Create friendship centers and take initiatives to improve social activities and relationships.
- Keep raising issues of the need for greater cultural diversity with politicians and civic bodies so it is regularly considered.
- Aside from money, an issue is getting people interested – we need good strategies for engagement and involvement – incorporate fun.
- Mix ‘fun’ events with political education.
- Have discussions in public spaces and engage people. Citizens with citizens, and city with citizens.

- Develop something provocative to generate public interest. Develop a set of questions and ideas that people would be interested in. **INSPIRE PEOPLE.** Make people question whether current public space is good enough. Radio, flyers, newspaper—use a wide range of media communication. Objective: Question and redefine public space. Create meaningful discussion, through schools of architecture, and other institutions.

CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND SPACES FOR PARTICIPATION

- Direct democracy - quarterly referendums and forums like Dream Vancouver.
- Voluntary, guided focus groups.
- Issue-based committees and neighborhood representation.
- Forums on particular issues.
- Council of women elders.
- Youth advisory council.
- Youth innovation centre that would have workshops on social entrepreneurship and leadership. Give youth the opportunity to gather and have policy professionals to teach them.

COLLABORATION, COMMUNICATION AND LEARNING FROM OTHERS

- Share experience with others about the consultation process and how being involved can make a real difference and effect them and their community positively. Share ideas on how to become more inclusive.
- Community mapping, research neighbourhoods to understand our communities
- Look to best practices from around the world.
- Encourage partnerships between public and private to create public spaces.

GOVERNMENT ACTION

- Demand that government offer public finance information to citizens. Ensure greater accountability.
- Small grants to empower neighbourhoods.
- Quarterly progress reports from politicians.
- Funding for independent politicians.
- Electoral reform.
- City funding and provision of resources for neighbourhoods leaders and groups – get funds in a similar way to the business improvement association.
- Encourage deductible donations for public spaces.

PART 4

Next Steps

As an important next step, students from SFU's Public Policy Program prepared policy research papers on various topics that emerged from Dream Vancouver. These papers, along with conference proceedings, will be published on the Dream Vancouver website.

Based on the research and conference proceedings, Think City will plan the next steps for the Dream Vancouver project in 2008/2009. The two main data sources used to develop this paper were the interviews filled out by the participants in the morning session of the conference and the notes taken during the group sessions.



APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

Interviews

There were 184 interviews that were utilized to develop this report. The relevant aspects of the interviews that were used in the paper included: the named assets of Vancouver; participant's dreams for Vancouver; and their recommended next steps to achieve these dreams. Statements from the interviews were quoted and grouped into sub categories that were subsumed into larger categories. For example in regards to dreams for housing, comments were grouped into affordability; eliminating homelessness; and a need for more public housing. These groups together comprised the housing theme, which was represented as one theme in the report. Quotes from the sub themes were then used to represent the different categories of concern within the larger themes.

Group themes

The dominant three group themes were represented as the main themes because of the large amount of people in these groups or because of the number of groups that connected to these themes. It is important to note that some of the group that were subsumed under a larger theme, such as the public transit group and the car free cities group, chose not to join as one group. Therefore although they were represented together under one transportation theme, the people themselves felt their themes were distinct enough to have two separate groups. In this report, similar groups were combined so that we could gain an understanding of the dominant general themes. The data used to represent the group discussions was taken from notes recorded during the sessions. Student recorders documented the groups' questions around the themes, the next steps to move forward on the issue and the key points chosen by the group.

APPENDIX B: DREAMERS

Larry Beasley, former Co-Director of Planning, City of Vancouver

Charley Beresford, Executive Director, Columbia Institute and Centre for Civic Governance

Tung Chan, CEO, SUCCESS

David Eby, Lawyer, Pivot Legal Society

Joe Foy, National Campaign Director, Wilderness Committee

Brent Granby, President, West End Residents Association

Mike Harcourt, Advisory Board Member, Centre for Civic Governance

George Heyman, President, BC Government and Service Employees' Union

Kerry Jang, Board Member, Think City

Am Johal, Director, Civil Society Development Project

Joy Kogawa, poet and novelist

Rick Lam, Member, Chinatown Revitalization Committee

Marc Lee, Senior Economist, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives BC

David Levi, Chair, Columbia Institute:

Joy MacPhail, Chair, Convergent Entertainment

Gillian Maxwell, Chair, Keeping the Door Open

Doug McArthur, Professor of Public Policy, Simon Fraser University

Kera McArthur, Chair, Dream Vancouver Conference Committee

Carmen Mills, Co-founder, Car-Free Commercial Drive Festival and Gatewaysucks.org

Lyndsay Poaps, Board Member, Think City

Darcy Rezac, Managing Director and Chief Engagement Officer, The Vancouver Board of Trade

Dr. Patrick Smith, Director, Simon Fraser University's Institute of Governance Studies

Helen Spiegelman, Coordinator, Zero Waste Vancouver

Kennedy Stewart, Graduate Public Policy Program, Simon Fraser University

Dr. Mark L. Winston, Academic Director, Simon Fraser University Centre for Dialogue

APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY PARTNERS

1. Aboriginal Front Door Society
2. Alliance for Arts and Culture
3. ArtStarts in Schools
4. BC Co-operative Association
5. Better Environmentally Sound Transportation
6. Canadian Mental Health Association - Vancouver/Burnaby Branch
7. Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House
8. Chinese Community Policing Centre
9. Coal Harbour Residents Association
10. The City Program at Simon Fraser University
11. Civic Education Society
12. Civil Society Development Project
13. Creative Employment Through Art Co-op
14. East Van Celebration Society
15. Edible Garden Project
16. False Creek Watershed Society
17. Gay and Lesbian Business Association
18. Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre
19. Helping Spirit Lodge Society
20. Hollyhock Leadership Institute
21. Impact of the Olympics on Community Coalition
22. InSite for Community Safety Coalition
23. Institute of Governance Studies at Simon Fraser University
24. Joy Kogawa House Society
25. Labour Environmental Alliance Society
26. Lower Mainland Network for Affordable Housing
27. MARU
28. MOSAIC
29. Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House
30. Multicultural Helping House Society
31. The New Forms Festival
32. Offsetters Climate Neutral Society
33. Performing Arts Lodge (PAL) Vancouver
34. Pivot Legal Society
35. Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society (PICS)
36. Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network
37. Public Dreams
38. Rivershed Society of British Columbia (RSBC)
39. Simon Fraser University Masters of Public Policy Student Union
40. Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia (SPARC BC)
41. SUCCESS
42. Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre
43. Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users
44. Vancouver Folk Music Festival
45. Vancouver Public Spaces Network
46. West End Citizens' Action Network
47. West End Residents Association
48. Wilderness Committee
49. World Poetry Reading Series
50. Zero Waste Vancouver

APPENDIX D: DREAM TREES



