



# A Vision for Arts and Culture in Vancouver's West End

June 2015

Our Rich Cultural Mix

Where Are You From ?



Look closely to see where West End Residents come from

A report prepared by Judith Marcuse  
with the assistance of Nicole Armos

# WE Arts & Culture WORK

Imagine...  
 WHAT'S POSSIBLE?  
 WHAT IS IDEAL?

NOV. 2013  
 COMMUNITY PLAN  
 WHAT ABOUT ARTS & CULTURE?

CITY PLAN...  
 ROADMAP for the FUTURE  
 30 YEARS...

- LOOKING AT ...
- New development
  - Gathering places
  - Events
  - Public art
  - Community Centre: renewal & expansion

2013 OPEN HOUSE

THINK ABOUT ARTS & CULTURE in WEST END

- POP-UP GALLERY
- ART MARKETS

Explore what is in City's plan for WEST END

- What do we want to see?
- What are our NEEDS?
- What FACILITIES exist?

- IDENTIFY PRIORITIES
- MAKE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS to CITY

- \* Diversity
- \* S.P.A.C.E
- \* Rhythm
- \* Feeling
- \* Collaboration
- \* Celebration

ARTS CENTRE



Central venue  
 Brings people together

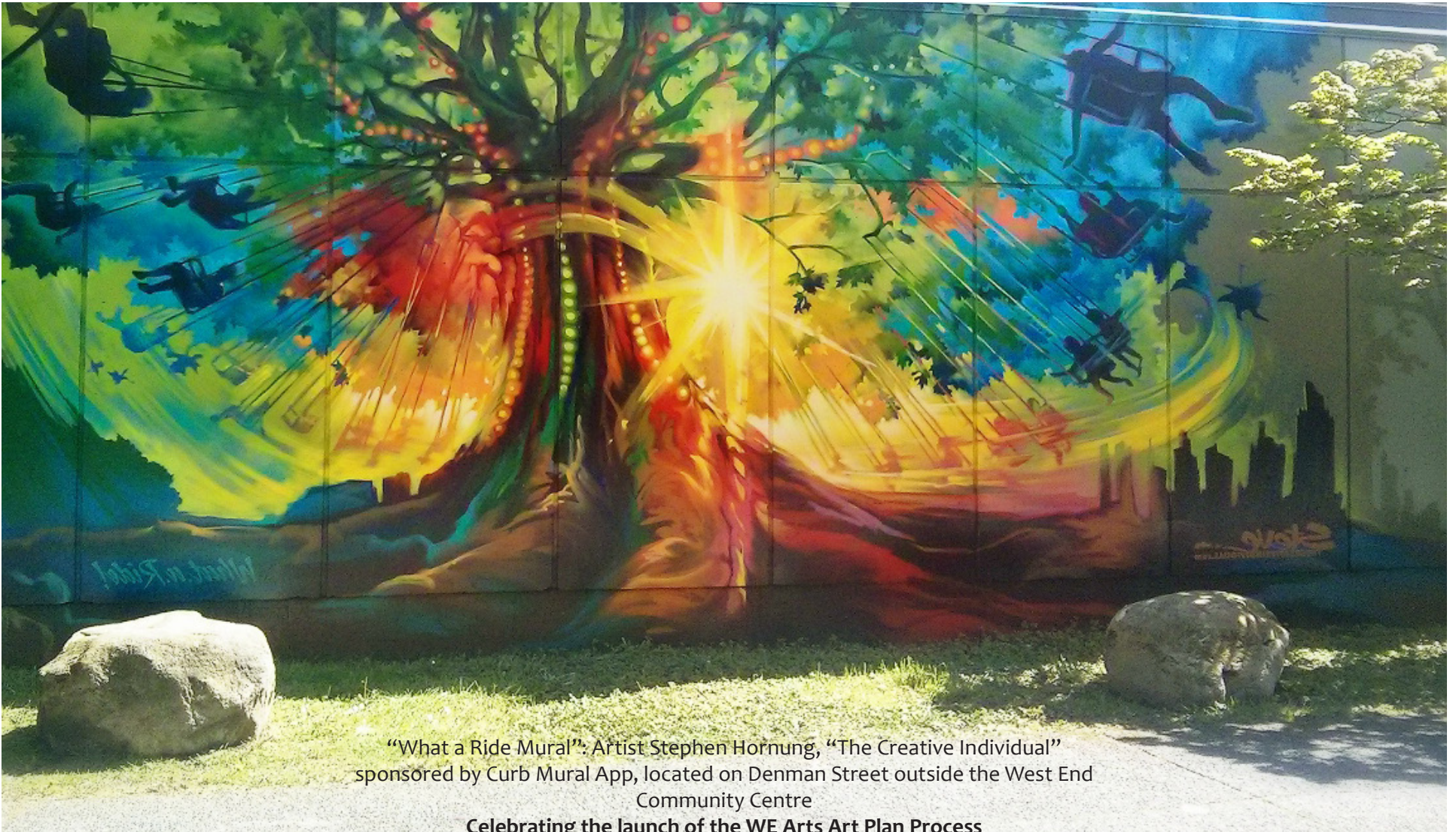


SHARE IDEAS: [wearts.ca](http://wearts.ca) ■ WEar



**Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,  
committed citizens can change the world;  
indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.**

**- Margaret Mead**



**“What a Ride Mural”: Artist Stephen Hornung, “The Creative Individual”  
sponsored by Curb Mural App, located on Denman Street outside the West End  
Community Centre  
Celebrating the launch of the WE Arts Art Plan Process**

# CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1.1 KEY PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY WEST END COMMUNITY + WE ARTS	
2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES	3
3. WEST END CONTEXT	5
4. BACKGROUND	7
4.1 WEST END COMMUNITY PLAN	
4.2 ABOUT WE ARTS	
4.3 WE ARTS ACHIEVEMENTS	
5. ART PLAN PROCESS OF DISCOVERY	9
6. PRIORITIES + RECOMMENDATIONS	13
6.1 ARTS EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND PROGRAMS	
6.2 ART EXHIBITION, PERFORMANCE, AND RETAIL OPPORTUNITIES	
6.3 SPACES AND FACILITIES	
6.4 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION	
7. MOVING FORWARD: DELIVERING THE ART PLAN	19
X. APPENDICES	X1

# 1

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Arts and culture are essential elements of healthy, vibrant and inclusive communities. Engagement with the arts provides opportunities for neighbours to connect with each other; provides vehicles for individual and collective expression; encourages tourism; and strengthens local economies. The arts celebrate identity and contribute to the well being and inclusion of both residents and visitors.**

Vancouver's West End is one of Vancouver's most densely populated neighbourhoods, with one of the City's largest concentrations of arts and cultural workers. It is home to iconic cultural events such as the Pride Parade and the Celebration of Light. However, opportunities to engage in art-making and to showcase local professional and community arts events, programs and products are limited.

In response to this situation, local residents, businesses, artists and community groups came together to form WE Arts, a volunteer community arts group committed to building a strong arts presence and creative economy in the West End. This plan identifies the community's short and long-term priorities for the development of their arts and culture sector, and provides a framework and recommended action items for realizing these goals. The recommendations presented here were developed through a three-part public consultation process hosted by WE Arts from

February to May 2015, as well as monthly meetings of a very dedicated core volunteer committee.

In the first public consultation, community members engaged in music, movement, and visual arts workshops to help envision their ideal arts and culture scene, resulting in a wide range of proposed activities, events, amenities, and facilities\*. In the second consultation, participants prioritized these ideas into recommendations for long-term and short-term goals, and formed committees to begin mobilizing around the top seven priority areas determined in that workshop. Finally, in the third consultation, community members were able to review and provide feedback on a working draft of the recommendations along with strategies for moving them forward.



## 1.1 KEY PRIORITIES

### SHORT-TERM (WITHIN TWO YEARS):

1. **PLAN AND DELIVER A WEEKLY WEST END ARTS MARKET.**
2. **CREATE FLEXIBLE, MULTI-USE ART SPACES IN THE WEST END.**
3. **ESTABLISH WE ARTS (WITH PAID STAFF) AS A CENTRAL HUB TO ADVANCE AND MANAGE ELEMENTS OF THIS PLAN, INCLUDING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, COMMUNICATIONS, FUNDRAISING AND ADVOCACY.**

### LONG-TERM PLANNING (WITHIN EIGHT YEARS):

4. **CREATE AND INTEGRATE MULTI-USE ARTS SPACES AS PART OF THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE WEST END, FINANCED THROUGH A VARIETY OF DEVELOPMENT BONUSING AND OTHER FUNDING MECHANISMS. THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE WEST END COMMUNITY CENTRE IS OF PRIMARY INTEREST.**
5. **PLAN AND DEVELOP A 250 TO 300-SEAT THEATRE INCLUDING REHEARSAL AND WORKSHOP SPACE**
6. **DEVELOP LANEWAY AMENITIES, INCLUDING A MAKERS LAB, LIVE/WORK AND RETAIL SPACE**
7. **CREATE AN ANNUAL WEST END ARTS FESTIVAL**



# 2

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES



1. **TO CELEBRATE LIFE, CREATIVITY AND ART**
2. **TO CONNECT THE COMMUNITY WITH THE ARTS**
3. **TO SHARE IDEAS AND FORGE COLLABORATIONS**
4. **TO SHARE AND CREATE EVENTS AND PROGRAMS**
5. **TO CREATE VENUES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL ARTISTS AND AUDIENCES**
6. **TO BUILD A THRIVING CREATIVE ECONOMY**
7. **TO EMBRACE THE WEST END'S DIVERSITY**
8. **TO SUPPORT ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION FOR ALL WEST END RESIDENTS AND VISITORS**



# 3 WEST END CONTEXT



## DEMOGRAPHICS AND BENEFITS

For the purposes of this plan, the West End includes the downtown intersection of Burrard and West Georgia in the east and English Bay and Stanley Park to the west. Residents of Coal Harbour and others living west of Granville may also claim residence in the West End.

The West End is home to around 44,500 residents, making it the fourth most densely populated neighbourhood in Vancouver. 10% of residents are employed in the arts and culture sector and many more pursue the arts as a hobby or secondary form of income. The West End is home to one of the highest percentages of artists in Metro Vancouver.

The area has a large population of youth: **48% of residents are between 20 and 39 years of age**, and another 34% are between 40 and 64 years of age. The area is also home to over 8700 families, with children attending three local schools. Despite rising house prices in the coveted neighbourhood, many residents have a modest income, with 33% living in low-income housing, thus creating a demand for widely-accessible arts activities and amenities.

The population of the West End is constantly in transition. The 2011 census found that 66.4% of the population had moved since the 2006 census, and that the area is home to 14% of Vancouver's

newcomers. 99% of housing is five stories or higher, with 59% of residents in one-person households and 81% renting. **Considering that a 2012 study of the GVRD by the Vancouver Foundation found that a sense of loneliness and community disconnection was most prevalent amongst youth, newcomers, renters, and residents of high-rise apartments, isolation is a concern that arts and culture is in a prime position to address in the West End.**

Supporting community and cultural spaces was, in fact, one of the 18 priority actions recommended by Vancouver's Engaged City Task Force to help combat this issue of isolation. They identified that:

**“Community, art, and cultural venues provide essential, formal, and informal opportunities for residents to form community connections. Access to these spaces is critical to fostering creative culture and a shared sense of belonging.”**

Further, developing the neighbourhood's unique cultural identity can establish the West End as a cultural destination for visitors from the rest of Greater Vancouver and beyond. While the area's beautiful beaches, parks, and iconic events already attract the highest pedestrian traffic in all of Vancouver, creating opportunities for local artists to showcase their work can also further support the tourism industry and the local economy.

Strengthening the community’s arts facilities, activities, and networks will substantially enrich the neighbourhood’s existing arts-related activities (much of it presently “under the radar”); encourage participation; and create new partnerships and initiatives, while also providing a more public profile for all of these activities.

## CURRENT ARTS SCENE

The West End is home to a number of established arts and heritage buildings, activities, and events that form a foundation for the recommendations this plan proposes. These include:

## FACILITIES

- West End Community Centre
- Gordon Neighbourhood House
- Coal Harbour Community Centre
- Performing Arts Lodge
- Barclay Manor
- Robert Lee YMCA
- Qmunity Centre
- Listel Hotel
- Empire Landmark Hotel
- The Coast Plaza & Suites Hotel
- Mascall Dance Society
- Pride in Art Society
- Canadian Music Centre
- Christ Church Cathedral
- St. Andrew’s Wesley United Church
- Contemporary Art Gallery

## WEST END CLASS A HERITAGE BUILDINGS

- Mole Hill 1888-1910 (Queen Anne)
- Barclay Manor 1890 (Georgian Revival)
- Roedde House 1893 (Queen Anne)
- Weeks House 1895 (Queen Anne)
- Gabriola Mansion 1901 (Arts & Crafts)
- First Baptist Church 1910 (Gothic Revival)
- Sylvia Hotel 1912 (Georgian)
- Haywood Bandstand 1915
- Queen Charlotte Apartments 1928 (Edwardian Classical)
- Wesley Church 1933 (Gothic Revival)

## EVENTS

- Honda Celebration of Light
- Annual Vancouver Pride Parade
- West End Car Free Day
- Lumière Festival
- West End Farmers Market
- Theatre Under the Stars
- Queer Arts Festival
- Chevron Summer Cinema Series
- New Year’s Polar Bear Swim
- Art in the City



# 4 BACKGROUND

## 4.1 WEST END COMMUNITY PLAN

In November 2013, Vancouver City Council adopted the West End Community Plan, which included five policies to guide the development of neighbourhood arts, culture and heritage.

1. Celebrate and protect the West End's heritage features.
2. Upgrade and increase space for cultural activities.
3. Enhance Robson Street as a cultural hub.
4. Co-locate cultural and community space.
5. Improve access to art in public places.

Several of the priorities and policies proposed in the Open House process and the West End Community Plan have begun to be operationalized by both WE Arts and the City of Vancouver. For example, the City is currently working on the development of a permanent plaza in the heart of Davie Village at Davie and Bute streets. Celebrating the history of the LGBTQ community, and including decorative lighting, landscaping, and public art, the plaza is scheduled to open in the summer of 2016.

In early 2014, WE Arts began to hold monthly meetings to discuss how to move the arts and culture agenda forward and to begin delivering on some of its priorities. By partnering with the Gordon Neighbourhood House, WE Arts

volunteers obtained funding from the City of Vancouver's Community Neighbourhood Arts Development (CNAD) Program to establish a physical and online presence for the organization, and to expand on the community's arts vision and strategies through further public consultations.



## 4.2 ABOUT WE ARTS



WE Arts is a community arts organization that is dedicated to supporting a vibrant and sustainable arts community in Vancouver's West End neighbourhood.

The story of WE Arts started in 2013 when, Satomi Hirano a local resident, attended an open house about a new 30-year West End Community Plan. She identified the need for the development of a more detailed vision for the future of arts and culture. Satomi and John Hewson, both experienced in the development of arts policies, joined forces to help establish a working group of local residents, businesses, artists and community organizations. This group organized to support City planners to engage the community in an outreach and consultation process.

With initial grants from the Vancouver Foundation and support from the Gordon Neighbourhood House and the West End BIA, this working group offered the public three successful events: two Youth Art Jams, and an Arts Open House.

## 4.3 WE ARTS ACHIEVEMENTS

### ART JAMS

In June 2013, an Art Jam at the Empire Landmark Hotel, facilitating 14 youth to paint a canvas that creatively responded to the prompts: "My West End is..." or "My West End will be..." The canvasses were displayed at the Hotel's Spice Gallery for a week, and then joined other canvasses made by local high school students and more than 100 members of the public at a second Art Jam held at Denman Street's Car Free Day.



### WEST END ARTS OPEN HOUSE

**"I feel from last night's responses that a seed has been planted into the hearts of many creative minds and with a little help from our friends we can keep it well watered and pray for lots of sunshine!"**

— Satomi Hirano (WE Arts Advocate) in response to the turn out and results from the WE Arts Open House June 24th 2013... now its time to get organized and take action.

Later in June, 55 community members engaged in the West End Arts Open House, a roundtable discussion exploring possibilities and priorities for the arts in the West End for the next 10 years. The process surfaced six top priorities that have helped to inform the 2013 West End Community Plan and subsequent WE Arts activities. These were:

1. Physical Arts Centre and Venue(s)
2. Public Art Displays in the West End
3. Arts Festivals
4. Artist Connection System (Website, Registry, Magazine)
5. Temporary pop-up galleries in businesses, vacant spaces, community spaces indoors/outdoors, parks
6. Affordable spaces for creation and public access to artistic production – from studios and rehearsal venues to live/work/rent spaces.

# 5

## THE ART PLAN: PROCESS OF DISCOVERY

### MURAL: LAUNCH OF THE ART PLAN

In July 2014, WE Arts marked both the 100th anniversary of King George Secondary School and the official launch of WE Arts with the unveiling a mural on a wall of the school opposite the main entrance of the West End Community Centre. The mural, called “What a Ride”, was sponsored by CurbApp and painted by Steve “The Creative Individual” Hornung. This event provided an opportunity to announce WE Art’s plans to the community.

During 2014, funding from the Vancouver Foundation helped WE Arts launch many additional (and popular) community arts events, including a Pop-Up Gallery in an empty retail space on Denman Street (involving the work of 22 artists, 380 visitors at its opening and 800 more during the exhibition) and a craft workshop during the 2014 Lumiere Festival.

In all, the Vancouver Foundation, through individual grants, supported some dozen WE Arts community events during 2013, 2014 and 2015. “Tales from the West End”, one of these projects, was created by Janet Leduc, a WE Arts member and former Heritage Vancouver Executive Director. It is now self-sustaining and a popular monthly event, sponsored by JJBean.

9 Please see Appendix E for more details on this event.



July, 2014



### *A Message from the Mayor*

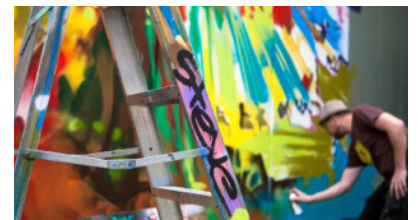
On behalf of my colleagues on Vancouver City Council and the citizens of Vancouver, I want to welcome everyone to the West End Arts Society’s (WEArts) first public art piece opening on Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.

As a city that prides itself on the quality of its cultural life I am excited to welcome everyone to the opening of the amazing “What a Ride” mural at the West End Community Centre. What an awesome opportunity for our West End neighbourhood to celebrate amazing art and creativity.

Hoping everyone has a great time and we look forward to more public art pieces in the future.

Sincerely,

Gregor Robertson  
MAYOR



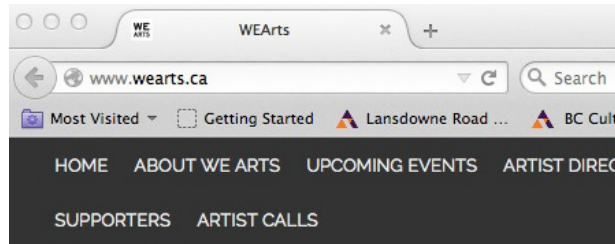
## WE ARTS WEBSITE + MAGAZINE

In response to input from the Open House, WE Arts' launched a new website (WEArts.ca) as well as a Facebook page to serve as a central communication vehicle, providing networking for the West End's arts community and the public. Members of WE Arts also worked together to launch HATCH, a print and online magazine that provides information and commentary on local arts and culture, including highlighting work by local residents, local events and opportunities for artists. Both the website and magazine are currently managed by volunteers and, while useful vehicles, are unable to fulfil their potential.

[WEArts.ca](http://WEArts.ca)

[facebook.com/WEArtsVan](https://facebook.com/WEArtsVan)

[HatchArtMag.com](http://HatchArtMag.com)



WE ARTS NEWS

### LATEST SCOOP



ART | EVENTS | NEWS

#### CELEBRATING COMMUNITY & CULTURE AT CAR FREE DAY, JUNE 20TH, 2015

WE ARTS, JUNE 22, 2015

WEArts volunteers joined in with all the businesses, organizations, residents & visitors that descended on Denman Street to celebrate what we loved about the West ...



NEWS

#### WEST END ART PLAN UPDATE

WE ARTS, JUNE 9, 2015

Sunday May 31st saw the final community workshop wrap up the public consultation process for the West End Art Plan. More than 200 people attended ...

Read more 0 Comments



West End Artist Invited to Car Free



## HATCH

West End Art Mag





## ART PLAN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS

WE Art's recent focus has been to engage the West End community in a more thorough public consultation process about their needs and desires for local arts and culture resources and activities. This six-month process was made possible by a grant from Vancouver's Community and Neighbourhood Arts Development Grant program.

From February to May 2015, WE Arts hosted a series of monthly core committee meetings and three public consultations with the guidance and facilitation of artist and consultant, Judith Marcuse.



## Public Consultation 1: Creative Exploration

The first public consultation was held at the West End Community Centre on Feb 22, 2015. Some 110 people attended this event which was facilitated by Judith Marcuse. Graphic illustrator, Avril Orloff created a large mural that represented the content of the afternoon's activities. Three artists (Marcuse, Orloff and Laura Barron) guided participants in movement, visual arts and soundscape workshops and dialogue to creatively explore:

- Values and principles they felt should guide the process
- Opportunities and obstacles in the West End's current arts and culture scene
- Visions for possible futures of arts and culture in the West End

This creative exploration surfaced a long, "blue sky" list of proposed facilities, amenities, activities, programs, and events which were summarized and thematically grouped by Marcuse and Nicole Armos in preparation for the second consultation.





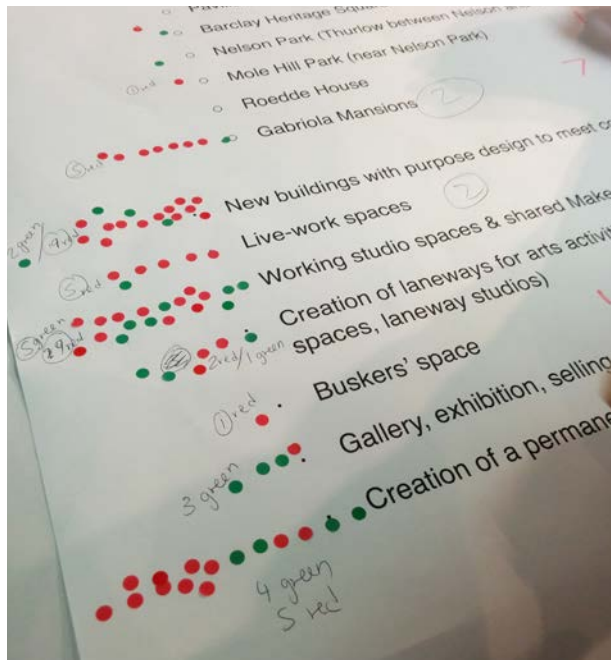
### Public Consultation 2: Defining Priorities and Building Committees

In the second consultation, held at the Empire Landmark Hotel on April 19th, some 65 participants convened to review the ideas proposed in the first consultation. Using a visual “dot-mocracy” process, participants indicated priority actions they wanted to see accomplished in the short-term (2 to 3 years) and in the longer-term (5 years).

Participants also formed seven working groups that each reflected one of the top seven priority areas.

1. Arts Markets
2. Pop-up Galleries
3. Arts Venues
4. Laneways/Studios
5. Communications
6. Diversity
7. Youth

In small group and plenary dialogues, participants discussed possible actions, including the identification of strategic partnerships necessary for the realization of these goals. The working groups continued to meet after this second public session and provided feedback to inform the third public consultation.

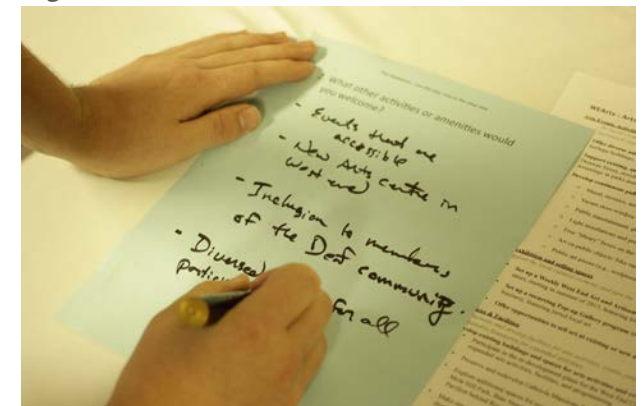


### Public Consultation 3: Refining the Plan

The third and final public consultation, held again at the Empire Landmark Hotel on May 31st, was attended by over 80 community members, including the principals of Lord Roberts Elementary School and King George High School, who spoke about the importance of and recommendations for fostering appreciation of the arts among children and youth. Participants read a working draft of this plan’s recommendations and were able to provide further feedback on priorities and possible strategies to support its realization during a process that included focused breakout groups and plenary dialogues.

Many local organizations and constituencies were represented at all three public events.

Please see Appendix D for a listing of some of these organizations.



# 6

## PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 6.1 ARTS EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS

Opportunities to create and experience art that brings communities together, facilitating connections and collaboration between different generations and diverse populations. **Creative expression is important for individual and community health and well-being; when people make art together, they contribute to the overall health of the neighbourhood, as well as to the ongoing development of rich local culture and heritage.**

1

Develop strategic partnerships to offer diverse and accessible art-making workshops, classes and other participatory arts opportunities.

We recommend that an expanded range of free or low-cost arts classes, workshops and programs (facilitated by local and visiting artists) be offered to local residents, supported by a range of partnerships, sponsorships and subsidies. These would build on existing offerings such as the three community centres available to residents of the West End and those provided by other groups. Programs in performance arts (music, dance, theatre); storytelling and literary arts; and visual and media arts, can be offered in collaboration with community centres, libraries, schools, social agencies as well as within events such as current festivals. These engaged activities will encourage residents of all ages and backgrounds to make art, themselves, in addition to “consuming” it.

2

Support existing, and create new, year-round arts events and activities.

We recommend that established and emerging arts events and activities in the West End be supported and expanded. These include Car Free Day on Denman Street, storytelling at the Vancouver Public Library, Art Jams, Heritage Walks and Culture Crawls, evening film screenings in parks and public spaces, and artist residencies in both commercial and public venues.

3

Develop ongoing public art programs.

Artwork re-animates and enlivens public spaces and is an excellent opportunity to feature the work of local artists.

Suggestions include:

- Mural, mosaics and street banner installations
- Vacant store-window art prints displays, replacing newsprint with art
- Public entertainment: performances including from buskers to musicians in the parks
- Light installations and projections
- Artist-decorated free library boxes on the streets

- Public chess or checker tables designed by local artisans
- Art on public objects such as bike racks, benches, hydro boxes, bus stops, planters
- Public art installations including sculpture, murals and photo displays
- Branding images on banners, mosaics, vacant store windows, etc. could become West End icons. These images could become a revenue source for artists and West End art events when transformed into bags, buttons, and other merchandise.

**4** Develop partnerships with local social service agencies, youth, and child-centred organizations and other public and not-for-profit groups.

These include environmental, youth, seniors, LGBTQ, immigrant, disability services, and inter-cultural groups to deliver and integrate community arts/art for social change activities into their own agendas.

**6.2 ART EXHIBITION, PERFORMANCE AND RETAIL OPPORTUNITIES**

Throughout the consultation process, local artists strongly expressed urgent need for accessible, affordable spaces in order to be able to share and sell their art within their own community. Increased opportunities for local art to be displayed, performed, and sold will support the local cultural economy and turn the West End into a dynamic arts and culture destination, inviting visitors to buy local arts products and support local businesses. This accessibility will encourage tourism as well as return visits from more local residents. Three active business associations (the West End, Robson Street and Downtown Vancouver BIAs) all have important roles to play in these developments.

**1** Create a West End Art and Artisan Summer Street Market .

We recommend the creation of an annual, self-sustaining summer Art Market at Bute and Davie Street featuring locally-made, hand-crafted art as well as performances, music, community-engaged art-making opportunities and food. The Art Market would help animate public space and connect artists with their community.

A committee created during the public consultation process has proposed starting a pilot market on two Saturday afternoons in August 2015 with the aim of launching a weekly event in the summer of 2016, at the new Bute Street Plaza. Additionally, an indoor market could be developed for the fall and winter months in spaces such as the West End Community Centre, Robson Street Public Market, and the Denman Place Mall.

Coordination of the art market would involve setting up a volunteer team, possibly supported by a WE Arts staff member, and the creation of curation processes. Artists could pay an affordable fee to help cover hard costs for display and publicity. Again, we recommend strategic partnerships with local businesses and organizations.

**2** Establish Pop-Up Gallery Programs.

We recommend the organization of an ongoing series of pop-up galleries, using vacant spaces to display visual artwork.

Potential spaces for pop-up galleries include vacant lots, empty storefront windows, spaces slotted for development, shipping containers, parks, fences, businesses, restaurants and as part of existing events.

A dedicated volunteer committee, with the help of a WE Arts staff member, could help locate possible pop-up gallery spaces, negotiate legal and permit permissions, and supervise curation, with a focus on highlighting local artists.

**3 Offer opportunities to sell or exhibit art during existing events in new development spaces and Art Walks.**

Local businesses, restaurants, exhibitors of show units in new residential developments as well as event producers could offer opportunities to display or sell art throughout the year, benefiting both artists and businesses. Exhibits could be highlighted with accompanying events such as an Art Walk, duplicating the very successful East End Culture Crawl model.

### 6.3 SPACES + FACILITIES

The West End needs more facilities dedicated to arts and culture activities. This high priority, long-term goal was identified by the majority of participants in the WE Arts consultation process. Such spaces can build a strong foundation for the rest of the plan, hosting proposed activities and events throughout the year.

**1**

**Support existing art facilities, galleries, studio spaces and live/work spaces by subsidizing increasing rental costs through the City's development bonusing program.**

**2**

**Redevelop existing buildings and public spaces for art and heritage use.**

Many existing spaces and facilities in the West End could be developed/restructured to support arts and cultural activities. These include:

a) The West End Community Centre is identified for renewal as a multi-purpose complex in the West End Plan. We strongly suggest that dedicated community members and WE Arts members take an active role in the planning process, joining dialogue with other stakeholders to advocate for expanded arts spaces, amenities, and programming in the new Centre.

b) Many community members expressed their affection for Gabriola Mansion, a class 'A' heritage building in the West End. (This now-abandoned estate was built by a family of musicians!) With support public and/or private funding sources, it could be preserved and redeveloped as an excellent venue for community arts and heritage use, including gallery and performance spaces.

c) Other suggested spaces for arts events and performances include: Barclay Heritage Square, Nelson Park, Mole Hill Park, Bute Street Plaza and the neighbouring park, Alexandra Park, the Park next to Roedde House Museum, the Pavilion behind the Rose Garden in Stanley Park, the Haywood Bandstand, Roedde House Museum, English Bay, Second and Third Beach.

**3**

**Develop new sites for the arts.**

Over the course of the consultation process, local artists and community members strongly expressed the need for new dedicated space for the creation, exhibition and performance of activities. These include:

a) Working studio spaces and shared Makers Lab creation spaces available for artists paying a nominal rental fee, and/or available for public rental.

b) A permanent community art gallery highlighting the work of local artists. A suggested size for such a gallery was 1000 to 1200 square feet. A co-op model was suggested as one approach for the creation of this new venue.

c) A new theatre, including multi-functional event and rehearsal space. Some community participants expressed the need for a 400 to 700-seat theatre and others recommended a more feasible, smaller theatre with seating for audiences of 200-250 people. This would supplement the existing (and excellent) black box theatre in the Performing Arts Lodge (PAL) which has a smaller seating capacity. We recommend that a committee be set up to explore this possible development, including community needs and usage, design, budget, and opportunities for capital and operational funding support.

## 4 Create laneway amenities.

The development of laneways that host restaurants, shops, murals, public art, galleries, arts activities, studio and live-work space, could create cultural hubs for the West End, inspiring a sense of discovery for locals and visitors.

Melbourne is a prime example of how the development of laneways for arts and retail use can enrich the experience of living in and visiting a city; its laneways have become a major tourist attraction and have enhanced the health of both its artists and its economy. In the West End, the Mole Hill laneway development already enhances the neighbourhood.

The West End Community Plan distinguishes between three character areas: Villages, Neighbourhoods, and Corridors.

Laneway development is currently restricted to new infill housing in the Neighbourhoods. **We strongly recommend that this policy be expanded to include laneway studio and live/work space for artists.**

In addition, a committee set up during the consultation process proposed the creation of a cultural walkway route, running in a southwest to northeast direction that would cross existing laneways. This walkway would connect with existing parkettes and commercial areas, reinforcing the existing infrastructure and encouraging the development of artist studios.

*Please see Appendix F for the full Laneway Report.*

## 6.4 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

WE Art's numerous initiatives have demonstrated that the West End community has a high level of interest and commitment to participation in planning for an enhanced presence of arts and culture in their neighbourhoods. It is important to sustain this momentum – to foster a culture of participation in the arts and enrich local culture that is an expression of the diverse people of the West End.

### 1 Create ongoing opportunities for community input and participation

Seven committees have been created to support particular recommendations; these should continue to operate and remain open for more public involvement both throughout the implementation of proposed initiatives and for the development of future goals. WE Arts could promote other related public consultation processes, such as in the City of Vancouver's Heart of Davie Village Public Space Improvement Project, encouraging residents to advocate for their art and culture needs and visions.

### 2 Build community capacity for creating and organizing new initiatives

In order to foster a culture of engagement, it is important to empower community members to continue visioning future possibilities, ranging from small-scale arts workshops to large-scale community events and celebrations. WE Arts' numerous events and the processes that have led to this plan are all examples of community-driven initiatives that should be further encouraged by the City.

We recommend that capacity building initiatives be provided by the City and other agencies such as the Alliance for Arts and Culture:

- a) Include artists in development and other urban improvement planning processes
- b) Streamline City permitting processes
- c) Host workshops that support community members to navigate permit and other application processes, grant writing, etc.
- d) Develop a central repository of best practices, models of successful projects, proposal templates, and other "how-to" resources for setting up community art projects

### 3 Increase youth participation

Accessible and affordable opportunities to make and experience art are critical if children and youth are to see the arts as integral to their lives. Planning arts activities and amenities near to and in partnership with local schools can help to engage parents, educators, and youth in the arts. (Busing students to arts events continues to be challenging for schools.)

Youth-friendly activities created especially for young people; special welcoming programs for youth new to the West End; and the integration of youth-focused activities as part of existing events would all provide more attractive and accessible opportunities for engagement with the arts.

The development of a Youth Arts Council would offer young people direct representation in future planning processes, and the development of youth-led arts and culture initiatives. We recommend that a Youth Arts Advisory Council be set up by the City.

We also recommend liaison between schools, other educational institutions, the Vancouver School Board, youth-centred organizations, other relevant service organizations and local businesses.

# 4

## Support and increase inclusion and diversity

i) The West End has a large, vibrant and well-organized LGBTQ population; these communities provide important hubs for support and celebration of diverse and active social and cultural activities. We strongly recommend continued and enhanced liaison with support organizations and events producers for increased visioning, collaboration, and support of the arts.

ii) It is critical that the knowledge, experience, needs, current initiatives, and visions of people living with all forms of disability be included in all current and future arts and culture planning. We recommend that an extensive outreach process begin to encourage dialogue between these communities and all sectors engaged in the enhancement of the West End's cultural life.

iii) Proactively engage First Nations artists, galleries, and community members to share stories of the West End from an Indigenous perspective.

iv) An ever-increasing immigrant presence (including many families) already enriches life for all in the West End. But we have heard from new arrivals (immigrants and others) about significant difficulties they experience when trying to integrate with other residents in their neighbourhoods. We recommend that existing arts and cultural programs and events work to integrate their perspectives and cultural heritage by welcoming ALL new West Enders into both current and future planning of arts activities. Liaison with service and religious organizations becomes a central asset in this agenda.

v) There is a significant population of seniors in the West End. The Performing Arts Lodge (PAL) houses and provides arts programs and events (including cross-generational activities and a daycare) for residents in the building and for the broader community. The West End Seniors Network provides welcome services for all seniors.

We recommend specific support for these organizations to enhance their capacity for outreach and liaison in the arts with other senior-centred facilities, organizations and events. We also recommend the creation of a focus group with these institutions, youth-centred services and educational institutions to explore possibilities for increased collaboration across the generations.

# 7

## MOVING FORWARD: DELIVERING THE ART PLAN

Implementation of the recommendations proposed in this plan will benefit a vast range of artists, residents, businesses, community groups, and institutions in the West End. The neighbourhood will see increased inclusion, visibility, individual and community well-being and economic prosperity. The development of relationships and dialogue across sectors to develop strategic partnerships (including the development of social enterprises) can strengthen the whole community and help deliver on identified priorities of this plan.

### 1. WE RECOMMEND THAT WE ARTS BECOME A CONVENING AGENCY FOR CROSS-SECTOR DIALOGUE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONSHIPS, COLLABORATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS.

These could include:

- The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
- The Vancouver School Board and local educational institutions (elementary and post-secondary schools) language and arts schools, colleges, universities
- Local individual businesses, including restaurants and cafes, and with the 3 Business Improvement Associations -WEBIA, Downtown BIA, Robson St. BIA
- Tourism Vancouver and the whole tourism sector (hotels, cruise ships, the Convention Centre)

- Existing arts activities and events providers and producers (festivals, individual artist workshops)
- Joe Fortes and Central Libraries
- Local community centres (West End, Coal Harbour and the Roundhouse)
- Neighbourhood Houses
- Local religious venues and organizations
- Volunteer networks such as Community Volunteer Connections
- NGO's and advocacy networks such as: the West End Seniors Network and the Alliance for Arts and Culture
- Qmunity and other LGBTQ organizations
- The Performing Arts Lodge and other seniors' residences and services
- West End Seniors Network
- Immigrant services
- Disability services
- Existing Culture Crawls in Metro Vancouver
- Media outlets
- Lions and Rotary Clubs
- YMCA
- Existing arts collectives
- The Vancouver Art Gallery and commercial art galleries
- Planners and developers
- Local architectural firms and designers
- Landlords, leasing agencies and real estate agencies

*Please see Appendix C for a list of primary potential partners.*

## 2. BUILD SUPPORTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR WE ARTS

Since 2013, WE Arts, with the support of its numerous, dedicated volunteers, has achieved many of its initial goals. However, the organization is at a critical moment in its development and is at the point where it must create an organizational infrastructure if it is to sustain momentum and begin to deliver on identified priorities.

Establishment of WE Arts as a community arts organization; as a not-for-profit; a foundation; as a co-op or as a social enterprise would enable it to sustain and build its activities. We recommend that WE Arts be supported and developed as a convening, advocacy and communications hub. It is essential that it have a professional infrastructure.

The organization needs to be eligible to fundraise for support of its activities through any one or a combination of new administrative structures. **We recommend that the City provides support to WE Arts to explore these structural possibilities with the assistance of a strategic planner.**

We recommend that three-year funding be found to support at least one permanent, full-time staff member to coordinate activities, develop partnerships, and take care of administration and communication tasks without risking volunteer burnout. If at all possible, we recommend that

funds be found for one additional, part-time staff position. Funding is urgently needed in the short-term to support this position(s).

Other fundraising strategies can include applications for public grants (e.g. from the City, the BC Arts Council, the Canada Council for the Arts and Heritage Canada). With dedicated staff, WE Arts would have more capacity to leverage local business and corporate sponsorships and partnerships, and support from foundations. In addition, a community-centred fundraising campaign targeted at individuals across the West End could prove to be very effective.

## 3. IMPROVE COMMUNICATION OF ARTS AND CULTURE OPPORTUNITIES.

While there are already many opportunities for residents and visitors to engage with arts activities in the West End, most people do not know about them. Strategies to increase awareness about arts and culture events, and build ongoing support for WE Arts could:

- a) Enhance visibility by providing information booths and arts activities at existing events and by WE Arts organizing their own, regularly-scheduled events.
- b) Compile a directory of artists and an inventory of arts groups, amenities, available spaces, and resources on the WE Arts website.

c) Promote WE Arts initiatives and other arts and culture events through a central calendar and interactive map on the WE Arts website, as well as through social media, Hatch Arts Magazine, and virtual and physical bulletin boards.

d) Develop a West End Arts mobile app highlighting arts and culture events, possibly through a scannable QR code identifying partnering businesses and groups.

## 4. INCLUDE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARTIST REPRESENTATIVES ON CITY DEVELOPMENT AND/OR URBAN PLANNING COMMITTEES.

We believe that this would provide beneficial perspectives that are not usually present in development and other urban improvement initiatives.

## 5. SEEK MORE SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY AMENITY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DEVELOPERS, such as:

- Gallery space in new housing and retail developments
- Artist live/work space in new developments
- Sponsorship of local arts programs and activities including workshops and artist residencies.

## SUMMARY

All forms of the arts exist on an interconnected continuum, from large-scale professional institutions such as orchestras, museums and ballet companies to smaller independent galleries, dance and theatre companies from community-based organizations that support the creation and dissemination of the arts in diverse local settings such as community centres and schools to independent artists whose work may cross several of these categories.

**During the process that led to this report, we repeatedly heard about the importance of access and celebration of all forms of the arts, especially work generated by and with local residents. We heard that participation in arts and cultural activities was considered a much-desired and central element for all development projects. We also learned that there is a high level of uncertainty about if and where the arts fit into current development plans for the West End.**

It is clear that, at present, there is considerable energy in the community for dialogue and new relationship building across often-isolated sectors within neighbourhoods. We felt a strong sense of optimism as well as real potential for more individual and group engagement and connection through arts-based initiatives.

Minutes and recommendations from all committee meetings have been integrated into the body of the report.

**WE HOPE THAT THE OPINIONS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS THAT WE HEARD THROUGHOUT THIS PLANNING PROCESS AND OUR RESULTING RECOMMENDATIONS WILL LAND ON FERTILE GROUND FOR TIMELY ACTION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE RESOURCES.**



# X APPENDICES

## APPENDIX A: VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

Over 275 volunteers have been involved in the creation of this plan. They include:

- Art Plan Leadership Committee: Satomi Hirano, John Hewson, Jim Balakshin, Katherine Krampol
- WE Arts Working Group: Satomi Hirano, John Hewson, Jim Balakshin, Katherine Krampol, Barb Hirano, Theresa Mura, Chris Hyndman, Leslee Silverman, Janet Leduc, Anees & Gary Peterman, Charlene Prevatt, Jason Lau, Barry Brady, Daniela Guerrero-Rodriguez
- Original Working Group: (pre-WEArts): Stephen Regan, Holly Sovdi, Lise Magee, Rebecca Neat, Satomi Hirano, John Hewson
- Art Plan Working Group Committees:
  1. **Diversity** ~ led by Daniela Guerrero-Rodriguez (Lacey, Ray & Yngrid)
  2. **Art Markets** ~ led by Catherine Bertetic (Stephen, Rick, Carolina, Krezzy, Jim, Jacob, Carolina, Isabelle, Caitlin)
  3. **Art Venues** ~ led by Ed Deeks (Satomi, Barry, Leslee, Andrea, Karen)
  4. **Lane-way Studios** ~ led by Peter Ridgeway & Barb Hirano
  5. **Pop-up Art galleries** ~ led by John Hewson (Lynn, Frank, Katherine, Francisco)
  6. **Youth** ~ led by Leslee Silverman & Chris Hyndman (Lamour)
  7. **Communications** ~ led by Graham Brown (Sarah, Seema, Thomas, Daniela, Lacey, John, Jim, Barry)
- Promotional Video ~ Leslie Kennah, Katherine Krampol
- “What a Ride Mural”: Artist Stephen Hornung, “The Creative Individual”, sponsored by Curb Mural App. The use of the wall space was donated by King George Secondary School on behalf of the Vancouver School Board
- Photos: Jim Balakshin, Katherine Krampol, John Hewson,
- Layout and Design: Lacey Williams, Plane Creative, John Hewson, West End Map Image donated by Jessica Salvador (Artist: Brian Tibke)

# THANK YOU

**MANY MORE VOLUNTEERS DEVOTED THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO THIS PROCESS. THANKS TO ALL WHO ATTENDED THE ART PLAN WORKSHOPS AND TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED TO CREATE THESE WONDERFUL EVENTS!**

## APPENDIX B: ART PLAN PRODUCTION

### VENUES

- West End Community Centre
- Empire Landmark Hotel

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

**City of Vancouver** CNAD (Community Neighbourhood Arts Development) Grant, submitted in partnership with Gordon Neighbourhood House, Paul M Taylor & Linda Minamimaye

**Vancouver Foundation:** Some 11 WE Arts community engagement events were funded by the Foundation through individual grants to WE Arts members. These include:

- 2013: Art Jam, Arts Open House
- 2014: Art Jam, Pop-Up Local Arts Gallery, EL Wire workshop, HATCH Art Magazine
- 2015: Art Jam, Pop-Up Art Gallery, EL Wire workshop, Art Walk, Musician Video Expose, Photo Projection Project

### WEARTS.CA WEBSITE

- Plane Creative

### PRINTING

- Minute Man Press Downtown

### ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Buddha Board

### IN KIND SUPPORT

- Gordon Neighbourhood House,
- West End Business Improvement Association
- City of Vancouver Cultural Services and Planning Department

### MEDIA SPONSORS

- The WestEnder
- HATCH Art Magazine

### EVENT FOOD SPONSORS

- Delany's Coffee House
- Moos.ca
- Whole Foods
- Hy's Steakhouse
- YIG Independent
- Greenhorn Espresso Bar
- Safeway

### FACILITATION

- Judith Marcuse
- Laura Barron
- Avril Orloff

### RECORDER

- Nicole Armos

### GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATOR

- Avril Orloff

ALSO TO EVERYONE WHO HAS HELPED OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS AND ANYONE WHOSE SUPPORT WE MAY HAVE MISSED IN THIS ACKNOWLEDGMENT -

# THANK YOU



*With Thanks to Our Sponsors:*



## APPENDIX C: ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE CONSIDERED PRIMARY POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- The Vancouver Pride Society
- Pride in Art Society: Queer Arts Festival
- Performing Arts Lodge (PAL)
- West End Seniors Network Society
- West End Community Centre Association
- Little Sisters Book & Art Emporium
- LOUD: Gay and Lesbian Business Association of BC
- Pink Triangle Press: Xtra West
- The Westender
- The Courier
- Frank Theatre Company
- Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
- Vancouver Heritage Foundation
- The Heritage Vancouver Society
- Vancouver Foundation
- Gordon Neighbourhood House (GNH)
- West End Business Improvement Association (WEBIA)
- Qmunity
- Health Initiative for Men (HIM)
- Dr. Peter Aids Foundation
- A Loving Spoonful
- AIDS Vancouver
- McLaren Housing Society
- Out on Screen: Vancouver Queer Film Festival
- Roedde House Museum
- Vancouver Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
- Vancouver Friends for Life
- St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church
- St. Paul's Anglican Church
- Guardian Angels Parish
- Bridge Church
- Coastal Church
- First Baptist Church
- Vancouver Ballet Society
- Mole Hill Community Housing Society
- Lumiere Festival Vancouver Society
- The Vancouver Fireworks Festival Society
- Vancouver Biennale
- West End Neighbours
- West End Residents Association
- Haro Park Complex
- West End Hospice Society
- BC Insight Meditation Society
- Downtown Intercultural Gardeners Association (DIGS)
- Spacing Vancouver
- Vancouver Public Space Network
- XY Club
- Blueprint Events: Celebrities Nightclub
- The Junction
- Davievillage.com
- Miss604.com
- Insidevancouver.com
- Vancitybuzz.com
- pinq.com
- Scoutmagazine.com
- The Georgia Straight
- Tourism Vancouver
- Urban Development Institute
- Tales From the West End
- West End Memories
- 100 in a Day Vancouver
- West End Farmers Market
- West End Scottish Country Dance Club
- West End Pottery Club
- West End Photographic Society

## APPENDIX D: STRATEGIC PARTNERS WHO WERE PRESENT AT ONE OR MORE OF THE ART PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

- Spencer Chandra Herbert, Vancouver-West End MLA
- City of Vancouver-West End Planning Team, Staff
- Gordon Neighbourhood House, Staff
- Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre, Staff
- West End Business Improvement Association: Staff, Board, and Members
- Downtown Business Improvement Association, Staff
- Urban Development Institute, Staff
- City of Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Staff
- Alliance for Arts + Culture, Staff
- Pride in Art Society, Staff and Volunteers
- Foundation of Hope, Board
- West End Games Night
- Denman Place Mall
- Times Square Hotel
- Access to Music Foundation
- Vancouver Biennale
- Friends for Life, Staff
- Vancouver Pride Society, Board, Volunteers
- Vancouver Men's Chorus, Members
- Heritage Vancouver, Board
- Tales from the West End
- Evergreen
- 100 in 1 Day Vancouver
- Lost Rivers Vancouver
- Winter PRIDE

# Quick Review

## 2013 & 2014 Key Milestones

### YOUTH ART JAM

June 8 & 16 2013, 14 local youth painted their vision of the West End in a workshop at The Spice Gallery on Robson.

#### MY WEST END...



YOUTH ART JAM 2013

These proud originals were on display at Car Free Day where the public were invited to paint what they love about our West End, or what they see for the future.

### ART OPEN HOUSE

The West End Arts Open House June 24th 2013 with 55 members of the public, including our MLA Spencer Chandra Herbet. 4 questions:

1. What would you like the Arts in the West End to look like in 5 to 10 years ?
2. What are the top 3 priorities for Arts in the West End of Vancouver ?
3. How do we best organize ourselves to achieve what we want ?

#### The top 6 themes shared:

- ★ Arts Centre, physical venues to make/showcase art.
- ★ Public Art Displays in West End, indoor & outdoor.
- ★ Art Festivals celebrating art.
- ★ Artist Connection System, registry, website, magazine.

- ★ Temporary Art Venues, pop-up art galleries in vacant retail spaces, community spaces, outside, streets/beaches/parks.
- ★ Affordable live/work spaces for artists, possibly in new lane-way developments.

Key findings were presented to Mayor & Council at the adoption of the West End Plan November 2013. Artwork from Youth Art Jam included in it.

### GASP ART MAG

Leon Hampson conceived GASP in 2013 to highlight local artists, birthed 2014 as this edition of HATCH Art Mag



GASP ART MAG

### WE Arts & WEArts.ca

January 2014, a group of residents decide to meet monthly creating a working group for the Arts in the West End (west of Granville including Coal Harbour).

### CNAD GRANT

WE Arts partnered with Gordon Neighbourhood House to apply for the City of Vancouver Community & Neighbourhood Arts Development Grant. This program will fund our West

End Art Plan to capture the voice of the wider arts community at a series of 3 creative workshops planned for February, March and April in 2015. We hope you'll join us.

### ARTIST MEET & GREET

107 artists gathered May 25th 2014 in the inspiring showroom for *GesamKunstWerk* a lively discussion of what is possible for creativity followed.



The amazing Vancouver House project by Westbank promises an arts focused gathering space under the Granville Bridge. We'd love to be part of this exciting creative project.

### YOUTH ART JAM 2

The 2014 theme was music, performances and open mic at Car Free Day, June 15 on Denman and a partnership with King George Secondary students to write a new school song celebrating their 100th Anniversary.

### "WHAT A RIDE" MURAL

Created by Steve Hornung he began Car Free Day, June 15, unveiling all his glory July 26. Thank you Steve, KGS, Curb.



### ARTIFACT

Gordon Neighbourhood House created this fun 2 day summer artisan market July 26 & 27 at Bute St Plaza at the Rainbow Crossing on Davie, hopefully a weekly event in 2015.

### POP-UP ART GALLERY

284 people attended the opening night Friday August 22, over 800 passed through the following week. 22 local artist showcased their work with 3 sales at this our first pop-up gallery in vacant retail space on



Denman, kindly sponsor by Time Square Suites and Volcanic Hills Winery. Let's expand this in 2015 too.

### ROBSON FAIR

September 13, 10 artists set up stalls selling local art, joining Whole Foods and the WEBIA live entertainment for a great day on lower Robson.

### WEST END TALES

Tales from the West End, Sept 22, JJ Bean at Bidwell and Davie hosted the first of three wonderful story telling events created in partnership with Heritage Vancouver and WEArts. Great tales, treats & turnout. More to come, monthly.

### EL WIRE WORKSHOP

November 9th, 20 folks learnt basic techniques for creating light up garments with EL Wire.



Attend Comox Winter Jam & Lantern Procession December 13 to view their creations and participate yourself.

### CREATIVE FAMILIES

November 9th workshop saw 50 queer community folks exploring options for artfully creating family.



Led by Toronto's The 519 family expert Chris Veldhoven in the heart of the West End. LGBTQParents.ca

WE Arts also participate in Pride with LOUD, had info booths at Strawberry Fest, Artifact, Car Free Day, Pride, Robson Community Fare.

### What's Here ?

#### West End Community Centre

Provides a range of arts programming, workshops and rental spaces on Denman. 604 257 8333 westendcc.ca

#### Performing Arts Lodge

PAL's versatile Studio Theatre on the 8th floor at Cardero and W. Georgia. Professionally equipped and specifically designed for multiple uses. Regular shows or rental. 604 255 4312 palvancouver.org

### What Else is there in our West End ?

Please let us know.

### What's Next ?

It's up to you...

### PRODUCERS AND ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

We'd like to hear your spin on pop-up galleries, art markets, murals, new events... WE Arts will assist with approvals, event planning and publicity.

### ALL YOU ARTISTS & CREATIVE MINDS

Let us hear your ideas and concepts for community related art shows and events.

### YOUR STORIES & ART

Please share your stories and art to feature online in future editions of HATCH Art Mag.

### SMALL GRANTS SUPPORT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Gordon Neighbourhood House administers the Vancouver Foundation Small Grants Program. Local residents are encouraged to create projects that bring community together. What would you create?

### WEST END ART PLAN

February, March & April 2015 What matters to you about the arts? See back cover.

### VOLUNTEER

### CREATE

### ENGAGE YOUTH

### WEArts.ca



# APPENDIX F: LANEWAYS REPORT

## Lane-way Studios

### Introduction:

The new West End Community Plan has designated a number of areas where increased density can be achieved. In general terms the plan distinguished between Villages and Neighbourhood. The former are restricted to Robson, Denman and Davie Streets and the latter is all remaining areas as designated Neighbourhoods (see attached image *Scan 1*).



*Scan 1*

In general terms the Neighbourhoods are restricted to Laneway Housing development. Unless the developer elects to rezone under a Comprehensive Development (CD) Agreement

The concept for Lane-way studios became one of the focus groups at the general meeting of the West End Art Plan on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. The new West End Community Plan addresses the issue of development within each of the Neighbourhoods. Lane-way housing and the general guidelines for rezoning

and increased density are based on providing social housing as defined by DCL by-law. The focus group wants this definition expanded to include Studio space for artists.

Other initiatives would include painted wall murals to existing lane-way “blank walls”, sculptural opportunities at key public locations and unique redevelopment that could include artist studios such as the redevelopment of the West End Community Centre

### Concept:

Most of the existing lane-ways in the designated neighborhoods run in a SE to NW direction. The overarching concept that the focus group has come up with is to introduce a cultural walk-way route running in a SW to NE direction, crossing the existing lane-ways in a perpendicular fashion. This cultural walkway would tie into existing parkettes and commercial area reinforcing the existing infrastructure encouraging development of artist studios. The vision is like a string of pearls laid across the existing neighborhood.

One of the challenges in mapping such a route is to complete an inventory of existing sites that offer up the physical opportunity of redevelopment into lane-way housing and studio spaces.

As a sample of what this might look like is a proposed Cultural walk-way basically along Cardero Street utilizing existing lane-ways that have the greatest potential and connecting existing parkettes along it's route. The proposed route would start at the Alexandra Park (*Image 1*) at Bidwell Street and Beach Avenue and then via one of two lanes in the 1600 Block (*Image 2*) making it's way to along Cardero to Burnaby Street where it would cross through the existing parkette (*Image 3*) to Davie



*Image 1*

Street. Continuing along Cardero to the parkette behind Lord Roberts Elementary School (*Image 4*) crossing Comox Street. Again Utilizing one of the existing lanes in the 1500 block (*Image 5*) it would reach the existing



*Image 2*



*Image 3*

Commercial area on Nicola Street between Nelson and Barclay Streets It would continue along Nicola Street and be integrated into the existing park space of Barclay Heritage Square and then make it's way back to Cardero Street using the laneway between Haro and Robson (*Image 6*) ending at the Robson Street.



*Image 4*



*Image 5*

This proposed route would connect 3 park areas and uses 3 laneways that have infill potential. The points of intersection could offer up



*Image 6*



*Image 7*

opportunities of utilizing the existing physical laneways and/or vacant adjacent property potentially even utilizing partial closure of lane-ways increasing development opportunities.

Wall Murals opportunities also exist along the cultural walkway (*Image 7*)

Other opportunities exist such as the proposed Bute Street Plaza the Gilford and Haro Street parkette.

### Key Recommendations:

1. Create a cultural walkway utilizing existing parkettes and lane-ways
2. Reinforce existing commercial areas within the Neighbourhoods and to include artist Studios
3. Increase density bonusing to now include Artist Studio spaces
4. Add painted wall Murals to existing Lane-way " blank wall " locations
5. Add Sculptural installation to existing parkette locations
6. Investigate other paths connecting Lane-ways
7. ...

**Moving forward:**

Key Recommendations	Without City/Partner involvement	With City/Partner involvement	Other potential Partners
Create a cultural walkway utilizing existing parkettes and lane-ways		Required	
Reinforce existing commercial areas within the Neighbourhoods and to include artist Studios		Required	Required
Increase density bonusing to now include Artist Studio spaces		Required	Required
Add painted wall Murals to existing Lane-way " blank wall " locations		Required	Required
Add Sculptural installation to existing parkette locations		Required	Added benefit
Investigate other paths connecting Lane-ways	Possible		

Key Recommendations	What we can do now	How might we do it
Create a cultural walkway	Identify Cultural	Investigate and expand

utilizing existing parkettes and lane-ways	walkways	present concept
Reinforce existing commercial areas within the Neighbourhoods and to include artist Studios	Enter into discussions with the City	Set up task force
Increase density bonusing to now include Artist Studio spaces	Enter into discussions with the City	Set up task force
Add painted wall Murals to existing Lane-way " blank wall " locations	Identify opportunities	
Add Sculptural installation to existing parkette locations	Enter into discussions with the City	

**Long term Key recommendation working with the City and other key Partners:**

1. Create a cultural walkway utilizing existing parkettes and lane-ways
2. Reinforce existing commercial areas within the Neighbourhoods and to include artist Studios
3. Increase density bonusing to now include Artist Studio spaces
4. Add painted wall Murals to existing Lane-way " blank wall " locations
5. Add Sculptural installation to existing parkette locations

**Community benefits from CACs based on needed Facilities and Benefits:**

Add and create Artist Studios within proposed developments and/or add them to other community projects via cash contributions from CACs

Contact WE ARTS:

c/o Gordon Neighbourhood House  
1019 Broughton Street  
Vancouver, BC V6G 2A7  
e: [info@wearts.com](mailto:info@wearts.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/WEArtsVan](https://facebook.com/WEArtsVan)  
Website: [WEArts.ca](http://WEArts.ca)

Report Layout and Design: Lacey Williams  
Website: [laceymcraewilliams.com](http://laceymcraewilliams.com)

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WE  ARTS