



# South Vancouver Community Forum

South Vancouver Neighbourhood House



# Land Acknowledgement

**Al Houston**  
*SVNH Indigenous Council*





# Welcome & Introduction

**Mimi Rennie**  
*Executive Director, SVNH*



# Reframing South Vancouver Initiative Journey

**Liza Bautista**

*Manager, Neighbourhood Equity  
& Representation, SVNH*

# SVNH REFRAMING SOUTH VANCOUVER



## PHASE 1

### ASSET MAPPING (SEP 2021 – MAR 2022)

- Started building relationships with racialized residents and newcomer populations in South Vancouver
- Explored sources of neighbourhood strengths & pride

## PHASE 2

### NEEDS MAPPING (APR – SEP 2022)

- Shared the social inequities in South Van with community members to raise awareness
- Collected feedback from residents regarding community needs and barriers

## PHASE 3

### NAC ESTABLISHMENT (OCT 2022 – MAR 2023)

- Established the Neighbourhood Advisory Committees (NACs)
- Offered training & support to the NACs

## PHASE 4

### REPORTING (APRIL 2023 – MARCH 2024)

- Reporting our work to South Vancouver residents, partners and decision makers
- Creating a NAC toolkit



# Motion Submitted by Councillor Boyle and Passed by Council

## **South Vancouver residents flood council chamber, demand lack of services be addressed**

More than 30 people with ties to South Vancouver made impassioned pleas to city council.....for government to act on closing the gap on the many historical inequities in services and infrastructure facing residents in South Van. Better access to health care, childcare, transit and services for youth, seniors and newcomers were requested by speakers who ranged in age from 14 to 93 and included business owners, academics, members of the LGBTQ2S+ community and representatives of neighbourhood houses.

*Article by: Mike Howell, Vancouver is Awesome*

# Mayor's Letters to the Province



MAYOR KEN SIM

July 18, 2023

The Honourable Adrian Dix  
Minister of Health  
Via email: [HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

The Honourable Rachna Singh  
Minister of Education and Childcare  
Via email: [EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

The Honourable Grace Lore  
Minister of State for Childcare  
Via email: [CC.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CC.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Re: Addressing Ongoing Inequities by Improving Social Infrastructure and Access to Services Across South Vancouver and Marpole Neighbourhoods**

Dear Ministers Dix, Lore and Singh,

On behalf of the City of Vancouver, I am writing to bring attention to the pressing issue of limited access to healthcare and childcare services in South Vancouver. As the largest geographical region of Vancouver and one of the most racially diverse areas in our city, South Vancouver faces unique challenges that require immediate attention and support from the provincial government.

In 2021, the South Vancouver Neighbourhood House (SVNH) and Simon Fraser University (SFU) Urban Studies and Health Sciences conducted the "South Vancouver Neighbourhood Equity Report", revealing multiple areas of inequity, including healthcare services and childcare support.

According to the 2021 data from Statistics Canada, South Vancouver experiences various challenges, including a higher average household size, lower median personal income, and a significant number of residents with a non-English first language. Additionally, one-fifth of Vancouver's child and youth population and 18% of the city's seniors reside in South Vancouver. It is essential to address these disparities and invest in healthcare and childcare services to ensure the well-being and prosperity of these communities.

On June 28, 2023, Vancouver's Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities approved a motion to address these ongoing inequities by improving social infrastructure and access to services across South Vancouver and Marpole neighbourhoods, which you will find attached in Annex A.

As requested by this Council Motion, I am writing this letter on behalf of Vancouver City Council to notify you:

THAT Council request the Mayor write to Provincial and Federal partners outlining concerns from South Vancouver residents about limited access to healthcare and childcare services, and request consultation with the community about improved health and expanded childcare services, including the scheduled closure of the only Community Health Clinic in South Vancouver.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Ken Sim  
Mayor, City of Vancouver



MAYOR KEN SIM

July 18, 2023

The Honourable Karina Gould  
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development  
Via email: [karina.gould@parl.gc.ca](mailto:karina.gould@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos  
Minister of Health  
Via email: [jean-yves.duclos@parl.gc.ca](mailto:jean-yves.duclos@parl.gc.ca)

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Sincerely,

Ken Sim  
Mayor, City of Vancouver



# South Vancouver & Marpole Neighbourhood Equity Report

**Dr. Meg Holden**  
*Professor, SFU Urban Studies*



# Social Infrastructure and unmet needs in South Vancouver, BC

Partnership between South Vancouver Neighbourhood House and Simon Fraser University Urban Studies and Faculty of Health Sciences

Speaking today on behalf of our team:

Meg Holden, Urban Studies and Resources and Environmental Management, SFU



**Social infrastructure are the places and spaces where people gather to connect, learn, and support each other**

*Source: City of Vancouver*

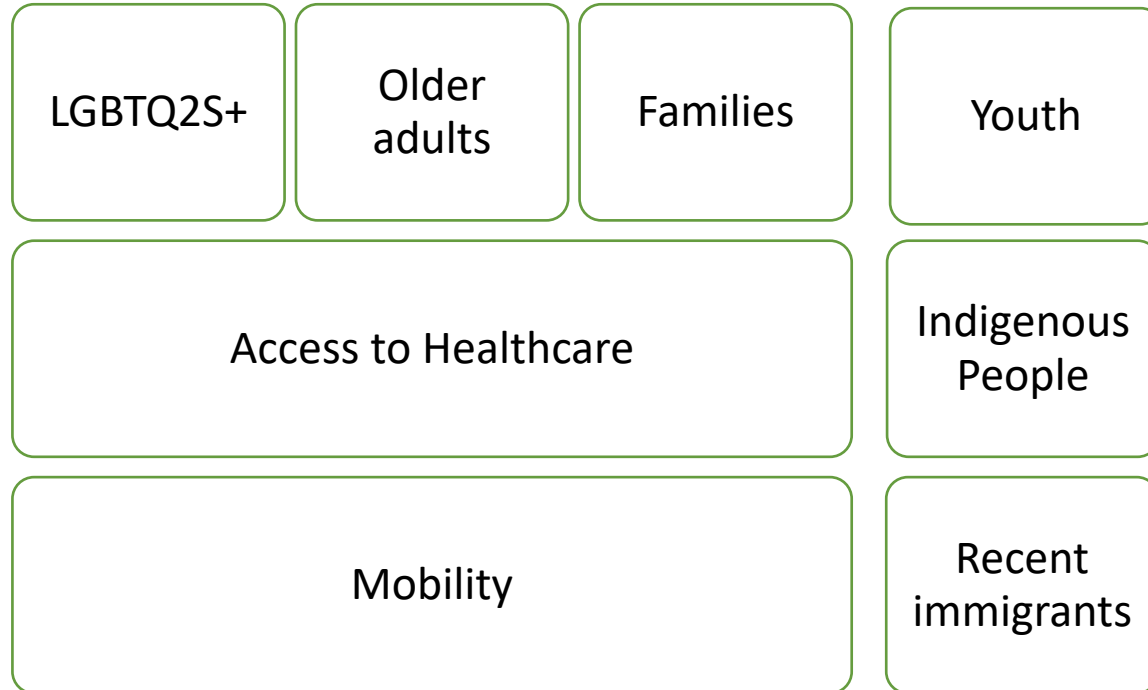
# Objectives

Gather data on social infrastructure spending in Vancouver  
*(e.g., City of Vancouver, BC government, VanCity)*

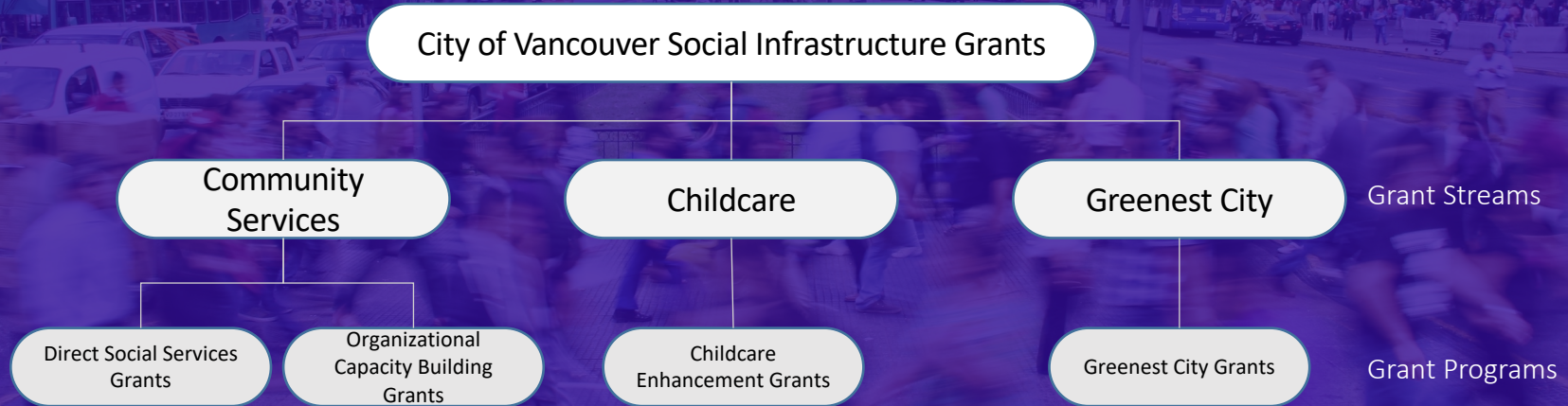
Identify inequities in infrastructure spending and gaps in service needs  
*(Map and analyze data with a focus on diverse communities)*

Anchor data within stories from South Vancouver residents

# Community and service focus areas



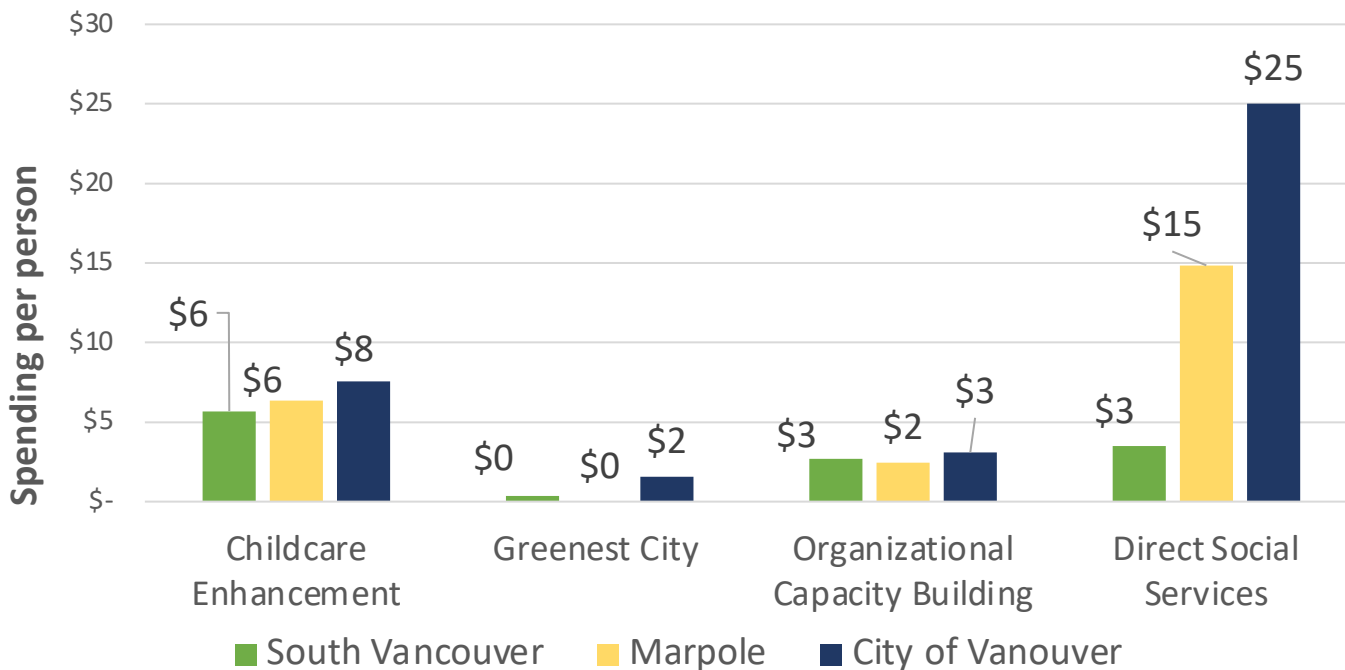
# Neighborhood social infrastructure funding from City of Vancouver



Source: City of Vancouver, 2020

# Social infrastructure spending

City of Vancouver, 2016 to 2020



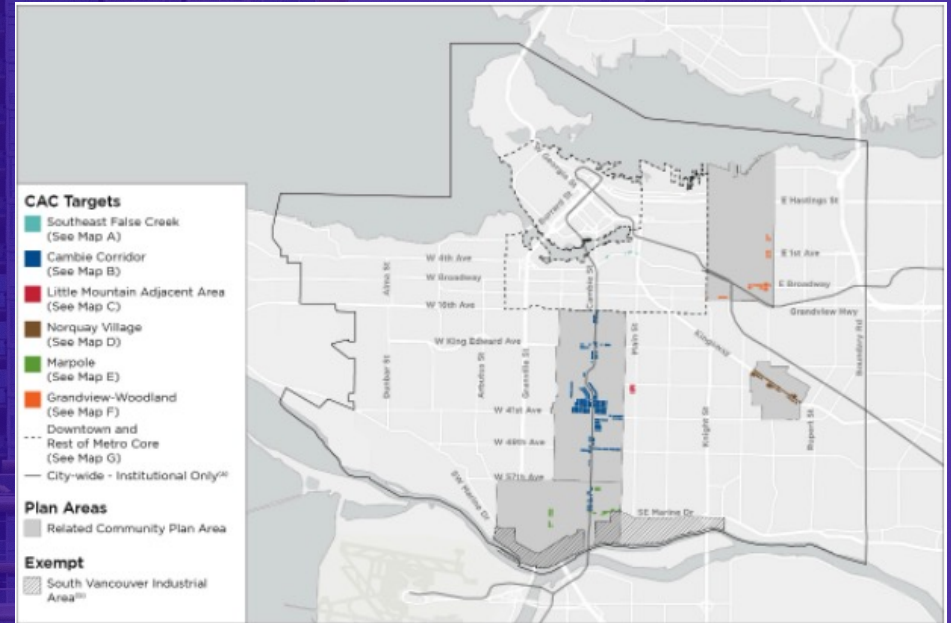
# Social Infrastructure funding from developments

## Development Cost Levies (DCL)

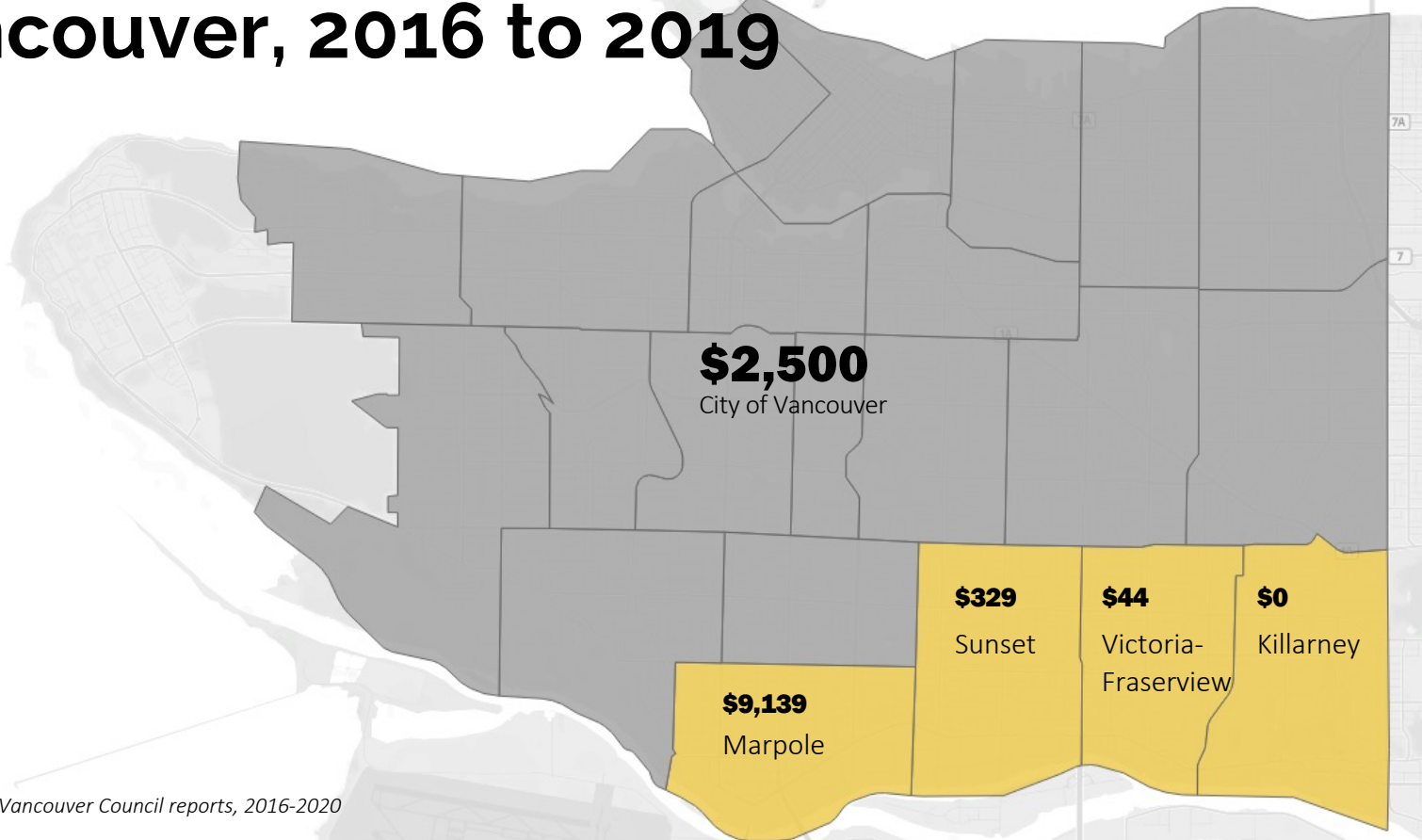
- Pay per square footage of project
- Funding for facilities (parks, childcare, income restricted housing)

## Community Amenity Contributions (CAC)

- Paid when development rights are granted
- Funding for facilities, priorities in redevelopment areas



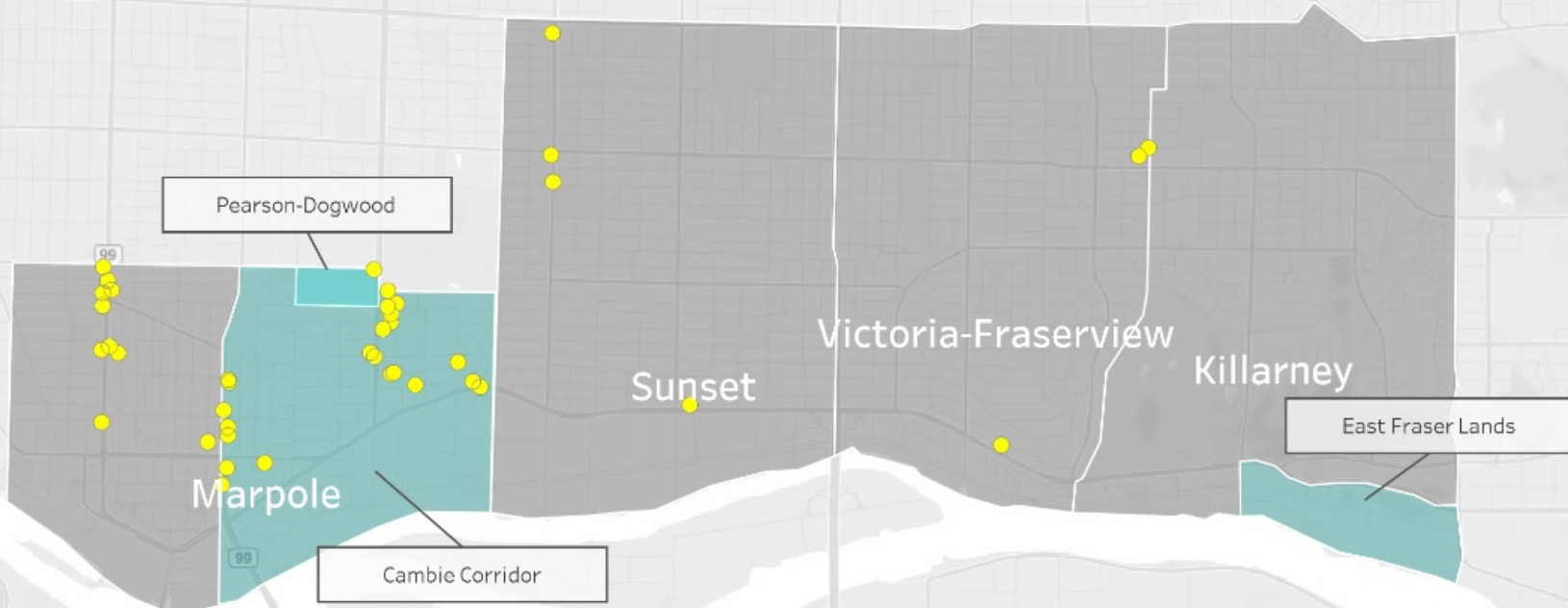
# Development funds per person in Vancouver, 2016 to 2019



Source: City of Vancouver Council reports, 2016-2020



# Development locations in South Vancouver, 2016 to 2019



Source: City of Vancouver Council reports, 2016-2020

# Park projects completed from development funding, 2009 to 2019



**PARKS**

- New Parks
  1. E. Fraserlands
  2. Emery Barnes
  3. SEFC
  4. Burrard Slopes
  5. 'Trillium' site (phase 2)
  6. Plateau Park
  7. Creekway
  8. Lillian To
- Playfields
  9. Memorial South
  10. 'Trillium' site (phase 1)
  11. Jericho
  12. Hastings Park - Empire Fields
  13. Hillcrest
- Park Upgrades
  14. Fraserview
  15. Grandview
  16. Jericho Beach
  17. Mount Pleasant
  18. Norquay
  19. Oppenheimer
  20. Tecumseh
  21. Creekside
  22. Pandora
  23. Riley
  24. Charleson Park
  25. Renfrew Park
  26. Sunset Park
  27. China Creek North
  28. Memorial South

# 24% of Vancouver youth live in South Vancouver

Youth use social infrastructure in South Vancouver

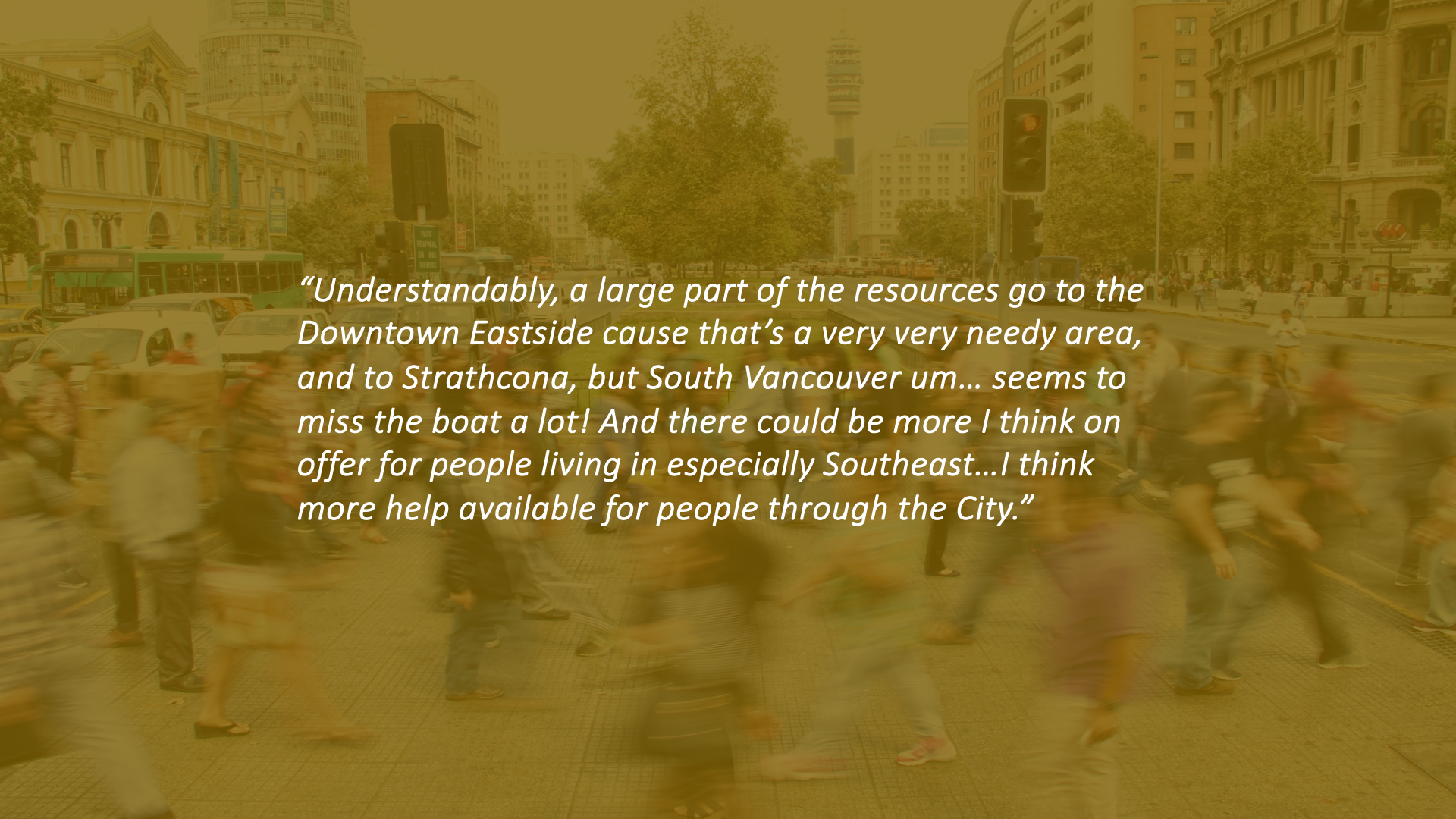
- **In community centers during 2017:**

*(Killarney, Champlain Heights, Sunset, Marple Oakridge)*

42,032 youth visits

19,194 engaged in recreational activities

5,310 participated in volunteering

A blurred, golden-tinted photograph of a busy city street. In the foreground, a large group of pedestrians is walking across a crosswalk, their figures blurred to convey motion. In the background, there are several cars and a green bus. The architecture is a mix of classical and modern buildings, with a prominent tower in the distance. The overall scene is a bustling urban environment.

*“Understandably, a large part of the resources go to the Downtown Eastside cause that’s a very very needy area, and to Strathcona, but South Vancouver um... seems to miss the boat a lot! And there could be more I think on offer for people living in especially Southeast...I think more help available for people through the City.”*

# What we learned

- South Vancouver is not a single neighbourhood but four distinct neighbourhoods with characteristics and needs that need to be considered independently
- Lack of systematic data collection and transparency about social infrastructure allocation by the City further compounds inequities in advocacy and resources for South Vancouver
- South Vancouver residents confront challenges in accessing services and resources, that have been promised to all residents of the City of Vancouver
- Social infrastructure planning is community planning. South Van voices are doing this planning and need to be heard.

See the full report for additional data, analysis and stories related to neighbourhood inequities in the areas of:

- Mobility and families
- Health services
- Newcomer services
- Indigenous people
- LGBTQ2S+ community services
- Older adults
- And more!

**Download here:**

- <https://summit.sfu.ca/item/32344>
- <https://www.southvan.org/communityforum/>



**South Vancouver & Marpole  
Neighbourhood Equity  
Report**

Urban Studies Program and Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University in Partnership with South Vancouver Neighbourhood House and Marpole Neighbourhood House

By Dr. Meg Holden, Dr. Caislin Firth, and Farina Fassihi



# Thank you!





# Impact Story 1

**Kathy Vidad & Milan Chauhan**  
*Community Speakers*







Kathy and Ella





**Milan and her twins**





# Impact Story 2

**Meridith Sones**

*PhD Candidate, Faculty of Health Sciences, SFU*

**Megan Moy**

*Youth.hood Representative*



**MOBILITY + SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS IN**

# **YOUTH.HOOD**

**A COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH COLLABORATION  
BETWEEN SFU URBAN STUDIES, SFU FACULTY OF  
HEALTH SCIENCES, AND THE SOUTH VANCOUVER  
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE**

**Presenters:**

**Meridith Sones - PhD(c), SFU Faculty of Health Sciences**

**Megan Moy - Youth.hood Ambassador**



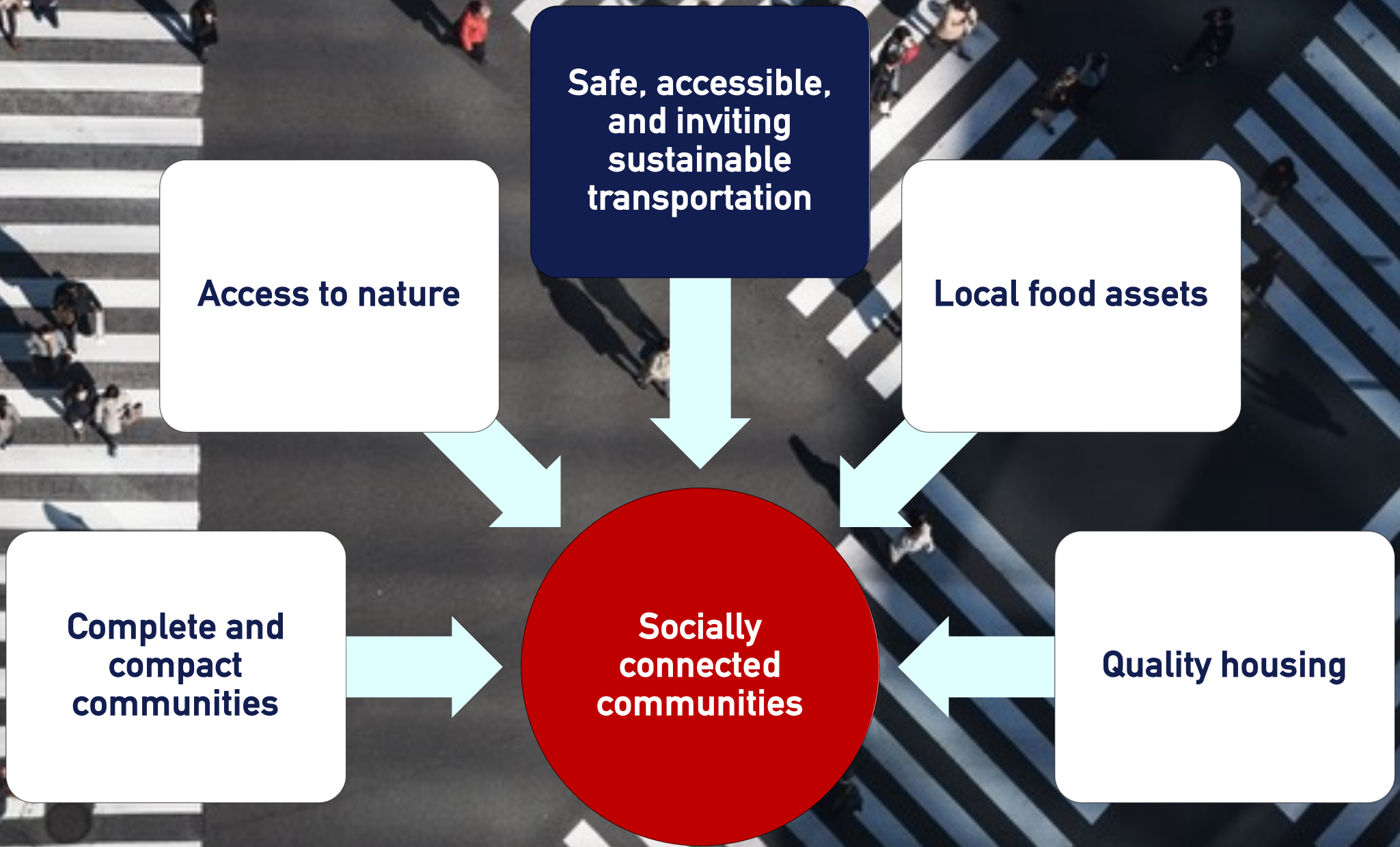
**CityHive**

**SFU**

# THE CASE FOR BUILDING SOCIALLY CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

- **Negative health impacts** on par with smoking and physical inactivity.
- **Prevalence and persistence** of social isolation, loneliness, and disengagement in urban areas.
- **City and community design** can be part of the solution.





**Safe, accessible,  
and inviting  
sustainable  
transportation**

**Access to nature**

**Local food assets**

**Complete and  
compact  
communities**

**Socially  
connected  
communities**

**Quality housing**

## **Takeaway 1**

**Sustainable transportation  
infrastructure is social  
infrastructure.**

# TRANSPORTATION INEQUITIES IN SOUTH VAN

Who were these bike lanes built for? Social-spatial inequities in Vancouver's bikeways, 2001–2016

(Firth, Hosford & Winters 2021)

## Legend

% of children

Q1 (lower %)



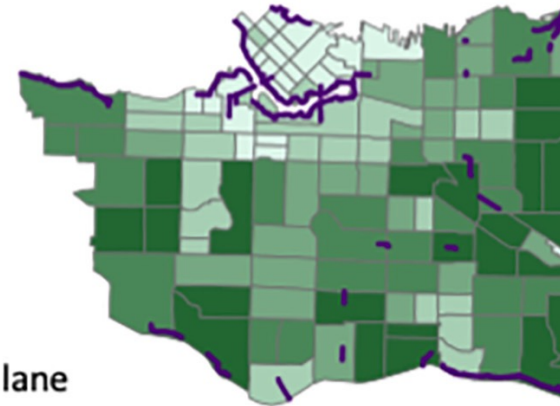
Q5 (higher %)



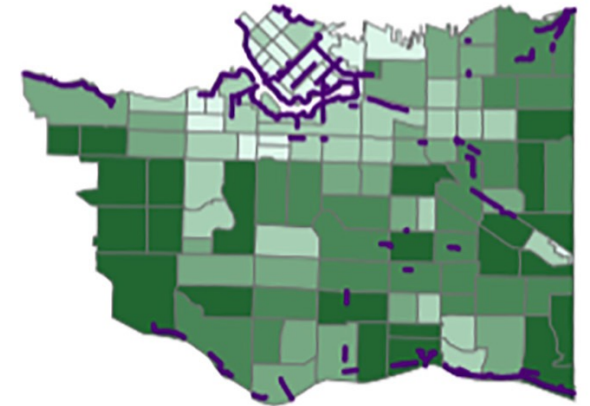
Protected bike lane



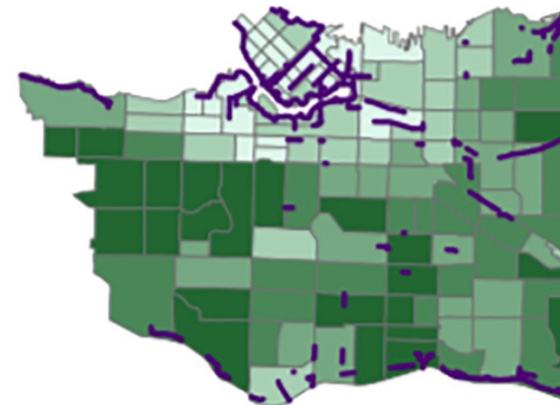
2001



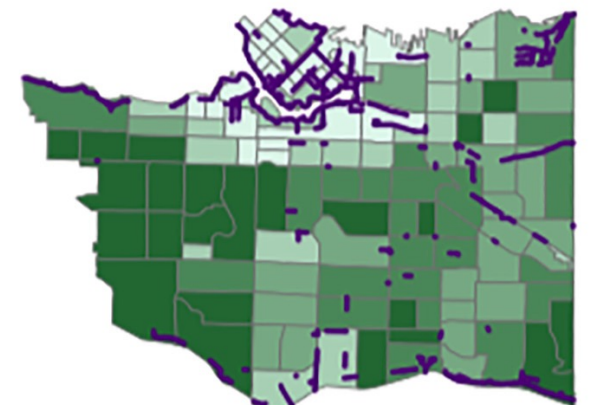
2006



2011



2016



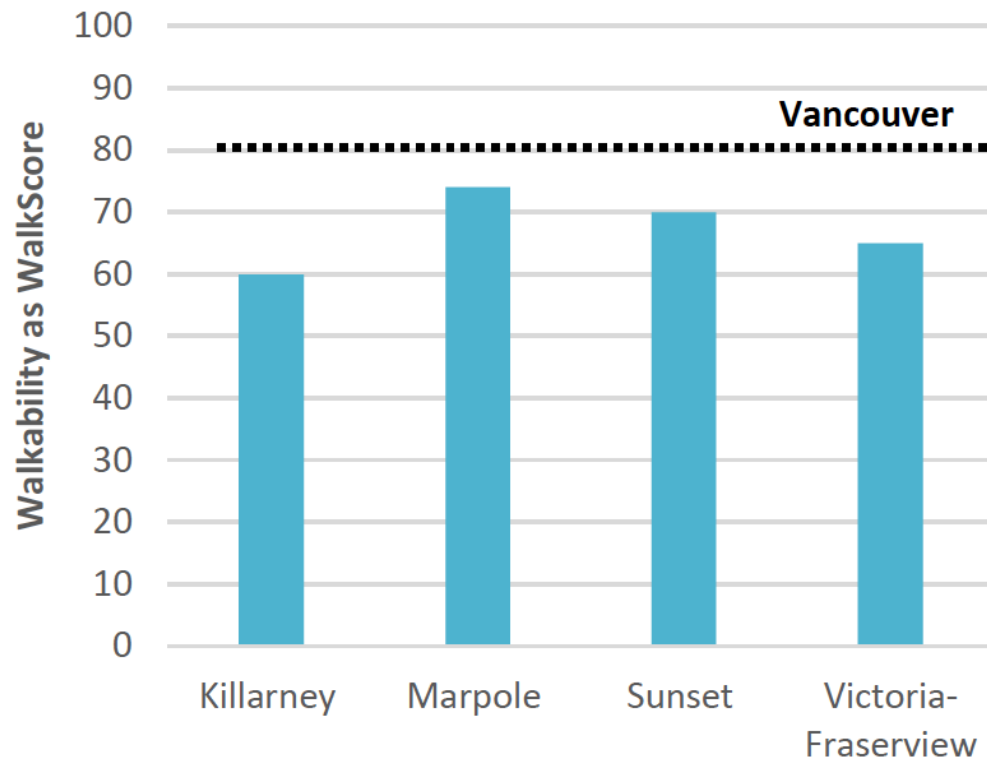
0 1 2 4 Kilometers



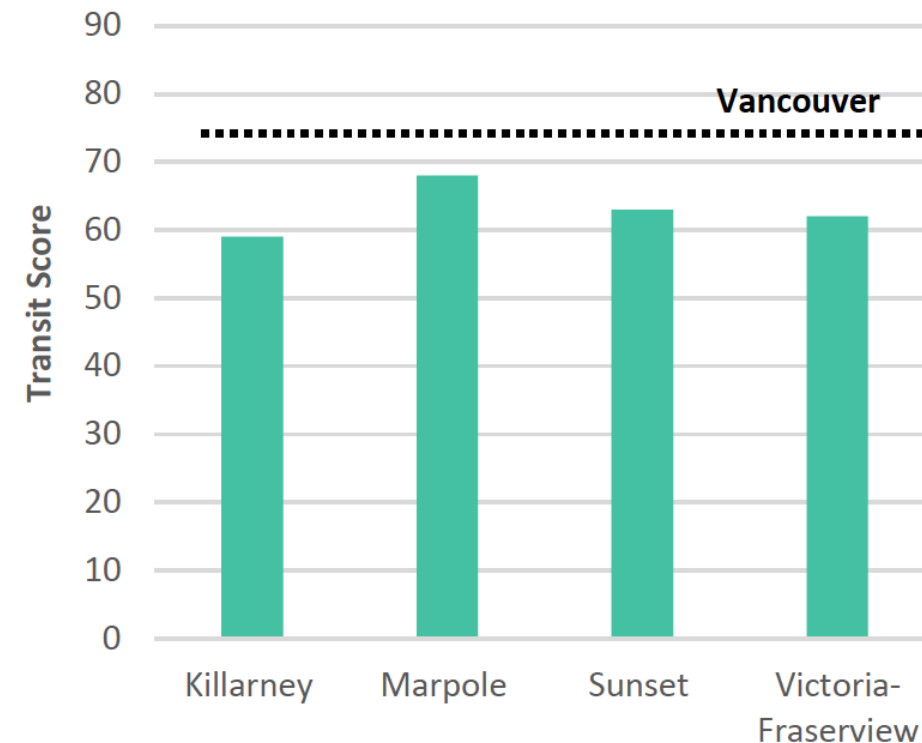


# TRANSPORTATION INEQUITIES IN SOUTH VAN

South Vancouver neighbourhoods are less walkable than the City...



...and have less transit accessibility, despite high demand.



## **Takeaway 2**

**South Vancouver is being left behind when it comes to sustainable transportation.**

# YOUTH.HOOD OBJECTIVES

The Youth.hood study is engaging youth living in South Van to:

1. **Assess** features of their neighbourhood environments that impact social connectedness using a smartphone app;
2. **Analyze** results of their assessments and prioritize neighbourhood issues or features to be addressed;
3. **Advocate** for environmental solutions that promote social connectedness in their neighbourhoods.

# YOUTH.HOOD COMMUNITY SCIENTISTS

- 42 youth (15-19 years of age)
- Living or attending school in South Vancouver
- Able to walk or move through their community for 60 minutes, and read and speak English
- Compensated a living wage for their time
- Geographically and demographically representative of South Vancouver neighbourhoods



# YOUTH.HOOD KEY FINDINGS

- There's a lot to love about South Vancouver.
- Lack of upkeep discourages youth from connecting in neighbourhood spaces, by making our communities feel unsafe and uninviting
- Youth want spaces to gather that are natural, colourful, quiet and inviting to a variety of interests and age groups.
- **Youth in South Van need infrastructure that makes getting around without a car easier, safer, and more enjoyable.**

## **Takeaway 3**

**Youth in South Vancouver need infrastructure that makes getting around without a car easier, safer, and more enjoyable.**

# **SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS BARRIERS RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION**

- Lack of active transportation infrastructure
- Unsafe road and sidewalk conditions
- Transit comfort and convenience



# **LACK OF ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE**

**“People have to walk on the road, which becomes dangerous as cars come by. It becomes incredibly difficult to walk and talk at the same time.”**





# **UNSAFE ROAD AND SIDEWALK CONDITIONS**

**“Old people especially are effected by bad sidewalks as this limits them from going out and socializing with their friends and family.”**



# TRANSIT COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE

“I don't really like this bus stop because sometimes it's crowded with students after school. Everyone is always on their phone, They don't talk to other people.”

# DESIGN CHALLENGE: TRANSPORTATION

How might we make it easier, safer, and more enjoyable for youth to get around without a car?

- Improve condition of sidewalks and roads
- More protected bike lanes and sidewalks
- Improved transit connections and bus stops

# ACTING ON THE EVIDENCE

## NOW...

- Addressing small spot improvements for big impact
- Provincial support for new sustainable transportation infrastructure to maximize the returns on recent municipal actions.

## GOING FORWARD...

- How will equity figure into the prioritization of future sustainable transportation funding and actions?

**THANKS!**





# Impact Story 3

**Stephanie San**

*UX, Marketing and Communications*

*Coordinator, SVNH*





# Homelessness & Housing



*Julie Diesta*  
*Community Engagement Programmer,*  
*SVNH*





# Impact Story 4

**Al Houston**  
*SVNH Indigenous Council*







# Family Services in South Vancouver

**Julio Bello**  
*Executive Director,  
South Vancouver Family Place*





# Food Justice in South Vancouver

**Joey Liu**  
*Food Security Manager, SVNH*





Photo Credit:  
Pardeep Singh  
Courtesy of United  
Way of BC



# Impact Story 5

**Evelyn Cornish**  
*Community Speaker*





# Reframing South Vancouver Initiative

**Liza Bautista**

*Manager, Neighbourhood Equity  
& Representation, SVNH*

# Reframing South Vancouver Journey



## South Vancouver Neighbourhood House Reframing South Vancouver Initiative



SVNH is working to reframe how decision-makers at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels of government view South Vancouver.



### Asset Mapping

Phase 1  
Sep 2021 - Mar 2022

Based on what we learnt from the Equity Report, we designed research questions and engagement methods, then set out to talk to the residents to find community evidence for the report findings.

**Start!**

Community Engagement Along COVID-19 social distancing in various neighbourhoods. Residents were invited to participate in a survey of their own neighbourhoods. The survey was designed to gather information on the needs, assets, and challenges of the neighbourhoods.

**Outreach/Community Centres**

In our outreach, we asked residents 3 questions to find out what they consider assets in their community:

- Where within each of these neighbourhoods are social connections the strongest?
- What do you love about your neighbourhood?
- Which neighbourhoods are you proudest of? Why?

**Virtual Meetings**

With the help of our development evaluative, we received what we learnt from the South Vancouver Communities Legacy neighbourhood assets and gaps, all of which are featured in the report.

**Outreach and Engagement Cost Statistics**

A high number was the outreach program in general.

### Outreach and Engagement Event Highlights

Start!

Reference materials we used to present the inequities in South Vancouver to residents:

- Document on key findings of the Equity Report
- Reframing South Vancouver Document (English)
- Reframing South Vancouver Document (Chinese)
- Reframing South Vancouver Document (Vietnamese)

Through these engagement opportunities, we shared the inequities in South Vancouver with residents and recruited them to join the Neighbourhood Advisory Committees (NACs), which started in Phase 3.

**Needs Mapping**

Phase 2  
Apr 2022 - Sep 2022

Through these engagement opportunities, we shared the inequities in South Vancouver with residents and recruited them to join the Neighbourhood Advisory Committees (NACs), which started in Phase 3.

### Reporting

Phase 4  
Apr 2023 - Mar 2024

Based on the report by our Developmental Evaluator, we started presenting our findings and learnings to different stakeholders.

**Engagement with Decision Makers and Stakeholders**

Findings from our outreach engagement activities are included in this report.

**Outreach to Residents**

Neighbourhood House Week Celebration

Partnership between SVNH and KPU on food security research.

NAC May Get together

Champion Heights Summer Fair

NAC Summer Picnic

Summer Family Get together

**- CURRENT PHASE -**

### NAC Establishment

Phase 3  
Oct 2022 - Mar 2023

4 training sessions are offered to help NAC members become community changemakers.

NACs by 6 Neighbourhoods

Individual NAC Meetings

NAC Group Get-togethers & Workshops

Library Centre

NAC Dinner Christmas Gift of Love

SVNH Southside Hub Opening

# Neighbourhood Advisory Committee (NAC)



## Neighbourhood Advisory Committees (NACs) - Introductions



The background features a soft, watercolor-style wash in shades of light green and teal. There are several decorative elements: a branch of green leaves in the top-left corner, a large, dark green monstera leaf in the bottom-left corner, and a smaller branch of green leaves in the bottom-right corner. A thin, gold-colored line curves along the right edge of the page. The text is centered on the page.

# Our Asks

**Mimi Rennie**  
*Executive Director, SVNH*





# Our Asks

We have asked the City for municipal actions – now we are inviting provincial support to move these conversations forward:

## **1) Attention to our Transportation**

- work with us to address issues our NACs identify

## **2) Food Justice**

- work with us to address issues our Food Hub identifies

## **3) Family**

- work with us to address barriers to healthcare, jobs, accessibility to resources

## **4) Job and Economic Integration**

- work with us to support skill enhancement, settlement-employment, employer relations, mentorship, digital literacy



The background features a soft, watercolor-style aesthetic with various shades of green. There are large, irregular watercolor splatters in the corners and along the sides. In the top-left corner, there are detailed illustrations of monstera leaves. In the bottom-right corner, there is a small branch with several pointed leaves. The central text is rendered in a dark green, classic serif font.

# Mingling Session



# Thank You!

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