



westvancouver

THE WATERFRONT COMMUNITY

Civic Youth Strategy

West Vancouver

2006

Review Civic Youth Strategy: 2003 to 2005

Renew Civic Youth Strategy: 2006 to 2010



West Vancouver Youth

Take a walk in our shoes

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Introduction

Take a Walk in Our Shoes – The “Sole” of the Icon Development

The Vision:

The purpose of the Civic Youth Strategy is to encourage youth to be involved and build a community that they believe brings a sense of belonging, well-being and recognizes young people as valuable contributors. As a result of the review of the Strategy (2002-2005), youth recommended that a youth friendly image be used to communicate ongoing community projects and events. In response to their recommendation an Icon was created that will be easily recognized by all members of the community.

The Process:

The creation of the Icon involved youth through a call for submissions within the schools and community during the months of September and October 2006. Over 100 submissions were received and from the collected artwork, the idea of using shoes as an icon was created. The original concept was created by Angela Walsh and additional shoes were created by the Advanced Placement Art Class at Sentinel Secondary.

Each shoe, in its design detail, reflects the diversity of youth interest and their individual interpretation of West Vancouver. Displayed together, the shoes bring elements of the unique characteristics and spirit of community that they value as a whole.

The Youth artwork was compiled by Atessa Marashi, a local young artist, to produce the overall icon, banner and design of this report.

The Benefits:

- 1) To bring an awareness of community leadership and engagement for young people.
- 2) To give an identity to the next phase of the Civic Youth Strategy (2006-2010) that youth and the whole community can connect with as we move through the implementation process.
- 3) To assist with communicating the significant contributions young people make to the community at large.

Special Thanks:

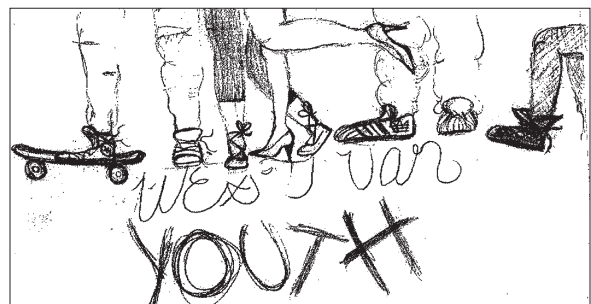
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Icon:



Preliminary Sketch by Angela Walsh:



Banner:



WEST VANCOUVER YOUTH



TAKE A WALK IN OUR SHOES



Thank you to all the students from Sentinel Secondary who contributed:



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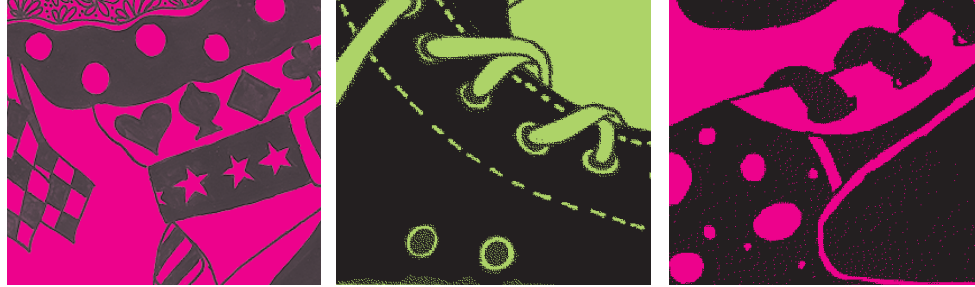
Atessa Marashi



Soo Hyun Ryu



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Policy Statement

Council is committed to developing, supporting and promoting initiatives that positively contribute to the lives of West Vancouver youth.

Council will work towards developing a community where:

- The views of youth and their contributions to the community are valued and taken into account in the development of the Council's policies and activities.
- Youth are cherished and their diversity is recognized, acknowledged and celebrated.
- Young people have access to the information and resources required to meet their needs in the areas of:
 - o Health, safety and well being
 - o Physical environment and design
 - o Entertainment and recreation
 - o Education and training
 - o Employment
 - o Family

Council will develop five strategic approaches to the implementation of this policy statement, as laid out in this Civic Youth Strategy.

- Create a broader vision for youth recreation
- Give youth a stronger voice in local government
- Improve the image of youth in the community.
- Use civic resources for youth development
- Bring a youth perspective to civic policy development and planning

The District of West Vancouver defines youth by ages 13 to 18.



Civic Youth Strategy Review and Renew

Youth are vibrant and intelligent and they are making changes in our community. They are a source of learning for all of us with their fresh and creative approach to innovation with their playfulness, trust and open expression of emotions. Over the past three years West Vancouver's Civic Youth Strategy has given the key to young people to begin to open doors and share their attitudes towards building a healthy inclusive community. West Vancouver youth are stepping up as active contributors in developing a place where they feel connected and valued. They are leading the way through social responsibility and are engaging with all members of their community to improve the image of youth.

The Civic Youth Strategy was created in 2002 with the support of Council, community partners and dedicated young people/citizens, and adopted by Council on May 14th, 2003. The purpose of the Strategy is four-fold;

- to give youth a greater say in how West Vancouver is governed;
- to involve more youth in the community and in civic government;
- to develop strategies and actions that meet social, recreational, educational and cultural needs of youth;
- to help make West Vancouver more 'youth friendly'.

There are 25 separate strategies, including the establishment of several committees, that comprise the overall strategy. The strategy has prompted several changes in West Vancouver and has added new services and ideas that have been of benefit to it's

youth in the community and contributed to building a better community.

Many of the strategies have been implemented as outlined in the 2003 - 2005 Civic Youth Strategy. During the implementation phase of the Civic Youth Strategy, many new initiatives were identified as well as some of the strategies that were no longer applicable or deemed relevant with the current changes or trends.

The program's success has been due to both a commitment by Council and the willingness of local youth to get involved and make a difference in their community. Together they have focused strategically and proactively on the well being of youth needs and concerns. Council has led the community by adopting a policy and ensuring that all levels of Municipal Government are committed to developing, supporting and promoting initiatives that positively contribute to the lives of young people in building community in West Vancouver.

The Civic Youth Strategy is not a project, it is an ongoing process. The Strategy is about changing the culture of municipal government, bringing about awareness of the positive contributions youth can make to their community, bringing a youth perspective to civic policy development and planning, and making municipal resources available to all youth. Achieving and maintaining these goals/vision requires a constant and persistent effort. In other words, it is not as if we will ever 'arrive' and say our job is done.

The environment is also constantly changing. There is regular turnover of municipal staff which necessitates ongoing dialogue, encouragement, relationship-building, and awareness-raising about youth issues and methods of youth engagement in civic government. Youth themselves move onto adulthood and new youth bring with them ever changing perspectives.

The demographics within our population are also changing. For example, the growing cultural diversity in our community brings with it new opportunities and challenges.

All of this underscores the need to provide resources on an ongoing basis in order to respond to the changing needs of youth and sustain our vision of a 'youth friendly community' in West Vancouver.

So far, the Civic Youth Strategy 2002 – 2005 work has been possible with the establishment of the Youth Advocate position. For the past three years, this position has been on a year to year contract basis. The Youth Advocate has also provided primary staff support to the Youth Advisory Committee, which has become, and hopefully will continue to be, a permanent fixture of our local government. Costs associated with various Strategy projects, as well as provision of the new Leadership Grants program, have also been made available on a year to year basis through expenditures of the Youth Activity Fund.

The District of West Vancouver has shown tremendous leadership in creating the Civic Youth Strategy. The West Vancouver 2002 – 2005 Civic Youth Strategy received an award for Excellence for Innovation from the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association in November 2005. This award recognizes projects and initiatives across Canada that may be used as successful models for other communities to adopt as part of their services or facilities. We can be very proud of the accomplishments so far. In order to sustain this excellent work and move forward, a commitment from Council is required to provide staff and financial resources on a permanent basis.





Review of the Implementation of the Civic Youth Strategy

Over a 3 month period from April to November of 2005, 400 young people were consulted to review the progress of the Civic Youth Strategy. The youth municipal advisory committees and students from the three public high schools as well as Committees' of Council were also consulted during the review process.

A. Questions youth were raising:

- Are youth full beneficiaries of the communities many attributes?
- Do they feel like full partners in the community?
- Does West Vancouver "work" for them?

B. Youth spoke up and told us:

- Youth are positive
- West Vancouver is a safe and great place to live
- One person's safety is another person's 'boredom'
- Less than 50% of youth feel valued by the community as a whole
- Youth consider themselves excluded from the process of local government
- Skateboarding and BMX riding are issues about youth culture, that seem to be resented by the rest of the populace

C. Successes

The Civic Youth Strategy (02 - 05) originally outlined five strategic approaches. To support the strategy Council provided staff support and seed money for youth to take on youth driven leadership initiatives through the Youth Leadership Grants Program.

Strategic Approaches:

1. Give youth a stronger voice in local government:

Youth engagement in West Vancouver is listening to youth and advocating on their behalf to facilitate and implement youth driven programs, services and activities that are important to them. Examples of the advocacy function related to the coordination of the Civic Youth Strategy are as follows:

- Education: District level, presentations at provincial conferences and leadership development with youth
- Connecting with Municipal Departments:
 - o Parks and Community Services: Aquatic Centre, Seniors' Activity Centre, Ice Arena, Harmony Arts Festival, Gleneagles Community Centre, Parks Department
 - o Administrative Services: Legislative Services
 - o Administrative Services: Communications
 - o West Vancouver Police Department
 - o West Vancouver Memorial Library
 - o Engineering Department
 - o Planning Department
- Connecting with West Vancouver School District #45, Mulgrave Independent School and Collingwood Independent School
- Connecting with local businesses, non-profit and service agencies
- Connecting with Youth Committees

Youth Advisory Committee

The Youth Advisory Committee was included as an official committee of Council and a direct link to Mayor and Council for youth to communicate through. The Youth Advisory Committee reviews and makes recommendations regarding the allocation of funds for the Youth Leadership Grants and the Recognition and Competition Funding Programs. The Youth Advisory Committee also reports to the Board of School Trustees for School District #45 and is a direct link for students to voice ideas and concerns about their education.

Community Services Advisory Committee

As part of the Civic Youth Strategy the communities from 2002 to 2005. The Community Services Advisory Committee appointed one youth representative per year. This was the first advisory committee of council to host a youth representative.

Council Mentoring Program

'Take 5' is a five-step program for Councillors to mentor Youth Councillors over a 5-week period. The purpose of the program was to provide an opportunity for Council to inform youth or the roles and responsibilities of a civic leader.

Youth Council and Youth Trustee

Annual events that take place during Youth Week, that provide an opportunity for youth to model as Mayor and Council and the Board of School Trustees. Youth debate topics that are important to them, and by the end of the evening there is a motion for follow-up after the event.

Youth Awards

An annual event that takes place during youth week, where students that have provided outstanding leadership in the community are recognized for their contributions.

Recreation Advisory Team

This committee was created to guide the recreation planning and programming for youth in the Committee. The committee is commonly volunteering at many community services events as well as fundraising for youth that are in need.

Gleneagles Community Centre Advisory Committee

The newly formed Gleneagles Community Centre Committee has a youth representative from Rockridge Secondary and the Chair is a young adult that was a mentored over the past four years through the Recreation Advisory Team.





Strategic Approaches continued

2. Create a broader vision for youth recreation:

Youth like recreation. It improves their quality of life. We have worked hard to broaden the scope of services and events that are of interest to them. To ensure the success of the services, committees of youth developed their own programs and events. Activities included: arts and cultural events, such as several concerts and “Battles of the Bands”, fashion events, a poetry slam and late night social activities; sports events, such as Fear Factor, basketball tournaments between the police and fire department and skateboarding events; and Leadership Conferences and workshops and official council sponsored events.

As the new Aquatic Centre opened its doors in 2004, new youth programs and youth volunteer and work experience opportunities grew. This fabulous facility is an example of a welcoming youth friendly place where many young people come to meet with friends, workout or start their first job. The Aquatic Centre has dedicated youth nights to ensure that a youth culture can be nurtured and grow.

The Gleneagles Adventure Park is a “big and little people” playground with dirt jumps for Mountain and BMX bikes, a concrete skatepark, and social spaces to just hang out. This unique and innovative facility was initiated and developed with the input of local youth riders. Some who have now moved into their early twenties are staying close to their community because they have a place to call their own. This facility attracts youth from all across the District. The facility has local riders that groom and maintain the facility and a new youth club will be formed so that riders can take full ownership of their park.

The Police Carnival is an annual event that is hosted during Police Week. The West Vancouver Police Department brings Westcoast Amusement to Ambleside Park. This fabulous weekend event hosts rides, games and your favourite fair foods.

In West Vancouver, **National Youth Week** (May 1st to 7th) is celebrated with an abundance of youth driven activities such as:

- Artistic Events: Battle of the Bands and a Fashion Show
- Sports Activities: Fear Factor and Beat the Heat Basketball tournament with the police, fire department and community services.
- Civic Recognition: Youth Council and Youth Awards

The **Separate Page** at Memorial Library is a fantastic example of using a traditional building for innovative and creative youth friendly events. The library hosted 300 young people for a night of live indie music and dancing. For many of the youth that attended the event it was their first visit to their community library.

3. Use civic resources for youth development:

Once the community made a commitment to supporting youth, it was recognized that funding and youth friendly structures need to be accessible to help provide opportunities for our young leaders.

The **Youth Leadership Grants Program** is designed to support youth that demonstrate civic leadership, citizenship and community involvement; provide seed money for youth to carry out projects or initiatives of concern to youth; benefit youth who wish to build their capacity to influence issues of

concern locally, nationally or internationally; and include elements of community service and global citizenship.

The **Youth Leadership Conference** is a partnered event with West Vancouver School District #45, Mulgrave Independent School and Collingwood Independent School. The event was created by youth for youth, and has produced several outcomes in the past three years. These range from an increase in youth involvement in the community to specific events inspired and implemented by youth for seniors.

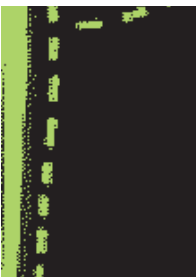
Civic Department support has been extensive and municipal staff have come on board in many ways ranging from hiring youth to donating staff time and resources to contribute to specific projects. Some examples of this are the Communications Department and Library, supporting the development of the Youth 2Youth Website with staff and software, the Engineering Department routinely printing promotional posters for upcoming events and activities; the Parks Department hiring youth to set-up for special events and the Police Department hosting special events and contributing funds to the development of the Gleneagles Adventure Park.

4. Bring a youth perspective to civic policy development and planning:

The Youth Advisory Committee is routinely consulted by all municipal departments as special planning projects and development projects are initiated. Recently, the Recreation Facility Planning committee have developed two community centres, sports fields, and an Aquatic Centre which young people were consulted and kept in the forefront of the planning by designers and committee members. Other examples of consultation with youth have been the inclusion of youth in planning committees for the Special Events Policy and the Ambleside Park Master Plan. Youth have been represented on District-wide Community Initiatives in a number of ways. Such as the Special Event Policy Task Force, the Transportation Task Force to review a new bus route, and the Gleneagles Community Centre Advisory Committee.

5. Improve the image of youth in the community:

Volunteerism has been one of the most popular forms of improving the image of youth in the community. To help youth get connected with local agencies and service providers, two volunteer fairs were held. This event resulted



in more youth involved in Community Service programs as well as local, national and global causes. Service agencies have the opportunity to talk to and learn about the interests and needs of young people.

Fundraisers and donation services are great avenues for youth to give back. Some of their achievements include raising \$1000 for the North Shore Safe House, \$6,000 for Breast Cancer Research, \$10,000 to reduce World Hunger and \$50,000 for Youth Against Landmines as well as preparing 20,000 meals annually for the Vancouver downtown eastside.

Improved relationship with the Police was a priority over the past few years and the police have hosted several events, volunteered for youth driven late night activities and donated funds for youth initiatives.

Recreation Advisory Team is a committee that hosts several fundraisers and special events for their peers each year. These funds are used to sponsor a child through SOS Children's Villages.

Arts and culture special events showcasing fashion, music, dance and artwork have been popular and effective events because they involved many youth performers which have inspired their peers

and have completely changed seniors and adults perceptions of youth with their talent and abilities.

Health and Wellness activities and awareness programs to help the young women in our community recognize how wonderful they truly are. These programs have come in the shape of fundraising for disordered eating and events that allowed young women to dabble in a variety of sports ranging from kick boxing to belly dancing.

Youth Park Stewardship Program at Hay Park is a partnership program between the Parks Department, West Vancouver Secondary and the Evergreen Foundation where by youth are taking care of the green spaces in their neighbourhood. The park is located adjacent to West Vancouver Secondary School and the youth network have hosted several invasive species removal days and educational sessions and have encouraged their peers to enjoy and take care of one of their favourite local hang-outs.

A **Skateboard Park Host Program** was created to monitor the newly built Gleneagles Adventure Park. Local riders are hired to work with youth in the parks and encourage helmet use.

Perceived long-term benefits of the implementation of the Civic Youth Strategy:

- Youth are involved at many levels of the local government decision-making process
- All residents benefit by gaining the unique perspective of youth on issues affecting their community
- More effective and efficient use of municipal resources
- The perceptions of youth as valuable contributors of the community are enhanced
- Negative perceptions of youth are decreased
- Improved social interaction between youth, adults, seniors and the general public
- Enhanced recreational, cultural, social, and educational opportunities for youth
- Community capacity is enhanced by involving youth in municipal and community affairs
- Partnerships are developed between youth, business, local government, social service agencies and other stakeholders
- The community is youth-friendly in all aspects ranging from the way in which development occurs, neighbourhoods are designed and decisions are made
- Youth have a sense of belonging and inclusion in the community



D. Challenges:

Youth were very positive about the progress that had been made in the last three years (2002–2005), but also noted areas where progress had been limited or more action was still needed.

There was an overall sense that youth wanted things to be ‘hipper’ and ‘cooler’ than they were. Youth are exposed daily to media images of a “cool” lifestyle, be it in advertising, Much Music, or wherever. Their expectations come from this world, and they aspire to see it replicated in their local environment:

Ambleside Youth Centre and Gleneagles Community Centre Youth Lounge:

- Ambleside Youth Centre requires facility upgrades to appeal to the broader youth population.
- Further awareness of the existence of the Gleneagles Community Centre Youth Lounge is required.

General community programming is still lacking:

- Activities and late night programs and “places” to go at night (entertainment versus recreation).
- Pre-teen programs.
- There are too few outings from the Ambleside Youth Centre.

The bus service does not meet the needs or expectations of youth:

- Limited bus service (specifically related to late night transportation).
- Cheaper bus fares are needed

Discrimination is still a major barrier for some youth and concern for all youth.

There is/are:

- Little acceptance of visible minorities and tolerance of youth of non-Western cultures.
- Friction between Caucasian and non-Caucasian youth

- Barriers between Seniors and Youth
- Little engaging of all youth from different communities.

Some major issues that really concern youth that were not addressed in the strategy:

- Youth are becoming more consumerist - buy more, consume more, waste more, exploit more.
- Further interest in environmental stewardship.
- Lack in the celebration of diversity.
- Mental illness depression and suicide and drug and alcohol misuse and abuse. (especially crystal meth)

Participants noted a number of process challenges:

- Getting the message of the Civic Youth Strategy out to more youth.
- Youth are a dynamic and changing population.
- Too many ideas, not enough follow up.
- YAC should routinely consult with their peers to identify what youth really want.
- Some processes are slow and youth are no longer youth when changes are finally implemented.

It is still a challenge to fully engage youth:

- Tends to always be the same youth who turn out to consultations, meetings, etc.
- Youth are unsure who to connect with in their community to get things done.
- More innovative methods are required to determine youth needs.
- Not enough advertising of events and communicating of planned recommendations to all youth.
- Informing of younger grades, specifically grades 7 to 10
- Not enough people are interested.
- People will sign up, but meeting times and locations need to be accessible
- Better connection and communication inside the schools

While it is getting better, the youth voice is perceived as not always listened to with the required respect:

- YAC needs to communicate to youth
- Youth feel their voice is still not always taken seriously
- Youth are still stereotyped especially by Seniors and parents of young families.

- Bylaws, especially the Noise Bylaw, are too restrictive.

Many of these ideas coalesce around the need for a different kind of youth facility with evening services:

- Nothing to do after 7.00pm but shop



Linkages and Partnerships

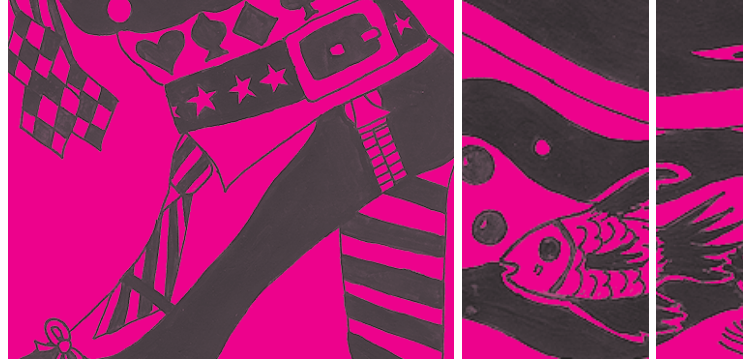
The Civic Youth Strategy is a community effort where community and partners work to build new and exciting opportunities for youth.

Community Services and West Vancouver School District #45 have built a team comprised of recreation staff and school representatives to work together to build leadership opportunities throughout the District. A youth committee have worked with staff to develop an annual Leadership Conference that includes participation of both public and independent schools.

Approximately 100 students annually gather for a full day of learning. The students gain skills in project planning through to public speaking and receive a community resource package to help them implement any project ideas they may have. Several youth leadership initiatives stemmed from the conference ranging from intergenerational events through to fundraisers for sports equipment for youth on the Vancouver Eastside.

Ambleside Youth Centre Work Experience Program

The West Vancouver Youth Outreach Summer Work Experience Program is a unique and very successful community supported opportunity for youth to gain confidence and skill in the work place. The program operates for six consecutive weeks each summer and provides initial work practicum for youth in West Vancouver. The West Vancouver Youth Outreach Work Experience Program is operated by the Ambleside Youth Centre, a District of West Vancouver Program, and funded privately which enables the program to be creatively tapered to address each individual's unique needs.



Vancouver Coastal Health and Community Services have implemented many exciting facilities and programs for youth.

The Hut

A youth health kiosk in Ambleside Park opened as a trial during the summer of 2004. This creative booth looked like a groovy surf shop and was filled with health professionals, recreation staff and loads of goodies ranging from sun screen, to condoms to water

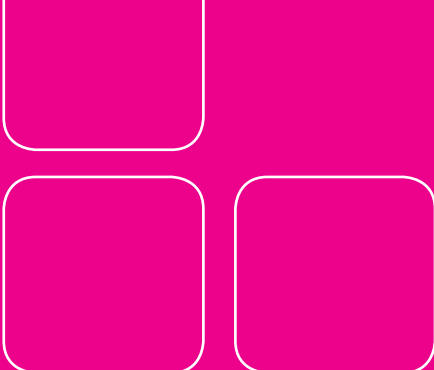
A Youth Health Clinic

In 2005, a youth health clinic was introduced at a facility just across the street from the community centre located in West Community Health building.

Health Professionals support youth recreation activities and events and are a familiar face amongst the young people in our community

The Civic Community Centre scheduled to open in 2007 will host a Youth Clinic that will provide seasonal flu shots and assessment, counselling and treatment/intervention/referral services and in concurrent disorders prevention will provide, assessment and therapy services for youth dealing with mental health issues combined with substance misuse. This inclusive clinic will also offer outreach services.

The Private Sector has funded and worked with youth at many special events ranging from fashion shows, health and wellness events, skateboard events, and Battles of the Bands. Our largest contributing partners are Park Royal Shopping Centre and local retail shops.



The Media has jumped on board by publishing positive stories of youth accomplishments, providing sponsorship for initiatives and events, and profiling events and their youth initiatives.

The West Vancouver Rotary Club and The Sunrise Rotary Club support youth by donating funds for youth services to host 7 events during National Youth Week, May 1st to 7th.

The West Vancouver Foundation – YAHU (Young Adults Helping U!) The Youth Philanthropy Council of the West Vancouver Community Foundation has been developed to support youth leadership initiatives.



Public Input

Public input into the process and their acceptance of the finished project:

A. The Starting Point of the Civic Youth Strategy:

In November of 2001, over 900 youth were involved in a three phase process which included a youth survey regarding the needs of youth. 719 youth responded to the survey. The survey included all municipal departments/facilities and a youth symposium that was organized with West Vancouver School District #45. Throughout the process youth were saying that 'they see things differently from adults – and we want our perspective to be heard'.

A Youth Symposium was held on May 8th, 2002 during youth week. This forum brought youth, Municipal staff, and School District staff together to prepare a Civic Youth Strategy. The Symposium provided an opportunity to present this in a draft form to a large number of youth and to get input before it goes to Council for approval.

In addition to working with hundreds of youth in the schools, several community consultation meetings were also held with neighbourhood focus groups and local agencies. The strategy was referred to Community Services Advisory Committee, the Parks and Environment Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, the West Vancouver School Board, the West Vancouver Police Board, and the West Vancouver Memorial Library Board for review and comment.

B. The Journey:

Since May 8th, 2002, when the policy statement was adopted, until present many new programs, services and structures have been implemented. Several youth committees were formed to facilitate a new way of doing business. Some

committees met bi-weekly all year long, and some were task specific and were called upon as needed. As every new committee and task force was created, vital and important relationships were formed. The momentum began to build and the community strengthened. Several young people who may not have been connected within their community originally were meeting new friends and building new skills. Adults that had not yet had the opportunity to work with youth were exposed to a new energy and new perspective by looking through a youth lens. Our services began to be stepping-stones to producing young leaders that serve their community and enjoy being involved in community life. In 2002 the following committees were formed:

Committees:

- Transportation
- Youth 2 Youth Website
- Several Special Event committees (etc. Fashion, Battle of Bands, Gig Nights, Girl's Only Nights)
- Recreation Advisory Team
- Restructured Youth Advisory Committee
- Representatives on the Community Services Advisory Committee

C. Now:

Youth are coming to the Municipal Hall and municipal employees are asking for youth to participate in their work plans and planning initiatives. Partners are excited to return for annual events and programs or to meet to discuss new ideas and initiatives.



D. Consultation for the Review and Renew from April 2005 to December 2005:

Listed below are the processes, municipal departments and partners that guided the review and renew of the Civic Youth Strategy.

1. Workshop:

On April 23rd, 2005 in consultation with facilitator Bob Yates, a workshop was held with youth to review the progress of the Civic Youth Strategy. The purpose of the workshop was to begin the process. The workshop drew together about 25 youth, some of whom had been involved in the original development of the strategy, and about 10 municipal staff and volunteers.

2. Youth:

In General, throughout the months of October and November 2005, 300 youth ranging from Grade 8 to Grade 10, were consulted to review the current programs and opportunities and to provide new ideas for creating a youth-friendly West Vancouver.

3. Advisory Committees:

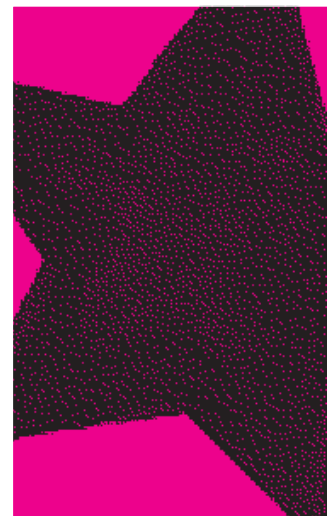
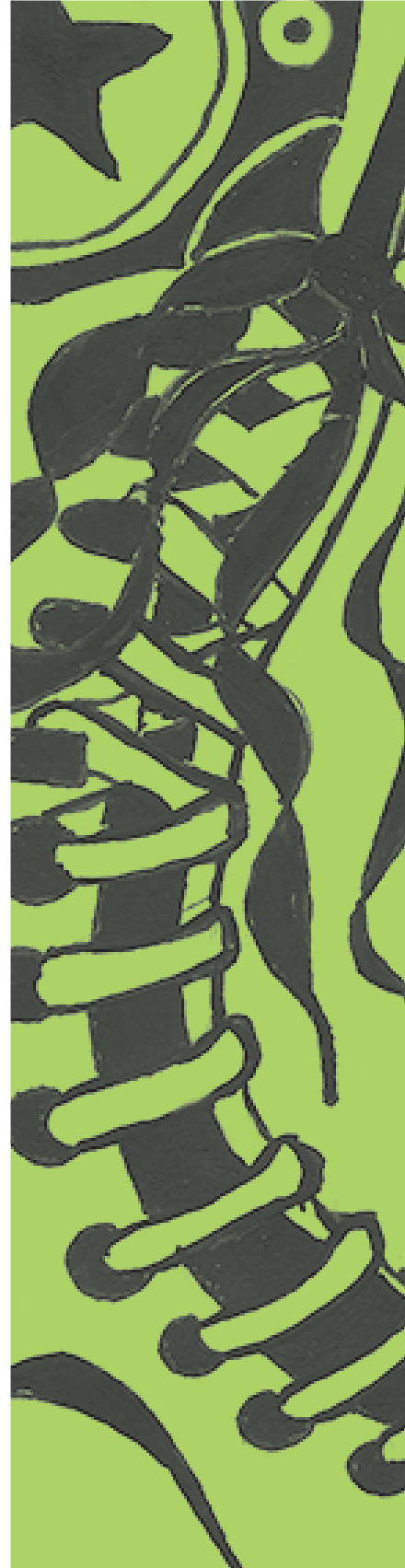
- Youth Advisory Committee
- Recreation Advisory Team
- Seniors' Advisory Committee
- Gleneagles Community Centre Advisory Committee
- The Board of School Trustees, School District #45

4. Municipal Departments

- Administrative Services: Communications
- Parks Department
- Engineering Department

5. Other Partners

- Vancouver Coastal Health and The Board of School Trustee, School District #45



Assessing the Strategic Directions at the Workshop on April 23, 2005

(Scaling of the charts. Each youth at the workshop was asked to rate each of the strategies in the original Civic Youth Strategy to indicate whether they thought that that particular strategy was 'still an issue in West Vancouver' or is 'no longer an issue in West Vancouver'. A five point scale was used, with 5 indicating that an issue was still important, and 1 indicating that the issue was no longer relevant. The maximum score that could be achieved was around 90, given that there were 18 youth who completed surveys. The minimum score would be 18.)

Of the five strategic objectives, the two which were felt to still be of greatest importance to youth in West Vancouver were: creating a broader vision for youth recreation; and putting a youth perspective on civic policy and planning.

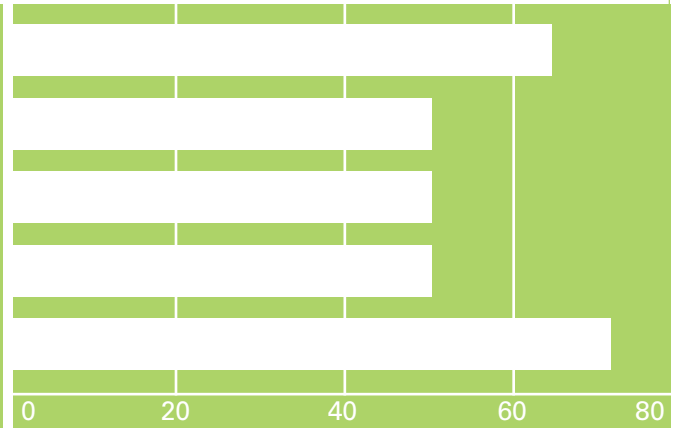
Putting a youth perspective on civic policy and planning

Using local resources for youth

Improving the image of youth in the community

Stronger youth voice in local government

Creating a broader vision for youth recreation



Within the overall issue of a broader vision for youth recreation, youth felt that they were included in program and activity planning. However, 'places for youth' still needed to be addressed: separate age and activity appropriate places for younger teens, places that attracted all youth, and places to 'hang-out' and relax later at night. Behind all these 'place' issues, was the issue of entertainment versus recreation.

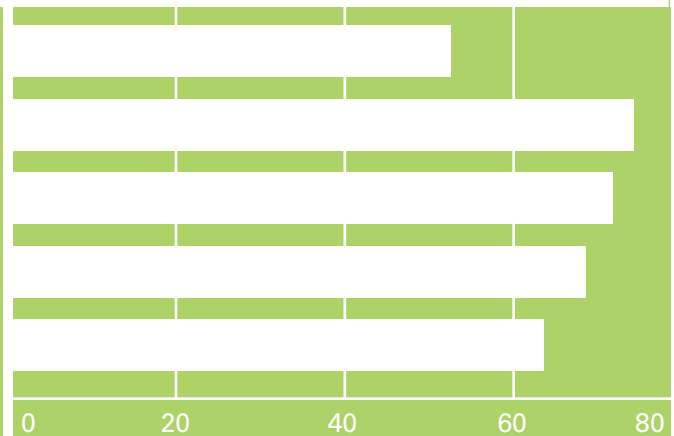
Be part of program planning

A place for younger teens and a place for older teens

A place for all youth to go to and not just a select group

More places to hang and relax later at night

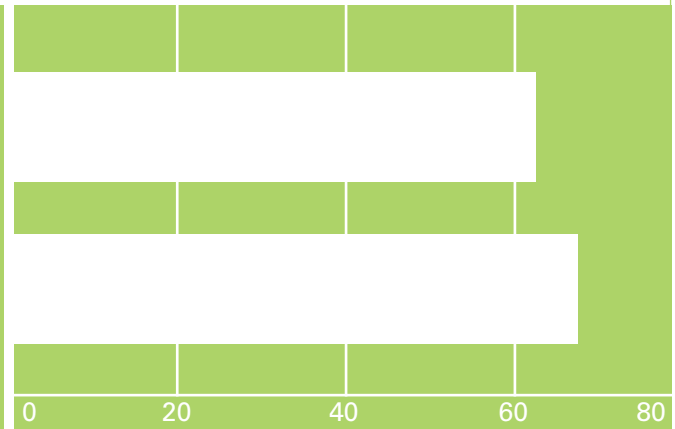
More recreation and entertainment



Under the objective of involving youth in civic policy and planning, there was a feeling that, while progress had been made, the youth voice was not getting through to all municipal departments and other public agencies. For example, issues remain regarding transit and youth transportation and relations with the Seniors. These are widely recognized as very difficult issues to find solutions to, especially solutions that are acceptable to youth.

Youth included in all planning processes (Community Centre planning, Official Community Plan)

Youth review of significant bylaws (curfew, shops closure, noise bylaws)



End of review, now it's time to "Take A Walk In Our Shoes" to the next steps of 2006 to 2010



West Vancouver Youth

Take a walk in our shoes

Take a walk in our shoes to the next steps 2006 to 2010

Multiculturalism and ethnic diversity – As a wider circle of youth have been included through the Civic Youth Strategy, a wider set of views about diversity have been added to the discussion. Many of West Vancouver's youth are from visible minorities, and specific objectives and actions have not been incorporated. As identified in the Arts and Culture Strategy, there is a District interest in bridging the gaps and learning from the various cultural communities.

Explore and address multicultural arts and cultural needs and opportunities.

As Identified in the Arts and Culture Strategy: Priority Strategies – Fundamentals of Action

Action: Establish specific initiatives that will engage diverse cultural communities to participate in community events, programs and organizations.

Substance abuse issues – Throughout the implementation of the 2002 – 2005 Civic Youth Strategy there was a greater openness in the dialogue between youth and adults that has enabled and empowered youth to be more honest and open about these issues. As the District develops a

process to undertake a Social Services Strategy, youth should be included at every point during the study.

Broadening the definition of youth - There was widely thought to be a lack of resources applied to services for both younger teens between the age of 11 and 13 as well as young people between the age of 19 and 22.

The environment – This is a passionate issue for youth.

As identified in the Report 2010 compiled by the West Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Committee:

Action:

- **Transportation:** Collaborate with Translink and other transportation providers to establish new, environmentally friendly modes of public transportation to, from and with in West Vancouver – eg. A ferry service, rail links to withsler shuttle services between villages.

- **Sustainability:** Build on our commitment to sustainability by identifying sustainable projects in West Vancouver and showcasing them to world.

Youth should be included in all municipal initiatives related to the 2010 Olympic Games.

Civic Youth Strategy Renewal 2006 - 2010: Implementation Strategy

Create a Broader Vision for Youth Recreation (2006-2010)

Strategy	Outcome/Possibilities	Partners	Implementation
			Spring 2007 2006 to 2009 2006 (ongoing) 2006
Construct Phase III of the Gleneagles Adventure Park	Provide an all season park for skateboarders and BMX riders Broaden facility usage to include mountain climbing and opportunities for beginner riders	Outdoor Recreation Programmer Youth Community Engagement Coordinator Recreation Manager	Consultation and Design Spring 2006 Build 2007
Explore opportunities to incorporate bike trails, jumps and stunts in localized parks	Provide safe places for youth to ride that are close to home Develop education and community leadership tool for youth that have an interest in the environment and/or outdoor recreation	Parks Department	2006 to 2009
Include youth facilities and youth participation in the planning and development of Ambleside Park Ambleside Outdoor Performance Space	Ensure that the park supports positive spaces for young people to socialize and participate in organized and open park sport and arts and cultural activities	Parks Department Arts and Culture	2006
Develop a process and philosophy to continuously host live music events in a variety of municipal facilities and parks	Improve late night entertainment opportunities Introduce young people to a variety of municipal facilities and municipal staff Showcase many of the young artistic talents in the community	Youth Services Cultural Services	April 2006
Work in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health to promote active living	Assist with meeting the 2010 20% activity increase	Youth Services Team	2006 - 2010
Develop a year-round Youth Volunteer Program	Expanded volunteer opportunities for youth during the school year	Youth Services Community Agencies Local Business	2007

Civic Youth Strategy Renewal 2006 - 2010: Implementation Strategy

Create a Broader Vision for Youth Recreation (2006-2010)

Strategy	Outcome	Partners	Implementation
Include youth in the implementation of the Arts and Culture Strategy	Ensure youth interests are included in the planning and development of arts and culture programs and facilities	Arts and Culture	ongoing
Provide recreation sport opportunities by: Partnering with SD45 to create recreational-level sport opportunities at the schools Creating recreation sport leagues and sport clubs within the community centres	Provide fitness and sport for all levels and abilities Encourage less active youth to participate	Youth Program Coordinator	October 2006
Work with schools to develop programs that will assist students in pursuing their dreams in sports, culture and the arts. (2010 initiative)	To broaden sport and cultural opportunities in the community	Youth Community Engagement Coordinator 2010 Community Committee	October 2006
Develop youth programs to meet Healthy Active Lifestyles goal of a 20% increase in activity by 2010	Active Communities Program	Health and Wellness Youth Program Coordinator	2006 - 2010
Build relationships with private businesses to host youth friendly environments for late night activities	Places for young people to "hang-out" during the evening	Youth Community Engagement Coordinator	ongoing
Explore options for a 'screening room'	Provide a space for youth to showcase their art as well as view big screen entertainment	Youth Community Engagement Coordinator	2007
Develop a community engagement program for international students in coordination with 2010 initiatives	To provide opportunities to new multicultural experiences	Youth Community Engagement Coordinator	2008

Civic Youth Strategy Renewal 2006 - 2010: Implementation Strategy

Improve the Image of Youth in the Community (2006 – 2010)

Strategy	Outcome	Partners	Implementation
<p>Develop a Social Marketing Strategy</p> <p>Rename the Civic Youth Strategy that to something that is more appealing to youth</p>	Build communication between youth and the community and Municipality and youth	<p>Communications Department</p> <p>Youth Community Engagement Coordinator</p> <p>Youth Services Team</p>	June 2006
Develop a partnership with the local newspaper to create a youth column or page	Inform the larger public of youth initiatives	<p>Communications Department</p> <p>Youth Community Engagement Coordinator</p>	September 2006
Include a youth column in the Seniors Scene	Inform Seniors of youth initiatives to help break down barriers between youth and seniors	<p>Youth Community Engagement Coordinator</p> <p>Seniors' Centre</p>	ongoing
Develop a variety of multicultural events and programs to celebrate diversity in partnership with the Library and School District #45 and as part of the Arts and Culture Strategy.	Break down barriers between all the different cultures in the community	<p>Arts and Culture</p> <p>Youth Community Engagement Coordinator</p> <p>Library</p>	2007
<p>Use local transit to assist in marketing and communication</p> <p>Use Bus stops as community information hubs</p>	Many youth and seniors use the buses and it may be an effective tool to communicate	Engineering Department	October 2007
Develop an exchange program with other lower mainland youth to help break down stereotypes of West Vancouver youth	Break down barriers between different regions in the greater Vancouver area	<p>Youth Community Engagement Coordinator</p> <p>Library</p>	2007

Civic Youth Strategy Renewal 2006 - 2010: Implementation Strategy

Use Civic Resources to Support Youth Development (2006 – 2010)

Strategy	Outcome	Partners	Implementation
Develop a youth community calendar	Assist with communication to the general youth population	Youth Services	March 2006
Develop a municipal youth website	Assist with communication to the general youth population	Communications	Ongoing
Employment Fair and Resource Centre working with the business associations	Allow young to work and stay in their community Youth Services	Chamber of Commerce	October/May
Continue to host an Annual Youth Leadership Conference with School District #45	Builds a stronger relationship between the School	Youth Community Engagement Coordinator	Fall
Make the Youth Community Engagement Coordinator position and the Civic Youth Strategy a core municipal function	The implementation of the Civic Youth Strategy 2006-2009	Mayor and Council	April 2006
Implement strategies as outlined in the Social Services Study to provide opportunities for young people.	Youth Leadership Development Volunteerism Better work with the Northshore as a whole and collaboration with other youth works across the region	Youth Services Team Social Services Manager	2006 to 2010
Continue working the West Vancouver Police and Ambleside Youth Centre to develop programs with the Squamish Nation	Build healthy relationships between young people, the police and aboriginal people in the community.	Ambleside Youth Centre Outreach Team West Vancouver Police	Ongoing
Continue to build and support groups at the Ambleside Youth Centre		Youth Services Outreach Team Vancouver Coastal Health	Ongoing
Host and develop unique programs and events at the Memorial Library	Encourage young people to visit and use their community library resources	Library Youth Services	Ongoing

Civic Youth Strategy Renewal 2006 - 2010: Implementation Strategy

Give Youth a Stronger Voice in Local Government (2006-2010)

Strategy	Outcome	Partners	Implementation
Encourage Council to take a proactive approach in communicating and distributing information to youth about ongoing public process and Council decisions	Bi-Annual (May/October) Reports to Students Clerks	Communications	May 2006
Youth "Suggestion Box" for Council and the Board of Trustees" box in schools	Opportunity for young people to express their point of views in an accessible location	Legislative Services Youth Community Engagement Coordinator	April 2006
Making Government Appealing Program	To encourage young people to get involved with civic government	Legislative Services Youth Community Engagement Coordinator	January 2007
Invite youth to be a part of the committee of Council to guide the implementation of the Arts and Culture Strategy	To ensure that facilities and programs are designed to include young people	Council	
Invite youth to be officially represented on all Municipal Committees and working groups	Youth voice on committees that otherwise may not have interaction with young people	Council	May 2006
Host a youth voting campaign for the 2008 civic elections	Information process for young people to learn about local government	Legislative Services Youth Community Engagement Coordinator	September 2008

Civic Youth Strategy Renewal 2006 - 2010: Implementation Strategy

Bring a Youth Perspective to Civic Policy Development and Planning (2006-2010)

Strategy	Outcome	Partners	Implementation
Ensure youth are included in all aspects of the 2010 Olympics and Paralympic from development to implementation	Olympics bring many opportunities to communities and young people could learn valuable skill and make significant contributions to hosting the games in West Vancouver.	West Vancouver 2010 Community Committee Northshore Spirit Committee	2006 - 2010
Bi-Annual reports to the Executive Committee and Council regarding youth issues and initiatives	Inform management of youth initiatives and open doors for young people to work with all Municipal Departments	Council Legislative Services	2006 - ongoing

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Civic Youth Strategy

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Civic Youth Strategy



West Vancouver Youth

Take a walk in our shoes

west vancouver

THE WATERFRONT COMMUNITY

