

**SPEAKER
SERIES**

PLacemaking vancouver ISLAND //2017

**Young people's
perspective on making
Cowichan communities
safer, more inclusive,
and more resilient.**

**Thursday, November 30 / 6:30 p.m.
Cowichan Performing Arts Centre**

Youth use public spaces more than any other part of society, yet youth are often not included in the design of these spaces, and most are not planned with youth in mind. The Youth Placemaking project has engaged local youth to identify areas that need improvement and propose ways to make these areas safer, more inclusive, and more resilient. Youth will present their ideas for judging by a panel of community representatives. All are welcome to come see our communities from the perspective of youth.

Get your tickets today!

cowichanpac.ca/event/youth-place-making-cowichan-design-charrette-competition





Youth Placemaking in the Cowichan Region

Information Package

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Youth Placemaking in the Cowichan Region

Project Overview

We know that youth feel a sense of belonging when they are included in decision making processes and involved in developing and designing community.ⁱ Involving youth in placemaking increases youth retention, attachment and belonging in the community. It gives youth a voice that has the potential to influence the way their community is designed which in turn helps planners make decisions that support youth in their community.

Youth use public spaces more than any other subset group in our society yet youth are often not included in the process of designing these spaces and most are never planned with youth in mind.ⁱⁱ Public spaces designed to be family and youth friendly are vital to supporting pro-social activities and positive social networks.ⁱⁱⁱ Creating positive and socially engaging public spaces that welcome all members of community, helps contribute to a sense of belonging, an important developmental milestone for youth.



Introduction:

The Youth Placemaking Project will engage youth from all areas of the region. The project will invite students from Ladysmith Senior Secondary, Chemainus Senior Secondary, Cowichan Senior Secondary, Lake Cowichan Senior Secondary, Duncan Christian School, Queen Margaret's, Island Oak, Frances Kelsey Senior Secondary, Cowichan Valley Open Learning Centre, Brentwood College, Quw'utsun Syuw'entst Lelum' Culture and Education Centre, and Shawnigan Lake School to engage in a design charrette. Each participating group of students will select a site to design within their local area and will be supported to develop a design giving consideration to: youth needs, accessibility, climate change, community safety, social cohesion, transportation, recreation, housing and economy to name a few.

Each group of students will be supported by the project organizing team (SPC), teacher(s) (from their school), a local artist (community member) and a community planner (CVRD and other local governments). The project could either be included as course curriculum within a particular class or as a select group of 6 or more students with teacher support for extra credit. The design charrette will be completed in eight weeks. Each group's final design will be presented to a committee comprised of CVRD staff and elected officials with an opportunity for students to receive recognition in a number of ways including awards and/or possible implementation of their design.

Project Time Line

May – June 2017 Recruitment and Partnership Development

Confirmation of schools has to be completed by June 30th in preparation for a fall start up. Social Planning Cowichan staff will work with administration staff and/or interested teachers and/or student groups to confirm participation in the design charrette project.

September 13th, 2017 Introduction of Placemaking for Youth (10 am to 2pm, Mellor Hall, Cowichan Exhibition Grounds, 7380 Trans Canada Hwy, Duncan)

This introductory session will introduce the students to the concept of placemaking and the design charrette idea. This session will also be an opportunity to develop relationships between schools, allow for site selection within their school groups, and exposure to a variety of design lenses to ensure the design would be accessible, inclusive and safe. The student groups will map out a work plan for developing and completing their design. Charles Montgomery (author of “Happy City”) will appear as a guest speaker. Mr. Montgomery assists planners, city builders, and community members find creative ways to see and change the environment in neighbourhoods and communities. A schedule for follow up sessions with each school will be developed with SPC.

September 18th – October 13th, 2017

Teachers will work with students, planners and artists on their projects; support teams will visit school teams to provide developmental support.

Week of October 16th, 2017

Mid Project Check in to assess progress and develop support plans where needed.

October 23rd – November 10th, 2017

SPC will support schools as identified by mid project check in.

November 21st, 2017 Rehearsal Presentations (10am to 12pm Mellor Hall, Cowichan Exhibition Park, 7380 Trans Canada Hwy, Duncan)

Students will run through presentations and receive feedback from SPC staff, CVRD planning staff and artists.

November 30th, 2017 Design Charrette Presentation (6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Cowichan Performing Arts Theatre, 2687 James Street, Duncan)

Each school will have the opportunity to place finished designs at the showcase gallery in the theatre’s lobby as well as in an online gallery. Each school will pick a maximum of 2 designs to present to the team of judges. The judging committee will consist of select CVRD staff and elected officials. Awards will be presented at the end of the school presentations.



Award Selection Criteria

Each school can have multiple designs and entries. It is recommended that each design idea have a maximum of 10 students per group. Each design will be physically showcased in the gallery outside of the presentations in the lobby of the Cowichan Performing Arts Centre. Designs will also be digitally showcased online (link TBD). Each design will be considered for the People's Choice Award. Guest attendees will be able to vote for their favourite design during the intermission of the Design Charrette Presentations and Awards Ceremony.

Due to time limitations, only 2 designs from each school can be selected for presentation to the committee of judges. Presentations can include power point presentations or short films on designs and should cover the following components:

1. Why has this particular space been chosen? What is the issue being addressed? Clarity of issue identification, and link to proposed solution – how the design proposes to address the issue.
2. Description of existing conditions (natural environment, built environment, public transit or other ways of connecting to the site/issue, the types of people nearby, and anything else that is relevant).
3. What is the design idea?
4. How feasible is the design idea? How expensive (or cheap) would it be? Would it be possible to build it (or make it) in the next 5 years?
5. How does the design idea address issues of inclusion (age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, race)? Safety? Climate change?

Judging criteria will include:

1. How well the presentation tells the story about the project: why it's important, why it should be built or created, etc.
2. How the design idea addresses inclusion, safety, and climate change
3. Technical quality of presentation to the judges (digitally assisted)
4. Technical quality of gallery presentation materials
5. Overall quality of presentation.

Presentations of 5 minutes are encouraged however presentations cannot exceed 7 minutes. Presentations will be timed and will be wrapped up at the 7-minute mark.



Introduction: Placemaking for Youth Agenda

September 13th, 2017 10 am to 2pm

Students will be requested to have given some thought as to the nature of the issue they wish to address, or the location of the design they wish to do (these two ideas may point to the same place) and come to the event with 2-3 concept ideas.

Agenda items:

1. Welcome and introduction to the day (purpose, schedule, etc.) (5 minutes; large group)
2. Icebreaker – Speed Dating with a Twist (25-30 minutes; small random groups)
3. Charles Montgomery: Talk on place-making, and role of built environment in making people happy – purpose: inspirational – need to have a list of questions for students to respond to as they are listening (determine the length of presentation; large group) (35 – 40 minutes)
4. Design presentation criteria (5 minutes; large group)
5. Game to introduce different lenses: safety, gender, inclusion, etc. – play with possible sites in mind (40 minutes; 3-4 scenarios depending on type and length of discussion per school group)
6. Lunch and Idea generation, as part of individual groups – possibly need breakout space (1 hour 25 minutes; within school groups) – Possibility to invite groups to assign various roles within the group for the day: note-taker, photographer (school to provide iPad, rather than cell phones), other
7. Groups to report back 2-3 minutes, next steps and wrap-up (35 minutes; large group)

Arrangements:

1. Cell phone “check” baskets (one per school group) – to keep cell phones from distracting attention during working groups.
2. Need large paper for drawing, (flip chart sized post-it note pads) with coloured markers, etc. (per school group).
3. Need large room and breakout areas; divide room up and encourage people to go outside if necessary. Have facilitators rotate through groups and support teachers if necessary and provide supplies.

Design Charrette Rehearsal Presentations Agenda*

November 21st, 2017, 10 am to 12 pm

This session is meant to give students a chance to present their design and presentation ideas for rehearsal and feedback purposes.

Agenda Overview

1. Welcome and introduction to the day (purpose, schedule, etc.) (5 minutes; large group)
2. Icebreaker – (10 minutes; large group)
3. Presentations – each school will run through design and presentation ideas and receive feedback from artists and planning staff (5 minutes per presentation and maximum of 2 designs per school) (1 hour 40 minutes)
4. Closing - (5 minutes)

Design Charrette Presentations and Awards Ceremony Agenda*

November 30th, 2017 Doors open at 6 pm and ceremony starts at 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

All designs will be showcased in the lobby gallery. Each school will provide up to a maximum of 2 design charrette presentations to the committee of judges. Awards for best design and people's choice designs will be presented right after the completion of all the presentations. Set up of design presentation boards to begin at 3:30 pm and will finish at 5:30 pm.

1. Welcome and Overview of project (5 minutes)
2. School Presentations (85 minutes)
3. 20 minutes Intermission @ 8pm and voting for People's Choice Awards
4. Resume final school presentations (40 minutes)
5. Guest Speaker & Judges deliberations (10 minutes)
6. Close with presentations for Best Design Charrette and People's Choice (20 minutes)

*Details subject to change as developed during planning process.

ⁱ Safer Futures. Youth Spaces Project. Duncan: Safer Futures, 2017.

ⁱⁱ Millard, Cheryl. Youth people and Place making: Engaging youth to Create Community Places. New York: Project for Public Places, 2015.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Prevention Institute. Community Safety by Design. Oakland: The Prevention Institute, 2015