

Exchange Inner City Membership Meeting Notes

Date: November 26, 2018

In Attendance: Anna Godefroy (Binnars' Project), Bobby MacDonald (UGM), David LePage (Buy Social Canada/CIRES), Deanna Wing (Central City Foundation), Elizabeth Ballantyne (DTES Neighbourhood House), Jarett Rude (Open Door Group), Johanna Li (EMBERS), Kahoruko (Koko) (Guest Researcher from Japan), Lydia Meister (Transitions Program), Marcia Nozick (EMBERS), Marc Lawrence (Local Resident), Matt Smedley (Mission Possible), Shari LaLiberte (MVA), Wilson Liang (Local Resident), Steven Johnston (Exchange Inner City Director), Alisha Masongsong (Exchange Inner City Project Manager)

Guest: Johan Steenkamp (CoLab PS), Kristine Argent (VCC Nursing Student), Raman Mundi (VCC Nursing Student)

Regrets: Anastasia Gaisenok (Check Your Head), Austin Lui (EMBERS Eastside Works), Brenda Crump (NewStart Bridging Program -VEES), Brennan Fitzgerald (HxBIA), Brian Rutledge (Local Resident), Chris Neale-Clark (Local Resident/DTES Business Directory), Christina Wong (Employ to Empower), Colleen Hamilton (City of Vancouver), Dakota Shelby (Check Your Head), Davin Boutang (Local Resident), Dylan Goggs (CleanStart BC), Edmund Ma (Ma Foundation/VCRC), Farhad Farhangfar (SUCCESS), Glenn (Local Resident), Grace Tait (YWCA Crabtree Corner), Hendrik Beune (Village Vancouver, Megaphone), Janani Ravikularm (Check Your Head), Jean- Paul Beran (JustWork), Jennifer Froese (Directions-Greater Vancouver Family Services), Jose Fernandez-Garcia (City of Vancouver), Judy McGuire (Our Place), Kellie Carroll (NICCSS), Kit Rothschild (PACE Society), Lucia Woolgar (Let's Speak Up Program), Ludvik Skalicky (Resident), Lydia Meister (Metro Vancouver Consortium-Transitions), Maija Fiorante (Buy Social Canada), Mandy Hardwick (RainCity LGBTQ2S+ program), Minshu Mo (NICCSS), Pete Fry (Strathcona Resident/RayCam), Rocky James (MVAEC), Scott Clark (ALIVE), Sean Condon (Vancity Community Foundation), Sharon Belli (Carnegie Centre), Shaugn Schwartz (CIRES), Shelley Bolton (East Van Roasters/PHS), Shirley Vivian (Local resident), Suddhodan Baidya (SUCCESS), Tammy Ma (Check Your Head Youth rep -YBNE), Tom Wanklin (City of Vancouver), Trish Kelly (Potluck Cafe Society), Viveca Ellis (BC Poverty Reduction Coalition-CAN Program), Wes Regan (City of Vancouver)

1. Welcome & Traditional Acknowledgement:

- Meeting started at 4:02pm
- Anna welcomed everyone, conducted the traditional territorial acknowledgement and a quick round of introductions.

2. Approval of Agenda & Previous Meeting Notes:

- Both the previous meeting notes and agenda were approved by everyone in the room nodding in agreement.
- Johan's presentation was moved up in the agenda to start the meeting.

3. Personnel & Working Group Updates:

Co-Chairs' Update :

No further updates than what is available in the meeting package.

Director Update (Steve):

We are to connect MIT students to local research resource and groups. Heads up for possible continue funding for EIC instead of annual funding renewal.

CED Planner Update (Wes):

Wes and other City CED staff were not present in the meeting to provide an update.

Project Coordinator Update (Alisha):

See meeting package for Alisha's updates.

Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) Working Group Update:

See meeting package for updates.

Retail Gentrification & Social Inclusion Working Group Update:

- VCC students starting DTES Market Basket Measure Study with Exchange Inner City
Question: will there be a report back to EIC re: the findings of this study?
Yes
- See Meeting Package for other updates.

Social Procurement Roundtable:

See meeting package for updates.

4. Project Updates:

No new project updates.

5. Urban Core Updates (Matt/Bobby):

- About half members on the EIC table are also Urban Core members. EIC has taken on a lot of the Income generation work from Urban Core.
- Urban Core's Legislative Change Committee work to submit policy recommendations re: the BC Income Assistance System was well received by the Provincial government and was included in the "What we Heard" report for the BC Poverty Reduction Strategy.

- Alisha has been hired on to help Urban Core with admin/coordination since this summer.
- Urban Core recently held their AGM and welcomed new members to their Executive Committee. Executive Committee members include: Johanna Li, Louise Shwarz, Matt Smedley, Jarrett Rude, Steve Johnston, Kathleen Leahy (Co-chair), Sharon Belli (Co-chair), Mike Leland, and Bobby MacDonald.
- More updates to come from Urban Core regarding their strategic planning process in January 2019. Urban Core is considering whether they will go back to being a more community workers/frontline workers support network, rather than focus on income generation like they have for the past couple of years.

6. Presentation from Johan of CoLab PS re: DTES Community Portal:

- Johan shared that he has come to the table to discuss and listen to how his company, who have a vision/mission that supports community development can support the downtown eastside with collaboration or whatever it needs.
- Johan asked members what challenges are organizations facing to measure their community impact. CoLab PS can try to help provide process and systems to solve this problem if it is a problem.
- CoLab PS could also assist on collaboration if that is a problem. CoLab PS doesn't have a specific agenda at the moment for members of EIC. CoLab is also not looking for business interest from EIC and members.
- CoLab PS is looking for opportunities to contribute their skills, as a project management company to organizations in the DTES.
- Question: Who is "we" that you're referring to, and where are the resources coming from for CoLab PS to support organizations in the DTES? How would the "portal" remain active and be maintained?
Answer: Spoke to Vancity and COV about the support we can provide to the DTES. CoLab PS wants to understand how the proposed platform can help DTES.
- Comment: Having trouble understanding how this shared platform can develop a shared value or shared measurement between single organizations, when each organization has very different outcomes and measures. For example one organization will measure the number of people housed, or number of people utilizing their recovery services whereas another is monitoring growth of social enterprises and number of contracts a social enterprises receives.
- Comment: Given Exchange Inner City is a community backbone organization we don't feel we have difficulty with collaboration among agencies in the DTES, so this is not a concern for this table. Although we could use some support with how to share the story of our collective outcomes in a better way.

- Comment: A communications staff within EIC is something we need in order to share our success stories more broadly, respond to news articles/city policies and plans, and to develop a more strategic communications plan.

7. City of Vancouver Vending Study:

- MIT PhD students are conducting study and Exchange Inner City is the “on-the-ground” community partner to support the study.
- There is a budget for peer work, which we will hire local community members through Eastside Works to help geotag where vendors are.
- Project will be about 6 to 8 months in length.
Question: What would be the potential outcomes of the study.
Comment: The study is primarily focused on unpermitted street vending, not the existing vending that is happening in the dtes market. The study will provide policy recommendations as to how the city can better support vendors in the DTES.
- Comment: RFP process wasn’t an easy one for local organizations to apply to and it also had a very tight turnaround time.

8. City of Vancouver’s City Wide Planning Process:

- EIC was invited to the Vancouver City Planning Commission engagement event on December 4th. EIC was asked to prepare responses to specific questions re: CED initiatives, income generation and poverty reduction. Alisha will share questions with all EIC members to obtain their input in order to bring a collaborative message to the event.
- **Action Item: Alisha to circulate VCPC event questions to members. Members to respond to Alisha by Dec 3rd.**

9. New Business Arising and Announcements:

- Office furniture and dining furniture are available from UGM for free at their old building this Friday. Contact Bobby at UGM for details or if you’re planning to come by and pick up a furniture item on Friday Nov. 30th.
- EIC will host a holiday party for members on Dec. 17th at a local pub. EIC will provide the food, but members are responsible for getting their own drinks.
Action Item: Alisha will circulate an email and calendar invite with confirmed holiday party details.
- Minister Duclos will be in town on Wednesday Nov. 28th and having lunch at Potluck Cafe.

10. Traditional Closing and Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.