



**OUR PLACE  
INNER CITY  
*NEIGHBOURHOOD BASED  
PLANNING AND  
GOVERNANCE***



## **Our Vision: Empowering Inner City Communities and Citizens**

The Our Place Inner City Assembly is intended to provide a participatory and place-based approach to co-creation and collaboration on decision-making concerning neighbourhood planning, projects, programs, and initiatives, including:

- Prosperity and Economic Development
- Urban Planning and Land Use
- Urban Indigenous Inclusion and Representation
- Community planning initiatives, proposed developments, and projects in Vancouver's Inner City.



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## Community Support

Our Place has been working for over a decade with community partners to develop a place-based governance body to improve the relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability of local policies and social services.

## A new approach

This work has been formalized through input from community forums held in May 2018 and June 2019, and the subsequent work of a volunteer Steering Committee which has created a founding Terms of Reference for the inaugural Our Place Inner City Assembly.

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## Place-based governance grounded in Reconciliation

The Our Place Inner City Assembly is intended to be a permanent mechanism to empower local decision-making on an ongoing basis, in a way that can be replicated across the City. It has been in development since 2016 and draws inspiration from models such as Portland's Office of Neighbourhood Involvement, BC Community Resource Boards, participatory budgeting, and Indigenous governance systems.

Recognition of the rights of the Coast Salish peoples and engagement of the diverse urban Indigenous population are key goals.

A comprehensive community-based governance model will ensure that public policy, its processes and resulting programs and services, build capacity at the local level, are linked to the lived experiences of individuals and aligned to the reality of place, and create a strong foundation where services and programs are accountable to communities and put meaningful citizen participation first.

**“We pledge to support the goals of parents, children, elders, and youth to be meaningfully included in decisions about their community”**



***- Youth Matters Pledge of Support***

## HOW IT WILL WORK

The Inner City Governance model will be launched in five neighbourhoods: Strathcona, Downtown Eastside, Mount Pleasant, Hastings-Sunrise, and Grandview-Woodland.

Decision-making will take place at two levels:

1. The neighbourhood level, with clear governance requirements and administrative supports for voting members and participating organizations.
2. The community-hub level, with an Assembly that addresses key issues that cross over Inner City neighborhoods in partnership with members from the Coast Salish Nation and municipal, regional, provincial, and federal levels of government.

## STRUCTURE

**Steering Committee** to set agendas, coordinate activities, and direct staff support

**Voting Members** to approve of neighbourhood strategies and projects

**Assembly Dialogue** for deliberation and community consultation on neighbourhood strategies and projects



### What authority will the assembly have?

City Council and other systems will still have final decision-making authority on issues that fall within their powers.



### Will member organizations still be able to act independently?

Yes, but we hope that the Assembly will achieve greater accountability from non-profits and to support funders and systems to make fundamental changes to the existing service-delivery model.



### Why these neighbourhoods?

Our Place partners already work with local residents in these community hubs, anchored in community centres and neighbourhood houses with existing connections to residents and community leaders.