



July 28, 2020

Dear Community,

The [Our Place Inner City Assembly](#) is currently seeking dedicated neighbourhood representatives for the launch of a new model of community governance!

These are volunteer positions that require a commitment to being one of the primary contacts for an assigned geographic area, working collaboratively with community organizations, project staff, and other neighbourhood reps in order to get this exciting concept off the ground.

The Assembly is looking to fill positions in the following neighbourhoods: Strathcona, Grandview-Woodland, Hastings-Sunrise, Mount Pleasant, and the Downtown Eastside.

Our Place: Inner City builds on over a decade of community development work and inter-sectoral partnerships in East Vancouver. The purpose of the Assembly is to establish a permanent mechanism in these neighbourhoods to empower local decision-making on an ongoing basis in order to improve the relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability of local policies and social services in a way that can eventually be replicated across the City.

If you would like to volunteer or nominate representative(s) please send an email with your name, contact info, and neighbourhood, as well as that of the nominee(s), and a brief bio for each person, to: neighbourhoods@ourplace-vancouver.ca

For more information:

<https://ourplace-vancouver.ca/innercityassembly/>

778.688.3445

Download and/or Print the [Inner City Assembly brochure](#)

Read the Assembly [Terms of Reference](#)

The first meeting will be held in the coming weeks with nominees and all those interested in order to:

- a) Determine and implement a process to select and assign roles to reps, and ensure they meet eligibility requirements

- b) Set neighbourhood boundaries
- c) Provide background on the Inner City Assembly concept and the history of Our Place
- d) Identify quick start priority issues in each neighbourhood eg. food security
- e) Present findings from the Coordinated COVID Response in the DTES as an example of effective community coordination

COVID-19 has shown how important local groups and residents are when it comes to implementing relevant, timely responses that are place-based and address the priorities of our most vulnerable community members. The Inner City Assembly presents an opportunity to formalize processes for community participation and leadership as the city moves forward with its multi-phase [recovery & restart plan](#) and first [city-wide plan](#) in nearly a century.

Equity is a core principle of this mission. Our Place endeavours to empower diverse residents, from traditionally underrepresented communities to take on positions of leadership. To this end, a mentorship and support building program for Stewardship Committee members will be established.

Sponsors of the Our Place Community Governance initiative include the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Foundation, as well as numerous community partners and supporters such as REACH Community Health Centre, DTES Neighbourhood House, Watari Counselling and Support Services, Britannia/RayCam/Hastings Community Centres, Exchange: Inner City and Vantage Point.

We hope to hear from you soon with your nominations. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any questions, ideas and/or any other contributions you may have regarding the Inner City Assembly.

Sincerely,

The Interim Steering Committee of the OP Inner City Assembly