

RUPERT + RENFREW

Station Area Plan

Engagement Summary - May 2023





Source: BC Housing

Musqueam, Squamish & Tsleil-Waututh

We acknowledge that we are on the unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Skw̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples have called this place home since time immemorial. Historically, the area within the Rupert and Renfrew Station Area boundary was a location for fishing, harvesting, and hunting. Each Host Nation has their own unique relationships with the area (i.e. place names and various other uses and relationships with and to the land).

In 2022, City Council adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Strategy. The calls-to-action include four themes of the BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act):

- » Social, cultural, and economic well-being
- » Ending Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination
- » Self-determination and inherent right of self-government
- » Rights and title of Indigenous People

In addition, there are a number of resources available to learn more about the historic and current relationships that the Nations have with the land that is referred to as the Rupert and Renfrew Station study area.

Musqueam Place Names Map:

musqueam.bc.ca/our-story/our-territory/place-names-map/

Squamish Atlas:

squamishatlas.com

Vancouver's Designation as a City of Reconciliation:

vancouver.ca/people-programs/city-of-reconciliation.aspx



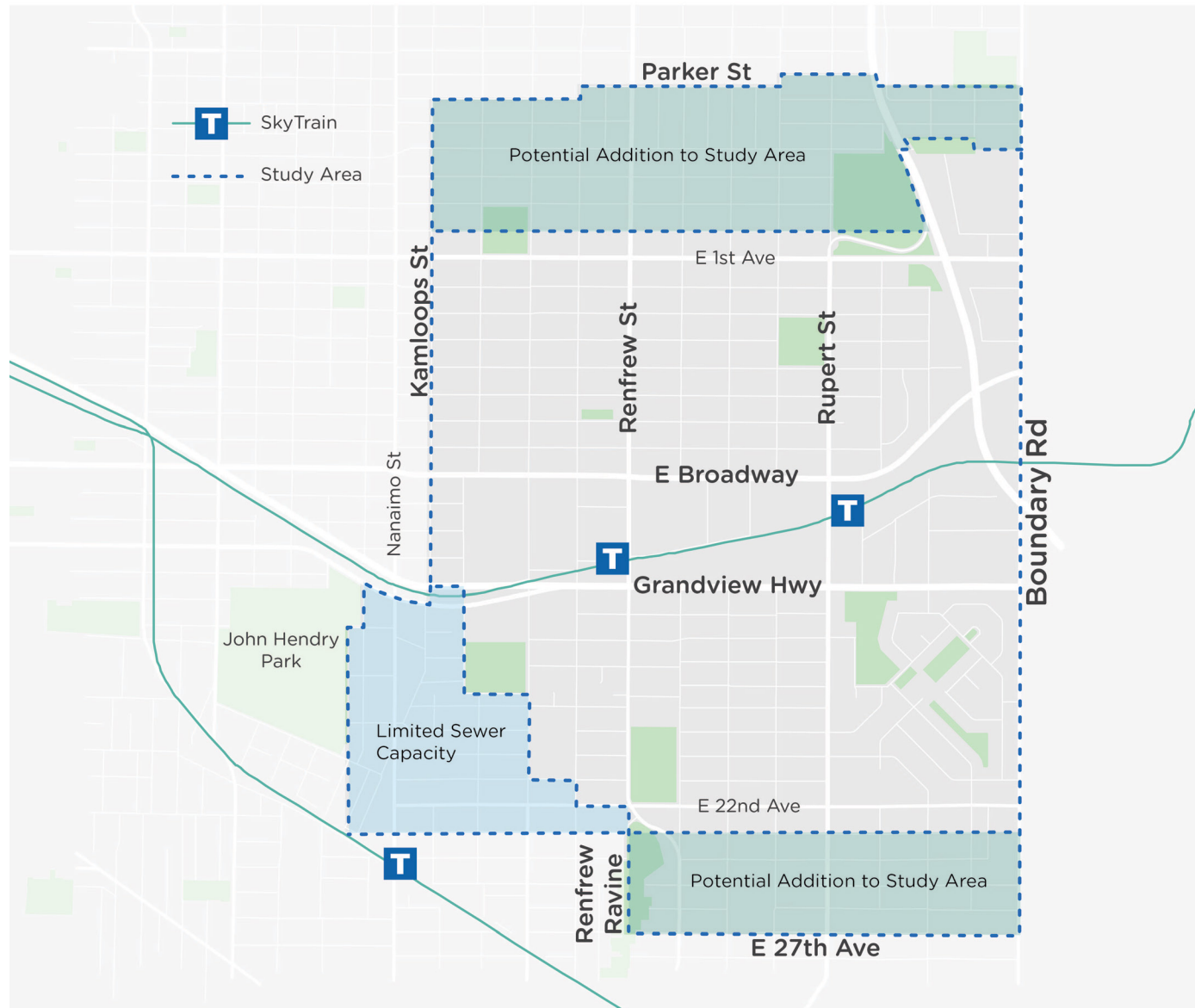
Red Fox Drum, ArtStarts at River Market, 2017 (Source: August Studios)



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Rupert and Renfrew Station Area Plan Study Area



1. BACKGROUND

ABOUT THE RUPERT AND RENFREW STATION AREA PLAN

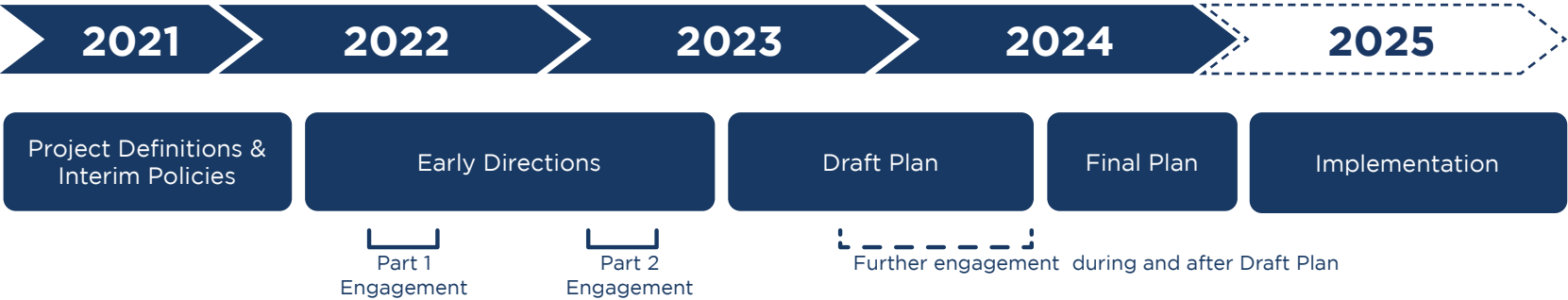
In November 2021, the City of Vancouver initiated a planning process for the area around the Rupert and Renfrew SkyTrain stations. When complete, the Rupert and Renfrew Station Area Plan will guide growth and change in alignment with the Vancouver Plan and other City policies.

The overall planning process continues to move forward with a recalibrated timeline. The planning program anticipates a draft plan for Council’s consideration by early 2024.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Round 2 Engagement Report summarizes key feedback that emerged during the public consultation held from January 18 to March 3, 2023. The intention of this phase of engagement was to solicit deeper input into selected plan topics, including jobs & economy, transportation, housing, public views, cultural heritage and Still Creek. As part of this process, staff engaged with a broad and diverse set of stakeholders including members of the public, equity-denied groups, non-profits, and industry representatives.

PLANNING PROCESS - AS OF JULY 2023



2. HIGHLIGHTS

The second round of engagement for the Rupert and Renfrew Station Area Plan ran from January 18 to March 3, 2023 for a total of 6 weeks. During this time, staff engaged with a diverse set of stakeholders through various activities, including open houses, pop-up events, targeted sessions, and a community survey. Key materials were translated in four languages and interpreters were made available at key in-person events. Overall participation consisted of the following:

- » Community survey (~600 responses)
- » In-person open houses (~360 participants)
- » Targeted sessions (~300 participants)
- » City-Reach pop-up session (~300 participants)

Housing, Key Findings

- » Strong support for a greater mix of housing options throughout the study area, including missing-middle housing, rental housing and social housing
- » Strong support for intensifying housing near rapid transit stations
- » Broad support for more affordable housing options
- » 3 bedroom units in rental apartments, townhouses, and condominiums were the top choices for unit types

Transportation, Key Findings

- » Strong support for improved cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, especially separated bike lanes / greenways, complete street concept along arterials, and enhanced north-south connections
- » There was also wide support for more traffic calming, inviting public spaces, and desire for active transportation along Still Creek

Public Space, Key Findings

- » Enhance Still Creek as a public green space for walking and cycling
- » Need for more welcoming, improved gathering spaces; existing small scale seating areas / plazas are not inviting

Economy, Key Findings

- » High levels of support for all shops and services locations identified for expansion (22nd, Renfrew/1st Ave, Station areas)
- » Support for more retail, including restaurants, coffee shops, bars, entertainment and health services
- » General support for expanding retail across the neighborhood, including corner stores

-
- » Big Box retail has high levels of support across all modes, with Superstore and Walmart receiving explicit mentions as important sources of convenient and affordable goods

Cultural Spaces, Key Findings

- » Strong support for artist production, performance, presentation, and indigenous cultural spaces, as well as outdoor music and cultural activities
- » The importance of community centres and libraries
- » The significance of outdoor natural spaces, especially near Still Creek

Cultural Heritage, Key Findings

- » The neighborhood is a place full of history, memories and stories that have been lost or forgotten
- » Support more ways to learn, share and celebrate the neighborhood's cultural heritage
- » There is strong support to acknowledge, respect and support Indigenous cultural heritage in the built environment

Parks and Still Creek, Key Findings

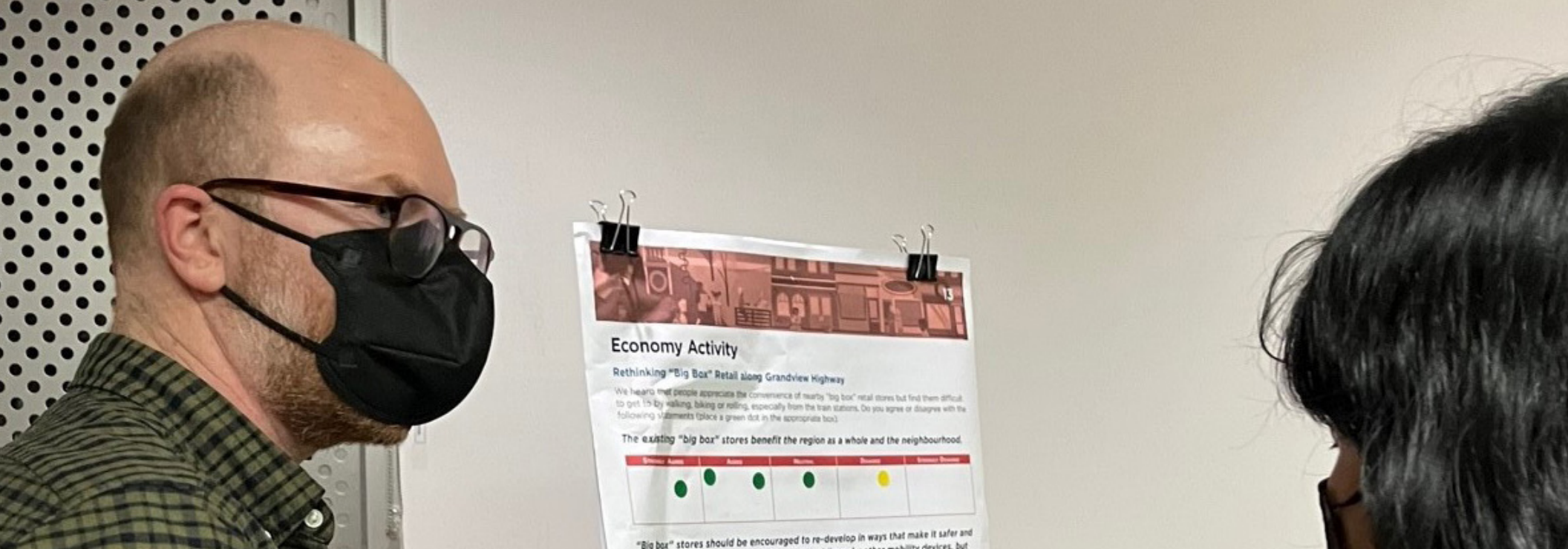
- » Strong support for upgrading and expanding parks and playgrounds
- » Broad desire to enhance and restore Still Creek

Childcare and Social Infrastructure, Key Findings

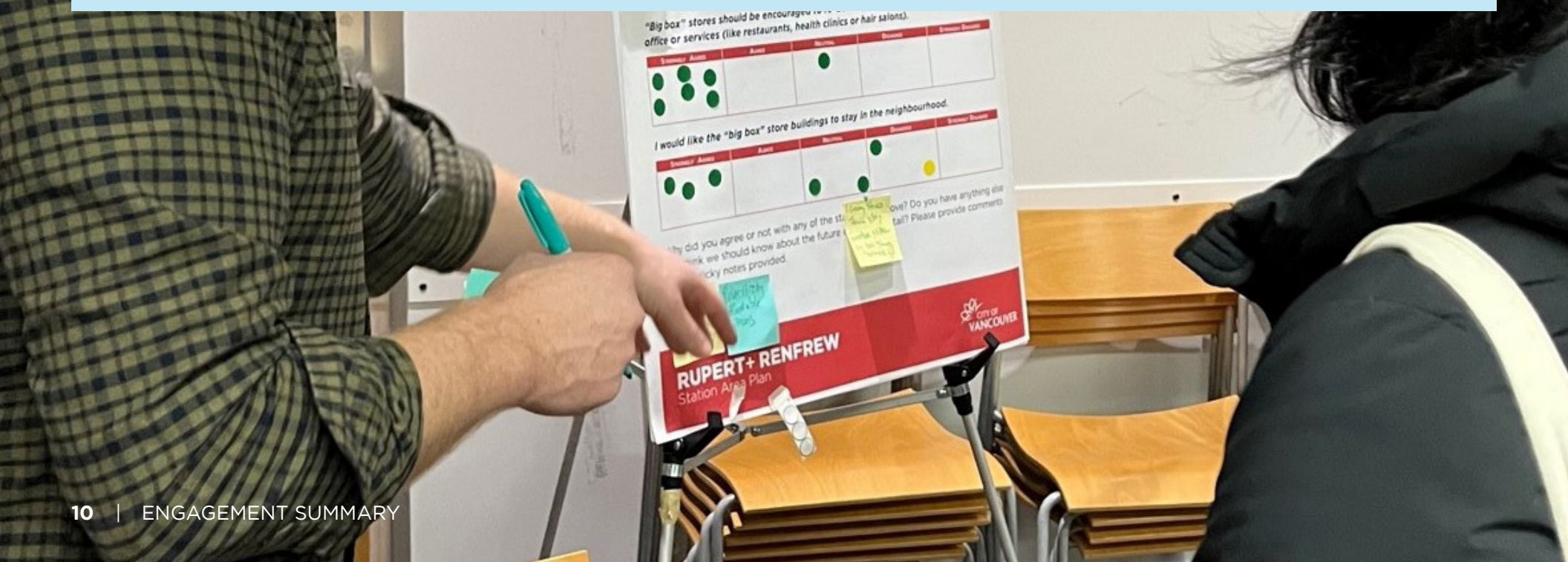
- » Support for more childcare options in the area
- » Strong support and need for expanding services and programs
- » Recognition of the importance of community agencies and local non-profits in the study area

Public Views, Key Findings

- » Strong support for preserving views from Sunrise Park and Renfrew Community Park, in addition to a number of other locations
- » Some concerns about the limitation that view protection may impose on opportunities to provide more housing



HOW WE ENGAGED



3A. ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

The City took a hybrid approach to public engagement involving both in-person and virtual activities. Four in-person open houses were hosted at various locations in the community. An online survey was hosted on the City's ShapeYourCity website, along with detailed information on the planning program, including information boards and reports. Fourteen additional sessions were organized with specific community groups.



Community Survey

591

Responses (Online & Paper)



In-person Open House (4)

360

Participants



Targeted Sessions (14)

621

People



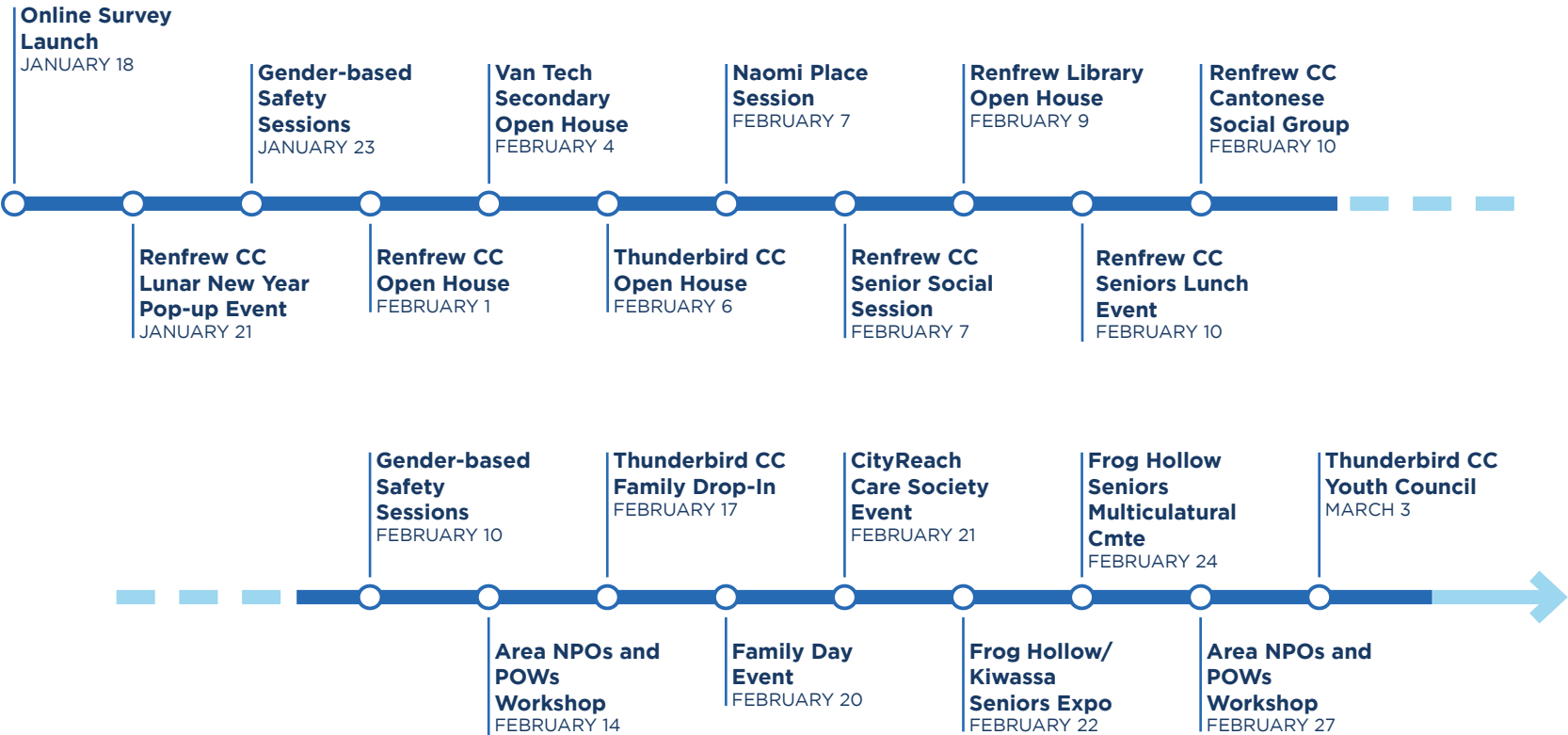
18 In-Person Engagement Events

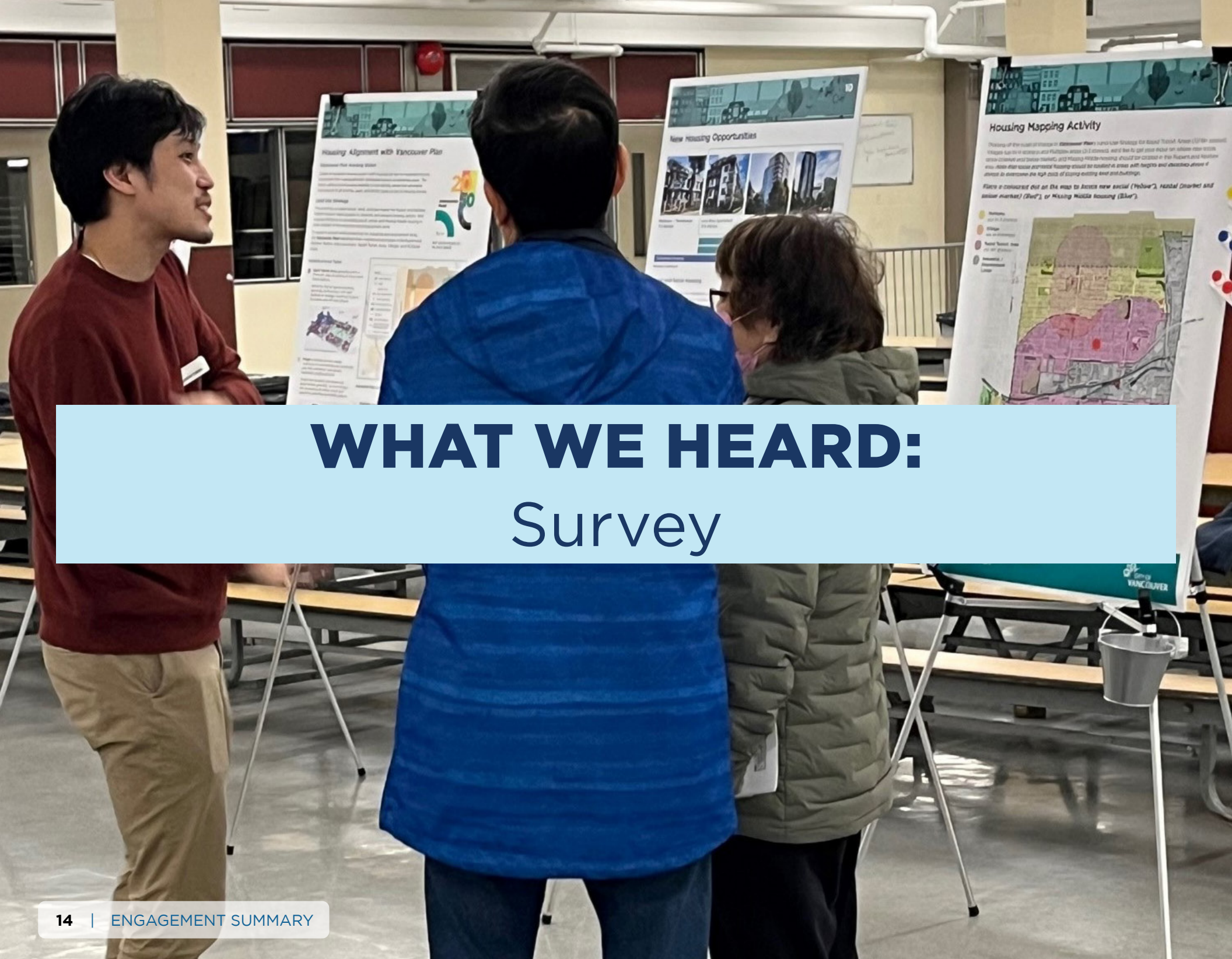
5,900 ShapeYourCity Website Visits



Still Moon Quilt project (Source: City of Vancouver)

3B. PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

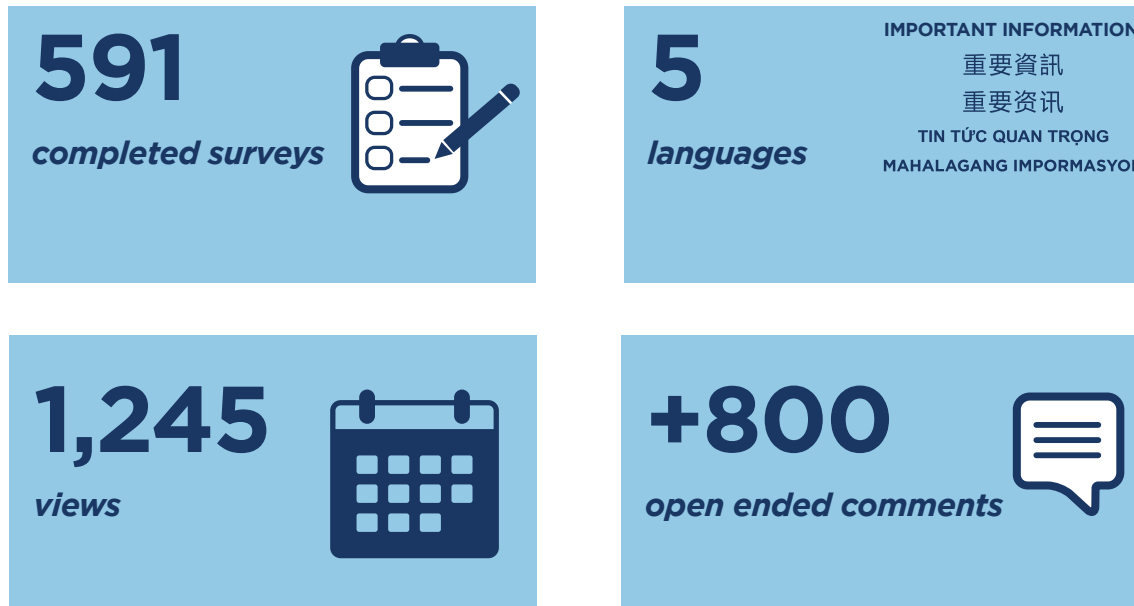




WHAT WE HEARD: Survey

4A. SURVEY AT A GLANCE

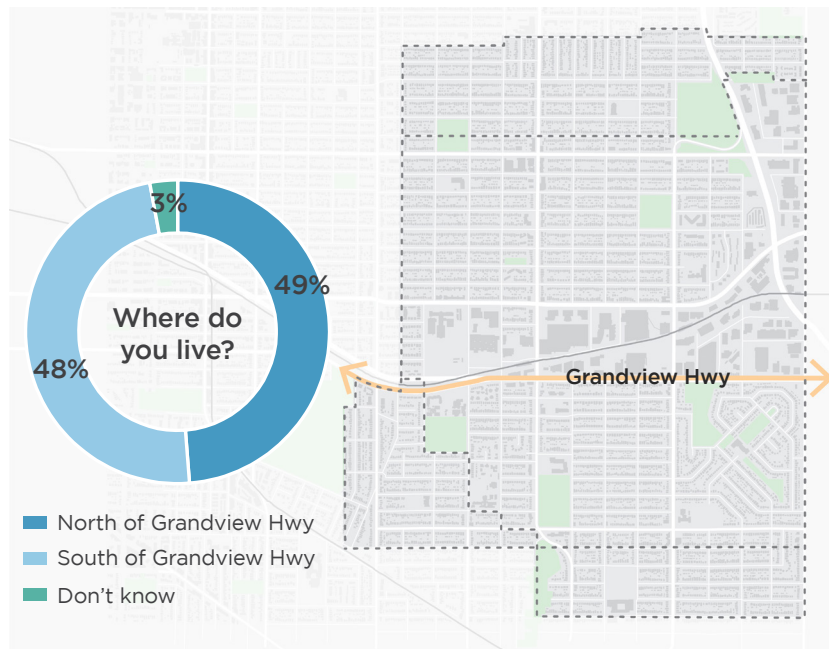
The survey was hosted through the City of Vancouver’s “Shape Your City” platform and ran from January 18 to February 28, 2023 - a total of six weeks. Paper copies were also made available at in-person events. Both digital and paper-copies of the survey were translated in four languages, Traditional and Simplified Chinese, Tagalog and Vietnamese. Residents were asked various questions on key topics including housing, transportation, commerce, public views and cultural spaces. Overall, we received 591 responses and over 800 open-ended comments.



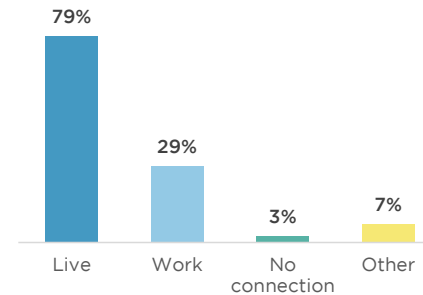
4B. WHO WE HEARD FROM

We asked all respondents to complete demographic questions at the end of the survey. This demographic data was collected to better understand who is responding and the degree to which survey participants reflect the larger population in our study area. Gaps in representation were partly addressed through targeted engagement with specific community groups. For more information on these sessions see Section 6 of this report. The following is a snapshot of the 600 or so people we heard from:

- » About 80% of respondents lived in the study area
- » People aged 20-39 represented the largest segment (46%) of survey respondents.
- » Almost half (48%) of respondents identified as women, 41% as men, and 2% as non-binary/gender fluid.
- » A majority of respondents (55%) were homeowners, and a third (33%) either rented or lived in a co-op.
- » Visible-minorities were under-represented in the sample. Of these, those who identified as “Chinese” were the largest group (31%).
- » Almost a third of respondents (29%) indicated earning between \$80,000 to \$150,000/yr.
- » In terms of household composition, about a third of respondents (34%) were couples with children, another 22% were couples without children, and 13% were singles without children.

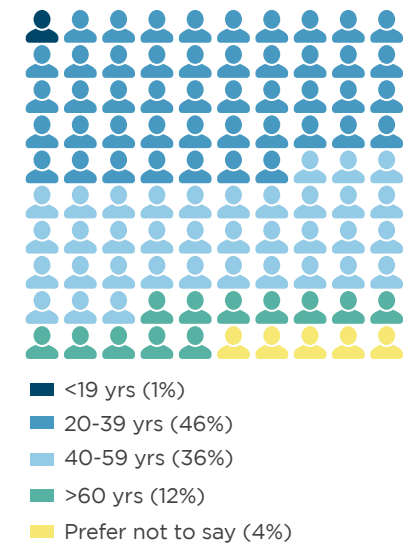


Connection to Area*

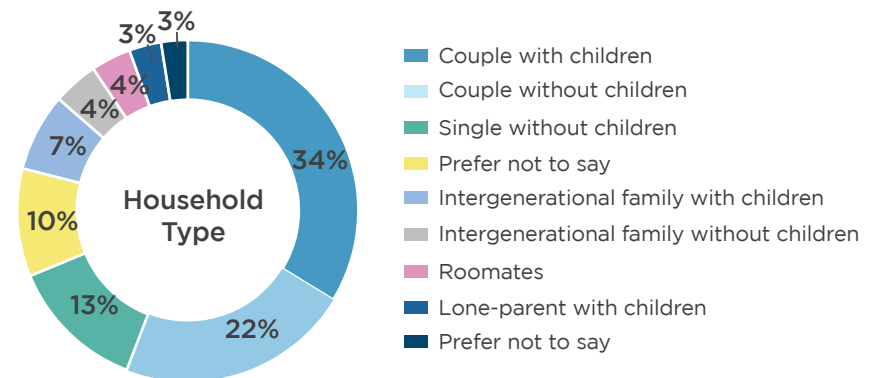
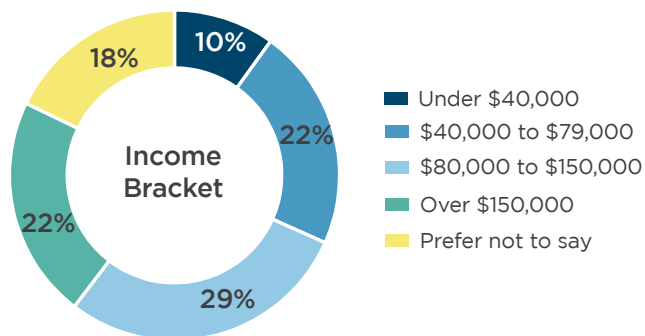
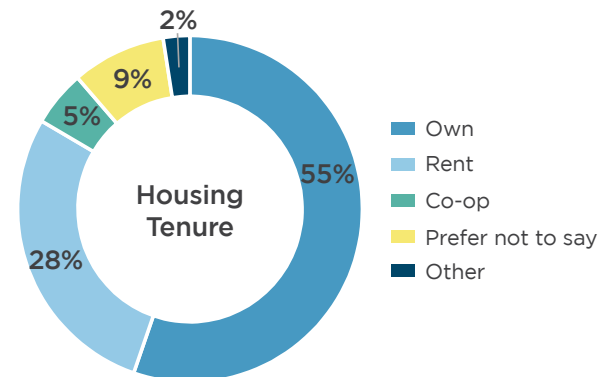
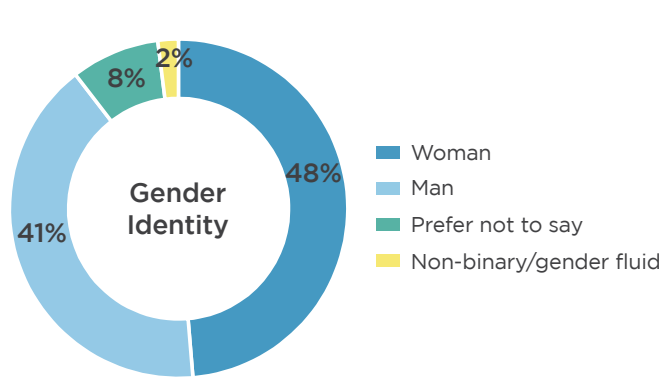


* Note: the total exceeds 100% as respondents could select more than one category

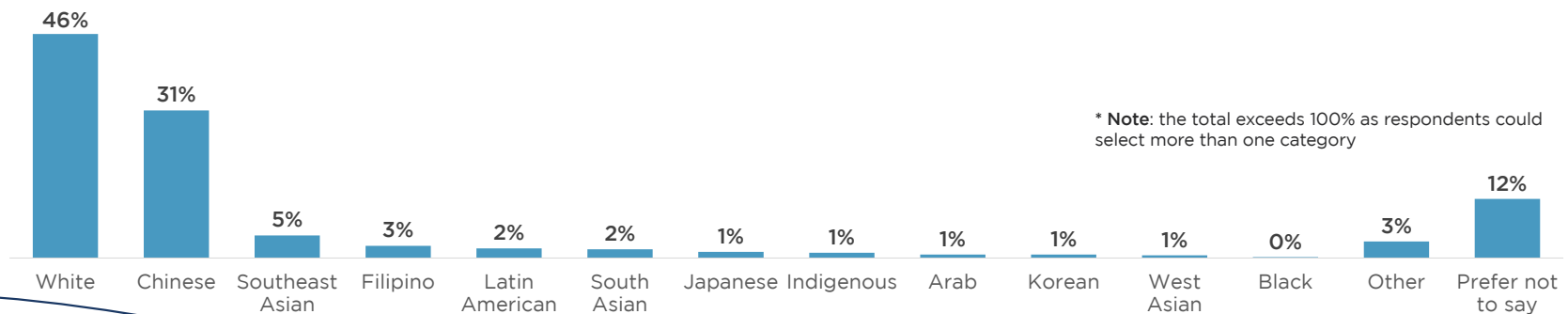
Age Distribution



4B. WHO WE HEARD FROM



Ethnic/Racial Identity

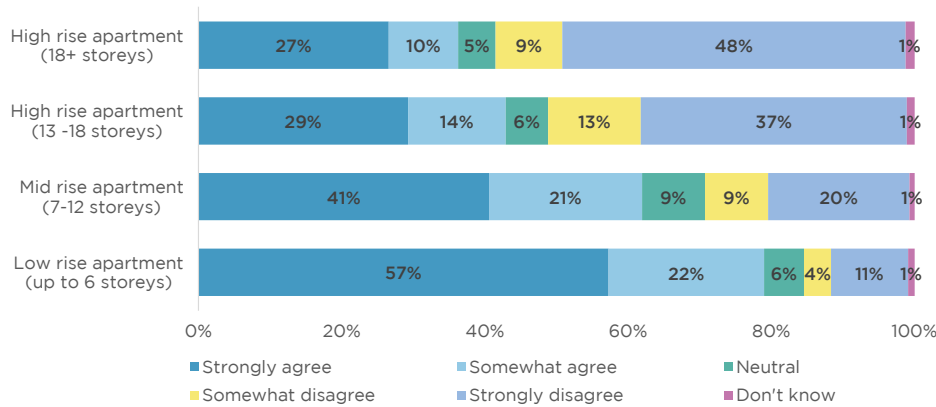


* Note: the total exceeds 100% as respondents could select more than one category

4C. HOUSING

Last spring, the community expressed support for adding housing options for families, households earning less than \$80,000 per year (considered “moderate” income households) and new ownership options such as townhouses. Now, we’d like to get more input about these options and learn more about where you think these new housing options should go. This is especially important since we need to balance housing needs with protecting the industrial uses of the Grandview-Boundary Employment Lands.

Question: To increase social and rental housing, additional height and density (i.e. taller and bigger buildings) is required to overcome the high cost of buying existing land and buildings. Of the building types shown, what form of housing would you agree with?



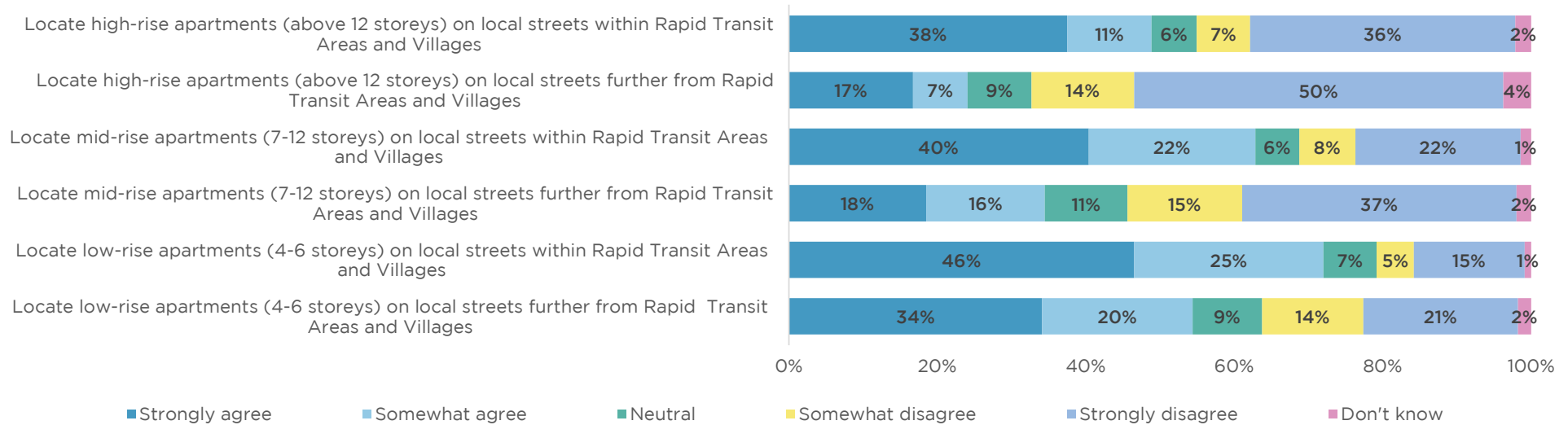
We heard from open-ended comments that housing should be located:

- 1. Near rapid transit stations
- 2. On-arterials
- 3. Off-arterial with more multiplex areas (missing-middle opportunities)

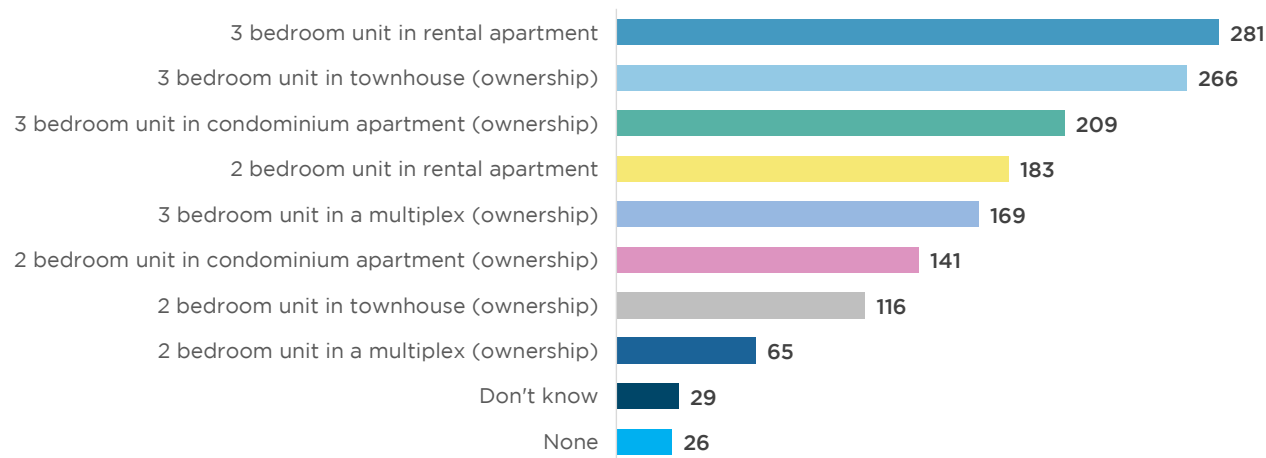


4C. HOUSING

Question: We want to know where you think new options of rental or social housing could be added in the area. Select all the options that you would support:

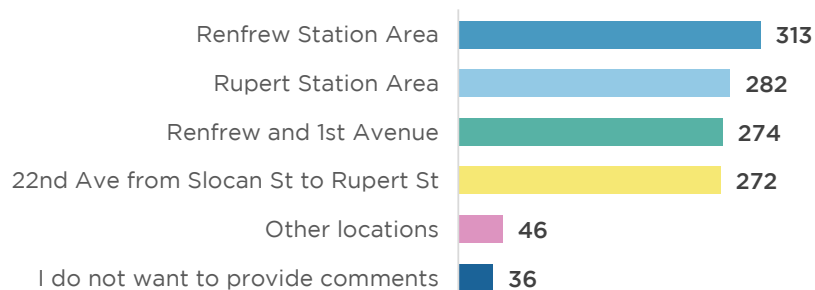


Question: We heard that housing suitable for families is a top priority in this area. Given the growing trend of families with children living in multi-family buildings, which of the following types of housing would you like to see built in the area? (Choose your top three):



4D. ECONOMY

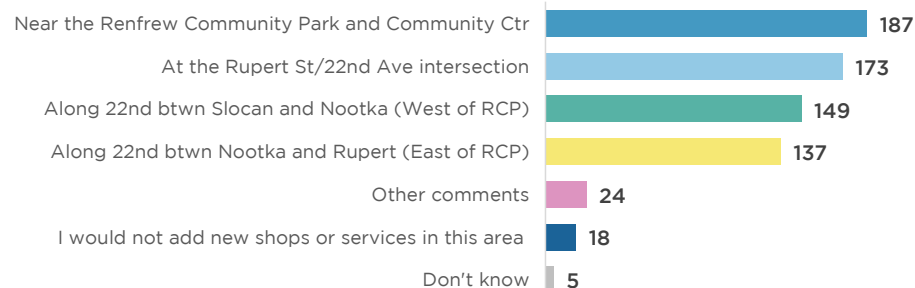
Question: Last spring the community expressed support for new shops and services in the area and since then we've done some analysis of retail opportunities to learn about where more shops and services could be added over the next 30 years. Each location has options for where exactly those new shops could go and we want to know what options you prefer.



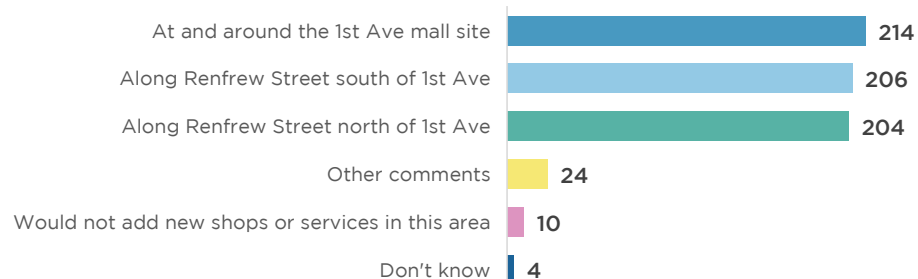
Other locations not listed above:

1. Shops and services should be included across the neighbourhood
2. Corner stores adjacent to parks
3. Locations outside the study area (e.g. Nanaimo Station, 29th Avenue Station, and Nanaimo Street)
4. The Italian Cultural Centre, along 1st Ave, along Rupert St near Rupert Park

Question: Where would you add new shops and services on 22nd Avenue from Slocan St to Rupert St? (check all that apply)

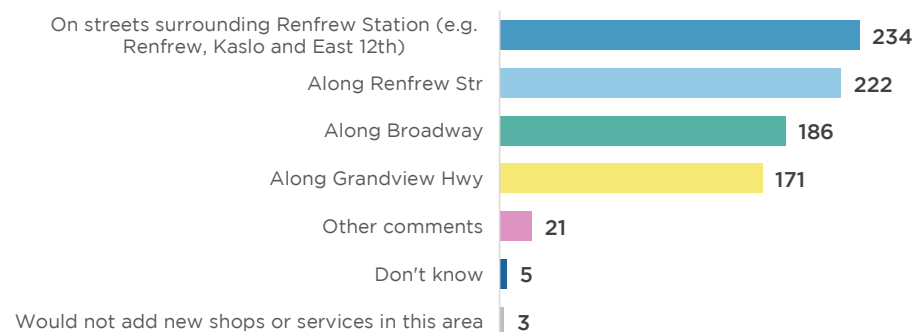


Question: Where would you add new shops and services near Renfrew and 1st Avenue? (check all that apply)

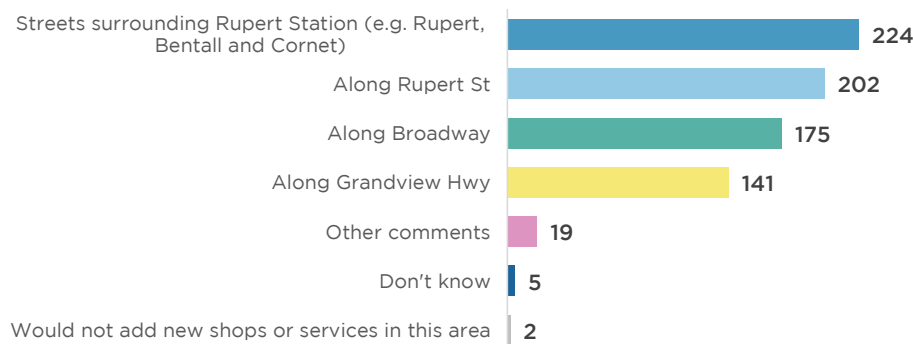


4D. ECONOMY

Question: Where would you add new shops and services close to Renfrew Station? (check all that apply)



Question: Where would you add new shops and services close to Rupert Station? (check all that apply)



Additional comments people provided:

- » Support for more retail generally throughout the area
- » Some concerns about the impacts of adding more retail on traffic, parking and safety
- » Wants to see more retail along E 22nd Ave generally
- » Support for small and more diverse shops and grocers
- » Wants to see services offered in other languages, particularly Chinese.
- » Mixed-support for adding retail along E 1st Ave
- » Wants to see 1st Ave Marketplace redeveloped into a more accessible and friendlier space.
- » Wants to see more multilingual, multigenerational and multiracial retail
- » The area around Renfrew SkyTrain station has potential as an entertainment and restaurant district
- » Support for more lunch options around Van Tech and in the area around Charles Park
- » The areas around the SkyTrain stations feel unsafe and unwelcoming

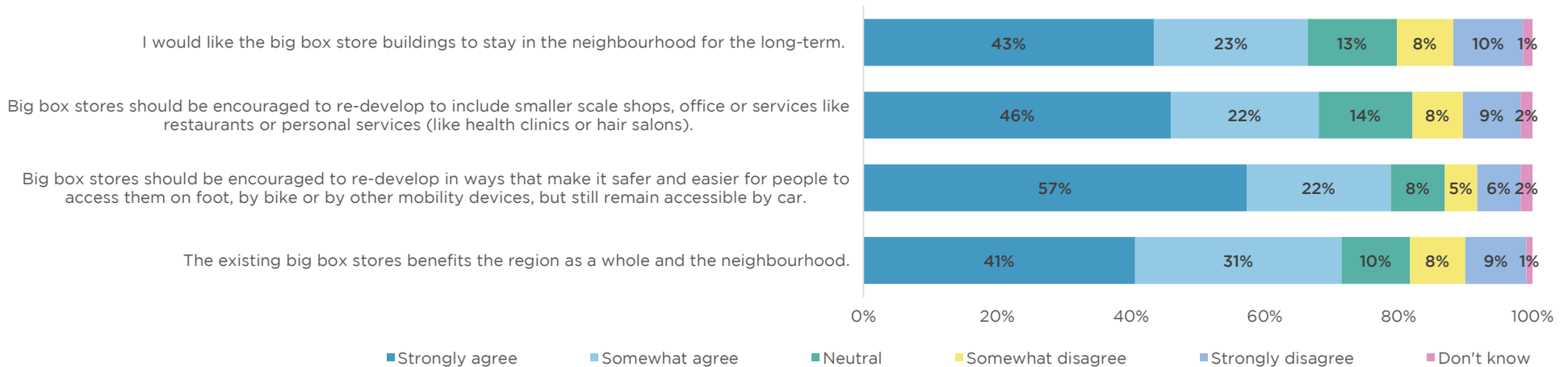


"I think some of the larger big-box stores play a large role in making the area affordable for people, but in an ideal world we'd have more diversity of shops, and smaller shops that were also affordable. I think the area is way too car-focused right now."

"It would be nice to see more grocery, restaurant, and cafe spaces sprinkled throughout the community so people aren't always forced to go to larger hubs for their needs."

4D. ECONOMY

Question: We've heard that many people in the neighborhood appreciate the convenience of having the big box retail stores like Walmart or Superstore nearby on Grandview Highway, but find these stores difficult to get to by walking, biking or rolling. Do you agree or disagree with the following:



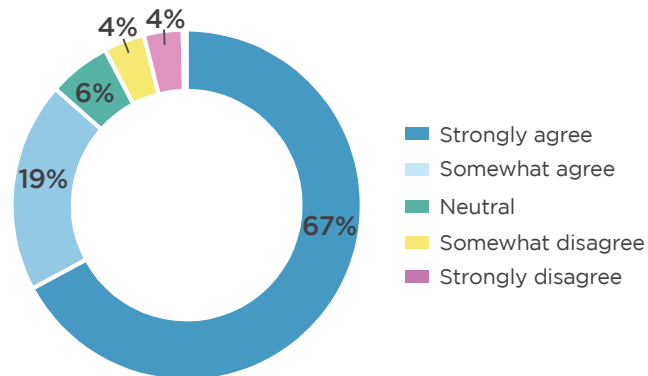
Please tell us why you made your choice:

- ♦ 125 participants emphasized the convenience particularly for families as a one-stop for weekly shopping.
- ♦ 75 participants mentioned the importance of affordability, often referencing Walmart and Superstore.
- ♦ 111 participants mentioned smaller stores: Wish smaller stores could serve same purpose, fear large retailers will drive out smaller stores and/or suggest large retailers redevelop and add smaller locally owned stores
- ♦ 106 participants emphasized accessibility as an important aspect: both to make it easier for biking and walking, but also continued access by car and to parking (see also Transportation summary). Surface parking is seen as a waste and often feels unsafe but access by car is necessary for the type of shopping many use these stores for.

4E. TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SPACE

Question: We have ideas for how the transportation and public space network can be improved to address current challenges and future opportunities, but we won't be able to do everything at once. We want to know your level of agreement for this policy package:

- *Improve existing rail crossings to support safer walking, rolling, and cycling, particularly at Rupert, Renfrew and Slocan Streets, and explore potential new active transportation-only rail crossings near Nootka and Skeena Streets to align with future greenways.*
- *Provide new and/or improved signals to make crossing major streets safer and easier, focusing on locations identified in previous public engagement, existing and future greenways, and stretches where there are long distances between signals.*
- *Add new sidewalks to complete the sidewalk network and look for places to create new pathways through large sites as they redevelop like the Cornett-Rupert Connector and Skeena Terrace.*
- *Make major streets more comfortable for walking and rolling while balancing other street uses, through measures like wider sidewalks, protected lanes for cycling and e-scooters, people-friendly building frontages, street landscaping and public spaces.*
- *Upgrade and expand the local greenway network, including upgrades to the east-west Central Valley Greenway (e.g. through adjacent redevelopment) and new north-south routes like the proposed Eastside Crosscut.*
- *Provide new public gathering spaces (e.g. plazas) near SkyTrain stations and in shopping areas as new shops and services are added.*
- *Provide new small-scale public spaces (e.g. seating areas, planted areas) along greenways and local bikeways as they are upgraded.*



4E. TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SPACE

Question: Do you have any additional thoughts on our ideas for improved transportation options and new public spaces in the plan area?

Key themes, **walking**:

- Make the area more comfortable to walk (concerns related to gaps in the pedestrian network, safety with vehicle traffic, desire for increased tree canopy and shading along streets for walking)
- Desire for new and improved rail crossings, including safer, wider and more accessible crossings near Rupert and Renfrew station areas
- Need for more north-south connections within neighbourhood (e.g. Eastside Crosscut is well supported)

Key themes, **cycling**:

- Strong support for increased protected AAA bike routes and greenways, particularly north / south connections (e.g. Eastside Crosscut)
- Bike routes are underutilized in this area as a result of safety concerns, and lack of connectedness
- Cycling signage requires improvement

Key themes, **transit**:

- Desire for east-west bus service along 1st Ave
- Improve bus priority and frequency for #25, #16, and #7 bus routes

Key themes, **motor vehicle traffic**:

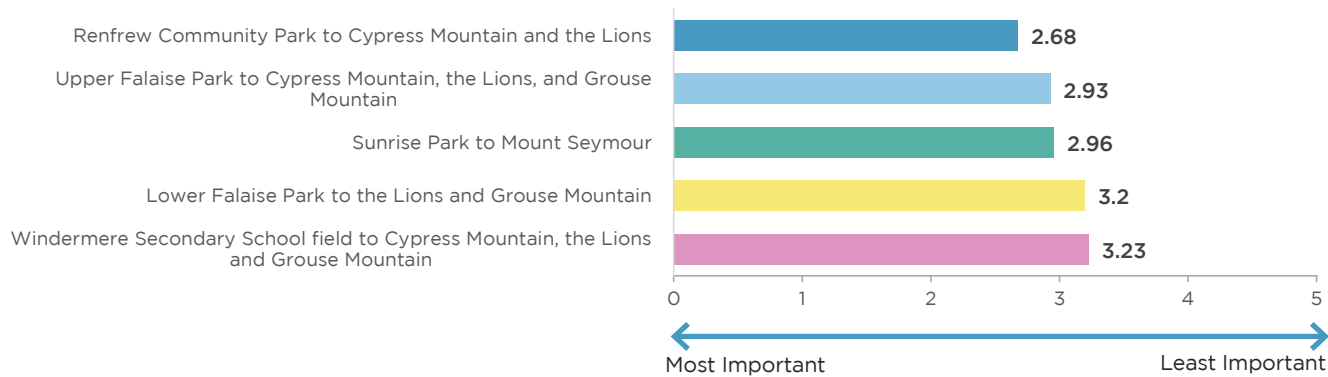
- Concerns regarding vehicles speeding along arterials and side streets in the area; traffic calming measures are encouraged on local streets, particularly near busy intersections
- Concerns from residents around existing congestion in some areas, who don't want it to get worse

Key themes, **public spaces**:

- Enhance Still Creek as a public green space for walking and cycling
- Need for more welcoming, improved gathering spaces; existing small scale seating areas / plazas are not inviting

4F. VIEWS

Question: Preserving and framing these important public views are elements we can include in the plan. We'll need to balance view preservation with plan goals (like new housing options) and other factors (like trees that might keep growing, or projects outside of the plan area). Therefore, we want to know what views are most important to you and should be our priority for keeping in the plan. Please rank the following views in order of importance from most important to least important.



Additional comments people provided:

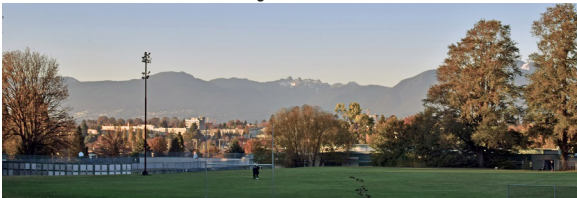
The view from Clinton Park is also important for many in the community

Public views, generally, are considered assets in this area

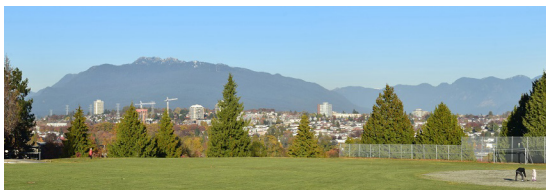
Some concerns about the barriers that view protection might impose on housing opportunities

Some concerns about building height and implications for public views

Renfrew Community Park



Sunrise Park



Upper Falaise



Lower Falaise



Windermere Secondary

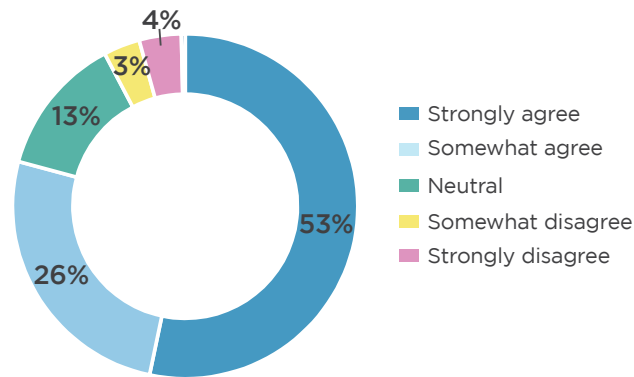


4G. CULTURAL SPACES

This spring we learned the community feels its cultural diversity makes it unique and that there are community organizations like Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House, Lu'Ma Native Housing Society, VIVO Media Arts Society, Still Moon Arts Society and the Italian Cultural Centre providing important arts and culture programs. However, many people feel there is a general lack of arts and cultural spaces and the activities and programs they can support in the neighbourhood. As we look to the future, we want to know what types of spaces are needed in the area to better support artists, cultural organizations and community members to produce, share and experience arts and culture

Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

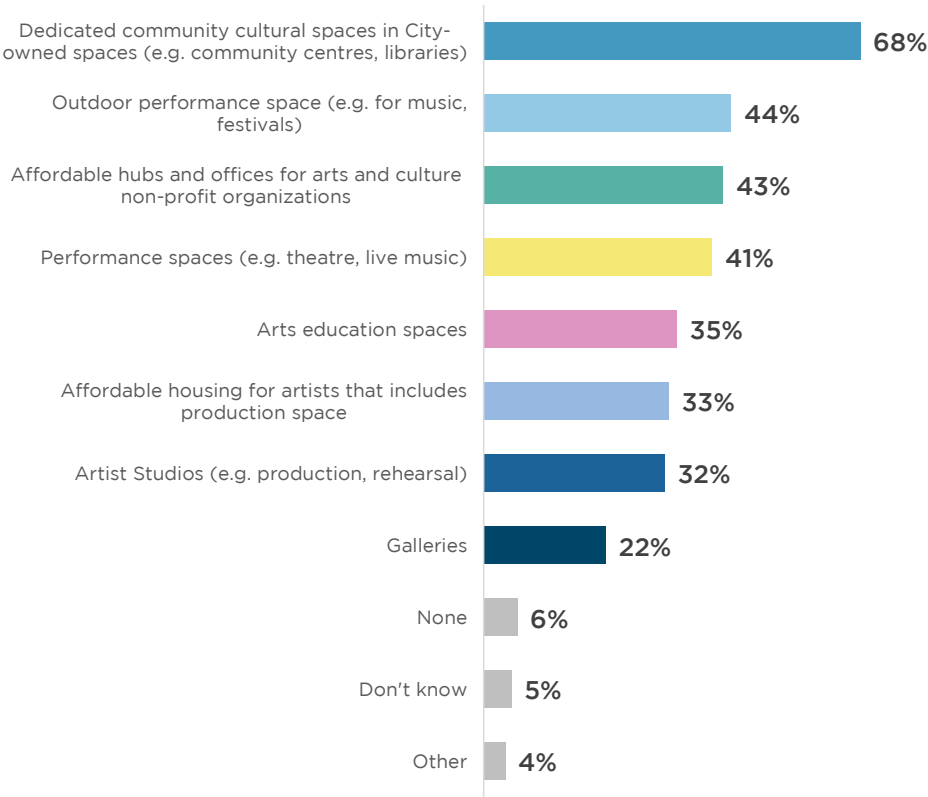
As the neighbourhood grows, it is important to have more spaces to produce, share, and experience arts and culture



Other spaces needed in the community:

- 1. Additional parks and recreational facilities
- 2. Indigenous/First nations spaces
- 3. Community centres and libraries
- 4. Arts education spaces

Question: What types of arts and culture spaces do you think are most needed in this area in the future? (Choose all that apply)



* **Note:** the total exceeds 100% as respondents could select more than one category

4H. GENERAL COMMENTS

Question: What other thoughts about the Rupert and Renfrew Station Area Plan do you want to share?

Housing, Key Themes:

- » Add housing in and around the employment lands and the SkyTrain stations
- » Provide more affordable housing, esp. rental and co-ops
- » Allow for more housing options and density
- » Preserve neighbourhood character
- » Concerns about towers and high-rises

Economy, Key Themes:

- » Improve areas around the stations by adding density and making them more mixed-use
- » Allow for more small-scale retail, amenities and services
- » Repurpose large surface parking lots
- » Improve access to Big Box stores

Parks, Key Themes:

- » Plant more trees and greenery
- » Preserve and/or increase park space
- » Upgrade and revitalize parks and playgrounds

Transportation, Key Themes:

- » Improve cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in/around the transit stations
- » Improve pedestrian safety and walkability across the plan area
- » More traffic calming measures
- » Concerns about the impact on density on parking and traffic

Cultural Spaces, Key Themes:

- » Create more spaces for people to gather and create community
- » Upgrade and expand existing cultural spaces
- » Encourage opportunities for public art

Planning Process, Key Themes:

- » Listen to people and concerns
- » Take meaningful action to address these issues

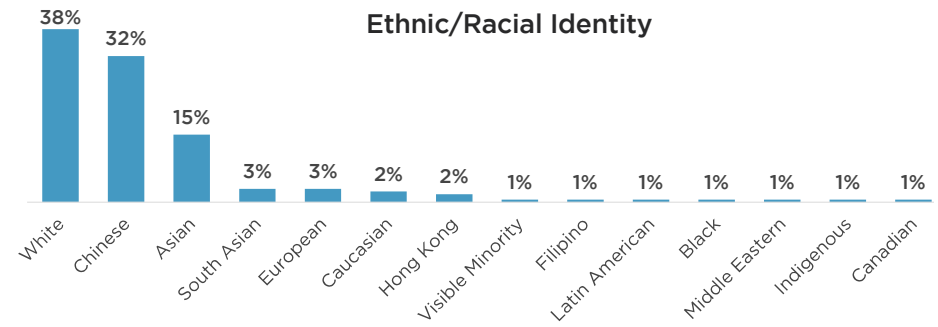
A photograph of three people from behind, looking at a display board. The person on the left has long dark hair and is wearing a black jacket. The person in the middle is wearing a grey hoodie with a large purple Nike logo on the back. The person on the right is wearing a red beanie and a dark blue jacket, with a purple backpack. The display board has a green header and the text "Transportation Activity" and "Early Policy Development".

WHAT WE HEARD:

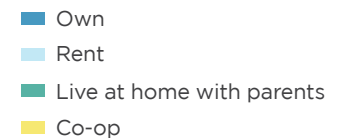
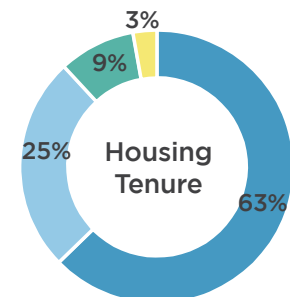
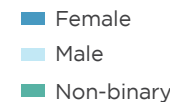
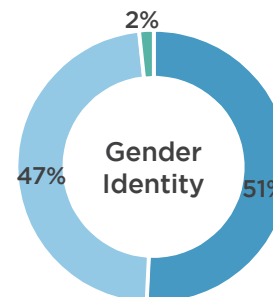
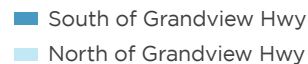
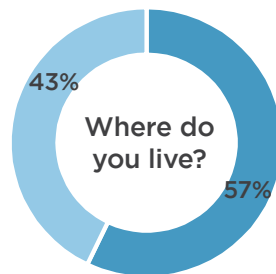
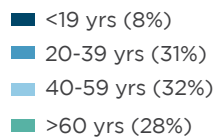
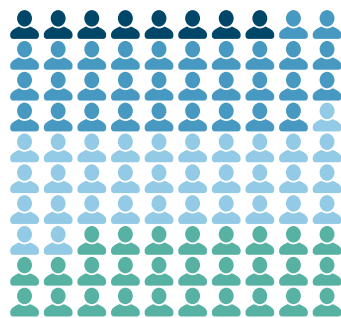
Open Houses

5A. OPEN HOUSES AT A GLANCE

We hosted four Open Houses to give the public additional opportunities to provide their feedback on key plan topics, ask questions of staff and listen to the perspectives of other community members. The Open Houses included a series of interactive boards that asked participants their level of agreement with early policy ideas, locations for new housing and retail and important public views. Still Moon Arts Society also ran a community art project at each open house which culminated in the creation of a felted “Community Vision Quilt”, a creative expression of community ideas.



Age Distribution



5B. OPEN HOUSES AND POP UPS AT A GLANCE



Housing, Feedback Summary

Open house participants were asked to identify locations for different housing types onto a map of the study area. Yellow dots for social housing, red dots for rental housing and blue dots for missing-middle housing.

Key themes:

- » Locate social housing throughout the study area, especially within the rapid transit zones, but also within the villages. Related to this, we saw a desire to locate new social housing units in residential areas near parks, for instance Clinton Park, Kamloops Park, Sunrise Parks, Beaconsfield and Falaise Park.
- » In a similar fashion, open house participants called for rental housing to be located in proximity to the SkyTrain stations and within the village areas.
- » Locate missing-middle housing throughout the study area, notably within the rapid transit zones, but also the villages.
- » Overall, we saw strong support for a greater mix of housing types throughout the study area, which is currently predominantly single-detached houses.



Views, Feedback Summary

We showed participants a map of five public views in the area - based on the feedback received in the first round of engagement. We then asked them to place a dot next to the view most important to them. This is what we heard.

Key themes:

- » Strong support for preserving views from Renfrew Community Park, followed by Upper Falaise Park and Sunrise Park.
- » Participants identified additional view locations from parks, street intersections and school fields. Clinton Park was the location most commonly identified.
- » Some participants reiterated the importance of views as an asset to the community and the need to protect all of them.
- » Some concerns about the limitation that view protection may impose on opportunities to provide more housing.
- » Additional comments included concerns about future building heights and redevelopment opportunities that may be proposed through the area plan.

5B. OPEN HOUSES & POP UPS AT A GLANCE



Transportation, Feedback Summary

Open house participants voiced strong support for improved cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, especially separated bike lanes / greenways, complete street concept along arterials, and enhanced north-south connections.

There was also wide support for more traffic calming, inviting public spaces, and desire for active transportation along Still Creek.

Key Themes - Walking:

Make area more comfortable for walking through:

- » Improving traffic and rail crossings;
- » Creating new pedestrian pathways which provide direct connections through large redevelopment sites and industrial lands;
- » Upgrading Central Valley Greenway, and;
- » Implementing complete street concept along arterials.

Support for greenways along Still Creek, through Skeena Terrace, East – West connections along E 18th / E 17th Ave, E 20th, E 3rd Ave, Charles

Need for more north-south connections within neighbourhood (e.g. Eastside Crosscut is well supported)

Key Themes - Cycling:

- » Strong support for new greenways, including the Eastside Crosscut, Skeena, and a greenway along Still Creek
- » Strong support for implementing complete street concepts along arterials, and improved cycling infrastructure
- » Desire for enhanced bike facilities at station areas to support more cycling

- » Desire for safe active transportation connections to existing and future local serving retail (e.g. E. 22)

Key Themes - Transit:

- » East 1st Ave. is a transit gap for east-west connections
- » Desire for bathrooms at SkyTrain stations
- » Increase frequency of #16, #9, and #22 bus routes
- » Support for extending #9 bus service to Brentwood

Key Themes - Public Spaces:

- » Public space opportunity under the SkyTrain guideway (near Kaslo and Grandview Hwy)
- » Support for rain gardens and public spaces as part of greenways and bikeways

Key Themes - Parking & Motor Vehicles:

- » Improve traffic calming on local streets
- » Safety concerns from people parking too close to intersections in Diaper Hill area; parking restriction signs needed

Key Themes - Land Use:

- » Locate commercial uses along greenways to make them more vibrant spaces
- » Support car-free / car-light frontages along greenways to provide a high quality walking and cycling environment.
- » Desire for more commercial uses near station areas, particularly for people to gather and socialize (cafes, bars, food trucks etc.)

5B. OPEN HOUSES AND POP UPS AT A GLANCE



Economy, Feedback Summary

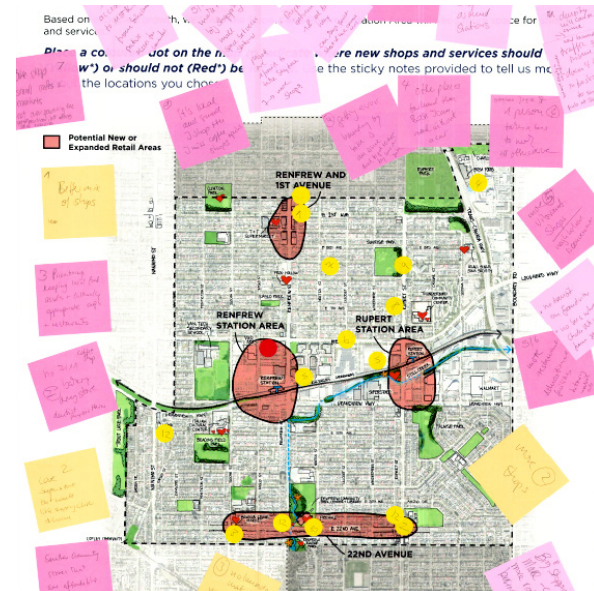
We heard that people are passionate about the shops and services currently in the area and they want them protected. They also want more places with shops and services especially around the Stations, Renfrew and 1st and along 22nd. They also want more small, independent shops, restaurants and services throughout the area that account for the specific needs of local residents and workers. People have been vocal about the important role of some of the large format retail stores on Grandview Boundary for residents and the region but would want them to be more accessible and redevelop to a more urban built form.

Key Themes - Local Retail:

- » More shops, restaurants, services of all kinds across entire the study area, including cornerstores with improved access to stores, such as groceries, restaurants, coffee shops and services like banks, doctors or laundromats to also address lack of connections to neighbors
- » Main locations suggest to be enhanced were 22nd close to the Community Centre and Rupert, Rupert between 1st and Broadway, Renfrew between 1st and the Station as well as around both Rupert and Renfrew SkyTrain stations with more stores, better public space and accessibility
- » Prioritize small and local businesses, especially culturally appropriate stores and services

Key Themes - Big Box:

- » Overall support for all big box questions: benefit both the area and region, redevelop to improve biking/walking access, redevelop to include small stores, stay in area with specific references to Superstore and Walmart as important sources of convenient and affordable goods
- » Broad support for continued accessibility by car but call for better accessibility by bike and foot as well as changed built form with added smaller stores as that seemed a better use of the space to people than the large surface parking lots
- » Tension in comments between desire for more support of small businesses instead of big box – preference to shop at smaller local stores if they were as affordable – Can the convenience & services of the “big box” be provided in another form?



5B. OPEN HOUSES & POP UPS AT A GLANCE



Cultural Heritage, Feedback Summary

When talking about what's important in terms of arts, culture and heritage in the Rupert Renfrew area, many people cited the following activities and spaces that brought people together:

- » Parks – Important for engaging in various activities and uses, providing opportunities for social interaction and space to observe and learn about other cultures (akin to a cultural centre).
- » Local/Cultural Businesses – Physical spaces allow for community connection, but also important for accessing culturally appropriate food and services, as well as memories associated with them.
- » Festivals/Events – The annual Renfrew Ravine Moon Festival and Remembrance Day ceremony at 'Diaper Hill' are examples that are both memorable and meaningful.
- » Ravine/Natural Areas – Provides tranquility and a deeper appreciation of the natural environment, including memories and stories of the past.

Additional Themes

- » Need for more activities and “third spaces”, allowing connection with others, learning about different cultures and the neighborhood, and expressing creativity. This includes more traditional arts and cultural spaces, communal spaces and outdoor public spaces, but also cafes and similar establishments.
- » Incorporate both art and culture (music) with local businesses and nature, and add more activity nodes or clusters of retail and service activities that are easily

accessible. More intangible elements, such as festivals, events and farmers markets, as well as walking tours, would enable the community to learn more about their neighborhood. Opportunities to build new facilities, upgrade and/or repurpose existing ones, and add new supporting infrastructure, such as public washrooms, rain protection, seating, and paved walking trails.

- » There is not much heritage in the neighborhood, and local history, including the natural environment, has been lost. However, one person pointed out that “there is heritage to the east of Main Street”, and both current and former residents were keen to share personal stories and memories on the area, including stories that have been lost or forgotten.
- » There is an appreciation of and interest in local history. Opportunities to increase awareness of this through walking tours, public talks, events, festivals and recorded stories at the library.
- » Both tangible elements (buildings) and intangible elements (institutions, organizations, festivals, social practices, etc) were identified as being of interest and/or important.
- » Need to acknowledge, respect and support Indigenous culture in the local environment. It is important to preserve existing purpose-built spaces and provide more of these spaces for Indigenous people, but the stories and stewardship of the land, particularly Still Creek, should be done in conjunction with the Host Nations in a meaningful way, and the people, history and culture should be reflected in public art.

5B. OPEN HOUSES AND POP UPS AT A GLANCE



Still Creek Feedback Summary

Many of the people we talked to at the open houses were aware of Still Creek and the unique nature of this amenity in the community. Some people shared personal stories about the creek, from feeding the ducks at Superstore to seeing Salmon spawning. Others expressed interest in having more access to the creek with many indicating the lack of visibility, access, and continuity as a barrier for them. We also heard from residents who said Still Creek could use more walking paths and gathering spaces.

At each of the open houses, multiple residents shared a desire to see the creek restored and/or daylit in its entirety to support wildlife, salmon, and public space. Residents said they would like to be able to walk along Still Creek, pick blackberries, and watch the salmon spawn. Others shared the view that water access isn't necessary, what's needed are viewpoints to be able to see and learn about the creek.

Time and again, we heard from residents who expressed support of more green infrastructure to help with flood mitigation, livability and improve the creek's water quality.

We also heard from industry representatives who called for due oversight, monitoring and maintenance of green infrastructure located on private property to ensure its long term functionality.

Overall the community showed a lot of support for the expansion and daylighting of Still Creek as a unique and special feature in their neighbourhood that was worth protecting and restoring.

Key Themes

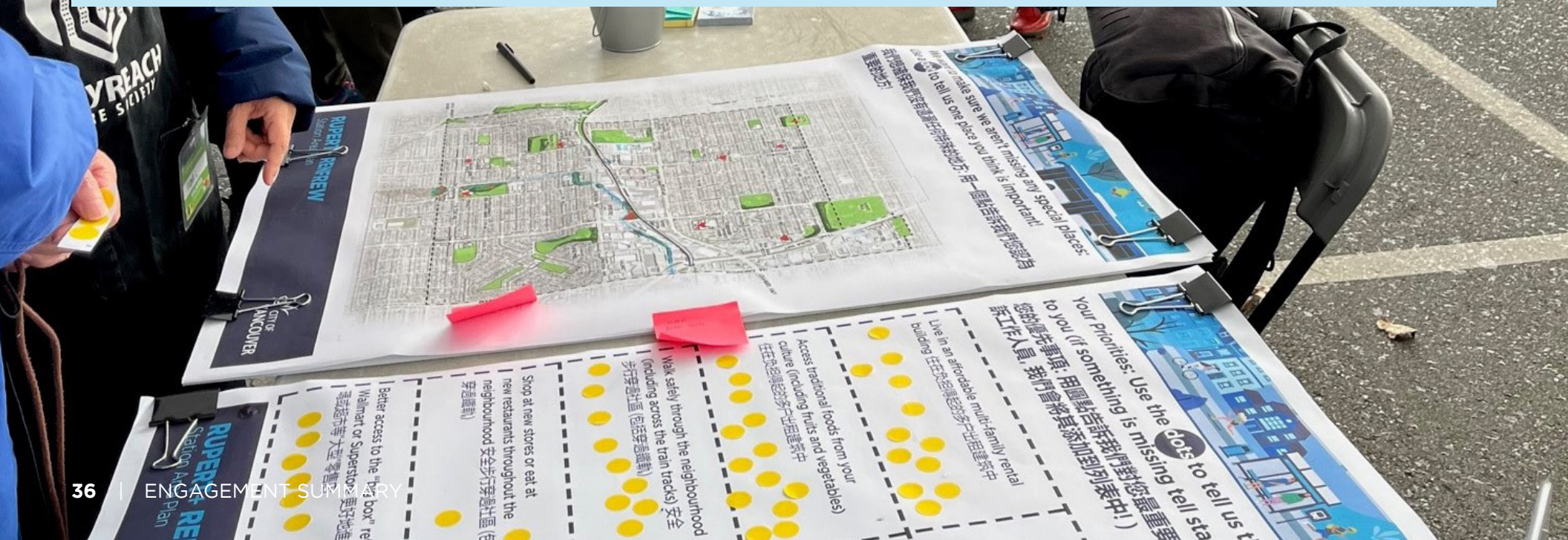
- » Still Creek is an important and unique part of the community
- » The community supports and is calling for the restoration of Still Creek to support salmon, wildlife, and recreational and educational opportunities.
- » The community supports completing the daylighting concept from the Still Creek Enhancement Study
- » There is currently a lack of visibility around the creek
- » There is a desire to see more blue green systems and green infrastructure in the community along streets and in the watershed to help with water quality and slow down the water entering Still Creek
- » Green Infrastructure monitoring and oversight on private property is needed to make sure the features perform as it's designed for long after construction
- » There is a desire for more gathering spaces around the creek along Grandview Highway



 **RENFREW STATION**
YMCA CHILD CARE



WHAT WE HEARD: TARGETED COMMUNITY SESSIONS



6A. TARGETED SESSIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

In addition to the community survey and public open houses, this phase of engagement also included a set of targeted meetings and events for equity-denied communities. Twelve targeted engagement sessions and 2 community events were held. The format of each event varied slightly, depending on the community being engaged and their needs, but each session included prompts focused on cultural heritage, specifically intangible cultural heritage elements. The cultural heritage focus was to address potential gaps in findings from the first phase of public engagement and to reflect the expanded cultural heritage scope of work for the Station Area Plan.

14

*targeted sessions with
community groups*

~600

*participants, including 300
from the CityReach pop-up
session*

6A. TARGETED SESSIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

Civic sites:

Community centres and library are sources of important cultural programs and services in addition to what is offered by private or non-profit organizations. Programs include:

- » Arts programs (dancing, and singing)
- » Cultural and social programs (conversation and social clubs, low-cost food programs, outings and day trips, family drop-in programs)
- » Events (Moon Festival – Still Moon Arts)
- » Many of the programs are developed by professionals that are connected to the community (particularly the dance programs offered at Renfrew Park Community Centre, and the Family Drop-In program at Thunderbird Community Centre) and have built strong connections with and between participants.

Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House

Programs are also extremely important to a range of communities:

- » Family, newcomer, seniors and employment services were the most frequently mentioned
- » Participants referenced the need for a larger facility to accommodate current programming (and a desire to see programs increased)



6A. TARGETED SESSIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

Food Security / Culturally Appropriate Food:

Need a greater variety of local, small, businesses and social enterprises, which are culturally relevant

- » Superstore and Walmart were frequently referenced as a source of affordable (or more affordable) food and goods, both for those within the plan area, but also for others who will travel to those stores
- » CityReach Care Society was also identified as an important place in the Plan Area because it provides food to individuals, families and programs in the neighbourhood and across the city. “Access traditional foods from your culture” was the second priority of participants at the CityReach
- » The loss of Chong Lee Market and the foods it provided – many conflicting statements in the community regarding whether or not the market was going to return. If the market does not reopen, it will be a significant loss for the Asian community and for the ability to find certain products (specifically BBQ meats) in the plan area
- » Limited availability of South-Asian foods and products

Parks

- » Renfrew Park (events, ravine, playground), Sunset Park (sledding and wading pool) and Kaslo Park (new amenities) were mentioned most frequently
- » General themes of wanting more amenities in park spaces, park spaces that can accommodate specific users (teens, adults) beyond just playgrounds for children
- » Other parks frequently mentioned: Empire Fields, Confederation Park and Trout Lake. Common to these mentions were that all these parks offered a range of programming that could keep a family occupied all day. Trout Lake was mentioned as the outdoor location for group Tai Chi practice (no outdoor practice locations in the Plan Area)
- » Garbage cans and frequency of garbage pickup in parks were flagged in a number of sessions: Important points were raised by residents of temporary modular housing projects about the stigma they face in neighbourhoods and park settings where there is an abundance of garbage built up. These projects are often located beside parks or other open spaces where garbage can reflect negatively on residents of these buildings.

6A. TARGETED SESSIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

Transportation

- » Major intersections were flagged as safety risk for a range of users including:
 - » Grandview Highway and Rupert/Renfrew
 - » 22nd and Rupert/Renfrew
 - » Broadway and Rupert/Renfrew
- » Concerns raised were mainly around walking (not cycling) and signal timing for seniors, people pushing strollers and those with mobility issues.
- » The need for additional crosswalks all along Rupert and Renfrew was raised in a variety of sessions with a range of communities.
- » Sidewalk conditions are important for encouraging walking and keeping seniors safe – many will not walk/avoid areas if sidewalk conditions are bad (the area around Thunderbird Community Centre was referenced specifically). Also: snow clearing – especially important for persons with disabilities and also for various community organizations providing essential services that require participants to access the location for services
- » Hilly conditions make north-south public transit routes important – requests for additional bus service to connect the plan area – especially to the big box retail at the centre of the plan area

Housing

- » Housing affordability mentioned in each session – key issue across communities (top priority at CityReach session, raised by seniors, parents, caregivers, youth, residents of temporary modular housing projects, etc)
- » Community-specific solutions:
 - » Seniors specific housing, downsizing options
 - » Diverse types of affordable housing (at provincial shelter rates) across the plan area – to give people options for this housing outside of the downtown eastside
 - » Options required include: options provided by BC Housing, 24/7 staffing, business hours only staffing, pet friendly, addictions recovery, focus on substance se harm reduction, medically supportive, for couples or families
 - » Medically specialized wrap-around supportive housing specifically for persons with disabilities, addictions and seniors
 - » Supportive housing projects must group resident by needs and ensure needs can be met on-site
 - » Projects should provide options for residents to safely do sex work (with staff knowledge and support)

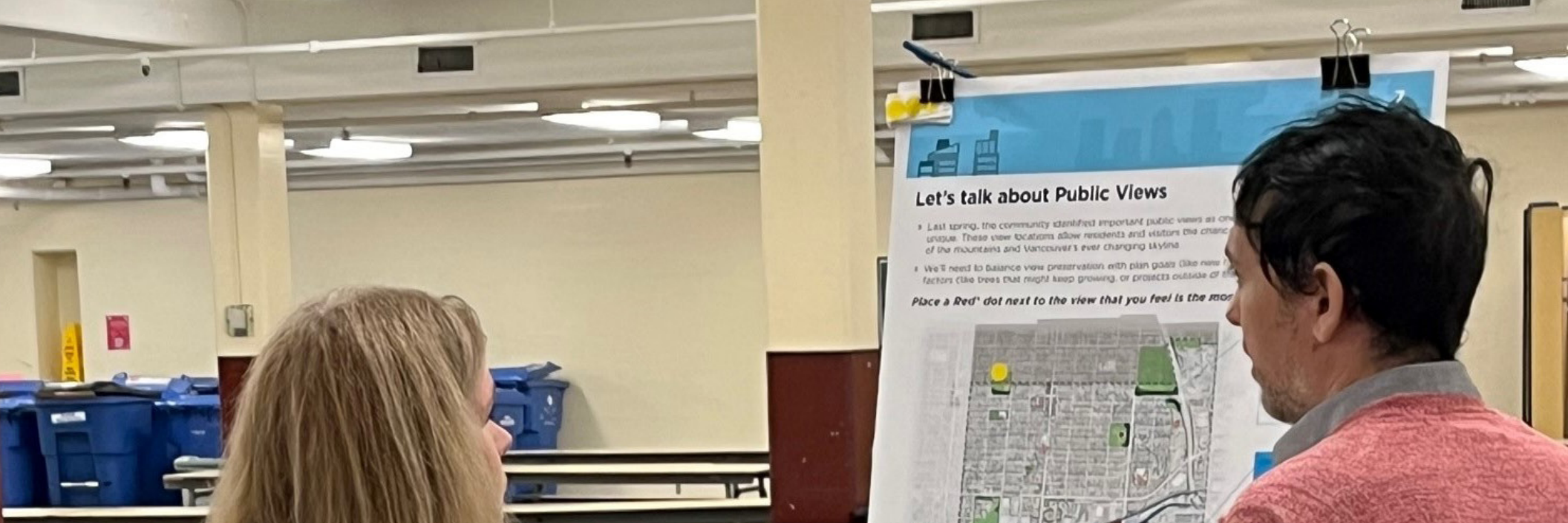
6A. TARGETED SESSIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

Economy

- » Support for small retail throughout the plan area
- » Expansion of the “hub” at the Renfrew Park Community Centre – addition of coffee shop (potentially at the community centre)
- » Walmart / Superstore most frequently mentioned big box stores – support for keeping these specifically. Seems to be less connection with other stores along Grandview Highway.
- » T&T Supermarket (First Avenue Marketplace) frequently mentioned as an important site
- » Chong Lee Market – questions about whether or not it was returning – source of culturally important food. Will be a huge loss for the plan area if it does not return.

Community Facilities/Services:

- » Strong support for improving the quality and quantity of services. Suggestions for potential locations were outside of the plan area (Kingsway, Joyce Collingwood), but the pairing of affordable/supportive housing projects with accessible services was a key theme
- » Childcare: lack of facilities and need for additional spaces was mentioned. Seems to be some confusion in the community about the availability and eligibility of \$10/day childcare program
- » Community Centres/libraries: Programs are varied, but many residents are unaware of what is offered. Greater collaboration with housing providers on outreach. Important to consider how equity-denied communities are welcomed into these spaces and the impact that negative experiences can have on if or when they may access these spaces again
- » Cultural spaces: Limited comments on cultural facilities/spaces. Frequent reference to cultural programs and services at civic facilities or events that happen in parks (Falaise, Renfrew, or Sunrise)
- » Organizations want to support more community members across cultural lines
- » Concerned about many organizations’ ability to stay in the neighbourhood due to lack of affordable and appropriate spaces to provide services



APPENDICES:

This section provides more details on round 2 engagement



ENGAGEMENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Date	Time	Name of Event	Location	# Participated
January 21	12:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Luna New Year	Renfrew Park Community Centre	45
January 23	1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Gender-based safety session	Undisclosed location	10
February 1	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Open House	Renfrew Park Community Centre	105
February 4	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Open House	Vancouver Technical Secondary	75
February 6	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Open House	Thunderbird Community Centre	45
February 7	11:30 am - 12:15 pm	Renfrew Seniors Social Group	Renfrew Park Community Centre	10
February 7	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Naomi Place TMH	Naomi Place	27
February 9	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Open House	Renfrew Public Library	135
February 10	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Renfrew Seniors Lunch Program	Renfrew Park Community Centre	18
February 10	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Cantonese Social Group	Renfrew Park Community Centre	28
February 10	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Gender-based safety session	Undisclosed location	10
February 14	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Non-profits & Places of Worship Workshop	Online	24
February 17	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Thunderbird Family Drop-In	Thunderbird Community Centre	14
February 20	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Family Day	Renfrew Park Community Centre	75
February 21	2:00 pm - 6:30 pm	CityReach Care Society	CityReach	-300
February 22	9:30 am - 11:30 am	Frog Hollow / Kiwassa Seniors Expo	Thunderbird Community Centre	60
February 24	1:00 am - 2:00 pm	Frog Hollow Seniors Multicultural Advisory Committee	Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House	12
February 27	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Non-profits & Places of Worship Workshop	Online	24
March 3	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Thunderbird Youth Council	Thunderbird Community Centre	12
May 7	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Gurdwara Session	Akali Singh Sikh Society Gurdwara	-50

OPEN HOUSES



Economy, Detailed Feedback

Key Themes - Local Retail:

- » More shops, restaurants, services of all kinds across the study area:
 - » Daily / convenience goods (groceries, general stores)
 - » Services (financial, medical, post office, laundromat, etc.),
 - » Entertainment, including nightlife for residents and workers (restaurants, cafes, pubs, etc.)
- » Prioritize small and local businesses (space for new, support for existing)
- » Culturally appropriate stores/services: Banana Grove, Chong Lee, medical services at 1st Avenue Mall medical services
- » Lack of spaces to connect with neighbors or meet with friends - lack of entertainment / restaurants / bars / coffee shops
- » Health and community-based amenities
- » Desire for more quality public realm/plazas and activation, incl. food trucks
- » Poor access and connectivity to major (“big box”) grocery stores
 - » Active transportation connections to Walmart and Superstore mentioned multiple times
 - » Some call for new grocery in underserved areas (e.g., southern area near 22nd)
- » A few request for shopping style mall style shops (e.g., 1st Ave, or between stations)

1st Ave Mall (Renfrew/1st Ave)

- » Concerns about loss of cultural assets: T&T, Chong Lee, Chinese language medical services
- » Desire for a better mix of shops (Brentwood-style shopping centre) and public space
- » Expansion along Renfrew supported

Rupert - North Station

- » Appetite for extending retail from 1st and/or Broadway
- » Considered relatively quiet yet convenient/accessible

22nd Avenue (between Rupert & Renfrew Ave)

- » General desire for more shops, services and variety, especially close to Renfrew Community Centre
- » Chong Lee return eagerly awaited, a grocery store is missed in the area
- » Nothing going on / hard to connect to neighbors: More cafes, restaurants, pubs
- » 22nd could be potential ‘high street’: Green street with benches, but concerns about traffic

Rupert and Renfrew SkyTrain Station Area

- » Seen as underserved, poorly connected, and unsafe – especially Rupert Station
- » Support increased retail in and around station – groceries, convenience goods, food retail, restaurants for both workers and residents
- » Improved walking / biking connections around and between
- » More activation of public spaces near stations: street markets, food trucks

OPEN HOUSES

Grandview Hwy / Broadway Corridor

- » Not all big box valued by local residents – only Walmart/ Superstore repeatedly mentioned as important sources for affordable groceries and convenient access
- » Participants would like to see small shops mixed in
- » Better area access / connections, esp. by bike and foot, but need for continued parking
- » Arterials: mixed comments on retail suitability - some think it's a bad location, others want to see more densification/mixed use and retail options
- » Expansion at Grandview and Rupert/Renfrew intersections supported due to station proximity

Employment Lands East of Highway/West of Boundary

- » Poor availability and/or access to food options

Corner Store Locations

- » Renfrew St and Nootka between Charles and Parker: Quiet, lots of bikes - good place for corner store or coffee shop
- » Lillooet St and 5th Ave
- » Rupert St and Kitchener (Rupert Park)
- » Slocan between about 7th and 2nd: Opportunity for corner stores along Slocan - connected to schools, bike route and slow street
- » Falaise Park - Dieppe Dr / Vimy Cres: High school kids go to Canada Way to buy food (dangerous crossing at Boundary)

Big Box Key Themes:

- » Big Box retail has high levels of support, with Superstore and Walmart receiving explicit mentions as important sources of convenient and affordable goods
- » Broad support for continued accessibility by car but call for better accessibility by bike and foot as well as changed built form with added smaller stores as that seemed a better use of the space to people than the large surface parking lots
- » Overall agreement to all big box questions: benefit both the area and region, redevelop to improve biking/walking access, redevelop to include small stores, stay in area
- » Tension in comments between desire for more support of small businesses instead of big box – preference to shop at smaller local stores if they were as affordable - Can the convenience & services of the “big box” be provided in another form?
- » Only places explicitly mentioned: Superstore, WalMart, Canadian Tire, Save On Foods, Pet store.



