

CITY COMMONS

PROGRAM GUIDE

JULY 11-14, 2013

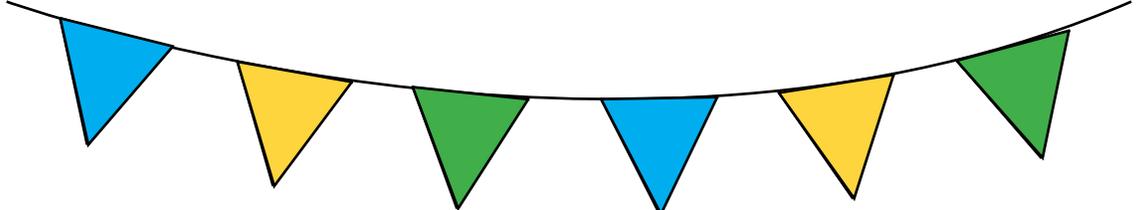
with a special opening event on July 10

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WHAT IS CITY COMMONS?

City Commons is a multi-day, citywide placemaking event that encourages community members to work together to repair, transform, and make shared places. By day, participants will collaborate on placemaking projects. We will continue to gather into the evening for workshops, live music, and activities that celebrate our neighbourhoods.

This event is brought to you by the Vancouver Tool Library (VTL), the Lower Mainland's first cooperative tool-lending library. Our organization serves individuals and families who wish to reduce their impact on our planet's resources, learn new skills to use in their homes and communities, and contribute their time and energy to meaningful projects and initiatives. The VTL is committed to inclusivity and is accessible to those of varying income levels, diverse backgrounds, and different age groups. We wish to inspire people to achieve a connection to their home, their neighbourhood, and their city. City Commons is one way in which we are beginning to do so.

By providing support through resources, people power, and tools, we will assist dedicated community members as they work together with their neighbours to create 'common ground', places that empower and engage them. Both the process of building and the places created will foster real and meaningful connections on a neighbourhood level. We acknowledge that these connections can take years to create. It is our hope is that this year we will establish a benchmark for future events, contributing to longstanding effects on the connectedness of our communities.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- 1) Show up at a site, ready to help out. You can commit the time that you have, whether that is one hour or four days. You can bring tools, friends, music, or food to share as well! You are not obligated to stay at one site over the course of the event. You may move around to different areas, depending on your interest, availability, and the needs of the various sites. If there is a site in your neighbourhood that you are particularly drawn to, feel free to stay there the whole time.
- 2) Attend evening events. There will be workshops, facilitated discussions, activities, block parties, and live music. Come out and play!
- 3) Spread the word. Tell everyone you know about City Commons!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How were City Commons sites and projects chosen?

Plans for City Commons were first announced by the Vancouver Tool Library in February 2013. In March, the City Commons Organizing Committee held a public open house and info session at Mount Pleasant Community Centre to share the vision of City Commons, describe the general types of projects that would be suitable, and brainstorm projects together. Following this, an open call for Site Applications was made and a number of applications from potential Site Hosts were received. Many of these potential projects had been developed by Site Hosts in consultation with their neighbours and community. In May, these Site Hosts attended a weekend training session at Southlands Farm with the Organizing Committee where we worked together on a garden and natural building project, participated in the facilitation of a project design critique, and attended workshops on volunteer management, tool safety, and conflict resolution. Since May, the Site Hosts have been working with the Organizing Committee to finalize the details of their projects.

Can I bring my kids to City Commons events?

Our evening events and workshops will be all-ages events. You can find out more about the evening happenings on our website and social media. City Commons project sites are family-friendly but please keep the following in mind:

- Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian
- Please be prepared to supervise your own children at City Commons project sites. Child care is not provided.
- There are lots of activities for kids to work on at our sites but not all of them at all sites will be appropriate for hands-on participation. Power tool use, for example, is not permitted on City Commons project sites by anyone under the age of 18. Before jumping into a project, please check in with the project's Site Host about specific tasks that would be fun and suitable for your children to take on!

Do I need to have building skills to help out at City Commons project sites?

This event is open to all skill levels! Check in with Project Site Hosts if you're unsure what tasks would be suitable for your skill level and, if you're a beginner, take advantage of the opportunity to learn skills from new friends!

Do I need to pre-register?

No, you can drop in to help out at any project site, for whatever amount of time that you have, whether that is one hour or four days. You are not obligated to stay at one site over the course of the event. You may move around to different areas, depending on your interest, availability, and the needs of the various sites. If there is a site that you are particularly drawn to, feel free to stay there the whole time.

What do I do when I get to a project site?

1. Find the Site Host, who will show you what's happening at the site and how you can help out.
2. Sign a waiver.
3. Meet other participants and get working!
4. Repeat at any site you drop in on.

Do I need to bring anything to the project sites?

We recommend wearing closed-toe shoes and clothes that you don't mind getting dirty, and bringing your own water bottle. Other than that, nothing special is required. If you do want to bring something, feel free to bring tools (see project descriptions for specific tool requests), friends, music, or food to share!

I have a great idea for a project, how can I get involved as a Site Host next year?

We hope to expand to more neighbourhoods next year! Get in touch with our Organizing Committee through lauren@vancouvertoollibrary.com for more information and to have your name added to our mailing list so that we can get in touch with you when we begin planning for City Commons 2014.



Happy building!

LIST OF EVENTS BY DATE

Events are subject to change. Keep an eye on our website and social media

Wednesday, July 10

Opening Event at Safe Amp **6:30pm-9:30pm**

Thursday, July 11

Cascadia North Cooperative Cob Oven **10am-12pm and 1pm-4pm**

Mushboo UFARM Farm Raising **9am-12pm**

Transforming Public Space through Food and Gardens **5:30pm-8pm**

Friday, July 12

Cascadia North Cooperative Cob Oven **10am-12pm and 1pm-4pm**

Mushboo UFARM Farm Raising **9am-4pm**

City Secrets Scavenger Hunt **7:30pm-dusk**

Saturday, July 13

Cascadia North Cooperative Cob Oven **10am-12pm and 1pm-4pm**

Mushboo UFARM Farm Raising **9am-12pm**

Gather Round Street Mural Painting **11am-6pm**

The Plot Thickens: Lakeview Church Community Garden **9am-3pm**

Public Art and Public Space **7:30pm**

Sunday, July 14

Cascadia North Cooperative Cob Oven **10am-12pm and 1pm-4pm**

Mushboo UFARM Farm Raising **9am-4pm**

Livable Laneways: Paths to Plazas **10am-4pm**

Southlands Farm Educational Fort + Theatre **11am-6pm**

Closing Event **TBD**

LIST OF SITES BY NEIGHBOURHOOD

Mount Pleasant

Gather Round Street Mural Painting

Livable Laneways: Paths to Plazas

Hastings-Sunrise

Cascadia North Cooperative Cob Oven

Kensington-Cedar Cottage

The Plot Thickens: Lakeview Church Community
Garden

Dunbar-Southlands

UFARM Farm Raising

Southlands Farm Educational Fort + Theatre

GATHER ROUND STREET MURAL PAINTING

Location: 10th Avenue and St. George intersection

Site Hosts: Emily Payne and Alicia MacLean

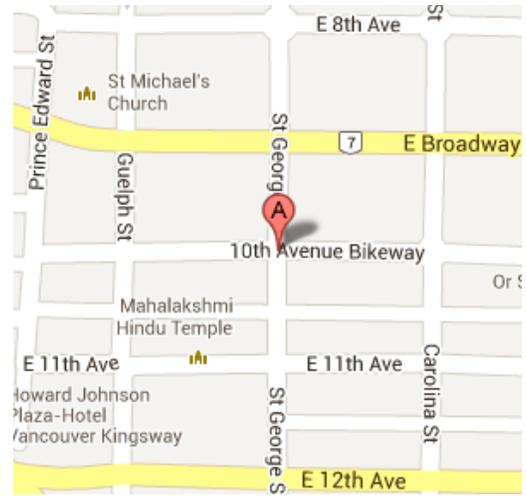
Project Description: Where the 10th Avenue Bikeway and the St. George Rainway meet is a newly established neighbourhood gathering point. Let's splash some paint on the road to highlight what best represents the crossing. A design based on community consultation has been developed and will be repainted each year.

SCHEDULE:

Saturday, July 13:

- 11am - Pre-painting pancake breakfast
- 12pm - Start painting
- 5pm - Finish painting & clean-up
- 6pm - Neighbourhood potluck & activities

In the event of rain on the 13th, painting will take place at the same times on July 14th.



Getting there: East or west along the 10th Avenue Bikeway (between Main and Fraser). Bus routes 3, 8, 9, 19, and 99 stop nearby.

Background fact: The Gather Round is Vancouver's smallest park, initiated by a group of neighbours who wanted a nearby place to get together. They host work parties and serve coffee on Sunday afternoons.

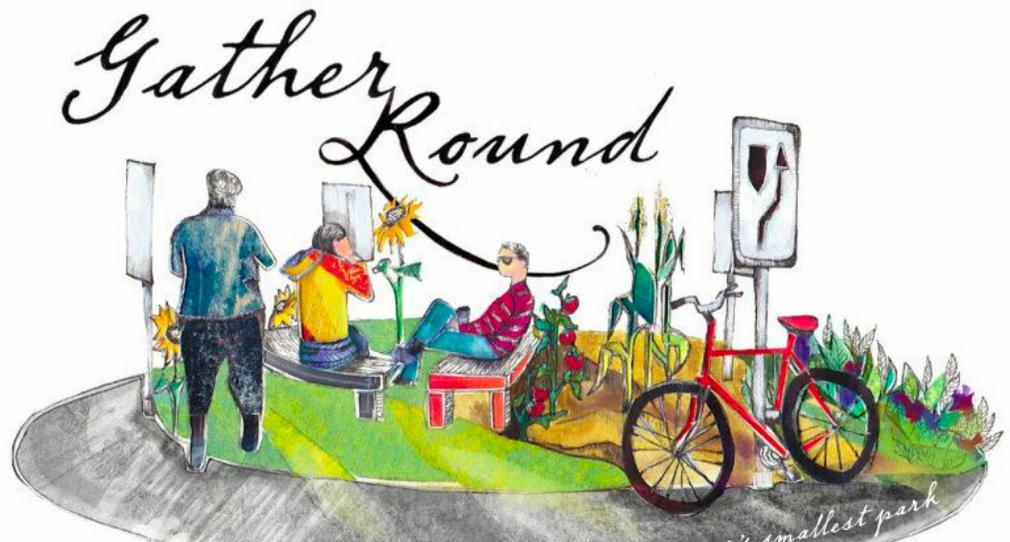


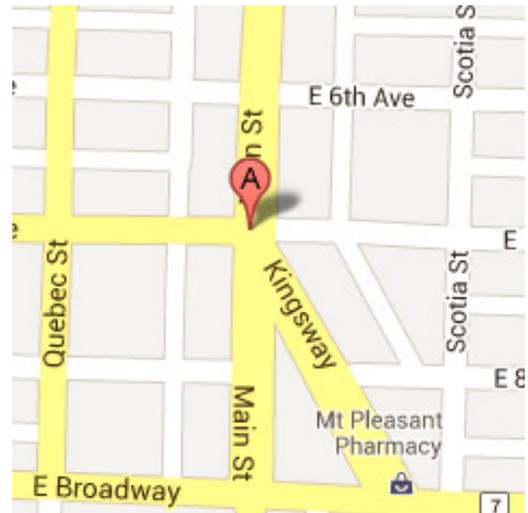
Illustration used with permission from artist Sarah Clement

LIVABLE LANEWAYS: PATHS TO PLAZAS

Location: EasyPark parking lot at 7th and Main

Site Hosts: Jasminka Prelovac and Varouj Gumuchian

Project Description: The 7th and Main parking lot is at the historical heart of Mount Pleasant. This Livable Laneways project is a tribute to the area's pre-automobile days when the Mount Pleasant Bandstand, situated at this juncture, was a seasonal gathering place for the community when they came together to listen to the band play each Sunday. The central design intervention will be a multi-functional seating and stage area that will sit at the center of the northern lot on the existing island and tree planter.



Getting there: Take the Adanac or Lakewood Bikeway. Bus routes 4, 7, 14, and 16 stop nearby.

Background fact: Livable Laneways is a non-profit organization dedicated to transforming the overlooked laneways and alleys of Vancouver into pedestrian-friendly civic spaces.

SCHEDULE:

Sunday, July 14:

10am-4pm Building planter boxes and benches to add to the proposed design



CASCADIA NORTH COOPERATIVE COB OVEN

Location: Kamloops Nisga'a Nation Office at St. David's Church, 2475 Franklin Street

Site Hosts: Jill Whitelaw and Michael Yankoski

Project Description: Break bread with us! This cob oven is a great community food asset where fresh baked goods can be made and shared. Although there will be a fence around the site to contain the oven, anyone interested in using it is encouraged to do so. The site will be on the North East corner of the property. A garden will either be added before or during City Commons and that will also be open to anyone who wants to use it.

SCHEDULE:

All times are 10am-12pm and 1-4pm

Thursday, July 11: Prepare the ground, start building the foundation of the oven and bench, Test soil, lay bricks. Mold sand. Create dense oven mud and cob over sand.

Friday, July 12: Cob the base, examine the cob. If ready, excavate.

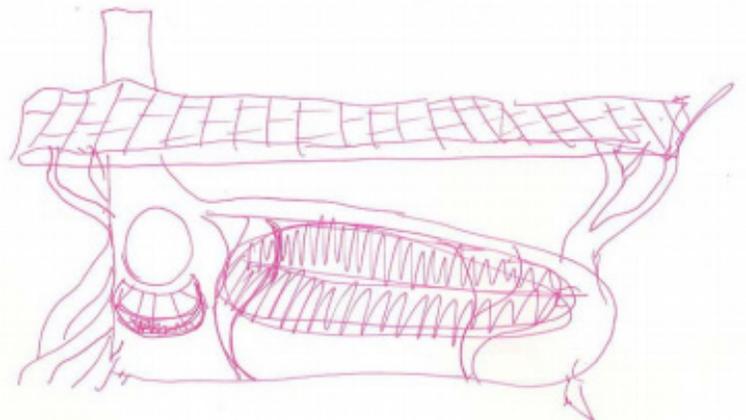
Saturday, July 13: Continue cobbing bench, integrate with roof. Shape door, and fire.

Sunday, July 14: Insulation layer cobbing, and finishing.



Getting there: Take the Adanac or Lakewood Bikeway. Bus routes 4, 7, 14, and 16 stop nearby.

Background fact: Cob building is an ancient natural building technique, combining materials such as clay, sand, straw, water and dirt. Cob is fireproof, long-lasting, and inexpensive to produce.



Tentative design for cob oven

THE PLOT THICKENS: LAKEVIEW CHURCH COMMUNITY GARDEN

Location: Lakeview United Church, 2776 Semlin Drive (near 12th Avenue)

Site Host: Jonathan Bird

Project Description: It's a fixer-upper. The Lakeview Church Community Garden is designated for the promotion of food security and sovereignty within the low-income community in Kensington-Cedar Cottage. This site needs some work: a path, three compost bins, a small tool shed, and some other aesthetics. There is potential for partnerships with nearby community kitchens, social housing sites, and the Cedar Cottage Food Network to seek input in the creation of programs and events for everyone.

SCHEDULE:

Saturday, July 13:

9am - Mowing and trimming back overgrown spots, then clearing and levelling space for the compost bins and the tool shed

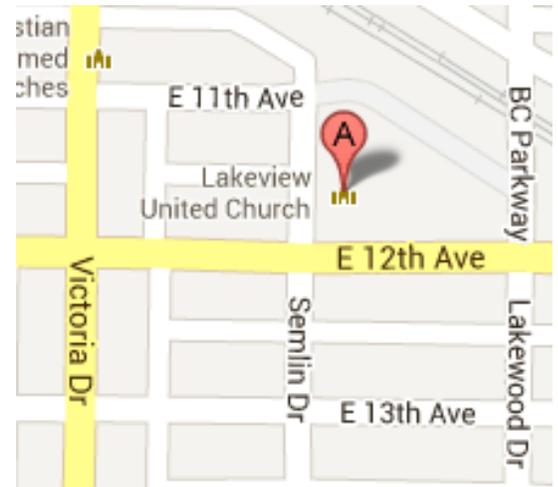
10am - Plant the beds, frame the shed and bins, and paint shed siding and trim down to size

12pm - Lunch

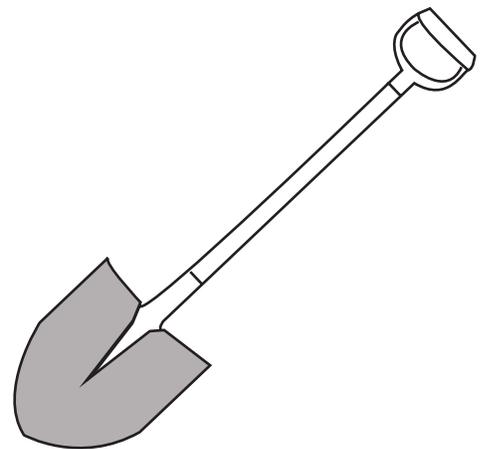
12:30pm - Finish framing and painting, transfer organic material to bins

1:30pm - Build the shed, seed water main area with grass and flowers

Tools volunteers can bring: cordless drills, hand saws, hammers, paint brushes, wire cutters, gravel rake, tape measures, framing squares, levels, saw horses, gas mower or weed whacker



Getting there: Close to the Commercial-Broadway Skytrain Station. Bus routes 9, 20, and 99 stop nearby.

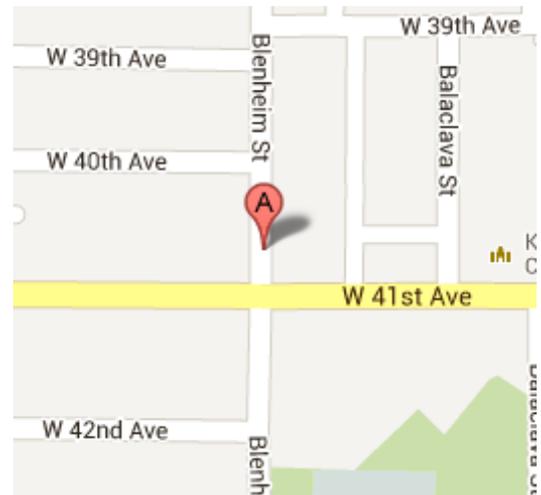


MUSHBOO UFARM FARM RAISING

Location: 5670 Blenheim Street (at 41st Avenue)

Site Hosts: Matthew Unger and Alisha Hackinen

Project Description: Mushboo is a Vancouver company which combines the unique composting properties of mushrooms and the sustainability of bamboo to create a hybrid garden system. UFARM stands for Urban Farming Art Research and Mycorenewal Center and is being developed in partnership with local universities, businesses, and urban farmers. The Center will include community garden plots, urban farming research plots, bioremediation research and a seed/knowledge exchange hub! This is a vacant lot that will be converted into one urban farming research and education space.



Getting there: Blenheim is two blocks east of Dunbar Street. Bus routes 7, 22, and 41 stop nearby.

Background fact: Whoa, mushrooms! Mushboo calls mushrooms “nature’s recycling service” because they grow well on what we consider to be ‘waste’ and produce a natural fertilizer for future plant growth.

SCHEDULE:

Thursday, July 11: 9am-12pm - Build garden composting system

Friday, July 12 9am-4pm build and add soil amendments to research and community garden beds

Saturday, July 13 9am-12pm build farm info and seed exchange stand.

Sunday, July 14 9am-4pm planting (herbs and vegetables) in starter beds.

Tools volunteers can bring: drills, hammers, measuring tapes, circular saw and level for compost and farm info stand construction. Spades, rakes, hoes, hand trowels, wheelbarrows, other gardening equipment.

SOUTHLANDS FARM EDUCATIONAL FORT + THEATRE

Location: 6767 Balaclava Street (at 51st Avenue)

Site Hosts: Travis Pawlak and Jordan Maynard

Project Description: Southlands Farm, a family-run farm within city limits, offers educational programming, horseback riding, and summer camps. Their mission is to grow and support local food systems, while providing visitors with a chance to experience farm life while understanding the unique and beautiful animals and ecosystems in Southlands. Join the Farm staff in the construction an open air theatre & education shelter for the future Farm School, complete with green roof.

SCHEDULE:

Sunday, July 14:

11am - Gather for coffee

12pm - Start post holes then work on green roof

3pm - Raise that roof!

4pm - Celebrate the space with a small ceremony

5pm - Throw soil and plant on the roof

6pm - Dinner and a fire



Getting there: Take the 45th Avenue Bikeway west from any joining route in the city. Bus route 49 stops nearby. Rent a car from Modo the Car Co-op with friends.



EVENING EVENTS

Wednesday, July 10: Opening Event

Where: Safe Amplification Site Society, 1739 Venables St (basement of Astorino's)

When: Doors at 6:30pm. Event runs from 7–9:30pm

What: Join us at City Commons' Opening Night to get excited and celebrate the power of placemaking! Find out more about the City Commons projects and events that are taking place from Thursday through Sunday, get inspired to participate by hearing from some of the movers and shakers behind placemaking in Vancouver, and linger a while to enjoy some live music from Rosie and the Jugheads, an awesome traditional/early jazz band!

Guest speakers include:

- Andy Longhurst (Host of weekly urban affairs program and podcast "The City")
- Lisa Moore (Co-founder, Rhizome Café)
- Naomi Steinberg and Shahira Sakiyama (St. George Rainway Project)
- And others

Entry by donation, suggested \$3 – 5

For more info, updates, and to RSVP: <http://bit.ly/CCOpening>

Thursday, July 11: Transforming Public Space through Food and Gardens

Where: Cottonwood Community Garden (south side of Strathcona Park, at the intersection of Malkin Ave. and Raymur Ave.)

When: 5:30pm

What: Join us in Cottonwood Community Garden for a City Commons Evening Event to celebrate and learn more about the powerful role that food and gardening play in catalyzing placemaking efforts and bringing people together in public space. This is a family-friendly event, all ages are welcome. We'll meet in the garden at 5:30 for a picnic dinner (bring your own dinner and picnic blanket!). Garden tours and discussion will start around 6:30.

Guest speakers include:

- Len Kydd (Gardener, Cottonwood Community Garden)
- Jordan Maynard (Farmer, Southlands Farm)
- Kelsey Corbet (Garden Anchor, "Radicle Beets", The Purple Thistle Youth Urban Agriculture Project)

For more info, updates, and to RSVP: <http://bit.ly/CCFood>

Friday, July 12: City Secrets Scavenger Hunt

Where: Start at Kickstand Bike Shop, 1739 Venables St.

When: 7:30pm

What: Bring your adventurous spirit and inner detective and get ready for an evening spent exploring some of East Vancouver's well-loved and lesser-known public places. Meet outside Kickstand to form teams and receive your Scavenger Hunt Guidebook of Clues, then take to the streets to "get lost" in your own community! We'll reconvene at Kickstand before sundown to compare notes and find out what everyone discovered. Stay tuned to our website and facebook page for more details and an RSVP link!

Saturday, July 13: Public Art and Public Space

Where: Location TBD

When: 7:30pm

What: Join us for an interactive evening to make art and hear from a panel of speakers involved in projects using art as a medium to engage community members and create inclusive, creative, and beautiful public spaces. Stay tuned to our website and facebook page for more details and an RSVP link!

Sunday, July 14: City Commons Closing Party

We're still working out the details on this one! So save the date and stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for more details about how and where we plan to celebrate what we've accomplished over the four days of City Commons.

Special thanks to those who have contributed to this event as part of the Organizing Committee:

**Chris Diplock
Caitlin Dorward
Nicky Grunfeld
Genta Ishimura
Ashleigh Kolla
Jordan Maynard
Lauren McGuire-Wood
Gala Milne
Travis Pawlak**

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*Thank you to our Site Hosts, workshop instructors, guest speakers,
and everyone else who made this possible!*