INNOVATION: THE SHOCK OF THE POSSIBLE
2014 COMMUNITY SUMMIT
19-23 OCTOBER
British Columbia has always been a home to innovators. We’ve regularly overcome challenges by utilizing our ingenuity and creativity. And there’s never been a greater need for innovative thinking than now.

We continue to see instability in our economy. Growth in GDP and job creation are slow. What’s becoming obvious is injecting money into the system and tinkering with interest rates are limited tools. We need to innovate in order to create an economy that benefits all of us.

As a community credit union and a member of the Global Alliance for Banking on Values, Vancity takes a values-based approach to our economy, society and environment. This people-centred model emits creativity, enables trust and contributes to communities that aren’t just financially healthy – but socially and environmentally healthy too.

We’re delighted to support SFU Public Square’s Community Summit, and even more excited about the topic of people-centred innovation. We know that the creative ideas that emerge from this time will develop new ways forward for strong new businesses, a healthy economy and vibrant communities.

Chris Dobrzanski
Chief Economist, Vancity
CEO, Citizens Bank

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Vancouver Foundation has always taken a broad approach to our work, recognizing that communities are complex and that many things are needed to make them the best they can be. That’s why every year, with our donors, we fund hundreds of innovative projects – large and small – in areas such as arts and culture, education, children and youth issues, environment, animal welfare, community health, and social development.

Vancouver Foundation believes that investing in open, public dialogue designed to generate ideas and solutions from within communities is crucial for igniting the leaps in innovation required to address issues that will impact generations to come. We are proud to support SFU Public Square’s 2014 Community Summit.
On behalf of my colleagues on Vancouver City Council and the citizens of Vancouver, I want to welcome everyone to the SFU Public Square 2014 Community Summit. This year, the City of Vancouver was a proud sponsor of one of the signature events of the Community Summit—the Young Innovators Crawl.

On Sunday, October 19th, 2014, over 75 young innovators from the fields of design, technology, food, arts, culture and social justice opened their doors to the public. The Crawl brought the public to sites across the city, where young innovators showcased their wares and shared their insights on what it takes to be an entrepreneur in our region.

The City of Vancouver is proud to be the home of so many young innovators. We are also proud to be the venue of the SFU Public Square. This dynamic week of programming profiles both the strengths and challenges that innovation poses to our present and future society.

I want to thank everyone who has made both the Young Innovator Crawl and this year’s SFU Public Square Community Summit a success.

The Vancouver Economic Commission (VEC), an agency of the City of Vancouver, works to strengthen the city’s economy by building stronger local businesses, attracting new investment and positioning Vancouver as a globally recognized city for innovative, creative, and sustainable business.

By working closely with local and international businesses of all sizes, industry associations, post-secondary institutions and all levels of government, the VEC builds relationships—connecting businesses, individuals and organizations with complementary goals and visions.

We are thrilled that this year’s SFU Public Square Community Summit is shining a light on the innovative spirit embodied in Vancouver’s business community that we are lucky enough to witness every day in our interactions. Many game-changing ideas, from ethical funds to the 100 mile diet, have been born in Vancouver, we believe due to our unique environment that inspires and nurtures innovation. The VEC look forward to further promoting some of the new innovations highlighted this week on the world stage, and hope that they can turn into the game-changing ideas of tomorrow.
THANK YOU FROM THE SFU PUBLIC SQUARE TEAM

STEPHEN A. JARISLOWSKY
For his generous support as a member of the SFU Public Square Founding Council. Dr. Jarislowsky’s continuing record of philanthropy and civic leadership stands as one of the best examples of global citizenship and democratic engagement. He has been active in educational, cultural and charitable activities of many kinds, has endowed more than twenty-three University Chairs and contributes frequently to television, radio, magazines and newspapers.

PARTICIPANTS
What makes a public square vibrant and inviting are the people who gather within. We’re lucky at SFU because thousands of British Columbians, from all walks of life, join in our annual Community Summit. Some bring their expertise and professional advice, others come to be inspired or provoked. We want to thank the people who have made SFU Public Square their own as young innovators, judges, crawlers, sea level rise idea entrepreneurs, educational reformers, health connectors, local business developers, summit sponsors, innovation thought leaders, bloggers, zero waste pioneers, open textbook advocates, social media networkers and artists. But most of all we want to thank you—for showing up and being curious and for making SFU Public Square an exciting place for dialogue, exchange and innovation.

VOLUNTEERS
For all your hard work in support of SFU Public Square. You were with us every step of the way, be it helping out with research and promotion, or in the office and at events. Your contributions were vital to the success of the 2014 Community Summit.

SFU CREATIVE SERVICES
For the vision, creative talents and skills in capturing this year’s Community Summit people and events in print and broadcast.

ADVISORS, PARTNERS & SPONSORS
For your generosity and guidance and your trust in our efforts. Special thanks to our returning partners and a big thanks to those sponsors who have joined us for the first time. We are supported by so many staff, faculty, alumni and students and especially by our colleagues at our home at the SFU Centre for Dialogue.

SFU PUBLIC SQUARE STAFF
The 2014 Community Summit is the result of the efforts of hundreds of people, but none more dedicated than our staff of SFU students and interns guided by our talented Program Director, Janet Webber.
A MESSAGE FROM CHANCELLOR ANNE GIARDINI AND PRESIDENT ANDREW PETTER

Welcome to the 2014 SFU Public Square Community Summit. And now that you are here, we would like to extend that welcome to SFU Public Square year-round.

The animating belief behind Public Square is that the health of our society, strength of our democracy, and source of our prosperity all depend upon the ability of citizens to come together and engage in dialogue and deliberation. We need places where everyone feels welcome, safe and supported—where we can have fundamental, fascinating, and sometimes fierce conversations about the issues that unite and divide us.

That’s why SFU made it a goal to be B.C.’s public square for enlightenment and dialogue on key public issues. Given our vision to be “Canada’s most community-engaged research university,” we saw an opportunity and a responsibility to fill that role.

Our inaugural Community Summit in 2012 demonstrated the public’s desire for this form of engagement. Thousands joined us to talk about the issues of Isolation and Disconnection in Metro Vancouver. Last year, we welcomed thousands more to Chart B.C.’s Economic Future, testing our commitment to overcoming traditional divisions by developing a common economic strategy that advances wealth creation, social equity and environmental sustainability.

This year, our third annual summit centres on Innovation: The Shock of the Possible. We ask if innovation can inspire a new generation of imaginative thinkers and be harnessed to bring about a bright future of enlightenment, health and prosperity. Or will innovation exacerbate inequality, destabilize public institutions, and lessen efforts to tackle the major challenges we face? And what is our capacity and responsibility as citizens to manage the costs of innovation while ensuring its benefits are widely shared?

Innovation and invention is the central story of the human experience. We seek to improve our quality of life, to solve societal problems, and to generate new and creative ways to engage humanity. We explore how innovation can contribute to—and how might it hamper—finding workable solutions to the biggest challenges facing us today?

As we search for common answers, we need to hear from the best experts and the most passionate advocates. We also need good communications and plenty of goodwill. In this regard, we would like to thank our summit co-sponsors, the Vancouver Foundation and Vancity, for their generous support, as well as the Vancouver Sun, for carrying forth the conversation. We thank the City of Vancouver, the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, RADIUS, the Vancouver Economic Commission, and everyone who has made our SFU Public Square a space for these conversations.

The breadth and scope of this year’s events illustrate that SFU Public Square is not limited to a single space or time. The dialogue is expansive and ongoing.

Thank you for joining us for this Summit. We hope you enjoy it—and that you will stay with us throughout the year.

CHANCELLOR ANNE GIARDINI, Simon Fraser University

PRESIDENT ANDREW PETTER, Simon Fraser University
How do you program a Community Summit on Innovation? The term innovation is ubiquitous. There are so many definitions—from those who advocate a focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), to business concepts of innovation to notions of social innovation. So where should a community-engaged academic institution begin?

We began where we always do at SFU Public Square—by consulting our community—dozens of young and seasoned innovators, public servants and investors. We probed the academic literature, the popular press and the online world to gain a greater appreciation of the scope of activities and schools of thoughts that carry the innovation brand.

And as we toured the globe, we asked the question—how are we interpreting, embracing, questioning and advancing innovation in our own backyard?

Our 2014 Community Summit theme, Innovation: The Shock of the Possible, captures the tension we want to convey in this year's week-long series of events. We are enamoured with the possibility innovation brings to our lives, yet we are unnerved by the disruption that it causes. It would have been so easy to adopt the language of embracing innovation, but then we wouldn't be SFU Public Square if we did. Our role is to probe and understand innovation, to look at the good that it brings but also to consider its underbelly.

To that end we adopted an approach to this year’s program that explores innovation through four streams: economy, environment, health and education. Each stream offers a small window on the vast world of innovation, and each activity adopts a different approach to opening that window.

We hope you enjoy and are challenged by this year’s Community Summit theme. We invite you to add your voice to SFU Public Square by visiting us online at www.sfu.ca/publicsquare.
An evening of thought provoking discussion exploring the opportunities and challenges presented by innovation.

**Ray Kurzweil** is one of the world’s leading inventors, thinkers, and futurists, with a thirty-year track record of accurate predictions. Called “the restless genius” by *The Wall Street Journal* and “the ultimate thinking machine” by *Forbes* magazine, Kurzweil was selected as one of the top entrepreneurs by *Inc.* magazine, which described him as the “rightful heir to Thomas Edison.” PBS selected him as one of the “sixteen revolutionaries who made America.”

**Richard Florida** is “as close to a household name as it is possible for an urban theorist to be in America,” according to *The Economist*, while *MIT Technology Review* recently named him one of the world’s most influential thinkers. He is author of several global best sellers, including the award-winning *The Rise of the Creative Class*. *TIME* magazine recognized his Twitter feed as one of the 140 most influential in the world. Florida is currently the Director of the Martin Prosperity Institute at the University of Toronto’s Rotman School of Management, Global Research Professor at New York University, and founder of the Creative Class Group.

**Amanda Lang** is the senior business correspondent for CBC News and co-host of CBC TV’s Lang and O’Leary Exchange, with a front-row seat to the world’s daily top stories in business, politics, and economics. Amanda is a veteran moderator, and author of the bestseller *The Power of Why: Simple Questions That Lead to Success*, a book that shows readers how to reignite curiosity at any age to become more innovative and productive.
Are you ready to explore the opportunities and challenges of innovation? Join in the discussion as we ask what innovation means for BC, Canada, and beyond.

October 19
RISE is an open ideas competition addressing sea level rise in Metro Vancouver. It’s a way for anyone in our diverse community to develop innovative ideas that will help us to adapt and thrive – faster than the waters that surround us. Our aim is to raise awareness of this important issue and provide the space for innovative ideas to emerge.

October 22
This dynamic, one-day conference brings together leading academics, policy-makers, and innovative educators. They explore the theme of innovation in student-oriented learning. Innovations in pedagogy, technology, and programming will all be explored. There will be collaborative peer learning, workshops facilitated by leading scholars, and a festival of new ideas in undergraduate learning.

October 22
An evening of thought-provoking and provocative discussion featuring Ray Kurzweil and Richard Florida, moderated by CBC’s Amanda Lang. Talking about innovation raises important questions to which we must find answers. Before it’s too late. Prompting the ultimate question: Will innovation save us?
The Young Innovators Crawl is your chance to meet creatives from the worlds of design, technology, sustainability, food, arts and culture, and social innovation. Bring your friends and family to explore the studios and open houses of an amazing line up of innovators. Enjoy lively conversation, food trucks, breweries, idea jams, demos, pop-up exhibits, performances and more.

At this event, experts lead a dialogue on how to foster innovations in zero waste. Participants explore systems for going beyond diversion that tackle sources of waste before they need to be managed.

A roundtable of thought leaders, practitioners and health industry innovators addresses emerging issues related to technology, big data and social connectivity, and their impact on patient health in BC.

In celebrating Open Access Week, this is an interactive session featuring three speakers actively engaged in the production, adoption, and use of open textbooks.

Can Vancouver create a new neighbourhood that is beautiful, interesting and joyful—and which also creates its own energy, uses its own water, and produces no waste? A special lunch time conversation to explore the issues.

A morning event dedicated to building Business Innovation in the Local Economy where Vancity asks and businesses prove that values-based business is viable.
COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

VOICES IN THE SQUARE
The SFU Public Square team would like to express our thanks and gratitude to all of our partners.

SFU Public Square Founding Council Member
Stephen A. Jarislowsky

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