COMMUNITY SUMMIT
OCT. 30–NOV. 7, 2015
SFU.CA/WETHECITY #WETHECITY
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 inspires creativity, enables trust and builds 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 creativity, arts and culture in building and sustaining our cities. We know that the creative ideas that emerge from this gathering will contribute to ensuring vibrant communities for us all.

Jan O’Brien
Chair, Vancity Board of Directors

Tamara Vrooman
President and CEO, Vancity

RECODE
FUELLING SOCIAL INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN HIGHER EDUCATION

We believe the post-secondary sector is a place where real change can flourish. A place where today’s brightest minds come together to address today’s most complex challenges. This is just one of the reasons we are excited to be working with SFU Public Square on hosting this event and to have the opportunity to continue learning how to do this work.

By supporting social innovation and social entrepreneurship on campuses across Canada, we see potential—of students, faculty, and campus leadership to develop creative solutions, drive change, and nourish a culture of innovation. What do you see?

TAKE PART!

Visit www.RE-CODE.ca and join the conversation on Twitter and Facebook @LetsRECODE #LetsRECODE. www.recodecollaborate.org
A MESSAGE from

Chancellor Anne Giardini and President Andrew Petter

Welcome to the SFU Public Square’s 2015 Community Summit—We the City.

A summit, like a city, is an empty shell without people. And that speaks to the animating idea behind SFU Public Square: that the health of our community depends upon citizens coming together to engage in dialogue and deliberation.

That’s why SFU in 2012 resolved to be B.C.’s public square for enlightenment and dialogue on key community issues. We saw that we have an opportunity—and responsibility—within our larger vision to be Canada’s most community-engaged research university.

Our “public square” is both physical and virtual. We have meeting rooms, lecture halls and theatres, but we also make space for dialogue in social media and throughout the wider community, most ambitiously in our annual SFU Public Square Community Summit.

This is our fourth summit. Each one has focused on an issue that people identified as important to the community. This year’s theme is city building. As suggested by its title—We the City—our approach to city building goes beyond that of an urban planner or engineer. The city we seek to explore in this summit is one defined less by its roads, bridges and buildings—although those are important—than by the nature and quality of the city’s civic institutions and social interactions.

Reading through these pages, you’ll get a fuller sense of the questions we’re considering—from the role of universities to the contributions of innovation, arts and culture in shaping and sustaining the city.

We couldn’t have this conversation without you. And we could not sustain this dialogue without the commitment and assistance of our summit sponsors listed in this program.

So, to you and to them, thank you. If you are a regular SFU Public Square participant, welcome back. If you are a newcomer, please feel welcome and needed. To all of you, stay a while. Expand your knowledge and join in an inclusive, intelligent, and inspiring dialogue.

We hope you enjoy your time here—and that you will return to us many times throughout the year.
A MESSAGE from
Kevin McCort, President and CEO, Vancouver Foundation

Young people are essential to a greener future. So we are proud to support ReThink Food, the first innovation challenge that asks high school students to design and implement ideas to reconnect us to local food, cultivate healthy eating, and reduce food waste.

Vancouver Foundation supports this work through our partnership with The City of Vancouver to create the $2 million Greenest City Fund in order to help make Vancouver the greenest city in the world by 2020. Together, we support ideas generated and implemented by local people to make their communities more sustainable.

We look forward to seeing the ideas students come up with, and to all the other events that bring people together during SFU Public Square’s We The City: 2015 Community Summit.

A MESSAGE from
Mayor Gregor Robertson, City of Vancouver

On behalf of my colleagues on Vancouver City Council and the citizens of Vancouver, I want to welcome everyone to the SFU Public Square 2015 Community Summit.

The focus of this year’s Summit, city building, is particularly exciting for us at City Hall. We know that the livability and sustainability of our neighbourhoods is strengthened when we work together to address the issues that affect us all, and the Community Summit offers an unparalleled opportunity for residents to engage in a comprehensive dialogue on the future of our city. In creating spaces for collaboration on the challenges we face as cities, the Summit facilitates innovative solutions that strengthen our communities and help us to build a more engaged, dynamic, and inclusive city.

The City of Vancouver is proud to once again support the SFU Public Square Community Summit, and I want to thank everyone who has made this year’s Summit a success.
A MESSAGE from
SFU Public Square Executive Director, Shauna Sylvester

We the City—A fitting birthday party!

This year SFU turned 50. For anyone who has reached that milestone, you know that it can be an important period in one’s life. It often prompts deep reflection about the past and it can spawn excitement about the future. This year, SFU Public Square identified a theme for our Community Summit which has been both central to our university’s formation and key to our vision going forward—that theme is city-building.

As a student of SFU in the late eighties, I was lucky enough to attend the first classes at the newly minted SFU Vancouver campus. It was an odd experience taking the bus down the mountain along Hastings Street and entering the old Harbour Centre mall to study anthropology. But two months into those classes, I was hooked. I wanted all my classes to be downtown. I wasn’t surprised then when my daughter opted for the same vibrant learning environment—but instead of downtown Vancouver, she chose SFU Surrey.

Universities have always played a role in city building—but so too have cities played a role in building our places of higher learning. It’s a symbiotic relationship that can fuel economic development, innovation, artistic expression and democratic engagement.

But city-building is so much more than our institutions of higher learning—city-building involves all of us. At this year’s Community Summit, we have focused our lens on people—how we connect, how we envision our future and how we use creativity, art and culture to build our communities. While recognizing the importance of our ecosystems, our built environment, our land base and our infrastructure, We the City has chosen to highlight the choices and intentions in how each of us evolve and build our cities.

So how do we create the conditions for all of us to thrive? How do we build our cities that are safe for women, economically vibrant, inclusive and resilient? How do we ensure we have clean air, clean water and adequate investment in housing and infrastructure to support our families and neighbourhoods now and into the future?

These are just a few of the questions that we will probe through this week of diverse, creative, intellectually challenging and fun activities. What better way for a university to mark its 50th birthday?
THE SFU PUBLIC SQUARE TEAM

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Vice-President, SFU External Relations

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Executive Director, SFU Public Square

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Coordinator, Campus & Community Engagements SFU Vancouver

Maureen Solmundson  
Surrey Community Engagement & Outreach Coordinator

Elodie Jacquet  
Coordinator for COP21, Renewable Cities
How do arts and culture shape the fabric of a city?
Hear from renowned artists **CANDY CHANG, TEJU COLE, BUFFY SAINTE-MARIE**, and moderator Mo Dhaliwal.

Join us for STREET MEET & GREET—a pre-show gathering in front of the Centre starting at 5:00 pm featuring tents, food trucks, music, art and you!

**AN EVENING AT THE CENTRE**

Proudly presented in partnership with Vancity

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4**

5:00PM (STREET MEET & GREET)

7:00–9:00PM (SHOWCASE)

Doors at 6:30pm • The Centre, 777 Homer Street

**FREE ADMISSION FOR VANCITY MEMBERS**

vancity.com/wethecity
Friday, October 30

1 RESEARCHING THE CITY

Saturday, October 31

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Monday, November 2

3 HOUSING IN THE CITY
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13 THRIVE!
14 INDIGENOUS CITY GATHERING
FRIDAY
OCTOBER 30

RESEARCHING THE CITY

Think research is boring and unrelated to the real world? Think again! Researching the City is an inspirational evening showcasing how seemingly “abstract” research activities, all related in some way to the 2015 Community Summit theme of city-building, have real world impact on our city.

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 31

CAMPUS TO CITY

Colleges, Universities, and City Building

Designed by students from across Canada, this participatory, moving conference will bring together students, university faculty and staff, city building leaders and community partners to reimagine how colleges and universities can be a driving force in creating vibrant, livable, and sustainable cities.
HOUSING IN THE CITY

Beyond the Headlines

Headlines remind us constantly of our housing crisis: prices run amok, renovictions, and near-zero rental vacancy rates. This evening of storytelling will dig deeper into the story of housing in Vancouver and beyond, with an eye on working households at or below median income in urban centers across Canada.

RESILIENT RENEWABLE CITIES

How do you reduce energy use and shift to renewables while ensuring resiliency in a city?

The purpose of this event is to discuss how to best reconcile increasing renewable energy supply while reducing energy use and ensuring resiliency.

Join us for a free public dialogue with two renowned experts on urban planning and adaptation.
TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 3

ACTIONS FOR HOUSING NOW
Creating Affordable, Suitable, and Secure Housing in Canadian Cities

In partnership with the Tyee Solutions Society, the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association, SFU Urban Studies, and SFU’s School of Public Policy, we are hosting Actions for Housing Now. Attendees will collaborate on real-world policy solutions for affordable, suitable, and secure housing for working households in Canadian cities, to be presented to Canada’s new federal government.
WE THE CITY
An Evening at the Centre with Candy Chang, Teju Cole, Buffy Sainte-Marie, and Mo Dhaliwal

SFU Public Square, in partnership with Vancity present We The City: An Evening at the Centre, an engaging and interactive celebration of the important role that arts and culture play in reflecting and shaping the fabric of our cities. Candy Chang, Teju Cole, and Buffy Sainte-Marie will provide compelling talks and Mo Dhaliwal will guide us through the signature event of the 2015 Community Summit.

TILT CITY
Engaging the Streets

SFU Public Square, HCMA Architecture + Design and TILT Curiosity Labs invite you to join other engaged citizens for this one-day exciting event that gives you the chance to temporarily transform spaces in the public realm. Spend the day collaborating in teams to concoct, craft, and communicate your urban activations.
RETHINK FOOD
Sustainability Innovation Challenge

ReThink Food is a one-day innovation challenge for high school students across Metro Vancouver. Sign up as a team or as an individual (you will be placed in a team) to design a solution to our sustainability challenge question, and compete for seed funding to implement your project. Come together to generate innovative projects that can have real impact in your school!

CITY CONVERSATIONS
Would cities be different if they were designed by women?

While there are many inspirational female architects, planners and municipal politicians in cities around the world, the biggest decisions about urban development are often made by men. This special edition of City Conversation focuses on women’s perspectives on city building and bring a gender lens to city building.
OPEN CITY
One Book, One SFU—with author Teju Cole and Eleanor Wachtel

In celebration of Simon Fraser University’s 50th anniversary, SFU Library is launching One Book, One SFU. Teju Cole’s original and superbly subtle first novel, *Open City*, is the inaugural chosen book. Join for a special event during which Teju Cole and Eleanor Wachtel, host and co-founder of CBC Radio’s Writers & Company, will explore Cole’s work, the power of cities, and the lure of literature.

DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER RE-IMAGINED

We are thrilled to announce the release of the Re-imagine Downtown Vancouver findings. We have talked to thousands of folks about what they want their downtown to look, taste and feel like in 25 years. Please join us for cocktails and to hear what they had to say.
LEADING AND LEARNING

Innovative Tools for Advancing Sustainability in Surrey

The City of Surrey is updating the Sustainability Charter, our 50 year vision for becoming a more sustainable city. Join us for an engaging evening with thought leaders who will present their ideas on innovative tools for creating more sustainable cities—with a keynote speaker Chris Ragan, Chair of the Eco-Fiscal Commission.
INDIGENOUS CITY GATHERING

Join us for an stirring evening featuring extrodinary Indigenous leaders, artists and community members exploring the theme of city building. From storytelling to live painting, traditional foods and memorable performances, the first Indigenous City Gathering will spark conversation and connection.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7

THRIVE!
A Residents’ Lab on the Future of the City

Think like a city planner, take part in a unique city-building simulation, and experience what it feels like to live in the Surrey of 2030. Apply now to be one of 100 selected residents to build a vision for a city where everyone can thrive.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7
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 by showing up and being curious and for making We the City an exciting place for dialogue, exchange and innovation.

Volunteers

Year after year, the success of our Community Summit is the direct result of our volunteer teams’ dedication to, and support of, community engagement. Your commitment, passion, and energy were critical to our success. A sincere thank you from all of us here at SFU Public Square, you helped bring We The City to life!

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.
The SFU PUBLIC SQUARE team would like to express our thanks and gratitude to all of our partners.
JOIN THE CONVERSATION
#WETHECITY

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