Charting BC's Economic Future
2013 Community Summit
Program Guide

September 28 to October 4
Through the years, British Columbia has built an economy that’s withstood many challenges, most recently an economic downturn that has rattled many parts of the world. Our province has managed to navigate the rough spots, relying on abundant natural resources, a skilled and educated workforce, and a spirited entrepreneurial streak.

And now, SFU Public Square’s 2013 Community Summit is bringing us together to deliberate about the kind of economy we want to have in the future.

British Columbians think a lot about wealth: how to generate it, increase it and distribute it. As a values-based credit union, Vancity also focuses on wealth. In fact, our goal is to redefine the very term. Our vision of redefining wealth calls on us to think differently about wealth – to return to a meaning that says people can only truly prosper if they are surrounded by – and connected to – a vibrant, healthy community that is sustainable for the long term.

So we invest in the people, in the organizations, in the communities, and in the ideas that we believe will make us all stronger and more resilient over the long term.

We’re delighted to support SFU Public Square’s Community Summit on charting BC’s economic future and hear the spark of ideas about how to ensure a prosperous province for everyone in it.

Vancity believes banking can be an agent of societal transformation. There are bankers (yes, bankers) at the forefront of positive change, seeking solutions to social, environmental and economic challenges. Not so very different than a university, although we go about it in very different ways.

SFU Public Square’s Community Summit gives us all the common ground on which to engage in dialogue about some of BC’s most pressing economic issues, tapping into the creativity of people to conceive great ideas that will open doors to our future economic well-being.

I look forward to our collective deliberations.

Tamara Vrooman
President and CEO
Vancity
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.

This year, we welcome thousands more to Chart B.C.’s Economic Future. We plan to test our commitment to overcoming traditional divisions by developing a common economic strategy that advances wealth creation, social equity and environmental sustainability. This is an urgent and complex endeavour with many points of potential conflict, but many points of possible synergy as well.

It is also a discussion that holds tremendous promise. If British Columbians can develop an economic vision around which most of us can coalesce, we can devote less time and energy to arbitrating our differences, and more to advancing our shared interests.

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 co-sponsor, the Vancouver Sun, for carrying forth the conversation. Thanks to Vancity for supporting our Evening with Robert Reich, and to Telus and FortisBC for supporting our Youth Forum. And thanks to the many organizations and institutions that have made space for our City 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.
These are the public spaces where we announce ourselves as citizens, participants, as people with the right to write our own narratives,” said Barber. I found his words both poignant and moving; they connected at the heart of what we have been trying to create with SFU Public Square.

In 2012, we launched our inaugural Community Summit by exploring the issue of isolation and disconnection in the urban environment. This year our theme—Charting BC’s Economic Future—has taken SFU Public Square to all corners of this incredible province, from boardrooms to living rooms, to conversations at the dinner table.

In preparation for the summit, we’ve hosted 100 Community Conversations, surveyed thousands of residents, and engaged hundreds of youth, business leaders, economists, and community groups to identify the ways that we can best chart a provincial economy that creates wealth, addresses social equity and protects the environment.

That engagement continues with a week-long series of activities designed to bring you into the conversation about BC’s economic future. It doesn’t matter if you are young, old, entering the workforce or approaching retirement: we want to hear from you.
Dr. Reich, one of the world’s foremost political economists, will address income inequality and its impact on the economy at this evening event.

Dr. Reich has served under three US administrations and on President Barack Obama’s economic transition advisory board. In 2008, TIME magazine named him one of the ten most successful cabinet secretaries of the past century. His new film, “Inequality for All,” which was awarded the US Documentary Special Jury Award at the Sundance Film Festival, will be released September 27, 2013.

This evening will be moderated by Anna Maria Tremonti. Ms. Tremonti has been the host of CBC Radio’s current affairs program, The Current, since its creation. From 1991 through 2000, she was a foreign correspondent for CBC Television’s The National, based in Berlin, London, Jerusalem and Washington.
100 Community Conversations offered British Columbians from across the province an opportunity to explore and exchange ideas on the future of BC’s economy. SFU Public Square provided discussion, facilitation and note-taking guides, while individuals and groups took the lead in organizing and hosting their Community Conversations. Colleagues, fellow residents, families and friends gathered together around board tables and dining tables to consider the strengths and weaknesses of our economy, and to foresee how best to generate wealth, promote social equity and protect our environment moving forward.

A summary of the key themes and actions identified will be compiled and made available to the public in The Citizens’ Agenda for BC’s Economic Future.

As part of 100 Community Conversations, staff from SFU Public Square embarked on a provincial tour to ensure perspectives on the BC economy were gathered from diverse regions. Organized with the support of community partners, our team travelled to Campbell River, West Kelowna, Kamloops, Nelson, Kitimat, Prince George, Fort St. John, and Victoria to host Community Conversations. In addition to generating myriad interesting ideas, these dialogues also revealed that regardless of understandable placed-based differences, many of the values and concerns raised about BC’s economic future are common across British Columbia.
WE ARE BC
WHAT’S YOUR STORY?
During the summer, we put out a call asking for people to submit 30 sec film clips, in which they would share their stories, hopes, dreams, and concerns for the future of BC. The completed short-film will premier on October 3rd at the Orpheum Theatre.

Photo by Doepp Jakob

OUR FUTURE, OUR VOICE
2013 YOUTH FORUM
A full day event, designed entirely by young people, the Our Future, Our Voice forum treats youth as major stakeholders in a dialogue about our economic future. The key themes identified will be chronicled and included in the Citizens’ Agenda for BC’s Economic Future.

#OURVOICEBC

CONNECTED LOCAL ECONOMIES
WITH MICHAEL SHUMAN
What makes a thriving economy that builds connections between people and the places they live? Explore this topic and more, with economist Michael Shuman, in two engaging and interactive evenings—the first in Vancouver, the second, Victoria.

TAXATION AND THE BC ECONOMY
At this dialogue, some of BC’s economic minds will share their perspectives and engage in conversation with the audience on the benefits and challenges of the current tax system.

Photo by Judy Baxter

SPECIAL EDITION: CITY CONVERSATIONS
A special edition of City Conversations looks at how immigrants with advanced training have difficulty finding work at their skill level in their new country. What are the implications for BC’s future economy when large numbers of immigrants are unable to fully contribute?

URBAN CONSPIRACY 2
IT’S THE ECONOMY, STUPID!
CBC Debaters’ Charlie Demers and Richard Side, special guest Margo Kane and a crew of other talented artists take on the challenge to bring BC’s traditionally polarized political landscape together for a night of comedic conversation, diabolical dialogue and high-wire hijinks as they unpack wealth creation, social equity and environmental protection.
THANK YOU

**PARTICIPANTS**
For taking the time to explore and share your ideas and opinions on the future of BC’s economy. We hope that your experience was fulfilling, and you will engage again with SFU Public Square.

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATION HOSTS**
For organizing and hosting a Community Conversation. Your contributions are instrumental to expanding the dialogue on our economy across the province, and for providing content for the Citizen’s Agenda on BC’s Economic Future. We hope your conversations will continue after the Summit.

**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. You contributions were vital to the success of the 2013 Community Summit.

**ADVISORS, PARTNERS, AND SPONSORS**
For your generosity and guidance, and for your trust in our efforts. SFU Public Square is only as good as those that get involved. Special thanks to the Centre for Dialogue for being our home, and to all the SFU faculty, staff and alumni for supporting us in our endeavours.
In addition to our annual Community Summit, SFU Public Square hosts a variety of events throughout the year to spark, nurture and restore community connections. Here are three examples of our on-going projects. Check out our website or join our mailing list to find out more!

**CITY CONVERSATIONS @CITYCONV**
Join us for lunch time conversations on current topics affecting Vancouver and the Lower Mainland. Listen to brief presentations from experts, then ask your questions and present your opinions.

**LUNCH POEMS AT SFU**
We invite and welcome everyone to enjoy poetry in a relaxed and casual atmosphere. Bring your lunch, your knitting, and whomever you wish, and join us for an exchange of poetic ideas.

**SFU PRESIDENT’S FACULTY LECTURE SERIES**
Join us for a stimulating hour of “big ideas” where outstanding SFU faculty showcase their research. At the end of each lecture, don’t be afraid to put your hand up to ask questions!

STAY CONNECTED
Our TELUS team believes that in order to do well in business, we must do good in the communities where we live, work and serve. We look for causes that support health and well-being in our environment, education and sport, and arts and culture, with a focus on youth and technology.

To this end, we work together with our partners and customers to build stronger, healthier communities and help make the future friendly for all Canadians.

The TELUS Vancouver Community Board is proud to support the 2013 Youth Forum as it engages young people in discussions on social change and economic policy.

At FortisBC, we touch the lives of our customers every day, providing the energy needed for their homes, schools and businesses. We deliver electricity, natural gas and propane safely and reliably, at the lowest reasonable cost. We support the Our Future, Our Voice Youth Forum as a phenomenal opportunity to come together to connect on big issues in the province of BC, particularly, where energy, the economy and the environment intersect.

We strongly believe in engagement and dialogue with our present and future customers about what our shared energy landscape looks like now and moving forward into the coming decades.
The SFU Public Square team would like to express our thanks and gratitude to all of our partners.
JOIN THE CONVERSATION
#SFUPS

www.sfu.ca/publicsquare
public_square@sfu.ca
/SFUPublicSquare
@SFUPublicSquare