YOUTHLESS CITY

Community Art Report 2019
Youthless City, a public dialogue on global to local housing futures was hosted by the SFU Semester in Dialogue: Housing Futures cohort on June 18th, 2019. This public dialogue was an exploration to solutions to the housing crisis through a youth perspective. Undergraduate students spent seven weeks exploring the complexities of the housing crisis and shared the opportunities for change that they identified through their research and dialogue with various thought leaders.

During Youthless City, the final public dialogue event of the Semester in Housing Futures cohort, attendees were invited to participate in a creative reflection exercise. From an array of pictures sourced from Semester in Dialogue students, people from the community were invited look through the pictures, choose a photo that spoke to them, and think about the photo they chose. Attendees were invited to answer why they chose that picture, what that picture meant to them, and what history they thought was attached to it.

Participants wrote their reflections on a piece of paper and added both the picture and the reflection to a collective reflection wall.

This report serves as a collection of all the thoughtful responses and reflections that were generously generated by the collective wisdom and creativity of the community. We would like to honour and acknowledge the powerful words that were shared in these reflections.
We asked participants to pick a photo that speaks to them, and to reflect on why they chose it. Here’s what happened.
Thinking a lot about what is commercial, what is public and how might we begin dismantling the privatization of things like the view. These should feel like home to all residents.
Revitalization of culture and community
The “green” of Van downtown. My favourite place in all Vancouver.
I often watch the crows fly East each evening and marvel at the amazing clouds, we’ve been having it sweet lately! Home is an East Van condo over noisy Broadway (nearly 500sq ft but it feels expansive like the sky).
Place to cook food from scratch with a working stove & fridge and warm smells permeating
Home is built around family; friends; community-- It can be built even after displacement, exile or trauma. Home is resiliency <3
There is always life where people came together to socialize. If there is space...
The greenery in the photo reminds me of the nature in Vancouver!! The serenity of it is *home* to me =)
Home is a state of mind. A place to be me, to be ourselves. To have a bad day. To breathe.
Windows shouldn’t be a luxury in any home. Light, air, and the sense of nature that they bring should light up every home.
Trees, forests, nature... the natural home of so many beautiful species around the world!
Home is family <3
I love the vintage design of the room in this picture; spacious, seems like a really nice place for artists to gather their thoughts in, be able to relate with the nature.
Having grown up in a number of different places, in different countries, the diversity in styles speaks to me.
I think I’m still looking for home.
Nature and beauty should not be commodified.
The world is but one country and mankind its citizens. Citizens need homes.
Why see the world when you’ve got the beach
I picked it because I’m originally from a farm
Having the space and resources to growing our own food is a privilege, but I wish it were more accessible.
My first time moving away from home was to the West end. My 1st time creating my own home =)
I grew up in care, pretty much got used to the constant moving from home to home. Losing everything I owned, every single move. It became so difficult to want to get anything that were/are nice. Since aging out of care, I have been homeless twice and lost so much. So five years ago while homeless a tiny house video showed upon my youtube feed. That day marked the day I became obsessed and I now have a rough budget to build one. I still to this day can’t even afford to live alone but I’m always another month closer to my Tiny House!!
Always have friends nearby!
Approaching the skyline of a much more diverse and accepting city is the representation of the first time I ever truly felt “home”
I live in a tiny studio on E. broadway. It can feel cramped and noisy. But our bird feeder + plants give us so much joy!!!
This doesn’t immediately remind me of somewhere I have lived, but it looks like a space I would like to call home. The design, the stunted orchids, the spot for reading, the view are all inviting and interesting.
Life is good when it's calm like the water
Home is a place where you can be a bit messy! (Beds are optional).
Multi-dwelling homes are the future...