Empowering Informed Consent

Community Ethics & Cultural Production

Edition 1 — March 2019

This card is designed to:
- Be a meaningful tool for communities and individuals in the respectful production of media, research, art and other cultural production.
- Provide opportunities for conversations that build clarity.
- Ensure community ethics are valued, supported, heard.
- Help inform decisions about consenting or saying ‘no’ to participation.
- Develop ongoing consent that is fully informed.

Community Ethics

Defined here as a set of principles to guide behaviour:
- Based in lived experience;
- Acknowledging interconnectedness;
- Fostering compassionate relationships of RESPECT, RECIPROCITY, RESPONSIBILITY and RETURN.

Cultural Production

Defined here as any time a person or group comes into a community to make a product from its culture. This includes but is not limited to:
- Visual art
- Photography/documentary
- Journalism/media
- Research/student learning
- Volunteer/tourism

Informed Consent

The following pages look at what this is, and share some questions for reaching it.

1. A reasonable understanding of purpose and expectations.
   - Do you have a written description of project and participation?
   - What is the timeline and scope?
   - What is your ethics process?

2. A reasonable understanding of risks:
   - What trauma might be triggered?
   - What stigma might be reinforced?

3. An ongoing process, with the ability to withdraw at any time.
   - Have you worked with community before? Where?
   - What is your lived experience of this topic?

4. Affiliations are transparent.

5. Sharing and return is understood.
   - Who else are you working with?
   - Who are your funders?
   - Who are your partners?

6. Agreement is mutual.
   - What are the levels of participation?
   - Do all parties feel secure in the agreement?

- Who else are you working with?
- Who are your funders?
- Who are your partners?

- How, when and where are you seeking to publish this work?
- In what context will this work be framed?
- What opportunities for review exist before publishing?
3. What contribution does this project make to the community?

The following pages take a look at what this is, and share some questions for building it together.

1. Time, skills and all types of knowing and being are valued.
2. The product is shared with the individual and community.
3. How will and how could be shared with participants?
4. Will the final product be accessible for participants?
5. Will there be a community-engaged event hosted to share product?
6. How is this project mutually beneficial?
7. How might this project dismantle or reinforce stigmatizations and/or stereotypes?
8. How might this project create opportunities for cultural production, production of other resources, and forming links to other community-centred resources?
9. How might community contributions add value to the project?
10. Visit us online to access this pamphlet and other resources including open-source templates and forms for intake and process of cultural production, and links to other community-centred resources: www.hivesforhumanity.com/communityethics

This card was created out of conversations held in and with the community of the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, which the Squamish call K'emk'emeláý — the place where the maples grow.

Find more resources at:
- Carnegie Library
- SFU’s Vancity Office of Community Engagement
- UBC Learning Exchange
- Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users
- Vancouver Culture Saves Lives
- Hives for Humanity
- Megaphone’s Speakers Bureau

We are honoured to do this work on the unceded Indigenous territories of the w̱məθkw̱əy̓əm (Musqueam), sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and sel̓íl̓witulh (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations.

Produced with support from:
- Reciprocity

How will you listen and be heard?
- What meaningful exchange is created?
- Is a honourarium provided and in what format will it be given?
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How are the appropriate land/territory/ancestral acknowledgments made?
- How is the food shared accessible and appropriate?
- How is Community engagement supported and lived experience valued?

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Megaphone’s Speakers Bureau
- 312 Main St.

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Hives for Humanity
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UBC Learning Exchange
- 612 Main St.

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Vancouver Culture Saves Lives
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