

Shaping Vancouver 2019

What's the use of
heritage?

Conversation 2



What's the use of heritage? – What do we do about neighbourhoods

October 2019

Neighbourhoods are often positively associated with community. They tend to have a combination of qualities that communities identify with which can make them distinct. These include the people, the types of interactions they have with each other, nature, types of commercial spaces, housing tenure, and public spaces in addition to the type and design of buildings. However, there are conflicting views as to whether this distinctiveness is positive or not.

Particularly with regard to residential neighbourhoods, some argue that “neighbourhood character” must be maintained to preserve the diversity of the city. Others note however that “neighbourhood character” frequently serves as an instrument of exclusion, making people feel unwelcome and marginalizing them.

Neighbourhoods that do not evolve risk stagnation; while neighbourhoods that change too rapidly erase the attributes that make them unique.

Are there then qualities of neighbourhoods that should be cultivated or protected?

As Vancouver faces a housing crisis, how do we go about discussing neighbourhood change?

In our second talk in this year's series on “What's the use of Heritage?”, we take a city-wide view of neighbourhoods as the city embarks on a City-wide Plan.

Panelists

We ask:

- How should we define neighbourhood character?
- What are the roles and obligations of Vancouver's neighbourhoods in relation to the whole?
- How do city wide goals factor into residential neighbourhoods and are there neighbourhood attributes that are important and should be nurtured or protected?
- How should neighbourhoods be governed?
- What is heritage's role in shaping a neighbourhood in response to today's needs?
- How do we go about having difficult conversations around neighbourhood change?

Co-presented by SFU's Vancity Office of Community Engagement and Heritage Vancouver Society.



Richard Evans Chair of RePlan, a committee of the False Creek South Neighbourhood Association.

Richard has lived in False Creek since 1986. He is an architect who practices within his own firm, and has a broad range of experience with primarily First Nation communities across BC.

Richard has chaired *RePlan from its inception, and is an active member of the False Creek Housing Co-operative.

Richard was instrumental in creating *RePlan, and recognized early in the process that approaching the City of Vancouver to address the renewal of leases as a collective of tenure interests rather than as individual lease holders would lead to a more comprehensive and satisfactory outcome.

In addition to chairing the regular activities of *RePlan, Richard is active on the organization's Leadership Group, and liaises with the City of Vancouver on a regular basis to explore options for the renewal of a neighbourhood that is recognized world wide as an example of successful urban design.

Summaries of all previous Shaping Vancouver events, including audio recordings:

www.heritagevancouver.org/resources/past-talk-synopses

Panelists

Scot Hein adjunct professor in the Master of Urban Design program at UBC, previously the senior urban designer with the City of Vancouver.

Scot Hein is an urban design consultant and was the University of British Columbia's Urban Designer until May 2018.

He is an Adjunct Professor of Urban Design in UBC's Masters of Urban Design Program launched in 2014.

Prior to this work he was the Senior Urban Designer for the City of Vancouver and led the city's high profile Urban Design Studio for 10 years of his 20 year career.

Jada-Gabrielle Pape facilitator and consultant with Courage Consulting.

Jada-Gabrielle Pape is Coast Salish from the Saanich and Snuneymuxw Nations. She has been working with urban and rural First Nations people and communities since 1992.

As a facilitator and specialist in cultural safety training and workshops Jada has worked with doctors, nurses, doulas, prison staff, prison inmates, women in the sex trade, teachers, Chiefs and Council, government agencies, non-profits, elementary and high school students.

Her professional experience includes UBC's Museum of Anthropology, BC Centre for Disease Control, the Vancouver School Board and BC Women's and Children's Hospital.

Her work has brought her to First Nations communities across the province.

Jada is a certified professional counsellor, a mixed media artist, a single mother to a fantastic fifteen year old and a proud East Van community member.

Much of the knowledge that Jada draws upon is respectfully carried forward from the generous traditional teachings of Elders, Community members, and valued mentors.

Moderator

Jennifer Maiko Bradshaw Renter, pro-housing activist and Director of Abundant Housing Vancouver.

Data analyst, renter, and pro-housing activist with Abundant Housing Vancouver.

Jennifer has fought for social justice for many years on issues ranging from freshwater accessibility in developing countries to ensuring the human rights of LGBTQ+ people.

She strongly believes in applying an intersectional lens to housing and preservation in the context of historically inequitable use of unceded land and currently accelerating inequality of land wealth.

Bill Yuen is the Executive Director of Heritage Vancouver Society.

He is particularly interested in cultural landscape theory and practice as well as the role that normative economics, and behaviour play in heritage, heritage policy, and social outcomes.

Recent work includes being part of the team researching San Francisco's Legacy Business program and creating a Vancouver definition that is based off of a multitude of stakeholder values.

He has presented on creative interventions in heritage policy and managing change in cultural landscapes at local and national conferences.

Bill is involved in all aspects of the society from planning, program development and delivery, to administration and research.

About this series

Vancouver's heritage can play an important role towards creating a healthy, livable city that protects our cultural and social resources. In a city facing immense development pressure, heritage is an active part of shaping the city, rather than the common assumption that it is for preventing change.

Beyond its preservationist roots, heritage is actually a method of place management with the intention of guiding change. **Shaping Vancouver 2019: "What's the Use of Heritage?"** discusses how heritage fits in to planning Vancouver's near future, what some of its uses are, and how it contributes to the city in more ways than aesthetics and historic commemoration.

Major change will be taking place across Vancouver: there will be City-wide Plan along with other large scale planning programs such as the Broadway Corridor, Chinatown Cultural Heritage Assets Management Plan, and Making Room.

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Questions?

info@heritagevancouver.org

2019 Series 5

Register online at heritagevancouver.org

May 21

Reshaping local places

October 9

What do we do about neighbourhoods

November 5

Is heritage relevant

November 28

What's happening to heritage

About Heritage Vancouver Society

Heritage Vancouver is an **independent charitable non-profit society**, helping communities understand and participate in sustaining Vancouver's heritage.

Now in our 28th year, we promote public engagement and dialogue on changes to significant aspects of our city's cultural heritage, advance a comprehensive understanding of heritage that captures the diverse ways people establish meaningful connections with the environment around them—whether they be built, cultural, natural or social.

We apply this holistic view and promote its application in realizing engaged communities and a city that is layered thoughtfully with old, new, tangible and intangible qualities of place.

We do this through representations to the City of Vancouver on development and policies in the city, our **Shaping Vancouver** public dialogue series, our presentations and talks to community members, our research, and our annual **Top10 Watch List**.

Some of our most successful endeavors include efforts to preserve and restore elements from the art deco **Burrard Bridge** and Vancouver's oldest remaining wooden schoolhouse **Carleton Hall** (1896) now in use by the Greenthumb Theatre Company.

- Become a member to help support heritage initiatives in Vancouver
- Your tax deductible donation does make a difference to the Society



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