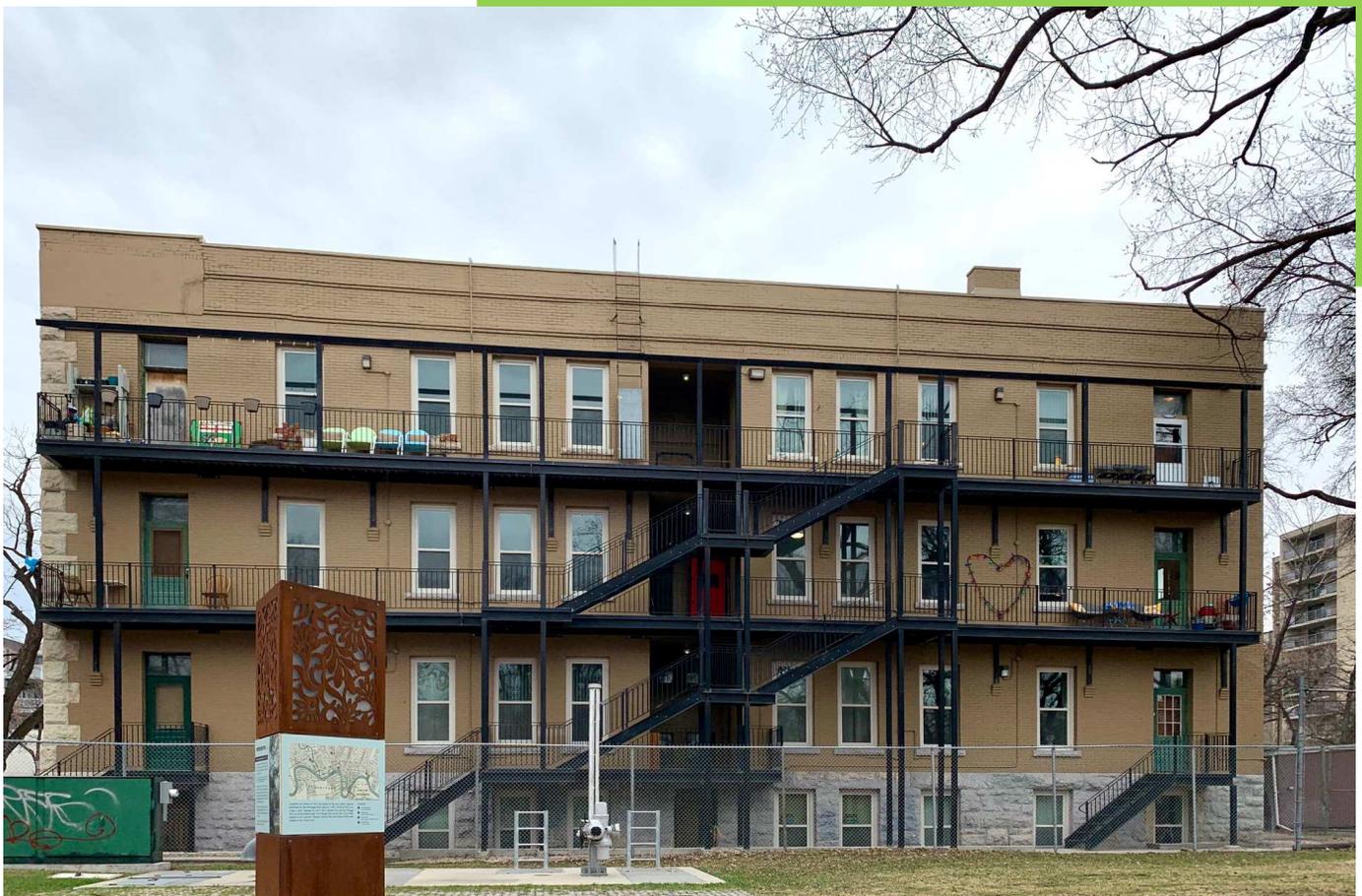


Housing & Community Safety “What was heard” Report



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Remarks from Councillor Rollins

Welcome and Good Afternoon.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge that we are on Treaty One Territory and on the traditional homeland of the Métis Nation.

Welcome to the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, and our last-minute venue so we could accommodate so many of you who wanted to come together to discuss Housing and Safety.

There are over 100 people here today. I want to acknowledge your efforts to get here. Some grandparents have brought their grandchildren on the way to hockey practice. Some of you have offered to lend volunteer support as table hosts. For whatever you have done to get here today, and for the reasons that brought you here on a Saturday to discuss housing and safety, thank-you.

You are gathered here today to discuss interrelated issues of housing and community safety. You may be here because you are interested in recent policy development and discussions in the city on strategic policy or more recent consultations on Winnipeg's infill guidelines. It may be the case you are interested, and or deeply unsatisfied with it.

I joined a divided City Hall including: conflict between residents and their city, residents and the development community, the development community and a city planning department, and councillors in different wards with conflicting policy perspectives.

I believe Housing and Safety are linked and that priorities and plans for housing and community safety should speak volumes over the conflict that has characterized the debate within City Hall. The type of conflict we require should be a creative catalyst for the change we need in urban design, city planning and place-making so that people are housed and safe.

I hope you find that today is structured to rise above and elevate the conversation. Getting out of City Hall always helps focus priorities and plans. I hope by the end of the day you find that you had the space to discuss that which you came to talk about, including green space, our urban canopy, and diversity in our housing stock, including renewal and affordability.



Richard Wagamese, in his book, *One Drum: Stories and Ceremonies for a Planet* reminds us: “...within each of us is a storyteller and that the role of a storyteller is powerful to our collective survival. A group empowering those roles is capable to carrying them to others.... When we do that the circle grows stronger and the potential for healing is enormous.”

So please communicate your story today. I know there are many leaders in the room working on issues of housing and safety. You are a group empowered to carry stories to others. I hope you take the time to meet your neighbors from across Winnipeg today and build strong relationships.

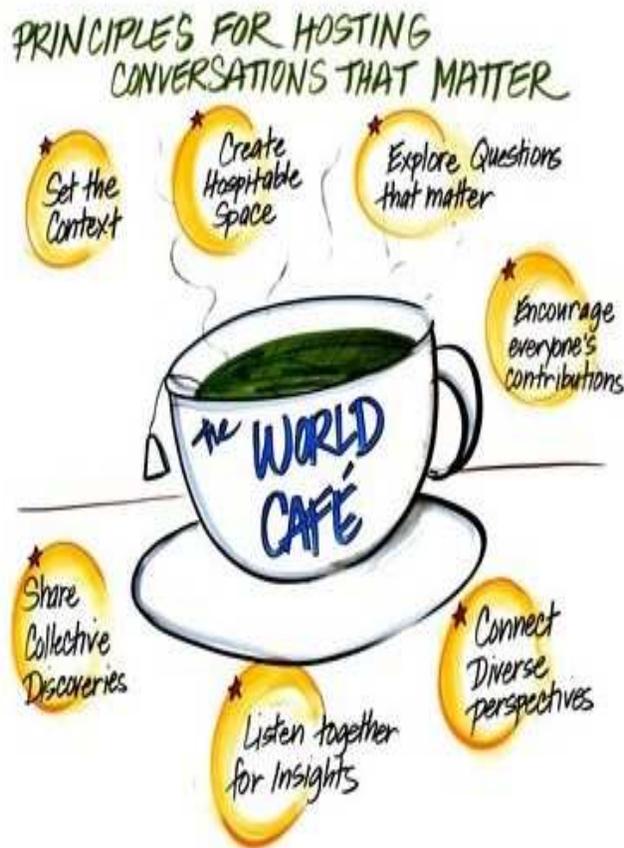
Sherri Rollins; as delivered November 9, 2019.

Introduction

One of the main challenges in a large group format is to create the space for meaningful dialogue.

The World Café method was employed to facilitate this large group dialogue on housing and community safety. The questions developed were key to opening up the promise of a meaningful dialogue.

I would like to thank Dr. Joe Curnow, Professor in the Faculty of Education, and experienced facilitator of the World Café method for working with me to pose the questions that were asked, and for assisting to facilitate the day.



I would also like to thank the team assembled to set the context:

Dr. Sarah Cooper, Professor Department of City Planning ; Dennis Swayze, Artist and Member of Corydon Osborn Community Voice and Earl Grey Neighborhood Safety Association; Johanna Hurme, Architect, Founder 5468796 Architecture; Karen Shanski, Architect, BLDG; Brent Bellamy, Architect, Number 10, Columnist; Bronwyn Dobchuck-Land, Assistant Professor Criminal Justice ; Colby Richardson, Video Artist and Filmmaker

This day could not have been such a success without all of your contributions!



What follows in this report are the perspectives and recommendations that emerged from the day we spent together discussing Housing and Safety on November 9th, 2019 at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. There were over 120 participants that came out to take part in these discussions.

These perspectives will help inform and strengthen my work as the City Councillor for Fort Rouge - East Fort Garry, and as the Chair of Protection, Community Services, and Parks. This is inclusive of my role on the Housing Steering Committee and as a member of the budgetary working group.

The following questions were posed to the Community members that were gathered at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights that day. These questions address issues that affect Housing within Winnipeg. Their discussions were captured in note form below.



What is our Vision for Housing in this City?

How can Winnipeg address the housing needs of people of all income levels?

- We need to have mixed income, mixed use communities
- Define a “complete community” and then do it so that it does include everyone and the services they require
- Accessibility
 - Ensure that housing is connected to transit and cycling
 - In motion include a % of accessible units
 - Fix the public realm! The city’s public realm is completely inaccessible
- View it as an opportunity to invest in long term
- SR01 – Social return on investment
- Allow for more than just luxury housing
- Subsidize lower rental housing (taxes)
- Climate crisis
 - Address need for accessible transit
 - Housing stock to be energy efficient and address renewable energy
- Affordability needs to meet all needs
- Zoning issues need to be addressed
- Developers are limited by the existing zoning
- Balance of affordable vs. luxury condos/housing
- Long term planning and communication for redevelopment and area for densification increased mixed residence/mixed income levels
- Higher Density energy efficient housing with priority attention to how people get to where they need to go (work, child care, health care, shopping) without private vehicles. So excellent transit, walkable communities, car co-ops, green spaces with trees

How can Winnipeg address the climate crisis through a housing strategy?

- Low-density, car-dependent development is contributing significantly to carbon emissions.
- Every new build should have infrastructure for electric car charging
- Must have reliable, funded transit to support increase in housing/downtown growth (functional, free inter-city transit) see: “where is the bus?” – Documentary
- Mixed use, walkable, shopping, schools, groceries within walkable distance, childcare
- Cleared sidewalks – people will use cars less
- Buildings need to be accessible
- Insulating older houses
- High standards for new builds
 - Electric heat, charging stations, solar panels
- High density multifamily builds
- Green spaces – trees, green space are required to reduce carbon, also humans need to have
- Build in cycling paths – protected
- Less reliant on street parking – increase transit
- Daycare needs/transportation related to that may drive people’s car use



Multifamily Dwelling in Fort Rouge; Picture credit: Nicole Dvorak



How can our housing strategy make Winnipeg more accessible to people who cannot or do not drive?

- Free transit for all
- Improve sidewalk snow-clearing
- Fast, free, public transit
- Higher density and diverse housing near transit lines
- More money for affordable housing (co-ops) near transit
- Continuation of safe bike lanes, parking for bikes
- More education re sharing space
- Road repair eats away at space for pedestrians
- Cut visual clutter that obscures boundaries for pedestrian space
- Adequate distance around crosswalks, remove distractions that look like pedestrians
- Public restrooms
- Full service for users of Winnipeg Transit Plus, recognizing that all uses of service are valid, shouldn't be ranked by priority
- More representation of inner-city needs vs. domination of white/settler suburban politics (stolen city by Owen Toews)
- Mixed-use development (combined housing and retail) but context-sensitive



How can our housing strategy make our neighborhoods accessible to people of all ages?

- At different life stages, people have different requirements for space, accessibility, and access to public infrastructure (like schools, hospitals, etc.).
- Lack of play spaces in some communities. Children, dogs etc, green spaces support families
- Disrepair of existing greenspaces
- Wheelchair accessibility
- Traffic safety – impacts pedestrians in high traffic areas
 - Traffic calming
 - Lower spend limits
 - Safe crossings
 - Bike lanes
 - Barricades in residential streets
 - Public transit
- Commuter taxes
- Diversity of services (banks, grocery, bakery, L.C., pharmacy) Walkable services and accommodations
- Corporate accountability (employees taking up street parking in residential neighborhoods)
 - Offer bus passes, encourage car pools, free transit
- Single level accommodation for mobility issues
 - Granny suites
 - Apartments
 - Managed care
 - Assistance to keep people in homes
- Construction standard (noisy sites, poor construction, low grade construction materials)
- Building i.e. Schools – 24-hour functionality
 - School is also community kitchen, public bathrooms etc.
- Community programs that encourage intersectionality
 - School kids read to seniors
- Universal barrier free design
 - Benchmarking with other cities
 - Focus on aging, stages of living in one facility that is multi-purpose
- Increase accessibility between houses

- Encourage snow removal
- Universally physically accessible (through adaptability) as a common denominator (on all new/large renovations projects) housing/commercial/infrastructure
- Mixed income housing as general guiding principal
 - Avoid “not in my backyard”
- Shovel Sidewalks. You can meet your neighbors and make the neighborhood more accessible and safer for everyone
- Diverse types of housing in a neighborhood to accommodate all stages of life (in any one neighborhood)
- Change law/policy to allow for “coach housing” (As in other cities) to better utilize yard space
- By-laws around “rooming houses: don’t (Technically) allow for co-housing/co-living situations with others who you’re not related to
 - This is a good solution for students, retired singles, etc.
 - Also considered “intentional living”
- Transit near dense housing and more strategically placed
- Education/communication around by-laws and policies
- Flexibility for change in by-laws for different living arrangements (eg. housing co-ops, group homes, multi-generational housing)

How can we strengthen the abilities of tenants to deal with landlords who fail to provide safe and secure housing?

- Is this a civic or provincial issue?
- Residential tenancy branch deals with landlords tenant issues and is a provincial issue
- Improve the legislation and improve the enforcement of that legislation
- Better education of the rights for tenants and landlords
- Better inspector engagement with complainant
- SIN66 inspector system not a civic/provincial mix as is present
- Safe and secure entrances
- Strengthening guidelines and enforcement by RTB
- Compel landlords to make reservations



How can Winnipeg's housing strategy reduce the burden on new and existing infrastructure?

- As Winnipeg's housing has expanded into low-density outlying areas, the number of taxpayers per kilometre of road has decreased substantially.
- Coach housing construction allowed like Ottawa – Increase density by having 2nd house on the property
- Regulate unbar sprawl
- lots of empty buildings incentives to redevelop with old boundaries with existing infrastructure
- Increase density of existing developments
- Propositional tax on low density
- Whole planning walkable neighbourhoods
- Smart suburbs
- Local strategies to move people from cars to transit
- More diverse infill
- Whole community planning
- Inclusive zoning bylaw
- Guideline for suburbs on density and building codes to reduce climate change
- Need a housing investment fund
- Federal, provincial and city agreement on social housing investment
- Pass a by-law with goals to reverse density/population
- Immigration
- Build more Co-ops
- A model for sustainable inclusive
- U of W commons as model
- Inspections on building renovations to ensure they follow the plan approved
- Community based financing for energy and water efficiency
- Shift the focuses from what is driving tax up is unsustainable level not service like transit or recreation
- Reduce new increase to roads and move money to green investments, social housing and transit
- Protect rental affordability

- Enforce rent control guidelines on raising more than 2% RCG
- Stop condo conversions
- Housing as a right like education and health care
- A tiered tax system based on defined circles starting from city centre and zoning out (deal with bedroom communities not paying taxes that maintain city services, roads etc. CCPA report)
- Infill strategy – community consultation for new development should be included
- Intersectional – lots of issues
- Smaller communities – medial, shopping, retail within walking distance
- Mixing incomes in buildings – coach housing diff income/generations in one building
- Human waste being left behind – more support for tenants. Easier to force landlords to act
- Stricter controls for vacant buildings.

How can Winnipeg's housing strategy address accessibility?

- Reviewing existing by-laws to see if there is a requirement for accessibility
- Requiring developers/builders to have a percent of accessible units, consider aging demographics persons requiring accessible accommodation, low-income needs
- Incentive to builders (Tax reduction) to build accessible
- Enforce Winnipeg housing strategy – True North? WRHA Main street (housing, commercial
- More Trees
- Collect “needs”
- Benchmark or study of best practices – Europe or high-density cities (cold climates)
- Data should include the aging population
- Look at Edmonton's studies
- All plans for all areas should take into account accessibility and all buildings
- Neighborhood design should be discussed as well
- Stronger regulations/enforcement (ways to hold developers accountable) on developers when they break rules/promises/collect grant money.

How can Winnipeg address the climate crisis through a housing strategy?

- Low-density, car-dependent development is contributing significantly to carbon emissions.
- We support more infill density in the core
- Need for affordable rental accommodation
- Balanced infill that does not rely solely high-priced condo development
- Need for amenities in core: grocery stores, community centre



Multifamily Dwelling Units in Fort Rouge; Picture credit: Nicole Dvorak



What is our Vision for Safety for all Winnipeggers?

Where do we need to invest public money in order to ensure safety for all?

- The percentage of Winnipeg's operating budget devoted to police has increased from 16.9% in 2000 to 26.8% in 2019. This investment hasn't prevented many of the safety issues Winnipeggers are concerned with today.
- Lack of safe and affordable housing
- Sufficient social supports across the board
- Invest in:
 - Lunch and G fast programs at schools
 - Ensure food security
- Invest in community services in the inner city for programming
 - Support safe spaces
- Safety around Osborne bridge – personal safety
 - Beautification (flowers etc.)
 - Address tent city needs/issues
 - How do we create a safer homelessness (encampments)?
- Invest in addiction support
 - Help people to be more housed
- By-laws around accessibility for all new builds, specifically houses/housing
- Liveable communities – trees essential
- Poverty reduction/eradication
- Fund health care, transit, housing etc. (Deal with root causes)
- Proactive solutions
- After-school programs (comm. Serv.) to keep children involved in activities, breakfast at school
- Be clear on what is only uncomfortable but not unsafe
- Addressing bias
- Community watch at training and agreed to codes – not vigilantes



What would our safety plan look like if we put the needs of people who are most vulnerable at the center of it?

- People who are homeless, using drugs, or engaging in criminalized activities like sex work are often framed as threats, but they are the community members most vulnerable to violence and crime.
- Housing is key!
- Make it an investment
- Social return on investment (SR01)
- “Regulate” inclusion of social housing
 - How to create incentives
 - Accessibility- physically and economically
- “De-commodification” of housing (reducing speculation)
- Redefine the issues – move from seeing these folks as “causing” problems to –folks with needs
- Need funding for community programs that provide safety, security, personal growth for the above population
- “Homes first” – best practice for addiction/housing
- New models of supportive, social housing for folks who have developed communities on the street/tent cities etc. who want to remain in community together (and large families)
- Community supports – medical services, available within/near
- Recognize community as a basic need for people’s wellbeing
- 24 hr. drop-in centres – get warm, food, laundry, bathroom, showers, supports, computers (or at least during vulnerable times)
- Safe injection sites
- Convert money from police helicopters to needs of most vulnerable as above



What basic needs are required for someone to keep themselves safe from harm?

- People who are homeless, using drugs, or engaging in criminalized activities like sex work are often framed as threats, but they are the community members most vulnerable to violence and crime.
- Sustainable and geared to different income levels
- A good landlord policy enforced by City of Winnipeg
- Pay a living wage/income
- Improve density and public space and walkability
- Public washrooms and drinking fountains in downtown
- Interior, free public spaces
- Appropriate clothing for weather
- Ensure sightlines are maintained from street for yards
- Reliable and prompt transit
- Mental/spiritual health services/resources – 24/7 safe spaces
- Access to healthy food sources
- Access to harm reduction supplies



How can we implement the Calls to Justice from the report on the inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and girls in our city?

- City Council should be a champion of the issue
- Volunteer registration within context,
 - safety and family connections
 - coordinated social agency communications
 - safe space for internet, showering, safe rides
- Make violence programs in schools
- Listen to and elect more indigenous women
- More public education on issues and underlying causes
- City to city affordable transit, safe rides
- Get rid of first past post elections and move to proportional representation
- Need participatory process in government
 - Ensure accountability, ensure those affected by policy are engaged and empowered to participate in decisions
- Action plans to meet goals with reporting to us
 - Link to the complete communities
- Make the programs that work fully funded
- Go to participatory budget for Winnipeg – deliberative polling
- Political will with a joint committee of community to implement goals
- Housing first model
- Don't gate keep on people use of drugs and alcohol
- Put money into addressing trauma
- Trauma informed public policy
- Stop imprisoning people for being marginalized and oppressed
 - Focus on care
- Healing centres for indigenous peoples - culture

- Cutting off children /youth CFS funding from financial/support at 18
- Support for foster parents
- Therapeutic supports for foster parents – Sex trauma supports
- Overloaded social workers
- Kids in care become vulnerable populations (homeless, addicted, trauma etc.)
- Education on calls/demands of the report
- Assign a task/working group that includes various levels of government to be responsible for the implementation and interest groups
 - Developing measurable goals and reporting
 - That is led by members of the Indigenous community

What is the difference between safety and comfort?

- Question is: What comes first or is more important
- Safety leads towards comfort by reducing conflict and injury
- Safety requires more community engagement which leads to a more united neighborhood

How do we address safety in ways that don't make other people less safe?

- No security theatre, bag searches, cameras, danger theatre
- Prioritizing marginalized voice. Ask the most vulnerable
- Anti-poverty strategies
- Education on the streets
- Housing strategies (stability)
- Address racism
- Inject reconciliation
- Provincial involvement increased (has been decreased since 1980's in Manitoba housing)
- Money from police budget decreased (eg. Helicopter use) diverted for housing budget
- Not letting houses/buildings get run down so they can be torn down and developed
- Housing first approach – can be helpful for homeless/lower income and also higher income (collective benefit for community)
- More community police offices to interact with the community

- 
- Get police out of cars – interact with people on the ground
 - Get private funding to support civic projects
 - Stop funding downstream on crime and enforcement
 - Invest in social and ecological determinants of health
 - Trauma support
 - Housing
 - Education
 - Literacy
 - Mental health

 - Infuse restorative practice into all services
 - Trauma informed
 - Invest in social justice not criminal justice
 - Individuals are trying to take action that require collective action
 - Listen to “other people”
 - Neighbors knowing neighbors
 - Don’t displace people who might be with a house
 - Provide purpose and community to folks reintegrating
 - Appreciate your standing in life
 - Socially oriented targets not fiscally oriented ones
 - Address issues not symptoms. Sustainability:
 - Trauma
 - Addictions
 - Mental health
 - Affordable Housing
 - Care for vulnerable populations (mental health, kids in care, addictions treatment, counselling, spiritual care)



How can we support the efforts of people who are homeless to keep themselves safe?

- Dignity based policies
- Generated income
- Safe consumption sites and access to them
- Housing first model
- 0 homeless – how to achieve
- Access to public washrooms
- Early education
- Deal with mental health – multiple levels of government
- City engagement in homelessness
- Give voice to the homeless and bring it out of the shadows
- Fundamental institutional removal of barriers to access to housing, employment and training with no exceptions
- Lived experience committees to inform policy, programs and services
- Open existing housing as low income/transitional housing
- More public and green space where people can exist in public without spending money
- Recognize the role of government in funding on a per capitol formula/housing number of units/population as goals based on population
- Admit the market can't house poor people
- Invest in social public housing
- Admit you can't make money house poor people in quality house
- Use existing buildings and house people through WHR, then build social housing new federal, provincial and municipal
- Raise corporate tax to pay
- RTB is overwhelming with appeals
- Lived experience groups and programs they will say
- Enforce rent regulation
- Raise welfare, pensions and wages for low income
- Rent assistance
- Limit profiles for rental properties



General Comments captured on Safety

- Poverty reduction – providing for the most vulnerable by:
 - Housing geared to income
 - Safe injection centres
 - Free transit for lower income
 - 24/7 drop in for basic needs
 - Showers
 - Bag storage
 - Hot meals
 - Friendship supports
- Community relationships (someone to check up on you)
- Supportive housing for all age groups with wrap around services
- Therapeutic supports for sexual trauma
- More funding and resources for social, CFS workers (re: MMIWG)
- Security: safe, affordable housing and safe injection sites
- Mixed income housing
- Holding big downtown developers (eg. True north) to agreement to affordable units – subsidized funded by
- Better signage for new builds (like Calgary) TIF
- Redirect funding from police to community supports, school food programs
- Redirect from police helicopter/armoured truck, to safe injection, drop-in sites for all-hours and all weather
- Cheaper to house people than cost of jail/hospital/emergency services



What are the commonalities that came up at the Discussion Tables?

- Fundamentally framing issues incorrectly e.g. Looking how to make money, rather than achieve social targets
- Listen to diverse voices impacted by decisions
- More affordable housing
- Listen to people who are silenced
- People first
- More low-income housing options
- Tax fairness related to services received and used
- A Root cause – poverty – is there one solution?
- More responsibility and caring
- Housing not only in the hands of state and business people
- More patience and tolerance of behaviour that makes us uncomfortable but not unsafe
- More support for mental health issues
- Co-op housing works
- Consult directly with the communities being affected
- Find a baseline of right and access for Winnipeg
- Too many expensive condos and new rentals in already high-density areas
- Tenants' rights equal to landlord privilege
- Climate crisis can be addressed by insulating older houses plus high standards for new builds: electric heat, solar, charging stations
- Safety comes ahead of comfort but a safer environment leads to a more comfortable enforcement
- Social supports of all kinds must be prioritized as upstream preventable measures to violence – this includes affordable accessible housing
- When it comes down to social funding, consider social return on investment as a true valuation of the investment, not strictly just narrow sighted dollar amount returns on investment through trickling effect, investing in social funding does end up paying for itself and more
- Care for vulnerable populations
- Increase number of housing suites
- Housing first model
- No one solution

- Don't want to lose green spaces – required to reduce carbon and also a human need
- All levels of government need to be responsible and provide significant financial resources
- Comfort should never outweigh actual safety
- City subsidize lower rental housing
- Lack of safe housing
- Issue is less about infill but about the developer and their lack of integrity



“The Zoo” demo site on Osborne Avenue, future home of a new housing development for Fort Rouge. Picture credit: Nicole Dvorak



Priorities for Our City Moving Forward

- Homes first
- Community supports
- Divert money for police helicopters
- Sustainability
- Importance of a range of housing types to meet the needs of a very diverse community
 - Singles
 - People with mobility issues
 - Low income affordable, social housing co-ops mixed income, inclusion not segregation
- Invest in upstream social and ecological determinants of health
- Stop investing in sprawl
- Provide housing first for our most vulnerable that is well planned for a variety of living alternatives
- Reduce poverty
 - By affordable housing
 - Adequate income
 - Enforcement of liveability by-law
 - 24/7 places for showers, bag storage, pill storage, laundry etc.
- Law enforcement spending needs to be re-directed to prevention spending
- Community engagement is about shifting power to community about creating structures and processes for us to have a say and be part of decisions
- Different taxation structure required to deal with urban sprawl suburbs should more support city centre.
- Housing
 - Make developers/all new builds include housing for all incomes (low/student/families/ requiring subsidies along with regular priced housing
 - Increase diversity and increase density
- Security and safety
 - Develop a housing policy/resources for people with addictions to be safety housed while seeking help (if they want)
- Remove security screening issues



How Do We Address

Colby Richardson is a media artist and experimental filmmaker currently based in Winnipeg MB, Canada. Driven by a fascination with out-of-date media technologies, and by the way we interact with and value the technology at our disposal, Richardson's work examines the underused artistic capabilities of devices often unconsidered and dismissed.

By utilizing and re-contextualizing historic video equipment, everyday software, and ubiquitous electronics, Richardson creates dynamic and textural visual and auditory works, taking the form of; installations, performances, video-sculptures, expanded cinema, and single-channel film and video. His work embraces the potential meditative qualities of abrasive and jarring stimulus, and engages with unusual medium-specificity in a playful, structural, and exploratory manner.

Colby writes "As the invited visual artist for the Housing and Community Safety meeting, I was tasked with the job of listening, observing, and translating the discussions and concerns of the room into a plenary artwork created live, and to be presented at the end of the meeting.

As a Media Artist, my approach to creating a work of art which would encapsulate the days dialogue took the form of a short experimental video piece comprised of on-site video and audio recordings, scans of documents handed out by concerned citizens, and found footage uploaded to YouTube by Winnipeg residents.

The aim was to create a piece which echoed the tone of the room, and spoke to the concerns of those gathered in it. The meeting was an inspiring show of passionate citizens and representatives with important and poignant perspectives on the needs of our city. Creating an artwork which totally encapsulates the numerous and diverse topics and opinions discussed during the Housing and Community Safety meeting is an impossible task. The video piece "How Do We Address" attempts to exist more as a snapshot than as a summary."

-Colby Richardson, Media Artist

To view the piece that Colby created and showcased for us at the end of our day together entitled “How Do We Address” view here:



How Do We Address.mov

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MUJvor1kv12q3Ys1fuopA9aq_rLMXFdLW/view

To see more of Colby’s work check out his website at www.colbyrichardson.com





Media from the Day

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6150720/fort-rouge-east-fort-garry-forum/>

<https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/airport-style-security-at-millennium-library-urban-sprawl-homelessness-among-issues-tackled-at-fort-rouge-town-hall-1.4677974>