

## Mapping Downtown Eastside community assets and challenges





**Not only are homes  
destroyed with gentrification.  
A circle of friends is destroyed,  
a neighbourhood,  
a small world in itself,  
a world that people  
who are dispossessed  
cannot hope to rebuild.  
Citizens become refugees  
in their own land.**

*Excerpt from Sandy Cameron's  
poem Endangered Species*

**CCAP acknowledges and honors the fact that our neighbourhood  
lies within the Traditional Territory of the Coast Salish people**



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# Contents

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Key findings</li><li>• What is CCAP?</li><li>• What is community mapping?</li><li>• Why do community mapping?</li><li>• What do the mapping results show?</li><li>• What are the next steps?</li><li>• What is the DTES community like?</li><li>• Who were the mappers?</li><li>• What happened at the mapping sessions?</li></ul>	
<b>What the mappers said and drew.....</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The top 5 places</li><li>• What themes were revealed by the mapping sessions?</li><li>• What would make the community safer or more comfortable?</li><li>• Is there a place for children in the DTES?</li><li>• Master map (centerfold)</li></ul>	
<b>Conclusions.....</b>	<b>Page 16</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The DTES has many assets</li><li>▪ Gentrification threatens low-income community assets</li></ul>	
<b>Thank you for all the help.....</b>	<b>Page 17</b>
<b>Glossary of DTES acronyms.....</b>	<b>Page 18</b>
<b>Appendix A.....</b>	<b>Page 18</b>
List of places where mapping took place	
<b>Appendix B.....</b>	<b>Page 19</b>
CCAP's low-income planning process	
<b>Appendix C.....</b>	<b>Page 19</b>
List of neighbourhood serving stores, bars and restaurants drawn on maps	
<b>Appendix D.....</b>	<b>Page 20</b>
Partial list of incidents of property or business owners working to stop low-income housing or services	
<b>Sources and photos.....</b>	<b>Page 20</b>

# Introduction

This is a report on 23 community mapping sessions that the Carnegie Community Action Project (CCAP) held with about 200 low-income residents of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES) neighbourhood (See *master map in centerfold*). The mapping is the fourth stage of CCAP's planning process to involve low-income residents in making decisions about the future of their community. See Appendix B for an outline of the full community planning process.

## Key findings

The DTES is an inclusive low-income neighbourhood with many assets that should be preserved and built on so that the DTES can be transformed into a safer and healthier low-income community:

- Necessities are cheap or free and nearby;
- Health and social services are close, available, needed, and appreciated;
- Residents like being where there are many places to volunteer and participate;
- Social housing provides a stable base for thousands of residents;
- Many residents feel connected to a rich cultural and community heritage;
- Green spaces help residents make a connection to nature and have become spiritually important;
- Many residents have empathy for homeless people and people with health and/or addiction issues;
- Residents feel accepted and at home in the DTES;
- The sense of community is strong;
- Because the DTES is a poor community and people experience many human rights violations, many residents work for social justice.

Because of these strengths, many low-income people in the DTES do not feel as marginalized as they would in other places. As one mapper said, "We're the majority." And another, "We're on no levels here and I don't know anywhere else where that happens."

There are many more places of community interaction and engagement for low-income people in the DTES than elsewhere in Vancouver.

**"We're on no levels here  
and I don't know anywhere  
else where that happens."**

Virtually all of these community strengths are threatened by gentrification, which is displacing people physically, financially and emotionally from their community.

While the community has many strengths, feelings of exclusion from condos and upscale developments and fear of violence from many sources, including police

and the drug scene, make some people feel unsafe and uncomfortable.

## What is CCAP?

CCAP is a project of the Carnegie Community Centre Association which has about 6,000 members, most of whom live in the DTES. CCAP works to get more and better housing and better incomes for DTES residents. It also works to involve low-income residents in deciding on the future of their community.

## What is community mapping?

Community mapping is a democratic, inclusive alternative to the "official" maps created by government agencies or private companies. At first glance, official maps seem like objective views of reality -- the location of streets, alleys, and the locations typically labeled as "points of interest." But "points of interest" and other map features depend on whose interests the map-maker is concerned about: it should come as no surprise that maps given to tourists show a lot of detail in those parts of the city with a lot of restaurants and retail shops, while ignoring locations that are more important for local residents (especially those without a lot of disposable income).

Community mapping brings together local residents to share local knowledge and experience, in order to create maps that represent the community they know and care about. As Amsden and Van Wynsberghe say, community mapping "supports the power and capacity of people to represent themselves and their understanding of the world around them."

Community mapping "honours community voices; builds from the needs and strengths of the community and supports community development as a process goal." Done in a broad-based, inclusive fashion, it fosters a democratic sense of place, and creates maps with more meaningful views than most "official" maps.

## Why do community mapping?

CCAP wants to tell the City how residents think about the DTES so they will understand the need to build on the assets and needs of the existing community. We hope the mapping will help as many people as possible learn how

we see ourselves and help us develop an inclusive, safe, healthy, authentic, low-income neighbourhood.

We also want the City to understand why it's important not to overwhelm the DTES with more condos and to include low-income voices in future planning for the area. Gentrification is threatening the DTES as a low-income neighbourhood. New condo development is outstripping new social housing development at a rate of about 3 to 1 in the 2003-2011 period. Wealthier residents are organizing to displace or keep out low-income residents and the services they need even though low-income people make up about 70% of DTES residents. Rents for Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotel rooms, the housing of last resort for low-income people, are increasing rapidly beyond the ability of people on welfare, disability and seniors to afford even a tiny room with a shared bathroom down the hall. And about 700 residents are still homeless.

Meanwhile the City is considering allowing up to 16 towers that would probably be for condos in the neighbourhood. It may change the zoning of the Oppenheimer District, in the centre of the DTES, to encourage more market housing. Its Housing Plan calls for the city to investigate mechanisms to control the rate of change in the DTES if new condos outstrip new social housing, but this part of the Plan is being ignored, even though condos are outstripping new social housing. And, the City's Planning Department is considering a local area planning process for the neighbourhood. Low-income tenants, who make up the majority of DTES residents, could be excluded or tokenized in this process. CCAP's mapping project is one part of our community involvement process to ensure that the 70% of DTES residents who have low-incomes can participate in and contribute to planning for a healthy and safe low-income community in the DTES.

CCAP is also writing this report because we want to make sure that the voices and insights of about 200 mappers are heard by as many people as possible. We hope these voices and insights will help politicians understand that the DTES is a real community with many strengths and give them the motivation and ammunition to work for improvements that are based on these strengths.

## What do the results show?

The mapping project shows which sites residents consider meaningful, which housing they like best, which places they like best for shopping and food and why. These sites are community assets. The mapping project also shows sites that residents consider uncomfortable, unsafe or unwelcoming and why.

We don't claim this represents the views of everyone in the DTES or the community hubs where the mapping took place. But we believe it represents the general views of a broad range of low-income DTES participants.

## What are the next steps?

The next step in CCAP's community involvement process will be to hold a day-long planning workshop with 25-30 residents to develop a vision, some principles, and strategies for achieving a healthy, safe, authentic low-income community in the DTES. After that CCAP will write up a document with a vision, principles, and strategies for this goal and circulate it to the community for input before writing up a final report.

## What is the community like?

The DTES is made up of 8 sub-areas shown in the City of Vancouver map here. About 70% of the population is below the federal government's low income cutoff line. As Kathy Coyne writes in *Getting the Words and the Music*:



"It is a place of great diversity, unique talents, and a rich cultural heritage. Many people are working very hard to support and enhance these community strengths. In doing so, issues that are global in nature: poverty, discrimination, addictions, homelessness and unemployment, are being addressed. Resolving these issues is in everyone's interest. The Downtown Eastside becomes a better place for residents to live, and social justice is advanced in the larger community."

Or, as three of the mappers said:

"Such a neat little community. Everyone knows where to go in our own radius....Supportive, close together, affordable, lots of non judgmental places where you are free to be yourself."

"Here it's like a small community. If I'm going to the park, someone says, 'Hey, there's a barbeque there, come and join me.'"

"It's a community of people who care about other people. They aren't just out for themselves."

On the other hand, the DTES does have the highest poverty rate in Vancouver, the same HIV rate as Botswana, many residents with mental health and addiction issues and about 700 homeless people. The DTES is a great little community but it does have a lot of challenges.

## Who were the mappers?

With a handful of exceptions, the mappers were different people than the ones who participated in CCAP's vision sessions and answered our questionnaires in 2008.

The mappers represented a variety of low-income residents including people of all ancestries, sex workers, transgendered people, elders, parents, people who live in SROs, supported housing, social housing and co-op housing, homeless people, and people who go to various community hubs like Carnegie, PACE (Prostitution Alternatives Counseling and Education), the DAMS program for women and HIV positive women, Oppenheimer and CRAB parks, Crabtree Corner Daycare, Neighbourhood Helpers, and CCAP and Low Income Land use and Housing Coalition meetings (*see Appendix A for a list of mapping sites*).

The average length of time the mappers had spent in the DTES was about 17 years, with one man being here for 57 years and a handful for only a few days.

## What happened at the mapping sessions?

The mapping sessions were all conducted by CCAP workers Wendy Pedersen or Jean Swanson and a note taker. At the mapping sessions we put a big piece of paper on the table and supplied felt pens. We asked people to introduce themselves and, in most places, say how long they had lived in the DTES and what kind of housing they lived in. Then we asked each person to draw their most meaningful places on the map and tell us why they were meaningful. We took detailed notes of what they said after each question. After each person had done this, we gave out 3 yellow dots and asked people to put the dots on the most meaningful places to them. Then we asked what the best housing was in the neighbourhood and why it was the best. At the end of this round, people were given 2 red dots to put on the best housing. Then we asked what was the best place to get food or shop and why. Then people were given 2 green dots to put on the best places for food and shopping. When this was done we taped the map on the wall and asked people to reflect on the common threads on the map or to give their overall observations and wrote down what they said.

Then we put out another, smaller blank sheet and asked

people, "What are the most unsafe, uncomfortable places or places that make you mad, and why?" They drew these places on the map and we took notes. At the end of some sessions we had enough time to ask what they thought could be done to improve the situation. Each session lasted about an hour and a half.

# What the mappers said and drew

## The top 5 places

The mapping was not a random exercise. For example, CCAP did not map at the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre or VANDU because we did vision sessions there and wanted to reach different people with the mapping. Had we mapped at those places, they probably would have been mentioned more in the report. Five sites got 30 or more dots, indicating that they are special to a large and diverse number of residents. These are Carnegie Centre (98 dots), CRAB Park (42), Oppenheimer Park (32), Four Sisters Housing Co-op (32) and Sunrise Market (31).

The Carnegie Centre, Oppenheimer and CRAB Parks are places that are welcoming, free, and close by. People can contribute to what happens at them and they don't feel judged. Everyone from sex workers, Chinese and Aboriginal elders, hotel dwellers and market rate paying co-op residents appreciated all 5 places. Except for the Four Sisters, these places are also destinations for a diverse group of people who come from outside the area. Although these places stood out as the top meaningful sites in the mapping sessions, some of them were criticized by mappers. For example, one mapper said Carnegie was "racist towards drug addicts," meaning that Carnegie discriminated against them.

### 1. The Carnegie Community Centre

Carnegie was referred to by several mappers as the centre of the community: "Let's put Carnegie in the centre.... My social life is tied here and branches out from here. I meet people through my community involvements, not in nightclubs like other people." Another mapper said, "Carnegie is the soul, the heart and the mother and the backbone of the community because they do stuff like this. They work on change. It's where you can go and be yourself, be accepted and it's like a family. Now in the last couple of years people are using their skills in good ways, not just survival skills but other expertise. You have other assets." Another said, "It's our living room. I learned to use the computer there. It's my kitchen.... You can start by hanging around. Then go to the learning centre and move on to activities."



Others referred to the wide variety of programs at the Centre: “Kitchen with low cost food, good gathering place, library, neighbourhood house.... It has good resources with the computer room and different functions like having outings. I like the ballroom dancing. I’ve been ballroom dancing for 20 years.” Another mapper said he goes to Carnegie to read the *Globe and Mail* and the *Sun*.

And, of course, as one mapper said, “They don’t charge money.” Everything at Carnegie is free except for the \$1 membership and the low cost meals.



Carnegie is also a place of acceptance: “The Carnegie kitchen was my first volunteer position. It was the first time in my life that I was open and honest about my drug addiction,” said one man. “When I told them in the kitchen, they didn’t judge me and accepted me. It was a big step towards my recovery. It’s been 4 years.”

Carnegie is also a place where people feel they can work and participate. They aren’t “clients” but members: “Carnegie is where people give back to the community. We eat and volunteer there.” Another mapper said, “Carnegie is important to me because of all the work that I’ve done there.”

## 2. CRAB Park

CRAB Park was also one of the most meaningful places to the mappers because some of them worked hard to get it. One mapper said: “I helped squat to get the park.... The DTES had no green space. That was one of the reasons why we were fighting for the park.”

For others it is simply, “Really important to have it here. To see the mountains, the ocean. To walk down there and clear my head.”

“Nobody judges you down there,” said another mapper about CRAB Park.

## 3. Oppenheimer Park

Oppenheimer Park was another meaningful place to many mappers: “I like the sense of community, the programs, the outreach workers. Thanks to what Colleen’s done, we have a homeless band there with instruments.” For one mapper, Oppenheimer was a source of memories: “The first time I was homeless I slept there during the day and showered at

Lifeskills and then went to work.” To another Oppenheimer is a place she has helped create: “I helped raise the totem pole with an eagle on top.” Another said, “It was the place where I volunteered for the Powell Street Festival. It’s important to me because the festival is about community spirit.... You truly get to show off some of the best of the neighbourhood.”

To others the park is, “Open to anyone, green, and welcoming.” “If you want to have an event, that is the best place to do it; there’s always someone there to have a conversation with about what’s happening. It’s our central communication centre.”

“It’s welcoming and has phones and washrooms,” said another. Chinese elders said Oppenheimer Park was one of their favorite places to play bingo.

## 4. The Four Sisters Housing Co-op

The Four Sisters Housing Co-op was named as the best housing by far more people than the ones who actually live there and contributed to a mapping session. For some the diversity of the Four Sisters was its main feature: “It has young people who are sharing with a roommate, Chinese seniors, and everyone in between: families, couples, gay, straight, all different cultures. We have to hire a translator at our Annual Meeting.” For one man, “It’s where I feel free and I feel safe. What do they say? Mom and apple pie. It’s my family and my home.”

One mapper who didn’t live there said, “You can take pride living there. [It] has lots of kids. I like the wine and cheese, the barbeques there, the green space in the middle. Getting a nice home changes your way of thinking.” One person who didn’t live at the Four Sisters said, “They

invite people to come and do their Halloween activities and there's so many good people in there." Another said, "Every once in a while I am reminded that a person hasn't fallen off the edge yet because they live in Four Sisters."

### 5. Sunrise Market

Sunrise Market is one of the main neighbourhood serving stores in the DTES. It was picked by lots of mappers because, "It's family owned and operated. It's not a chain or a big box. They can bring in something you are looking for. Personal touch. You can get everything you need. Best prices." Another said, "Cheapest amazing array of things."

Like the Army & Navy store, Save on Meats, the old Woodward's, and the Ovaltine Café, the Sunrise Market is a store that has a long history of serving and accepting all low-income people in the neighbourhood (see *Appendix C* for a list of neighbourhood serving stores drawn on the maps).

The top 5 places are low-income community assets because they are free or cheap, welcoming, used by a diverse array of people who feel accepted, community minded, and involve and/or celebrate different cultures.

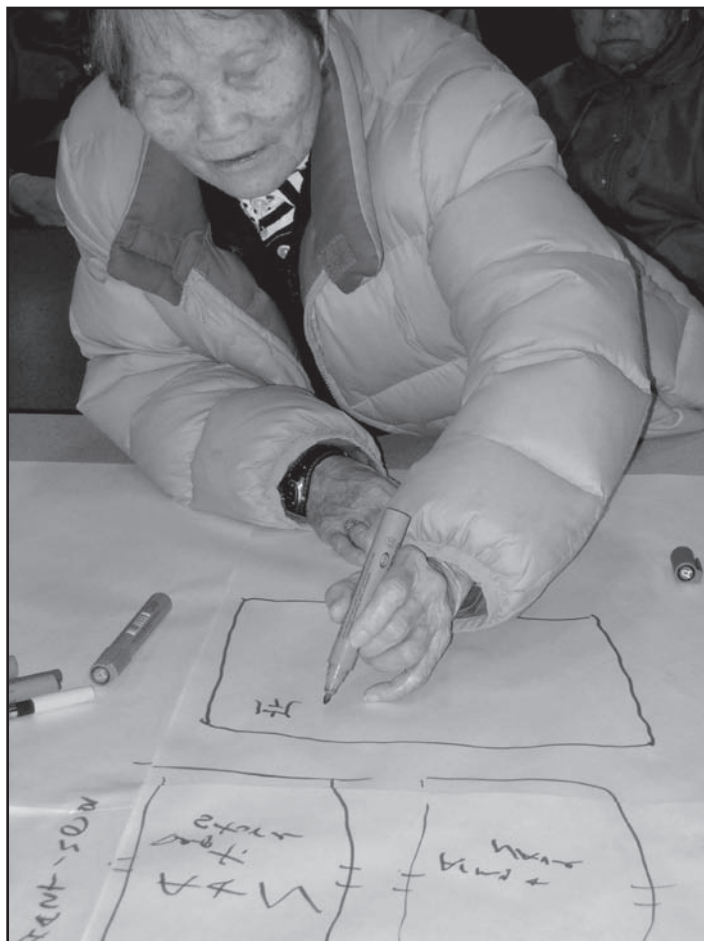
## Themes revealed by the mapping sessions

Several themes were repeated at most of the mapping sessions.

### If you're a low-income person, it's important to be in a community where necessities are free or cheap and close

Many people in the DTES depend on welfare benefits of \$610 a month, disability of \$906, a month, or basic senior's benefits of about \$1100 a month. About 700 people are homeless and have virtually no income. Others work part time and have very little money. Having little or no money drastically cuts your options for eating, renting, traveling, engaging in social activities, exercising, and participating as a citizen. Things that middle income people take for granted, having a coffee with a friend, driving across town to a movie, going camping, drinking milk, going to a community centre to exercise, reading a newspaper, even taking the bus, are all too expensive for many people in the DTES.

Many people drew Save on Meats on their map, even though it is closed now. One mapper said, "Save On is good cause their portions are so geared to us down here. Good prices." People also liked Carnegie and the Evelyn Saller Centre because their food is cheap.



A woman at PACE said the West Hotel, her home, was meaningful because it was close to her pharmacy, the Women's Centre, and PACE. "DERA's right around the corner for photocopying and faxes."

Several people said they liked the whole DTES, one because, "Where else can you find five places to eat for free for lunch?"

One mapper said she liked the area because of, "Safety and good shopping. I don't take the bus or drive a car and I have to walk so everything is close." A Chinese man who lived in the DTES for 57 years said he liked living at Jenny Pentland because, "[It's] close to Chinatown so I can buy food."

A co-op resident said, "Snail Café, Benny's and Tosi's, Carnegie, the cafeteria, CRAB, Sun Yat Sen Gardens. Everything that you could want is in a block: Theatres, Russian Hall, Sunrise Market and the eagle on the church."

Having cheap or free necessities and even beautiful places that people can walk to is a DTES community asset.

### Residents need and appreciate the services that are available



The mapping revealed that many vulnerable people, such as sex workers and those with addiction/ health issues or who are homeless or living in SRO housing, need and really appreciate the DTES services available to them.

One woman said WISH, a drop in for sex workers, was her most meaningful place. "It's the one place you can go and get everything you need. Get something to eat or hang out and watch TV. It's a safe place."

Another said Bridge Housing was meaningful to her because "It's another one of ATIRA's places and they either support you for being clean or being sick or if you want to use. They make sure that you're safe."

Several people really liked First United Church. "I had my dad's memorial there," said a person at PACE. "And they did advocacy there for me, fighting the ministry for Schedule C since I have HIV. That's where WISH started."

Another person named several places in the area that help vulnerable people: "WISH, PEERS, PACE, VIDUS, VANDU (*See glossary*). There's all these places that if they're open when you're falling apart, you can just walk in and get support." One person said his most meaningful place was the Abbot Pharmacy: "I get my relief from all the pain and suffering in this area."

A Gastown Hotel tenant said the Dug Out drop in centre, one of the few friendly places for low-income people in Gastown, was important to him: "If you don't have plans, you can still get out of the house, see someone you know, talk with them. It helps you get out of depression. You can get something to eat. Helps you be social. That's how I pulled myself out of depression, by getting out and going there every day."

One mapper said, "Harm reduction, convenience. "Look how many places there are....in such a small area.... How fortunate we are. How much we have to lose." A mapper at PACE said, "...we feel safe in our own little groups cause we sit around and talk like this. PACE, we love you for being here for us."

For the most part, maps drawn by people in survival mode were different than those drawn by people in social housing like co-op residents. Survival mode maps focused more on free health, social and food services. Those in social housing mapped places like libraries, the Ukrainian Hall, the Senior's Centre, Benny's Market, UBC Learning Exchange, bingo, Chinatown and Co-op Radio which are free or cheap and close by too.

A co-op resident said of the Carnegie Library, "My other big home. It's such a good library. I always go there if I need to clear myself out, or do a bit of research or get out for a bit.... It's open year round. I can go to the library 7 days a

week at night or in the morning and it doesn't close down like the rest of them."

Free, cheap, and nearby services are a needed community asset for a variety of low-income residents and especially for the most vulnerable people in the DTES.

**"Look how many places there are...in such a small area.... How fortunate we are. How much we have to lose."**

### **Residents like being where they can volunteer and participate**

Mappers said over and over that they liked being in places where they volunteered and contributed to the community. "I like Carnegie," said a resident of Jenny Pentland. "That's the first place I ever volunteered, in the library." Another person also liked Carnegie because, "I like the learning centre. I can teach computers, English and watch the desk there. "

"People give back to their community," said another mapper about Carnegie.

One person said VANDU was meaningful to her because "They make it possible for me to help my brothers and sisters on the street and make it so people on the street actually do get heard rather than passed by and dismissed because of who they are and what they do." A Carnegie board member said, "I'm drawing a picture of people holding hands at VANDU. It's meaningful to me because they work with us. They are our community partner. We work together for the same goals."

Another person said CRAB Park was meaningful because, "I paid a lotta dues for that park. It consumed 28 years of my life."

Without the ongoing work of hundreds if not thousands of DTES community volunteers critical community services would have to virtually shut down. The volunteering and participation by residents in the life of their DTES community is a huge community asset.

### **Good quality affordable housing is critical for the neighbourhood and for individual health**

Housing is a huge issue for the mappers. Although there are about 5000 units of good social housing, nearly 700 people in the neighbourhood are homeless and about

3700 still live in privately owned single rooms with a bathroom down the hall and no kitchen. Many of these hotels are filthy, and full of cockroaches, bedbugs and rodents. Another 1300 or so live in provincially owned SROs which are usually better managed and cleaner than privately owned rooms, but still inadequate. People at all of the mapping sessions mentioned the need for good quality, affordable, self-contained housing to be built in the DTES. "I could have a whole other life if I could just be in affordable housing," said one woman. "Living in an SRO limits my capability of being a grandmother."

"It would be better if people had a better place to live. Then we wouldn't need community court," said a homeless person at the DAMS mapping session.

"More housing, more variety, more like the Four Sisters, more like the Portland, affordable housing, clean and safe, non judgmental and comfortable. Once people have housing the other stuff will start to smooth out," said a person from the Carnegie Board.

People who lived in supportive housing seemed to really appreciate it: "Housing like the Jim Green Residence makes us feel good about ourselves," said one person. "Not bathrooms that are plugged or with blood all over the wall or showers that run out of hot water in two minutes or you have to put thongs on to keep away from the germs," said another. "They are so helpful," said another mapper about the Jim Green Residence, "When I moved in I had nothing. I moved in from the hospital. They brought me a couch, table and chairs and a bed. It's so good to have a kitchen. I felt good being able to cook on my own again...." Another resident there said: "In my opinion, I'm thriving here."

One person said of Mavis McMullen housing: "When my life crashed and burned and I needed housing and welfare was only \$610, this housing saved my life and life lost its harshness. It kept me from destitution."

**"Once people have housing the other stuff will start to smooth out."**

"When you get sick or find yourself in an impoverished lifestyle,...to land in social housing is pretty good," said a mapper who lives at Lore Krill Co-op. "I never thought I would end up in this neighbourhood but I'm fine and I like it. It's central, quiet, clean and well maintained."

Mappers who lived in social housing appreciated the community-building aspect of it: "When I first moved into Four Sisters, people went out of their way to make me feel welcome and a part of the community," said a resident. "I'm glad I live in this community, said another. "I don't have to

work to make friends and say hello to people. If there is a problem I know someone is going to help."

One person said of her co-op: "You feel more connected to the environment because you are part of it. It's not your space but we own it. It's our space. It's a good model for the rest of society." People who lived in co-ops seemed to have two circles of community, one around their co-op and another around the broader community.

The DTES's 5000 units of self-contained good quality social housing provide stability for many residents and allow them to get better if they are sick, contribute to their community and thrive. More housing of this kind is desperately needed for SRO and homeless DTES residents.

## **Residents feel connected to a rich cultural and community heritage**

Many mappers mentioned that they liked the diverse cultural heritages of the DTES. Stores like the Army & Navy and Save on Meats cropped up on most of the maps because people have memories of going there, even when they were children. One mapper put the Army and Navy Store on the map and said it was "historical and central in the neighbourhood." Many lamented that Save On Meats was closing after 52 years. One mapper said the Ovaltine Café was a "flashback" to the 1950s."

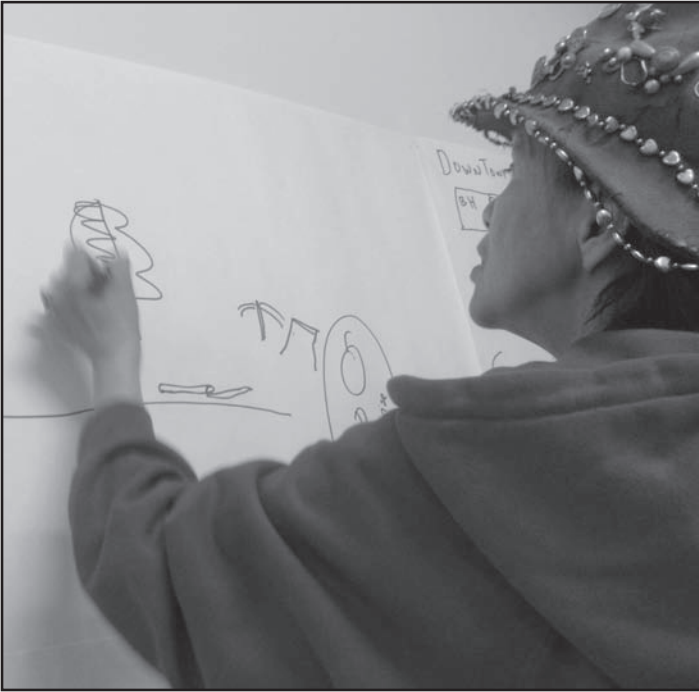
Chinatown was mentioned often by people of many cultural backgrounds. "They are our neighbours. It has cultural and linguistic importance," said one mapper. "I know Chinatown like the back of my hand since 1970," said another resident of Chinese background.

The Japanese Language School and old Japantown were also drawn: "The Japanese Language School is a meaningful place. This area used to be Japantown for Japanese immigrants.... I'm a member of their library and pay \$20 a year." Another mapper said it was a "meaningful place because they have been a huge part of our community and we've worked with them."

One co-op resident drew the Ukrainian Hall on the map. "It's another circle of community for me. There are a whole bunch of different generations there. We participate in their cultural programs. My son gets to be around grandparents, kids, people who enjoy the arts and men who enjoy dancing. There are feasts and dances. People know him as he is growing up. The circles of friendship are here in a way that we have not found anywhere else because it's not divided into ages."

But the biggest emotional connections to the DTES seemed to come from Aboriginal people connecting with their heritage. "Every year on the 21st that smudging,





that's the best thing that happens in the DTES," said an Aboriginal woman. "It just feels so good after you go into that march. Last year we were walking by and saw some dealers who looked like they were totally lost during the smudge because of the good energy."

An Aboriginal elder at Neighbourhood Helpers said CRAB Park was important to her because "There is water. There are stones. That's where the welcomings were originally when we came over. Crossing from [other] territory into Musqueam there would be a celebration."

For people who work in the sex trade and others, the whole DTES has a memorable history because it is the Missing Women's Memorial area. As a mapper at DAMS said, "The whole area is important to us. Look at the radius, we are not asking for Granville or any of those things, we are just asking for this little part....If I won the lottery I would buy... the whole place. The area is where a lot of women went missing and murdered women have been found." Another DAMS mapper added, "We have been here for 20 years, longer than anyone else. It is our neighbourhood."

A co-op resident put Hastings Street on her map and said, "I love history and stories of history. I'm drawn into the history of the community on Hastings: The site down at the Post Office, the occupation of Carnegie, the Powell St. Grounds, the hospital at the Ukrainian Hall. It is history, people and participation. It's so important to me to remember the power of that street."

And several mappers in different places said they liked the "beautiful old buildings around me."

One mapper brought up an idea that others in the

community have talked about for years: turning much of the DTES into Totem Town to respect the cultural heritage of Aboriginal people. She suggested putting First Nations flags up and down Hastings St, a huge longhouse and restaurant, and having places where Aboriginal people could live and sell their own art.

The cultural and community heritage of the DTES is an asset living in many of its low-income residents.

### **Green spaces help residents connect to nature and have become spiritually important**

Parks and green space were drawn over and over by the mappers from all the different low-income sectors because of their connection to nature and serenity. Some regarded them as spiritually important sites.

A mapper from PACE said Sun Yat Sen Garden was a meaningful place to her because "It's a place of tranquility.... You can walk from the cement jungle into nature without having to pay for it, and not be bothered by anyone. You can picnic there." A Lore Krill co-op dweller said, "I love to pass through there when I am going anywhere. It's just like 'phewwww'...everything gets unwound there." "That's where I got married," said a mapper from the Four Sisters Housing Co-op.

CRAB Park was mentioned numerous times: "It's always where I escape to..." A resident of Bill Hennessy supportive housing said, "It's away from the hustle, the drugs. I go there cause it keeps me sane." And another: "It's so peaceful there early in the morning until the planes start."

Several mappers mentioned that CRAB was a spiritually important site because of the Women's Memorial Rock, the water and the mountains. One mapper said, "People who lose someone love to go to CRAB. They bring tobacco, they scream or cry there. It's a good place to grieve. There is a sense that lost loved ones are in touch with us there at CRAB."

Oppenheimer Park was also drawn by the mappers frequently. "When I see the trees bloom in the spring, it's breathtaking." Another mapper said, "It's ours. It's our only green space. It's welcoming."

Strathcona Community Gardens was also drawn: "Every time I walk through there I thank those who created it and continue to work there. I...see trees with eagle nests, flowers, orchards." A Strathcona parent said, "The Garden is a sanctuary. I like it even though I don't have a plot. I take my kids to see the birds, flowers. My daughter likes going. Someone will dig up a potato and give it to her."

A mapper at PACE said, "They have a little pond with



squirrels and frogs. It smells beautiful in spring and summer. Raspberry gardens, strawberry gardens and if you go down and help, they let you pick. Last year I made 3 jars of jam."

While green space that exists in the DTES is an important community asset, many people said more was needed.

### **Residents feel accepted and at home**

CCAP's visioning work in 2008 showed that residents really appreciate the non-judgmental nature of the DTES. Low income people, people on welfare, people with mental and physical disabilities, people of colour, Aboriginal people, and people who use drugs face a huge amount of discrimination in the dominant society. Many mappers said that the discrimination is less in the DTES. "What I like about living here is that I'm not discriminated against by the way I look and my disabilities," said one mapper.

Another mapper said, "This is a place where if you're Native you don't get pushed out."

"I've only been here for a year but it feels like home. No one judges you here. The people who live here are welcoming. A lot of good people here. Talented people. It's nicer to be here than on the streets of North Van," said another about being accepted in the DTES."

One person said the DTES was meaningful because, "It's the first place I've ever found with people who are comfortable with who I am. A lot of acceptance here."

In fact, while CCAP was doing the mapping sessions, people revealed all sorts of information about themselves that they might not reveal in another community because of fear of discrimination: that they were HIV positive, that they had mental health issues, that they were addicted to drugs.

Mappers also said that several of the places they drew on the map were meaningful because they were "welcoming". Carnegie, Oppenheimer Park, the DTES Neighbourhood House and other places were described with this word.

**"It's the first place I've ever found with people who are comfortable with who I am. A lot of acceptance here."**

It's a big community asset that the DTES is a place where people from diverse backgrounds feel at home.

### **Many residents have empathy for homeless people and people with health and/or addiction issues**

While many mappers showed irritation with open drug use, and it does make some people feel unsafe, the mappers also often expressed frustration at the lack of help for homeless people and people with health and addiction issues. Some had a pretty sophisticated



understanding of the issue: "The mainstream response to drug addiction, child abuse, is to cut off people from society and then ask, 'why don't they act civilized?' This is related to poor bashing. The crazy irony is, those are the people who have been through the worst possible human experience and they do what they do to survive. Folks in the mainstream cut them off and refuse to give them any respect."

Another mapper said, "I don't like homelessness. People crashed on the street and in doorways. That anyone has to sleep outside is upsetting."

"I don't like addiction," said another, "the fact that there is no help. Seeing people that have open wounds and they are not getting the treatment that they need."



A new resident at Lore Krill co-op related this story: "I went to take out the garbage and there was a woman out there peeing in the alley. Part of me says if there was a place for her to go, things would be different for her and much better."

Another said simply: "I'm sick and tired of people here not being treated right."

Some parents talked about the advantages of bringing up kids in the DTES. "I am proud of who I am and I grew up here...watching my kids come up and their level of bias is so much lower than other kids." "My son has more compassion for differences, for homeless (people)."

**Because the DTES is a poor community and people experience many human rights violations, many residents work for social justice**

The long DTES history of fighting for human rights came out in the mapping. People of Chinese and Japanese background fought against discrimination, exploitation and internment. Aboriginal people have been fighting colonization and to have Aboriginal rights off reserve. Working people fought for jobs, decent wages and unemployment insurance. Drug users and their allies fought for harm reduction, and the DTES community organized pressure to find women who have gone missing. The low-income community as a whole has fought simply to be treated with the same respect and get the same amenities as other communities have.

In one session at Lifeskills, a drop-in for homeless people, the women got very emotional and some wept. Most of them were homeless. One woman drew a big circle around the whole map and said to the group, "The whole area is important to us...the area is where a lot of women went missing and murdered women were found...the women who were at the Picton farm."

The annual Women's Memorial March, held on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> in the DTES is a time when the whole community comes together in solidarity with sex workers to grieve and to call for justice. In another mapping session a woman spoke of the Memorial Rock at CRAB Park. "After the ceremony on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> (the Women's Memorial March), I looked at the rock for weeks out of my window and the flowers were not touched by anyone."

Social justice came up often at the sessions: "There is something that is not in the map that we share. It's our commitment to the issues in this neighbourhood...A lot of us work with people who are affected by the issues, poverty, mental health. We want to live here."

One mapper said of CRAB Park: "We fought for it, wrote letters for it, tented on the mud for it, defeated the casino for it, fought for a wheelchair ramp for it."

Another said, "There's an increase in homelessness and it's a danger and that's our battle."

One person listed the Ovaltine Café as a meaningful place because, "We meet there before we come to these sessions. It ties into the Margaret Mead quote: 'A small group of dedicated people can change the world. In fact that is the only way it's ever happened.'"

"We gotta stand up for our rights," said a PACE mapper. "We got our IWD, then we got our Poverty Olympics. We got everything happening down here."

A co-op resident said, "I would like to put the Safe Injection Site on the map. I appreciate that it's there even though I've never had to use it. It represents progressive thinking. We care about human beings more than property values."

"When we are doing marches, I get that strong feeling about our community," said another mapper.

Having residents who care enough about the issues in their community to work for social justice can benefit not only the DTES, but other communities facing the same issues.

### The sense of community is strong

As Hamel and Cavouras wrote in a paper for CCAP, "Not having a 'house,'...[DTES] residents use communal spaces instead. Carnegie Community Centre is referred to as the 'living room of the DTES'. Many residents call Oppenheimer Park their 'backyard'. This language tells us that people feel as connected to their community spaces as others feel to their houses. These are places of importance where people gather in order to be together, to relax, to connect, to celebrate, and to remember (Walker, 2004). Community history is written in these locations and without access to them neighbourhood and community identity is at serious risk."

Over and over mappers mentioned that there is a strong sense of community in the DTES. One mapper said, "I see life and information....We all have the same kind of philosophy as far as food, housing and things that are special. This is our persona."

"Good sense of community," said a young man who was raised in the area. "Everyone looks out for everyone else. When I was a kid, if I was stressed out in the courtyard, someone would always come out, even if I wasn't their child. Now I do that. If I see people who are stuck in the snow, I go out and give them a hand."

As one mapper said, "Here people stick up for each other and care for each other...It's not going to feel safe if the neighbourhood is taken over."

According to Hamel and Cavouras, "People who have a strong sense of community: participate more in community affairs; have greater feelings of safety and security; are more likely to vote;" and are more likely to volunteer, recycle and help others. So a sense of community is a strong community asset.

### Exclusion and fear of violence make people feel unsafe or uncomfortable

When we asked people what the unsafe or uncomfortable places in the DTES were, two themes erupted: feelings of exclusion and fear of violence from several sources.

#### Exclusion

The new Woodward's and condos were mentioned often as unsafe and unwelcoming places. One mapper said of condos and the new Woodward's development: "If they were going to build them equally, but we know they are not." Another said, "Condos for the rich types. Who on welfare can afford one? Let's keep out the rich fascist type condo buyers who want to hate and eat the poor." Then he added, "Not all of them are like that."

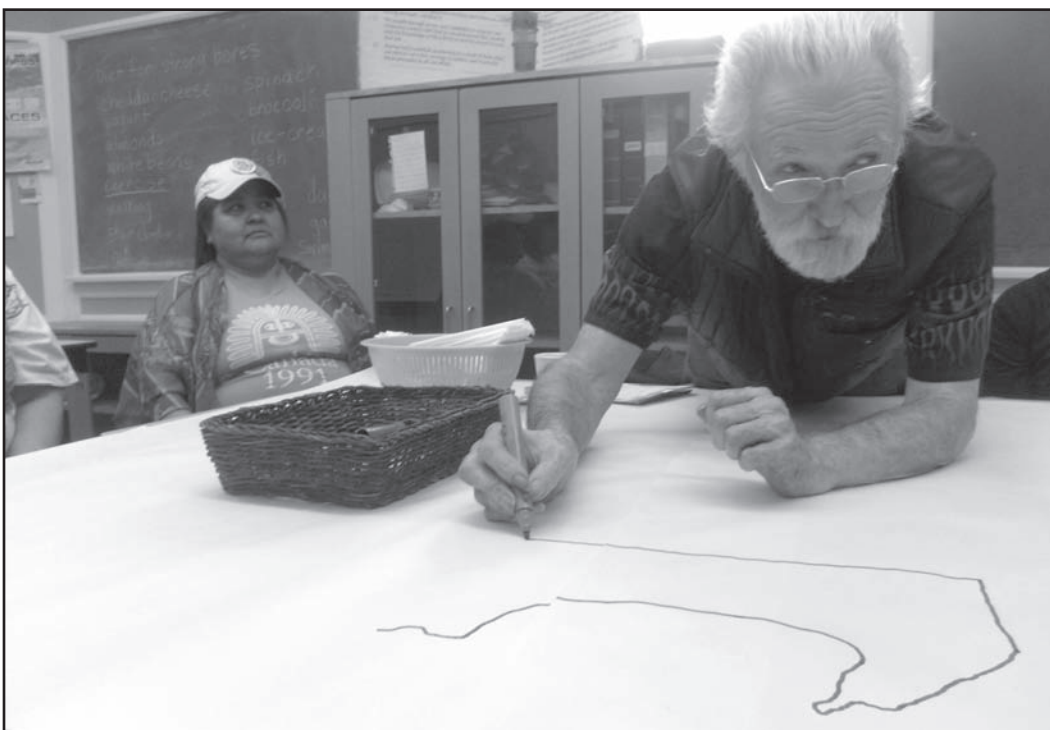
Another mapper said gentrification and condos "are displacing people with the private security guards. The Downtown Ambassadors are used to harass people."

A social housing resident said she didn't like "nasty condo slogans like 'this corner of your world is about to change for good.'"

Still another said he didn't like City Hall, "Because they are the ones who are in charge of laws that give the condo [developers] the power to build condos and push out the less fortunate."

A parent living in transition housing said she didn't like, "The amount of housing they're building for the Olympics compared to the little amount they're building for us. We're gonna be here after the Olympics."

Other mappers listed Gastown as a place that made them feel uncomfortable: "They are not





part of our neighbourhood. They are not part of our central lifeline.... They are from the suburbs who don't live there and then they drive away," said one mapper. "They are mainly a commercial centre that is for tourists and not for people in the neighbourhood. High end stores that cater to tourists. I don't think the business owners are sympathetic to the DTES or our interests." Another person said about Gastown, "If you try to walk and look into stores, you are trailed by a rent-a-cop and asked to move along."

At one housing co-op mappers stressed that co-ops need to have a subsidy or low-income people would be excluded. The mappers appreciated the diversity of their co-op: "Co-ops are the best housing...Mixed culture, ages, family compositions, incomes." But then they pointed out that subsidies for low-income co-op members were not available. "It's a cheap place for middle class people to live in and this co-op is becoming that. So much for diversity.... You have to keep subsidies open. Otherwise it won't stay affordable."

### Fear of Violence

Some mappers also expressed a fear of violence from non resident drinkers, police, security guards, predators, and drug dealers.

One mapper drew Gastown and said, "Sinister night crowds and swarms of people waiting to get inebriated. Their perception of the environment breeds contempt and legitimizes violence against the people here." A woman who was homeless said, "Guys that come from out of the area. They try deliberately to hit people. They throw beer cans out the [car] windows at people."

The police were also mentioned often as making people feel unsafe or uncomfortable. "Police because of harassment," said one mapper. "I don't like police brutality," said another. "VPD because they say they're here to help us but they're not. They're handing out tickets left and right. Not all of them are like that. The ones in power are."

An Aboriginal mapper said of the police, "They are ignorant to Native people and to homeless people. They are ignorant to a lot of things we ask for help on – for the missing women, missing children. The police take away homeless people's property, the property of binners, arrest people for smoking on the steps, give tickets that people can't afford to pay. The police don't respect our [Native] people."

But two mappers did say the police helped keep order in the DTES.

Security guards in Tinseltown and Gastown were also mentioned as sources of fear and irritation: "Tinseltown security harasses us. They say we don't have enough

money to shop there," said another. "Security people have a bad attitude towards people like me who are maybe disabled or who don't look like stereotypical middle class, outright racism," said another.

**"More social housing and community services are needed everywhere."**

Other mappers, including sex workers and housing co-op residents, didn't like dark "forlorn places with no eyes on the street, no corner stores or lights. They mentioned the 'tranny tracks' by Campbell Ave. as being unsafe for sex workers and said some had gone missing from there.



Drug users, dealers and street people were mentioned often as causing places to be unsafe or uncomfortable. The crowd in front of United We Can, Main and Hastings, the 100 block of Hastings, Oppenheimer Park at night, and various alleys were named frequently.

One mapper didn't like the drug scenes at Dunlevy and Jackson Streets near Pender Street. "Gangs collect and do drug dealing." But she dealt with it. "You have to have personal carriage and say, 'This is not a place to do this' and 'can you please move on?' It's getting worse. It goes up when police put pressure on in the west [of Main Street]."

Another said she didn't like drug dealers by the Patricia Hotel. "They make me mad because two friends nearly died from a drug overdose. They came that close."

Several didn't like the street scene outside of Carnegie: "I'm healthy and strong. If I started to get more fragile, I would find it harder to go in." But when she gave her



## Is there a place for children in the DTES?

Many children live in the DTES or commute daily to the elementary schools in Strathcona, the Strathcona Community Centre, Raycam Community Centre, Crabtree and the Women's Centre. CCAP didn't ask any mapping questions related to children. But mappers in co-op, social housing, rental and transition housing did talk about their children in the DTES. For mappers at Crabtree Corner, there weren't many places, "where we feel safe to go and hang out with our children. There's not a lotta places on that map that I would bring my daughter. There's Crabtree and Carnegie but

reason for not liking the scene, it was also because she cares for the people in it. "I feel I have to walk through a wall of personal darkness. There are people there that I like and care for."

"I feel sorry for all the homeless people stuck out in front of the San Francisco pawn shop and then the cops chase them away," said one person."

While many mappers were understanding of the street scene, not everyone was. "All the shit outside [Carnegie]," said one mapper. "So many people avoid that corner." One mapper said of the alley between Carnegie and the Health Contact Centre, "We used to call that the vortex....I couldn't believe that alley was non stop, just the worst place to be. Piss alley I call it."

Mappers also put slumlords and slum hotels like the Balmoral and Regent on their maps as places that made them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

"The Balmoral," said one mapper. "The elevator is always broken."

"It's the crappiest," said another of the Balmoral. It has all the roaches but is not even set up with proper furniture. I have a kid living there and it's atrocious."

Feelings of exclusion and fear of violence are clearly not DTES community assets. Both require strong action that will be recommended in CCAP's future work.

Carnegie doesn't really have places for kids." Another mapper at Crabtree said the DTES Neighbourhood House is not kid-friendly (no space for children's programs). One mother drew the corner of Main and Hastings on the map and said, "I can't walk through it with my kids without being harassed. I can't get around it."

Mappers who live in more secure housing found it challenging to live in the DTES too, but also talked about the DTES street scene as an opportunity to raise children with compassion. Living in the DTES, "Makes us appreciate what [we] have," said a parent living in a DTES co-op. It makes us feel human and everyone is human. When you are walking to school [with your child] and see someone...talk about the illness and not about the person. It's done something to [my children] as human beings and that may not have happened if we lived somewhere else." This resident added, speaking of her children, "They are much less judgmental than their peers. Two out of three of my kids grew up not worshipping the almighty dollar and I like to think it's because of where they grew up."

As Kathy Walker, another DTES co-op resident wrote in *Hope in the Shadows*, "People question our decision to raise our kids here, but most people need to be more profoundly aware of the numbing effect that privilege has on the souls of children. Being separated from the suffering of the world is dehumanizing, and children who are isolated grow up to be adults that don't deeply understand people and don't have a deep sense of compassion."

The DTES could be a safer neighbourhood for families



One mapper said, “If we were given the same level of respect as other communities we wouldn’t have people coming in from outside and saying what ...should be good for us. Like the stadium. Our input is pushed to the back.” Another person said, “We need to have people from here speaking for the community.”

Another said, “A healthy community has housing that is affordable for all the different members in it: seniors, families, singles, people with different incomes and interests.”

One mapper said, “Change the police attitude that anyone who is here is automatically a criminal.

Others said simply, “More lights,” would make a safer community.

In general the mappers wanted governments to deal directly with community problems like lack of housing and drug addiction.





# Conclusions

## The DTES community has many assets

The mapping process has created a good list of community strengths and assets for governments, agencies, resident groups and businesses to build onto make the DTES a safer and healthier community. Necessities are free or cheap and nearby, which is good when you can't afford to travel. The neighbourhood has 5000 units of good quality, self contained social housing which are providing a solid base for people to live secure lives and contribute to their community. It has welcoming, non judgmental, and participatory health, food and community services, and a rich cultural and community heritage.

The DTES has green spaces, which residents need for serenity and getting close to nature, and hundreds of residents volunteer to keep community services functioning. Many residents feel empathy for people with mental health and addiction issues and there is a strong feeling of community. There is also a strong feeling of acceptance in the DTES community, and a strong sense of social justice and activism.

While there are many assets in the DTES community, it is clear that there are major challenges like homelessness, poor housing, mental illness and addiction that need to be directly addressed.

### Gentrification threatens low-income community assets

Without a change in direction by the city, the main impact of existing and looming city policies will be gentrification. The dynamics of gentrification are more than simply putting richer people into a poor community, even if there are some social housing units that low-income people can still afford.

With the upscale residents come upscale business that excludes local residents with their prices and security guards. Some condo residents are already organizing to stop the services and housing that low-income people need (see Appendix D). As gentrification proceeds, hotel rents increase at an alarming rate. Almost 700 rooms renting at \$375 a month increased their rents to over \$425 last year, making them too expensive for people on welfare, disability and many seniors.

Land prices and taxes rise and storefronts become too expensive for businesses and services that cater to low-income people. While it's possible that low-income people could remain in the social housing, if the neighbourhood is overwhelmed by condos, the "community" will be replaced by a tectonic mix of rich and poor. The poor will gradually be pushed out either financially, because they can no longer afford to live in the DTES, or emotionally, because the community that they supported and that supported them will be gone.

Just compare the maps created by low-income mappers

to the map of the DTES created by the Salient Group to lure buyers for its Gastown Paris Block condos whose prices start at \$380,000. The Salient maps (see Page 17) are for the western end of the DTES where over 70% of residents have low incomes, according to Statistics Canada.

Salient has one map of new developments. On this map there are only three sites that low-income mappers mapped: Woodward's, Tinseltown, and Portside Park. But the low-income mappers put the new Woodward's and

**"Gentrification is not creating a 'social mix' but what the academics call 'social tectonics' where two groups exist in the same space and don't mix, or when they do mix, the mixing is conflictual."**

Tinseltown in the unsafe, uncomfortable category and they called Portside Park by its community name, CRAB Park. CRAB stands for Create a Real Available Beach, the name of the group that squatted on the site to get it turned into a real park. Portside is an official name, an



## Glossary of DTES acronyms mentioned by mappers

ATIRA	Women's Resource Society: Property management and social services mainly for women.
CCAP	Carnegie Community Action Project: A project of the board of the Carnegie Community Centre Association.
DAMS	Drug, Alcohol, Meeting and Support: Provides workshops and meetings for women and women who are HIV+; has offices and meeting space at the Lifeskills Centre.
DERA	Downtown Eastside Residents' Association: advocacy and services for residents; housing; work on community issues.
DTES	Downtown Eastside
IWD	International Women's Day
LILAHC	Low Income Land use and Housing Coalition: a DTES coalition that affirms that the redevelopment of the DTES must include the voices and reflect the

	vision of the predominantly low-income DTES community who make up 3/4 of its population.
PACE	Prostitution Alternatives Counseling and Education: Support and advocacy, education and violence prevention and programs for people working in the sex trade.
PEERS	Peer support, advocacy and programs for sex workers.
SROs	Single room occupancy hotel rooms: Generally a 10 by 10 foot hotel room with a bathroom down the hall shared by everyone on the floor, no kitchen.
VIDUS	Vancouver Injection Drug Users Study that has been tracking intravenous drug users since 1996.
VANDU	Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users: Peer support, education and harm reduction for drug users.
WISH	Drop in centre and programs for women in the survival sex trade.

## Appendix A: List of places where mapping took place

1- 4. PACE	4 mapping sessions with current or past sex workers;
5. DAMS	1 session mostly with Aboriginal and homeless women;
6. Gastown Hotel	1 session with residents of this provincially-owned hotel;
7. Oppenheimer	1 session with park users;
8. Jim Green Residence	1 session with people who live in this supportive housing;
9. Bill Hennessey	1 session with people who live in this supportive housing;
10. Anonymous	1 session with residents of a social housing building (who didn't want building named);
11. Jenny Pentland	1 session in this social housing building;
12. Four Sisters	1 session in this housing co-op;
13. Lore Krill	1 session in this housing co-op;
14. Carnegie Seniors	1 session with Chinese, Aboriginal and white elders;
15-16. CCAP volunteers	2 sessions with volunteers with

17-18. LILAHC	CCAP's action group; 2 sessions with members of the Low Income Land Use and Housing Coalition at the DTES Neighbourhood House;
19. Carnegie Board	1 session with the elected board members of the Carnegie Community Centre Association;
20. CRAB Park	1 session with park users;
21. Neighbourhood Helpers	1 session with mostly elders from the Second Mile Club Seniors' Centre;
22. Crabtree Corner	1 session with a parent leadership group at Crabtree;
23. Crab Water for Life	1 session with a CRAB Park advocacy group.



## Appendix B: CCAP's low-income planning process

CCAP's process for developing a vision, principles and strategies for achieving a healthy, safe, authentic, affordable low-income DTES include:

**Visioning and Questionnaire** completed in 2008 and published as *Nothing about Us Without Us*. Available at [ccapvancouver.wordpress.com](http://ccapvancouver.wordpress.com)

**Common Ground meetings:** In the winter of 2009, 3 meetings with a broad range of DTES resident, agency and business groups to determine if there is common ground among the groups.

**Resolution on Local Area Planning:** CCAP and LILAHC circulated this resolution on Local Area Planning which has been endorsed by 46 groups so far:

The following organizations support or will participate in a local area planning process that:

- 1) Has a vision and goal and implementation mechanisms to create and maintain a safe, affordable and healthy low-income neighbourhood;
- 2) Has a steering committee made up of low-income DTES residents and their representatives in proportion to their population;

- 3) And will take about one year.

**Community mapping:** Between Sept. 2008 and May 2009 CCAP held community mapping sessions with about 200 low-income people at 23 DTES sites. This report is the summary of the mapping process.

**Reflection Committee:** On May 22, 2009 a reflection committee made of people who had participated in the mapping sessions reflected on the mapping and overall community input process and gave direction for future steps.

**Planning Day:** This day is planned for July 27, 2009 with about 25 DTES residents to develop a vision, some principles and some strategies for achieving a safe, secure, affordable, authentic low-income neighbourhood in the DTES.

**A draft vision document** will be produced, based on all the work so far (Sept., 2009). It will be taken to DTES groups and an open house for input (Oct., 2009).

**A final document** will be prepared and presented to City Council (Nov., 2009).

## Appendix C: List of neighbourhood serving stores, bars and restaurants drawn on maps (Some of them are now closed)

American Bar  
Army and Navy Department Store  
Bamboo Village  
BBQ Pork near First United Church  
Benny's Market  
Bill's Grocery  
Boss Bakery  
Brandiz Store  
Casa Gelato  
Chinatown  
Corner Stores  
Costco Warehouse Store  
Dollar Store in Chinatown  
Floata Restaurant  
Flowers Restaurant  
Funky Winkerbean's  
Gain Wah Restaurant  
Grand Union Pub  
H.A.V.E Café  
Hon's Restaurant

Jade Dynasty Restaurant  
Keefer and Georgia Street  
shops in Chinatown  
Kent's Kitchen  
Marr Bar  
Maxim's  
McDonald's at Tinseltown  
Mitzie's Restaurant  
New Town Bakery  
Old Pilgrim's Market  
Old Woodward's  
Only Seafood Restaurant  
Ovaltine  
Park Place Restaurant  
Payless Meats  
Pig and Whistle Bar  
Potluck Café  
Quest  
Rainbow Bar  
Redway Café

Rhada Restaurant  
Rice World  
Save on Meats  
Smiling Buddha  
St James's Store  
Sunrise Bar  
Sunrise Market  
Tinseltown food fair  
TnT Supermarket  
Tosi's Italian Foods  
Uncle Henry's  
Union Market  
Vietnamese Restaurant  
on Hastings east of Dunlevy  
Vietnamese Sandwich Shop  
Washington Store  
Waves Coffee Shop  
Wing's Café  
Zana's Pizza

## Appendix D:

### Partial list of incidents of property and business owners working to stop low-income housing or services in the DTES

May 2009: Retail tenants in the newly purchased provincially-owned Dominion Hotel organize to get tenants evicted.

Spring 2009: Condo residents at The Edge lobby to keep United We Can Bottle depot out of their area.

Spring 2008: Condo residents at the Left Bank organized petitions to city hall stop supportive housing proposed for 1005 Station Street.

Fall 2008: Strathcona Residents Association members oppose ATIRA request to the Board of Variance to install a communal kitchen at a provincially-owned hotel called the Rice Block.

Fall 2008: Strathcona Residents Association members oppose ATIRA request to open a small storefront at the Rice Block to house its Enterprising Women Making Art program.

Spring 2007: Property owners oppose Union Gospel Mission project to build a facility with treatment, detox, transitional housing and job club.

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## Photos

Page 3: Downtown Eastside map.

Page 5: Lore Krill mappers put their dots on map.

Page 6: Carnegie senior draws on a map.

Page 9: Carnegie senior adds to map.

Page 10: Carnegie Seniors get involved in their map.

Page 12: Mapping with folks from CRAB Park.

Page 13: Tranny tracks underneath Hastings near Campbell are an unsafe, forlorn place to some mappers.

Page 14: PACE mapper concentrates on her drawing.

Page 15: Mappers at PACE pose in front of their map.

Page 17: Paris Block map.

Page 17: Mapping Reflection Committee discusses next steps in CCAP's community input process.


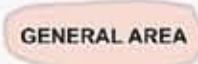
# MEANINGFUL PLACES

In Vancouver's Downtown Eastside Community, 2009

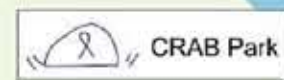


In 2008-09, the Carnegie Community Action Project (CCAP) lead a mapping project which involved approximately 200 low-income residents of the Downtown Eastside during 23 mapping sessions. CCAP mapped with groups like Prostitution Alternatives Counselling and Education, parents at Crabtree Daycare, housing co-ops, supportive housing, seniors, hotel residents and others. CCAP asked the mappers to draw the most meaningful places, best food venues and best housing accommodations, and explain why these places were meaningful. The participants described their memories and experiences that were attached to these sites. This map shows the top 26 sites prioritized by the mappers out of about 180 sites mapped in total.

## LEGEND

-  The Carnegie  
\* Symbolizes specific place which was selected as meaningful by participants
-  GENERAL AREA  
\* Symbolizes general area or neighbourhood which was selected as meaningful by participants

Source: Carnegie Community Action Project (2008) Community Mapping Project; City of Vancouver, Vanmap Public Edition, 2009.



CRAB Park



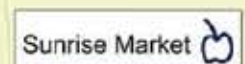
Four Sisters



Evelyn Saller



WISH Drop-in CTR



Sunrise Market



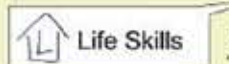
Jim Green Residence



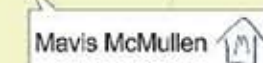
Oppenheimer Park



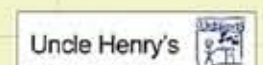
Powell Place



Life Skills



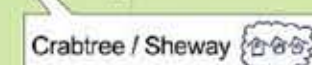
Mavis McMullen



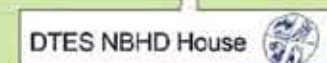
Uncle Henry's



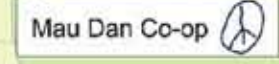
Flowers Restaurant



Crabtree / Sheway



DTES NBHD House



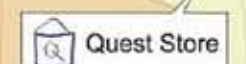
Mau Dan Co-op



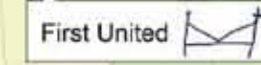
Benny's Market



The Carnegie



Quest Store



First United



Bridge Housing



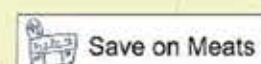
PACE



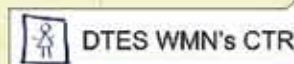
Harbour Light



Lore Krill



Save on Meats



DTES WMN's CTR

Carroll St

W Pender St

Water St

W Cordova St

W Hastings St

Beatty St

Abbott St

Alexander St

Powell St

E Cordova St

E Hastings St

E Pender St

E Georgia St

STRATHCONA HOUSES

Jackson Ave

Keefe St

Union St

Healey Ave

Hawks Ave

Campbell Ave

Gore Ave

Main St

Columbia St

Dunsmuir Viaduct

WHOLE DTES AREA

CHINATOWN

