

PARTICIPANTS IN HUMANITIES 101 *WRITING COURSE* / What Do Downtown Eastsiders Want?

The idea that Downtown Eastsiders don't know what we want is one of the misconceptions drawn upon to support the gentrification of this area which will result in our displacement unless we get the social housing we need.

If you think that Downtown Eastsiders don't know what we want, or want to learn more, then read on

These manifestos were produced by participants in the Writing course with Downtown Eastside/ South residents offered by the Humanities 101 Community Programme (Hum) for a class project on rhetoric with Margot Leigh Butler, one of many volunteer teachers and Hum's Director. In Writing: Charlene Bozoian, Daniel George, Anna Goloubova, Larisa Goloubova, Charlize Gordon, Lorna Johnson, Brenn Kapitan, Kris Kelly, Gladys Lee, Mahamoud Hersi, Robert Makela, Shahla Masoumenjad, Sarah Payne, Rajendra Prasad, Troy Pugsley, Penelope Rowley, Ludvik Skalicky, Cheryl Smith, Gena Thompson & Phoenix Winter.

Writing participants worked with the Carnegie Community Action Project's report released in June 2010 called "Community Vision for Change in the Downtown Eastside: Assets to Actions," turning the Summary & 12 Key Actions into manifestos.

Many people involved with Hum are activists, advocates, artists, poets, vocalists, volunteers and intellectuals who contribute to and publish newsletters on the DTES/ South, work with the Carnegie Community Action Project, Raise the Rates, Carnegie Community Centre Association Board, the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre and the Power to Women, Aboriginal Front Door, VANDU (Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users), the Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Council, The Gathering Place and more – and are manifesting manifestos daily!

Overridingly, What Downtown Eastsiders want is
NOT TO BE DISPLACED from our own neighbourhood!

take the cotton out of your ears

put it in your mouth

&

listen

listen

listen

The 12 Key Actions

Based on over two years of intensive work with 1,200 low-income DTES residents & in co-operation with many DTES organizations, the **Carnegie Community Action Project's "Community Vision for Change in the Downtown Eastside"** puts forth these 12 key actions as the foundation and guide for future development in the DTES. Research by CCAP's Wendy Pedersen and Jean Swanson, June 2010.

1. Build social housing for low-income people
2. Tackle systemic poverty
3. Stop gentrification: a process that has happened in hundreds of cities around the world when richer people push out poorer people in a community, and property values increase
4. Improve safety by working with police to provide a better understanding of DTES-residents from their perspective, dealing with security guard harassment, non-resident drinkers, and replacing the illegal drug market with a legal market based on health + human rights principles
5. Improve health services
6. Support and fund DTES arts and culture
7. Develop an economy that serves and employs local residents
8. Ensure public spaces are public, not gated, sufficient, safe, and welcoming
9. Keep towers out and retain heritage buildings
10. Involve DTES residents in neighbourhood decisions
11. Attract more children
12. Create a DTES image that honours + respects low-income residents

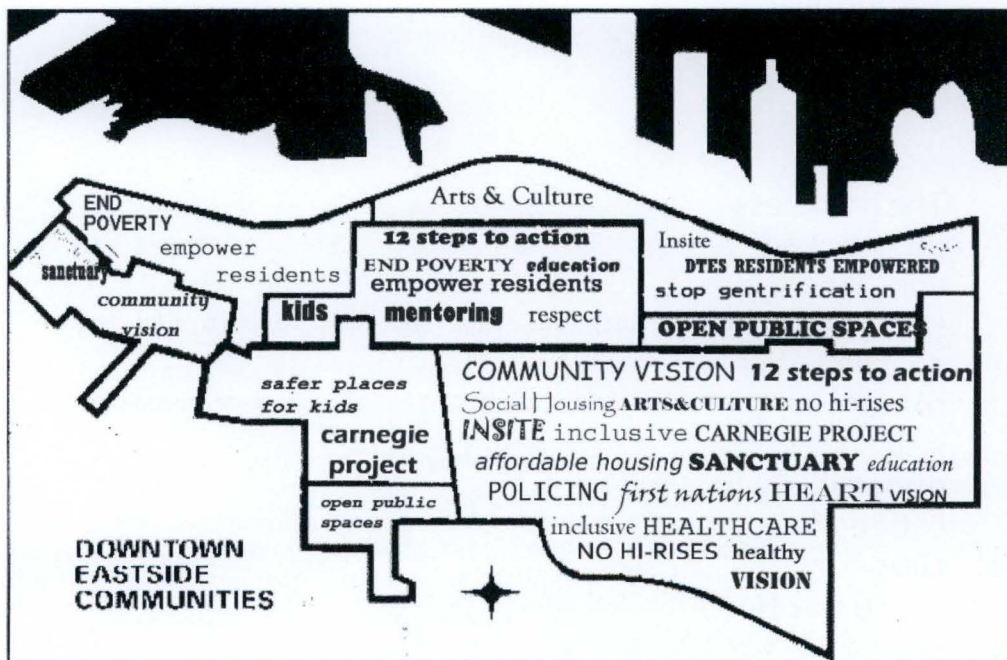
The DTES low-income community has a right to exist in Vancouver + to seek improvements for itself; residents themselves, with help from government, will be able to strengthen and improve their already strong community by building on assets that are currently present.
<http://ccapvancouver.wordpress.com/ccap-repo>

A Temporary Manifesto

by Kris Kelly

The homeless
do not need
another
tarnished
quarter
tossed
into
disposable
coffee
cups.

There is a need for
safe
temporary
shelter and
long term
affordable
housing.



MAP OF DTES areas with text of CCAP's

12 Action Points: a DTES Map

by Lorna Johnson & Daniel George

Manifesto

by Phoenix Winter, member of CCAP and the Carnegie Community Centre Association Board, with Brenn Kapitan and Gena Thompson, President of the Carnegie Community Centre Board

The heart of Vancouver

One thousand, two hundred voices are fighting for life in the core, the original part of Vancouver, the Downtown Eastside. If there is something wrong in the DTES, there is something ailing in the whole city.

Gentrification is like fatty acids clogging the arteries of the city, labeling its true citizens as undesirable and sweeping them out. We must stop condo development in its tracks. Social housing must come before it's too late.

The Downtown Eastside has been a sanctuary and a refuge for those who have been pushed out from other places, because of drug addictions, mental health issues, and other reasons. Part of the community's health is its ability to care about others, and to be family for those who have none. It shows real heart.

If the heart of Vancouver is troubled, so is its soul. Artists and writers are the lifeblood of a community. When they are strong, other people are drawn to their work spaces. This can play into the hands of condo developers, but doesn't have to. Even if artists create a popular area, affordable spaces and funding for the arts can remain.

*Those who live in the heart, the DTES, need to raise their voices and be heard. Their input must inform decisions made about the community. In the words of VANDU (Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users): **"Nothing About Us Without Us."***

↪ Results **Wanted** ↪ Results

In this 21st century we should be able to care for people, putting them in safe, affordable housing that meets their needs: **i.e.** people with drug issues should have in-building help with medications & related treatments **i.e.** people with handicaps require a building with proper access for their handicaps, physical & mental **i.e.** all should have both safe & secure housing without intrusions into personal property or privacy, unless there is just cause **i.e.** all housing should be kept in reasonable repair & infestations of bugs, mice, insects, etc. must be taken care of to a maximum standard. Maintenance needs to be done on windows, heating, painting & drywalling, toilet & bathing facilities & kitchen facilities.

**! Housing should be affordable for
low income people
which suits individual needs !**

!! Proper maintenance, cleanliness & individual privacy is a must !!
!!! Secure buildings are needed, with security provided for tenants' safety !!!

↪ **Statement** ↪ We as residents of Downtown Eastside Vancouver are a very mixed population of people of all races, incomes, some with health issues both physical & mental. We should be given respect & there should be care for the needs of each indivisible case or person.

I for one am pissed off with the seeming lack of care & respect that is received from government agencies.

↪ **Demands** ↪ We deserve & demand that the City & Provincial agencies start to give us proper housing based on individual needs & requirements. I want the police to treat us with more respect, not goddamn abuse & bullshit.

I want access to services for medical & health related issues, & for this to be done with long term goals for all to be able to live life in a reasonable manner.

by Charlene Bozoian, member of the Power to Women,
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, with Robert Makela & Mahamoud Hersi

Some **Keywords** of DTES Displacement & Gentrification, compiled by the Hum Study Group with Margot Leigh Butler, C. Carroll, Henry Flam, Sharon Johnson, Georgia Kelly, Brenn Kapitan, Sue Pell, Alison Rajah, Greg Scutt, Melissa Thomas, Christopher Winkler & Paul Woodhouse, based in many people's language, knowledge, experience & actions.... If you would like to contribute to this critical vocabulary—to add words, definitions and experiences—email us at hum101@interchange.ubc.ca. The keywords are posted on <http://humanities101.arts.ubc.ca/>. *Note that 'doublespeak' keywords are in Euphemia italic font.

abandonment quality buildings, Aboriginal peoples, accumulation by dispossession, activism, addiction, advocates, **affordable housing**, agency (the power to act and make meaning), artists, art practices, *BIAs (Business Improvement Associations)*, Bill C-304 "Secure, Adequate, Accessible and Affordable Housing Act", *breaking up 'concentrated' poverty with 'diversity'*, capitalism, checkerboard gentrification, citizenship, uneven democratic participation, *City Planning*, class, class war, collective action, colonization, *Community Benefits Agreements*, **Community Centres**, community consultation, **Community Engagement Mandate**, community vision, condo tsunami, conversion or anti-conversion bylaws, criminalization of poverty, crumbs, culture, decision-making process, deliberate neglect of buildings, densification, development permits, development, direct action, displacement, displacement of sex workers to more dangerous areas, diversity (meaning 'class'), "Do the poor have a right to live in expensive areas?", donations to the **Mayor**, double-bunking (charging 2 rents for one SRO room), **doublespeak (deliberate&calculating, doublespeakers disguise, distort, reverse words' meanings, are evasive and intentionally create ambiguity)*, *Downtown Ambassadors*, ecological gentrification (such as the **Carrall Street Greenway**), economic development, *employment for DTES residents building and working in new DTES businesses*, episodic self-gratifying research, *eviction by 'renovation'*, exclusionary zone, inclusionary zone, *experts*, expropriation, Four Pillars (prevention, harm reduction, treatment and enforcement), figure of the Phoenix (as in The Province newspaper's year-long "Operation Phoenix" image/text series on the DTES), gentrification (rich people moving into a poor neighbourhood and pushing poor people out), globalization, guest fees (SROs illegally charging extra for guests), harassment, Health and Safety Bylaws, Heart of the City, **height restriction**, hegemony, Hell Hole, Heritage Buildings & *Heritage Incentive programs*, history of the DTES, **homeless people** (700 live without homes on the DTES), Homeowners' Associations, **human rights** and social justice (i.e. United Nations Declaration of Human Rights), ideology, impact of displacement and violence on women's bodies, **incentivizing** (i.e. increased building height in exchange for including social housing units, subsidy, **tax holidays**), *inclusion*, income, **income assistance**

<i>Income Assistance/Welfare including rent</i>	<i>rent</i>	<i>Disability Allowance</i>	<i>OAP</i>	<i>70% of DTESers live on less than</i>	<i>minimum wage</i>
\$610 ^{(610-375=235 to live on}	\$375 to 425+	\$906	\$1,100	\$1000	\$8

institutions, interest/equity, landlords, **legal rights** (i.e. Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms (Section 7), low income residents, **MANIFESTO**, mapping (i.e. community mapping of important sites in the DTES, and developers' maps which include none of them), media, market housing, **material poverty**, middleclass, National Housing Strategy, neo-liberalism, non-judgemental, non-market housing, **normalizing**, organizers, people not included in gentrifiers' notion of 'communities', % (i.e. 70% DTES are on low incomes; 12% of SROs charge \$375, 88% now charge more; 21% increase in reported sexual assault in Vancouver this year), **policing**, VPD, RCMP, poor-bashing (i.e. blaming low income people for destroying property values), poverty, working poor, **private security guards**, *profit*, property and land values, tax base, Public Hearings & Public Inquiries where recommendations are made (and, perhaps, followed), publics, ratios (DTES condo development is outpacing social housing by a ratio of 3:1), real estate speculation, re-branding, **re-development**, *renewal*, rent control, representation, researchers, residential schools, **Residents' Associations**, **revitalization**, Right to the City, sustainable city, ripple effect, safe injection site, **self-determination**, situated authority, small units/micro-lofts (there's a micro penalty for turning an SRO room into a condo/loft), *social balance*, social enterprise, social housing, social housing as a public & political issue, social impact of gentrification study (DTES activists insisted on this being done before gentrification of the DTES, and it's happening only now), social justice, *social inclusion*, social rights, *social mixing*, social movements, social tectonics, soft condos (buyers need to "volunteer" in the DTES), **soft conversions**, squatting, SROs, stable base of low income residents on the DTES, Standards of Maintenance bylaws, stereotypes, **structural/systemic poverty**, students, student housing, *sweep*, systemic poverty, tarp, tenants' rights, Tent City, **ticketing as a technique of displacement for gentrification** (i.e. for jaywalking, vending, leaving the curb unsafely...), **towers**, **unceded First Nations land**, units (i.e. 5000 current plus 5000 needed units of DTES social housing), *value of a provincial social housing funding component to developers*, Victoria (City) v. Adams, wealth made possible by the production of poverty, **windows** (in planning the social housing units at Woodward's, careful consideration was put into choosing a window style because of developers' **fears** that tenants would hang clothes out to dry, thus offending owners nearby - so the windows only open a little, about this much), universities, violence, Women's Memorial March for Murdered & Missing Women, Woodsquat, **Woodwards**, **zoning**....

CONSTITUTION
Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Council
Adopted January 6, 2010

We are a representative group of Downtown Eastside residents who advocate for the needs, interests, and aspirations of our neighbourhood.

We seek to act in honor of the Coast Salish nation whose unceded lands the DTES occupies. We stand for the national, territorial, and cultural rights of Indigenous peoples.

We seek community control over neighbourhood planning, policy, land use, and community development.

We are for the development of community directed accessible education and recreation programs.

We strive to put a stop to the involuntary displacement of DTES residents.

We work for the development of dignified, low-income affordable housing and livable incomes.

We advocate for self-determined and accessible harm reduction health care.

We support the development of a legal drug market based on health and human rights principles.

We stand against all stigmas, discriminations, and violence that silence and marginalize DTES residents.

We advocate for the rights of sex trade workers to safety and dignity.

We stand for the development of accountable, appropriate, community-positive, person-safety oriented policing.

We aim to honor, respect and celebrate the members of our community and our community's history of working for social and economic justice by continuing this work.

The Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Council (DNC) formed in December 2009 under the initiative of the Carnegie Community Action Project, Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users, and ACCESS for Chinese Canadians. By January 2010, the new group had elected an interim steering committee to constitute the DNC as a society under the BC Societies Act, build an initial membership base, and arrange a first AGM to elect an official Board of Directors.

DNC regular membership meetings are held the first Saturday of each month, and all members are encouraged to participate. The Board of Directors is elected to organize these meetings and to implement and coordinate the decisions of the general membership. The Board meets weekly.

All that is required to be a member of the Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Council is to agree with the DNC constitution, and to be a resident of the Downtown Eastside (DTES), or to be voted in as a member of the "natural community" of the DTES. Natural community members cannot exceed 10% of the membership of the DNC nor its Board of Directors. dnchome.wordpress.com/about/