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SUBJECT: Phase 1 Community Engagement Summary

PROJECT NAME: Fourth Plain for All

Overview

In 2021, the City of Vancouver was awarded federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to help aid COVID-19 pandemic recovery efforts. Over the next three years, the City will invest more than \$30 million of this funding into central Vancouver neighborhoods near Fourth Plain Boulevard to address long-standing economic and health disparities made worse by pandemic-related challenges.

Through a community-driven process, the Fourth Plain for All project will identify, prioritize, and begin the implementation of a Fourth Plain neighborhood investment strategy. The Fourth Plain for All strategy will include two main parts:

- A list of long-term investment options to be implemented over the next 10 years.
- A list of priority projects that can utilize ARPA funding between now and 2026.

The project's community outreach team is planning and conducting ongoing engagement activities in two phases between February and July 2023. The summary covers engagement objectives, tactics, and outcomes during Phase 1 (February–April 2023).

Phase 1 Engagement Objectives

- Inform key stakeholders about project objectives, processes, and opportunities for engagement.
- Build trust and connections with community members and organizations who represent and/or serve Fourth Plain residents and businesses.
- Provide accessible opportunities for the Fourth Plain community to co-create the investment strategy for the project area.

Outreach Tactics

- **Engagement Strategy Working Group:** The project team convened a diverse group of eight community members who live and/or work in the project area. A facilitated discussion gathered input around current community needs and challenges, upcoming community events the project should be aware of, and suggestions for key stakeholders and representation the project should include in future outreach efforts. This session informed the strategy for all other project engagement activities.
- **Investment Strategy Committee:** The project's Investment Strategy Committee (ISC) advises and provides input regarding the Fourth Plain for All investment strategy. The opportunity to serve on this committee was advertised through the project website, City social channels, and targeted outreach to key stakeholders identified through the Engagement Strategy Working Group. Fifteen community members were appointed to the committee. All committee members live, work, or attend school in the project area; 86% self-identify as BIPOC; and four members are youth (24 years-old or younger). During Phase 1, the committee met twice to discuss current needs and challenges in the project area, their vision for how to best uplift and strengthen central Vancouver neighborhoods, and Fourth Plain for All investment goals and evaluation criteria.
- **Project Ambassadors:** Five multilingual project ambassadors engage in direct outreach efforts with the community on behalf of the project. They represent and have ties to Russian, Ukrainian, Hispanic, Chuukese, and Vietnamese communities in central Vancouver.
- **Business Canvassing:** In partnership with project ambassadors, the team conducted in-person visits to businesses within the project area. Businesses were asked to share their current challenges, needs, and desires for the future of their neighborhoods. The team shared flyers with information about the

project—including a QR code directing people to the community survey—and encouraged businesses to share with their staff and customers.

- **Community Tabling:** The project team staffed an informational table at Sea Mar Community Health Center and Bagley Community Park to share project information and gather feedback. Community members were invited to share concerns, challenges, and hopes for the future for central Vancouver neighborhoods.
- **Neighborhood Meetings:** The project team attended and presented at four neighborhood association meetings within the project area. Community members shared their concerns, challenges, and vision for the future of their neighborhood.
- **Community Survey:** A survey was developed in English, Spanish, Russian, Chuukese and Vietnamese to capture community input regarding challenges and needs within the project area. Survey participants were also asked to share how they would invest \$25 million into central Vancouver neighborhoods. The survey was made available online and in print forms at in-person engagement activities.
- **Postcard Mailer:** The team designed, printed, and distributed an informational postcard to residential and business addresses in the project area. The postcard included information in both English and Spanish, a QR code linking to the community survey, and contact information to contact the project team directly.
- **Project Fact Sheet:** A flyer, available in English, Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian, Chuukese, and Vietnamese, summarized general information about the project, invited community members to take the survey, and shared how to stay engaged via the project BeHeard website.
- **Digital Communication:** The project's BeHeard website provides information about the project, ARPA, and community engagement opportunities. Three rounds of social media content were produced and distributed via City channels, sharing engagement opportunities including the survey and ISC recruitment.

Direct Engagement Activities & Reach

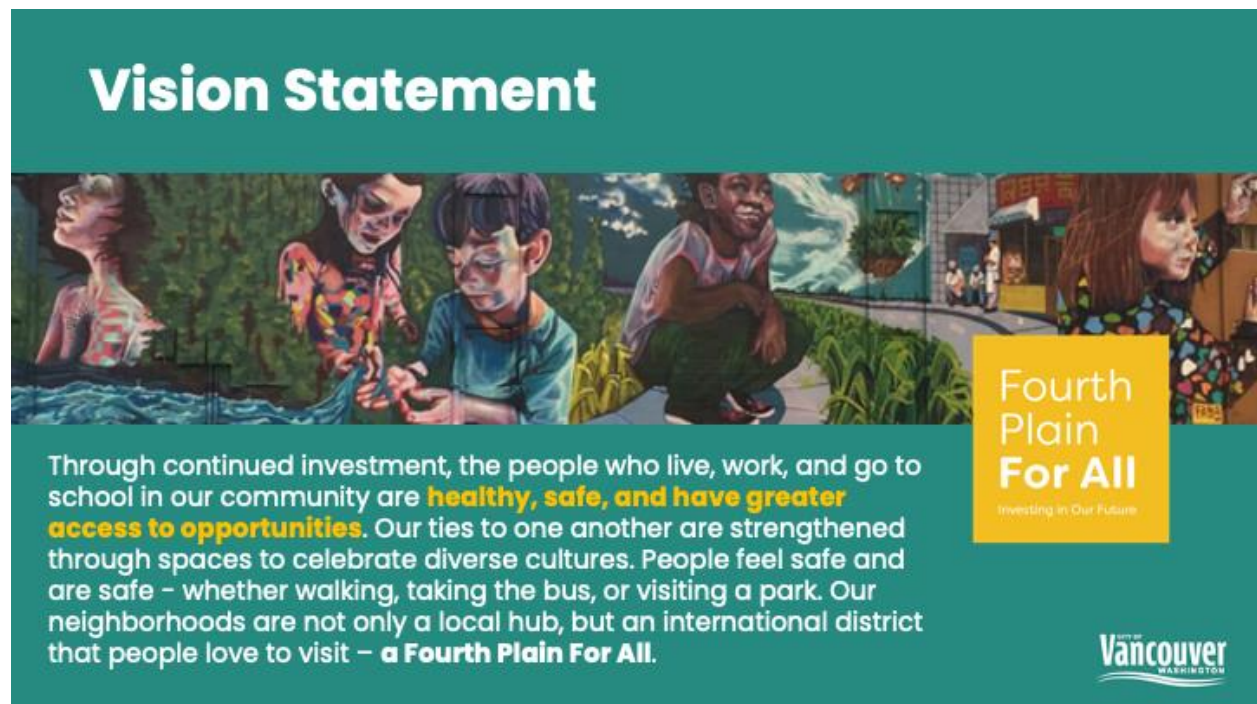
ACTIVITY	DATE	EVENT / LOCATION / GROUP	TOTAL REACH
Engagement Strategy Working Group	February 6	Key stakeholder representatives @ Fourth Plain Forward offices	8
ISC Meetings 1 & 2	March 21 & April 27	ISC Members @ Fort Vancouver High School	15
Tabling	March 30	Sea Mar Community Health Center	20
	April 22	Sustainable Communities Fair @ Bagley Community Park	32
Neighborhood Meetings	March 15	Meadow Homes Neighborhood Association	~31
	March 15	Fourth Plain Village Neighborhood Association	
	March 28	Rose Village Neighborhood Association	
	April 19	Walnut Grove Neighborhood Association	
Business Canvassing	April 12 - 14	Businesses within nine central Vancouver neighborhoods	74
Mailer	Week of March 27	Residents and businesses in zip codes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 98661 • 98662 • 98663 • 98665 	14,000
Community Survey	March 16 - April 30	Fourth Plain community	333 surveys

Feedback Summary

QUESTIONS

The outreach team prioritized asking the following questions during Phase 1 engagement efforts with members of the community:

- What challenges have you, and your community, faced since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What is the hope for the future of your neighborhood?
- What investments are most needed in central Vancouver neighborhoods?



Vision Statement

Through continued investment, the people who live, work, and go to school in our community are **healthy, safe, and have greater access to opportunities**. Our ties to one another are strengthened through spaces to celebrate diverse cultures. People feel safe and are safe – whether walking, taking the bus, or visiting a park. Our neighborhoods are not only a local hub, but an international district that people love to visit – **a Fourth Plain For All**.

Fourth Plain For All
Investing in Our Future

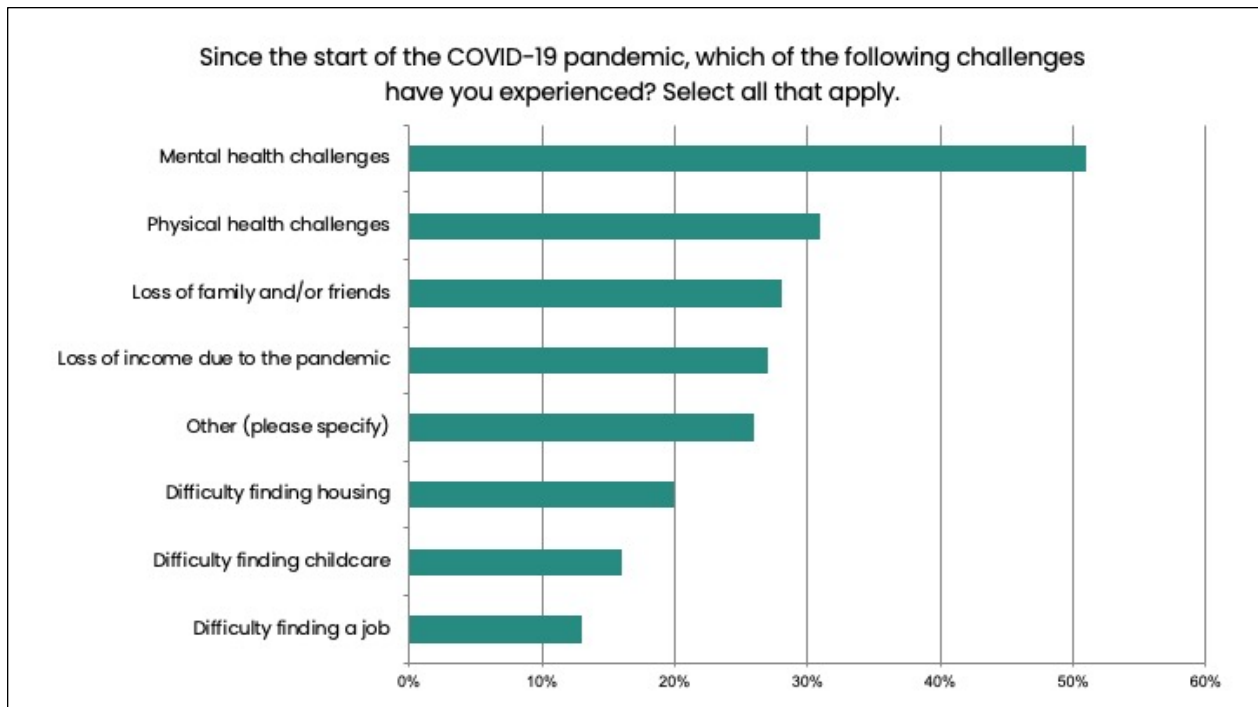
City of Vancouver
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THEMES AND FEEDBACK

The following themes emerged from feedback received across all outreach efforts throughout Phase 1.

The community has experienced health, safety, and economic challenges since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Survey respondents report mental health challenges (52%), physical health challenges (30%), and loss of family and/or friends (28%) as a result of the pandemic.



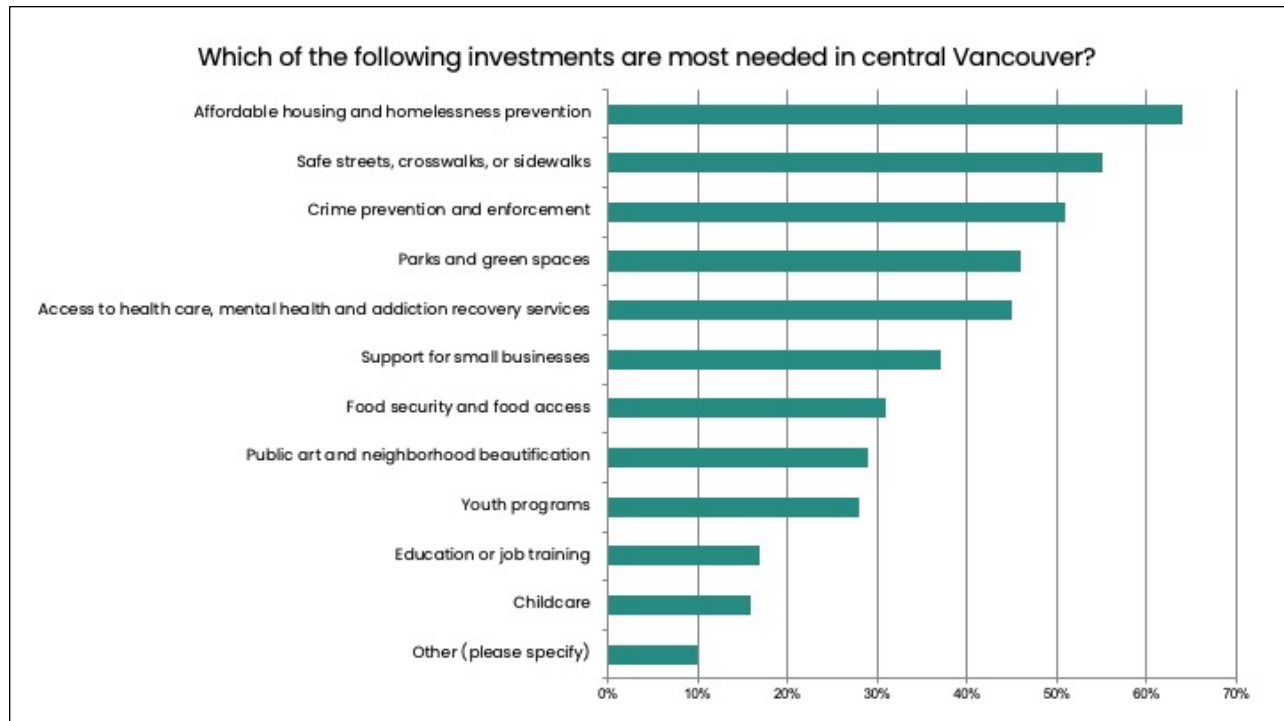
- Businesses within the project area report concerns about drug use, vandalism, theft, violence, and encampments near their buildings. Some shared that they plan to move to a new location or close their businesses due to these challenges.
- Business needs have been made worse by the pandemic (e.g., repairs, staffing shortage, rent increases).
- ISC members report the need for safe streets, community gathering spaces, youth support, and investments that will help overcome the negative stigma and fear of the Fourth Plain corridor.

Community members imagine a Fourth Plain corridor that is vibrant, healthy, and bustling with business activity and community celebrations.

- Diversity, food, murals, and people make Fourth Plain a vibrant community.
- In the future, ISC members want to see happy, healthy families thriving in the Fourth Plain corridor. They want to see people throughout the region travel to the Fourth Plain corridor to shop, eat, play, and celebrate different cultures.
- Survey respondents express hope for clean, safe neighborhoods that are walkable and bikeable, parks and green spaces where families can play and exercise together, increased access to social and educational services, and ability to attract and retain diverse businesses in central Vancouver.
- Access to healthy food options is important for community health.

Investments in affordable housing, public services, street improvements, and placemaking, are most cited as ways to help create a safe, healthy, and vibrant Fourth Plain community.

- Investments most important to survey respondents include affordable housing and homelessness prevention (65%), safe streets, crosswalks or sidewalks (55%), crime prevention and enforcement (51%), and parks and green spaces (46%).



- Beyond the need for shelter, survey respondents often tie homelessness challenges with needs for mental health and addiction recovery support.
- Businesses are interested in investments that address homelessness, drug abuse and addiction, crime prevention, road maintenance, clean and safe streets, and more green spaces.
- Investments in youth through scholarships, grants, and mental/emotional support can help prevent displacement and ensure the next generation will thrive in the Fourth Plain corridor.
- Placemaking and community gathering spaces are important to the community.
- ISC members agree both immediate and long-term investments are needed, however investments that provide sustainable, long-term impact should be prioritized for ARPA dollars.

What's Next

The project team will use feedback collected during Phase 1 to create a list of recommended investment options. These options will be shared during Phase 2 outreach and continue community-centered work towards identifying immediate and long-term Fourth Plain for All investment strategies. Planned Phase 2 outreach activities include:

- Additional tabling at community events and organizations within the project area.
- At least two additional meetings with the ISC to review investment options and solicit feedback regarding the group's investment priorities.
- Sponsor and host a project open house at the Multicultural Cultural Resource Fair held at Hudson's Bay High School on June 3, 2023, from 11am - 3pm to solicit feedback from the community regarding investment options and priorities.
- Update community survey to reflect potential investment options informed by Phase 1 feedback and solicit input; share survey widely via City social media channels and ISC member amplification.