

SFU GIS DAY 2024

# **[(DIS)CONNECTED BY DESIGN?]**

**USING PARTICIPATORY MAPPING TO UNCOVER  
DETERMINANTS OF SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS  
FOR YOUTH IN UNDER-RESOURCED  
NEIGHBOURHOODS  
[THE YOUTH.HOOD STUDY]**

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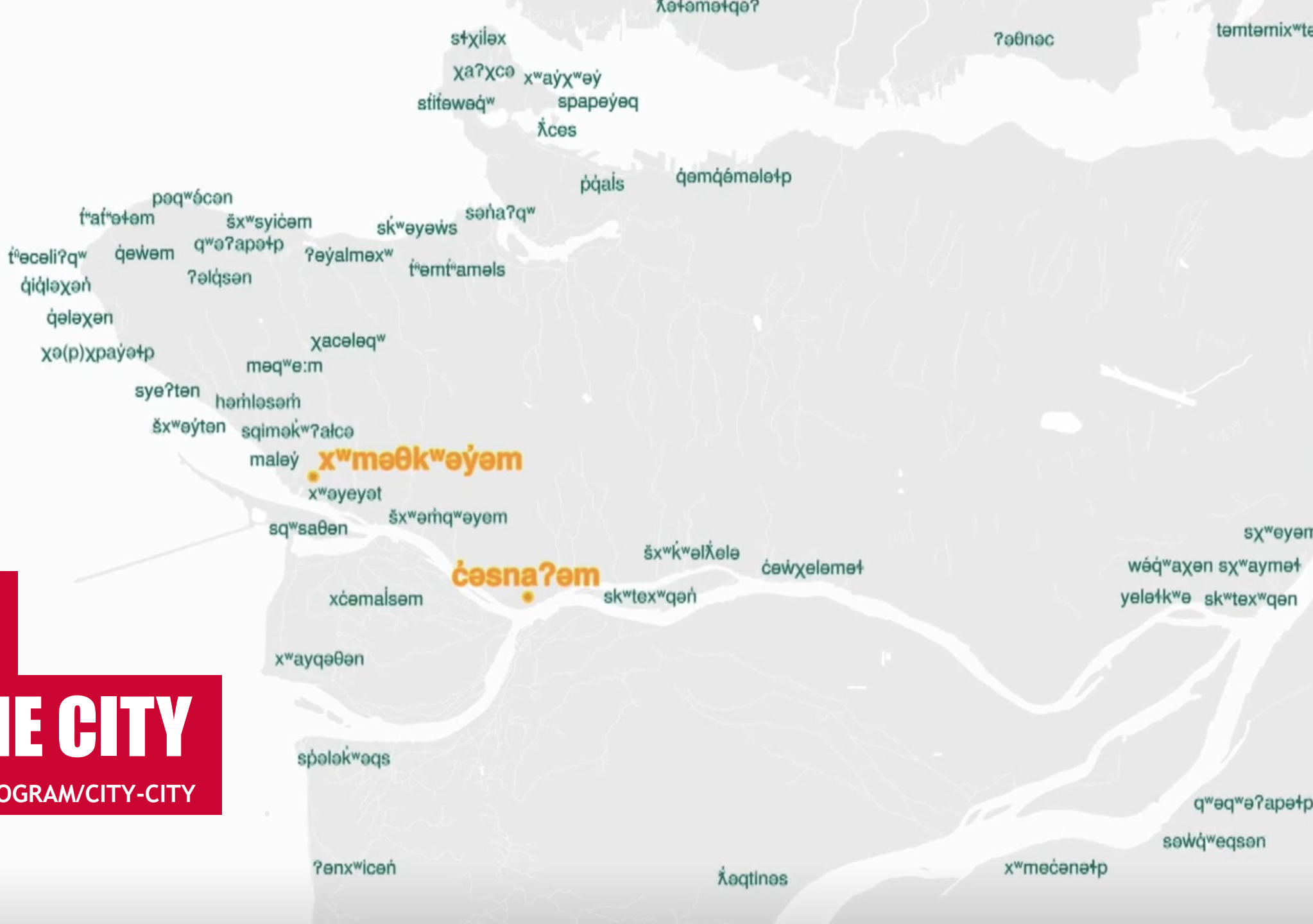


**CityHive**

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# BEFORE THE CITY

**WWW.KNOWLEDGE.CA/PROGRAM/CITY-CITY**



# SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE INEQUITIES IN SOUTH VANCOUVER

Development funds for social  
infrastructure (per person) in  
Vancouver, 2016 - 2019

**\$2,500**  
City of Vancouver

**\$329**

Sunset

**\$44**

Fraserview

**\$0**

Killarney

**South Vancouver**

From: Holden M, Firth C, Fassihi F. (2021). South  
Vancouver & Marpole Neighbourhood Equity Report.  
<https://summit.sfu.ca/item/32344>.

Source: City of Vancouver Council reports, 2016-2020

# PARK INEQUITIES

PARK PROJECTS COMPLETED FROM DEVELOPMENT FUNDING, 2009 TO 2019







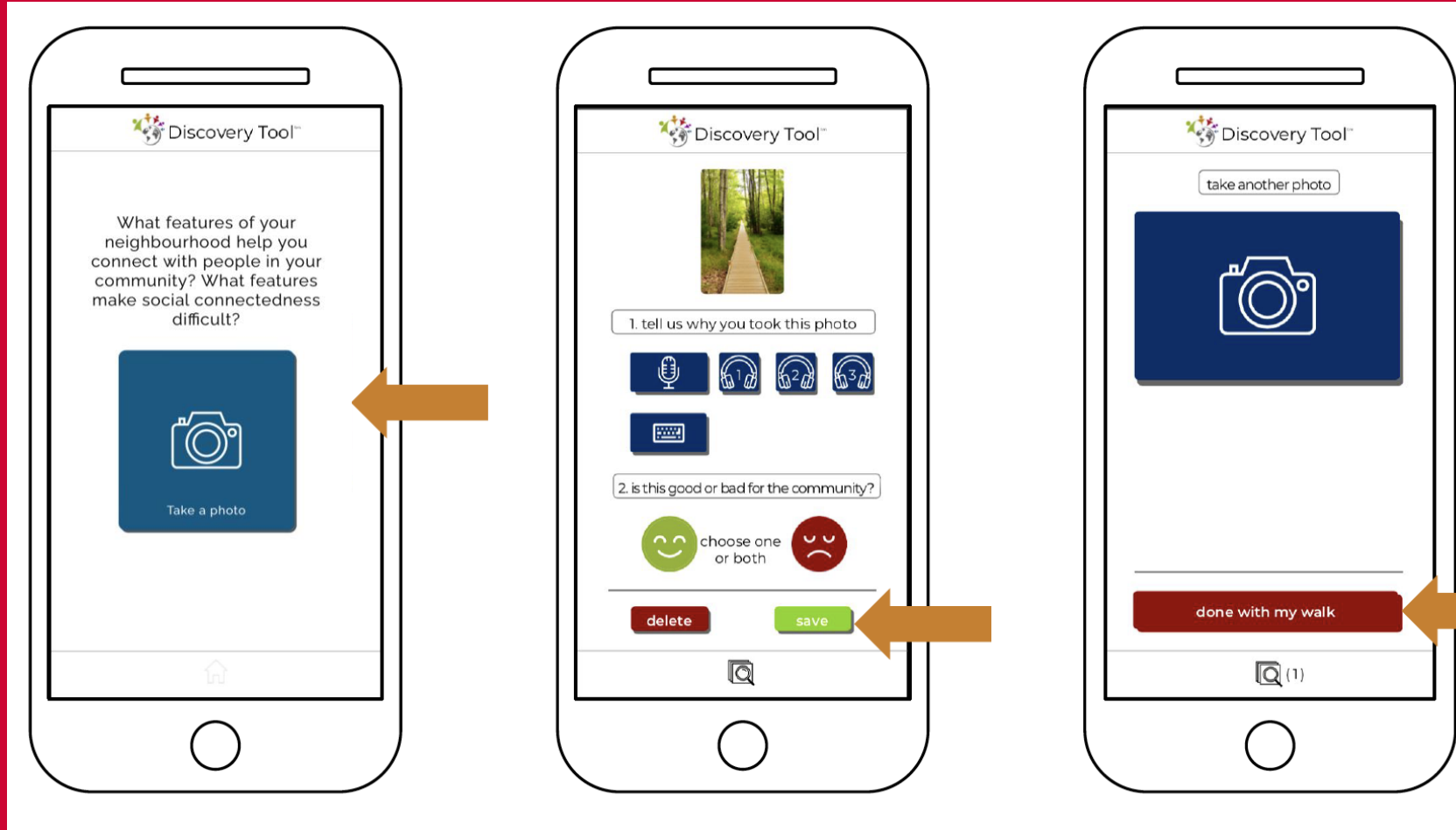
**HOW CAN WE BUILD NEIGHBOURHOODS THAT BETTER  
SUPPORT SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS FOR YOUTH?**

# YOUTH.HOOD OBJECTIVES

The Youth.hood study engaged racially diverse youth (n=42, age ~16 yrs) living in South Vancouver to:

1. **Assess** features of their neighbourhood environments that impact social connectedness using the Stanford Healthy Neighbourhood Discovery Tool;
2. **Analyze** results of their assessments and prioritize neighbourhood issues or features to be addressed;
3. **Advocate** for environmental solutions that promote social connectedness in their neighbourhoods.

# PHASE 1 ASSESS (USING THE DISCOVERY TOOL)





# **PHASE 2** **ANALYZE** **(YOUTH.HOOD** **DESIGN JAM)**





# PHASE 3: ADVOCATE (COMMUNITY FORUM)

## SOUTH VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOODS FOR PEOPLE

SVNH COMMUNITY FORUM  
SEPT 17, 2022

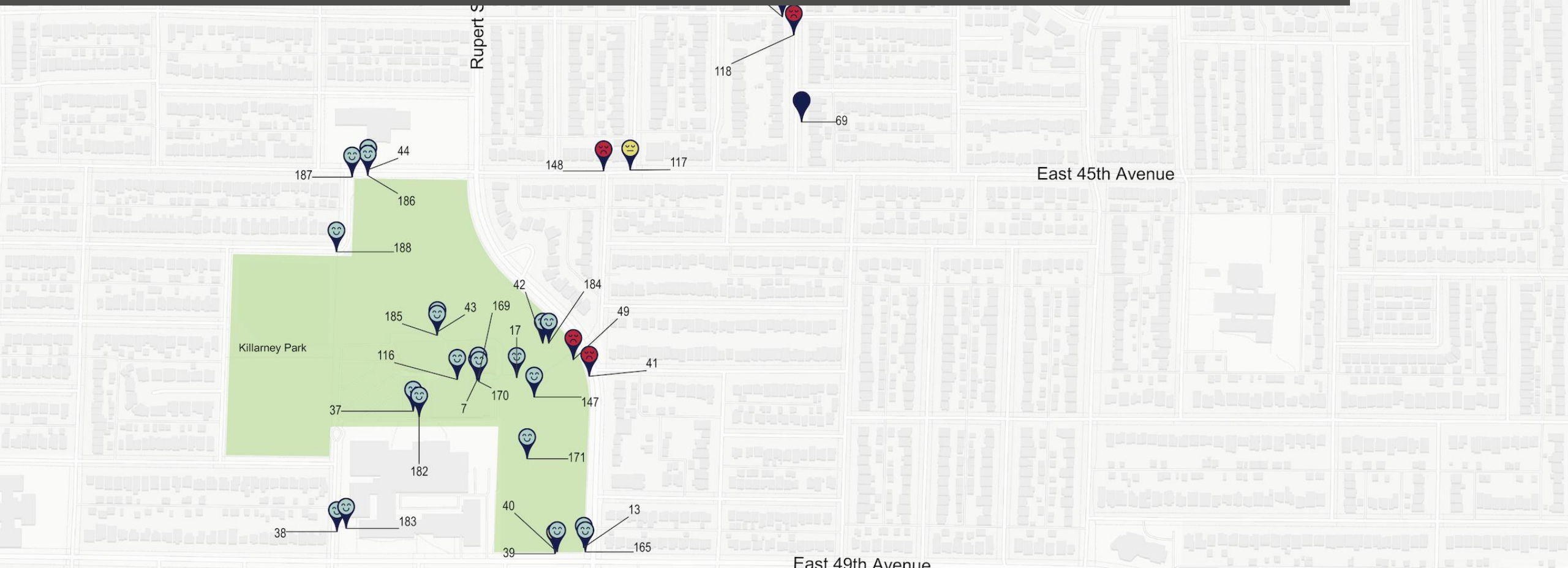


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# RESULTS FROM PHASE 1

## MAPPING SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS ASSETS AND BARRIERS FOR YOUTH IN SOUTH VANCOUVER...

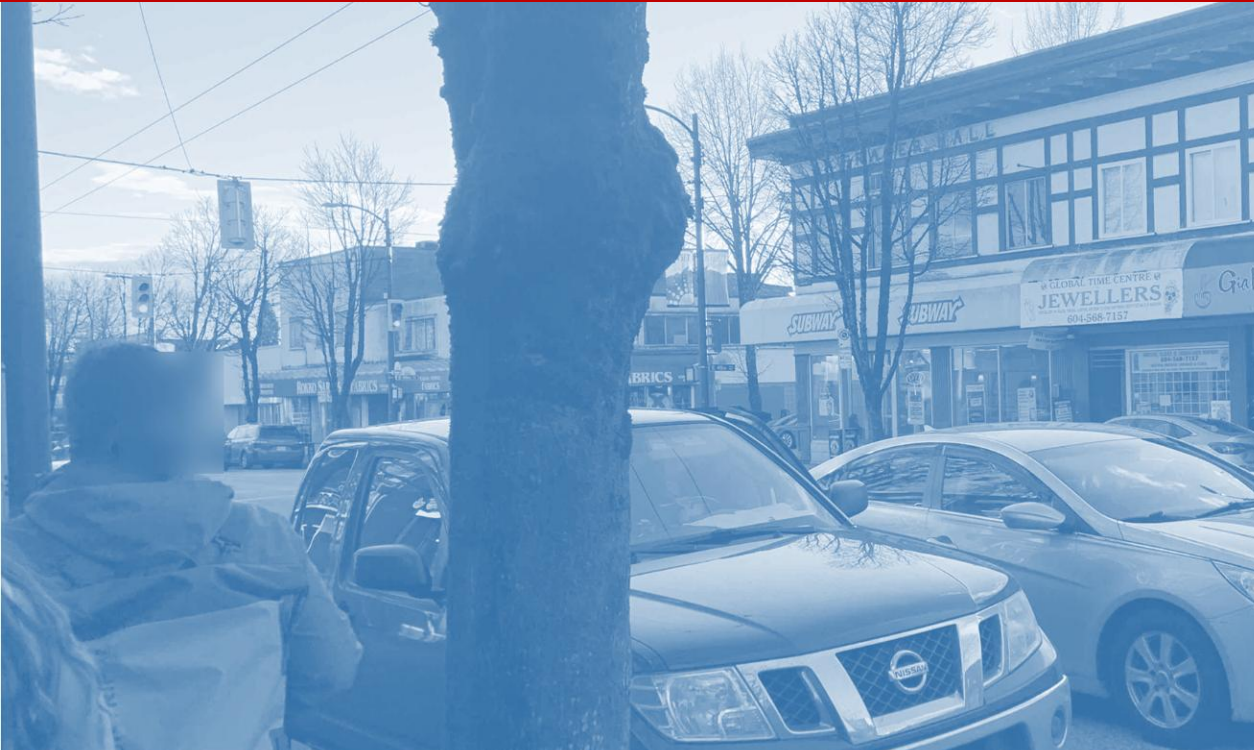


# RESULTS FROM PHASE 2: FOUR KEY THEMES

- **Connecting through mobility:** the fun and functionality of getting around
- **The power of aesthetics:** mediating connections to people and place
- **Retreating to connect:** seeking out social and restorative spaces for all
- **Under-resourced, not under-valued:** Uncovering assets for sociocultural connection

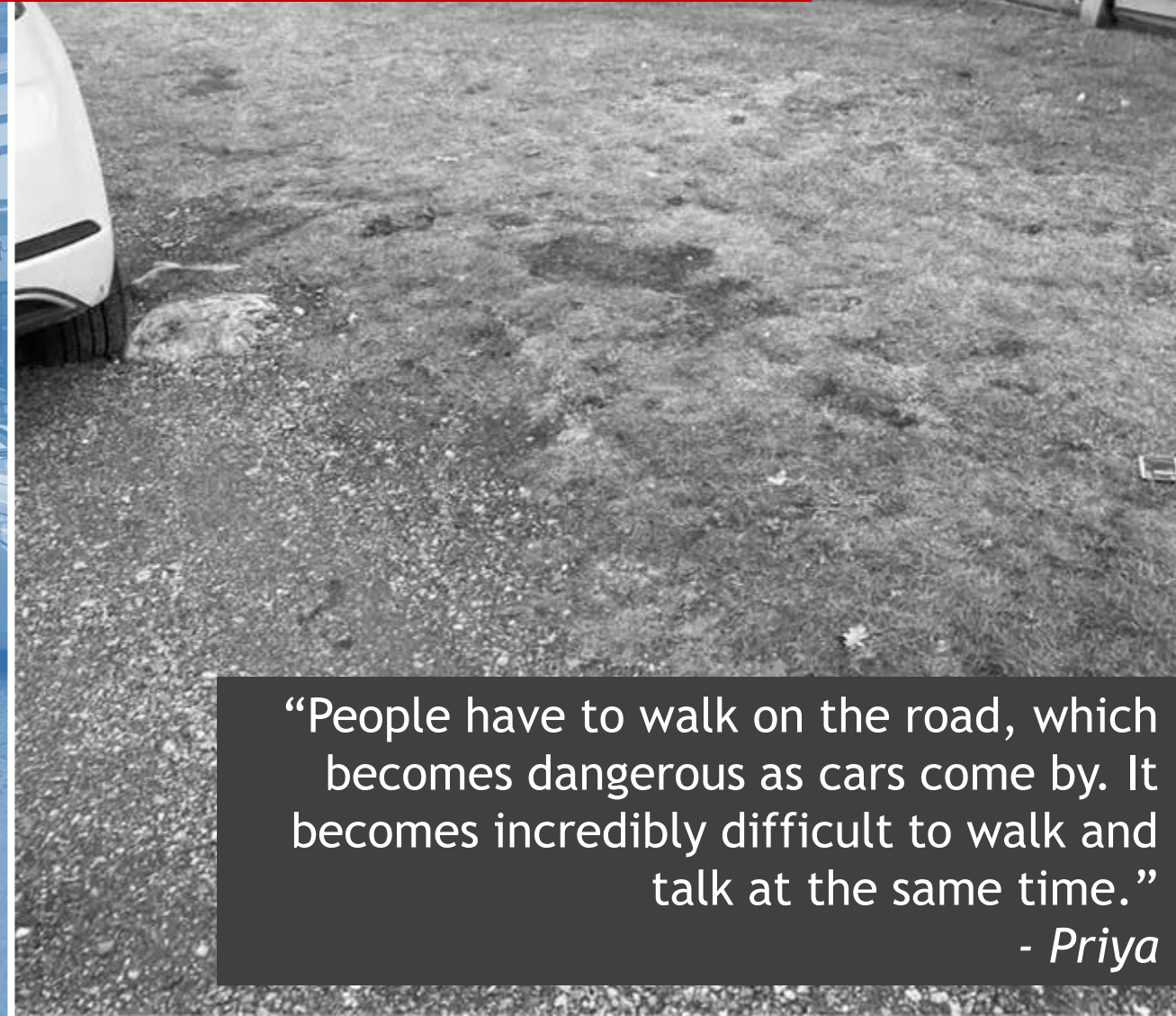


# THEME 1 | CONNECTING THROUGH MOBILITY - THE FUN AND FUNCTIONALITY OF GETTING AROUND



**“I feel strangely safe when I walk on Fraser Street. Seeing so many people walking by and enjoying their lives is wonderful.”**

**- Meera**

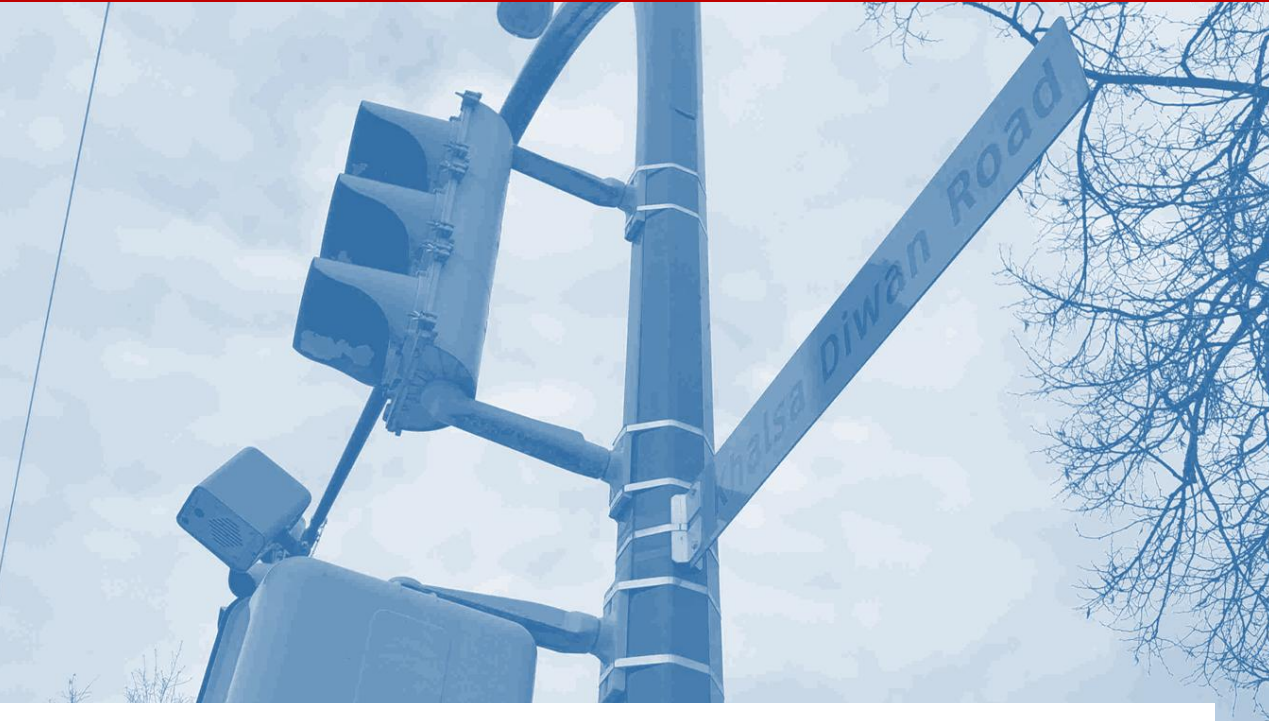


**“People have to walk on the road, which becomes dangerous as cars come by. It becomes incredibly difficult to walk and talk at the same time.”**

**- Priya**



# THEME 2 | THE POWER OF AESTHETICS: MEDIATING CONNECTIONS TO PEOPLE AND PLACE



“This street reminds me that I live in a culturally diverse part of Vancouver. Before COVID there would be this Vaisakhi celebration every year. We’d go as a family and meet with friends to join the celebrations!”  
- Chloe



“Buildings like these are what really makes [the neighbourhood] seem scary when I know in reality it’s not....”  
- Kevin



# THEME 3 | RETREATING TO CONNECT: SEEKING OUT SOCIAL AND RESTORATIVE SPACES FOR ALL



“The benches on Fraser [St] helps us connect with our community, enjoy good food...have a conversation with friends, family, and neighbours. It’s in a place where people walk so [they] have the chance to sit and relax.”  
- Prabhi



“There’s nothing really for youth my age that would make me want to stay around here. For a community of this size, you would like there is better assistance. Maybe even a...community centre.”  
- Jason



# THEME 4 | UNDER-RESOURCED, NOT UNDER-VALUED: UNCOVERING ASSETS FOR SOCIOCULTURAL CONNECTION



“The fact that it’s a bubble tea shop...I think it draws a lot of popularity from different kinds of youth who want to gather and they see that their own culture is being represented.”

- Leo



“The library is an excellent place that helps you feel like you fit into your community. You get to interact with others...study with friends. Also the library is accessible for all, any age...this helps create connections with a diverse group of people.”

- Aisha

# IMPLICATIONS FOR DESIGNING SOCIALLY CONNECTED CITIES FOR YOUTH...

## WHAT

- Active transportation and transit infrastructure + neighbourhood aesthetics + public spaces that are relevant, flexible, sociable, and restorative.

## WHY

- Affording (or denying) opportunities for healthy social development across multiple dimensions (physical, emotional, cultural) and levels (individual, community)

## HOW

- Honouring community assets + co-production + inter-generational planning





# COMMUNITY IMPACTS





Other - Both

Other - None

Assets

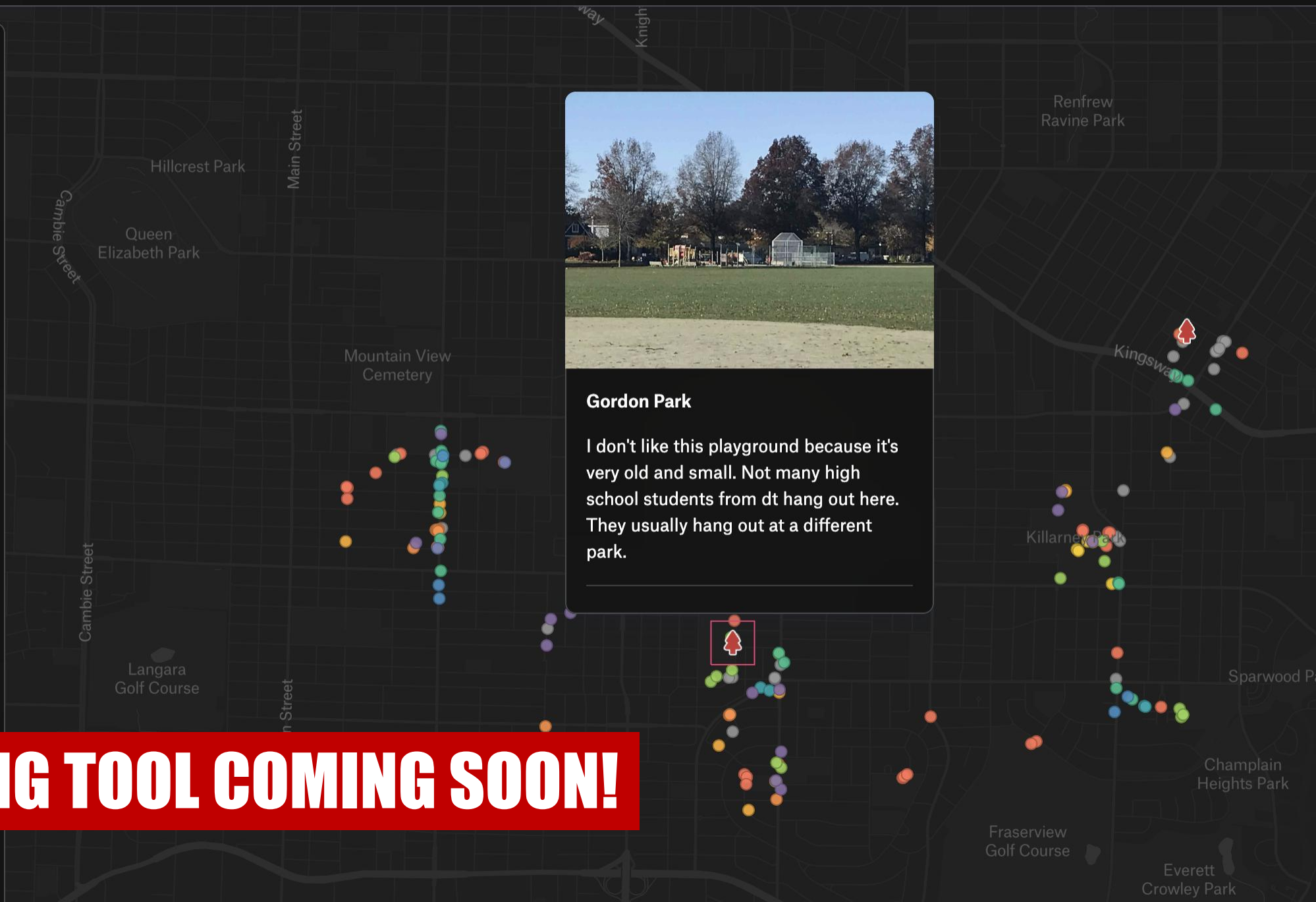
- Parks & nature
- Neighbourhood aesthetics
- Streets and sidewalks
- Community centre
- School
- Food outlets
- Public libraries
- Shops & shopping streets
- Benches
- Other

Barriers

- Streets & sidewalks

NEW PLANNING TOOL COMING SOON!

- Community centre
- Neighbourhood aesthetics



# INDIVIDUAL IMPACTS



## Community-engaged research with youth: What's in it for them?

October 22, 2024

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This blog is authored by Youth.hood Ambassadors Megan Moy and Emily Eng, and SFU Faculty of Health Sciences PhD Candidate Meridith Sones.





# THANKS!

[www.chatrlab.ca/projects/youthhood/](http://www.chatrlab.ca/projects/youthhood/)

New paper out in BMC Public Health →



Stanford  
MEDICINE

Our Voice: Citizen Science for Health Equity

SSHRC CRSH