



GREAT IDEAS FOR GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS

Curious to learn what's happening in your neighbourhood and other neighbourhoods in Victoria? Looking for some local and global inspiration for community building and placemaking ideas? Here are some ideas, resources and updates to help you create a vibrant neighbourhood.

IDEAS FROM AROUND THE CITY

Local Champions Complete Program

Eighteen participants of the 2023 Local Champions program were recently celebrated as they completed the six-month program. The cohort learned skills ranging from facilitation and group consensus-making to conflict resolution and writing successful grant applications. They received first-hand experience putting together a large group placemaking project and worked in smaller groups to produce four community projects during their 3-month practicum. The projects included teaching people about pickling for food preservation, a workshop on how to make and plant seed balls, designing and building a new multi-use platform in Arbutus Park and running a bike skills event. At the celebration, Mayor Alto spoke about the importance of leadership at the grassroots level and how impressed she was with the caliber of projects the participants undertook as their practicum project. The Local Champions program will re-open for applications in early 2024.



Community Impact Awards



The City's Neighbourhood Team created a new award to acknowledge residents who have made long-term contributions to improving their neighbourhood. Six residents were recognized in 2023 at the Local Champions celebration event. Recipients, chosen from across the city, are John O'Brien, Robert Tornack, Kathryn Pankowski, Teale Phelps Bondaroff, Jack Meredith and Patti Parkhouse. This annual award will be accepting nominations from the public in the spring of 2024 so keep an eye open for those people who are actively making Victoria a better city. Congratulations to the 2023 recipients!



IDEAS FROM FURTHER ABROAD

Parisian Grassroots Initiative Promotes Neighbourliness



The project has tried to make urban life more sociable. Photograph: Thierry Nectoux

Exciting experiments to increase local sociability are happening in Paris. Across an area of roughly 50 streets in the city's 14th arrondissement, over 1,200 neighbours have connected for everything from sharing communal dinners to swapping pet care thanks to the grassroots organization *Republic of Super Neighbours*. The organization's founder Patrick Bernard says the rise of conviviality can provide urban benefits ranging from combating loneliness to fighting food insecurity. One recently completed project saw neighbours transforming an underused plaza into a gathering place. More details on this story can be found [here](#).

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Reducing Food Waste Event

Residents, business owners and non-profit organizations are invited to attend this in-person session to learn how a circular economy is growing in Victoria to reduce food waste. Come enjoy complimentary food and beverages! Register [here](#).



International Decade for People of African Descent (IDPAD) Youth Grant Program



Projects led by people of African descent that support and empower Black youth in Victoria can receive up to \$10,000 in funding, up from \$8,000 in 2022. Individuals, informal groups and non-profit organizations are invited to apply from **October 3 to 31, 2023**. Learn more [here](#)

Looking for more ways to stay in touch? Sign up for our [City e-newsletter](#) for monthly updates on City programs and initiatives. Register with our [Have Your Say Engagement Portal](#) for a monthly notice to participate in surveys and other online engagement opportunities.



Your Neighbourhood Liaison
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The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt people.