

CityStudio North Vancouver

2019 - 2020 Report

JULY 1, 2020



CITYSTUDIO



What is CityStudio?

CITYSTUDIO NORTH VANCOUVER

CityStudio North Vancouver is an experimentation and innovation hub where Capilano University students collaborate with City of North Vancouver staff and partners to co-create projects that make the city more vibrant, sustainable and healthy.

We are a member of the CityStudio Network, a global movement of cities working with post-secondary institutions for civic benefit. Through the co-creation of experimental projects, students gain employable skills and city staff receive support to advance strategic priorities in the community.

CityStudio North Vancouver collaborations take place on the unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

HOW WE WORK

STEP 1



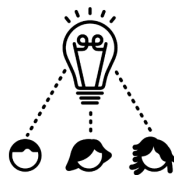
STEP 1

We convene municipal staff to brainstorm opportunities for collaboration.

STEP 2



We match opportunities with courses and form partnerships between faculty and staff.



STEP 3

Students develop projects with support from CityStudio, faculty and staff partners.

STEP 4



Students develop and/or test their projects in the community and present their final deliverables.



STEP 5

We share all student work with staff partners and celebrate top projects with the community.

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Letter from the Mayor

Linda Buchanan

When CityStudio North Vancouver launched, we never imagined what the circumstances would be as the first pilot year came to a close. Today's world is presenting all kinds of new challenges and hardships, but it has also given us many new opportunities to connect, and find strength within our communities. We are witnessing new levels creativity, collaboration, and innovation never seen before.

Cross-institution initiatives such as CityStudio let us explore new possibilities for the City of North Vancouver. Our partnership allows all of us to find solutions to today's challenges, and be successful in the implementation. Student teams grappled with this changing landscape in real time, but despite the circumstances, students, faculty and city staff and community partners contributed to 95 projects that will help us reimagine our city, and make it more vibrant, livable, and healthy.

There is no better moment than now for students to prototype ideas and connect to their city in meaningful ways. Now more than ever we need to find new ways to engage one another, connect, and harness social capital. Congratulations to the faculty, staff, community partners, and inaugural student classes on their achievements and shared leadership. The success of this pilot initiative demonstrates how committed we all are to making the City of North Vancouver a better place for people.



Mayor Linda Buchanan

Letter from the President

Paul Dangerfield

CityStudio North Vancouver set out to explore what kind of impacts do collaborative projects have in our ability to cope, thrive and lead change in our communities? In its pilot year, CityStudio has grown significantly with participating courses doubling from four in the fall to eight in the spring term. More than 300 students, from seven departments representing four faculties, have applied their knowledge and creativity to address a wide range of municipal challenges and opportunities.

Summarizing projects from Fall 2019 and Spring 2020, this report outlines the key aspects of the students' work over the past year, particularly how experiential learning was adapted to support public health and social distancing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Highlights include a virtual project showcase, online dialogue and the development of new ways to collaborate and experiment through remote learning. The imaginative approaches demonstrated by these students showcase the opportunities for more collaboration between universities and communities.

COVID-19 continues to impact our communities in ways that we are still trying to understand. As Capilano University's partnership with CityStudio North Vancouver perseveres to bring municipalities and universities together to build stronger, healthier and more resilient communities, we look forward to building on this critical work in the future.



CapU President Paul Dangerfield

How CityStudio came to be

In 2010, the City of Vancouver put a call out for ideas to help reach its goal to become the greenest city in the world. Dr. Janet Moore and Duane Elverum answered with their vision: a school in which the city is the classroom and experience is the teacher. The goal was to provide post-secondary students with direct opportunities to work in and with the city on urban challenges. The CityStudio model of city-campus collaboration was created in 2011 with founding partners City of Vancouver and Simon Fraser University. The movement has since grown to reach cities across Canada and around the world.

CityStudio in North Vancouver

In May 2017, Carol Aitken, co-coordinator of the IDEA Bachelor of Design at Capilano University attended Art of Cities, a conference where attendees learn to build and launch their own CityStudio. The experience generated enthusiasm for the initiative, which she brought back to the University and shared with other faculty members.

In Fall 2018, inspired by the University's deepening commitment to experiential learning and collaborating directly with its community partners, preliminary conversations began between the City of the North Vancouver and Capilano University. The CityStudio conversation was happening at the right time. In 2019 the City of North Vancouver council unanimously approved a strategic plan to become the "Healthiest Small City in the World," just as CapU refined its vision to become a community-based university with an emphasis on experiential learning. After a contingent of faculty and staff from the City and University attended CityStudio Vancouver's Hubbub #12, the organizations set out in earnest to formalize their commitment to standing up CityStudio North Vancouver.

With support from Duane Elverum, CityStudio co-founder and Executive Director, the details of the potential partnership and the framework were refined. On April 30th 2019, City of North Vancouver Mayor Linda Buchanan and Capilano University President Paul Dangerfield signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) launching the CityStudio North Vancouver pilot, a one-year partnership to launch and test CityStudio North Vancouver. This partnership supported the development of 12 course collaborations and the appointment of a "CityStudio Project Lead" based at Capilano University to support these emerging relationships.

CityStudio Lexicon

Opportunity	A question or challenge posed by municipal staff to address and/or support a municipal initiative.
Course Collaboration	A partnership between an instructor and one or multiple municipal staff.
Project	A deliverable or idea developed and/or tested by a team of students (or an individual student) to address the opportunity. Course collaborations may lead to several projects, depending on the number of students and structure of the course.
Showcase Project	The student project(s) selected to be shared at the end of term showcase in order to represent each course collaboration.

Year 1

This first year of CityStudio hit the ground running. Our first collaborations were generated during a workshop with staff at City Hall, where participants brainstormed areas of their work that could use some energy and innovation. Under the guidance of Duane Elverum and Ileana Costrut from CityStudio Vancouver, we gathered over 50 opportunities ranging from auto theft prevention to public space design. Four collaborations were kicked off in September 2019 with the help of Adele Therias, our Project Lead and newest addition to the team. The term concluded with an exciting celebratory showcase of the top student projects at North Vancouver City Hall. Building on this momentum, matches were prepared for the Spring 2020 term with support from Larry Orr, Deputy Director, Community and Partner Engagement at the City of North Vancouver, and Aurelea Mahood, Director of Academic Initiatives & Planning at Capilano University, who helped to liaise with their respective organizations. The number of collaborations doubled and the breadth and scope of projects expanded. In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic profoundly impacted the operations at the municipality, and led the university to suddenly transition into remote learning. Participants responded with flexibility and creativity to conclude all of the projects virtually. Students, faculty members and staff continued to collaborate, and our second showcase took place online, enabling us to share the student work with a wider audience beyond the local community.

(Photo: Capilano University)

Year 1 in Numbers

	Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Total Impact
Course Collaborations	4	8	12
CapU Departments	2	6	7
CapU Faculties	2	4	4
Faculty Partners	2	7	9
Staff Partners	6	9	13
Students	133	223	356
Projects	40	55	95

Fall 2019 Course Collaborations

How can the City manage business buy-in to support the North Vancouver Parklet Program?

City Goal:	Provide a variety of public spaces for community engagement and stewardship (OCP 2014, 5.3)
Department:	School of Business
Course:	Managing Change (BADM 466)
Instructor:	Laurie Prange Martin
Staff Partners:	Larry Orr, Leah Herman (City of North Vancouver)

Parklets are small seating areas or greenspaces that are integrated into city streetscapes. In many places, parklets are developed and stewarded in partnership with local businesses. Students worked in groups to explore ways in which the City might manage business buy-in to support the North Vancouver Parklet Program.



HUBBUB Showcase Project: Barklets

The project aims to provide an opportunity for community members who own dogs to be able to meet up with friends and socialize without being limited by their furry friends.

Team: Tatjana, Bruna, Isabel, Sema, Zander, Ursula, Natalie, Feras

HUBBUB Showcase Project: Park Park-nership

A process where we can create opportunities with our local businesses and community, engage in dialogue about out any concerns about Parklets, work together in creating a funding options, and work together to create a community vision of their Parklet and "make their place".

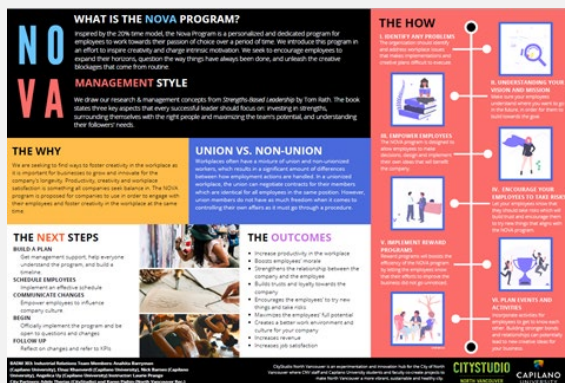
Team: Kara Dunn, Chloe Woods, Howard So, Raj Kanwar Sodhi, Gurpreet Kaur, Shilpa Rani, Sukhmanjot Kaur, Aqilah Al Eseed.



How can different management frameworks be applied to foster creativity in a workplace with union and non-union workers?

City Goal:	Diversify the local economy to contribute to a complete community (OCP 2014, 7.1)
Department:	Business School
Course:	Industrial Relations (BADM 303)
Instructor:	Laurie Prange Martin
Staff Partner:	Karen Pighin (North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission)

Often it can be challenging to encourage creativity and innovation in complex work environments. Students will create or select a mixed union and non-union workplace and develop a management plan that applies a specific management framework to enhance creativity in the workplace. This project will generate creativity-enhancing ideas that can be used by managers in North Vancouver Recreation and Culture, the City of North Vancouver, and other institutions.



HUBBUB Showcase Project: NOVA Program

Inspired by the 20% time model, the Nova Program is a personalized and dedicated program for employees to work towards their passion of choice over a period of time. We introduce this program in an effort to inspire creativity and charge intrinsic motivation. We seek to encourage employees to expand their horizons, question the way things have always been done, and unleash the creative blockages that come from routine.

Team:

Anahita Barryman
Elnaz Khanverdi
Nick Barnes
Angelica Uy



How can we meaningfully engage the public in the new Shipyards development?

City Goal:	Support a wide range of arts and cultural activities (OCP 2014, 6.1)
Department:	School of Tourism Management
Course:	Culture, Heritage & Arts Planning for Tourism (TOUR 227)
Instructor:	Chris Carnovale
Staff Partners:	Jill Cameron and Magda Kwaterska (City of North Vancouver)

Students developed a culture, heritage and/or arts project proposal for the newly created Shipyards in North Vancouver. During the semester, the class met with some of the City staff responsible for animating the public space and were given a tour of the site. The research and ideation process produced realistic project ideas that could inspire future engagement by the City of North Vancouver.



HUBBUB Showcase Project: Illuminate the Night

A unique public art light installment spread throughout the center path of the Burrard Dry Dock Pier. Its centerpiece is one large tree potted in a small ship, made from scrap metals.

Team: Melissa Phillips, Vanessa Kong

HUBBUB Showcase Project: Digital Interactive Information Board

A permanent, interactive, digital information board in the Shipyards. Other than a sleek 50-inch interactive monitor, the information board's physical appearance is thought to creatively incorporate the industrial aesthetic of the Shipyards through the usage of recycled ship parts.

Team: Alex McCorquodale, Anne Horst, Sam Connors, Tracey Barnard & Victoria Bohl



How can we communicate bylaw regulations in an engaging way that inspires compliance and is not entirely focused on the punitive measures?

City Goal:	Safeguard the community and protect life, property and the environment (OCP 2014, 3.2)
Department:	Business School
Course:	People Management (BADM 202)
Instructor:	Laurie Prange Martin
Staff Partner:	Paul Duffy (City of North Vancouver)

Municipal bylaws often get a bad rep. The primary objective of the project was to prototype ways to educate the public on the background and importance of specific by-laws (related to noise, dogs, drinking water, litter and others identified by our staff contact) to encourage voluntary compliance and a deeper appreciation for municipal by-laws.



HUBBUB Showcase Project: Protect our Nature

This group developed a video prototype that shows the devastation caused by forest fires and offers an alternative “reality” in which park users follow the bylaw and the environment stays pristine.

Team:

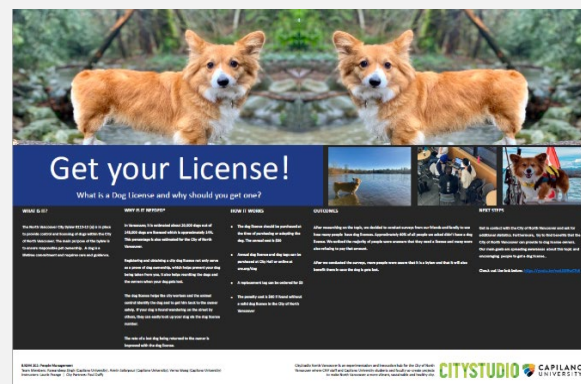
Kalli Christianson, Michelle Abbott, Negar Issari

HUBBUB Showcase Project: Get your License!

This group created a video prototype that tells a story through the perspective of a dog in order to highlight the importance of dog owner licenses.

Team:

Ramandeep Singh, Armin Safarpour, Verna Wang



Spring 2020 Course Collaborations

How might we activate North Vancouver community centres to address loneliness and isolation among young adults?

City Goal:	Safeguard the community and protect life, property and the environment (OCP 2014, 3.2)
Department:	Psychology
Course:	Feelings and Emotions (PSYC 335)
Instructor:	Janet Waters
Staff Partner:	Karen Pighin (North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission)

Students developed ideas for activities that could help foster connection between people, and address loneliness and depression, especially among young adults who are underrepresented at North Vancouver community centres.



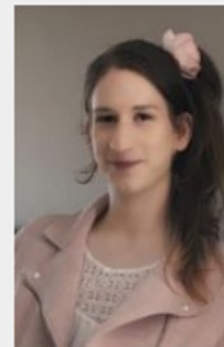
HUBBUB Showcase Project: Let's Shine Together!

Creating ways for the LGBTQ2SAINB+ communities to connect on the North Shore.

Team:

Sol Zamiadi – 3rd year, Liberal Studies

Clarke Koehle – 4th year, Liberal Studies



How might we receive input from and create programming for the John Braithwaite Community Centre that appeals to young adults?

City Goal:	Enhance well-being and quality of life for all community members (OCP 2014, 3.1)
Department:	School of Business
Course:	Business and Society (BADM 460)
Instructor:	Laurie Prange Martin
Staff Partner:	Karen Pighin (North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission)

Students developed stakeholder engagement plans to support community centre programmers in engaging with youth and developing programming that supports their needs.



HUBBUB Showcase Project: Virtual Reality – Beyond Movement

An opportunity to not only engage millennials but also include youths and seniors through immersive technology that provides a new experience to deliver fitness.

Team

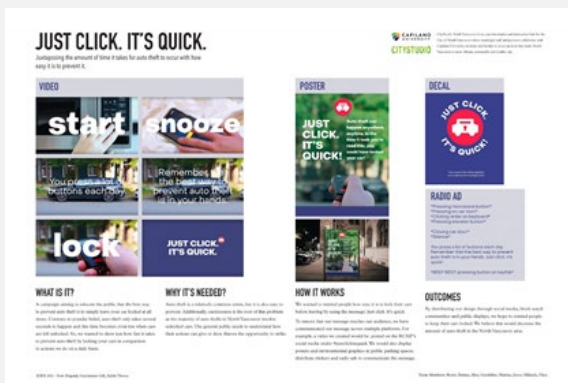
Mary Dyck – 3rd year, Bachelor of Business Administration

Tony Hoang – 4th year Bachelor of Business Administration (Concentration : marketing)

How might we encourage residents to be proactive in auto theft prevention?

City Goal:	Safeguard the community and protect life, property and the environment (OCP 2014, 3.2)
Department:	IDEA School of Design
Course:	Design Studio (IDES 244)
Instructor:	Tom Duguid (IDEA)
Staff Partner:	Gursimran Gill (RCMP)

Auto theft is a highly preventable form of crime that affects residents in North Vancouver. Second year design students create communications “ad” programs that could reach out to the public about the issues of auto theft and how to counter-act it. The students created public awareness assets such as posters, email campaigns, and other strategies to bring public awareness to the issues of auto theft in North Van.

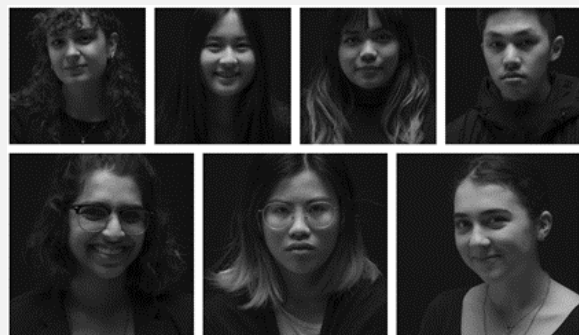


HUBBUB Showcase Project: Just Click. It's Quick.

Juxtaposing the amount of time it takes for auto-theft to occur with how easy it is to prevent it.

Team:

Marina Subach, Mikaela Manuel, Geraldine Yaris, Alex Chen, Joyce Chan, Rocio Palomar Robisco, Thea Pham, Emma Harris
All part of the 2022 graduating class of IDEA School of Design.



How might we develop transformative placemaking initiatives for the upcoming City of North Vancouver Economic Health Cluster?

City Goal:	Support, enhance and maintain recreation as a vital aspect of a healthy community (OCP 2014, 5.2)
Department:	Business School
Course:	Managing Change (BADM 466)
Instructor:	Laurie Prange Martin
Staff Partner:	Leah Herman (City of North Vancouver)

The City of North Vancouver and partners are developing a vision for an Economic Health Cluster that would support the activities and wellbeing of organizations, residents and visitors. Students developed and proposed transformative placemaking initiatives for two targeted locations in this region, near the RCMP building and the Lions Gate Hospital.

HUBBUB Showcase Project: Love Letters & Secret Gardens

The project features a mural of love notes from the community to the emergency and health care workers of the North Shore; these notes continue in what will be transformed into a greenway, perfect for a gentle stroll or peaceful lunch.



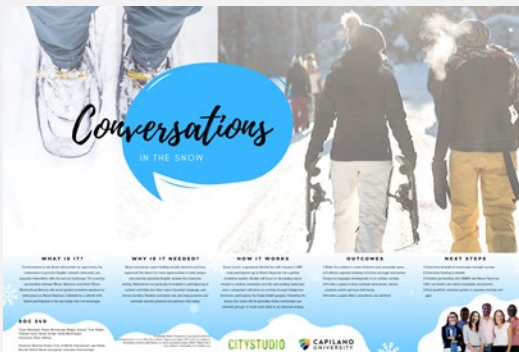
Team

Kirsten Marr – 3rd year, Bachelor of Business Administration
Michelle Zhen – 4th year, Bachelor of Business Administration
Angela Jiang – 4th year, Bachelor of Business Administration

How might we improve immigrant inclusion in the community?

City Goal:	Support a wide range of arts and cultural activities (OCP 2014, 6.1)
Department:	Sociology
Course:	Migration and Displacement (SOC 340)
Instructor:	Sean Ashley
Staff Partners:	Heather Evans (City of North Vancouver), Olivia Bornik (North Shore Immigrant Inclusion Partnership)

The [North Shore Immigrant Inclusion Partnership \(NSIIP\)](#) is a coalition of 35+ community agencies and institutions focused on improving the settlement outcomes of new immigrants. Students worked in groups to conduct research and provide recommendations on questions related to immigrant inclusion in North Vancouver.



HUBBUB Showcase Project: Conversations in the Snow

An initiative designed to build community, capacity and language skills while acquainting newcomers with the natural landscape.

Team:

Freya Wasteneys – 4th year, Bachelor of Communication
Megan Amato – 4th year, Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Liberal Studies
Charles Lane – 4th year, Bachelor of Business Administration, Concentration in Marketing
Jacob Jordan – 3rd year, Bachelor of Business Administration, Concentration in Marketing
Tom Weiler – 4th year, Bachelor of Business Administration, Concentration in HR
Sofia Mondragon – 2nd year, Associate of Arts in Psychology



How might we further the message of trauma-related public art?

City Goal:	Enhance and expand on the development of a well-planned mix of cultural facilities and creative community spaces (OCP 2014, 6.2)
Department:	Art History
Course:	Art and Trauma (AHIS 330)
Instructor:	Sandra Seekins
Staff Partner:	Lori Phillips (North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission)

North Vancouver's Public Art Program works to create, program and maintain public works of art that are free and accessible to everyone. Public art can play a significant role in telling the story of difficult and traumatic events, and supporting people through a healing process. Yet, sometimes the stories can be lost or forgotten over time. Students imagined ways in which the NVRCC could further the message of trauma-related public artworks and bring them to life beyond their implementation.



HUBBUB Showcase Project: QR Codes for Public Art

Connecting art and lived experience through technology to use storytelling and art in a meaningful way, connecting viewers to the ongoing impacts of gender-based and colonial violence on these lands, and to provoke reflection in a sensitive and trauma-informed manner.

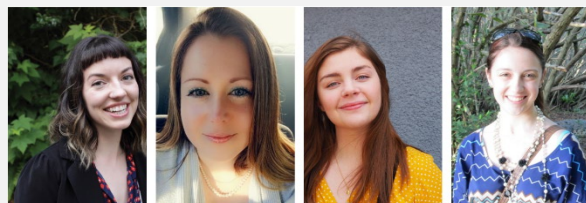
Team members:

Emily Bridge – 3rd year, Bachelor's of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Jenifer Davis – has Associate's degree of Psychology, now pursuing Bachelor's of Psychology.

Aliz Revoczi – 4th year, Bachelor's of Communications.

Grace Dupasquier – 3rd year, Bachelor's of Interdisciplinary Studies.



How might we prepare residents to welcome and use a new equipment lending library (the Thingery)?

City Goal:	Support, enhance and maintain recreation as a vital aspect of a healthy community (OCP 2014, 5.2)
Department:	Business School
Course:	Managing Change (BADM 466)
Instructor:	Erin Robinson
Staff Partners:	Julia Spitale (City of North Vancouver), Chris Diplock (The Thingery)

A “[Thingery](#)” is a self-serve equipment lending library that is based out of a modified shipping container. The inventory is determined by community need, but could include items like sporting equipment, wood working tools, event & entertainment items or even musical instruments. The City of North Vancouver is researching the hypothetical installation of a “Thingery” in the Lower Lonsdale of North Vancouver. The students will research and propose a “Change Strategy” that will prepare the community to adapt to a new physical item – a modified shipping container – in the neighbourhood (a structural change) and to be emotionally ready to use the concept – an equipment lending library (transitional change).



HUBBUB Showcase Project: Thingery Change Strategy:

To assist with The Thingery’s transition to their new location in Lower Lonsdale, we were tasked to apply models studied in our Managing Change course and brainstorm innovative ways of executing these strategies.

Team:

Anita Barryman – 4th year, International Business & HR.

Michelle Chang – 3rd year, Bachelor of Business Administration – HR concentration.

Nick Barnes – 4th year, Bachelor of Business Administration.

Majed Diab – 4th year, Bachelor of Business Administration – Business & HR.

Jon Maciver – 4th year, Bachelor of Business Administration – HR concentration.



How might we engage diverse communities in the renewal of Waterfront Park?

City Goal:	Provide a variety of public spaces for community engagement and stewardship (OCP 2014, 5.3)
Department:	School of Public Administration
Course:	Municipal Administration and Community Involvement in BC (PADM 309)
Instructor:	Alison McNeil, John Leeburn
Staff Partner:	Adam Vasilevich (City of North Vancouver)

The City of North Vancouver is planning a major renewal of their Waterfront Park. They would like to know how the municipality can engage diverse sections of the population on this project. Students developed a public engagement strategy for the Waterfront Park renewal project, focusing on the following demographics: youth (13-18 years old), non-English as a first language speakers, particularly those who may be new to Canada and/or community, children (12 and under) and City of North Vancouver population beyond the direct vicinity of the park (e.g. Central Lonsdale).



HUBBUB Showcase Project: Waterfront Park Renewal Engagement Strategy

Using elements from all of the steps in the IAP2 ladder, our teams public engagement proposal empowers the public to create a Waterfront Park that they desire.

Team:

Jacqueline Pilcher – 3rd year, Bachelor in Business Administration.
 Tony Pham – 4th, Bachelor in Business Administration.
 Eliza Moat – 2nd year, Applied Behaviour Analysis – Autism.



Studio Moments

Exploring the Shipyards

On October 31 2019, students were given a tour of the new Shipyards development. The information shared by Magda Kwaterska (City of North Vancouver) and Terry Hood (North Vancouver Museum & Archives) helped to inform their research and ideation around projects and events that could help bring the site to life.



Trip to Beans on 5th Parklet

On Thursday November 7 2019, students from the class visited Bean Around the World at 5th and Chesterfield in North Vancouver. During the visit, they heard from Beans on 5th owners Annette Kim and Alexander Hayne about their experience as participants in the current parklet initiative.



(Photos: Capilano University)



Public Art in the City

On February 6th, 2020 students from Sandra Seekins' AHIS 330 (Art and Trauma) class braved the rain to discover four pieces of public art in North Vancouver. Led by Lori Phillips, Public Art Officer for the North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission, this field trip was an opportunity for the class to learn more about these artworks, their purpose and the different people involved in their creation.



Economic Health Cluster Visit



On February 28th 2020, students from Laurie Prange Martin's Managing Change class explored the future "Economic Health Cluster" of North Vancouver and heard about the area's importance to key health and safety stakeholders such as the local RCMP detachment and the Lions Gate Hospital, including the role of public space in promoting wellbeing.

Community Centre Dialogue

On February 24th, 2020 students from Laurie Prange Martin's BADM 460 class (Business and Society) visited the John Braithwaite Community Centre to hear from Facility Program Supervisor, Colleen Huskisson, about the facilities and programming at the centre. They were joined by two representatives from the North Shore Neighbourhood House, leading to a discussion around youth engagement in the community.



HUBBUB #1

HUBBUB is a celebratory showcase during which students, City staff, elected officials and university faculty members connect and learn about each-other's work. At the end of each term, the most creative and exciting projects generated from CityStudio collaborations are displayed, and visitors can vote for their favourites. A judging panel selects the most impactful, relevant and promising projects, with prizes to celebrate the students' hard work.

HUBBUB #1 took place on December 5, 2019 at the North Vancouver City Hall and featured seven student projects. HUBBUB #2 was our first ever online project showcase. Considering the impacts of Covid 19, the event was transformed into an online webinar-style interactive event that featured eight student projects.

(Photo: Capilano University)

“This event was an experience completely different from past university presentations because we could meet with employees of the City and community, and deliver an elevator pitch about our project in the City Hall of North Vancouver. Personally, I enjoyed going out of my comfort zone during the one minute pitch in front of the client – you could say that CityStudio really made me overcome my fear!

Tatjana Steck, CityStudio Alum

HUBBUB in Numbers

	HUBBUB #1	HUBBUB #2
Showcase Projects	7	8
Showcase Student Presenters	17	16
Total Attendees	110	131
Municipal Staff	33	12
Faculty Members	19	52
CityStudio Representatives	6	5
Students	11	15

The Hubbub Experience

Imagine walking into City Hall on an average Thursday morning; something feels a little different. There's excitement in the air and you hear a buzz of activity down the hall - a wayfinding sign tells you that "CityStudio Hubbub #1" is this way. Around the corner, you see a crowd of people milling about. You approach a table hosted by two volunteers who welcome you and provide you with three origami stars. These are your voting stars: you will give them to the student groups that you think came up with the most exciting, creative, and impactful ideas for the City of North Vancouver.

You grab a cup of coffee and a scone from the refreshments table, then begin to make your way around. Students are standing near large posters, holding green voting receptacles labeled "Vote here." They are keen to tell you about the projects they worked on this term, and they use a lot of hand gestures to convey with excitement why their idea is innovative, creative, and could help to make North Vancouver a better place. The crowd is an unusual mix of university faculty members, students, city staff, municipal officials and community members. You overhear many questions: how would this work?

Inspired by the new ideas and questions all around, you start to imagine how some of your own work challenges could be tackled in new and innovative ways. All sorts of new possibilities spring up organically in a kind of collective brainstorm. Luckily, there is an "Idea Generation Station" set up for you to capture them. You write several thoughts on sticky notes and add them to the large piece of paper set out for this purpose. As a thank-you for your contribution, a volunteer hands you a sour "key to the city" candy.





(Photos: Capilano University)

At 11AM, everyone is invited into the Council Chamber to kick off the second part of the event. Adele Therias, the CityStudio North Vancouver Project Lead, describes the enthusiasm and innovation the initiative has already inspired across the city and the university, and introduces three keynote speakers who played a pivotal role in bringing CityStudio North Vancouver to life.

Duane Elverum, co-founder and Executive Director of CityStudio, speaks about the philosophy behind the model: how can we connect two of the largest institutions (cities and universities) that almost never speak to each other? One of the catalysts that informed the original idea of CityStudio was the potential to fill this gap. As Mayor Linda Buchanan shares the vision for North Vancouver to become the healthiest small city in the world, and her deep wish for the city to be a place where students can imagine their future, Capilano President Paul Dangerfield emphasizes the importance of having the university be invested in the wellbeing of the community. It becomes apparent that the CityStudio pilot is starting to deliver on Duane's original vision.

After these thoughtful speeches, it is time for the student pitches! Groups are called up one by one to share a 1-minute pitch of their idea. Finally, the top 3 audience choice winners are announced and are called up to receive their prizes: gift cards to local businesses as well as skating, fitness and swimming passes to local community centres. You leave City Hall with a bit of spring in your step, feeling hopeful about how this kind of collaboration and creativity could help us address some of the most complex and urgent challenges facing our cities.

Congratulations to our Hubbub #1 Audience Choice winners!

First Place: Protect our Nature

In order to raise awareness about a Park Regulation Bylaw that prohibits fire or lit material in parks, Kalli Christianson, Michelle Abbott and Negar Issari developed a video prototype that shows the devastation caused by forest fires and offers an alternative “reality” in which park users follow the bylaw and the environment stays pristine.



(Photo: Capilano University)

Second Place: Illuminate the Shipyards



(Photo: Capilano University)

In an effort to ideate engaging ways to animate the new Shipyards development, Melissa Phillips and Vanessa Kong developed a proposal for “Illuminate the Night,” a public art light installment for the Burrard Dry Dock Pier. The installation is designed to promote safety along the Pier by The Shipyards and increase evening traffic so that the Pier can be fully appreciated day and night.

Third Place: Digital Interactive Information Board

In brainstorming ideas to engage the public with the Shipyards, Alex McCorquodale, Anne Horst, Sam Connors, Tracey Barnard & Victoria Bohl developed a proposal for a permanent, interactive, digital information board in the Shipyards. The goal of this interactive information board would be to address improvements identified in the 2018 Roving Ambassador survey by providing more information on events, histories, directions, and create a greater sense of community.



(Photo: Capilano University)

HUBBUB #2

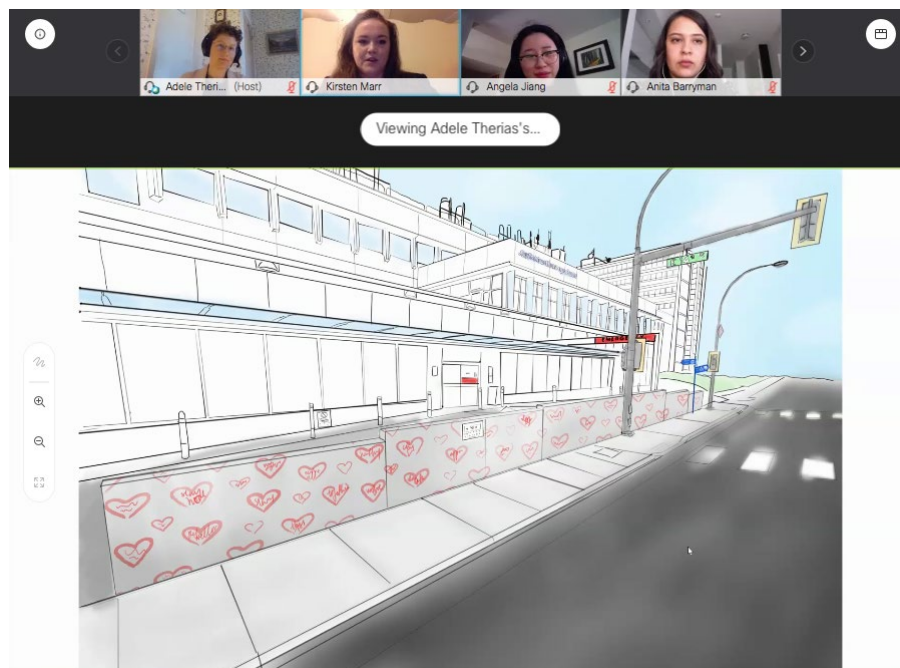
On April 16 2020, we hosted CityStudio North Vancouver's first ever online HUBBUB project showcase. Considering the impacts of COVID-19, the event was transformed from its usual format at City Hall to an online webinar-style interactive event.

“ I felt proud that our group was one of the showcase groups. Despite the event being online, it still felt important and a good learning experience.
Mikaela Johnson, CityStudio Alum

Our biggest priority was to celebrate the hard work of CityStudio students while acknowledging that shifting timetables and priorities required a different form of engagement. For this reason, the Hubbub agenda was highly flexible, allowing attendees to tune in and contribute when they are able. The event was launched with pitches from eight student pitches, one from each of the participating courses.

The pitches were followed by longer moderated Q&A sessions with each presenter. Attendees could submit questions in real time to learn more about the different projects. A panel of judges with representatives from Capilano University and the City of North Vancouver were part of the audience and evaluated each team's work to recognize the most innovative, impactful and exciting projects. Throughout the event, participants voted in real time for their favourite projects and the Audience Choice Award was announced at the end of the event.

Congratulations to the winning teams for their outstanding contribution to the work of the City of North Vancouver, the North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission, and the RCMP.



Congratulations to our Hubbub #2 Winners!

First Place and Audience Choice Award: Love Letters and Secret Gardens

Kirsten Marr, Michelle Zhen and Angela Jiang developed a placemaking project that would contribute to an Economic Health Cluster by featuring a mural of love notes from the community to the emergency and health care workers of the North Shore and a public greenway perfect for a gentle stroll or peaceful lunch.



Second Place: Just Click. It's Quick.



In order to address the RCMP's goal of inspiring proactive approaches to auto theft prevention, Marina Subach, Mikaela Manuel, Geraldine Yaris, Alex Chen, Joyce Chan, Rocio Palomar Robisco, Thea Pham and Emma Harris designed an outreach campaign that juxtaposes the amount of time it takes for auto-theft to occur with how easy it is to prevent it.

Third Place: QR codes for public art

Emily Bridge, Jenifer Davis, Aliz Revoczi and Grace Dupasquier suggested a project that uses storytelling via QR codes to bring to life the Strength and Remembrance Pole. Their project emphasizes the ongoing impacts of gender-based and colonial violence on these lands, and provokes reflection in a sensitive and trauma-informed manner.



Student Experience

At the end of the year, a post-project survey was sent out to all students who participated in a CityStudio project and 27 students responded. Student participants were also encouraged to write reflective blog posts on their experience with the initiative, which were published on the CityStudio North Vancouver website.

Average rating of the CityStudio experience: 4.3 out of 5.

Students felt that their work contributed to the community in a meaningful way and found it valuable to connect with their staff partner. Several students recommended that projects be started earlier in the term with more field trip opportunities.

Average rating of the HUBBUB experience: 4.5 out of 5.

Students enjoyed the opportunity to share their work with more City employees and the wider community. While the online HUBBUB was more challenging, students were pleased that it went ahead. Students requested that more groups be invited to showcase their work.

70% of students were likely or very likely to enroll in another CityStudio course.

Many students noted they would participate again if they were continuing their studies. Others suggested that CityStudio projects be made a larger part of final marks in order to reflect the level of effort involved.

“ My group wasn't chosen [for HUBBUB] but our idea was so well liked that they'd like us to create it anyways. Having an opportunity to create something positive in the community is important to me as a student and citizen.

Anonymous CityStudio Alum

Partner Experience

At the end of the Fall 2019 term, interviews were scheduled with all eight faculty and staff partner in order to gather their feedback as the first partner participants. At the end of the year, a survey was sent out to all 22 partners who collaborated on a CityStudio project and eight partners responded. Feedback from faculty members and staff was welcomed throughout each term in order to continually adapt the initiative.

Average rating of the project development experience: 4.4 out of 5.

Partners noted the importance of ensuring all faculty and staff are aware of the expectations prior to the beginning of term. It was noted that courses in which students choose whether or not to do the project are more complicated to navigate.

Average rating of the class visit experiences: 4.1 out of 5.

Partners observed that it is helpful when the instructor helps to provide the context of the course and assignment prior to visits. Interactive activities were found helpful to increase engagement. Staff found it helpful to view student work prior to visits.

Average rating of the HUBBUB experience: 4.2 out of 5.

Some instructors suggested that HUBBUB be hosted during the last week of classes rather than during the exam period. Interactive tools helped to bring the online event to life and should be refined further, but in-person connection was missed.

Relevance to courses: 5 / 5

Student engagement: 4.75 / 5

Relevance to City goals: 4.75 / 5

Usefulness of deliverables: 3.25 / 5

Partners suggested that CityStudio coach instructors and staff on the assignment types that could best meet City needs. It was noted that having higher quality and prototyped deliverables would make them more useful.

“ I made some great connections with students and I think we built some excitement around the experience, program and future opportunities.

Anonymous CityStudio Partner

Our Team



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Looking Ahead

As we prepare for the Fall 2020 term, the CityStudio team is anticipating how a remote learning environment will affect future experiences of the initiative. While experiential learning is likely to look very different, the digital tools and creativity at our disposal are helping us to form projects that are meaningful, engaging, and deeply aligned with the goals guiding the City of North Vancouver council and staff. We are exploring how online platforms can augment the reach and impact of the initiative in unexpected ways, such as facilitating collaborations across multiple courses and sharing project stories more broadly.

Faculty members from across the university are approaching us in search of tangible learning opportunities that will keep students engaged despite the virtual nature of courses. City partners, while managing changing priorities and limited capacity, are maintaining their commitment to innovation by offering both urgent and important project opportunities for students to explore.

As our local and global communities grapple with challenges and changes, we are excited and proud to continue establishing the CityStudio North Vancouver initiative and contributing to a healthier, more sustainable and more resilient City of North Vancouver. Thank you for being part of the journey.

Thank You

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Bean around the World

Superintendent Ghalib Bhayani

Corporal Dave Potts

Corporal Crystal Shostak

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