



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

Monster Boy takes over North Park Lending Hub



A tiny, sea foam green building in North Park’s Vancouver street plaza will become an artist studio for the next four months as the North Park Neighbourhood Association begins its artist residency program this week. The 12’ by 8’ freestanding shed-like structure, near the intersection of Vancouver Street and Caledonia Street, will continue to serve as a bulletin board and a neighbourhood food pantry, but will now become an artist studio as well. The temporary space has been used as a lending hub and a free craft store in turns since 2021. Now, artists will be using the space to engage with the community until the end of March 2023. Felt and fibre artist Noah Crowder, better known under

his artist name of Monster Boy, will be North Park’s first artist in residence from Dec. 1 until Jan. 8. The North Park Neighbourhood Association will be introducing more artists in the coming months.

New Social Enterprise in Burnside Gorge

Congratulations to the Burnside Gorge Community Association on the grand opening of the Burnside Boutique, their neighbourhood thrift store. The store offers quality, well-curated clothing for men, women and children as well as jewelry, small household items, books and specialty items when available. You can find the store at 350 Burnside Rd E.



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IDEAS FROM FURTHER ABROAD

Placemaking in London



Whether in the middle of a small town, or a neighbourhood in a large city, it is important to have gathering spaces for people. Finsbury Avenue Square, in London England, recently received a massive makeover and is now a welcoming neighbourhood feature that is host to a multitude of community events. Initially the square was laid out in 1777 as a planned quadrangle of terraced townhouses surrounding the central garden. Starting at the end of the 19th century, the houses began to be demolished to make way for large-scale commercial properties. Over the years it became a featureless patch of grass amidst some horrible office buildings in the area. Destined to be demolished, instead it was revitalized through a new commercial development. This is a great example of what can happen when community and development work together to re-energize what was an eyesore for many years.

Water-Activated Street Murals Come to Life When It Rains



A few years ago, PANTONE collaborated with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's designers and art directors to transform Seoul, Korea's streets during the dreary monsoon season. The appropriately titled [Project Monsoon](#) venture began with the

creative team painting Seoul's somber roads with hydrochromic paint—a type of paint that changes from transparent to opaque when it gets wet—to form colorful murals inspired by South Korean culture. East Asian customs focus on the river and its elegant flow, which is exactly what the designers wanted to capture in their public works of art. These exuberant pieces are then



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MY GREAT Neighbourhood

unexpectedly unveiled as rain falls from the cheerless gray sky and the water droplets come in contact with the ground. We haven't found a local supplier for this product but there is a supplier out of the US that has created a hydrophobic coating, specifically for making rain activated murals, which would actually be invisible on dry concrete. They have kits and stencils along with tutorials on how to choose a site and how to use the product. [Rainworks | Rain-Activated Messages and Artworks](#)

MAKING IT HAPPEN



Vital Signs Feature Article: What is community?

What defines a community? Is it a geographic space, mutual interests, or a shared passion? Maybe it's a little bit of everything that brings joy to our lives. This is a great question, and one that could spark all kinds of ideas on what's missing for you in your community and how you might address it. Find out what community means to three brilliant individuals in [Victoria's 2022 Vital Signs](#) feature article. The full 2022 report can be found [here](#).

CRD Spring IDEA Grants

Here's another funding opportunity for your neighbourhood projects. The CRD is offering [IDEA grants](#) of up to \$3,000 for new, innovative or developmental art projects and events. Applications must be from not-for-profit organizations. Projects must be completed between June 1, 2022 and 2023. The application intake period opens January 24, 2023 when the application form and guidelines will be posted. Applications are assessed by the CRD Arts Advisory Council and may take up to 10 weeks to review. The deadline for grant applications is Thursday, March 16, 4:30pm.



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