HASTINGS CROSSING

YEAR IN REVIEW

A look at what we have been up to...

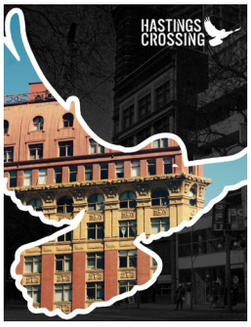
Safety & Security

From January to August 2016, Mission Possible Neighbours, our culturally sensitive safety and security service, has:

- Removed **42,777 needles**
- Reported **207 cases of illegal dumpings & garbage**
- Attended to **926 alternative service requests** (this includes business check-ins, referrals to alcohol & drug programs, free food, free phone services, shelter, housing, etc)
- Referred **21 situations** to the VPD

Events, Sponsorships, & Marketing

- Fair in the Square (included 1,000 printed passports to 12 HxBIA businesses
- Vancouver Queer Film Festival (sponsored film screening)
- Indian Summer Festival
- HxBIA Business MeetUp
- HUB Bike to Shop Day
- Victory Square Block Party
- SFU Vancouver Welcome Back BBQ (included 500 passports to 13 HxBIA businesses & tabling opportunity)
- Power of Placemaking Crawl
- WORD Vancouver Festival
- DOXA Festival
- PuSH Festival
- Creative Mornings Vancouver



CommunityWise

A new, refreshed package created for new and existing businesses. A tool to integrate our businesses into the DTES and connect them with social enterprises and nonprofits in the area.

Fresh Direction with BIA Renewal and Leadership Change

We're halfway through our first year with a new, doubled budget and just over a full year with a new Executive Director, now a permanent position. HxBIA has a renewed focus and energy moving into the our next 5 years. Our committees are refreshed with new programming and direction.

Community Advocacy & Involvement

Community Economic Development Strategic Action Committee

Producing a CED strategy as part of the DTES Local Area Plan. The strategy will be taken to Council this November. Several items in this strategy that affect our members include:

- New budget and opportunities for street furniture and street cleanliness and maintenance
- A new strategy for a commercial lease trust that aims to retain low-income serving and social enterprise businesses within the community. The model incorporates commercial retail units within BC Housing and City buildings.

BIA Partnership

- Continuing work on street issues including patios, streeteries, bike share, construction, etc.
- Local economic direction regarding City plans, business permitting, and licensing.

Urban Core

- Work to establish baseline for social hiring in HxBIA, and strategy to increase social hiring practices

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HxBIA Committees

Connections Committee

The Connections Committee is tasked with strengthening the connections between the traditional business community and the wealth of social enterprise and social innovation in the Downtown Eastside. This comes in the form of programs including CommunityWise, special events, business/social enterprise mixers, and other forms of outreach and research.

Arts & Culture Committee

The Arts & Culture Committee creates the arts and culture-related programming within the BIA. Much of the work and programming associated with this committee builds upon the strong history of culture within the Downtown Eastside. First Nations arts and culture is prevalent through this community, and incorporating its rich legacy into the BIA is essential. The presence of large educational institutions, including SFU's School of Contemporary Arts as well as the Vancouver Film School, provide a major resource of creative opportunity for the BIA.

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee develops and strengthens HxBIA's internal governance procedures and policies. Some projects include ensuring a strong board of directors that adequately represents the BIA community, creating a board recruitment and succession procedure, and evaluating staff and board members on an annual basis.

Coming Up in 2017

Signature event in February/March

Similar in style to Dine Out Vancouver, this event will be open to all businesses, including non-restaurant businesses. This event will showcase relationships between traditional businesses and social enterprises/ nonprofits through a variety of ways. The Connections Committee is hard at work. Stay tuned for more!

More Hastings Urban Tree Nursery planters!

We have received a grant for six more of the planters that include a tree, greenery at the base, and local artwork. If you're interested in one outside of your business, get in touch!

Pigeon Park Upgrades and New Street Furniture

In consultation with local residents and groups like the Binners' Project, there will be upgrades coming to Pigeon Park and area street furniture.

...and more.

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