Practical Tools and Training to Effect Social Change Through Community Development

Notes from Workshop with Jim Diers
October 24, 2018

Event Sponsors

Background

In October 24th 2018, the South Island Education Committee and the South Island Community Council held a workshop to explore conversations and thinking about inclusion and community development. This workshop *Practical tools and training to effect social change through community development* was led by Jim Diers.

Jim Diers teaches courses in community organizing and development at the University of Washington and serves on the faculty of the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Institute. He travels internationally to deliver speeches, present workshops, and provide technical assistance to community associations, non-profit organizations, and government.

Participants at the workshop were asked to think about and discuss questions such as *"What do we really mean by community living?"* and *"How does working in a fundamentally different way strengthen community connection for everyone?"*

The following sections contain notes of the various activities of the workshop: **Visions for Ideal Communities** for a few neighbourhoods in the CRD; **underutilized gifts/resources** in our neighbourhoods; how or why to **tap resources** in our communities?; **agencies** in our neighbourhoods that we can work with; which **other agencies** can we partner with; and which assets, actions, attitudes…we need to **keep, stop** or **start** in our neighbourhoods?

Jim's Powerpoint is accessible through……

For more information and to learn about next steps to explore community development and asset mapping in our South Island and Greater Victoria / CRD area contact:

Visions of Ideal Community

Characteristics of an ideal community

Walk-ability, transit, we don't connect in our cars
Events: theatres, markets; continuous, weekly, annual
Affordability
Connection across generations
Gathering places: parks, open mic nights, trivia, not just drinking
Saying hello
Outdoor seating common areas
Mixed use zoning (business, residential)
Parks (man-built and natural)
Easy transportation, less use of cars
Work in the community that you live in
More music/food events
Sharing tools
Free store re-use
Seniors centre
Community food sharing
Accessible transportation
Nature
Playground
Raised garden
Coffee shop
Free books
Community hub: Share resources, Recreation, Day care, Medical, Library
Smaller roads, no stop lights
Large sidewalks, walk-ability

Park
Playground
Local wine store
Affordable housing for all
Free transportation (bus, bikes, trolly)
School
Community centre
Childcare
Local artisan
Sharing/trading
Local farmer, butcher and produce
Library
Pub
Skill/resource exchange
Contributors
Intergenerational
Diverse
Walkable, pedestrian friendly
Accessible to services and support
Age in place
Shared common space
Amenities close
Living with others
Music
Environmentally responsible
Full of life
Celebration acknowledgement
Reciprocity

Gifts of participants in the workshop

"Gifts are not gifts unless they are given"

Canning
Scrapbooking
Making cards
Hiking
Helping people in any need (moving, sick, etc.)
Turn anything into a joke
Energy
Most caring person

Multi-tasker
I'm generous
Patient
Understanding
Know another language
Making videos
Baking
Eating, restaurant guide
Creative

Organized
Fairness
Patience
Organized
Gets things done
Advocate
Pushes things forward
Good with numbers

Navigates government systems
Robert's rules
Passionate
Fair
Photography
Ideas, creative
Welcoming, friendly
Patience
Driven, passionate
Vibrancy
Lots of social connections
Joyful
Cooking
Learning
Education
Reading
Climbing
Exercise
Listen to stories

Gardening (eventually)
Able to relax and decompress
A listener
Crafty
Entrepreneur
Artist
Reader
Community involvement with kids
Gardener
Cyclist
Painting
Gab
Empathy
Sense of humour
Connect with people and family
Love of dogs
Connector

Gatherer
Gift of gab
Sense of homour
Networker
Planner
Preparer
Courage
Hard worker
Problem solving
Crafting
Redoing furniture
Music
Drawing
Baking
Cooking
Recycling
Dogging
Gardening

Underutilized Gift/Resources
What are the underutilized gifts/resources in our neighbourhoods?

Underutilized teenagers (12-19 years old)—potential childcare
Connect children to caregivers
Linking older to younger generations
Backyards—sharing personal space for food growing
Introverts—you have a gift, planner
Minorities—history, culture
Oak Bay local: swap and shop, businesses, shop local
Zero waste, Facebook shop, Westshore/Westcoast
Soccer teams,

Building social capital through projects
Lions Groups
C-led education
Time bank
Food and housing
Children
Elderly
Homeless people
Youth
Renters-less engaged by others
Community Hall—Sooke Legions
Community Living Victoria office space
Seniors
Youth

Busy people and families
Spaces that would be made into "bumping spots"
Voice of minorities, youth and seniors
Persons with different abilities
Persons who require extra support
Children
First Nations
Socially isolated seniors
Citizens with diverse abilities
Children
Elders
New citizens (immigrants)
Students and youth
Family

Tap Resources
How or why to tap resources in our communities?

- Using resources for more inclusive community
- Figuring out what resources are available
- Encouraging others to join you
- Using community centres to encourage "open house"
- Encourage use of common spaces, invite neighbours for "game nights"
- Using organizations known to use community resources to extend their knowledge/invitations
- Incorporating other cultures—cultural days for neighbourhoods, inviting other cultures to teach

Agencies
Which agencies exist in our neighbourhoods that we can work with?

- Local Community Association/Oak Bay local?
- Integrated Housing Group?
- Matchmaking
- Bontering(???)
- Meal exchanges
- Projects alliance with: Indigenous people, immigrants and refugees, intentional community
- Resonances, needs
- People, passion, place
- Build community
- Inter-agency collaboration
- You are welcome
- Micro projects

What other agencies can we partner with?

- Extend invitations for things like agency parties into the community and inter-agency
- Inviting students to become involved in agency events
- Making connections with universities and their programs to engage and use as a resource
- CRD, SPCA
- Recycling depots
- BC Housing
- Business Chambers
- Co-op housing
- Seniors
- Hospitals
- Local government MLAs
- Correction facility in View Royal
- Saanich municipalities
- Business Associations
- Schools and Postsecondary buildings

Keep, Stop, Start

Which assets, actions, attitudes…we need to keep, stop or start in our neighbourhoods?

Keep

Inviting all community members to Agency events
Keep going out and being involved in the community, while continuing to extend where they go (encourage more use of external resources)
Collaborative practice
Strength based approach
Relationship-based
Remove silos: multi-discipline teams?
Trying
Identifying specific needs and time costs

Sharing resources
Agency collaborations: we do this well
One Day and other like events we champion
Celebrate achievements
Transportation (easy to get around)
Tree canopy
Walking trails
Close to the beach
Nature
Broader demographic
Sharing resources
Training opportunities

Stop

Stop worrying about the "what if"
Defending your silos
Being competitive
Perpetuating damaging labels or cultural norms
Looking from a financial perspective and look from a resource (time, skills, volunteers) perspective
Making community come to you
Repeating unsuccessful strategies

Making assumptions
Doing what we have always done to create a diversity in our audiences at events
Over-supporting individuals
Nimbyism
Segregation of agencies
Making decisions on behalf or communities

Start

Local involvement (ads at sports events, etc.)
Better utilize community spaces (without cash)
Try new things, encourage use of new resources
Be inclusive in decision making
Eye contact, greetings, everyone is connected to someone
More places to gather/bump
Diversity in leadership
Community accessibility
Community celebration
Preserving nature
Better transit
Urban planning

Integrating into the larger community
Having more fun
Look at individuals with disabilities or other under-utilized people for what they can offer the larger agency, community, etc.
Providing access to those resources, like house or car sharing, etc.; using new technologies
Collaboration with other associations like unions, churches, etc.
Introduce services to generic services and more people interact with (i.e., food banks)
Buy-in from all levels and organizations
Buy-in from agencies

Follow through on all great ideas!
Expand One Day and others
People will look to the future
More affordable housing
More inclusive of all demographics

Listen to needs of communities
Tap into community resources
Fun events for everyone
Diversify ways to contribute/be involved
Networking between agencies and individuals

Visions for Ideal Communities in the CRD

Gordon Head

Characteristics of ideal community

Central gathering place
Time bank
Membership component
Social groups/enterprises
Broader engagement
Sense of inclusivity and welcome
Place to grow some roots
"hangout space": communal games, library
Kitchen
Multiple facilitators (access)
Shared sense of ownership
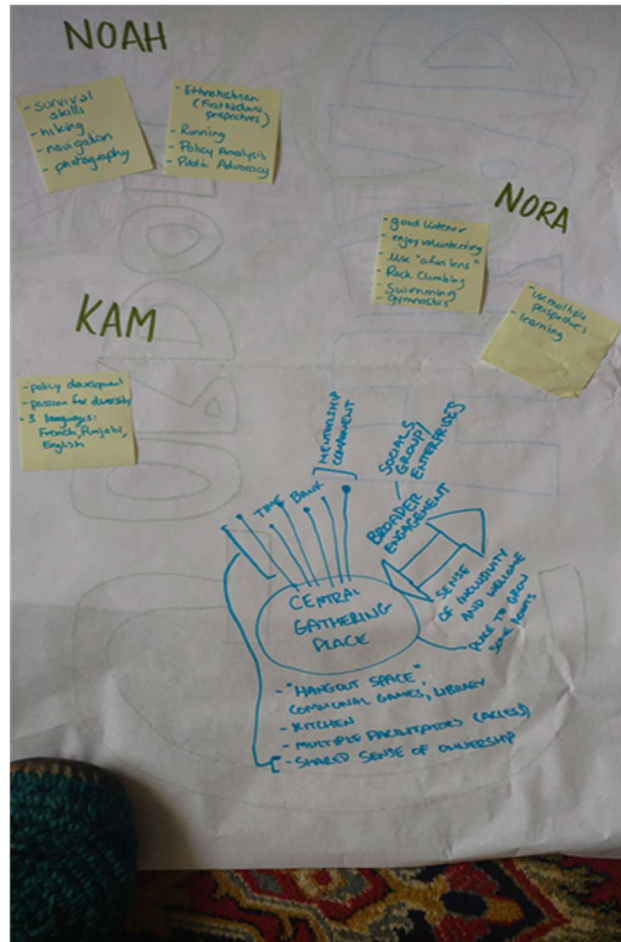
Gorge Tillicum

Characteristics of ideal community

Community garden, fruits and vegetables
Baseball field
Religions/faith communities (sharing space)
Public washrooms and showers and laundry
(free!)
Shared community kitchens
Bumping ground

Community Centre: arena, pool, time-bank
program, childcare, seniors, newcomers, library
Coffee shop
Man shed: community tools, sharing
Assorted inclusive housing,
 Micro housing
Outdoor gym

Book exchange
Christa's soup pot

Keep
Agency collaborations: we do this well
One Day and other like events we champion
Celebrate achievements

Stop
Over-supporting individuals

START
Advertise One Day at Community Associations

Plan a community event on weekend
Soup! In Christa's hands now
Introduce services to generic services and more people interact with (i.e., food banks)
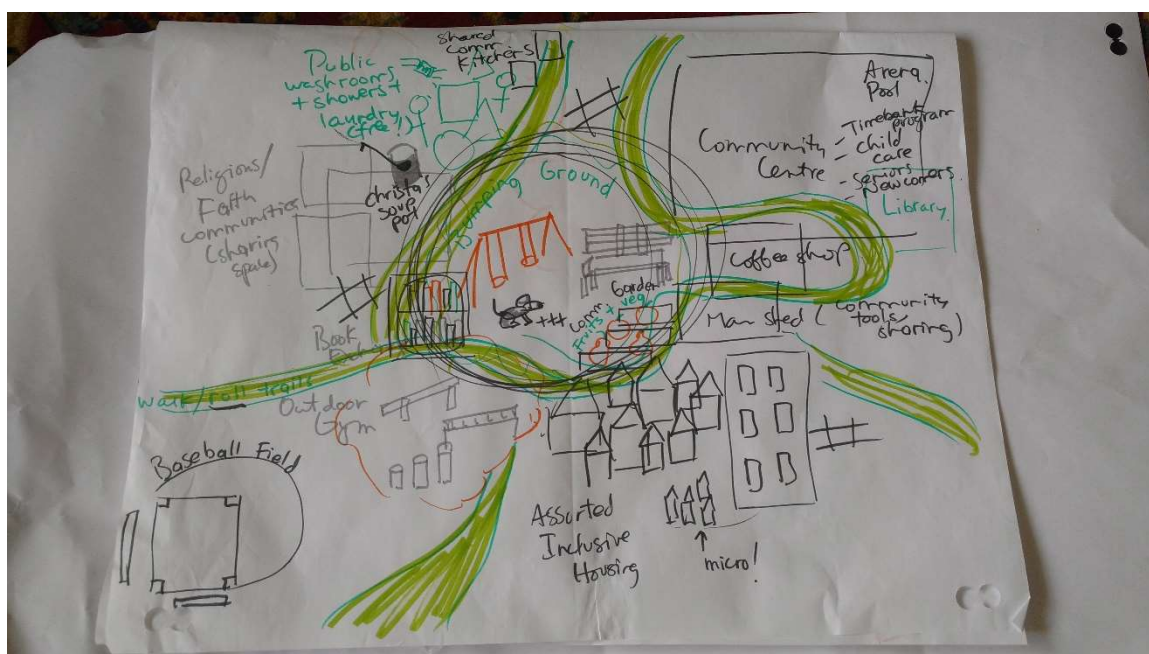Buy-in from all levels and organizations
Buy-in from agencies
Follow through on all great ideas!
Expand One Day and others
Expand beyond CL organizations

Oak Bay/Uvic

Characteristics of ideal community
Parks for potlucks
Community street dance
Youth custody centre sitting empty
Movie theatre at Oak Bay High
Uvic host family program
Specific need and time required
Other agencies, other intergenerational housing

Keep
Transportation (easy to get around)
Tree canopy
Walking trails
Close to the beach
Nature
Broader demographic

Stop
Nimbyism

Start
People will look to the future
More affordable housing
More inclusive of all demographics

Oaklands

Characteristics of ideal community
Community programs out of Vic High
Better use of space
Community library
Stay home activity
Centre for new arrivals

Cowichan Valley

Characteristics of ideal community
Green spaces
Living rural, but close to city life
Conveniences
More affordable housing
Homeless' drug use treatment options

West Saanich/View Royal

Characteristics of ideal community
Access to both highways
Lots of trails
Thetis Lake/trails
Access to retail
Transit
Feel of the area, nature based
Community hub
Less traffic
Dogs allowed in pubs
Medical resources

Sooke

Characteristics of ideal community
Senior services
Medical services
Youth services
Community green outdoor spaces
Food/drugs necessities

Quadra-MacKenzie/Royal Oak

Keep
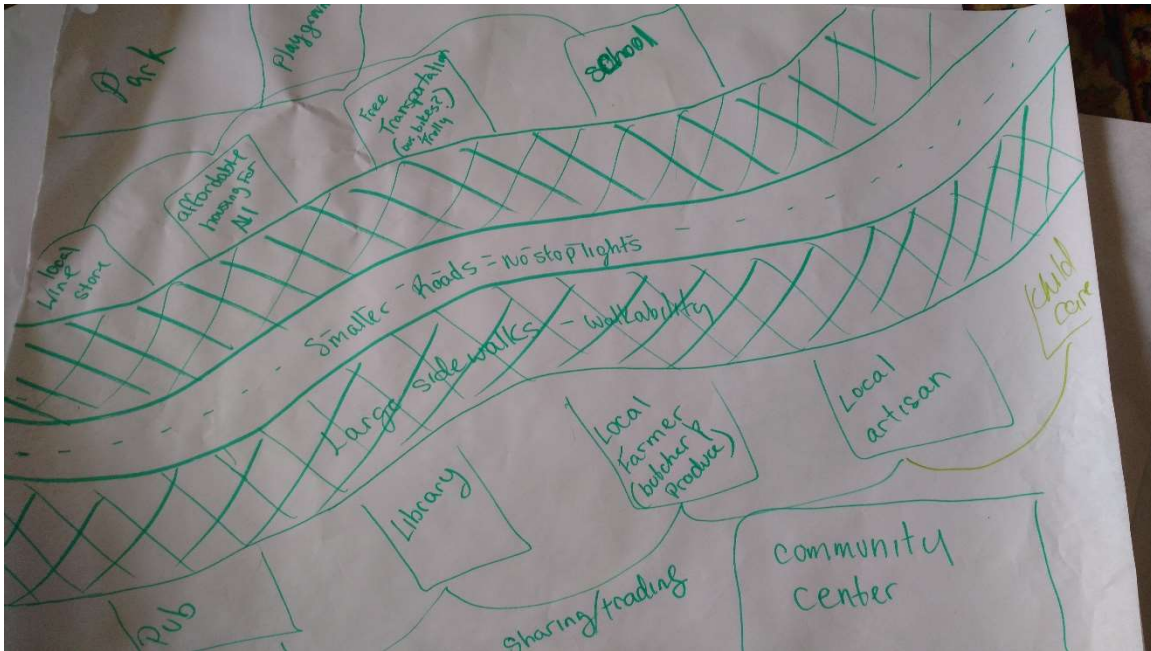Sharing resources
Training opportunities

Stop
Segregation of agencies
Making decisions on behalf or communities

Start

Listen to needs of communities
Tap into community resources
Fun events for everyone
Diversify ways to contribute/be involved
Networking between agencies and individuals

Illustration of ideal communities

Park

Playground

School

Free Transportation (on buses trolly)

affordable housing for ALL

local wine store

Smaller Roads = No stop lights

Large sidewalks - Walkability

Child Care

Local artisan

Local farmer (butcher & produce)

Library

community center

sharing/trading

Pub

Appendix One

Agenda for October 24th 2018

9:00   Welcome and introductions

9:10   Meaning and value of community

10:00 Keys to building an inclusive community

11:00 Mapping your neighbourhood's underutilized resources

12:00 Lunch break

1:30   Shifts agencies can make to support inclusive community

2:15   Tools for building inclusive community

2:40   Creating your vision of a welcoming and inclusive community

3:10   Identifying actions that will move towards your vision

3:30   Adjourn to create more inclusive community

Appendix 2

Interested in getting involved with community (asset) mapping – CAM- in Victoria?
Here are some options the network can support you with:

1. **CAM Introductory Workshop** – Facilitate the 2 Hour CM Introductory Workshop in your community.

2. **CAM Event/Activity**- Use CAM as an activity or focus as part of an Event /Gathering/Project you are involved in or already planning in your community. Ex- Community Living Month, Self Advocacy Group open house, Dec 3rd International Day for Person's with a Disability, youth transition fairs, conference workshop.

3. **CAM project to map something specific (1-6 months)**- Use CAM process to bring together stakeholders around a specific issue you want to map EX- Inclusive Housing, Employment, Accessibility

4. **CAM Community Development Project (6-12months)-** Create an asset and vision mapping project with broader community partners Ex- Community Mapping workshop series in partnership with your local library

5. **CAM Community of Practice Working Groups**- Join our network and build yours skills as a CM Network member.

The British Columbia Community Asset Mapping Network

Mapping the heart of our communities

Who are we?

The British Columbia Community Asset Mapping Network (BCCAMN) is a group of citizens from around the province learning how to use community mapping as a way to build connections and increase inclusion and belonging for all people. Our network was started by Community Living BC Councils made up of people with diverse abilities, family members and community partners.

"Mapping is fun and we all have stories and connections to share" (BCCAMN Member)

Our Vision

Welcoming, kind and inclusive communities where all people know how and where to connect in their community

We believe community mapping will help us build stronger communities by:

- ❖ Sharing our Stories and Building Connections
- ❖ Mapping and Gathering Community Gifts and Assets
- ❖ Visioning and Building an Inclusive Future

What do we do?

We partner with organizations around BC to map and share community gifts and opportunities related to **inclusion, accessibility, and social connection.** From 2018-2019 we are expanding our network by hosting community mapping events and projects around BC. Join us to build connections, share stories, and map your gifts!

What's Your Story?

Do you have a community gift to share? We welcome individuals and communities to join our Community Asset Mapping Network.

Join Us!

Contact us to learn more or to get involved in a community mapping event near you!

**Local Contacts: Michelle Goos and Jessica Humphrey
Phone: 778-679-2691
Email: Michelle.Goos@gov.bc.ca**

The BCCMN is supported by Community Living BC.

http://www.communitylivingbc.ca/

"When people are connected to the community life is better because of it!"(BCCMN member)