

## BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Project:** Big Ears

Big Ears engages and enhances park user's sense of hearing through large ear cones, by inviting them to pause and listen to the sounds of the park as a way to cultivate a deeper connection and awareness for the biodiversity that is around them.

**School & Course:** SFU Semester Outside the City

**Faculty Member:** Lena Soots & Laura Piersol

**Date Completed:** Summer 2015

**City Strategy & Goal Area:** GCAP - Access to Nature

**Neighbourhood:** Everett Crowley Park

**Staff Contact & Partners:** Becky Till Vancouver Park Board, Everett Crowley Park Committee

**Student Team:** Rebecca Tchen, Dominique Goulet, Emily Huang, Ananth Mehrotra

**Photo:**



## **DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

### **Project: YIMBY**

YIMBY Vancouver (Yes In My BackYard) is a locally-grown social movement that seeks to curate a more inclusive community for homeless citizens outside of the Downtown Eastside.

From November 21st-28th, 2015, we launched a weeklong pay-it-forward experiment that brought together all community members along Commercial Drive in preparation for the opening of a cold weather shelter on December 8th, 2015 and located on 1648 East 1st Avenue. We worked with our City contact, Senior Planner Celine Mauboules, to address Healthy City Strategy Goal 8's target of increasing Vancouverites' sense of belonging by 10%.

At Renzo's Cafe, Eternal Abundance, Cafe du Soleil and Babylon Cafe, residents were encouraged to purchase an extra item in the form of an anonymous voucher that was posted on a YIMBY board and later redeemed by a homeless citizen at the cost of kindness. After one week, over 235 YIMBY vouchers were redeemed and three of our business partners have carried on the YIMBY pay-it-forward model after our project ended. The experiment demonstrated a successful form of charity that favoured agency and dignity over stigma and shame. The voucher system has caught on in other cities, inspiring us to develop a toolkit that will empower future YIMBYists.

**School & Course:** SFU Semester at CityStudio

**Faculty Member:** Duane Elverum & Janet Moore

**Date Completed:** Fall 2015

**City Strategy & Goal Area:** Healthy City Strategy - Being and Feeling Safe and Included

**Neighbourhood:** Commercial Drive

**Team:** Becky Price, Caroline Wong, Katharina Bleinis, Shane Sharma

### **Staff Contact & Partners:**

Celine Mauboules, City of Vancouver

Bill Briscall, RainCity Housing

Isaac Malmgren, RainCity Housing

George Mander, The Kettle Society

Jessica Hannon, MegaPhone Magazine

Andre Montagiani, Owner of Renzo's Cafe

Laith Istifan, Owner of Babylon Cafe

Terry Jheeta, Manager of Cafe Du Soleil

Alexandra Bringham, General Manager of Eternal Abundance

**Scalability:** We believe that our pay-it-forward initiative can easily be scaled to fit other neighbourhoods in Vancouver and across the world. After being approached by individuals in other cities, we have created a universal toolkit for future YIMBYists. We hope that this toolkit will inspire change-makers across the world to promote a YIMBY culture in their communities and cities.

**Stewardship:** At the time of this publication, three of our business partners decided to keep the YIMBY voucher system even after our project ended. YIMBY Vancouver is looking for a community leader or organization to carry on this initiative and help spread community kindness and inclusivity for homeless citizens in other neighbourhoods. Future YIMBYists should continue to map areas in Vancouver, truly creating a city that boasts ‘Yes In My BackYard’ as a unanimous municipal culture.

“It’s not just about the coffee, it’s the small act behind it,”  
Jason, homeless citizen of Vancouver

**Photo:**

