YOUNG CHANGEMAKERS
Mi Casa Es Su Casa: Safe Spaces 101

By: Alia Ali
You are safe here.

Take a deep breath. You're home now.

You are safe here. You are home now. You can rest.
Attentiveness

“But when is ignorance simply ignorance, and when it is inattentiveness?” - Joan Tronto
Responsibility/ Obligation

It feels good to care. It’s an honour and a privilege to care and love the people in our lives. This is how communities get built.
Competence

It’s important to follow through.

Otherwise we end up gaslighting and creating an environment of mistrust/ disillusionment.
Responsiveness

Platinum Rule over the Golden Rule

We need to try and understand without judgement
Why should we care?

- Diversity is actually our strength
- Empathy
- We were all born into this society with these systems already built, we can’t expect to go away on it’s own.
- Policy and laws can’t change the hearts of people. Systems are made up of individuals and if we aren’t even taking responsibility for our immediate communities and spaces we occupy, who will?
How do you know space is unsafe?

Look around the room, who’s not there?

If they’re not there it’s because it isn’t safe for them.
How can we make spaces safer?

❖ Eliminate barrier of access
  ➢ Ex. not having to ask the ingredients of a snack or food present
  ➢ Directions for bathrooms, water etc.

❖ Shared responsibility

❖ Representation in the pictures/ books/ posters
  ➢ If its a smaller group, fill spaces with people’s favourite things

❖ Reaffirming rules of engagements in signs
How can we make spaces safer?

- Reaffirming rules of engagements in signs
- Ask for feedback about language/ discomfort
- Horseshoes over circles
- Intentionality
- CELEBRATE PEOPLE
- Gratitude exercises/ Acknowledgement
What in our awareness grows. What we pay attention to matters.
Thank you for giving me the space to be heard
NADIA MAHAMOOR
YOUNG ARTISTS OF RICHMOND
NADIA MAHAMOOR

@vomit_artifacts
MY STORY:

-volunteered as an art teacher’s assistant at the Cultural Centre for 3 months.

-found a job teaching art at a community centre (at 16)

-got my first public art exhibition up (at 17)
THE FACES OF RICHMOND

NADIA MAHAMOOR

Inspired by this previous drawing
The participants:
Each kid I chose represented Richmond, and for the time being, Richmond represents them.
MEANT TO SHOWCASE THE THOUGHTS AND DREAMS OF CURRENT HIGHSCHOOL STUDENTS GOING THROUGH LIFE.
THE PROCESS:
USED MARKERS, CHALK PASTELS, PENCIL CRAYONS ON CARDSTOCK.
USED MARKERS, CHALK PASTELS, PENCIL CRAYONS ON CARDSTOCK.
THE INSTALLATION:
@ NIGHT
YOUR SUPPORT SYSTEM:

In order to pursue art, you need to be self-motivated and positive about it.
**SMALL STARTS:**

- Try volunteering for art related activities (ex: icanhelprichmond)

- Try building a (professional) portfolio

- Try joining an art club of some sort

- Start recording processes and artworks for future reference
YOUR OPPORTUNITIES:

- Artist call page on the City of Richmond website
- Sell your art at the Youth Art Mart (13-24 years and no fee)
- Annual Midsummer Art's Dream Exhibition
HOW TO APPLY FOR ARTIST CALLS:

Generally your age doesn’t matter, it’s only your capability to finish the project successfully.
HOW TO START NOW:

Since we live in the modern world, try setting up a social media account or an online portfolio/website in order to connect and showcase your art digitally.
GILLIAN DER
The ChoiBox
Community Building Through Food
What is a CSA?

- Community Supported Agriculture
- Members buy into a “share” in the spring, sharing the risks and rewards for the upcoming season
- Members pick up produce on a regular schedule throughout the season
Why the ChoiBox?

1. CSAs are often not inclusive of staple vegetables in Asian Canadian cooking
2. Asian Canadians want fresh, local, and sustainably produced vegetables
3. CSA can be used as a tool for moving beyond a transactionary food system toward a more equitable and place based way of interacting with our communities & sustenance
Beyond Just Food

“The weekly ritual of picking up our veggies embeds you into a neighbourhood that you might not always or frequently visit. That sustained contact weaves the neighbourhood into your life and psyche in a new and wonderful way.”

- ChoiBox Member
Chinatown Historical Tour

● Local historians Hayne Wai & John Atkin
● Presented at the beginning of the ChoiBox season to ground members in the historical legacies of Chinatown
● Encouraged members to think about how the past informs the present and the future of Chinatown, identity, and the city
Panel on Space activation in Chinatown

- Film screening featuring UBC Asian Canadian & Asian Migration student films on public space activation in Asia
- Panel discussion featuring community organizers, city planners, and local vendors on the challenges and opportunities for public space activation in Chinatown
Dried Goods Guide & Workshops

- Improving food literacy around Chinese dried goods
- Connecting with traditional businesses in Chinatown to research Chinese dried goods
- Encouraging knowledge holding CSA members to share recipes and techniques for cooking with dried goods
Chef & CSA member Alain Chow teaching herbal chicken soup

Chef & CSA member Doug Chang teaching Lo Hon Jai

Dried goods shopping tour with CSA member Auntie Julia

CSA Volunteer Kacey Ng teaching Tang Yuan for the Moon Festival
“Thank you for giving me a reason to come through Chinatown on a regular basis. This comes at a really important time because I just had my daughter a year and a half ago. Now I get to come to a place that I used to go to as a kid with my own kid, and share in a cuisine that I grew up with.”

- ChoiBox Member

“I feel way more connected to Chinatown through the ChoiBox because it gave me a reason to go to Chinatown when I hadn’t had one before. It brought a sense of nostalgia back for me from when I was a child, and allows me to relive some of my memories there. I also got to learn so much more about Chinatown than I had before, which I can tell to other people now!”

- ChoiBox Member
BREMIELLA DE GUZMAN
The Inclusion Movement

DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION AND COMMUNITY LIVING
Bremiella

Facilitator at Community Living BC
Youth Leader with Special Olympics,
*Spread The Word: Inclusion*
Ambassador of Ability, BC Centre
For Ability
Miss BC 2019-20
Institutionalization of People with Intellectual Disabilities
The Community Living "Movement"
Inclusion
WOODLANDS

OUR HISTORY

WWW.INCLUSIONBC.ORG
WHAT'S WRONG WITH INSTITUTIONS?

ISOLATED, SEGREGATED AND/OR CONGREGATED

ABUSED AND NEGLECTED

PATRONIZED, DEHUMANIZED AND GIVEN NO CONTROL
Lives filled with possibilities.
"There is no greater disability in society, than the inability to see a person as more."

- Robert M. Hensel
The Community Living "Movement"

FAMILIES AND SELF ADVOCATES

FROM INSTITUTIONS TO COMMUNITY LIVING
INCLUSION
How can we be more inclusive?

[DIS]ABILITY
Focus on one's abilities and strengths.

THE POWER OF OUR LANGUAGE
People first language (i.e. person with disability vs. disabled).

LEARN FROM OUR HISTORY
Support people with ID to live lives in the community.
DID YOU KNOW?

LARGE INSTITUTIONS CONTINUE TO BE FUNDED IN SEVEN (7) OF OUR PROVINCES.

http://www.institutionwatch.ca/
INSTITUTIONS AND PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES
https://inclusionbc.org/our-resources/institutions/

DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION OF PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE
by Raymond A. Lemay

INSTITUTION WATCH
http://www.institutionwatch.ca/
TONY SMITH
CHANGEMAKERS

Re-designing Community Service

A.R. MacNeill Secondary

Citizenship-Leadership 10-12
THE DESIGN THINKING PROCESS or HUMAN-CENTRED DESIGN
Homelessness comes from circumstance, not by choice
UNLEARNING

Rabaab Khehra
our backs
tell stories
no books have
the spine to
carry

women of colour – rupi kaur
WHO AM I?
SYSTEMIC ISSUES CONCERNING RACE AND ETHNICITY & INTERNALIZED RACISM WITHIN PEOPLE OF COLOUR
THE ROLE OF MEDIA
CANADIAN HISTORY OF RACISM
SYSTEMIC BARRIERS & CHALLENGES
HOW DO WE UNLEARN?
THANK YOU FOR MAKING SPACE FOR ME.

Rabaab Khehra
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FB: Rabaab Khehra
MSSKO WAKIL
MOSAIC YOUTH INITIATIVES DESIGNED FOR NEWCOMERS

MSSKO WAKIL
YOUTH OUTREACH CASE MANAGER
CCR BRANCH COORDINATOR

CITY OF RICHMOND
DIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM, 2019
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

TERRITORIES

Scəwəsdəmenəɬ Təməxʷ (TSAWWASSEN)
S’ólh Téméxw (STÓ:LO)
Kwantlen
STZ’uminus
XwMəθkwəyəm
FREE RUNNING PROGRAM

YOUTH AGE 16-28

ONE-ON-ONE CASE MANAGEMENT
ORIENTATION WORKSHOPS
ACCESS TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES
FREE RUNNING PROGRAM

03.02.2019

❤ friendships

#expertplanning
NEWCOMER YOUTH

- VARIOUS TRAININGS
- SKILL AND HABIT DEVELOPMENT
- SHARING THE KNOWLEDGE
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH
- NEW PROJECTS
NEWCOMER YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT (NYCE)

LOCAL YOUTH NETWORK BRANCHES

- THREE YEAR ONGOING
- HUB TO STRATEGIZE
- FOCUS ON NEWCOMER YOUTH ISSUES
- YOUTH ENGAGEMENT WITH ORGANIZATIONS
CONTACT INFORMATION

LEARN MORE AT:
WWW.MOSAICBC.ORG

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CICELY BLAIN
Creating a Socially Conscious Business

Cicely Belle Blain
ANTI-OPPRESSION
Systemic oppression exists; we must constantly find ways to subvert and break down barriers to access.

INTERSECTIONALITY
Our identities are multifaceted and complex; our inclusion initiatives and spaces should be too.

EQUITY
We should give everyone exactly what they need to thrive.
ANTI-Oppression
• Decolonize systems
• Acknowledge ways of knowing
• Take a firm stance against discrimination

Intersectionality
• Create space for all bodies and all abilities
• Recognize intergenerational trauma & responses

Equity
• Uplift marginalized voices
• Break down barriers to access
• Centre lived experience
Effective strategies

ANTI-OPPRESSION
• Lived experience as a form of knowledge

INTERSECTIONALITY
• Caucus spaces for marginalized groups

EQUITY
• Sliding scale ticket pricing
Thank you!

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