

Community Matters

stories of connection, hospitality & reciprocity in the community

Community Matters is a newsletter by the Building Caring Communities (BC²) Team.
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Laughter, Joy and Unexpected Friendship



Bryan and James have been friends since last fall when they were first introduced to each other over a cup of steeped tea at Tim Hortons. They made an instant impression on each other, bouncing around names, songs, movie titles, comic book series and old records. It was a verbal game of backgammon, challenging each other to see if they would get along. They could have kept at it for hours!

The extent to which their knowledge and interests overlap is incredible and together these two make a knowledge-force to be reckoned with. Never agree to play trivial pursuit with these two – you are sure to lose.

Bryan and James both have a quirky and intelligent sense of humour, and love each other's jokes. They share a passion for building collections, and each has incredible book and record collections. It is an art, a gift, and a lifetime pursuit.

Laughter and joy are the first things you notice when spending time with Bryan and James. Whether it's going for breakfast, watching a matinee, bowling, or playing board games, these two are having fun together. The combination of these two personalities is electric and wonderfully eccentric, and it has led to an exciting friendship.

Looking to get more connected in your neighbourhood?

Do you have a great community initiative you want to spread the word about?
Contact the Building Caring Communities (BC²) Team at the Hub: BC2@posabilities.ca.

Take a Seat – Make a Friend?

If you're on Facebook, you're probably no stranger to the 'Take a Seat – Make a Friend?' Youtube video that went viral. The makers of the video conducted a social experiment which consisted of a colored ball pit, a sign which read 'Take a Seat – Make a Friend?' and perfect strangers. What they caught on camera is truly inspiring. One watches as perfect strangers take a seat in the ball pit, read a random question aloud, and share a few minutes of real connection – complete with laughs, confessions, and heart-felt moments.

The *Community Connector Team* was so inspired by this video that we set out to create a similar social experiment on the streets of Vancouver. So on a very brisk December morning, we set up at Grandview Park on Commercial Drive and got ready for what would turn out to be a very memorable Friday. We came equipped with hot apple cider, a tent, two chairs, a sign and – here's the best part – inflated balloons with secret questions and a sprinkling of glitter inside. The idea was to invite two strangers to sit under the tent, choose a balloon, pop the balloon, read the question aloud and share a moment of connection. And that's exactly what happened!

Highlights of the afternoon included an elderly gentleman and a traveler from Montreal discussing which animal they would choose to be. The former chose to be a fire monkey, while the latter chose to be a phoenix – both were intrigued by the common element of fire. Other highlights included two perfect strangers discussing details of what their dream date would look like (no, they did not exchange numbers). And finally, there were two strangers that realized that although they shared the same name, they had very different answers when asked 'what is your dream job?'

The success of this initial pop-up event has inspired the *Community Connector Team* to make this a monthly event. Though the locations and details might change, the premise will remain the same - how can we bring people together to share spontaneous moments of connection? If you see us in your community, we invite you to join us and 'Take a Seat, Make a Friend?'



Joining the Threads of a Neighbourhood

This past October, a community Sewing Club started off at the Hub! The club meets every Wednesday morning at The Hub (251 East 11th Avenue, Vancouver). Come hang out with us, get to know some awesome people and bring clothes that need mending or a project you're stuck on!

The Sewing Club is led by the wonderful Amie Peacock. She is an energetic and inspiring woman who seeks to bring the community together so they can get to know each other and spend time working on small sewing projects. She loves the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood, is committed to knowing her neighbors and enjoys teaching her skills to others.

This club is free and open to everyone, whether you are an experienced sewist or are picking up a sewing needle for the first time. You do not need to own sewing supplies to participate either! At the classes, Amie teaches how to use the right stitching methods for hand sewing projects, and also has her sewing machine and "Sergger" on hand for more advanced projects. Amie is a very knowledgeable and patient teacher, spending time with each person to make sure they are comfortable with their project. So far, members have learned how to hem, fix torn linings in jackets, mend leather purses and patch clothes. The club is looking to participate in a group sewing project that would allow them to share their gifts with our neighbours and the larger community.

Join the Sewing Club! When: 9:30 - 11:30 am every Wednesday **Where:** 251 East 11th Ave, Vancouver
RSVP by emailing amie2020@gmail.com or just show up!



Get connected in your community: UPCOMING EVENTS

Big Band Music

Come enjoy an afternoon of swingin' jazz, featuring classics by Ellington and Basie as well as contemporary hits.

The Urbana Big Band features members of the Arokis Centre of Music Society, a non-profit dedicated to promoting big band music. They have been bringing great sounds to local audiences for over 15 years.

When: Saturday, Feb. 15 from 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Where: Vancouver Central Library - Lower Level

Music Jam Night

Make new friends while making music! Bring an instrument if you have one. This event is FREE.

When: Monday, Feb. 24 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Where: 251 East 11th Avenue, Vancouver

WAM (We Are Many) Community Conversation

FREE community conversation for those who care for their neighbourhood and want to work towards hospitality and building a caring community.

When: Thursday Mar. 6 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Where: 251 East 11th Avenue, Vancouver

Healthy Selves, Healthy Communities

FREE community-based multicultural health program.

These classes are led by BCIT nurses. Some topics addressed include healthy living, nutrition, managing stress, chronic disease prevention and holistic wellness.

Classes are led by BCIT nurses.

When: Every Wednesday
from Mar. 19 – May 7 | 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Where: 251 East 11th Avenue
Contact: Jennifer 604-879-7104