



# K I T S I L A N O

Neighbourhood House

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June 23, 2021

**Dear Canada Healthy Communities Initiative Grant Committee (CHCI):**

## **Support for The West Broadway Business Improvement Area (WBBIA)**

Kitsilano Neighbourhood House ('Kits House'), a member of the Association of Neighbourhood Houses BC, is a registered non-profit, charity organization dedicated to providing an opportunity for everybody in our community to get together and be engaged. We offer many different programs like volunteer-led English Conversation Circles, weekly hot lunches for seniors, childcare and much more. We are currently the only Neighbourhood House on the Westside and serve many different communities like Kitsilano, Dunbar, Arbutus Ridge and Point Grey.

Social inclusion is a primary driver of our diverse programming, like seniors' sitting yoga, seniors' + Expressive Art Therapy for Kids & All, Multicultural Crochet Meet Ups as well as Momma + Poppa Goose Storytime, but these and many other programs have been suspended due to covid-19.

'Kits House' has been a long term WBBIA community partner - the WBBIA has participated and supported our community events - including Autumn Fair, Winter Market and more - and helped raise awareness about Kits House initiatives. WBBIA has also coordinated fundraising initiatives for Kits House and provided opportunities for Kits House to engage the community through events on Broadway.

We were very pleased to have provided 'Kits House' programming needs insights to WBBIA which could easily be transferred to covid-19-safe outdoor spaces. We were delighted to see our multiple programming needs reflected in the pocket park designs.

While many people have been negatively impacted by covid-19 restrictions, as our programs are being designed on a continuous basis to specifically to create a “sense of belonging” for more marginalized community members, we feel that our members have been doubly hard hit by the pandemic itself and the suspension of our in-person programs.

As there appears to be scientific census that there will be near future pandemics with varying health impacts, we are very happy to support The WBBIA CHCI Grant application for two outdoor “living rooms” or pocket parks where we could safely hold many of our programs upon their completion in 2022 and into the future. ‘Kits House’ social inclusion programming relies heavily on in-person contact to create the “sense of belonging” in the community, though online tools have been helpful, and we are very excited to reconnect in the potential pocket parks with the community in future summers!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen", followed by a long horizontal line that extends to the right and then curves slightly downwards at the end.

Allen Smith  
Executive Director