Vancouverism: Governance & Engagement

Dr. Ann McAfee, FCIP
Retired Co-Director of Planning,
Vancouver Canada
City Choices Consulting
We’re Number One (again)

A survey that tallies up quality of life ranks Vancouver as one of the best places in the world, but some residents still want hardship pay.

By PETTY FONG

For the second year in a row, Vancouver has been ranked as one of the two best places in the world to live.

A survey conducted by the William M. Mercer company, the world’s largest human resources consultancy, says the city is tied with Zurich when quality-of-life factors are tallied. Vienna, Copenhagen and

Vancouver number one

In an international quality of life survey conducted by the world’s largest human resources company, Vancouver and Zurich were ranked number one based on factors including political and economic stability and social and environmental factors. Below is a list of selected top-ranking cities from best to worst.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Rank</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zurich</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copenhagen</td>
<td>4</td>
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Vancouver, CA
Zurich, CH
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? VANCouver's been knocked FROM TOP SPot OF THE WORLD'S MOST LIVABLE CITIES BY MELBOURNE AND VIENNA! FIND OUT WHAT THEY HAVE AND GO ONE BETTER!

WHY IS THAT KANGAROO PLAYING A VIOLIN?

VANcouver: WE'VE GOT IT ALL!

September 1 2011
Worked for Vancouver City 1974-2006

Co-Director of Planning 1994-2006

1950 – 2013
“Vancouverism”

1. “Bottom Up” Governance
2. Inner City Livability
3. “Extensive” Public Engagement

Transferability?
1. “Bottom Up Governance” Vancouver

Legislation:
- Local Government Act
- Community Charter
- Vancouver Charter

= Provincial/State Government

Municipalities
Cities

Cities Form Metro Board

Metro Board

Citizen Input

No Appeal from Council Decisions
Vancouver City 666,517 (+2.3%)  Region 2.44 Million (+1.5%)
Regional Services:

- Deliver region-wide essential services ("Economies of Scale")
  - Water - Metro
  - Waste - Metro
  - Transit – TransLink
  - Major Roads - TransLink

- Custodian Regional Sustainability
Vancouver

- Compact Region Growth Boundary
- Diverse Regional Economy
- Diverse & Affordable Housing Choices
- Protect Natural Assets
- Sustainable Transportation System

Melbourne

- Compact City Growth Boundary
- Prosperous City, Economic Growth
- A Fairer City, Housing Choice
- A Greener City, Environmental Protection
- Better Transport Links Transport Accessibility
Vancouverism: “Bottom Up” Governance

City Is Decision Maker

- At Large Council (10)
- Elected Mayor Chairs
- Cities Responsible for Land Use & Budget Decisions
- No Appeal
Planning Approvals Process

Strategic Directions:
City Directions, Sustainability, Livability

Policy Plans & Guidelines (e.g. Housing, Transportation, Industry, Environment, Services, Financing)

Area & Site Zoning

Development Permits

Building Permits

Council Approves

Staff Approve
2. Vancouverism
   Inner City Livability

1. City Leadership
2. Borrow, Adapt
3. Invent
4. Know when enough is enough
$10+ million Penthouse

Family Housing
Leadership

1. Council Leadership
   - Vision
   - Stay the Course

2. Staff
   - Livability Guidelines
   - New Urban Forms
   - Funding Services

“Left” and “Right” Shared Values
1970 - 2006
Leadership: Council 1970 Vision: An Inclusive Vibrant Inner City
City Leadership: South False Creek – 1975-85

- 21 ha
- 2,811 Units
- 5,213 Residents

City Land
Inner City: 4 Key Policies

- Income – Household Mix
- Jobs-Housing Balance
Accessibility through Land Use
Development Provides Full Services

On-site sewer, water, roads

School Sites, Community Centers

Public Art

Parks
Walking, Bike Paths

Affordable Housing
Borrow & Adapt

Boston

Vancouver
Invent When Necessary
Experience Based Guidelines
Downtown Quality of Life =
Switch from Lifestyle
to Life Cycle Planning
False Creek

Know When Enough Is Enough:
Too Much of a good thing
Maintain a Diverse Economy

“Highest” is not Necessarily “Best” Use

Commercial, Retail, Tourist, Entertainment

Housing

City Services, Port

City Services

Offices

International Connections
3. Vancouverism: “Extensive” Public Engagement

Life Style OR Life Cycle Communities?

Suburban Vancouver 1992
Low Intensity Uses Not Sustainable

Separate land uses
- Downtown Jobs
- Suburbs Housing

= Increase Travel Costs, Pollution, Under Used Services
  Limited Housing Choice
1992  70% of City Single Family
Lack Housing Choices
Underused Services
Changing Demand
Challenge Many Demands
Limited Funds for Services
Challenges: Competing Land Use & Limited Funds
Council Invites Public to Walk in Council’s Shoes
CityPlan: Inclusive Process for Making Difficult Choices
Vancouver Council “Prime Directives” For New Planning Process

- Hear About All Issues
  - Land Use
  - Budget Priorities

- Hear from New People

- Hear through New Ways

Everyone In the Boat
Broad Inclusion: e.g. Communities, Business, Multicultural, Youth, Elderly, Needy, City
Step 1 Council Invites People to Identify Directions for New City Plan

Equal Access to Information
Discuss Directions not Argue Facts

+ Stakeholder Input
City Circles

- Groups of 10 – 15 discuss future directions
- People talk to People Encourage shared solutions
- “Rules” -- Manage Expectations
  - Public Advises. Council Decides
  - Ideas & Solutions Travel Together

400 Circles
Broad Inclusion

- Information Translated into 8 Languages 70 Multicultural Circles
- Youth Program: 150 Classroom Circles
Step 1: Provide Information, Circles Discuss, Assemble Ideas

Facts + Values = CityPlan Tool Kit + Ideas Book
Artists Illustrate Ideas
Step 2 Review Ideas
Step 2

Ideas Fair:
Public’s Ideas Displayed and Discussed

10,000 attend over 3 days
People Speak to Council = Creditability
People Recommend Ideas to Consider Further
Broad Agreement = Council Approves Ideas Into Action Builds Creditability
Step 3 Consider Choices & Consequences
Where No Agreement
Public Advises on Choices

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<tr>
<th>Choices</th>
<th>Consequences</th>
<th>How Do?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Redevelop Industrial Lands</td>
<td>and/or</td>
<td>Increase Suburban Density</td>
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Participants illustrate 4 Futures (Scenarios) for broad public input

No right or wrong
Just different futures for the City
Futures Displays Tour City
Over 15,000 visit Displays
Participants Recommend Preferred Future

+ Random Sample Survey
**Step 4** Staff Prepare Draft Plan

Public Reviews, Responds

Council Adopts
City Directions Approved
20 months over 2 ½ years

40% households/ over 100,000 people engage, attend events, submissions
WHAT DO WE DO NOW, CAPTAIN?

ASSEMBLE THE CREW. WE'LL DEVELOP A PLAN!
Phase Planning: Detail City Policies and Area Plans
Bite Size Steps – Coincide with Council Term

CULTURE PLAN FOR VANCOUVER 2008-2018

The City of Vancouver Task Force’s Community Climate Change Action Plan

Kingsway & Knight Neighbourhood Centre

Financing Growth
Paying for City facilities to serve a growing population: the role of city-wide charges on new development

Vancouver’s Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2012-2021
A home for everyone

Creative City

CityPlan Directions for Vancouver

The city of Vancouver plan
Transportation

HASTINGS SUNRISE community vision

KENSINGTON-CEDAR COTTAGE
Grounding CityPlan in Communities

City-wide Directions
Area Plans 18 Mos.
Neighbourhood Plans, Rezonings 14 mos.

From Broad Strategic Planning to Site Zoning
From Lifestyle to Life Cycle Communities
Results: 80% Support

- Increase Housing Choice in Single Family Areas
- Provided Growth Pays for New Services
Neighbourhood Based Housing Demand

Community Recommends: Housing Type, Location, Services
CityPlan
Financing Growth Strategy

- Infill: Make More Efficient Use of Existing Services

- Growth Pays for Services (Recover 80%):
  - Community Amenity $
  - Development Cost $
Neighbourhood Centre Program: New Housing Zones Combined with Local Services & Shopping Area Improvements
Community, Planners, & Developers Work Together to Identify & Locate New Housing Types
Involving Community & Developers in Difficult Decisions
Council Approves New Zoning
Provides Housing Choice
Close to Shops and Services

Infill

Housing Above Shops

Suites

Center Core
“Vancouverism” Engagement
Process Helped Council Make Difficult Land Use and Funding Decisions

1. Engaging the Public From First Step “Public’s Plan”
2. People Face Choices
3. Phase Process
Visionary Leadership

- Clear Roles
- Public Advises
  Council Decides
- Interdepartmental Staff Team
  Assemble, Review, and Advise
- Council Listens & Leads
Many ways to Participate

Different approaches for different stakeholders

Youth
Citizen Advisory Groups: Accountability

Community Groups
Advise Staff on Process

City Perspectives Panel
Advise Community Bring other Community Perspectives
Managing Expectations

- Ideas & Solutions
- Travel Together
Use Web - Social Media:

Sharing - Equal access to Information
Peering - Knowledge/Responses shared horizontally
Looping - Feedback – Keep in loop

Choosing?
Creditability?
Trust is Fragile
Transferability? Building Resilient Communities

Changing Context

- Economic Uncertainty
- Climate Change
- Right to inclusion
- Public Distrusts Authority
Inclusiveness = Robustness

“Tell me, I forget.
Show me, I remember.
Involve me, I understand.”

Chinese Proverb