



Woodwards Social Housing Coalition

#30 – 12 East Hastings St., Vancouver, B.C. V6B 6E3 Ph: (604) 215-2287

WOOWARD’S VISION 2005 QUESTIONNAIRE

We are a grassroots organization of people who are residents of the Downtown Eastside and also who live outside the area. We are united in our concern about the Woodward’s site, because its development will set the tone and serve as a model for the future.

Therefore we deem it necessary and vital that the vision for Woodward’s come primarily from the people that live and work in the area. It is their neighborhood and they will have to live with whatever goes in. Woodward’s should serve the needs of the people. We might add that this does not in any way prevent the DTES becoming a tourist Mecca, given the historic nature and beauty of the old buildings.

For several months our group, Woodward’s Vision has discussed and studied the many problems facing the DTES as well as the many possible uses for Woodward’s. At present we are formulating an overall vision that includes several components, namely health, housing, cultural, recreation, education, and economic plans.

We will submit this tentative plan to the community as well as questionnaires to arrive at a final overall plan. We stress the necessity of involving the whole community in this effort. We want the community to be consulted, canvassed and involved in a very real way. We feel that if is only by building something useful, beautiful, and inspiring that Woodward’s development can be successful. Our further hope is to have all four levels of government and the business community on side to make it an example of how governments, businesses, and people can work together to achieve something really dynamic and wonderful.

Your answers to this questionnaire are important because they give us the information we need to put together a proposal for the Woodward’s Building.

-We will use this information to argue for what you feel is necessary.

-This information may be used in a presentation and/or report.

-Your answers are completely confidential.

WeWillWin-WeWillWin-WeWillWin-WeWillWin-WeWillWin-

In order of descending preference - From 397 completed surveys

Please check the 6 most important to you:

I would like to see at Woodward's:

- 94% 250 units of social housing**
- 75% drug and alcohol treatment centre**
- 63% shops and stores run by people from the Downtown Eastside**
- 62% Native Healing Centre**
- 51% Community Centre, swimming pool, basketball court, gym, etc.**
- 42% women's health centre**
- 35% a grocery store similar to the old Woodward's food floor**
- 29% an outdoor square or plaza with an atrium, place for concerts, meetings, etc.**
- 24% performance space for plays, meetings, concerts, etc.**
- 24% downtown university**
- 23% art studios and galleries**
- 23% computer training institute**
- 23% movie studio**
- 21% a fountain**
- 16% preservation of the Woodward's façade, windows for displays**

Derived from 406 completed surveys

Bulleted and Italicized items are samplings of qualitative data.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

M 51% F 49%

Age: 15 years through 58 years

Do you have a place to live? Y 85% N 16%

Do you live in the DTES? Y 57% N 43%

Do you have your own bathroom? Y N If no, where do you get clean?

Do you have your own cooking facilities? Y N . If no, where do you eat?

What is your monthly income? _____

PROCESS:

The city of Vancouver is currently engaging in a process for determining the future use of Woodward's. We want your opinion on how these decisions should be arrived at. Mark your answer with a check mark. Y=Yes N=No

1. Do you support the city owning, planning, and developing the building?

Y 24% N 76%

2. Would you rather have a community-based agency or Non Profit organization own, plan and develop the building?

Y 83% N 17%

3. Do you support the city of Vancouver's current approach to planning and developing the Woodward's site through the use of a board composed of six bureaucrats and one civic politician?

Y 7% N 83%

4. Would you rather have direct participation by community based groups such as the Woodward's Social Housing Coalition, DERA, Business Development Associations etc.?

Y 87% N 13%

SOCIAL HOUSING:

1. Do you support the Woodward's Social Housing Coalitions' (WSHC) call for at least 250 units of deep-core funded social housing units in Woodward's?

Y 96% N 4%

2. Do you believe that the rest of the housing units should be a combination of low cost and market value housing?

Y 73% N 27%

3. Do you support WSHC's call for approximately 30% of these units to be for physically handicapped citizens, 30% for seniors and 30% for aboriginal citizens?

Y 87% N 13%

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

There will be the opportunity for many small businesses in the Woodward's site.

1. Do you want these businesses to be owned and operated by resident DTES entrepreneurs so that the money stays in the DTES?

Y 88% N 12%

2. Do you want the businesses to be run and operated by people who reside outside of the DTES?

Y 28% N 72%

3. Should these businesses be compliant with expectations of a local community council?

Y 78% N 22%

4. Should these businesses and services employ only DTES workers?

Y 64% N 36%

Note questions are particular and limited by quantifying, but they were initiated by the community to solicit information from the community and by such means and for such purpose validated.

HEALTH:

1. How do you stay healthy?

- *Drs?, good nutrition, exercise, spirituality*

2. How do you heal?

- *Spirituality*

3. At this time are you able to do what you need to in order to heal and stay healthy?

Y 84% N 16%

If no why not?

- *Lack of resources, housing, long wait times, specific illnesses*

4. What would you like to see as part of the Woodward's building to keep community healthy?

Community kitchen Y__N__

Healing centre Y__N__

Peer education and support Y__N__

Health library Y__N__

Outreach Y__N__

Other _____

(liked all)

information to be shared with appropriate developer

THE ARTS:

Our vision for Woodward's must include a role for the arts because:

1. The arts can play a vital role in our lives and contribute to our sense of well being.
2. The arts inspire us by tapping into some of the nobler traits of our shared humanity, e.g. courage, truth, compassion, etc.
3. The arts give pleasure, provide beauty, and help us celebrate life.
4. The arts bring people together and help build a sense of community.

5. The arts leave legacies for those who have gone before.
6. The arts attract tourists and add to a city's economy.

Questions for you:

1. Would you like to see the Woodward's display windows preserved and used for art displays or exhibitions?

Y 72% N 28%

2. Do you want to see some art galleries in the new Woodward's?

Y 62% N 38%

Art studios and workshops? Y 67% N 53%

3. Should it be mandatory that a certain percentage of the cost of the new Woodward's development be used for art work?

Y 55% N 45%

4. What kind of art work would you like to see in Woodward's?

Banners___

Benches___

Gardens___

Sculptures___

Murals___

Paintings___

Fountain___

Other_____

information to be shared with appropriate developer

5. Would you like Woodward's to have an Outdoor Square or atrium where people could gather for concerts, demonstrations, speeches, celebrations, etc.?

Y 76% N 24%

6. How about a performance space or theater for plays, concerts, dance, etc.?

Y 73% N 27%

Must take note of the percentage response to original question about arts on first page to truly comprehend the interest in arts.

RECREATION:

The Downtown Eastside needs more places for recreation.

1. Would you like a new, fully equipped community center? Y__ N__
2. Regulation basketball court? Y__ N__
3. Swimming pool? Y__ N__
4. Tennis court? Y__ N__
5. Gym (weight room)? Y__ N__
6. Other ----rifle range----

information to be shared with appropriate developer

CULTURE:

1. Should the redevelopment of Woodward's reflect the cultures in the community?

Y 88% N 12%

2. What should be included in Woodward's to help you stay connected with your culture or be reconnected with you culture?

- *Aboriginal teachings, aboriginal traditions, cooking. Cultural festivals, exchanging information and learning about different cultures*

- 3) What is you ethnic background? (used for cultural development purposes)

- *Aboriginal, Euro Canadian, Middle Eastern, Caucasian, Afro-Canadian*

EDUCATION:

1. What training and/or education opportunities should be available in Woodward's?

College/university courses

Upgrading

Trades

Computer skills

Job training

Resume/job finding

Entrepreneurial workshops

Other _____

information to be shared with appropriate developer

And yet again, ALL does not do this question or the respondent's answers justice.

2. We all have skills, knowledge, talents, and past experience that are very useful. What skills, knowledge, talents and past experience could you bring to Woodward's?

- *(Everything! Unbelievable talent to tap into)*

Is there anything you feel we should strongly fight for?

- *Housing, Rights, Social Justice, Detox, Treatment*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS COMMUNITY PROJECT!