

OUR VANCOUVER

OUR FUTURE 2045

EQUITY FRAMEWORK

Prepared by Seva Workshop
December 18, 2023

Introduction

The Vancouver Comprehensive Plan is one of our community's most important tools to help plan for the future. It provides the overall long-term vision and policy direction for managing the built and natural environment in Vancouver, and providing necessary public facilities. State law establishes the elements that cities with fast-growing populations must plan for, such as land use, housing, utilities, and transportation. While minor updates may be made as frequently as once a year, in 2023, the City of Vancouver embarked on a full Comprehensive Plan update to review and revise the entire plan to guide growth and development through 2045. This update is a major opportunity to integrate equity throughout the Plan.

Why Have an Equity Framework?

Comprehensive plans are major drivers of whether communities are equitable or not because they guide the distribution of rights and resources. Without an intentional focus, plans are likely to continue current inequities. An Equity Framework summarizes the process and principles for planning teams to consider equity in their technical work.

Equity Definition

Equity. A state or system of fairness or justice that recognizes and balances different challenges, opportunities, and needs across groups of individuals.

Equity Principles

- Understand and acknowledge the City's full historical context, including past harms and seek opportunities to rectify them.
- Think beyond individual programs and projects to institutionalize equity in sustainable and meaningful ways.
- Prioritize communities that have historically been marginalized in future visioning for the built environment.
- Engage the community in creative ways that create a shared sense of vision, empowers people, and creates learning opportunities, trust, and relationships that last beyond this project.
- Be explicit about systemic racism in planning and the racial disparities that persist, in part because of this.

Priority Communities

The accompanying Equity Analysis and Equity Team discussion identified these communities as historically marginalized and/or most vulnerable. These groups will be centered in the engagement and planning process.

- BIPOC community
- People experiencing low incomes
- People living with disabilities, including neurodivergent
- Youth and children
- Elders & Older Adults
- LGBTQ+ individuals
- Renters
- People without an address/ people experiencing homelessness
- Small business owners
- Refugees
- Undocumented population
- Formerly incarcerated population

Comprehensive Plan Framework

The framework is a simple process that can be used for every element of the Plan. Community members will be engaged at each step.



6. Implement with transparency and accountability.

Communicate the outcomes and continue engaging community members who have contributed to the planning process.

5. Analyze and refine goals, policies, and strategies with an equity lens.

In partnership with community, ask:

- Who benefits and who is burdened by implementation of this policy? Does this policy bring the City closer to equity?
- What are potential unintended impacts of this policy? How can we monitor and mitigate these impacts?



1. Identify outcomes.

Apply the equity definition and principles (previous page) to the Plan element to identify key outcome(s) of interest.



2. Develop metrics.

Identify a measurable way to know if the outcome(s) is (are) achieved.



3. Assess baseline for gaps and root causes.

Collect and analyze data to identify populations and regions farthest from achieving the desired outcome according to the metrics. Build on the context and conditions analysis. Investigate disparities for their root causes (in other words, ask “why”) and identify the gaps that are within the City’s influence.



4. Propose goals, policies, and strategies.

Develop goals, policies, and strategies that would bring the City closer to achieving equity by addressing root causes.



STEPS 1-5 IN ITERATION WITH COMMUNITY

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