

Educator Primer:

Video 4: How to change your city in 5 steps!

This section features 2 videos and an optional activity that introduces students to how city decisions are made through the lens of how they have been made in the past and how they could be made in the future. This section also introduces students to the idea of equitable civic engagement and where the city has failed to do this in the past.

A key focus of the Young Planners program is ensuring children and youth understand that the city around them was not created by chance. It is a deliberate invention involving a series of choices ultimately made by elected officials. This makes their participation in civic processes important as this is where they have an opportunity to shape the choices that will impact their future in the city.

There are a number of ways that the history of planning can be approach in the city, one is looking at the history of landmarks, places and spaces to see who was involved in their creation, who they are named after and what neighbourhoods or communities were impacted by their creation.



The Activity: History is all around us

Students will be asked to investigate the history of something (a place, building or thing) of interest to them. Note: this is the first (and only) activity of Module 1 that may require computer or internet access. The focus of this activity is on investigating history from the perspective of who is celebrated by various city decisions and who has been negatively impacted by them. If you are investigating other potential relevant sections of the curriculum that touch on equity and historical events, please feel free to provide the students with a topic for further research. If your school has been the site of conversation regarding naming in the past, this may be a starting point for further discussion.

For this activity, students are given a wide range of potential ways to share the results of their research (in addition to internet searches, students are encouraged to interview those in their community that might have knowledge of their research subject) either through writing, drawing or even multi-media forms. Again this activity can be modified to fit with other learning objectives of the class or additional guidance can be provided for the students to share their results in similar ways. Though all activities in these modules are optional, if there are projects that the students would like to share with city staff, please forward any projects to Stina Hanson, stina.hanson@vancouver.ca. The results and projects will be featured on our Young Planners website.