

# ACCESSIBLE URBAN SPACE

A facilitated discussion on inclusive communities

A UN-HABITAT World Urban Forum Networking Event presented by SPARC BC

June 20, 2006 1:30 pm

Crystal Pavilion C, Pan Pacific Hotel, 300–999 Canada Place

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6C 3B5

## A G E N D A

1:30	Welcome and Introductions Housekeeping Review of Agenda	Nancy Henderson SPARC BC Executive Director Vince Verlaan Wellspring Facilitator
1:40	Accessible Urban Space • Setting the Scene	Dr. Wendy Sarkissian Speaking for the Future, Australia
1:50	Why Use a Dialogue Approach? Structure for the Dialogue	Vince Verlaan
2:00	Transportation and Infrastructure • Lived experience (5 mins) • Dialogue (20 mins)	Nilesh Singit Mumbai, India All
2:25	Housing and Independent Living • Lived experience (5 mins) • Dialogue (20 mins)	Lanie Woodfine St. John's, Canada All
2:50	Participation • Lived experience (5 mins) • Dialogue (20 mins)	Stephen Lytton Vancouver, Canada All
3:15	Dialogue Weaving and Discussion	Tami Grenon Vancouver, Canada
3:25	Closing: Next Steps	Vince Verlaan
3:30	End	

# OBJECTIVES

1. To increase understanding of accessible urban space in different cultural and economic contexts.
2. To identify the links between best practices in accessible urban design and social inclusion.
3. To facilitate connections between ordinary citizens and organizations focusing on accessible communities.
4. To inspire the initiation and expansion of activities to promote accessibility.

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# WHAT IS WEB CONFERENCING?

Web conferencing is a simple program that allows people to hold meetings over the Internet using only computers equipped with an Internet connection and a microphone. Participants can talk to each other like they would over the phone, or they can choose to use the keyboard to communicate. Web conferencing is compatible with assistive technologies.



**Participant Info Window:** This window lets everyone see who is online, speaking, and/or raising their hands.

**Direct Messaging Window:** Online participants can type in their message here if they choose not to use the microphone. This window is not visible to people in the room. Messages will be moderated and dialogue contributions will be read to people in the room.

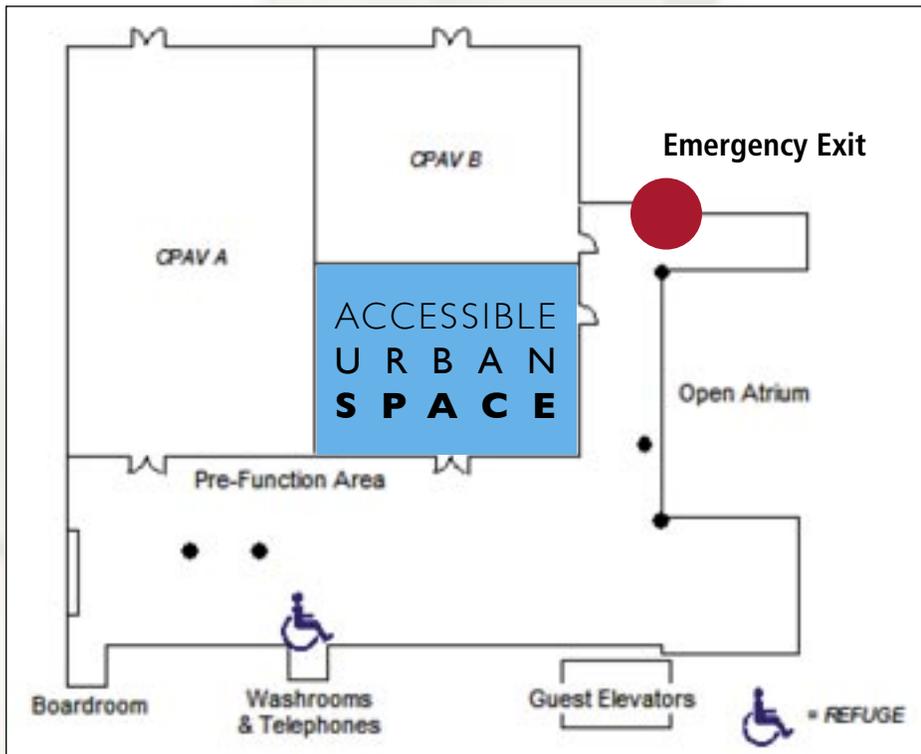
**Audio Window:** Online participants can control their speaker and microphone volumes here. This window also identifies who is speaking online.

**Whiteboard Window:** Everyone can see this window. It will display the PowerPoint presentation.

**NOTE:** Live captioning will be streaming across the bottom of the screen (not depicted in the image above).

# H O U S E K E E P I N G

## Crystal Pavilion & Foyer



### IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY EVACUATION

People without disabilities should proceed to the nearest emergency exit. People with disabilities should remain in the meeting room; the hotel's Emergency Response Team will arrive to assist their exit.

# A B O U T S P A R C B C

The Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia is a non-partisan, independent charitable organization. Since 1966, SPARC BC has conducted public education and research on key social issues, focusing our efforts in the areas of accessibility, income security, and community development. Our mission is to work with communities in building a just and healthy society for all. We believe that a society that is just and healthy is also socially sustainable. SPARC BC is among B.C.'s leaders in accessibility research, partnerships, and public education. We define that just and healthy society by four principles:

### EQUITY, SOCIAL INCLUSION, SECURITY, ADAPTABILITY

SPARC BC also contends that a just and healthy society is fully accessible, to all of its members. It supports their independence, security, comfort, and self-esteem. An accessible community benefits from the participation of all of its members, ensuring that the community's total wealth of energy, talent, skills, and knowledge is included and accessible to all.

# WHAT IS DIALOGUE?

*Dialogue is a conversation among peers, one in which everyone is equally responsible. Distinct from discussion or negotiation, dialogue is a form of talk that is not intended to reach agreement, but to reach new understanding.*

—Daniel Yankelovich, *The Magic of Dialogue*

## Q. WHAT IS DIALOGUE?

**A.** Dialogue is an approach to and a quality of purposeful talk that involves openness, listening, and making meaning and learning together. The intention of dialogue is to seek mutual understanding on an issue or situation. It may lead to consensus as the basis for decision. Although it is not a decision-making process, as a process of inquiry and learning, it often leads to well-considered deliberation and decision-making. Dialogue is part of a broader engagement, not an alternative to litigation or other processes.

## Q. WHY DIALOGUE?

**A.** There are many complex problems facing our communities, workplaces and governance structures. To respond wisely to these problems requires the input of many, often diverse, voices. Dialogue approaches offer some hopeful ways to relate to one another and how we govern ourselves. We engage in dialogue because the quality of our actions will be better informed, because we care about the web of relationships among us and because our public life depends on having a standard of public discourse that enables people to express their views freely and to explore their difference fairly.

## DIALOGUE — THREE KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- As you listen to the speakers and the participants making their comments, **notice your listening**. Are you just waiting to speak, or are you listening to understand? The quality of the conversation depends on the quality of your listening.
- To get into dialogue, we need to feel safe and open. We can move in that direction more easily if we **assume the best intentions of each other**. We all have something to contribute, we all have something to learn. Assume generosity from the beginning.
- Even when you disagree with a comment, or do not understand it, **try to stay curious**. When you are open and curious about the ideas in the room, you will be more interested and more present. Try phrases like: “I wonder...” and “Could you tell me more about...”

Adapted from materials prepared by Joanna Ashworth, Program Director, the SFU Centre for Dialogue.

# ACCESSIBLE URBAN SPACE: DIALOGUE STRUCTURE

COMPONENTS OF AN ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY Social Economic Physical	MAJOR BARRIERS	BEST PRACTICES	ACTIONS NEEDED
<p><b>TRANSPORTATION &amp; INFRASTRUCTURE</b></p> <p>Accessibility is demonstrated through the ease with which people can move around their homes and communities, through accessible building design, signage, and transportation</p>			
<p><b>HOUSING &amp; INDEPENDENT LIVING</b></p> <p>Accessibility means the provision of physical shelter as well as the tools and resources leading to a living arrangement which maximizes independence and self-determination</p>			
<p><b>PARTICIPATION</b></p> <p>Accessibility increases the degree to which people can become engaged in the political process and civic and social activities of their community</p>			