



## December Newsletter

*Updates, events, and recommended reading from Women Transforming Cities.*



A big welcome to all of our new members who joined us last month during our membership drive!

As the year comes to a close, we've been reflecting on the areas in 2023 that we took action in:

- **Budget advocacy:** collaborated with 14 organizations on a letter to City Council and spoke in person to urge them to reinvest in equity in their 2023 operational budget by funding the programs and initiatives that provide resources to marginalized populations.
- **Civic engagement:** Ensured Council was aware of accessibility and equity impacts of proposed changes to the way residents engage with Council meetings (such as the length of time someone can speak for) and ensured our community was aware of the changes.
- **Transit:** Urged councillors to endorse the Transit for Teens campaign which would extend free transit from youth aged 0-12 to all youth 0-18.
- **Climate action:** Joined the Climate Response Team hosted by Little Mountain Neighbourhood House to prevent the death of older adults in

extreme heat events in the neighbourhood.

- **Neighbourhood Equity:** Supported a motion to Reinvest in South Vancouver
- **Democratic Rights:** Mobilized around council's actions to [silence non profit organizations](#) who receive City funding
- **Housing:** advocated to council to pass a motion similar to the HPPC commitment to reduce barriers to non-market housing and took action on [the return of \\$3.8 million from the Empty Homes Tax revenue](#) for social housing projects to developers
- **DTES:** WTC board [published an op-ed in The Province](#) about the violent removal of DTES residents

We couldn't do this without you. Your membership, your support, and the collaboration of values-aligned organizations drive our advocacy forward.

Next year, we just keep going.

In solidarity,

WTC

## Monthly Highlights ---

### December WTC Highlights

Stay up to date on what we're up to by checking our [In Action page](#). This past month WTC:

- Launched our membership drive to expand our community
- Spoke to RedEyeRadio about our 1-Year Progress Report, following up a year after we discussed Council's commitments made during our Hot Pink Paper Campaign. [Listen here](#).
- Held our 2023 Annual AGM where we celebrated another year of advocacy, civic education, and resource creation alongside our community.
- Delivered another housing advocacy *Making Room in Housing: Taking your voice to City Hall* in collaboration with the [Pan-Canadian Voice for Women's Housing](#), [Progress Toronto](#), and [She.They.Us](#)
- Honoured folks who have made a significant impact on WTC over the last decade with our new [WTC Transformers and Lifelong Members page](#)!
- Supported our new [Watch Council](#) members to speak to City Council for the first time, which resulted in the unanimous passing of the motion *Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit (TGD2S) Inclusion and Safety Action Plan*

## WTC TRANSFORMERS

- Wendy Williams
- April English
- Mary Rawson
- Christine O'Fallon
- Ingrid Kolsteren
- Winnie Cheung
- Prabha Khosla
- Diana Jung
- Lily Reynolds
- Tiffany Muller Myrdahl
- Wendee Lang
- Emily Morales
- Kukdookaa Terri Brown
- Negin Khaleghi
- Linda Stromberg
- Kate Radford
- Halena Seiferling
- Laurel Cowan
- Efrosini Drimoussis
- Celene Fung
- Tasha Henderson
- Elisa Chavez
- Lina Abouzaid
- Nora Tserendagva
- Mahtab Laghaei



## Updates from WTC

### Send an email to Council about your budget priorities!

As we know, the best way to understand a city's priorities is to look at what's funded in their city budget. There's still time to voice what you need! Send a message to Mayor and Council (check [this photo caption](#) for a full list of emails) **before Tuesday, December 12** and let City Council know what you want to see funded in next year's Vancouver City Budget.

### Interested in becoming a WTC Board Director?

We're hosting an online Board Member Info Session and Q&A on **Tuesday, December 12 at 5:30 PM**. Join us if you are curious about board governance. The session will cover responsibilities of our board along with the recruitment and onboarding

### TELL COUNCIL

**DO INVEST IN:**

- Social services that residents rely on - things like community centres, libraries, social grants, warming centres, and drop-in centres
- Equity - things like the equity office, MMIWG and gender equity, accessibility, and democratic engagement
- Resilience - things like climate action and heat preparedness

**DON'T:**

- Cut services that those struggling most rely on
- Increase costs for recreation programs during a cost-of-living crisis
- Burn out city staff by under-resourcing their work
- Increase funding to the VPD



process of directors. There will be plenty of time for folks to ask any questions they may have to a current Board Director. Hope to see you there!

[Register Here](#)

## Upcoming Events



**ALL OUT FOR PALESTINE**  
Mass ACTION: No Business As Usual During Genocide  
Indigenous contingent in solidarity with our Palestinian kin will be leading this week's march.  
Saturday, December 9 - 4 PM - Vancouver Art Gallery

[More Info](#)

### March in solidarity with Palestine

Join us on **Saturday, December 9 at 4 PM** at the Vancouver Art Gallery as we are led by an Indigenous contingent on the unceded traditional territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations to call for a permanent ceasefire and a free Palestine.



### Join CityHive's community showcase

**CityHive** has trained another cohort of young changemakers with their Surrey Shapers: Public Space cohort made up of youth ages 16-30. Head to the Surrey Library (10350 University Dr, Surrey, BC) **Saturday, December 9th** to hear all about their plans for creating a rain-friendly parklet and activating a local public space in the Newton neighbourhood of Surrey.

[Register Here](#)

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## Read, Watch, & Learn

- Tune into [Feminists in Solidarity with Palestinian Women in Gaza](#) on SSC Youtube Channel
- Explore Women's National Housing & Homelessness Network's [Interim Report on gendered experiences in encampments](#)
- Take climate action and address the housing crisis by submitting a proposal to New Westminster's [reGENERATE Ideas Challenge](#)
- Listen to the [recording of Sterling Prize recipient, Nicole Luongo](#), as she talks all about fighting for equitable policies for folks using drugs.
- [Read Women in Urbanism's blog](#) on improving bus safety for women



[www.womentransformingcities.org](http://www.womentransformingcities.org)

[Donate to WTC](#)

Women Transforming Cities acknowledges that our work takes place on the stolen, unceded, ancestral territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

Questions? Email us at:  
[info@womentransformingcities.org](mailto:info@womentransformingcities.org)

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