

Civic Agencies

Civic agencies are volunteer bodies established by city council to provide community perspectives and input to council and city staff. They are a great opportunity to directly engage with and learn more about your local government.

Members of civic agencies offer advice on city priorities, projects, and initiatives. They are often consulted and asked to provide early and ongoing feedback on various projects - although the city is not required to follow their recommendations. Civic agencies are typically made up of members of the public who apply through the city's website and are appointed by council based on staff recommendations.

While some agencies have representatives from professional organizations, many seek volunteers who have lived-experience such as women, renters, urban Indigenous peoples, and many more. If you have a desire to support change in your community - apply!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET INVOLVED

Who can apply?

Anyone can apply! You do not need to be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

How do I apply?

- Submit your application on your city's website
- Applications often open near the beginning of a council term (around November - January following a municipal election)
- Openings may also come up throughout the year as member slots become available or if council forms a new agency
- If you are applying as a representative of an external organization you will need to submit a letter of nomination with your application.
- It may take up to eight weeks after the application deadline for city council to appoint members.

How much time will I need to commit?

Time commitments vary based on the civic agency. On average, you will spend 5 - 10 hours each month attending meetings, reading reports, and answering emails.

Types of Civic Agencies

TYPE A	TYPE B	TYPE C	TYPE D	EXTERNAL
<p>Makes recommendations to council and staff related to equity-deserving communities</p> <p>Advises on local issues using their lived experience</p>	<p>Makes recommendations to city staff on matters related to planning in specific geographic areas</p> <p>Advises on planning matters e.g street naming</p>	<p>Makes recommendations to council and city staff on matters related to development, operations, planning, zoning.</p> <p>Governed by their own distinct bylaws.</p>	<p>Task forces that advise the mayor on specific local issues, such as Indigenous Reconciliation or Accessibility.</p>	<p>Appointed by council and act as advisors or administrators of affiliated organizations.</p>
<p>For example, Women's Advisory Committee</p>	<p>For example, Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee</p>	<p>For example, the Vancouver City Planning Commission</p>	<p>For example, Accessibility Task Force</p>	<p>For example, Vancouver Library Board or Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) Board of Directors</p>



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The work of WTC in Vancouver takes place on the stolen ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish Nation), and səilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation). We acknowledge the leadership of Indigenous women for time immemorial, and seek to learn and unlearn our own colonial practices as we work in cities as sites of resistance.