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HANG OUT TO HELP OUT: SOUTH GRANVILLE OPENS TWO NEW PLAZAS



Hang Out

TO HELP OUT

July 13, 2020 (Vancouver, BC) – The South Granville Business Improvement Association (SGBIA) has partnered with the City of Vancouver to create temporary recovery plazas at 13th and 14th Avenue for people to 'Hang Out to Help Out'. The Pop-Up Plazas provide a space for the community to enjoy their take-out from nearby eateries and enjoy the summer outside while complying with social distancing. The plazas are currently in soft launch as the pieces come together and will be formally open on Friday, July 17th until the end of the summer.

Restaurants were ordered to close their dine-in service during the worst of B.C.'s COVID-19 pandemic but were allowed to open with reduced seating starting on May 19. Restaurants in South Granville in particular, rely on business by patrons of the Stanley Theatre which is not expected to reopen until Phase 4 of the pandemic – when a vaccine is found. Creating outdoor patio space for restaurants increases customer confidence and helps restaurants expand to meet their existing capacity.

"It's exciting to see two new pop-up plazas and patio spaces coming to the heart of South Granville. The silver lining to the 'Covid Cloud' has been the opportunity to really focus on prioritizing people in our public space." says Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung. "When I brought the expanded patios motion to Council, it envisioned the creation of commons-style spaces with seating, so that people have room to eat if they want to takeout from local restaurants and cafes, as well as room to simply connect and enjoy their neighbourhood."

Vancouver city council approved the Temporary Expedited Patio Program on June 1. Temporary traffic barricades have been erected from Granville Street to the laneway to limit vehicular traffic. The plazas are accessible to pedestrians and cyclists and are intended to support public life and local business activity. Adjacent businesses have generously volunteered to ensure that the spaces are well-cared-for, inclusive and comfortable since neither the city nor the BIA have the capacity or budget to do so.

[SOUTH GRANVILLE]

"I am absolutely thrilled at the initiatives of the City and South Granville BIA to create more public gathering space. The increased plazas and patios have already deepened the sense of community and have been a huge help to the local restaurant scene," says Peter McGee, South Granville resident and business owner. "It's new so tweaks will be made but the response from my neighbours and customers has been overwhelmingly positive – I really hope the changes exist post-COVID."

Currently, the South Granville BIA is working to improve the plaza experience even more by presenting a virtual menu to the local restaurants. Scannable by smartphone, Take-out can be ordered from all South Granville eateries.

The South Granville BIA wishes people to be mindful when using the plazas. Be kind, practice physical distancing and clean up after yourself so that your neighbours can enjoy the beautiful public spaces, too.

"Our goal with the pop-up plazas in South Granville is to welcome back our community. The areas on 13th and 14th Avenue are perfect spots to enjoy lunch breaks and to meet friends – all while enjoying the surrounding public art." says Ivy Haisell, Executive Director, South Granville BIA "This is exactly what we needed to make our neighbourhoods stronger, bring our communities together and help make Vancouver a great city. It's such a beautiful place, we need to make sure we give people enough space outdoors to enjoy it and it's great to see that happening."



ABOUT SOUTH GRANVILLE

Centrally located from the Granville Bridge to 16th, South Granville is a premier boutique and lifestyle neighbourhood serving Vancouver for over 100 years! Explore fascinating art galleries, visit incredible fashion boutiques, be pampered in beauty salons and spas and enjoy delicious food from the eclectic cuisines of our eateries. South Granville has great taste – in every sense of the word! The South Granville BIA represents 591 business and property owners and \$2.2 billion in assessed commercial property value.

