



NORTHEAST FALSE CREEK PARKS

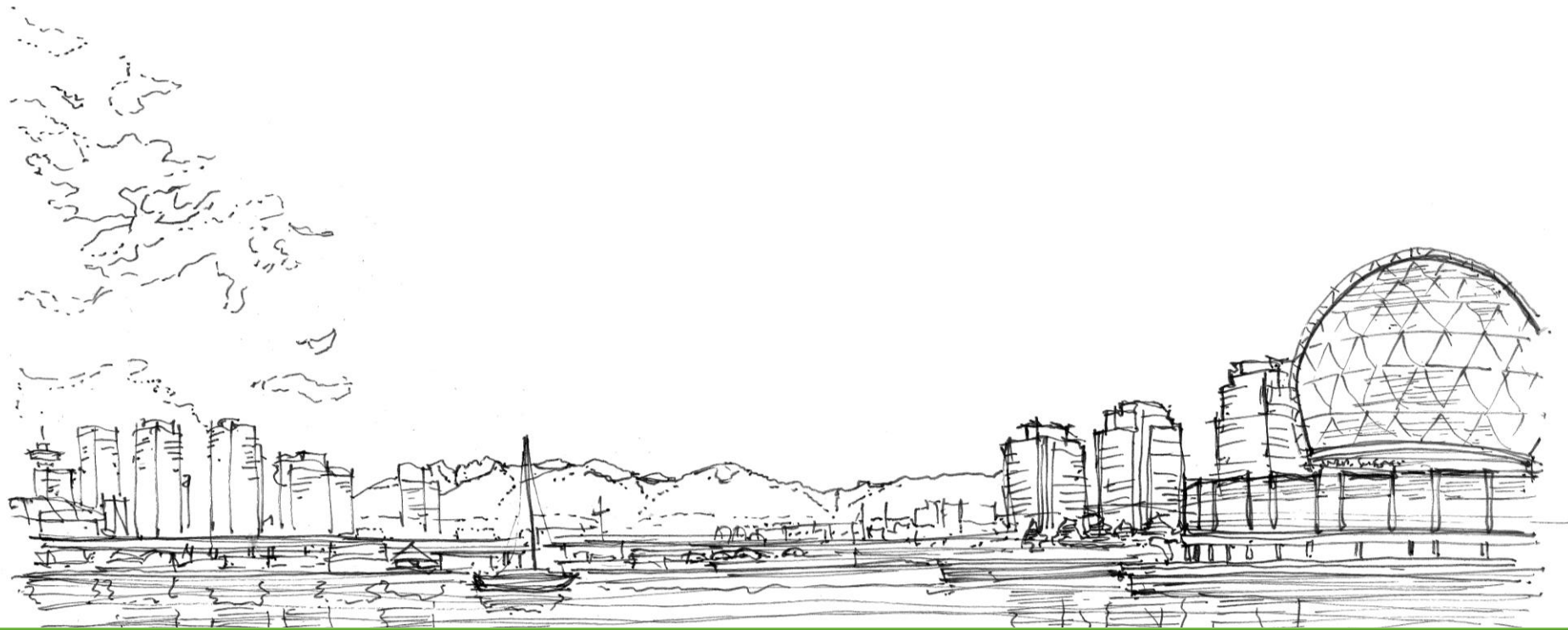
Project Update
and Guiding Principles

Park Board Committee Meeting
November 18, 2019



- Provide update on planning of the Northeast False Creek Parks
- Present the Guiding Principles for the parks
- Seek direction to advance the concept design

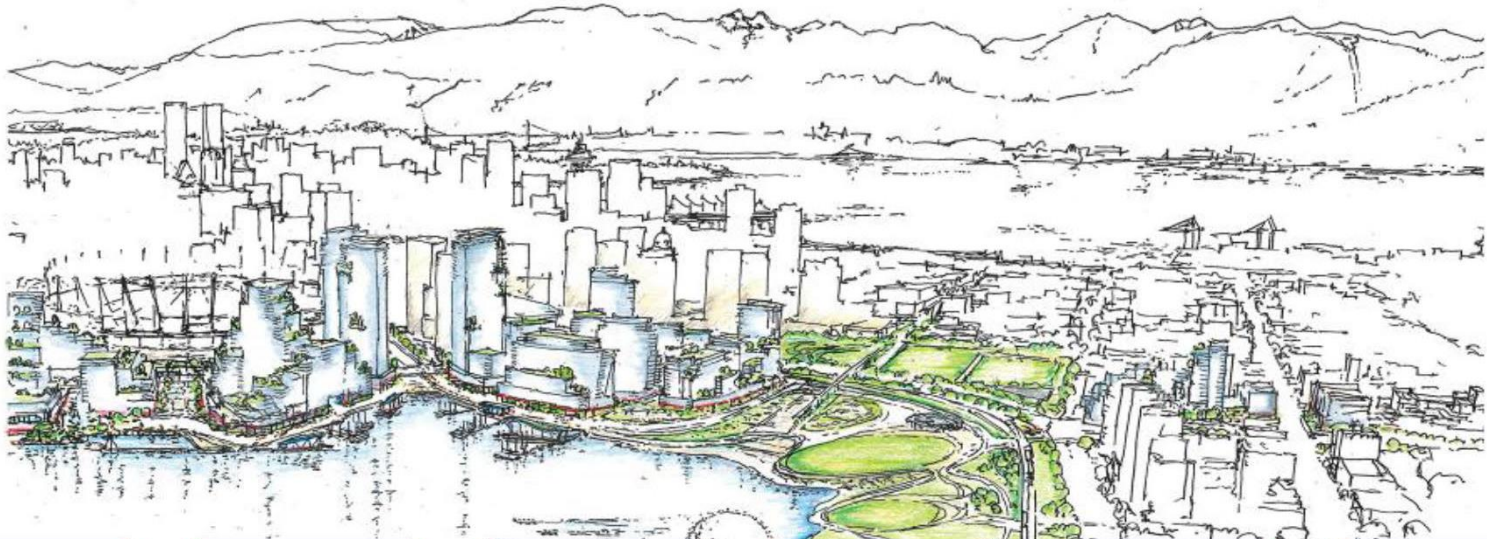
1. Background
2. Extended Engagement
3. Guiding Principles
4. Advance Concept Design
5. Next Steps



Background

- On February 22, 2016, the Vancouver Park Board approved the Northeast False Creek (NEFC) Terms of Reference for the NEFC Park Design Advisory Group;
- On July 11, 2016 the Park Board appointed 12 members to form the NEFC Park Design Advisory Group to advise staff;
- On October 3, 2016, the Park Board approved the NEFC park schematic design contract award for professional design services;
- On June 2018 and February 2019, the Park Board appointed new members to the NEFC Park Design Advisory Group.

Background: Northeast False Creek Plan – Park District



10,000 - 12,000
new residents

~1,800 social
housing units
~3,250 people

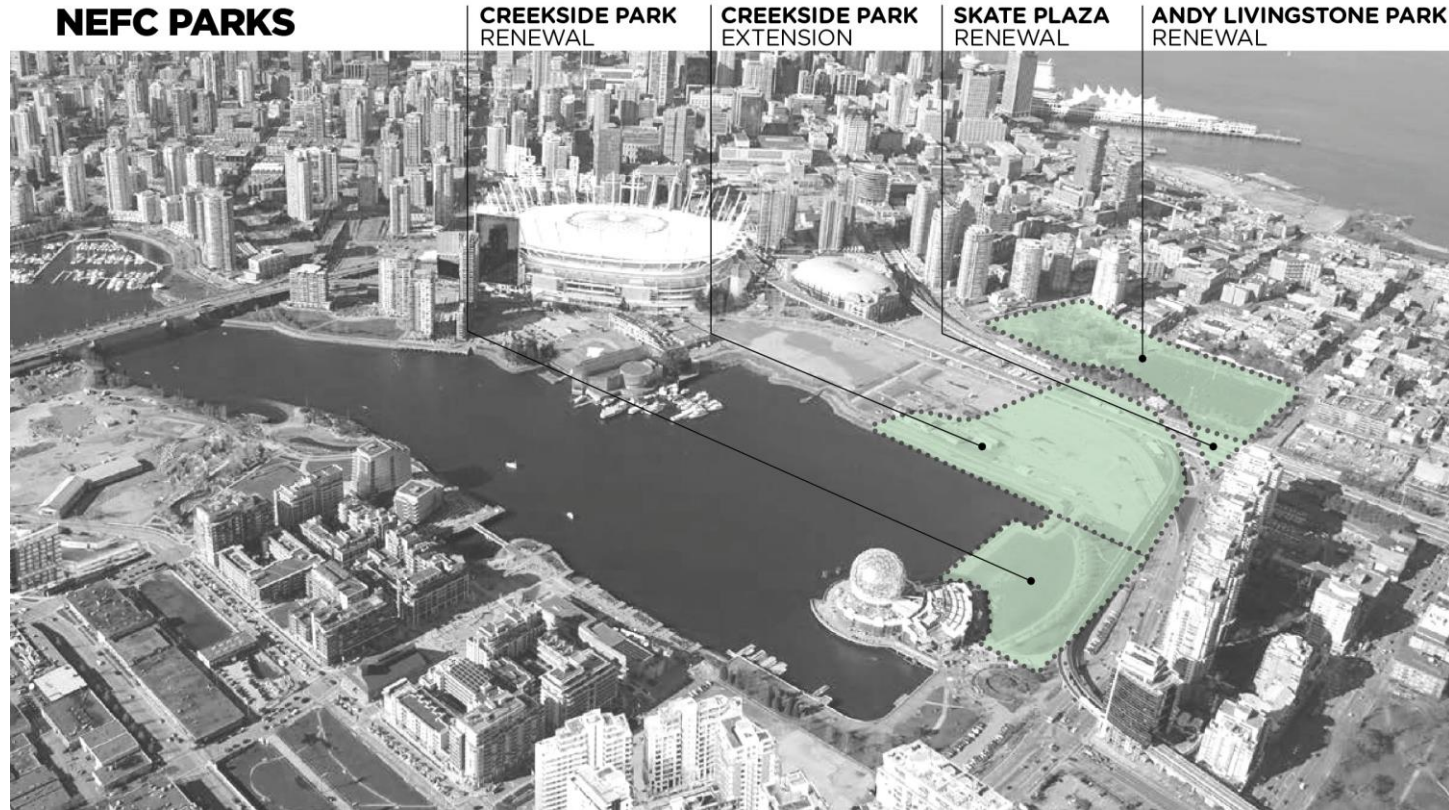
6,000 - 8,000
new jobs

~31 acres of
new+renewed
parks and
open space

~1km of new
waterfront

\$1.7B total
public benefit
value

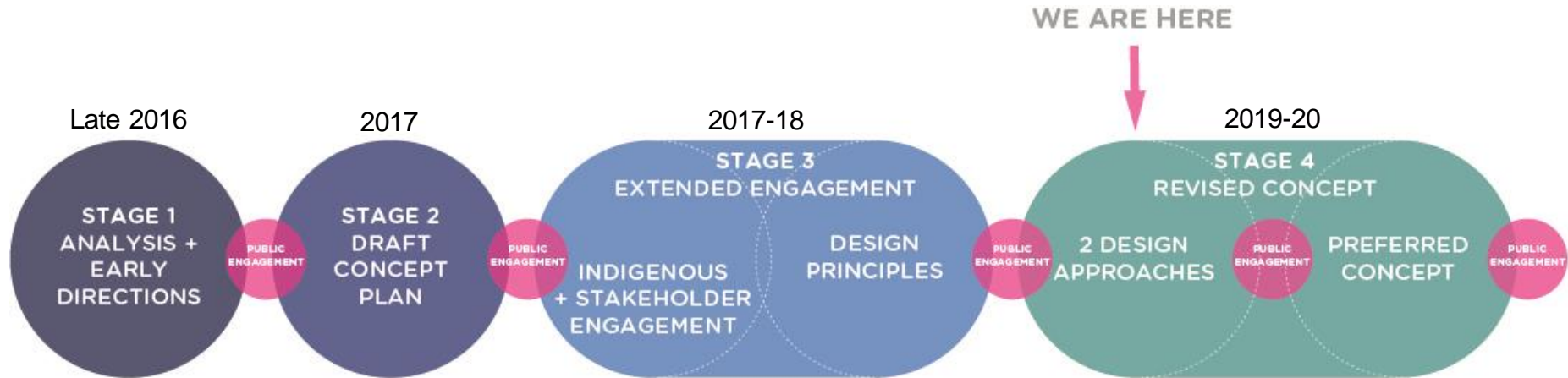
Background: One Project, Four Components



Aerial photograph showing components of NEFC parks

Background: NEFC Parks Design and Engagement Process

- Multi-year process
- Led by Park Board staff, part of NEFC inter-disciplinary team



Timeline of parks design and engagement process

Background: Draft Concept Design (2017)



Rendering from Stage 2 Draft Concept Design (2017)

Highlights of public engagement:

- bigger waterfront park
- bolder and more authentic design, define big moves
- support for nature
- meaningfully engage with First Nations,
- support and concern for large events
- recognize local cultural heritage



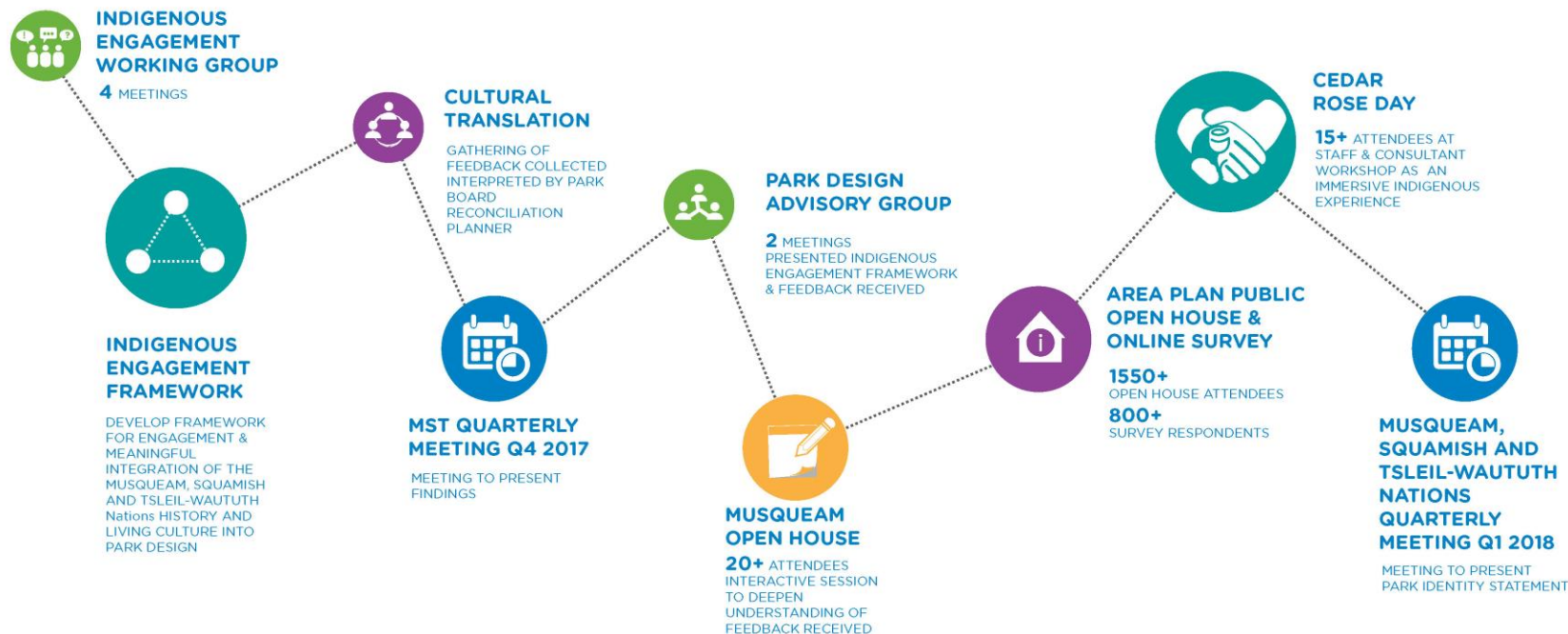
Extended Engagement

Image from Songs of Reconciliation Project (2014)



Image from Cedar Rose Day (2017)

- Pause the design
- Process drives the timeline, not the other way around
- Leadership from indigenous staff



Summary diagram of extended engagement process

Engagement: Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh

VISIBILITY
OF LOCAL
FIRST NATIONS

ORIENT TO THE
WATERFRONT



Cedar Rose Day (2017)

A WELCOMING
PLACE TO
GATHER

A PLACE TO
HEAL



Tsleil-Waututh Workshop (2018)

INDIGENOUS
APPROACH TO
PLANTING

A PLACE TO
LEARN *FROM*



Tsleil-Waututh Stone Tool Workshop (2018)

Engagement: Urban Indigenous Peoples

SHOWS
COMMITMENT TO
RECONCILIATION

DESIRE FOR
GATHERING
PLACE

GRAPHIC
EXPRESSION OF
CULTURE

NORMALIZE
INDIGENOUS
LANGUAGE

IMPORTANCE OF
WATERFRONT

A PLACE FOR
ON THE LAND
HEALING




BELONGING

We live busy lives; we devote our energies to many things. We deplete.

We need a place to replenish, to relate to the land and to the water, a way to nourish and to support ourselves and each other. We need to learn a new way to be, and a new way to belong.

For millennia the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations nurtured and were nourished by the land we now call home. Their long and ongoing relationship with this land embodies goals we all have: sustainability, community, and wellness. Their gardening practices ensured food, clothing, and medicine for generation after generation. Their stewardship shaped this place.



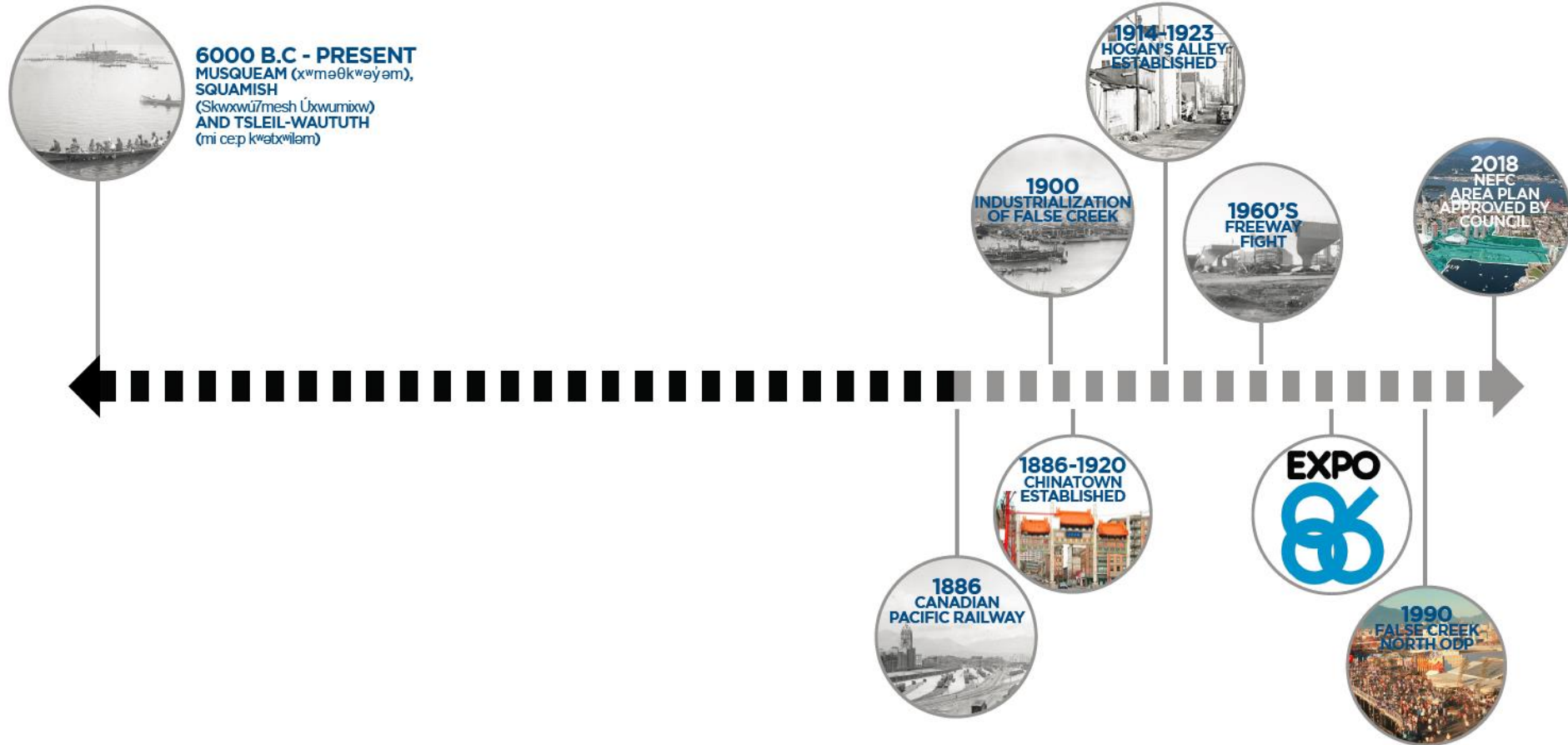
Imagine a space for Indigenous Peoples to practice their cultures. Imagine the open arms of the people and their welcome figures that once graced these shores. Imagine returning to that space, and restoring practices that connect people to land. Imagine what it is to belong to a place, and to learn how you belong.

We need to replenish.

We need to reconnect to the land. We need a place inspired by and supporting Indigenous cultural practice.

We need Northeast False Creek Park.

Engagement: Cultural Context



Engagement: Cultural Context



Area of Northeast False Creek Plan

Engagement: Chinatown Community

CONNECT TO
WATERFRONT

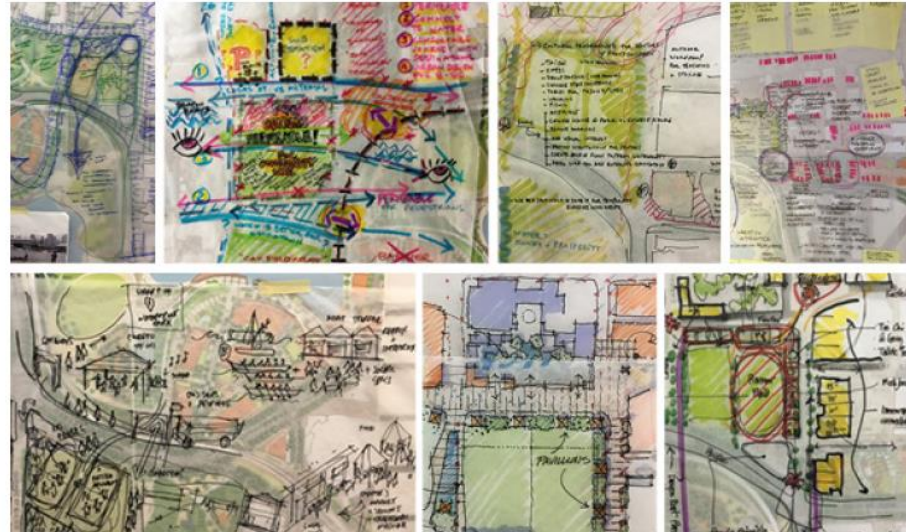
SUPPORT
CULTURAL LIFE

ADDRESS
SAFETY

MULTI-
GENERATIONAL

SERVE THE
COMMUNITY

REFLECT
CULTURAL
CONTEXT



Workshops with Chinatown community (January and July 2018)

UNSAFE AND
SURVEILLED

CULTURAL
EXPRESSION

REDRESS
EXCLUSION

BY AND FOR
BLACK PEOPLE

GENUINE
IMPACT AND
INFLUENCE

CONNECT WITH
FIRST NATIONS



Workshop with the Black community (Nov 2018)

Engagement: NEFC Park Design Advisory Group

**STRONG MST
IDENTITY**

**CONSIDER
CHINATOWN**

**SPORTS FIELDS
ARE IMPORTANT**

**SPACES FOR
EVENTS?**

**CLARIFY PARK
BOUNDARIES**

**BALANCE
INTERESTS**



Getting input from members of the NEFC Park Design Advisory Group

- Different definitions and world views were revealed by a 'cultural translation' of notions of *land*, *water*, *healing* and *belonging*.



Example: instead of an overlook, Indigenous access to water means immersion

- There are no 'culturally neutral' spaces that have been touched by humans.



Italian Gardens, Hastings Park



English Bay, Vancouver

Engagement Learning: NEFC Park Design Is Not Culturally Neutral



Rendering from Stage 2 Draft Concept Design (2017)



Guiding Principles

Image of Thunder Bay Waterfront, Ontario

- Role: To consolidate the values, and to guide the design, management and stewardship of the parks with clarity and accountability.
- They are organized in four themes:
 - *Identity*
 - *Community*
 - *Nature*
 - *Destination*

- Rooted in local First Nations' cultures

Image from Songs of Reconciliation Project (2014)

- Belonging

Image from Indigenous Tourism BC

- Open, safe, accessible and inclusive

Image from Chinatown Cultural Day & Apology (2018)

- Acknowledging racial and cultural inequities

Image from Hogan's Alley Society Event at Western Front (2017)

- Flexible

Brooklyn Bridge Park Kite Festival, New York

- Cared for

Brooklyn Botanical Garden, New York

- Living shoreline

Image of Thunder Bay Waterfront, Ontario

- Ecologically rich

- Distinct

PNE Chinese Lantern Festival, Vancouver

- Authentically rooted in place

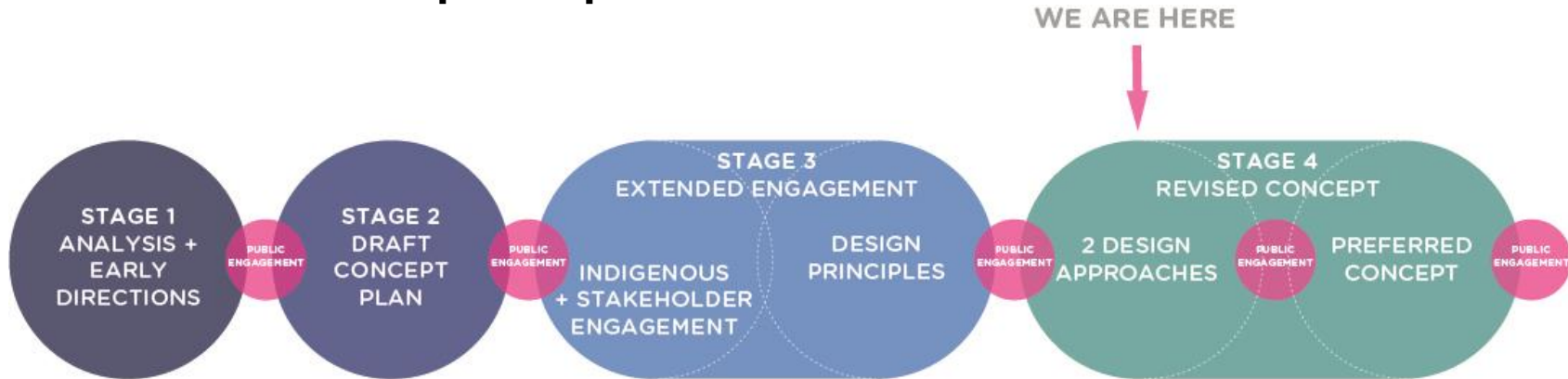


Advance Concept Design

Image of carver working on Survivor's Pole, 2016



- In January 2019, the project team began preparing **two design approaches**
- **Nimble and adaptable process**



Timeline of parks design and engagement process

- Initiated in early 2019 and informed by the Guiding Principles
- Respond to needs and aspirations of park users, to varying degrees
- Developed through on-going and iterative conversations with local First Nations, Urban Indigenous peoples, local racialized communities and NEFC Park Design Advisory Group
- Supported by multi-disciplinary staff and consultant team

- Share the two design approaches with park stakeholders and the public for review and feedback, anticipated in the first quarter of 2020
- Provide a progress update to the Board prior to the next round of public consultation
- Advance one concept design, with further engagement
- Bring the final concept design to Park Board for decision

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the Guiding Principles for the parks in Northeast False Creek, including Andy Livingstone Park, Creekside Park, Creekside Park Extension, and Downtown Skateboard Plaza, as outlined in this report and attached as Appendix A; and
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to advance the concept design of the parks in Northeast False Creek, subject to engagement with local First Nations, local communities and park stakeholders.



Habitat Island, Vancouver

