



VANDUSEN & BLOEDEL STRATEGIC PLAN

Park Board Committee Meeting
Monday, October 18, 2021



Purpose of Presentation

To provide an overview of the VanDusen & Bloedel Strategic Plan, and seek Board decision on the proposed strategy.



RECONCILIATION MISSION, VISION & VALUES

MISSION

Decolonize the Vancouver Park Board

The Park Board recognizes the institution's colonial history and upholds the Board's commitment to the 11 Reconciliation Strategies.

VISION

An evolvable organization in which every employee and Commissioner recognizes the humanity in themselves by recognizing and respecting the humanity of First Peoples; and an organization that sets a worldwide example in treating Reconciliation as a decolonization process.

VALUES

These values are your compass to help guide the way you work, interact with colleagues, external partners and the public.



PATIENCE

Colonialism didn't happen overnight. Untangling it takes time. We will pace ourselves for the marathon, not the sprint. We will adjust deadlines to ensure things are done well and respectfully.



CLARITY

We will focus on how colonialism functions to exclude, not on how to include.



PRAGMATISM

All staff are inheriting a system not of our making. The Park Board Reconciliation Team (PBRT) is here to assist colleagues with examining the ways colonialism continues to damage others. Blame is unproductive.



LEADERSHIP

We will nurture and sustain each other, demonstrating Indigenous principles in the way we function as a team.

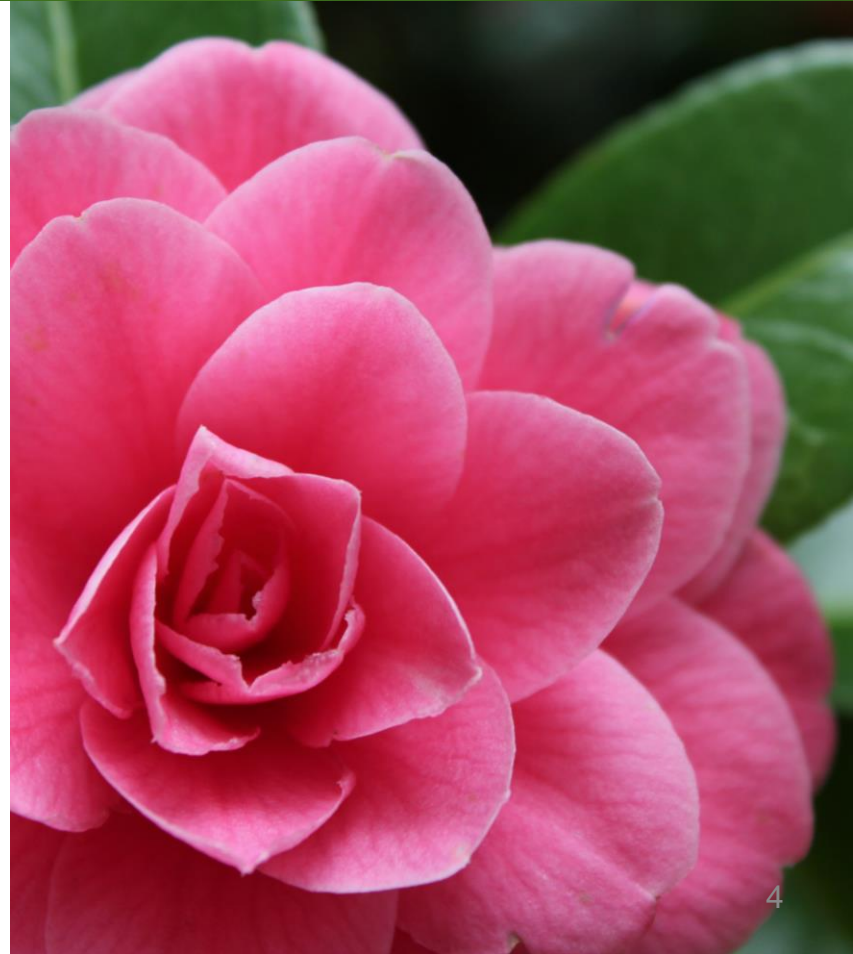


LEARNING

We consent to learn in public. We will make mistakes. We will sit with those mistakes, be transparent about them, and use them both to learn and to teach. Our mistakes will be diagnostic tools.



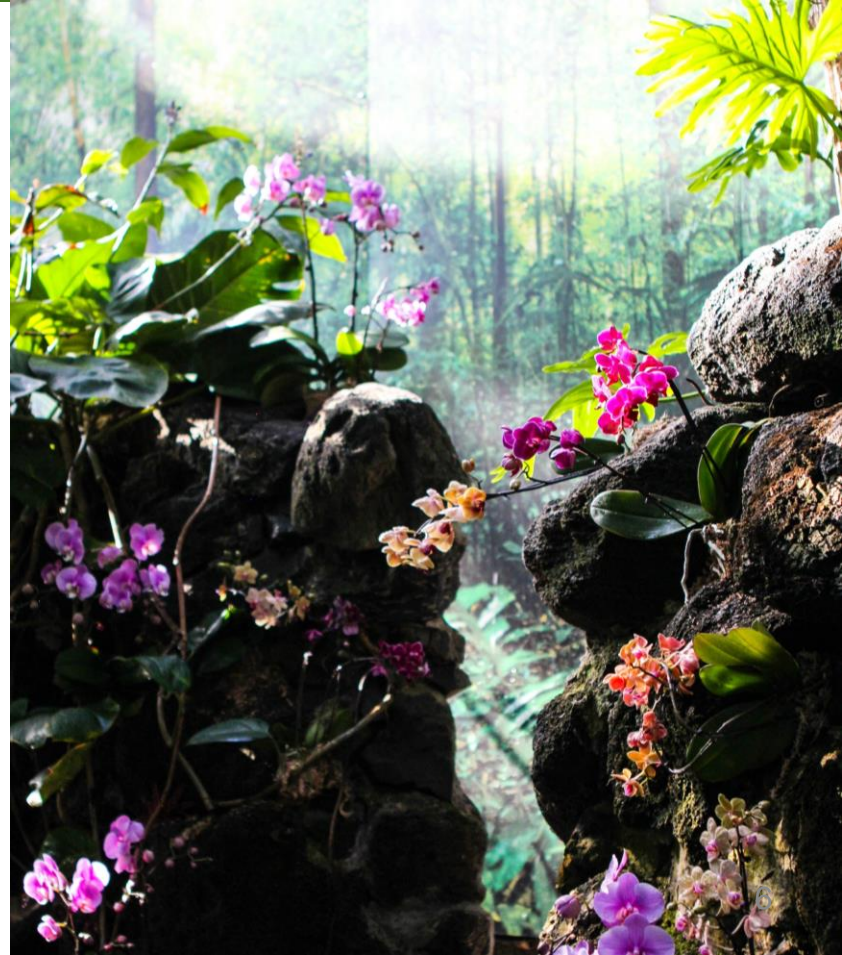
- **Project Process**
 - ❖ Review & Research, Engagement, Collaboration
- **Strategic Plan**
 - ❖ Values, Vision, Mission and Transformative Goals
- **Next Steps**
- **Staff Recommendation**



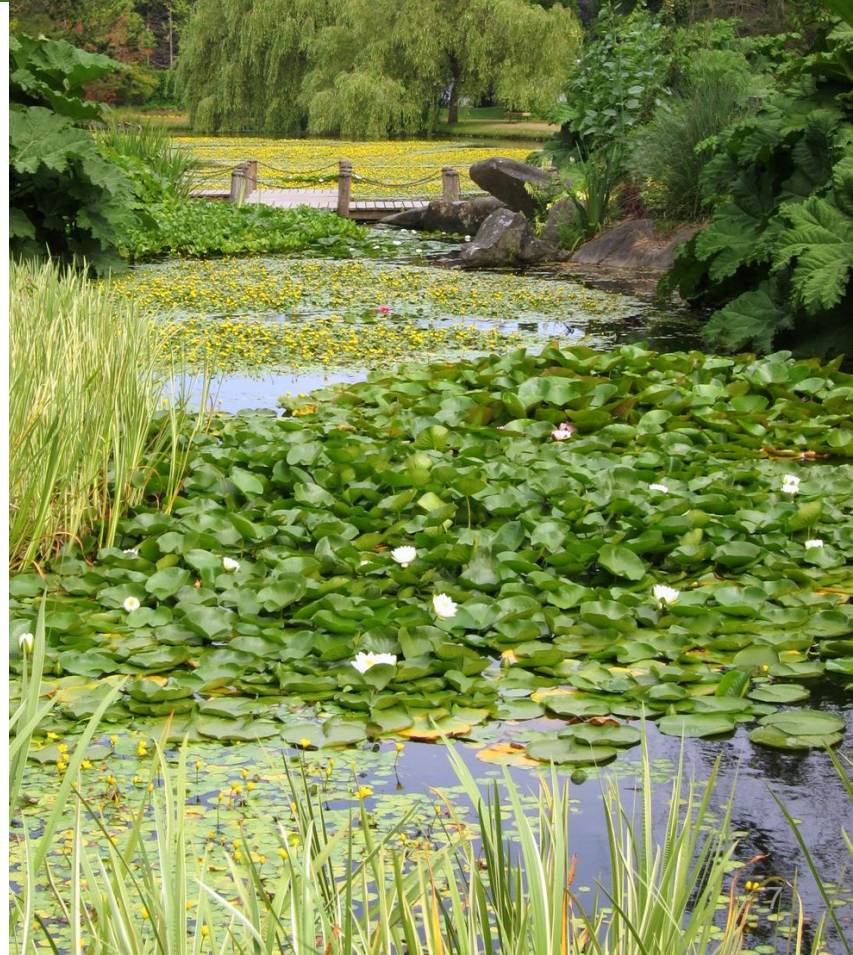


Project Process

- Project began in late summer 2019.
- Current state review
- Engagement took place fall - early winter 2020.
- All work on the project was interrupted with the onset of the pandemic in March 2020.
- Work resumed in January 2021.



- Review of the current state
- Comparative analysis with international best practices
- Series of interviews with staff, Board members, various stakeholder and subject matter experts
- Foundational and information discussions and deliberations



- Focus of engagement:

Engage with the community and stakeholders to better understand **their insights** as relates to the vision, mission, values, and principles they believe should guide VanDusen and Bloedel.

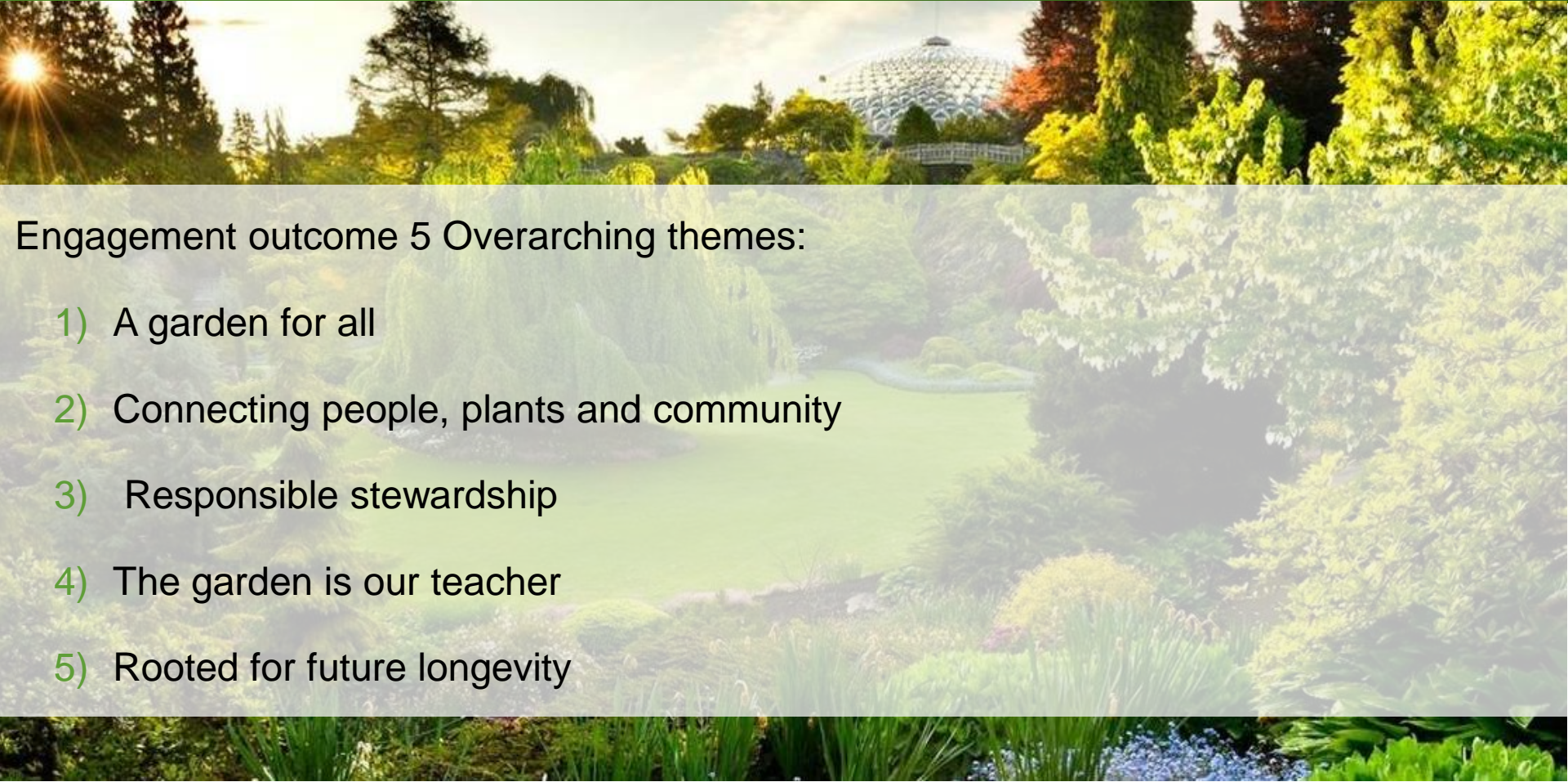
- Public, members, donors, volunteers, staff, events participants, and other stakeholders.



Project Process - Engagement continued

Event	# of participants
Pre-engagement interviews	48
Festival of Lights intercept surveys	189
Festivale Tropicale intercept surveys	126
Members open house	155
Online public survey	2,264
Public open house	86
Stakeholder focus group	11
Visitor online survey	3,282
VBGA and PB Staff Workshop & Survey	29 & 20
Volunteer workshops	27





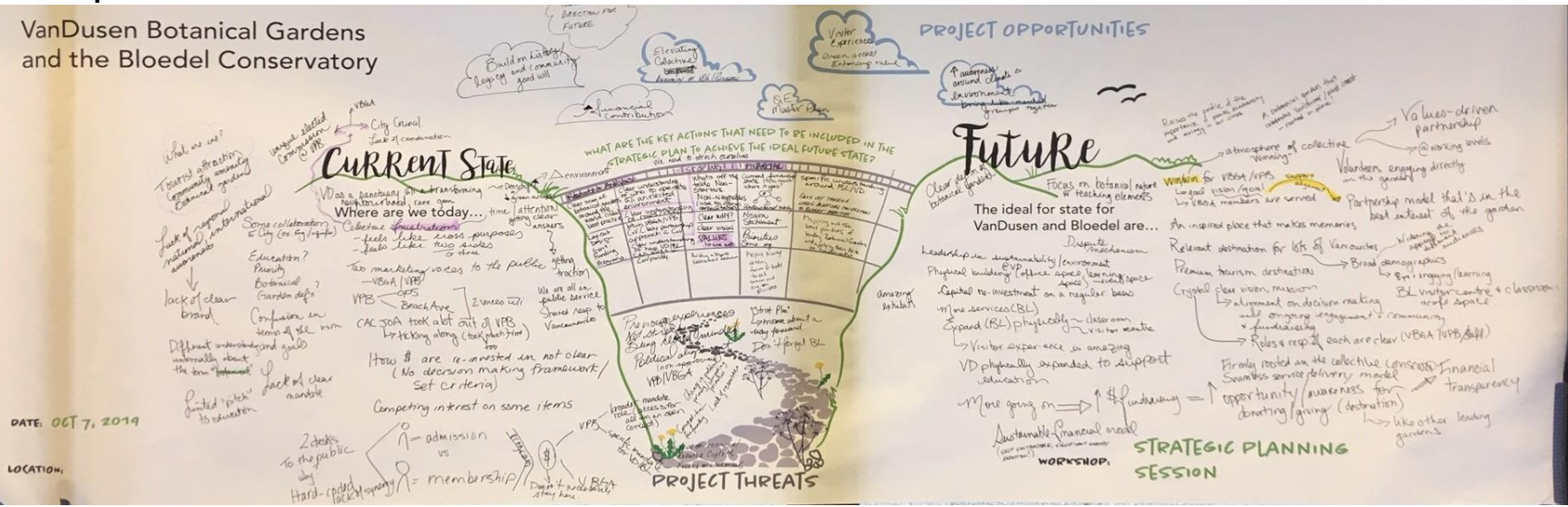
Engagement outcome 5 Overarching themes:

- 1) A garden for all
- 2) Connecting people, plants and community
- 3) Responsible stewardship
- 4) The garden is our teacher
- 5) Rooted for future longevity

Project Process – Collaboration

- A Steering Committee established to guide the project
- Sixteen Steering Committee workshops, virtual garden visits and online work.
- Strategic Plan was developed incrementally and collaboratively.
- The approach was rooted in consensus, reflection, consideration and compromise.

VanDusen Botanical Gardens and the Bloedel Conservatory





Strategic Plan



To be a leading garden of transformative experiences and botanical discovery.



To inspire a deeper understanding of plants and a passion for biodiversity, and to encourage generations to conserve, protect, and enhance the natural world.

We are committed to and will advocate for conservation of plant biodiversity from the Pacific Northwest and ecosystems from around the world.

We value discovery for all through transformative experiences, education and research. We want every visitor who comes to the garden or conservatory to discover something new about plants and nature in places of inspiration.

We welcome every community member and work to enhance human connection to nature, plants and each other by being inclusive and relevant to those we serve now and in the future.

We recognize and celebrate the original stewards of these unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. We are committed to carrying out the important work of reconciliation.

We value being a place that allows for peace, restoration and grounding oneself in nature.

We honour the garden and conservatory's founders, contributors and legacy by promoting environmental stewardship, and ensuring the financial resources to maintain and grow the gardens.

- Achieve long-term financial sustainability
- Be a leader in conservation and sustainable practices
- Cultivate knowledge, understanding, and passion for the important role of plants, and gain commitment to promoting biodiversity
- Cultivate strong and active partnerships between City of Vancouver, Park Board, and Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association



- Facilitate a memorable experience for all visitors, members, and groups
- Increase horticultural and botanical relevance and significance
- Support understanding and appreciation of the relationship between nature, culture, and heritage while celebrating the relationship of Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations to the unceded lands on which the gardens are located





Next Steps



- With an approved strategic plan, the focus will then turn to negotiating the JOA.
- The JOA will determine:
 - Roles and Responsibility
 - Financial model

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the proposed “VanDusen & Bloedel Strategic Plan,” attached as Appendix A, and direct staff to start the process of updating the existing Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) with the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA).



