

## 2023-2024 Play Streets One-Pager



Spring 2022 Play Streets at Kerrisdale Annex

**What are Play Streets?** Delivered by the Society for Children and Youth of BC (SCY), Play Streets is a program co-designed with kids that temporarily transforms select streets into thriving public spaces. This is achieved by temporarily closing the street to through-traffic with SCY staff and volunteers onsite to provide simple and creative play offerings, elements, and programming. Play Streets are a low-impact and low-cost way to reduce young people's exposure to pollution, promote safe streets, promote sustainable and active modes of transportation, and support social connections and community building.

This year, we are bringing Play Streets to a new municipality in the [Vancouver Coastal Health](#) region so more children and families can experience the efficacy and benefits of activating road space for public play and community building. Play Streets is unique in its “by and for” children and youth approach. This initiative centres young peoples’ participation and creates public spaces in the community that youth take ownership of. We do this by hosting Youth Co-Design Workshops, which give young people the opportunity to examine the street(s) that will be utilized, consider the resources and equipment they would like to have onsite, and be part of the planning process.

### Why is this important?

Play Streets foremost address the rights and needs of our community's children and youth by providing space for play and recreation, improving children's health and wellbeing. Following SCY's spring 2022 Play Streets, over 100 children responded to survey engagements with 92% reporting they would like to see more Play Streets in their neighbourhood, 87% reporting increased physical activity at Play Streets, and 91% feeling more connected with their community at these events. We hope to bring Play Streets to a new municipality to grow the program and allow more children and families to experience these benefits.

### Why SCY?

With 30 years of experience in our Child and Youth Friendly Communities program, the Society for Children and Youth of BC is uniquely poised to successfully bring a Play Streets program to fruition in Vancouver. Our staff has an exceptional combination of in-depth knowledge and experience with child rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, child-friendly city planning, and child and youth participation and co-design. As an organization we uphold that children and youth can contribute meaningfully to society when given opportunities, and our staff is skilled at creating space for young people to lead.