



**UBC Community Engagement
Community Conversations - Community Use of Campus Venues
Tuesday, September 27, 2011**

OVERVIEW

A Community Conversation is a public forum to address discrete elements of Community Engagement.

Where possible, Community Conversations will focus on applying the four over-arching, "What do you think" questions outlined in the Discussion Paper to a specific topic or area of study. Additional, topic-specific questions and issues will also be discussed.

Feedback from each of the six sessions will be considered in the creation of the Community Engagement Strategic Plan. Feedback from each session will be available at www.communityengagement.ubc.ca.

TOPIC-SPECIFIC FEEDBACK AND CONVERSATIONS

- The University Orchard Garden, an "outdoor classroom" operated by a graduate student in the Faculty of Education, is in initial phases with classroom services for recognition as a formal classroom space (living lab). Formal recognition allows for potential funding of the space. It is temporary as its current home on Main Mall is designated for a building in the UBC Campus Plan. With no advertising, just word of mouth, the space hosted 8 camps this summer. This outdoor space is ideal for hands-on teacher training as many schools grown their own community gardens. Spaces like this allow for teacher-candidates to experience the unique setting and teaching environment
- Robson Square has 80,000 sq ft and is one of the university's ancillary buildings. The cost for community activities for university groups can be cost prohibitive. There is a 30% discount, but there are only a small number of rooms available. Currently about 15 days per calendar year are donated to groups (eg a short notice fundraiser for a disaster), but the ancillary model prohibits more of this. Perhaps a grants system could be set up and units or departments could apply for funding to hold events at Robson Square.
- A satellite Alumni office at Robson Square would be a great way to welcome more Alumni. Robson Square is a natural location for many Alumni to visit due to proximity to work for many of them
- A possible model to consider for Robson is the Tapestry classroom. It is not scheduled by classroom services, coffee is provided.



- A Robson Square series could be developed incorporating small lectures by departments and faculties or something that was accessed on an as-needed basis (eg "Crisis Thursday Series" - Robson Square providing a venue and coordination for a lecture on a time-sensitive, current news event)
- Transportation on campus is a challenge for campus events - once you arrive on campus, there is no easy way to travel across campus - all traffic, including buses, is directed to the perimeter