



Name of Organization: Kitsilano Community Centre Association Board

Program: Community Conversations/Dementia-Friendly Programming

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Challenges and Opportunities:

The Kitsilano Community Centre Association Board works in conjunction with the Parks Board to oversee programming at the Centre. Most recently, they've developed a Community Needs Assessment Group that looks at how best to serve the neighbourhood. This group has been gathering information from program user evaluations, informal conversations, and shared learning with the Westside Seniors Hub and have offered a variety of physical, social, and multicultural programming so far. But they haven't yet acquired information on people in their community who are living with dementia. This is an area of focus for them right now.

Having no information on how many of Kits Community Centre's patrons are living with dementia or caring for someone living with dementia is both a challenge and an opportunity to learn more. The Association Board's Community Needs Assessment Group would like to research several areas going forward, including how many people in Kitsilano have dementia-related needs, what kinds of support would be most helpful both for people living with dementia and for their care givers, and how their community centre specifically could be positioned to offer that support?

What's envisioned going forward into next year:

The Community Needs Assessment Group has proposed the idea of holding several "anyone-welcome" community conversations to hear the concerns, needs, and priorities of this demographic. They'd hold three or four two-hour events, advertised as a Memory Café, which would be a warm and welcoming room in the community centre. The sessions would be run by a facilitator who was skilled in peer and community engagement, where feedback and information would be gathered, and results collated.

The Assessment Group would then discuss which segment of the population (or which aspects of the suggested supports) they can serve, and then seek advice from groups with more experience in implementing dementia-friendly programming and supports (like Westside Seniors Hub, Paul's Club, and Kits Neighbourhood House.) Program design would follow, the nature and scope of which would be entirely based on the feedback and guidance received from people with lived experience, and experience serving this population.