



## GREAT IDEAS FOR GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS

Curious to learn what's happening in your neighbourhood and other neighbourhoods in Victoria? Looking for some local and global inspiration for community building and placemaking ideas? Here are some ideas, resources and updates to help you create a vibrant neighbourhood.

## IDEAS FROM AROUND THE CITY



**The My Great Neighbourhood Grant program is all about community.** Opening April 1, this program helps residents animate public space, develop and enhance a sense of community and leave a positive legacy in our neighbourhoods. The total grant budget for 2023 is \$139,210 and this year there is an increase in grant limits. The City will match up to \$7,500 for placemaking and resiliency projects and up to \$1,500 for activities, matching equivalent contributions (including volunteer time and in-kind donations) from applicants. There will also be additional support available to cover traffic control costs when needed. The projects funded by these grants are initiated and implemented by local residents. Placemaking projects create inviting, vibrant places for people to connect and share unique place-based experiences. Community building and resiliency projects create opportunities to build relationships and support City programs like food security, zero-waste and emergency preparedness. Read all about the program [here](#) and reach out to your neighbourhood liaison if you have ideas you want to discuss.

### Get Growing Victoria!

Get Growing, Victoria! 2023 is back and staff have already been distributing soil-building materials to Victoria residents and gearing up to distribute food seedlings. The seedlings are grown in the City nursery in Beacon Hill Park and distributed in partnership with community organizations. The program started in 2020 and last year, distributed 100,000 seedlings in partnership with 67 community organizations. Over 300 cubic yards of soil-building materials was also distributed to community for residential gardens by the end of 2022. This year the spring distribution will provide vegetable and herb seedlings including tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, collard greens, swiss chard, kale, lettuce, basil, chives, nasturtiums, calendula and shiso. Late



# MY GREAT Neighbourhood

summer distribution of fall/winter crops will include broccoli, pac choi, swiss chard, kale, radicchio/ endive, kohlrabi, cabbage, lettuce, and parsley. For more information about each seedling variety and tips for seedling care, visit our [webpage](#) which is packed full of great information and lots of helpful links to support residents in having a successful growing season. Mark your calendars for our spring distribution across the city May 15 - June 4, 2023.

## IDEAS FROM FURTHER ABROAD

### Music in Public Spaces



Active and accessible public spaces are vital for helping people, even strangers, connect and communicate with each other—something we need now more than ever. Music is often the first move to activate public spaces. This might be a singer with an acoustic guitar, a jazz trio, a DJ, or built-in speakers with a playlist. The idea is that music makes a place feel alive without dominating the space. The team at Big Car Collaborative and WQRT FM out of Indianapolis, IN created a [308-song, 22-hour playlist](#) of music designed for public spaces. It's nearly all music without vocals, which makes conversation easier. This is everything from piano songs by Satie, to jazz, to world music, to Eno's style of electronic ambient. You're welcome to use it or stream their station at your space.

*Indianapolis musician Landon Caldwell plays in front of Monument Circle in the summer of 2022 with his music through speakers all around the monument. Credit: Jim Walker*

### Great Public Spaces

Located on a dark pathway, Electric Moon is a permanent art installation that creates a fun, vibrant and low-cost lighting solution in the heart of Bristol, UK. Electric Moon was created by UK artist Zoë Power, who along with many other former students at the University of the West of England, frequently took this unlit path—a national cycling route—as part of her daily commute. After seeing cyclists and pedestrians collide, Zoe approached the university for funding with an idea: to light up the path with an art installation.

Using LED lights, faces of the moons glow at night to light the way for pedestrians and cyclists, whilst the moons' eyes glow and flicker, giving the illusion of movement as they follow the viewer down the path. The materials used had to be extremely durable, particularly in the wet and cold UK weather. The total construction cost was only £1500, plus £2500 for labor, and an annual cost of £150 for electricity. The project took two months, including two weeks of fabrication and installation.





## MAKING IT HAPPEN

### The Power of Tiny Interactions

As you're going about your day, you likely interact with family, friends and coworkers. These relationships can help you feel cared for and connected. But what if there's a whole category of people in your life whose impact is overlooked? In the second episode of their "Relationships 2.0" series, psychologist Gillian Sandstrom reveals some simple ways to make your life a little more joyful and maybe even a little less lonely. From the Hidden Brain podcast, listen to this recording [here](#).

# HIDDEN BRAIN™

### Hey Neighbour!



Did you know that during an emergency your neighbours are your first responders? Your strongest resource during an emergency event, large or small, is your neighbours. Building relationships with your neighbours will help you form strong networks and cope during an emergency. Strong and connected neighbourhoods and communities are more resilient and recover more quickly following emergencies. The Hey Neighbour Collective, in partnership with the Building Resilient Neighbourhoods Team has created a video about their program explaining how social connections increase resilience to emergencies. Hey Neighbour Collective (HNC) brings together housing providers, non-profits, researchers, local and regional governments, housing associations and health authorities to experiment with and learn about ways of building community, social connectedness and resilience in BC's fast-growing multi-unit housing communities. Check out their [website](#) for more great resources.

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