

Imagine a growing Kelowna that thrives on collaboration and connection

January 22 takeaways

Vibrant Communities is about dreaming big, thinking about what's possible, and sparking conversation.

We know Kelowna is an incredible place to live. How can we build on what's great about our home to make it even better?

When we invited you as community leaders and influencers for our day of imagining the future, we knew we would hear amazing ideas. Thank you for being bold—we couldn't have done this without you! Based on the theme for the event, your inspired performances on stage, and your ideas, we've summarized key takeaways from our time together.

Whether or not you've submitted an application for funding through the Doane Grant Thornton Foundation, we're so inspired by your creativity and passion. We hope you take the inspiration and energy from our day together, along with these ideas, to take the next step in building a stronger Kelowna.



SUMMARY

An overview of the ideas that surfaced in our afternoon session, grouped by theme. Ideas in bold represent those that received the most votes.



Collaboration

- **Bring non-profits together to find efficiencies in resource allocation, service delivery, and funding requests (e.g., create a hub or a task force).**
- **Regular meetings with a cross-section of community leaders, including city officials, to address specific needs.**
- **Celebrate, support, and protect our farmers, land, and environment.**
- Prioritize supporting locally owned businesses and social enterprises.
- Opportunity for aligned public and private partnerships to fund initiatives such as a tournament recreation facility or new college programs that support trades.
- Businesses “adopt” a non-profit or offer secondment opportunities to share expertise.
- Convene a community climate action committee with participation from the City of Kelowna.



Housing and Social Services

- Provide unlimited therapy and mental health support.
- Support unhoused and vulnerable populations through a 2035 action plan.
- Build affordable housing with a focus on ownership potential for first-time home buyers (e.g., develop a community or neighbourhood hub with smaller, affordable homes).



Infrastructure and Development

- **Enhance public transit systems and connectivity between communities. Ideas: Funding the B.C. bus yard, direct airport to downtown transit, and simple options such as Park and Rides in unused lots.**
- Increased Indigenous representation along the Boardwalk and high traffic areas.



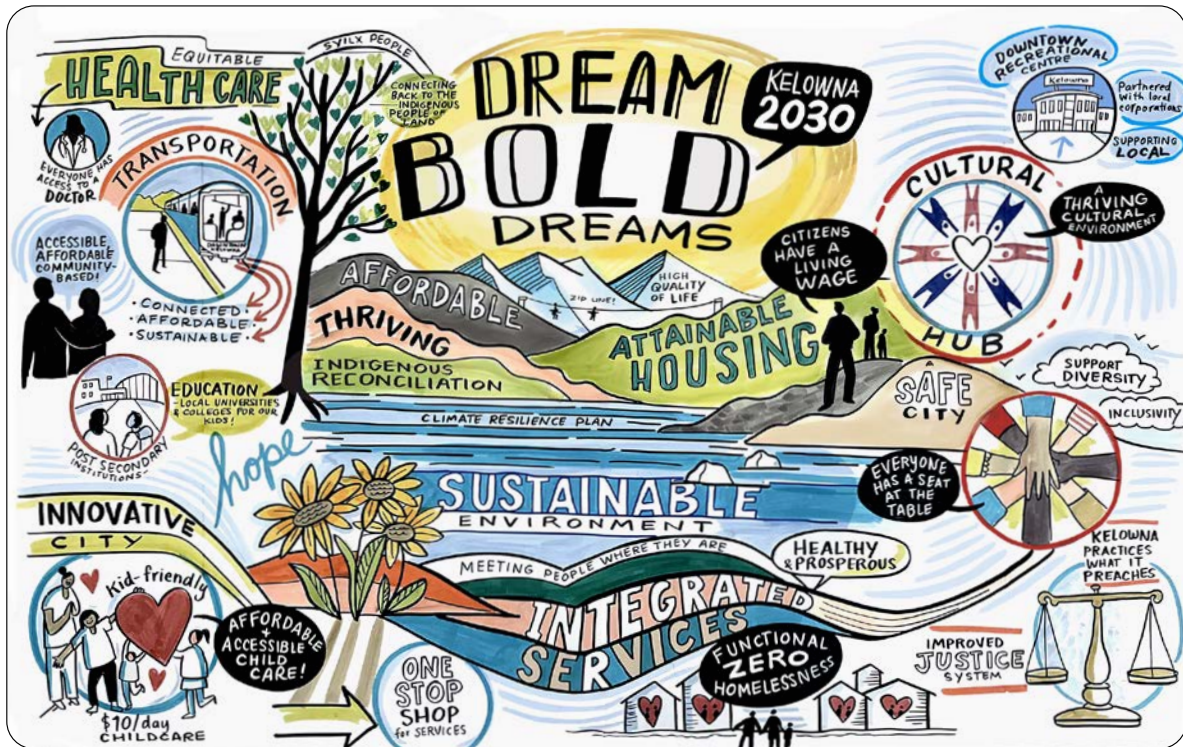
Culture and Education

- Engage youth in workshops to envision the future of Kelowna.
- Implement financial literacy and entrepreneurship in schools.
- Organize cross-cultural events with learning, food tasting, and passport challenges for kids.
- Develop a School District 23 program that prioritizes intergenerational learning about Indigenous ways of knowing and being.
- Create more short-term educational programs for re-training and re-entry into the workforce.
- Partner with post-secondary institutions and other training providers, to train nurses and key personnel to staff and run addictions facilities.



Community Engagement

- Provide a welcome guide to new community members.
- Practice what we preach everyday (e.g., kindness, smiling, saying hello, #KindKelowna, and consistent Good News feature from our news organizations).
- Create an advocacy group to get people interested in and engaged with local politics.
- Implement a volunteering mandate (e.g., 15 hours per year for those over the age of 12).



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