

# Planning Beyond the Pavement

Cheri Hessami  
Happy Cities



A vibrant, stylized illustration of a cityscape. Buildings are represented as colorful, 3D rectangular blocks in shades of yellow, green, pink, and blue. The buildings are arranged on a light blue background with white clouds. Small icons of a person, a bicycle, and a solar panel are scattered throughout the scene. The overall style is modern and optimistic.

**Charles  
Montgomery**

# **Happy City**

**Transforming Our Lives  
Through Urban Design**

**We have helped design wellbeing into  
communities around the world.**



We use an  
interdisciplin  
ary approach  
to understand  
the science of  
happiness



# A recipe for urban wellbeing:



Social



Healthy



Inclusive



Meaningful



Resilient





Encounters  
with strangers  
make us  
happier

Our research shows that the happy urban design approach makes shoppers walk further

200m



800m





Active edges  
make people  
act more  
kindly to  
strangers







The way we design  
our cities can  
boost or break our  
wellbeing.



Paul Krueger image



2019

P: Google Street View



2020



Today

P: City of Vancouver



CampfireCycling.com

@CampfireCycling



My head hurts to think someone got paid to do this.

[#cycling](#) [#bicycle](#) [#rideyourbike](#)







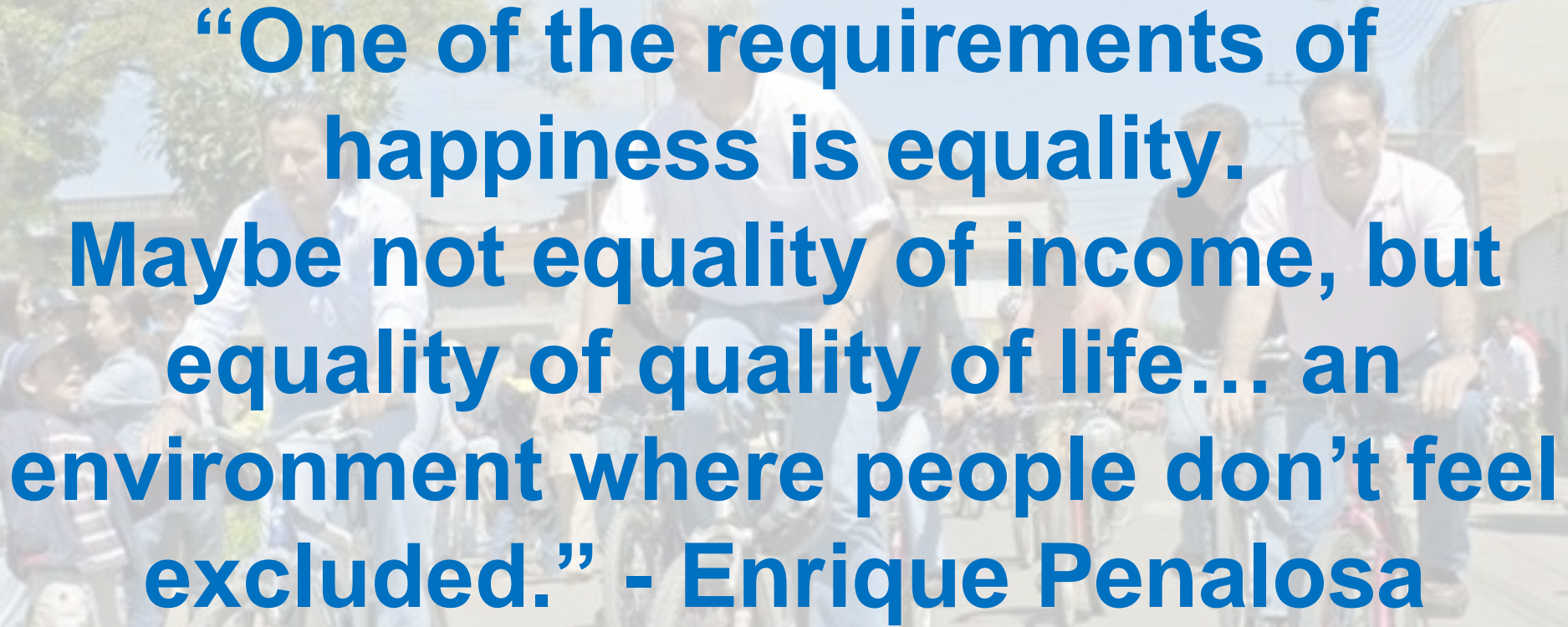
1168  
The  
**FLYING PIG**  
YALETOWN

**49**  
ESTABLISHED 1949  
THE FLYING PIG  
RESTAURANT & BAR  
1168 ALBERTA STREET  
VANCOUVER, BC V6E 2E1  
TEL: 604-681-4444  
WWW.FLYINGPIG.VAN.CA







A group of people, including men, women, and children, are riding bicycles on a paved street. The scene is outdoors with trees and buildings in the background. The image is semi-transparent, serving as a background for the text.

**“One of the requirements of happiness is equality. Maybe not equality of income, but equality of quality of life... an environment where people don’t feel excluded.” - Enrique Penalosa**



Fremont St



What  
do you  
**THINK**  
?

**RIDE AND  
ROLL  
SLOWLY**



**Please Respect  
Everyone's Space**

SAFE SPACE TO MOVE

NEW WESTMINSTER



Have your say!

**2045**  
Long Range  
Transportation  
Plan (LRTP)

**PUBLIC  
WORKSHOP**

**WELCOME!**

KAPLAN HALL

Architecture of learning and leadership

designed to sustain, nurture, succeed.

A shared vision — extraordinary results —

the lifting power of many wings



Private  
to every  
growth  
VILLAGE  
and  
The Kaplan







# Walkable Rotterdam

## Bloemhof Walkability Audit and Engagement

Happy Cities helped the City of Rotterdam understand the mobility patterns of marginalized groups, and co-create walkability solutions with residents of the Bloemhof neighbourhood.

Our recommendations were informed by a deep engagement process, which began with our specialists embedding themselves in community hubs. This embedded approach allowed us to create unique activities to meet diverse residents where they were at, and offer them meaningful takeaways.

Public Engagement  
Plans & Policies  
Public Space



Photo Credit: Mark Bolk



























# Crosstown Greenway

Youth-led placemaking  
for safer streets

In the spring of 2021, Happy Cities worked with the City of New Westminster and Glenbrook Middle School to install new student-designed curb bump-outs and bring a co-created community engagement initiative to life.

Inspired by one student's observations, we designed a co-creative process led by students, for students.

Public Engagement  
Plans & Policies  
Public Space



ÉCOLE  
GLENBROOK  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
A COMMUNITY SCHOOL

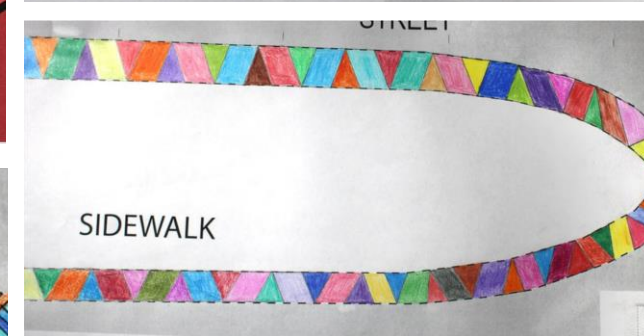
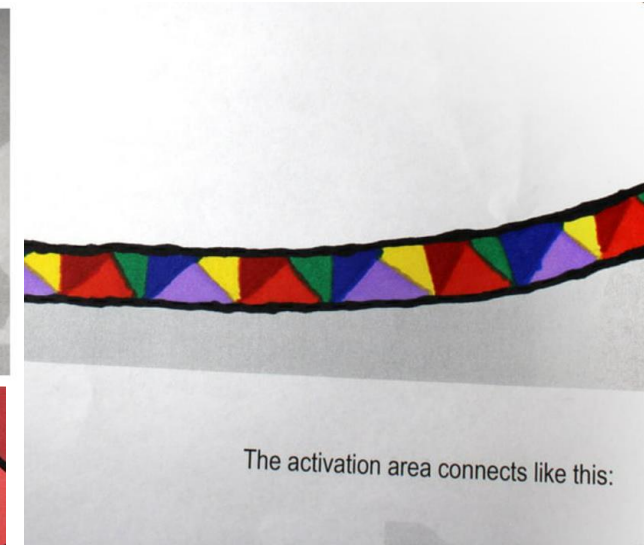
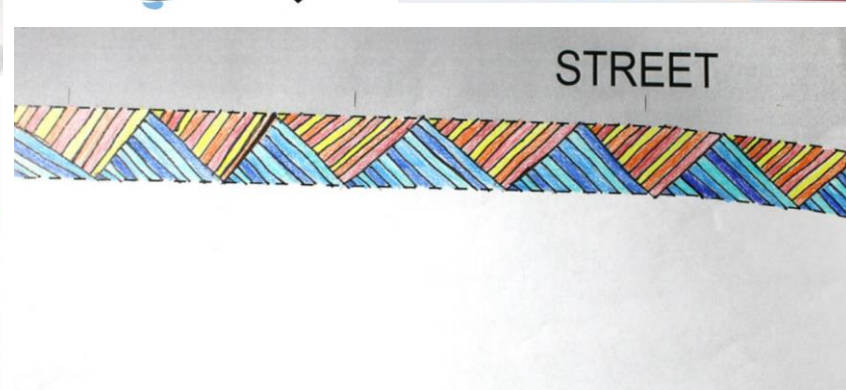
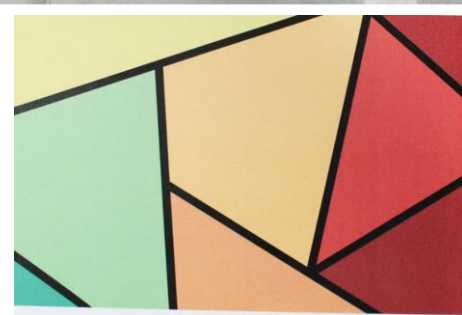
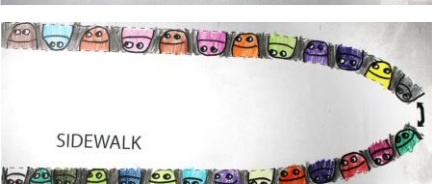
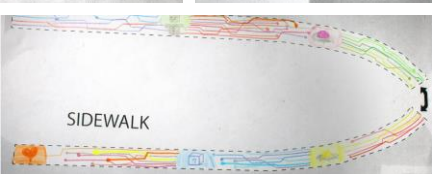
We need better  
bike infrastructure  
at Glenbrook!

MAXIMUM  
30  
km/h




















Who are we  
listening to?



The way we design  
our cities can  
boost or break our  
wellbeing.

include people  
in

The way we ✓ design  
our cities can  
boost or break our  
wellbeing.







# Thank you!

