

Year in Review

UniverCity Community Association



The UniverCity Community Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in July 2022, marking the start of a new year for the UCA. The strata representatives elected directors for 2022/2023: Mario Guisado, Stephanie Klatt, Clea Moray, Dean Wegman and Gary Wong. All served as directors last year. As we prepare to start a new term, we'd like to share what the UCA has worked on over the past year.

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

Since the inception of UniverCity, the [SFU Community Trust](#) has acted as a liaison between the community, SFU and the City of Burnaby. The Trust will wind down operations over the next few years as the community construction comes to a close. In anticipation of this, the Trust has stepped back from its liaison role as of the end of 2021.

To fill the gap created by the Trust's reduced role, and to act as a more direct voice for the community, the UCA has worked hard this year to build relationships with SFU and Burnaby City Hall. We have spent many hours discussing UniverCity's issues with the people we've met, and are grateful for the support that we've received from many of them.

Our advocacy has been guided by input from strata reps, what we heard via the community survey, and our many one-on-one conversations with community members. You can read more about the areas we have focused on this year in the following pages. But please note these are not the only issues we've worked on; we've also had many conversations about bear safety, the need for a dog park, how to increase community vibrancy, the need for a full-time medical clinic, and more.

Highlights

Advocating for the Burnaby Mountain Gondola

Monitoring progress towards a UniverCity Fire Station.

Advocating for more child care in UniverCity

Wildfire Safety Program

Seniors' Meetup Group

StreetFest! & Community BBQ

New constitution





PHOTO BY BBC CREATIVE ON UNSPLASH

Child Care in UniverCity

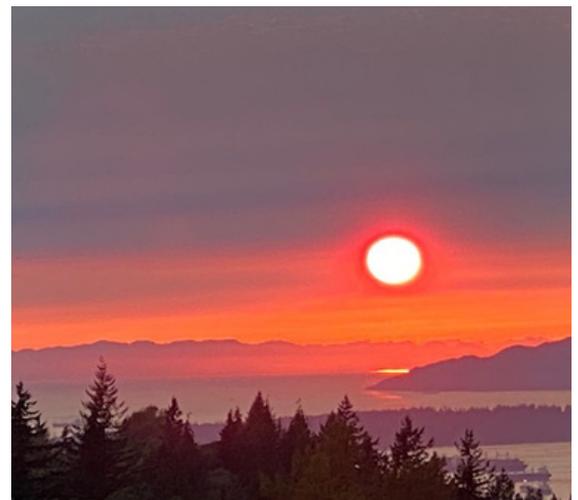
The UCA has started advocacy to make more child care available to all UniverCity residents. As our community has grown, child care access for our residents has not kept up. Most child care on Burnaby Mountain is supported in part by SFU and is aimed at meeting the needs of SFU staff, students and alumni. This leaves community residents who are not affiliated with SFU at the end of the priority list. Furthermore, a January change to the enrollment priority system at the UniverCity Childcare Centre reduced child care availability to community members not affiliated with SFU, even as the size of the community has grown. More child care is needed on Burnaby Mountain for both SFU and UniverCity, but the shortage for the latter group is more acute. We have discussed the situation with the City, the Province, the local child care roundtable, SFUCCS, the SFU Community Trust, and the elementary school PAC. We have made progress in identifying potential funding and finding suitable spaces in future developments.

We are also collaborating with the PAC to investigate how to increase the availability of after school activities. The offerings at the elementary school decreased greatly with the onset of COVID, and are still only at 1/5 of pre-COVID levels.

Burnaby Mountain Fire Hall

The fire hall is closer to becoming a reality. The UCA has been in regular contact with the City to monitor progress. A location has been chosen, west of the intersection of Tower Rd and University Dr E. Full funding to build the fire hall is in place, with contributions from the City, the Federal Government and land donated by SFU. The City has signed a contract with a design-build team (Kinetic Construction) and are hoping to have shovels in the ground for this project around the end of the year. The proposed location is under permitting review, and the UCA has written to the province to request that the permit process be expedited. Once open, the fire station will operate with 20 firefighters.

We are also looking into the possibility of a temporary fire hall being installed in UniverCity that would serve our community until the permanent fire hall is in service. The UCA has contacted City Council to request this.



VIEW FROM TERRACES AT THE PEAK. PHOTO BY B. CROWLEY.

What is the UniverCity Community Association?

We're a volunteer organization made up to people who live in UniverCity. We love this community, and we work to make it a thriving, safe, friendly and interesting place.

We do this by advocating for the interests of the community, keeping residents informed, helping people connect with each other, hosting events, and more.

Each UniverCity strata has a representative to the Community Association, along with owners of development sites under construction and the SFU Community Trust. These representatives work together with other community volunteers to achieve our goals.

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PHOTO BY QUARITSCH PHOTOGRAPHY ON UNSPLASH

ADVOCACY (CONT'D)

Burnaby Mountain Gondola

The UCA, in partnership with SFU and Translink, has represented our community by advocating for the Gondola as a general transportation option. We have focused on the Gondola as a cost effective and sustainable method of transportation for a mixed user base (residents, students, faculty, tourists etc.). Since our last update the UCA has organized letter writing to Burnaby City Council and spoken at Council Meetings and the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation.

We're happy to report that the Gondola project was included in the Translink transportation 10-year capital plan, gaining support from Burnaby City and the Mayors Council. The Gondola specifically has been earmarked for "rapid" development (for a project of this scope rapid means completion in 4-6 years). This means that it will be on this list of the first projects to seek funding. The Gondola is not yet funded, but we are multiple steps closer than we were at this time last year.

Traffic Safety

We have been working with SFU parking services to address regular incidents of drifting in SFU parking lots. Security will be providing more patrols and some speed bumps have been installed. We're communicating with SFU on the effectiveness of the speed bumps and looking at options to add more if needed.

We are also looking at general traffic issues, including highlighting that many crosswalks are obscured by landscaping and the lack of traffic management on the residential portion of High Street and Slopes Mews.

Hastings St. Improvements

TransLink and the City of Burnaby are partnering to make Hasting Street between Duthie and Boundary Rd. a more welcoming corridor for all users. This area is heavily used by UniverCity residents, as one of the closest areas with businesses and services not found on the mountain. The UCA has participated in two stakeholder consultations for this project, and promoted community input into the City's public consultations.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

UCA Community BBQ - Aug 21

The Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society & the UCA are co-hosting a community BBQ on Sunday Aug 21st from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm in the UniverCity Town Square. Join us for free food, live music, games, and kids' activities. It's a great opportunity to meet some of your neighbours and celebrate the end of summer. It's also an opportunity for strata councils and community members to discuss fire safety on the mountain with members of the fire department.



STREETFEST! 2019

UniverCity StreetFest! - Sept 16

UniverCity StreetFest will be back this September 16th! Our community's annual outdoor festival is returning in person after a 2-year hiatus, and it will run all day and evening with fun and activities for all ages. This event is a collaboration between the UCA, SFU, and the SFU Student Society, with funding from the City of Burnaby.

A big thank-you to our community volunteers who have been attending weekly planning meetings for the past few months and generally helping with the planning of the event. If you are able to volunteer to help on the day of the event, visit www.street-fest.ca

OTHER INITIATIVES

Communications

Since this spring we have been posting community news to our website, Facebook and Instagram accounts several times a week. We have recently added a community events calendar to our website to give residents an easy way to find activities in the neighbourhood, and learn about opportunities to connect with neighbours and meet new people. We have also launched an email newsletter that's distributed twice a month (visit [our website](#) to subscribe). Our number of email subscribers has more than doubled since April and continues to grow. With the help of a community volunteer, we have started work on a website redesign. SFU has recently granted us use of the outdoor noticeboard next to the Starbucks which will help us to connect with more people.

Community Development Grants

The grants committee awarded a \$500 Community Development Grant to the Mum Walk Group Halloween Planners for their project "Halloween Lantern Walk and Decorations" which will take place on Oct 31, 2022. The next round of Community Development Grants is for projects that will take place between Feb 1, 2023 and July 31, 2023. Applications are open now and will close on December 31, 2022. If you have an idea for a project or initiative that would improve UniverCity, visit our website to apply.

Wildfire Safety Program

We have started a community volunteer group to improve community wildfire safety and resilience. The group has identified some initial projects and plans to have an information table at StreetFest. If you would like to help out, email universitycommunity@gmail.com.

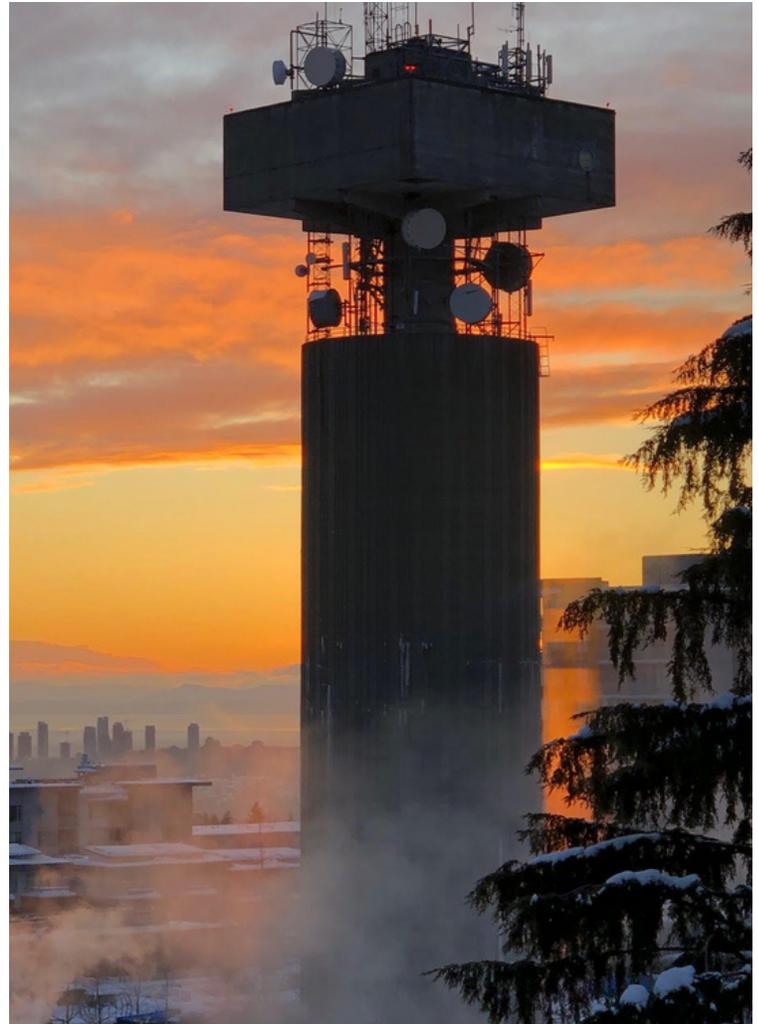


PHOTO BY E. HARROP

Seniors' Meetup Group

We have collaborated with a community volunteer to create a monthly meetup group for seniors living in UniverCity. This group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month for lunch and an event. There is lots of interest in this group which is growing quickly and will have its third meeting later this month. Email universityseniors@gmail.com to join.

A New Constitution

A constitution is a document that defines the purpose of an organization.

The UCA's original constitution was written by the SFU Community Trust 17 years ago. This year we worked to create a new constitution that better reflects the independent, active organization that the community association has become.

In this spring's community survey we asked residents how they saw the role of the community association, and what sort of activities they would like it to focus on. Our new constitution is shaped by the answers we received - with a focus on advocacy, community building, and holding - events that foster a sense of belonging bring people together.

The new constitution was approved at the July 2022 AGM. You can read it on our website, here: tinyurl.com/3bc87h55