

InWithForward
MaRS
City Team Workshop
External Partners Workshop
Community Advisory Committee Workshop

Vibrant Neighbourhoods	
What if there were more vibrant things to do at night & weekends	WHAT IF we increased urban accessibility: of family recreational activities, for seniors, during winter, and of affordable fresh food?
What if there were more physical spaces with a vibe of nomalacy, where people might start to build other networks and find activities to fill their day?	What if there was a roaming food van that brought fresh produce to each neighbourhood?
What if there were pubs modeled after those in The Netherlands and Nordic countries where beer / wine is made by members, and dosage is facilitated?	What if there was dedicated fun bus service that takes families after school to the rec centres or seniors to spots in the city for fun, to people watch, or to volunteer?
What if there was a 'City Learning Pass' that brokered folks on the streets to cultural excursions - like art galleries, symphonies, theatres, and helped manage empty seats?	What if there were family fun passes at the library that gives free admission to the theatre, museum, gyms
What if there were supper clubs, shared meals, and neighbourhood dinners for small groups of peers who could access a kitchen and subsidized food?	What if we had pop up bike network connections?
What if we created a passport that people could use to navigate from one restaurant to the next?	What if we had other vans to bring literacy and recreation ideas to communities
What if historical walking tours also taught people photography skills?	What if our neighbourhoods were accessible to all ages and abilities ?
What if Edmonton had a winter event featuring restaurants in the inner city with prix fixe menus to encourage people to come and explore different cultural cuisine	What if we provided free dirt and raised garden beds
What if the City had subsidized parking spaces or free parking zones during daytime hours	What if we create art street of black chalk board
What if there was a night market showcasing different cultural street foods the different inner city neighbourhoods?	What if we organized community kitchen spaces?
What if we had solar powered light installations running across main corridors?	What if we combined open space activity and kid play areas and dog parks?
What if there were spoken word poetry or art workshops in outdoors in multiple spots in the downtown?	What if we funded and encouraged chairs on for capital boulevard and for other BIAs like Churchill Square
What if we had wayfinding signs that highlighted areas and paths to go to throughout the 5 neighbourhoods?	What if we blocked streets to have themed street parties
What if we had bike shares and bike tours?	What if we had citizen advice bureaus embedded in neighbourhoods eg. Mint drugs on Church street?
What if there was a night mayor responsible for nightlife culture like in European cities?	What if we piloted a iron works building community garden?
What if there were pedestrian only days or hours	What if we developed ways for families to share recipes and to swap care needs?
What if we enhanced security on nights and weekends	What if we identified abandoned city owned sites and turn them into parks
What if we provided training on mental health supports to businesses	We updated and evaluated and assess the impact of LINK YEG. tool on intercity services?
What if youth became teachers of the arts to communities?	What if there way more before school and afterschool programming available?
What about partnering with spaces that are under-used during evenings, like post-secondary schools and malls in evenings?	What if we could work with John A McDougall all in for youth school Hub to reach indigenous youth and families and showcase culture and protocol
What if the incentives we offered for bridging organizations and newcomers for hire were scaled based on degree and vulnerability	What if we had ICE shack programs on weekends and winter?
What if there were running/walking clubs with trauma - informed facilitators? As a way to connect with folks and promote wellbeing and safety	What if we focused on engaging youth in winter activities like winter snow shack in the neighborhood
What if we mandated that other more affluent communities accepted their social responsibility that we included embracing vulnerable	What if ther was a very robbust campaign to destigmatize services that serve very vulenrable people?
What if we had more coordinated Chinatown dining week? (and not just rely on a couple of community members).	What if there was a supper club for single parents to do meal prep together with a pay it forward model - support group
What if we improved our active transportation infrastructure and connected to the bike grid in the inner city?	
We are a winter city and we are limited to do much @ night. Night vibrant life creates healthy lifestyle.	
What if there was an interactive map that connected the businesses across all the BIAs - showcasing / highlighting deals.	
What if the city gave the revenue for street parking back to the community (for suport + community economic development of that area)	
We need to improve the business area, separate business and agencies. It is difficult to do business when there are so many agencies in the surrounding area.	
"Community Bonfire" - what if we organized a community bonfire during the coldest weeks of the winter. A semi-permanent structure that provides informal space to "hand out" during the day and "festive" programming during evenings and weekends?	

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Wellness as a Service			
What if we redefined wellbeing?	What if there were ways to taste healing & gain distance from what ails you?	What if we tweaked the service experience	How might we offer more upstreams supports and relationship help?
How might there be types of housing (or yurts and teepees) that accommodate more fluid swaps, diverse geographies, roommates, and inter-city travel?	How might we offer ways to taste healing and gain distance from what ails you?	What if food kitchens operated a little more like restaurants? What if wait time felt less idle?	What if there were supports that engaged friends & family early, guided relationship repair, and more intentionally brokered people to bridging support networks?
What if services felt more like travel agencies, brokering people to stimulating experiences?	How can we extend shared healing spaces to those with different backgrounds or belief systems? With a mix of people from different walks of life?	What if wait time felt less idle?	What if there was a role like a Family Doula?
What if there were roommate matching services and supports to enable different combinations of living?	What if, the sense of shame and helplessness of 'the morning after' a binge was seized as an opportunity to build people's feelings of agency, and broker them to a retreat, rather than simply releasing them from intox or the drunk tank?	What if there were smaller, more intimate settings to lessen tensions and better accommodate the introverts?	What if there were workshops & resources for friends - to be shared on Facebook and make use of people's social media?
What if there was relationship help that started with school age children? (e.g. mental health first aid for kids? resiliency training, mindfulness)	What if there were partnerships with camp operators, tour operators, farms that picked up people in the city and took them outside to recharge outdoors for a day/weekend?	What if there was a way to book tables and introduce more choice into the soup kitchen experience?	What if there were micro-boards and circles of supports (like in the disability space) for folks making it through recovery?
What if the mainstream services were trauma-informed and harm reduction approaches	What if working farms or ranches serves as thearapeutic or foster families for those trapped in urban distress?	What if there were 'bureaucracy busters' that spent time in lines, helping people fill out paperwork, book appointments, make phone calls, and use time more productively?	What if we had grants for landlord education?
What if wellenss services took a holistic approach to enabling an individual to thrive?	What if the legal system formalized connetions to healing practices for domestic violence instead of either collapsing prosecutions or levying punitive sanctions both which leave families fractured and stuck in the cycle of violence.	What if the network of convenience stores, pharmacies, etc. had portable storage options to enable people to spend their days less encumbered by stuff?	What if our police servive had a licensing program that certified safe houses
What if everyone had a guranteed basic income so that many of the services/interventions wouldn't be needed		What if we had a mobile laundry truck where people could drop off their clothes to be washed for free or a mobile spa?	
What if city and the province funded services collectively to be aligned in planning, avoid duplication, have a better sense of collective impact		What if we redefine suitable housing around user needs instead of Western middle-class standards?	

What if shelter services were 24/7 and humane?

What if we insured our internal processes did not collect unnecessary information and eliminate redundancy/duplication processes

What if we provided ways to deliver essential well-being services with more mobility?

What if frontline staff / service providers reach out to where people in need are located?

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What if service users could sequence service delivery based on needs

Connect Food banks, indigenous and ethnocultural organizations to meet short term food insecurity with culturally appropriate food.

What if "service navigators" were agents of systems change / improvement -> navigation has a direct feedback loop and transparency about impact.

What if funding models changed to be more flexible so service providers can apply learning mid program?

What if social services outreach teams were embedded in clinical acute settings to reduce barriers like patient access to care, poverty, literacy, social cognitive factors and developed solutions with patients "Hospital without walls"

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Work and Learning				
What if we created new learning pathways?	What if we curated peer & place based networks?	How might we expand and bundle small jobs?	WHAT IF we activated the latent human, physical and cultural assets in our communities?	WHAT IF the inner city became known as a destination for cultural exploration, social businesses, and a great place to live at all stages of life?
What if there were a range of 'thematic fellowships' and 'life apprenticeships' for folks that enabled people to have a structure and to build a network around something other than their struggles - but around interests, skills, and next career moves?	What if there was a network of bus drivers, convenience stores and pharmacies who could link people to peer navigators and peer groups, and help newbies find the right kind of formal + informal resources?	What if there were more of a Task Rabbit based system- where one could take up 'small jobs' from local non-profits, government, BIAs, housing associations, etc?	What if we filled empty storefronts with murals or public art installations that families can interact with?	What if new business applications were assessed against community benefits criteria?
What if there were writing & poetry fellowships building on some of the storytelling programs at the library?	What if there were small grants and a practice network amongst convenience stores, pharmacies, and peer-led groups?	What if you could apply for a role like a 'Recycling Guru,' made up of small jobs from across organizations with a similar need?	What if we created covered courtyards for indoor markets and public events during winter?	What if individuals & families as well as businesses & organizations could adopt a street to improve cleanliness?
What if there were sports fellowships for getting people back in shape, training, and working with youth?	What if there was a new role of a peer navigator?	What if we provided an employee matching service for business interested in employing people from the neighbourhood that have different behaviour issues or disabilities?	What if we used empty, vacant lots as spaces for community raised garden beds or places for new playgrounds?	What if every new residential building had to have a mix of market and non-market housing?
What if there were furniture making & fashion fellowships - building on iHuman style programming for youth?	What if we offered small grants to hold social gatherings like: neighbourhood block parties, potlucks, knitting circles, living room concertss?	What if vulnerable people built planters and gave them to the community for free?	What if we created pop-up markets for local artists, studios for fitness instructors, jam spaces for musicians?	What if we created a social enterprise incubator?
What if there were cooking fellowships - ala Jamie Oliver's fellowships for youth?	What if we started sharing economies where people shared time, skills, tools, appliances, games, toys, sports equipment, yard space, with each other?	What if we developed a "skills inventory" of these neighbourhood people considered "vulnerable" to be used to match people with job opportunities?	What if we created community urban bee farms and greenhouses on unused rooftops?	What if we incentivized building owners with empty storefronts to temporarily support new social business, while they test ideas?
What if there were supper clubs, shared meals, and neighbourhood dinners for small groups of peers who could access a kitchen and subsidized food?	What if we started sharing economies where people shared time, skills, tools, appliances, games, toys, sports equipment, yard space, with each other?	What if we had speed dating between socially conscious businesses and folks looking for new job opportunities?	What if we had a neighbourhood buddy program where volunteers sign up to visit and accompany neighbours on walks, errands, or appointments?	What if we built a network of support for business owners to share ideas and advice on how manage tension and conflict with patrons?
What if YMCA low income pass provided access to gyms and facilities	What if we had a "Big Brother Big Sister" for new parents in the community?	What if needles / human waste got picked up quickly from public spaces so people feel comfortable in green spaces?	What if we had a service for bike delivery of groceries?	What if looked at abandoned buildings and sites as venues for community collaboration
What if we reimagined programming of our city REC facilities	What if we provided supports to community league spaces to deal with social issues that take up their volunteer time that could otherwise be used to provide community programming?		What if we could organize bike tours to bridge residents across communities?	What if we used vacant city-owned space to support social-based enterprises (cafe, etc.,)
Community kitchens work together to learn to cook; offered separate groups to be inclusive.	Theatre for all - What if we re-animated the Paramount on Jasper to offer "Arts" programming for kids to adults - where everyone was invited to observe and watch. Collaborate with Public Library across the street.		What if police officers spent more time involved in the community than just patrolling?	What if we had a cultural centre to celebrate different cultures and histories? -> use of the museum (old or new)

Skill/artisanship development -> ways for folks to also find purpose.

Mentorship programs paired up with EPS? or internship with EPL

What if we had police officers hours at the Italian Centre to answer safety and security questions?	What if there were opportunities for individuals and families to participate in 'culture camps' to learn more about their own and other cultures (like a 'community kookum')
What if we had neighbourhood watch	What if every new residential building had to have a mix of marketing and non-market housing space for social development?
What if spaces were designed to promote positive activities and discourage negative activities?	What if the city supported coordination of an inclusive process of engaging communities, agencies, and funders in making decisions for new housing and support services in each of the 5 neighbourhoods
Build an inner city rec centre	What if we had a welcome wagon initiative in each of the 5 neighbourhoods
What if we designed a street with reduced rents for small businesses?	What if EIC was a key intercultural meeting place for all residents in the 5 neighbourhoods
What if we piloted new locations for bike racks	
What if we made the volunteer contact list available for community leagues, so those in non market housing could help with community programs and events?	
What if there was an all year greenhouse, cafe, open market where people could go to get all the information they need and was inviting for everyone	
What if we built greenhouses in communities?	
What if we paired existing community gardens with food security sustainability/ regular markets or businesses	
What if there was a catalog of vacant open storefronts/spaces available for low rent use?	
What if we integrated public washrooms into urban design and placed them in spaces that are regularly activated	

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Open Collaboration		
WHAT IF we improved coordination between services?	WHAT IF we had a platform to share data, information and evidence?	WHAT IF every neighbourhood had an open list of community priorities?
What if we had one or more centres that colocated wellness services?	What if we agreed how many people were experiencing homelessness because we collaborated to create a single, shared approach to measurement?	What if we had a multi-lingual, open platform for citizens to submit and vote on ideas to improve wellness?
What if there were system navigators that could provide warm handovers between services?	What if there was a software portal that allowed health care and community organizations to exchange case management information?	What if there was a community census person who came around door to door to chat about wellness?
What if there were grants to foster collaboration between community-serving organizations?	What if we had a wellness "what works centre"?	What if there was a number or twitter channel people could text community wellness improvement ideas to?
What if we increased coordination of services between City of Edmonton departments	What if we all agreed to work together and share resources, information, and possibly professional staff	What if we built more capacity for ethnographic research in community serving organizations and government?
What if we approach services using the using help determinants lens?	What if we there was a community gathering spot and a professional there at a designated time that people could stop in and share?	What if the neighbourhood planning services were in the community?
What if we could use existing buildings to provide services?	What if we could change the culture around "storing information" amongst workers and clients to workers/clients/communities can access complete info	What if we had community wellness stations like old police startions - where you can drop into and access info?
What it agencies and services are all under one budget?	What if we acknowledged all of the collaboration taking place, create a list ?	What if each neighbourhood had it's own facebook page so that they could share ideas, survey a neighbourhood's needs, interests - versus community leagues. This info would be fed into municipality for a touchstone on what neighbourhoods are seeking.
What if we had experts who could help people define their wellness needs and prioritize them?	What if we advertised our services better? Services serving vulerable people and areas for better integraton	What if every year the city hosted a people's policy day where the community is invited to a policy 101 and then co-created new policies to address most pressing issues.
What if community leagues became hubs of connections, information, summer programs, service delivery e.g., immunizations, housing intake, etc.		

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Community Supports	
WHAT IF we provided more support to refugees and new immigrants?	WHAT IF the city provided more support for community grassroots initiatives to spread?
What if we had mobile health units that came to the inner city neighbourhoods with translators and translated materials?	What if we could create community hubs that also serve as back-offices for grassroots community initiatives and also serve as places to gather and to store supplies for programming
What if we made soft introductions to service providers in neighbourhood restaurants or cultural centres to make it less intimidating to visit?	What if there were workshops or services to help community organizations find funding and write business cases or proposals and plan for succession?
What if extended daycare services into the evening so that working mothers and fathers can get counselling?	What if there was a philanthropy matching service that connects wealthy Edmontonians to grassroots organizations?
What if we offered incentives or recognition to organizations that hire newcomers?	What if we provided incentives to organizations to open their spaces for community programming?
What if new immigrants conducted a newcomers audit of government services to inform service improvements ?	What if there was a city wide community volunteer base that is vetted and updated on a regular basis?
What if we had a citizen advice bureau one stop shop - info and referral like in New Zealand	What if the City provided micro-grants to neighbourhood wellness initiatives, where local residents and community agencies made the grant decisions?
What if those informal supports and business owners were incentivized or supported in the connections they offer newcomers they serve?	What if our communities are actually inclusive?
What if we have a better understanding of what the consensus data is telling us and how to activate change?	What if we had public round dances that included the homeless
What if we had pop up events to link newcomers in community, resources, jobs	What if we worked on building profiles of grassroots initiatives that are changing the face of our communities
Reimagine libraries as centres for training, arts and science	What if we could change the culture around "sharing information" amongst workers and clients - and that workers/clients/communities can access complete information
What if we could link seniors and youth in a neighbourhood in an intergenerational approach?	
What if we helped to combat isolation by bridging senior groups and daycares	

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Uncategorized

- What if we re-focused service delivery away from shame and religions?
- What if we expanded funding and access to existing programs like Ladyflower Garden?
- What if we increased resources and funding for the Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative, which is already doing this work with newcomers? Exapand model to other vulnerable populations.
- What if the Seniors Centre model was employed for other vulnerable populations?
- What if the city mandated more mixed use housing (affordable, supportive, market)
- What if the city created more community garden and community greenhouses and provided gardening classes?
- What if there was funding to redevelop agency buildings so they are designed to function the way they need to, e.g. had inner courtyards for smokers, attractive outdoor spaces. It's about dignity and safety and meeting needs.
- What if the City of Edmonton piloted income program in the inner city / core neighbourhoods?
- What if multi-level governmental funding afforded greater opportunities to partner + explore without threat of funding decreases?
- What if we could have more flexible funding models so programming could gt to more people (community)? Less restricted funding.
- What if we stopped dropping people off in downtown when they have no where to go?