

Neighbourhood Centres of Learning & Development (NCLD) Pilot Project

General Gordon Elementary School

Introduction

Last fall, the Premier announced the *Neighbourhood Centres of Learning Pilot Project (NCLD)*. The goal of the project is to bring together education and community services in a single neighbourhood hub. The Vancouver School Board and the Ministry of Education have engaged Brook + Associates as the prime consultant to move this project forward. The overall objectives of this process are to: define a facility operational program for each school; and to develop a set of policies and guidelines about how to integrate additional community services into school facilities.

General Gordon is one of three schools participating in the NCLD, along with Queen Mary and Lord Strathcona Elementary Schools. The main priority for General Gordon is the immediate need for seismic upgrading of the school. The seismic mitigation program will be implemented in conjunction with the development of the NCLD program for the school.

A Representative Team (RT) has been created at each of the pilot schools. The RT is comprised of the school principal, teachers, parents and community members with a direct connection to the school. Members of the RT participate in a working group for the NCLD planning process at the school and share information between their respective constituent groups and the working group.

Vision

NCLDs are intended to serve the needs and interests of parents and their children from the time of infancy through adolescence as well as the needs and interests of the community as a whole while meeting District and Ministry directions. These centres utilize space and resources in existing, renovated or new facilities to provide the surrounding neighbourhood an array of programs and services.

Guiding Principles

- Support the lifelong learning and development of young people, their families and community without compromising the educational programming, safety and functional space requirements for young people.
- Engage school and community partners and government in the development of the NCLD program.
- Provide for the direct involvement of agency partners in offering the programs, services and activities that serve the program of the NCLD.
- Strive for sustainability (economic, environmental, social) by efficiently using resources and taking advantage of opportunities to support the current and future well-being of young people, their families and the community over time.

An Overview of the Visioning Session

The visioning session for General Gordon Elementary, held on April 23, 2009, brought the school community together with local and provincial agencies in order to develop a vision for the General Gordon NCLD. This was also a chance for agencies and members of the school and community to learn about the NCLD process, overall vision and the specific objectives and values of General Gordon Elementary. Through this session, participants were given an opportunity to discuss potential synergies between the agencies and school to see how they might work together in a future NCLD at General Gordon.

The participants were divided into five smaller groups for the visioning exercise to record the ideas of each group on to "tablecloths" of paper. In addition to the core educational requirements and seismic upgrades of the school, the following table provides a list of the spaces and programs have been proposed as complementary uses for the future NCLD:

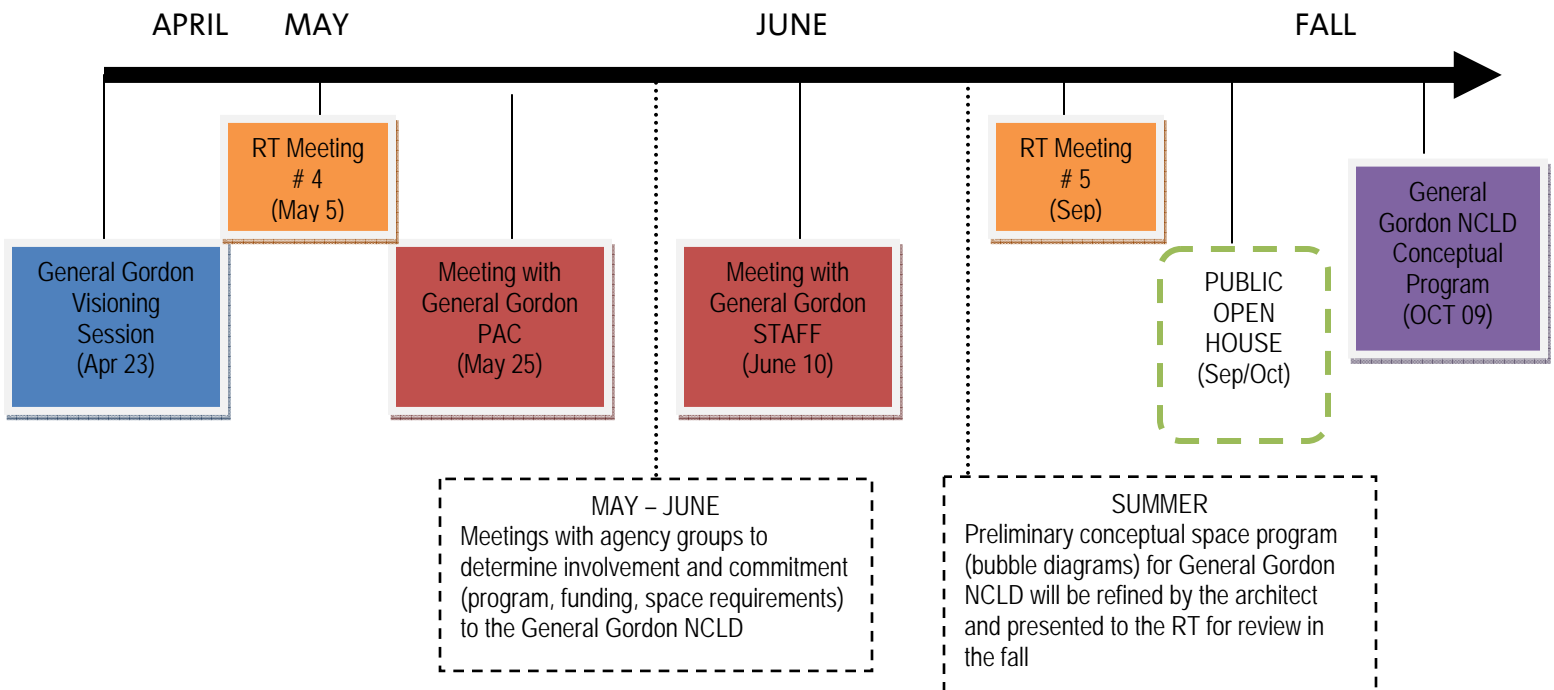
Complementary Uses for the General Gordon NCLD:

Space Needs		Program Needs
INDOOR	OUTDOOR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gym (larger) Stage / Performance Library Multi-purpose Computers / Media Lunchroom Arts Designated classrooms Special Needs (sensory, OT) Atrium / gathering social Un-programmed space Flexible space e.g. classroom, meeting space, office, breakout space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playgrounds Covered play areas Field (all-weather) Parking Community Garden / Outdoor classroom Green roof Outdoor open/green space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childcare Strong Start Early learning Before & After School Care Seniors Adult Sport & recreation Health Special Needs Literacy

***PLEASE NOTE:** A full-length report that summarizes the entire Visioning Session will be made available to staff, parents and community members before the end of the school year in June. Hard copies will be available at the school office and a digital copy will be available to download from the school's website.

Timeline + Next Steps (Spring – Fall 2009)

The timeline below represents the process for General Gordon, beginning with the Visioning Session in April. It includes major milestones and meetings that will be undertaken over the next months.



Your thoughts...?

What do you think about the process so far? We would like to hear your thoughts and ideas regarding the General Gordon NCLD. If you have any comments or questions at any time throughout this process, please do not hesitate to contact Brook + Associates by phone: (604) 731-9053 or email: bchisholm@brookdev.com or lschmidt@brookdev.com