

# Empowering Informed Consent

## Community Ethics & Cultural Production

Edition 1 — March 2019

Are you a part of a research, media or art project?

Here are some questions to help support you in the process!

This card is designed to:

- » Be a meaningful tool for communities and individuals in the respectful production of media, research, art and other cultural production;
- » Provide opportunities for conversations that build clarity;
- » Ensure community ethics are valued, supported, heard;
- » Help inform decisions about consenting or saying 'no' to participation;
- » Develop ongoing consent that is fully informed.

## Community Ethics

Defined here as a set of principles to guide behaviour:

- » Based in lived experience;
- » Acknowledging interconnectivity;
- » Fostering compassionate relationships of RESPECT, RECIPROCITY, RESPONSIBILITY and RETURN.

## Cultural Production

Defined here as any time a person or group comes into a community to make a product from its culture. This includes but is not limited to:

- » Visual art
- » Photography/documentary
- » Journalism/media
- » Research/student learning
- » Volunteerism

## Informed Consent

The following pages look at what this is, and share some questions for reaching it.

### 1. A reasonable understanding of purpose and expectations.

- Do you have a written description of project and participation?
- What is the timeline and scope?
- What is your ethics process?
- Have you worked with community before?
- What is your lived experience of this topic?

### 2. A reasonable understanding of risks:

- What trauma might be triggered?
- What stigma might be reinforced?
- What resources do you have to manage these risks?

### 3. An ongoing process, with the ability to withdraw at any time.

- How will you support the withdrawal of consent?
- What will happen to materials produced after withdrawal?
- Who is available and how do I contact them for support?

### 4. Affiliations are transparent.

- Who else are you working with?
- Who are your funders?
- Who are your partners?

### 5. Agreement is mutual.

- What are the levels of participation?
- Do all parties feel secure in the agreement?
- What format is the agreement ie. written, verbal, witnessed, anonymous, confidential?

### 6. Sharing and return is understood.

- How, when and where will this work be published?
- In what context will this work be framed?
- What opportunities for review exist before publishing?



## Reciprocity

The following pages take a look at what this is, and share some questions for building it together.

### 1. Time, skills and all types of knowing and being are valued.

- How will you listen and share?
- What meaningful exchange is created?
- Is an honourarium provided and in what format will it be given?

### 2. The product is shared with the individual and community.

- When and how will copies be shared with participants?
- Will the final product be accessible for participants?
- Will there be a community-engaged event hosted to share product?



### At the community event:

- How are the appropriate land/territory/ancestral acknowledgements made?
- How is the food shared accessible and appropriate?
- How is community engagement supported and lived experience valued?

### 3. What contribution does this project make to the community?

- How is this project mutually beneficial?
- How might this project dismantle or reinforce stigmatizations and/or stereotypes?
- How might this project create meaningful, relationship based, opportunities?



Visit us online to access this pamphlet and other resources including open-source templates and forms for intake and process of cultural production, and links to other community centred resources:

[www.hivesforhumanity.com/communityethics](http://www.hivesforhumanity.com/communityethics)



This card was created out of conversations held in and with the community of the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, which the Squamish call K'emk'emelá'y — the place where the maples grow.

Together we can make our communities spaces of growth for all: together, interconnected, one.

## Find more resources at:

**Carnegie Library**  
401 Main St.

**SFU's Vancity Office of Community Engagement**  
149 W. Hastings St.

**UBC Learning Exchange**  
612 Main St.

**Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users**  
380 E. Hastings St.

**Culture Saves Lives**  
46 E. Hastings St.

**Hives for Humanity**  
312 Main St.

**Megaphone's Speakers Bureau**  
312 Main St.

We are honoured to do this work on the unceded Indigenous territories of the ʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), sḵw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations.

Produced with support from:

