Downtown Winnipeg Safety Summit Recommendations



Introduction

Downtown Winnipeg partners have a clear vision for the safety of our downtown – a friendly, safe and a secure neighbourhood for everyone. And we are committed to this vision for the safety for all those who work, live, shop, learn and play in our downtown.

On May 7th, the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ, Exchange District BIZ and West End BIZ welcomed more than 150 community stakeholders to listen to thought leaders from across Canada and the United States for the Downtown Winnipeg Safety Summit at the RBC Convention Centre.

The Summit was designed to bring together a cross representation of public, not-for-profit, charitable, Indigenous and private sector individuals from key organizations and groups who share our vision, and who also gave of their ideas to achieve our collective vision. Together we discussed and shared best practices in creating a safer, more welcoming and more inclusive downtown through public and private sector collaboration and partnerships.

Speakers shared their experiences and insight into aspects of community safety such as policing and foot patrols, best practices in the use of CCTV and other technologies, public-private partnerships, social interventions and the latest strategies in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

We gratefully acknowledge sponsors including the RBC Convention Centre, City of Winnipeg, the Alt Hotel Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Sun.

The day's events have also built on the successes over the last several years. For example, a short time ago, there were no-dedicated community police foot patrols and there was not a Cadet Program. Today there are 16 Winnipeg Police foot patrols, and a Cadet program of up to 40 youth per intake. The Downtown Watch program has now grown to over 26 full-time staff and more than 200 volunteers and they work close with the Exchange Patrol and West End Patrol. These patrols, plus the Police and Cadet presence, have greatly improved the perceptions of our downtown and they are appreciated by the business community who can see the difference they are making first-hand.

Over the course of the same period, the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ has launched its' Community Homeless Assistance Team (CHAT), now with eight outreach workers with the goal to connect the most vulnerable, those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, to the social services they desperately need to improve their lives.

Our downtown has been growing too, and the density of more people living, working, and playing downtown is leading to more eyes and ears on the street, more vibrancy and more ownership of our neighbourhood.

The city, the province, and the business community along with Crown corporations, whose home is downtown, have risen to the occasion to support this vision of a safer city, because downtown belongs to everyone.

One of the things that we have learned is that downtown safety is much more than just policing and enforcement, and over the last decade the Winnipeg Police Service has communicated that they cannot do it alone. The complexity of safety requires partnerships, creativity co-ordination and integration of all community resources, in order to effectively respond to the increasing challenges of safety.

Excellent work is being done in our community by a variety of partners but there is still work to be done.

The Safety Summit and the recommendations coming forward will build on and support the outstanding work being done by community stakeholders who are dedicated to making our city and communities safer places to live.

Summary of the Summit: Presentations

The Summit kicked off with a presentation from **Chief Danny Smyth**, Chief of Police for the Winnipeg Police Service. Chief Smyth spoke about the trends, issues and opportunities relating to downtown safety in our community. Chief Smyth made reference to Centreline, the Winnipeg Police Service's downtown safety strategy first announced in 2016. Using Foot Patrol and Community Support Unit officers, Centreline will deploy staff in a dedicated area of downtown based on statistical information. Data collected through surveys and calls for service will be analysed and monitored. Community engagement, public education and community engagement are principles of the program.

Following Chief Smyth's presentation our keynote speaker, **Mr. Steve Cramer**, spoke on creating a "Vibrant and Safe Downtown" in his hometown of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. Cramer, who leads the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District (DID), began his presentation with a little context. For example, in 2017:

- The Population of downtown Minneapolis grew to **43,456;**
- Since 2006, **downtown has gained 11,552 residents**, representing a **36.2% increase**;
- Downtown **absorbed 459,188 square feet** of Class A office space;
- Downtown's Central Business District provides **36.67% of all Twin Cities office space**;
- Downtown Minneapolis hosted **624 conventions** and **575,000 convention attendees;**
- Metro Transit **ridership topped 81.9 million** on buses and trains; and
- The Hennepin Theatre Trust's **Orpheum Theatre ranked 8th worldwide** in tickets sold according to Pollstar**.**

As well, Mr. Cramer noted that the top five employers in downtown Minneapolis provide over 33,000 jobs primarily in the financial service and public service sectors.

The DID was originally established in 2005 to address safety concerns and the need for improved public and private collaboration efforts. The organization transitioned over time to the DID which offers a broader range of services.

The focus of the Minneapolis DID in 2017 was **Cleaner, Safer and Greener**. Across the 120 blocks of downtown the DID serves, their Ambassadors average about 80,000 pounds of trash removal and provide about 6,500 pedestrian assists every month. Since the inception of the DID Ambassadors have removed over 40,000 graffiti tags and have planted over 126,000 flowers and trees.

The top three safety concerns in 2018 were violent crime, panhandling/loitering with intimidation, and chronic or repeat offenders. Incidents are tracked and monitored by both the

Police and DID in real time. As well DID releases an annual perception survey and monitors a communications hotline to keep on top of safety issues.

In terms of safety initiatives, the DID operates a Safety Communications Centre located within the police station itself. Staff monitor cameras and connect over 60 building security and command centres on a common radio talk group. A Safety Collaborative Group, representing leadership from Police, businesses, residents, elected officials, public servants and non-profits, meets every other month to discuss safety concerns and strategies for improvement.

The DID has developed tools including a **geographic restriction order** that allows prosecutors to restrict chronic offenders from downtown geographic areas. As well there are new policies and ordinances that define and restrict uses and activities along Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis' twelve-block pedestrian and transit mall. New enforcement techniques include a dedicated beat and bike patrol program for the Nicollet Mall, transit police for evening LRT commuters, and gun buy-back programs.

Following the keynote presentation, **Daria Zmiyiwsky** of the Winnipeg Sun moderated a panel discussion comprised of **James Favel**, co-founder of the **Bear Clan Patrol Inc.**, **Adam Melnyk,** Outreach Manager with Calgary's **Alpha House**, and **Kyle Morphy** and **Dora Batista**, architects with **Stantec Architecture**.

James began the discussion by presenting a brief overview of the Bear Clan Patrol Inc. and his role with the organization. The Bear Clan Patrol was originally founded in 1992 "as a result of the ongoing need to assume our traditional responsibility to provide security to our Aboriginal community." After a hiatus they resumed activity in 2015 and with trained volunteers patrol the streets at night, deliver food and personal items to those in need, help get those under the influence to a safe place and, in partnership with the Winnipeg Police Service, search for missing people.

Adam spoke about his role co-ordinating Alpha House's Downtown Outreach Addictions Partnership (DOAP) Team. Alpha House, which began in Calgary in 1981, is a non-profit, charitable agency that "provides safe and caring environments for individuals whose lives are affected by alcohol and other drug dependencies." Alpha House helps to connect people with shelter, detox, housing, and outreach services combined with case management support. The DOAP program was established in 2015 as a result of an increased demand for emergency services, and open and visible drug use in the community. The DOAP Team provides an alternate and more appropriate social response to substance use issues with the goal of reducing pressure on Calgary Police Service, Emergency Medical Services, Calgary Transit and local hospitals. The program operates 24/7 and serves rough sleepers in particular throughout the entire city. In 2017-18 the DOAP Team provided 20,166 transports for 3996 unique

individuals. In 2015 the Social Return on Investment (a method for measuring environmental and social value not currently reflected in conventional financial accounts) was calculated to be $9.43:$1. They do this by triaging calls, diverting calls from emergency services, normalizing addictions, building a rapport and engaging with clients, and building relationships with emergency services staff.

Kyle and Dora jointly presented "**Human-Centred Cities**" and how safety and urban liveability are complementary conditions. The presentation noted that Human-Centred Cities have five key elements: **density, diversity, wayfinding, scale and speed,** and **visibility**. Referencing planners and urban designers Janette Sadik-Khan, Brent Toderian, and Jan Gehl, Kyle and Dora used visual imagery to present examples of how good urban design can contribute to a healthy and vibrant urban environment, encouraging pedestrian activity and ultimately resulting in a safer environment.

Our second keynote presentation, "**Calgary Beat Teams"** featured **Superintendent Ryan Ayliffe** of the Calgary Police Service. Supt. Ayliffe's presentation focused on the evolution of the foot patrol program, successes and failures, and lessons learned. The Downtown Foot Patrols, now known as Beat Teams, were launched on May 27, 2009 as part of a three-year strategy to tackle crime in the Calgary core. The Beat Teams consisted of 62 Constables and four Sergeants and were tasked with providing foot patrols in specified areas. In addition to addressing criminal behaviour, Beat Teams liaised with business owners, business improvement zones and community associations as well as provided support to events within the core (parades, protests etc.) Today, the program is looking at adopting new technologies including a Mobile Responder app which would allow Beat Patrols to file reports and infoposts remotely from their smartphones.

Summary of the Summit: Workshops

Following presentations from our speakers, participants broke into working groups to discuss the issues in greater detail. The **first workshop** addressed the following questions:

1. What are the broader safety concerns in downtown Winnipeg; and
2. What areas or streets are a concern for safety? What are the concerns in these areas?

Generally speaking, participants are most concerned about threats to their personal safety resulting from an interaction with someone under the influence of drugs or alcohol. This interaction may be a result of aggressive panhandling, but not necessarily. A secondary concern, and one which was expressed particularly by business or property owners, relates to concern over property crimes such as theft or vandalism.

Participants noted that there are times when they feel particularly susceptible to threats to their personal security. For example, people feel vulnerable when they are alone, or when the physical environment is perceived to be unsafe due to poor lighting, graffiti, lack of maintenance, poor sightlines etc. As well people feel vulnerable when they encounter someone who is under the influence of alcohol or increasingly drugs, due to the unpredictable nature of their behaviour.

Through a series of focus groups and mapping exercises participants identified a number of locations where they felt unsafe for reasons generally related to aggressive panhandling, loitering, public intoxication and other issues of social disorder. These locations include:

- Areas near Portage Place, including the bus shelters on Portage Avenue and on Vaughan Street, around the Promenade, and extending to Air Canada Park;
- Portions of the Riverwalk, due to the lack of multiple entry/exit points;
- Stairwells and street access points to the concourse at Portage and Main;
- Areas adjacent to Thunderbird House;
- The Ellice / Donald and Central Park areas;
- The Graham Avenue transit mall; and
- The University of Winnipeg (and the Rice Building/rapid transit station in particular).

As well, participants identified a number of conditions that contributed to their feeling unsafe. These conditions include back lanes with poor lighting and little pedestrian activity, stairwells and parkades with generally poor sightlines, stairwells connecting the skywalk to the street, and other areas of little activity that are underutilized. Concerns over safety and security increased dramatically in the evening, when overall pedestrian activity decreases. However pedestrian activity in and of itself does not provide the solution, as many of the of the locations noted above are not isolated and offer a relatively high degree of pedestrian and commercial activity.

The **second workshop** was focused on solutions. Participants were asked what could be done to improve safety in downtown Winnipeg, with discussion focused on five key opportunities:

1. Policing and foot patrols
2. CCTV and the use of new technologies
3. Public/Private partnerships
4. Social interventions
5. Lighting and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design initiatives.

Participants and the general public place value on **policing and foot patrol** initiatives. They are highly visible to the public which increases feelings of security, and because they are

mobile they are flexible and able to be dispatched to areas of need.
Participants appreciate that those causing the most anxiety – people under the influence of alcohol or drugs – require assistance and support to deal with substance abuse issues. They do not necessarily require police intervention if dealt with proactively. That is perhaps the greatest opportunity presented by foot patrols – the ability to be proactive and prevent criminal activity rather than respond to it.

Participants requested greater support for foot patrols (without making a distinction between Ambassadors, Cadets, or other). Increased **foot patrols** and **Safe Walks** would be desirable in the evenings and other times when general pedestrian activity is decreasing. More visible and mobile solutions, such as **cycling patrols** would also be welcome.

It was also suggested that aggressive panhandling is taking place at a variety of locations throughout the Downtown, Exchange District and West End neighbourhoods and that existing laws regarding this activity need to be enforced.

The **use of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV)** and other communications or surveillance technologies have the potential to offer additional eyes and ears on the street. Although they are often seen to be reactive and used most effectively after a crime has occurred, they have the ability to act as a deterrent if used strategically. It is important however to ensure that this technology respects personal privacy and is not used in a manner that makes an area feel less safe than it had before. Further study is necessary to see how other communities have used new technologies most effectively and appropriately.

Participants noted that communication and surveillance technology is often implemented in a piecemeal fashion by various businesses or organizations with little coordination. Organizations such as Business Improvement Zones could take the lead on such an initiative, working to ensure that information is used effectively and appropriately, and working across boundaries.

Participants recognize that **public/private partnerships** are key to addressing safety issues in our community. The business community recognizes that it prospers when our community prospers, and that a safe environment is good for business.

It was suggested that the business community must be proactive in raising awareness of mental health and substance abuse issues. Downtown employers need to ensure that their staff have the knowledge and access to resources to ensure that they and their families recognize and address potential issues not only within their families but in the greater community.

Discussion regarding opportunities for **social intervention** in our neighbourhoods generated a very positive discussion. Participants recognize that unsafe behaviour in our community is typically associated with ongoing mental health issues, substance abuse and addiction issues, and poverty. There are both proactive and reactive ways to address these issues. The most economical strategy is to address mental health and public health issues proactively by providing appropriate social services before law enforcement needs to be involved. Participants noted that supports need to be in place for those with nowhere to go, whether that be resource centres open 24/7, or public washrooms provided in strategic locations.

Finally, it was recognized that our community can become more safe through **enhanced lighting and CPTED initiatives**. There are two ways in which these initiatives can be used to improve safety in our neighbourhood. First of all, enhanced lighting and design based on CPTED principles can improve sightlines, improve visibility, and enhance legibility in our built environment. But these initiatives must also result in a more pleasant environment, that encourages pedestrian activity and ensures that there are more feet on the street for longer periods of time and at different times of the day. Enhanced lighting for example doesn't necessarily mean more lighting and stronger lighting – it means more strategic lighting (such as providing ambient light on buildings) or artistic lighting found in locations in West Broadway for example. A good lighting initiative will achieve two goals – it will improve visibility, as well as create a more active and desirable pedestrian environment.

There are many locations where lighting can be improved. In particular, participants noted that alleys adjacent to major thoroughfares are poorly lit, poorly maintained and aesthetically unpleasant with little to no positive activity. Many opportunities exist to enhance safety in these areas.

Recommendations

The following is a list of recommendations, immediate and long term, based on general observations and trending dialogue arising from the workshops to improve safety in downtown Winnipeg.

1. Policing and foot patrols
2. CCTV and the use of new technologies
3. Public/private partnerships
4. Social interventions
5. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design initiatives

During the discussion two additional themes emerged:

6. Community Engagement and Accountability
7. Public Education Campaign on Safety

1. Policing and foot patrols

Improve Collaboration between the BIZ / Community Foot Patrols and the Winnipeg Police Service. The Business Improvement Zone's community-based foot patrols are seen as the most effective manner in which to collaborate with the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS), adding more eyes and ears on the street that deter crime and improve the perception of safety.

- Enhanced intercommunications – e.g. shared radios and communications.
- Integrated safety strategies and enhanced collaboration with BIZ Patrols:
  - Active partners in deployment strategies.
  - Enhanced training of patrols by WPS in crime prevention, environmental issues, neighborhood watch strategies, being effective witnesses, and problem solving will assist in reducing crime, and more.

Enhance Collaboration with the Indigenous Policing Approach. Helping the Indigenous community police itself is seen locally and abroad as a best practice. This approach needs to be nurtured more in downtown Winnipeg with both the Business Improvement Zones and other stakeholders forging a stronger working relationship with organizations like the Bear Clan Patrol and others. Developing capacity through collaboration is a long-term strategy that Summit participants see as positive.

Enhance engagement and dialogue between WPS Foot Patrols and the community. Effective community policing that provides a timely and valued response is an integrated and balanced solution that will improve downtown safety. Downtown stakeholders welcome an increased police presence in our downtown in order to decrease social disorder, petty crime and vandalism.

- WPS should adopt the best practices of Community Policing that includes the development a strategic action plan with measurable results, effective training, regular evaluations and community reporting.
- Enhance the community engagement and consultation process.
    - Meet and greet business owners, engaging more regularly and leading to improved response to local issues.
    - Troubleshoot issues more quickly.
    - Update crimes statistics to include social disorder metrics.
    - Determine beat locations based on above.
    - Walk with BIZ Patrols.

Increase the number of WPS Foot Patrols in the downtown area. More patrols are needed to more adequately reflect the service needs of a neighborhood, which grows from 15,000 residents to 150,000 visitors/employees a day, plus the tens of thousands of event and festival goers on any given day. It is critical that they are visible and mobile, and ensure that they have the tools and training necessary to do their job ongoing and long term.

2. **CCTV and the use of new technologies**

Support investment in CCTV at key locations along the downtown road network through Private / Public Partnerships in order to boost crime prevention and criminal apprehension.

Specific initiatives include:

- Make the presence of cameras more visible to the public.
- Increase public awareness on the importance and need for CCTV.
- Move WPS cameras around to address locations of increased undesirable activity.
- Enhance the Downtown Security Network (DSN) camera-sharing partnership which enables WPS to have access to the existing surveillance assets owned by private businesses in the area (typically public-facing cameras on rooftops or entry and exit points). This serves as a tremendous force multiplier for public safety agencies, especially those who already have robust public networks.

- Provide a report to the community on the effectiveness of cameras in a regular community report, perhaps as part of an annual or semi-annual Downtown Safety Summit.

3. Public/Private Partnerships

WPS should assess the adoption of TrackTik technology for downtown Winnipeg security providers. Business Improvement Zones are well positioned to collaborate on this discussion due to their relationship with business owners in the downtown and through the 200+ security providers that are a part of the existing Downtown Security Network (DSN). WPS leadership and new technologies can take public/private security partnerships to the next level, ensuring public safety is a shared responsibility.

TrackTik is a technology which can harness security data of all downtown security providers to offer more effective inter-communications, deployment of all resources in a coordinated manner, quicker trending of issues, leading to collective reliability, operational transparency, and accountability to each other as partners.

4. Social Intervention

Support existing thrusts of community stakeholders. There was a general feeling that our City should respond to social issues with community based social intervention initiatives, rather than through an enforcement lens. But it was also recognized that policing still has a role to play to help manage the social disorder at times. It was felt that this is also a Provincial role in which the City could play a role in keeping the challenges front and centre, as a priority.

Throughout the Summit there was mention of the evolution of practices and approaches to better dealing with harms related to substance abuse by various social agencies which should be supported including:

i. Fire Paramedic Voluntary Transport Program
ii. Main Street Project and its' expansion plans: Managed Alcohol Program, Safe Injection sites, etc.
iii. Health and Safety Alliance's plan to align community and public resources while evolving current systems
iv. End Homelessness Winnipeg's plan to end homelessness
v. Province of Manitoba and the increase in addiction treatment facilities
vi. The work of the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ's Community Homeless Assistance Team (CHAT) program along with other agencies working on the streets of our

downtown to help people off the street (Urban Eagle, Ma Mawi, Main Street Project, RAY, and many others).

5. **Crime Prevention through Environmental Design and Creating Safer Spaces**

Create a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) safe downtown design fund. A matching funding program with the private sector could be used to improved lighting, alter structures, better define the public and private realm, increase lighting, improve sightlines, and other design approaches that enhance safety.

Incorporating CPTED principles is seen as an effective strategy to prevent crime by reducing physical factors in our built environment which encourage crime. CPTED initiatives are seen to deter crime and lead to a reduction in fear. Through targeting strategic areas in our built environment, including areas such as public spaces, back lanes, bus stops, building entrances and more will become safer.

6. **Community Engagement and Accountability**

Hold a Downtown Safety Summit every two years. Forum participants felt that the Downtown Safety Summit was a great vehicle to listen, learn and provide ongoing feedback on downtown safety issues and solutions. The goal of future summits could be to:

- Visit the action plan coming from this inaugural summit
- Assess current issues and solutions, and
- Provide a report card to the community on downtown safety.

7. **Public Education Campaign on Safety**

Launch a public education campaign aimed at visitors to downtown, as well as downtown veterans. Everybody needs to know what the issues are, how to respond, and how to access resources.

Downtown safety is a complex issue. It cannot be solved in a day. However, our Summit initiated the dialogue and identified a number of issues that can be addressed in short order that will provide meaningful improvement. As the liaison between the public and private sector, Business Improvement Zones are well-positioned to lead this discussion.

Summit Speakers



Steve Cramer, President and CEO of the Minneapolis downtown council and downtown improvement district. Steve was a Minneapolis City Council member from 1984 to 1993. Later, Steve worked for the nonprofit organization Project for Pride in Living from 1994 through 1999, serving as the director of housing and development, chief operating officer and finally president and executive director. He then served as director of the Minneapolis Community Development Agency from 1999 to February 2002 and as director of the Hennepin County Department of Housing, Community Works & Transit from February 2002 to August 2003, when he rejoined Project for Pride in Living as their president and executive director until joining the Downtown Council in December 2013. A long-time Minnesota Twins fan, Steve also served as Chair of the Minnesota Ballpark Authority from 2006 – 2014.

Steve has a Bachelor of Science in Urban Planning from the University of Tulsa and a Master of Arts in Public Affairs from the Humphrey Institute of the University of Minnesota.



Superintendent Ryan Ayliffe is an 18 year member of the Calgary Police Service. He is currently the head of the Real Time Operations Division with previous postings including patrol, undercover, major crimes and Duty Officer. Prior to his current posting he was the Inspector in charge of District 1 which included supervising Patrol, Beat, Mountain Bike and Marine Unit officers.



Chief Danny Smyth has been a member of the Winnipeg Police Service for 30 years. He is a second generation police officer; following his father Stan into policing in 1986.

In 2005 he was promoted to the senior rank of Inspector. In 2012 he was promoted to Superintendent. During that period he played key roles in the establishment of a full time Tactical Support Team, the Street Crime Unit, and the Counter-Exploitation Unit.

In 2015 he was appointed to Deputy Chief where he was assigned to oversee the Criminal Investigations Bureau which includes Homicide, Major Crimes, Organized Crime, and Professional Standards.

Chief Smyth is known as someone who enjoys the challenge of new opportunities and embraces change wholeheartedly. He achieved a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1983, and then in 2006 received a Masters Degree in Organizational Management.

He was formally appointed Chief of Police on November 4th, 2016.



James Favel is the Executive Director and co-founder of Winnipeg's Bear Clan Patrol Inc. James became involved with the Bear Clan Patrol in 2015. In January 2018, James was recognized with a Governor General's Award for Indigenous leadership, receiving a Meritorious Service Medal. The award "honours some of the provinces most dedicated Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders who are working to strengthen urban and rural Indigenous communities and create an environment in which reconciliation is possible."

The Bear Clan Patrol was first formed in Winnipeg's North End in 1992. In July of 2015 the group reformed at a meeting in James' back yard, and they returned to patrol the streets again in order to provide the community with personal security in a non-threatening, non-violent and supportive way. Today the Patrol has about 400 volunteers. A trucker by trade, he now provides full time support to the Bear Clan Patrol.

> *"Reaching 210,000 people means we were reaching across those cultural divides. And talking about reconciliation? That's what that looks like to me." (CBC News, December 28, 2016)*



Adam Melnyk has 15 years' experience working in the addictions and homelessness fields. He is the Outreach Manager at Calgary Alpha House Society. He is passionate about helping those in need and is dedicated to the goal of ending homelessness. While working with Alpha House he has helped develop the DOAP (Downtown Outreach Addictions Partnership) Team, Encampment Team and Connect 2 Care Team, which are all well respected in this sector. Adam is a dedicated staff member that is well known in the community and was selected as a Top 40 under 40 for 2016 in Calgary.

In addition to his work at Alpha House, Adam has worked as an outreach worker with Alberta Health Services for the last seven years. He is the chair of the Calgary Case Management Group and is an instructor with the University of Calgary working with vulnerable population's

certificate. Adam has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from the University of Calgary.



Dora Batista and **Kyle Morphy** practise architecture at Stantec Architecture. Dora is a designer focused on the experience of architecture through built projects, installations, and public awareness. Design has the potential to shape culture and enhance our daily lives. This is why Dora's interest lies at the intersection of architecture, art, and experience to create new realms of possibility and opportunity.

As an architectural designer at Stantec, Dora focuses on creating unique opportunities within typical project constraints including budget, schedule, context, and program. Dora seeks to uncover unique client and context-oriented responses by challenging architectural and contextual preconceptions.



Derived from his passion for sport and design and influenced by his international portfolio of projects including work in Australia, New Zealand, India, Korea, Singapore, China and the United States, Kyle is part the Winnipeg based Sports and Entertainment Studio for Stantec Architecture. His experience includes collaborations for international competition design, master planning, landscape design, building conceptualization and visioning and brand activation. His project work has included a variety of building types from large scale stadium and arena venues, convention centre projects, entertainment district design, aquatics and multi-use sports centres, urban planning and public space development. Kyle's international project list includes the design of the main stadium for the 2014 Asian Games in Korea, the Olympic Park Tennis Centre in Melbourne Australia, the Steinbach Event Centre planning in Manitoba and the vision for the Chapples Park Soccer Centre in Thunder Bay Ontario among others.

Kyle has been a resident of downtown Winnipeg in the east exchange district for several years, a rabid Winnipeg sports fan, a supporter of the many arts, culture and festivals that Winnipeg has to offer and loves coffee from the many coffee shops that have popped up in recent years in our city. Their presentation is entitled Human-Centred Cities.

Media Report

Winnipeg Free Press

Summit focuses on ways to improve downtown safety

Hours before a street party was expected to draw tens of thousands of hopeful Jets fans downtown Monday, business and social enterprise folks congregated at the RBC Convention Centre to brainstorm ways to make the city's core safer.

The Downtown Winnipeg Safety Summit, organized by members of the Downtown, Exchange District and West End BIZ groups and sponsored by the City of Winnipeg, Alt Hotels and the Winnipeg Sun, drew speakers from as far as Calgary and Minneapolis.

Their aim? To come up with stellar ideas the city and its police service can adopt to improve actual and perceived downtown safety, using $3.5 million set aside for that sole purpose in the last municipal budget.

Adam Melnyk, who helps organize Calgary's Downtown Outreach Addictions Partnership team, spoke on a morning panel alongside James Favel of Winnipeg's Bear Clan Patrol and Kyle Morphy and Dora Batista of Stantec Consulting. Melnyk outlined how Calgary's outreach team has helped ease the burden of work for local police.

"The DOAP team started around, we saw public intoxication as a social issue rather than a criminal issue. It made sense to get those individuals connected to a social agency sooner than later," he said. "And logically it makes even more sense that you provide the option of, 'Do you want to go in a minivan with two smiling people? Or would you like to go in a police cruiser?' They're going to pick the minivan 95 per cent of the time."

The issue of downtown safety comprises a wider array of facets than it did 10 or 20 years ago, including addictions treatment, rather than just police work, said Shawn Matthews, the Downtown BIZ's director of safety and outreach. The variety of topics discussed Monday included use of foot patrols, CCTV, public-private partnerships and the importance of safe environmental design, including adequate lighting for city streets and back lanes.

The BIZ is hoping some of the $3.5 million from the city's coffers can go toward developing a texting service or app that promotes its Safewalk program, in which escorts accompany people around downtown at their request. The phone number for the service is 204-958-SAFE (7233).

Matthews said the BIZ hears people are feeling more confident and safe in Winnipeg's downtown during the day, but many still hesitate to visit the area at night.

"The Whiteout experience I think is giving people a different perspective of downtown — people that haven't come downtown in the day or evening, now they are coming," he said, referring to the massive Winnipeg Jets' street parties during playoff home games.

"They're seeing a different downtown than maybe they saw five, 10, 15 years ago. So changing that perception and promoting our downtown and having bigger events and even a summit like this… people are really starting to get past the old problems and now working together about solutions and building that exciting and vibrant downtown, day and evening, that the city really deserves."

After brainstorming sessions Monday, the BIZ groups plan to compile ideas and prepare a report for the city on measures to improve downtown safety.

jessica.botelho@freepress.mb.ca

Twitter: @_jessbu

Winnipeg Sun

Summit to tackle downtown safety

The Downtown Winnipeg BIZ is partnering up with Exchange District BIZ and West End BIZ for the first Downtown Winnipeg Safety Summit on Monday at RBC Convention Centre.

"We decided to have a conversation with our business owners and property owners and our stake holders on what else do we need to do as a community to take safety to the next level," said Downtown Winnipeg BIZ CEO Stefano Grande.

Bringing together speakers from across Canada and the United States to talk about "best practices" for downtown safety, the summit is being sponsored by RBC Convention Centre, *Winnipeg Sun,* Alt Hotels and the City of Winnipeg.

City of Winnipeg announced in November a $3.5 million safety fund to enhance downtown security. A report will be made to the City following the Safety Summit.

"What we wanted to do was go back to the community and get some suggestions and then inform the City in terms of their process and give them some recommendations," said Grande.

"It's really tapping into the energy and creativity of the community and giving them some ideas in terms of what other cities are doing and then having them help us go through a prioritization process and perhaps coming up with five or 10 or 15 ideas that we could inform the city on how best to spend that $3.5 million."

Topics will include: policing and community foot patrols; CCTV cameras and technology; community communication strategies; social intervention and managing the social challenges; crime prevention through environment design, such as improved lighting. Grande said Downtown Winnipeg BIZ is set to announce a back lane lighting project to help improve downtown safety.

There are some programs in Winnipeg that Grande believes are already making a difference such as the Bear Clan Patrol and the Community Homeless Assistance Team (CHAT) which provides outreach to individuals at-risk of or experiencing homelessness in downtown Winnipeg.

Grande said that four to five years ago there were no street patrols downtown and now there are 18 as well as cadets patrolling the area. But still much needs to be done to convince residents of their safety downtown especially at night.

"We know based on surveys we've done over the last few years that people's perceptions of safety during the day have definitely improved," Grande said.

"But we definitely have not moved the needle in the evening. The evening still continues to be the greatest safety perception challenges in our downtown. This dialogue is something that we have to have on a regular basis."

gdawkins@postmedia.com

Twitter: @SunGlenDawkins

CBC

Smartphones can combat core crime, Winnipeg police chief tells downtown safety summit

Winnipeg's police chief says smartphones are one of the tools he wants to use to improve safety in the city's downtown core.

Speaking at the first Downtown Winnipeg Safety Summit, Chief Danny Smyth said he wants to use the devices to push information to police and other security services around the

downtown. Smyth said the University of Winnipeg uses a similar security system, and he said Downtown Winnipeg BIZ hopes to launch a pilot project in the coming months.

"It's a way to collect and consolidate all that information and respond to things in real time in a way that could show people that perhaps their perception of downtown isn't really living up to what really is happening," he said.

- **Osborne Village Biz funds foot patrol to restore sense of neighbourhood safety**
- **Bear Clan, BIZ groups and Take Pride get cash for foot patrols, graffiti cleanup**

In his address Monday morning at the RBC Convention Centre, Smyth pitched several strategies to improve downtown safety, including better collaboration between police and downtown security systems, smarter deployment of resources and updated technology.

Smyth said the network of security cameras installed downtown more than a decade ago needs to be upgraded, He also said the deployment of those cameras should be reviewed, because downtown has changed significantly since they were installed.

The chief also identified several challenges police face downtown. He singled out Portage Place Shopping Centre, and in particular the bus shack on Portage Avenue and the promenade behind the mall, as major trouble spots.

Smyth said other trouble areas include the bus shack on Vaughan Street and the Millennium Library and surrounding area.

CTV

Video Link

Summit held to improve safety in downtown core

A summit was held to discuss how to improve safety in downtown Winnipeg, and policing and opioid deaths were top of mind.

The City of Winnipeg set aside $3.5 million through a hotel tax to create a safer downtown. On Monday businesses, police and not-for-profits met to discuss what an effective strategy might look like.

"Our summit today is to help inform the mayor what it is the business community can do based on some of the best practices," said Stefano Grande, CEO of Downtown Winnipeg Biz.

Ryan Ayliffe, a superintendent with the Calgary Police Service, pointed out that the two cities face similar difficulties.

"I saw this morning the chief said you have 40 related opioid deaths. In Calgary, we had over 270 last year. We had 36 in January this year," he said.

Although Winnipeg Police already patrol downtown, area Biz programs are already adding more patrols thanks to extra funding.

Paul Pantel, who has a hot dog stand at Portage and Carlton, says police are the most effective resource in protecting his business.

"I want to see more patrol, so I don't have to say 'Listen, you can't drink here.'"

Winnipeg Police statistics show between 2015 and 2016 the rate of violent and property crimes increased along Portage Avenue downtown. In the three years before that, there was a drop in violent crimes, but a hike in property crimes in 2014 to 2015.

Grande said that he's heard from local architects about place-making, lighting and activating downtown.