Identifying a Project Idea

To identify a project idea, you must translate your passions, strengths, and desire for an equitable future into a tangible strategy for creating change. A successful project will embed community expertise and be in partnership with an organization working towards the same goals. Identifying a project idea can be broken into two steps shared below.

Step # 1- Problem Statement

A problem statement is a statement about how conditions need to be improved, or about how an issue needs to be eliminated. It is one to two sentences to explain the problem that you hope to address with your project. Drafting a problem statement is a critical and challenging aspect of identifying a project. Your problem statement sets the foundation for your project, and allows you to conduct your project with confidence.

1. Identify the topic or issue area that you'd like your project to focus on (ie. climate change, poverty, etc.)
2. Conduct some research about the issue or topic that you're focusing on. Learn about how organizations and groups are working on this topic or issue area in Vancouver. Do you notice any gaps in their current program offerings?
   a. This can also help you find a community partner for your project. See the Community Partnership Document to guide you through building a partnership
3. Through your experiences or research, you will have some observations about the problem and any gaps that exist. This observation can be written as a problem statement. For example, "Climate Action initiatives in Vancouver fail to archive their methodologies and programming to support future initiatives. Many organizations recreate initiatives from scratch instead of building on past failures and successes."

Tips:

- Apply the 5 'W's (who, what, where, when, why) to the problem statement
- The problem statement can continue to be refined as you investigate
- Share your statement with a friend, peer, or family member. Do they think the problem is clear?

Step # 2- Brainstorming Solutions and Identifying your Project

Now that the problem statement is drafted, it's time to brainstorm! Feel free to use solutions generated by groups in other parts of the world, or generate new ideas. Be inclusive of everyone's ideas that align with the problem statement. Use the tool below to list all of your ideas in the first column and check off which solutions match the criteria listed.

Solution	Improves people's lives	Specific and Measurable	Achievable (within grant timeline)	Builds or supports the work of a community organization	Innovative	Exciting

Congratulations! You've identified your project idea. You can now begin building out your project plan and ready your application for submission!