

# NEWSBYTES WINTER 2017

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# SCARP

School of Community  
And Regional Planning

Photo by: Amitai Zand

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# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By: Penny Gurstein



The SCARP community is very busy this term. On February 2 and 3, the Canadian Professional Standards Board (PSB) Site Visit Team visited SCARP to review our Master of Community and Regional Planning program for accreditation. On March 5 to 8, the American Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) site team will visit, and on March 16 and 17, an external review will be conducted of our whole school. Thank you to all faculty, students, alumni, advisory council, and employers who have given their time to be involved in these crucial reviews.

It is the second year of the new Master of Community and Regional Planning (MCRP). I look forward to our intake of new students in September. All of the students in the second year of the MCRP program are taking a studio course, which spans two terms, and the students (working in groups of three) are doing nine projects identified by our community partners from the City of Vancouver, City of New Westminster, Hazelton, and the UBC Campus and Community and Planning. Final presentations will be on March 31 in New Westminster and all are welcome to attend. Another new program, the Master of Engineering Leadership (MEL) in Urban Systems, which we are cohosting with Civil Engineering, welcomed their second cohort of students in January 2017.

On March 3, our annual student-organized symposium will occur in the new Student Union Building, AMS Nest. The theme this year is “Audacity.” I am sure it will be as outstanding as it has been in previous years and I encourage you to attend.

We will be hosting a reception for alumni in June. Stay tuned for details. In September, we will welcome our first cohort of students in our redesigned research degrees, the MA and MSc in Planning. We are also going through the approval process for three undergraduate courses – two at the 200 level and one at the 300 level. These courses will focus on city-making, city visuals and the just city. We hope to be offering these courses starting September 2017. Finally, the Faculty of Applied Science Dean’s Office is forming a search committee for a new Director for SCARP as my second term will end on June 30, 2018.

As we consolidate our programs and contemplate new ones we very much seek input from the entire SCARP community. With all its initiatives SCARP is becoming a stronger school that is addressing the needs of its current and future students.

# LUNCHTIME DIALOGUE SERIES

By: Katelyn Stewart and Brittany Morris

*Katelyn Stewart is a graduate student at the School of Community and Regional Planning, studying in the Indigenous Community Planning stream. She is particularly interested in facilitation and community engagement, and long-range community planning. Outside of SCARP, Katelyn is an Events Coordinator at the First Nations House of Learning. Before coming to Vancouver, Katelyn worked in Gatineau at Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada as a Policy Analyst. She studied at the University of Ottawa graduating in 2014 with a Baccalaureate in International Development and Globalization, and a minor in history. Katelyn is a wannabe runner and ran her first and only marathon in 2015 in Ottawa. Katelyn also enjoys cycling on snow-free days, petting other people's dogs, and pretending to be an outdoor enthusiast.*

*Brittany Morris is a graduate student at the School of Community and Regional Planning. Her interests include how design and engagement can foster an inclusive approach to planning. She has worked in public engagement, sustainable development, and citizen-led community projects in Canada, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. Some of her favourite things include exploring BC's mountains and coast, riding her bike, sequins, and glitter.*

The Lunchtime Dialogues Series (LDS) is a long-held tradition at SCARP that connects students with fascinating and experienced professionals in planning. The LDS are typically held twice a month and include speakers that come with a variety of specializations and interests, including some who are not “traditional” planners. The LDS Committee seeks out students’ input on session themes, speakers, and timing to maximize student interest and attendance.

This year we have speakers from SCARP, TransLink, the City of Vancouver, and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In January we heard from Lyana Patrick and Ashli Akins, who spoke about their recent photographic art exhibit. Their talk discussed themes of collective memory,

intergenerational knowledge transmission, and intergenerational storytelling, while exploring a larger topic of what reconciliation means for current and future planners in light of Vancouver’s new title as a “City of Reconciliation”.

Following Lyana and Ashli, our second LDS speakers were our fellow SCARP students who attended the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador last October. As the only student group to be included in the official Canadian delegation, they shared their experiences at the conference and discussed the implications of the New Urban Agenda for current and emerging planners.

Our upcoming speakers include planners from

TransLink, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and the City of Vancouver, who will be discussing topics that range from art in transit, the Granville Island 2040 Plan, water efficiency measures in the City of Vancouver, and a bigger discussion on the future planning goals of the City of Vancouver.

The topics in the LDS are constantly changing and offer something for all students. Do you have a topic or speaker you are interested in that you do not see on the line up? Please let us know! We encourage you to contact us with your suggestions for future LDS sessions at [lunchtimedialogues@gmail.com](mailto:lunchtimedialogues@gmail.com).

## LUNCHTIME DIALOGUES SERIES

### Winter 2017

Lyana Patrick, PhD Candidate, SCARP  
& Ashli Akins, PhD Candidate,  
Liu Institute for Global Issues  
*Interdisciplinary Practice in Community  
Planning and Arts: Reconciliation through  
Intergenerational Memory and Healing*

**Wednesday, January 11, 2017**  
12pm to 1:30pm

Habitat III, SCARP  
*Habitat III: Perspectives on the New  
Urban Agenda and Canada's Role*

**Wednesday, January 25, 2017**  
12pm to 1:30pm

Debra Rolfe, Planner, Translink  
*Art in Transit*

**Wednesday, February 8, 2017**  
12pm to 1:30pm

Sebastian Lippa, Project Manager, CMHC,  
Granville Island Office

*Granville Island 2040 Plan*  
**Wednesday, March 8, 2017**

12:15pm to 1:30pm

Christopher Radziminski, Policy Analyst,  
City of Vancouver, Water Design Branch  
*Water efficiency measures in the City of  
Vancouver*

**Wednesday, March 15, 2017**

12:15pm to 1:30pm

Gil Kelley, General Manager of Planning,  
City of Vancouver

*Vancouver 2050: Burgeoning metropolis of  
reconciliation and equity or stifled frontier/  
resort town?*

**Wednesday, March 22, 2017**

12pm to 1pm (@ City Hall, 453 W 12th Ave)  
*\*Reserved for SCARP Students*

You're invited to the **School of Community and Regional  
Planning (SCARP)** at UBC for a series of fascinating  
speakers from around BC lecturing on emerging issues in  
urbanism and planning.

Please join us!

**Pizza** is available for **\$2/slice**

WEST MALL ANNEX

1933 West Mall

Room 150

Vancouver, BC, V6T1Z2

contact us at: [lunchtimedialogues@gmail.com](mailto:lunchtimedialogues@gmail.com)



a place of mind  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

# THE POLITICS OF FLIGHT

By: Erick Villagomez

*Erick Villagomez an educator, independent researcher and designer with personal and professional interests in urban landscapes. He is currently an adjunct professor at SCARP. He is also the principal of Metis Design-Build, a practice that works on diverse projects ranging from small-scale architecture to urban design consulting, as well as information design/visualization. Furthermore, Erick is one of the founders and editors of [Spacing Vancouver](#) magazine. This article was originally posted on the Spacing Vancouver as part of Villagomez's ongoing "Cartographically Speaking" series.*

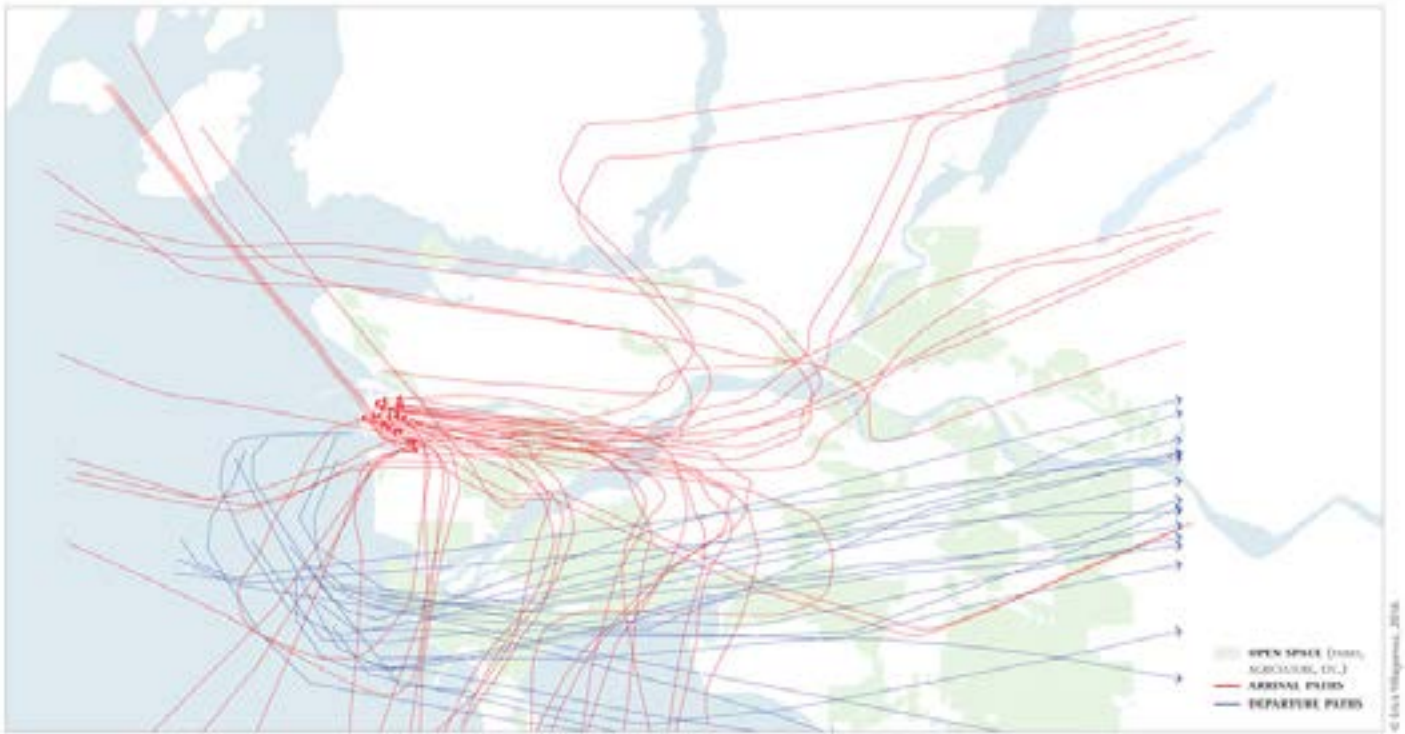
We tend to think of cities in their horizontal dimension—artifacts the spread laterally across the landscape. This is largely due to the cartographic bias we inherited from bird's-eye military and political ideologies that tend to ignore the vertical. The effects and assumption inherent to this mode of thought have been firmly established over centuries of cartographic practices and, in turn, severely limit our understanding of the many significant politics and relationships perpendicular to the horizontal plane.

In reality, now more than any other time in history, cities influence—and are influenced by—aspects that cut through, not across, the landscape. The story behind this map—depicting the Vancouver International Airport (YVR) Flight Paths and their relationship to various Metro Vancouver open spaces (parks, agriculture lands, etc.) and geography of the Lower Mainland—gives us a simple entry point into the politics of the vertical.

The YVR flight information was attained via the 2008 report by NAV Canada looking at the community noise issues and local airspace. This being the case, it might be slightly outdated, but I had difficulty finding more recent ones that were simple enough to recreate. Moreover, those I did find were similar enough for me to be comfortable with the accuracy. It's also important to keep in mind that flight patterns are dependent on a variety of variables, especially wind direction, since this in turn affects which runways are active. So, this may be considered an average snapshot of the pattern. Given the relatively recent growth in popularity of airplane travel and its importance to urban economies, negotiating flight access and the demands of city living are quite new, from the historical perspective. And some of the most heated debates naturally occur around noise (as dictated by flight patterns) and land-use, particularly residential.

Historically, the initial response to issues around aviation and the city was to locate airports well outside city boundaries, ultimately wrapping it in a blanket of industrial uses that share many of the same attributes (noise, pollution, etc)—a pattern very familiar to the well-seasoned air traveller who cares to look out the window as they depart or land.

However, as cities have grown over the decades to surround these districts—and densification pressures have eroded industrial lands with residential uses—more and more battles are being fought between



## THE POLITICS OF FLIGHT: YVR FLIGHT PATHS AND OPEN SPACES

SOURCE: VANCOUVER AIRSPACE STUDY 90 DAY REVIEW: COMMUNITY NOISE ISSUES, NAV CANADA, 2008

residents, airport authorities and municipalities, around the topic of noise and flight patterns. This is further exacerbated in fast-growing cities, by the desire of authorities to allow open new runways in order to accommodate more flights, around which the older settlement patterns have developed. The relatively recent fiery debates in Calgary are a case in point. The effects even extend to their residential real estate.

Taking advantage of the Metro Vancouver's geography, early local decision-makers chose Sea Island as the hub for local aviation in 1929 (the original grass airstrip being located at Richmond's Minoru Park—from which the first flight west of Winnipeg departed) and all the main flight-related services have remained there ever since. However, over eight decades of

development and socio-cultural progress related to aviation have brought residents and the acoustic effects of flight into direct conflict, particularly in nearby municipalities such as Richmond.

As most people know, noise is regulated by each municipality. In Richmond, maximum noise levels for "Quiet Zones" (i.e. residential) run between 55-65 dBA during the day and 45-55 dBA over nighttime. However, aircraft noise management falls under the jurisdiction of the Vancouver International Airport Authority (VIAA) and is, consequently, exempt from the Richmond by-laws: defining their own thresholds at slightly higher levels—between 65-70 dBA for daytime and between 55-60 dBA for nighttime in 'Quiet Zones'.

Yet, despite the fact that the management of aircraft noise falls under the jurisdiction of the VIAA, both it and the City of Richmond problem solve together around aircraft noise mitigation. This includes a wide range of strategies, from flight restriction times, airplane maintenance and noise management plans to restrictive covenants and strict building envelop requirements for new residential development in vulnerable areas.

To me, the most interesting strategy, drawn here, is the subtle reading and accommodation of regional geography and built landscape towards noise mitigation. Simply drawn, this map shows flight arrivals and departures in red and blue lines, respectively, while main open spaces (parks, agricultural land, etc.) are drawn with a green fill and main water bodies as light blue. The purposefully restrained representation explicitly shows the flight route (line) density across

open spaces (such as the Agricultural Land Reserve) and water bodies (such as Boundary Bay): a pattern ‘designed’ to leave voids—noise free zones—for a maximum number of residential areas around the region.

At a broader, more important level, however, this simple map serves to demonstrate the critical interaction between built form, politics, regional geography, aviation, and the distribution of open spaces (parks, agriculture lands, etc.) across three dimensional space (four dimension, if one includes time), in the service of maintaining a ‘quality of life’ that we have defined as being free from the annoyance of specific sounds.

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See real time aircraft noise information for Vancouver International Airport at the [YVR Real Time Noise Tracking](#).



# AUDACITY: SCARP SYMPOSIUM

By: Austin Lui

*Kai Okazaki (KO) is the Logistics Director for SCARP's 9th annual Symposium. He is a Masters Candidate in SCARP's MCRP program. Marjan Naval-Tebrani (MN) is the Program Director for SCARP's 9th annual Symposium. She is also a Masters Candidate in SCARP's MCRP program.*

*The SCARP Symposium is an annual event organized by SCARP students. This year's theme is "Audacity: Bold Ideas for Planning Communities". The event will be held on March 3, 2017 at the AMS Nest on UBC Campus.*

## **Why did you decide to be a part of this symposium?**

KO: When I used to work as a student staff at UBC's Campus + Community Planning, the SCARP Symposium was one of the events I was told about to attend. I have attended the past two years and the symposium really exposed me to different streams/topics in planning and helped me decide that I wanted to go into this profession. I am really grateful to be working with Marjan on this project and hope it's going to be a great event!

MN: I attended the symposium last year before I knew I was accepted into SCARP. I felt very inspired by the panels and keynote speakers, and I had a sense that I had 'found my people'. This year, I have wanted to curate that feeling for other potential-SCARPIes.

## **In line with the theme for this year, how is this Symposium being "audacious"?**

KO: I feel that this year's symposium is audacious by hosting two amazing female keynote speakers, diverse panels that include challenging planning issues, and our fantastic, hard-working team. Who knows, we may also have more surprises along the way (stay tuned).

MN: We are really trying to push the envelope with the content provided in this symposium. There are so many new areas in the planning world that have been glossed over. We are trying to put the spotlight on those topics. As well, we've had an Audacious Team meeting with all of the panel organizers, to ensure each panel is as audacious as it can be with both content and structure! Let's just say, we are a creative group of people.

## **What are you looking forward to the most?**

KO: I am looking forward to seeing participants enjoying themselves with lots of creative thought and discussions. This is a great day to connect with new and old faces, and build stronger relationships of like-minded individuals.

MN: I'm excited to see how the audience reacts to the keynotes and panels. Also, I cannot wait to see the discussions that come from each panel. The excitement levels of quite high.

**What is an unexpected lesson you have learned from being a part of this whole experience?**

KO: I feel that this whole experience comes with unexpected turns and lessons. Even if you have organized a symposiums before, collaborating and working with other full-time graduate students (who are just as busy) can be an intense but rewarding experience! I am undoubtedly grateful for the team I have this year and everyone has stepped up to their role with passion, commitment, and dedication. Thank you team.

MN: There are quite a few, for sure. I think the most prominent one has been going through a process of creating a decision-making structure with my team for every major decision I have had to make. So much facilitation! So much consensus and transparency! I love it.

**What are you currently most stressed about?**

KO: No stress! Just keep moving forward.

MN: With a team as talented as the one we have this year, and my co-coordinator Kai, I have nothing to worry about.

*(editor's note: These interviews were conducted in January. This may not be reflective of their current stress levels at the time of this publication!)*



# audacity

## 9th annual SCARP symposium

**The 9th annual SCARP Symposium is happening March 3rd!**

Join us for a **bold** day of engaging panels and thought-provoking keynotes at UBC's AMS Nest.



With keynote speaker Severn Cullis-Suzuki: Environmental Activist for Intergenerational Justice, this year's symposium is about daring ideas to inspire future planning initiatives. The day-long event promotes discussions on the issues we are currently facing as planners and urbanites by bringing together leaders of change in our cities and communities.

**information and tickets at [www.symposium.scarp.ubc.ca](http://www.symposium.scarp.ubc.ca)**

**bold ideas for  
planning communities**

**join the conversation now  
and throughout the event  
using #SCARPsymp**



**@SCARPsymposium**



**@SCARP\_symposium**

# SCARP AND SEEDS: Growing Sustainability on Campus Together

*By: Cail Smith*

*Cail Smith is a 2nd year SCARP MCRP candidate. Her research interests include active transportation, urban design, and tactical urbanism.*

Starting in 2000, The UBC SEEDS Sustainability Program connects students, faculty, and staff looking to work collaboratively on action-oriented sustainability research project on campus. SEEDS shares SCARP's focus on community-based practices and sustainable solutions. Because of this, many SCARP students are taking on these projects.

As the thesis-based Masters of Arts in Planning (MAP) program transitions to the capstone-based Masters in Community & Regional Planning (MCRP), Masters students are searching for more finite, practice-based research projects. SEEDS projects are meshing well with the new program as they require minimal travel (ideal for students taking classes and studio) and are registered as 3 or 6 credit courses (approximately 10 or 20 hours per week). Additionally, SEEDS provides project coordination support for students, especially when multiple partners are involved.

SCARP students also enjoy SEEDS for many other reasons. Projects provide an opportunity for students to connect with operational partners on campus. Some SCARP alumni have even transitioned to working in the SEEDS office. SEEDS projects provide research that can be presented and occasionally published, allowing students to contribute to the planning field without taking an overly large capstone.

However, SEEDS may not offer all students the type of research they are interested in. The focus of these projects are often local and practical. Critical planning topics and academic research projects are typically not part of the research objectives. Students may instead need to put their work through a critical lens outside of the project.

The SEEDS Sustainability Program works to develop projects for clients that align with campus sustainability priorities and advertises these projects directly to students. SEEDS also encourages students to reach out to them with specific project ideas related to sustainability. Below are some of the student SEEDS projects happening this year:

## **Providing Space for Urban Agriculture in Multi-Unit Residential Buildings**

*Kristy McConnell*

After working as a SEEDS coordinator, Kristy McConnell knew partnering with the program for her capstone would yield a research project that was meaningful and impactful. Even so, she said she is “blown away by the willingness of clients to support the project” and how “excited they are to hear about my progress.” McConnell has been working to create recommendations for developers who believe apartment dwellers want gardens, but are unsure of how to design and set-up garden management. She is planning to present her findings at the UBC Sustainability Research Symposium in March.



Kristy McConnell by a garden  
Photo credit: *Cail Smith*

## **Post-Quake Emergency Water Provision on Campus Emergency**

*Arielle Dalley & Sarah Marshall*

When UBC Emergency Management initially contacted SEEDS with the Emergency Water Provision project, they were looking for a single student. Second year master’s students, Arielle Dalley & Sarah Marshall decided to take the project on, but felt they could create a better plan by expanding the scope and tackling it together. Dalley did some research on how water from UBC’s water filtration trailer will be transported, stored, and distributed after an earthquake. Marshall will pull Dalley’s work into a larger comprehensive campus-wide water provision plan, updating and building on previous planning work.



Left to Right: Arielle Dalley and Sarah Marshall  
Photo credit: *Cail Smith*

## Lifecycle Costing Analysis for Green Infrastructure on Campus

*Dave Sametz*

Dave Sametz contacted SEEDS when he had project ideas, but no project partner. The SEEDS coordinator was able to help Sametz meet with several potential clients and ultimately find a match with Campus + Community Planning and UBC Engineering. Now, he is working with them to apply a financial analysis tool that will look at the lifecycle costs of infrastructure, green infrastructure (from bike lanes to xeriscaping), using Wesbrook Village as a case study. This research will hopefully be used to evaluate the financial implications of different density and built form scenarios for future development on campus. Sametz is hoping to present his research at an upcoming PIBC sustainable land use and asset management workshop.



Dave Sametz in front of a "sharrow" bike lane  
Photo credit: Cail Smith

## Best Practices for Bike Storage Facilities in Multi-Unit Residential Buildings

*Cail Smith*

Coming full circle from Cail Smith's undergraduate research into bicycle facilities, her capstone project with SEEDS focuses on bike parking in staff and private housing on campus. Working with SEEDS has allowed Smith to tap into the partner's connections across campus. The survey of residents will be available in English and Mandarin, beyond the scope of a typical graduate directed study. This will increase the accuracy of the the results significantly.



Crowded cycling infrastructure in Vancouver  
Photo credit: Cail Smith

## The NEST Animation Project

### *PLAN 522: Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis*

Led by Dr. Penny Gurstein and Dr. Leonora Angeles, the students in PLAN 522 have collectively taken on the Nest Animation Project, a project to enhance the social animation of the newly built Student Union Building, the AMS nest. When Dr. Gurstein & Dr. Angeles approached SEEDS looking for a project that would allow students to apply the qualitative skills they are learning in class, the SEEDS team was able to connect them with the AMS who were looking to improve the nest. In small groups, students in the class will assess different spaces in the building and recommend how they can be improved to create a more vibrant spaces for students. The project is already well-underway and AMS is looking forward to implementing the results.

Students can find current SEEDS opportunities [listed here](#).

Alumni, faculty or staff interested in proposing projects can find out more about SEEDS on their [website here](#).



Class of PLAN 522  
Photo credit: Cail Smith

# A REVIEW IN PHOTOS



PLAN 595: facilitating World Cafe event with Campus Engagement  
*Photo credit: Fausto Inomata*



Second Year Studio: Hazelton Community Mobility Team and the Public Health Team  
*Photo credit: John Olsen*



SCARP Graduation Reception: Class of 2017  
*Photo credit: Austin Lui*



SCARP Internship Networking Event  
*Photo credit: Nicole Nagel*



Annual Reading Week Trip to Portland, OR  
*Photo credit: Stuart Hamre*



SCARP on tour with PSU's student association president in Portland, OR  
*Photo credit: Fillippos Gkekas*



NewsBytes is SCARP's tri-annual newsletter highlighting current announcements, recent accomplishments, events, research, and broader planning movements of interest to staff, faculty, students, alumni, prospective students and members of the community.

Opinions expressed in NewsBytes are not necessarily those of UBC, SCARP, or the NewsBytes Editor. If you have questions or comments, or would like to make a submission to a future edition of NewsBytes, please contact NewsBytes Editor and Outreach Coordinator, Austin Lui, directly at [austinlui6@gmail.com](mailto:austinlui6@gmail.com) or contact the School of Community And Regional Planning at the address provided below.



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