Research project title
GIS Interoperable Database for CIRES (Community Impact Real Estate Society)

Research supports the following policies -
☐ Greenest City Action Plan
      Specific goal area (s): _____
☒ Healthy City Strategy
      Specific goal area (s): <u>Making Ends Meet and Working Well / Being and Feeling Safe and Included</u>
      ☐ Renewable City Action Plan
☐ Green Operations
☐ Other: _____

Scope of project

This Healthy City Scholar will be tasked with assisting the newly created Community Impact Real Estate Society (CIRES) in developing an efficient and updateable geospatial dataset that establishes a baseline of spaces, facilities, uses and metrics for its commercial retail portfolio. CIRES is a non-profit commercial real estate management firm incorporated jointly by BC Housing, the City of Vancouver and Vancity Community Foundation, to manage a cross-subsidized portfolio of retail spaces for community purposes such as low barrier and socially inclusive employment, affordable low-income catering goods and services providers, arts and culture space and other needs as identified by CIRES, its constituent board members, and its community advisory bodies. This database of aggregated data must be able to be regularly updated and interface with a GIS platform in order to help CIRES track and communicate the impact of its portfolio over time using spatial representations of said data.

This project is important for a number of reasons. As the city embarks both on the implementation of the DTES Community Economic Development Strategy and the creation of a City-wide Poverty Reduction Plan (both under the aegis of the Healthy City Strategy), mounting concern has been raised by communities about the loss of small businesses, arts and culture spaces, and the increasing overhead costs borne by social enterprise and non-profits creating social value in neighbourhoods. This social value ranges from inclusive, low-barrier opportunities for skill development, capacity building, and income generating, or the contributions to a sense of belonging and inclusivity that culturally accessible and affordable businesses create for residents in lower-income communities who are concerned about the pressures of displacement and affordability. CIRES has been created as a vehicle to retain and further develop both economic opportunity for low-income residents and affordable socially inclusive businesses to serve them. This will help the City reach goals of reducing poverty, increasing median incomes, and helping to enhance resident's sense of connection to community and belonging in their neighbourhoods. Establishing data that can be visually represented to both track and communicate CIRES' work will be crucial to its development and to better understanding street level use of space in neighbourhoods served by CIRES.

The types of data envisioned include:
- Types of ownership in CIRES leased spaces (e.g., privately owned, social enterprise owned by a charity or non-profit, community services co-operative, legacy business, etc.)
- Types of spaces and buildings specifically in the portfolio itself as well as in neighbourhoods in which the portfolio is active
- Approved uses in spaces
- Creation of a classification schema for occupant use

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- Business license data
- Types of employment and employment numbers
- Most recent assessment values
- Social impact or social value indicators (as determined by CIRES)
- Indication of above ground uses (residential, office)

Deliverables

- Develop the database table structure, fields and allowable values
- Develop protocols for obtaining data not currently able to be aggregated from existing sources
- Develop an interactive online GIS representation of data for CIRES and public
- Document process to create database and GIS visual representations of data
- A public facing final report (or executive summary) for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library

Time Commitment

- This project will take **250*** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between *April 27 to August 10*
- The scholar is to complete hours between *(8:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday to Friday)*

Work location: Woodwards Building (111 West Hastings Street)

Skill set/background required/preferred

- ☒ Excellent research and writing skills.
- ☒ Demonstrated interest in Social indicators, public health and social development metrics, econometric
- ☒ Strong technical writing skills
- ☒ Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- ☒ Ability to work independently
- ☒ Demonstrated time management skills
- ☒ Project management and organizational skills
- ☒ Computer programming skills
- ☒ Website creation and design skills
- ☒ GIS training or experience.
- ☒ Familiarity with benchmarking methods and tools
- ☒ Familiarity with qualitative research methodologies and implementation
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- ☒ Experience with statistical analysis

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