UBC Social Ecological Economic Development Studies (SEEDS) Student Report

Mapping Positive Space Resource Persons Cassidy Palmer, Jovita Chan University of British Columbia GEOB 472 January 19, 2017

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## **Executive Summary**

The goal of this project was to work in partnership with the UBC Equity and Inclusion Office to create an interactive map of the Positive Space Resource Persons list. The mandate of the Positive Space Resource Persons Campaign is to raise awareness and provide support for people experiencing issues with sexual and gender diversity at UBC. Through our partnership with the Equity and Inclusion Office, we sought to further the campaign by creating interactive media that would raise awareness of the campaign and help facilitate students accessing the resources they needed. In addition, we created infographics for internal use by the Equity and Inclusion Office to help highlight areas where improvements could be made to the program.

After meeting with our contact at the Equity and Inclusion Office, we were provided with a basic list of the individuals who had received workshop training and were designated Positive Space Resource Persons. From the contact information and departments data we were provided, we used a variety of computer programs including R Studio, Carto, Excel, and Illustrator, to parse, filter, mine, and represent the data in a manner that would allow us to create an interactive map.

In addition to manipulating the data to allow us to design and build an interactive map, we also used RStudio to draw statistics from our data. The purpose of this was to create infographics that could be used by the Equity and Inclusion Office to determine areas of focus for the Campaign to improve upon or increase coverage of Resource Persons.

One of the main limitations of this project was that the base data we were provided with dated back over 10 years. As a result, there were many entries that we needed to filter out of the dataset as many individuals were no longer active participants in the campaign or no longer in the lower mainland. Since many of the Positive Space Resource People were students, a significant portion had graduated or otherwise moved on from UBC. We took this into account when building our final dataset, focusing on the more permanent staff and faculty base, as we wanted to ensure our interactive map would be as relevant and useful for students as possible.

By employing what we learned this semester in Geographical Sciences 472, we were able to work methodically through the data visualization pipeline from start to finish to produce a cohesive and comprehensive map and accompanying infographics. Working with the Equity and Inclusion Office and SEEDS gave us a chance to apply our skills as cartographers to help solve real world problems, provided us with the experience of working in partnership in the context of a research team.



Staff

**Students** 

All Resource Persons

School of Population & Public Health

**Orchard Commons** 

Thea Koerner House

UBC Farm

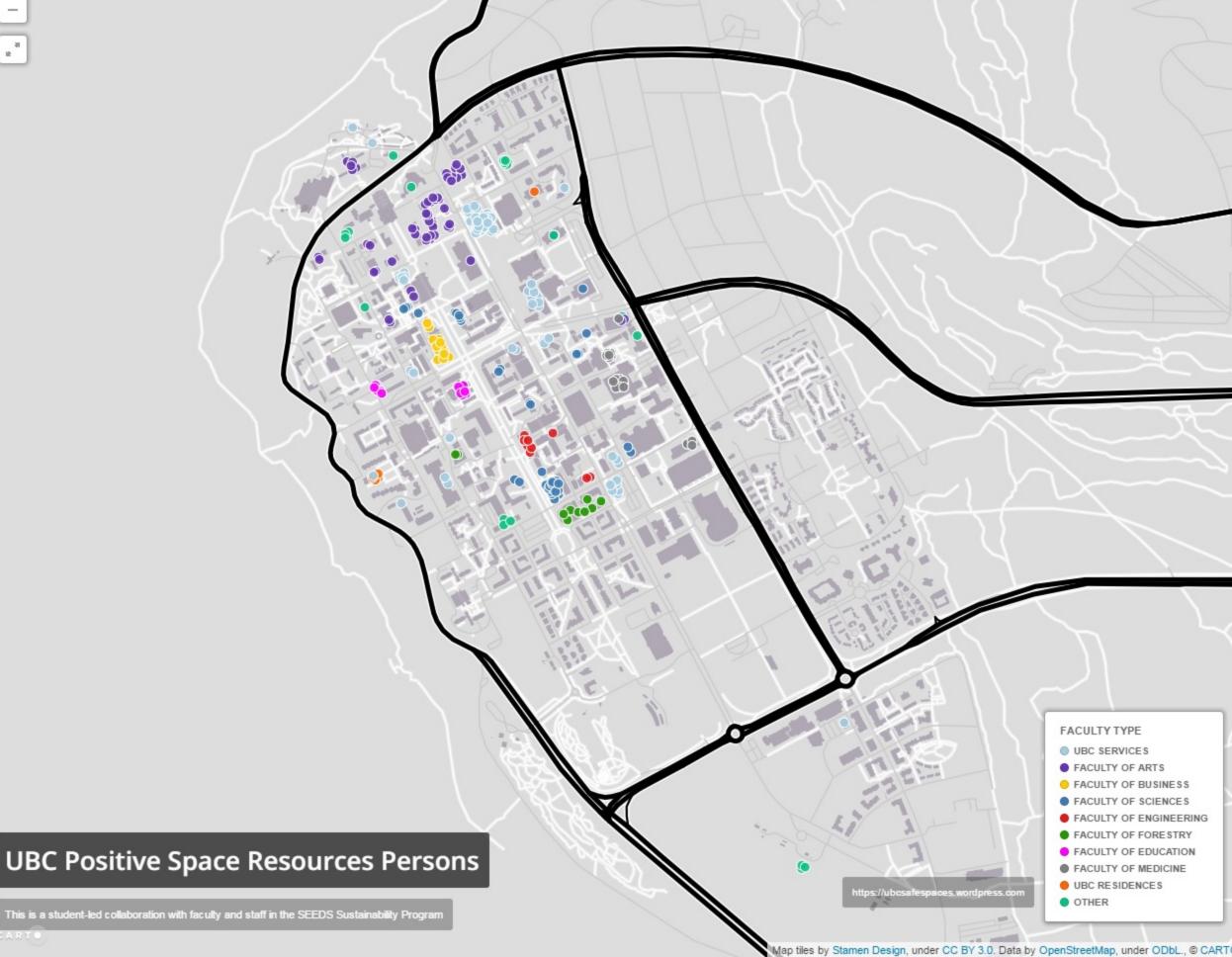
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Vancouver School of Theology

Continuing Studies Building

This is a student-led collaboration with faculty and staff in the SEEDS Sustainability Program. December 2016.





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