



## New Community Garden Springing to Life

Date: Monday, March 21, 2016

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Last June a few local citizens imagined a community garden on the south boulevard of Pandora Avenue, as a place that would beautify, feed, calm, and connect the neighbourhood. With the help of generous donors, and some hard work, that dream is now a reality.

Local citizens, businesses owners and employees have been working with the City of Victoria, the LifeCycles Project Society, and the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network to construct a pilot community garden on the City's boulevard. *PanFlora Gardens* is located in the 900 block of Pandora Avenue, adjacent to Our Place.

"This project began by a small task force that came together to address some of the challenges on the 900 block of Pandora," said Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps. "Building on the gifts, assets and skills of those in attendance the PanFlora Garden took a challenge and turned it into a great opportunity to grow, together."

"Our Place is excited to partner with our neighbours on this project," says Don Evans, executive director of Our Place. "There is a meditative and rewarding experience to gardening that offers people a small piece of tranquility. We can't wait to see what community grows from this."

"We are very excited to continue to work with the City and our community partners to help support the PanFlora Garden," says Maurita Prato, Executive Director of LifeCycles Project Society. "Community gardens not only allow people to enjoy nutritious, locally-grown food, but also foster social connections and bolster wellbeing while enhancing biodiversity and the urban environment."

"Finding this site and getting approval from the City of Victoria is the culmination of more than eight months of research and meetings with various community members," says Lorne Daniel of the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network. "The Pandora gardeners have set a positive example of how a community can grow, and how Placemaking can work."

### Opening Ceremony

**When:** Monday, March 21, 2016, 3 p.m.

**Where:** Boulevard outside Our Place at 919 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, BC

**Who:** Representatives from the City of Victoria, LifeCycles Project Society, the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network, Our Place, local residents and business owners.

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