MAPPING THE WAY TO FOOD SECURITY
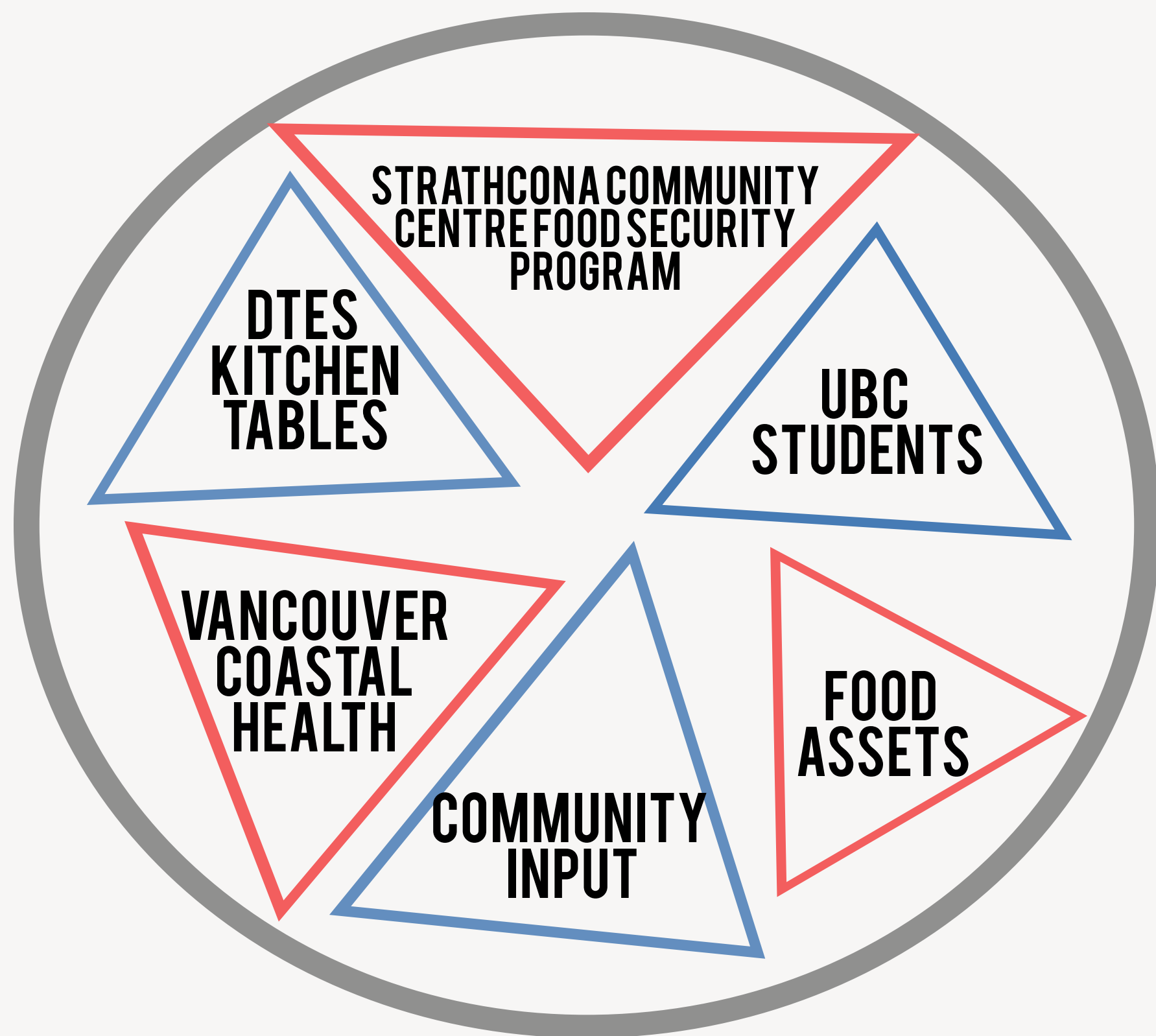
Increasing Awareness and Utilization of Vancouver Food Asset Map

WHO'S INVOLVED:

- STRATHCONA COMMUNITY CENTRE FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM
- DTES KITCHEN TABLES
- UBC STUDENTS
- VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH
- FOOD ASSETS
- COMMUNITY INPUT

WHAT IS THE VANCOUVER FOOD ASSET MAP

VFAM is an online tool using Google Maps as a platform that raises awareness about food-assets to improve food security in Vancouver (Vancouver Coastal Health, 2017).

Examples of food assets:

Kitchen Spaces
Community Gardens

Community Centres
Free/Low Cost Meals

SIGNIFICANCE

Mapping food assets is a way to take a snapshot of our current food system and raise awareness of available food resources to meet food needs in the community (Rosenblatt, 2000).

Map data can be used to:

- Apply for grants/funding
- Increase awareness of the availability or absence of assets
- Improve existing services
  (Center for health policy research, n.d.)

COMMUNITY PROJECT GOAL

Provide 2 training workshops to service providers, to demonstrate a tool they can use support their clients' food needs and inform other service providers of.

Workshop Objectives:

- Increase awareness and use of VFAM
- Give attendees the skills to use VFAM
- Collect feedback to improve the map and workshops

31 service providers attended the workshops!

FEEDBACK

- Simplify offline map instructions
- Add more assets to West End
- Would like access to the tutorial presentation slides for personal use
- Include food types available in the asset map descriptions

NOW WHAT?

- Evaluate Map Utilization by Community Members
- Obtain Community Member Feedback
- Organize Another Workshop
- Locate Additional Service Providers

For more information, see our blog at: https://blogs.ubc.ca/vancouverfoodassetmap/

Citations

Center for Health Policy Research. (n.d.). Retrieved March 19, 2018, from http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/programs/health-data/trainings/Documents/tw_cba20.pdf&p=DevEx,5066.1

Rosenblatt, S. (2000). Mapping Food Matters: A Resource on Place Based Food System Mapping. Retrieved from: https://foodsecurecanada.org/sites/foodsecurecanada.org/files/Mapping_food_matters.pdf

Vancouver Coastal Health (2017). Food Asset Map. Retrieved on March 1, 2018, from: http://www.vch.ca/public-health/nutrition/food-asset-map