THINGERY
A lending library of things

AMS Council – July 2021
The Thingery is the parent organization of neighbourhood Thingery branches. We’re a dedicated team of developers, designers and community organizers that focus on the development and ongoing operations of neighbourhood equipment lending libraries we call Thingeries.

A Thingery site is a neighbourhood equipment lending library housed in a modified shipping container. Each container is self-service, so members can check things in and out at their convenience.
Since 2016, The Thingery has been establishing sites in the Metro Vancouver region. The Thingery gives communities access to equipment that helps them pursue their passions, eliminating the need to own or store any of it.

We currently operate three sites in the Metro Vancouver region. Collectively, more than 500 Thingery members have access to over 300 pieces of equipment.
A Thingery helps create more resilient communities by reducing a person’s ecological footprint, strengthening social connections, and assisting in emergency preparedness.

**What’s the Thingery’s Impact?**

- **Social Connectivity**
  - 85% of members see The Thingery as a way to build stronger social connections in their communities.
  - 92% of members say a Thingery makes accessing equipment easier.

  *In the summer of 2019, The Thingery and Vancouver Tool Library both conducted multiple workshop series, including garment repair, appliance repair and intro to tools workshops.*

- **Sustainability**
  - 30% of equipment donors would have thrown the equipment away if The Thingery wasn’t available.
  - 15% of respondents reported they would have bought new equipment if it weren’t for The Thingery.
  - 92% of respondents reported to be buying less stuff because of The Thingery.

- **Inclusion & Affordability**
  - 20% of respondents say they wouldn’t have accessed the equipment they needed without The Thingery.
  - 45% are completing new projects because of their access to The Thingery’s equipment.

- **Emergency Preparedness**
  - 80% of respondents don’t have a plan in the event of a major emergency.
  - 80% of respondents say The Thingery could be a part of their plan.
Our work at UBC

In January of 2021, we engaged with over 69 students and 18 club representatives at UBC to better understand the demand for shared equipment.

This research demonstrated:

1. A high level of interest (81%) within the community to share more with their peers.
2. That participants consider The Thingery an initiative that would allow them to lower their ecological footprint and save money.
3. A large group of community members are willing to act as the initial working group for The Thingery’s development.
Engagement Survey Results

Students & Residents
We’ll begin our report with a breakdown of the demographics of students we engaged with through this survey.

Over 30% of respondents lived West of Alma Street.
35 years – Was the average age for respondents who reported to work on campus.

25 years – Was the average age for respondents who reported to be a student at UBC.

Results - Demographics

What's your year of Birth (YYYY)?
62 out of 69 people answered this question

Which of the following best describes you:
69 out of 69 people answered this question (with multiple choice)

- 63.8% I'm a student at UBC
- 37.7% I work at UBC
- 21.7% I live in the community around UBC
- 4.3% I work in the community around UBC
- 1.4% Other
Results - Demographics

How many years have you attended UBC?
43 out of 69 people answered this question

3 years – Was the average time a student report to have attended UBC

How many years have you worked at/around UBC?
26 out of 69 people answered this question

1 year – Was the average time a respondent reported to have worked at/around UBC.
Results – Sharing Habits at UBC

How interested are you in lending and/or borrowing more with your peers? (10 being the most interested)

69 out of 69 people answered this question

- 1: 1.4%
- 2: 0%
- 3: 0%
- 4: 1.4%
- 5: 5.8%
- 6: 10.1%
- 7: 10.1%
- 8: 18.8%
- 9: 14.5%
- 10: 37.7%

Avg. 8.3
Results – Sharing Habits at UBC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>67.6%</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results – Sharing Habits at UBC

If yes, which organizations? (please list them all below)

22 out of 69 people answered this question

• Varsity Outdoors Club
• Bike Kitchen
• Rec Centre
• Photography Club
## Results – Sharing Habits at UBC

Which of the following categories of equipment would you be interested in borrowing from an equipment lending library? (select all that apply)

69 out of 69 people answered this question (with multiple choice)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household Appliances (carpet cleaner, pressure washer, garment steamer, sewing machine, etc)</td>
<td>73.9%</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Equipment (camping gear, park games, sports equipment, etc)</td>
<td>73.9%</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event and Entertainment Equipment (tables, chairs, event tents, projectors, etc)</td>
<td>59.4%</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodworking Tools (drills, saws, nail guns, etc)</td>
<td>56.5%</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen Appliances (food dehydrator, pressure canner, apple press, etc)</td>
<td>53.6%</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike Tools (bike repair stands, hand tools, etc)</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automotative Tools (jacks, sockets, etc)</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How interested are you in becoming a Thingery Member? (10 being the most interested)*

69 out of 69 people answered this question

Average: 7.8
### Results – Interest In a Thingery

What are some other ways you’d be interested in getting involved with your local Thingery?

69 out of 69 people answered this question (with multiple choice)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50.7%</td>
<td>I’d like to volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>I’d be interested in helping repair broken equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.2%</td>
<td>I’d be interested in teaching a workshop on a topic I’m knowledgeable about (ex, sewing, woodwork)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results – Interest In a Thingery

Do you have any equipment you would be interested in donating to a neighbourhood equipment lending library?

69 out of 69 people answered this question

43.5% Yes 30 responses
56.5% No 39 responses
Results – Interest In a Thingery

Do you have any equipment you would be interested in repairing with the help of a Thingery instructor?

61 out of 69 people answered this question

34.4% Yes 21 responses
65.6% No 40 responses
### Results – Interest In a Thingery

Which of the following factors would be the most influential in your decision to join a Thingery? (Please select the top three)

69 out of 69 people answered this question (with multiple choice)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94.2%</td>
<td>Borrowing from a Thingery would lessen my impact on the environment</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88.4%</td>
<td>Borrowing from a Thingery would save me money</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68.1%</td>
<td>Borrowing from a Thingery would save space in my home</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.5%</td>
<td>Borrowing from a Thingery would help me connect with people in my community</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Engagement Survey Results

Clubs
Club Results - Demographics

Are you currently involved in running a club at UBC?
18 out of 18 people answered this question

- 94.4% Yes (17 responses)
- 5.6% No (1 response)

Position in Club:

- 15/19 respondents were either the “President” or “Co-President”
Club Results – Interest In a Thingery

Which of the following best describes you:
19 out of 19 people answered this question (with multiple choice)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>89.5%</td>
<td>I'm a student at UBC</td>
<td>17 responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>I work at UBC</td>
<td>2 responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>I work in the community around UBC</td>
<td>1 response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>I live in the community around UBC</td>
<td>0 responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0 responses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 years – Was the average time a club representative reported to have attended UBC

3 years – Was the average time a club representative had reported have worked at/around UBC.
Club Results – Sharing History & Interest

Does your club currently facilitate the sharing of equipment?
19 out of 19 people answered this question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31.6%</td>
<td>68.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 responses</td>
<td>13 responses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Equipment Shared:
- Power tools
- Outdoor Equipment
- Sewing Equipment
- Audio Video Equipment
What types of equipment could the Thingery offer that would help your club?

19 out of 19 people answered this question.

- Audio/Video Equipment
- Craft Supplies/Poster Making
- Large Power Tools
- Event & Entertainment Equipment
What are some other ways your club would be interested in getting involved with your local Thingery?

19 out of 19 people answered this question (with multiple choice)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78.9%</td>
<td>Partnering on events</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57.9%</td>
<td>Partnering on workshops</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>Helping repair equipment in the Thingeries inventory</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Thingery has been working closely with the AMS since 2020 planning for a Thingery at UBC. During this planning process, The Thingery and AMS representatives have been soliciting input from students and stakeholders to ensure the Thingery pilot at UBC campus is a success.

To date we have engaged with:
- 69 students
- 18 clubs representatives
- AMS Operations Committee
- AMS Sustainability Committee
## Budget Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Thingery</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>AMS</th>
<th>Contribution (Fund)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital Costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Equipment</strong> – Thingery will help coordinate a donation drive – anticipated to raise at least $5000 in equipment</td>
<td>$5000 (In-Kind)</td>
<td><strong>Equipment</strong> – We are asking for the AMS to provide $5000 in funding to go directly towards acquiring equipment to be shared through the Thingery’s inventory.</td>
<td>$5000 (Sustainability Projects Fund)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Site Infrastructure</strong></td>
<td>$8500 (Cash)</td>
<td><strong>Site Infrastructure</strong> – The development of the “shell” of the Thingery site, including: design and permitting, the enclosure of the space and any doors/windows for the space, the supply of electricity and electrical outlets/lights to the space and proper heating and ventilation to the space. = ~$25,000</td>
<td>~$25,000 (Capital Projects Fund)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Painting ~$1500.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Exterior cladding ~$2000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Shelving and access control system ~$5000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weekly Maintenance</strong></td>
<td>The Thingery will provide the staffing and co-ordinate any volunteers necessary to maintain the Thingery site and equipment.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>We are asking for the AMS to provide $3500 in the initial activation of the site. These costs include community meetings, surveying the community, and the costs of forming a working group.</td>
<td>$3500 (Innovative Projects Fund)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programming</strong></td>
<td>The Thingery will ensure that the programming for the site is promoted on our social media, updated on our website and cross promoted to like-minded organizations.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>We are asking the AMS for $5000 towards programming events and workshops on campus. These workshops will focus on repair and introductory workshops to help member participate in new endeavors.</td>
<td>$5000 (Sustainability Projects Fund)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$13,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>$38,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next Steps

With the approval of the Thingery space within the AMS building, the Thingery team is ready to immediately start planning for the installation.

We’ll be working with members of the AMS team to secure a permit and then anticipating a launch in the fall of 2021.

1. Engagement and Design
   Complete
   Working with our local partners, we distribute an online survey to the local community. The survey provides important insights into design considerations, workshop ideas, equipment needs and levels of interest in volunteering.

2. Permitting
   Currently Engaged
   With the site design finalized, the Thingery will begin the permitting process with the necessary authorities. We can prepare the necessary CADD drawings and engineering specifications.

3. Establish Local Working Group
   Summer 2021
   Once a Thingery site has been issued permission to operate, we begin to establish the local working group. It typically takes 1-2 meetings to formalize the working group.

4. Donation Drive
   Fall 2021
   With the site design approved and the working group established, we launch a donation drive to source the equipment needed to launch. During this period, the site continues to be built.

5. Modifications and Inventory
   Fall 2021
   Once the space is framed out, we do the necessary modifications and inventory of all the donated equipment. This includes building the shelving units and installing our access control system.

6. Site Launch
   Fall/Winter 2021
   With the site, the working group, the equipment and the space prepared - the site is ready to launch!
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