

“Get Together Tool Kit”

Overview

This “Get Together Tool Kit” is designed to help you deliver your Block Party. Block Parties aim to connect residents, neighbourhoods and community organizations in a fun gathering to build connections and to foster even more extraordinary neighbourhoods.



Getting started!

- Enlist the help of other interested and capable volunteers in your neighbourhood and determine who will do what.
- Start a neighbourhood, block or strata Facebook Group to start connecting neighbours.

Tips

- Give yourself 3-4 weeks of preparation time to organize the event!
- Consider weekend events at a time that is most inclusive for all neighbours. Aim to have about 40-60 people attend the event.

Party Types and Regulations

Once you have put together a dedicated team of volunteers to help plan the event, it is important to start thinking about the type of block party you want to host. **Games, music, movies, meet & greets, and food are all part of an amazing and inclusive block party (see next page), but you will want to decide on a location and food offerings early. Most administrative requirements depend on where you decide to host the party and how you provide food.** Please use the table below to help inform your decision.

	Simple	↔	Less Simple	Booking Contacts and Information
Food*	Prepared by caterer*		Prepared onsite: self cater barbecue/other prep	Self cater food permits: Environmental Health Office, at 604.932.3202, link to form . RMOW Park bookings: parks@whistler.ca Special Events Road Use/Closure Permit: RMOW, engineers@whistler.ca or 604.935.8190, link to form . Port-a-Potty/Hand Cleansing rentals*: Carney's Waste , 604.892.5604. AWARE Zero-Waste stations*: Claire Ruddy at cruddy@aware.org . Tents, chairs tables*: Bring your own or Black Sheep Event Rentals , 604.849.1234.
Location	Private home/Strata/Private Business		Neighbourhood cul-de-sac or non-bus road	
Consider	There may be a business in your neighbourhood who wants to host Do you have appropriate home insurance? Recycling/composting* Home or business provides some shelter in case of rain	Offer up onsite hand sanitation gels* Insurance is minimal and can be purchased with the park booking* May need to rent a washroom facility*, tents*, tables* and chairs*, if there are none on site	and... Onsite prep requires a free temporary food permit and cleansing stations* Serving alcohol introduces more permit requirements Insurance* for road based events may be up to \$300 and requires a Special Events Road Use/Closure Permit	

Spreading the word!

- Create an event in Facebook and post on your neighbourhood page, and make sure to put up posters* around the neighbourhood and drop off invites* at neighbour's homes.

Tip

- Ask neighbours to bring tables or chairs in order to save you money and set up time.

Activities and Entertainment

Activities and entertainment add the extra bit of 'oomph' to your neighbourhood event. In addition to the background mood provided by musicians, activities and entertainment can help neighbours to get to know one another and provide opportunities for kids of all ages to have a great time. The table below has some links to a few games and contact information for a few local entertainment options.

Games*	Music* & other	Crafts*/Art*
<p>Meet your neighbour bingo game: Find a neighbour who fits the descriptions in each box. Tool, pg 18</p> <p>Water balloon toss: Start off in close proximity and take a step back each round.</p> <p>Relay race: Teams of six, all ages. Hop, skip, snake through cones and then hand off item to the next person.</p> <p>Photo booth*: Photo booths are a fun way to create memories with neighbours. Try Cheesebox Photo Booth at info@cheesebox.ca, or 604.932.7876.</p>	<p>Music*: Hire a local DJ, solo artist or band. Be considerate of the municipal noise bylaw 8am to 8pm for amplified sound, music and speech.</p> <p>Fire truck: Invite a fire truck to your event. Call non-emergency 604.935.8260 or fire@whistler.ca</p> <p>Outdoor Movie: Set up a few bed sheets or a screen and use projector to show an age appropriate movie.</p>	<p>Face painting*: Paint on People Face and Body Art at artist@paintedpeople.ca or 604.902.9899.</p> <p>Arts/Crafts*: Andrea Mueller, Arts Whistler Programs and Events Manager, at amueller@artswhistler.com or 604.935.8239.</p> <p>Balloon Twisters*: Jazz the Balloon Man at jazztheballoonman@gmail.com.</p> <p>Sidewalk chalk and other self directed play: Ask some parents with kids to bring some of their favourite crafts, chalk and other toys for shared play.</p>

Gather activities and entertainment – Keep spreading the word!

- Continue to promote your event through Facebook and with neighbours, start to get a sense of your numbers so that you can prepare.
- Prepare your activities while making bookings for any entertainment support.

Tip

- Encourage the local talent of your neighborhood to participate – Artists, face painters, musicians, singers, yoga instructors and dancers may live in your neighbourhood.

Community Connections

While the primary goal of this program is for you to have fun and meet your neighbours, why not provide the opportunity for Whistler organizations (RMOW – Fire Smart, Red Cross, Bear Smart Whistler, Mature Action Committee, etc...) to share how they can help make your block or strata property even better. Once you know the date of your event share it with a host of community organizations and they may contact you if they plan to attend.

Event day!

- Set up and organize any tables/chairs, continue to introduce yourself to people in the area and let them know what is happening. Do anything else that is needed before the party starts. Greet neighbours and consider a sign in sheet and name tags.
- Run the event and after the party, organize clean-up and HAVE FUN!

Idea!

- Include a food bank or clothing drive with your event. Contact the WCSS, jackie@mywcss.org.



Final Details

Questions? Contact us at connectcommunity@whistlercentre.ca.