



# **Designing Restorative Responses**

*One Size Does Not Fit All*

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# Two Canadian Success Stories

- RestART – a restorative response to the problem of graffiti in Vancouver
- North Vancouver Restorative Justice Society
  - Restorative response program for youth and adults



# Two Approaches

## •Model Driven

- Use of one model
- Volunteers trained in one model
- Preparation with participants includes
  - Suitability screening
  - Explanation of model
  - Preparation for participation in the model of choice

## •Values based

- A variety of approaches available
- Volunteers provided training where they are experiencing RJ and spend time exploring values, self-awareness, and a variety of tools
- Initial meetings with participants are *exploratory* in nature

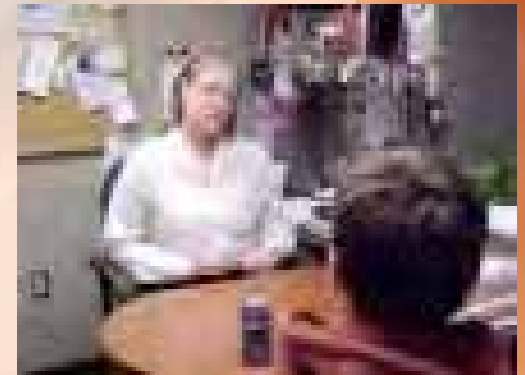
# Volunteer Training

- Values & Philosophy of Restorative Justice
- Facilitation Skills, Case Development, and Process Design
- Empathic response and active listening
- Case preparation
- Victim-Offender Mediation, Conferencing, Conciliation
- Stress management, self-awareness
- The contemporary criminal justice system
- Multicultural issues
- Victimization and Trauma
- Spirituality
- Suicide Awareness
- Mental Health



# Exploratory Meetings

- What happened?
- How were you and those you care about impacted (physically, emotionally, spiritually, financially, mentally)?
- How do you feel about what happened?
- What has happened since?
- What do you need to be able to start to heal from this?



# **North Vancouver Restorative Justice Society**

## *Our belief statement....*

- *Restorative justice responses involve an individualized approach to crime and conflict which is based on a set of values and principles that seek to include victims, offenders, and communities of care.*

# Restorative Justice Practices

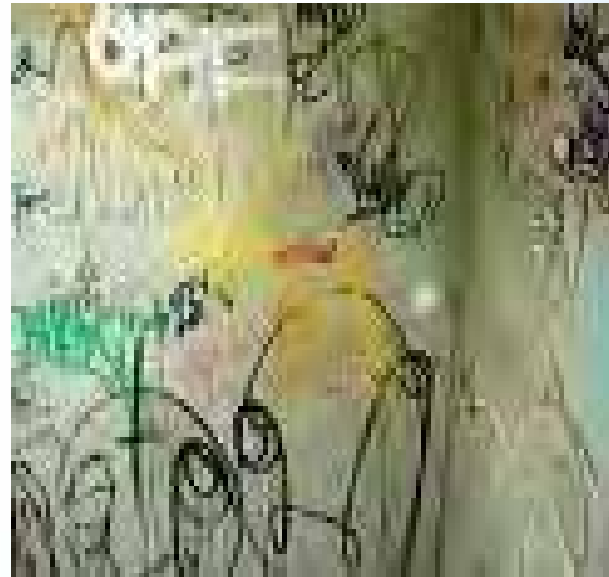


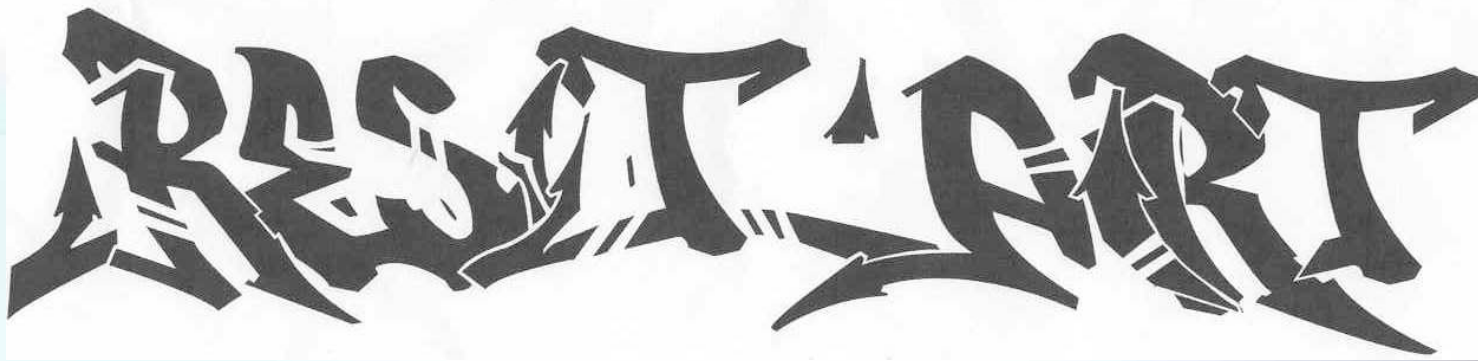
# Vancouver, British Columbia Canada





# Graffiti in Vancouver





## Objectives:

- *To utilize processes based on the values and principles of restorative justice to...*
  - *bring together varying perspectives in dialogue*
  - *raise awareness about the impacts of graffiti*
  - *facilitate reintegration, acceptance and connection for youth*
  - *encourage collective responsibility in finding solutions to illegal graffiti in Vancouver*

# Stakeholders

- *Illegal graffiti writers (youth & adults)*
- *Art community*
- *Victims (business, local transit authorities)*
- *Police – Antigraffiti Unit*
- *Local business representatives*
- *Community and social service resources*
- *Legal graffiti-style artist mentors*
- *Restorative justice advocates*
- *Academics*
- *Volunteers who care about youth and community*



# RESIST ART

## Objectives:

- To increase youths' skills and channel these abilities and talents towards legal opportunities.
- To utilize a creative, interactive, experiential approach to learning and community building.

# How does it work?

- *Interviews and commitment secured with youth and stakeholders*
- *Other referrals made, if necessary*
- *Other tasks related to their offense completed (apology letters, graffiti clean-up, victim reconciliation)*
- *Four-day RestART workshop, which includes the production of a mural on a public wall commissioned by the city.*



# Workshop Topics

- *Defining and conceptualizing graffiti*
- *Victimization – the impacts of graffiti on the writer, property and business owners, and the community*
- *Addiction*
- *Empathy*
- *Self-esteem building*
- *Communication*
- *Cooperation*
- *Community-building*
- *Mural planning*
- *Legal graffiti opportunities*
- *Mural production, budgeting, and talent development*



# Giving Back to the Community



# Restart Successes









# Additional Outcomes

- Low recidivism
- Self referrals and subsequent participation in Restart by past participants
- Word of mouth
- New and improved relationships between all stakeholders
- Employment opportunities
- Facilitation training
- Advisory board opportunities
- *Feature in Wall-to-Wall: A Tour of Mural Art in Vancouver*, a book that was published by the City of Vancouver

# Thank you and questions...



# Resources – on graffiti

- Cooper, Martha and Harry Chalfant. *Subwa Art*. London: Thames & Hudson, 1984.
- *City Space*. Produced and directed by Craig Noble. Pixel One Productions, 2004.
- *Style Wars*. Produced by Tony Silver and Harry Chalfant. Directed by Tony Silver. Public Art Films, 1983 (re-released 2005).
- *Wild Style*. Produced and directed by Charlie Ahearn. Pow Wow Productions, 1982.
- Bombing Science, [www.bombingscience.com](http://www.bombingscience.com)
- Pure Graffiti, [www.puregraffiti.com](http://www.puregraffiti.com)
- Visual Orgasm, [www.visualorgasm.com](http://www.visualorgasm.com)

# Resources – on restorative

## justice

- Sharpe, Susan. *Restorative Justice: A Vision for Healing and Change*. Edmonton Victim Offender Mediation Society, 1998.
- Stuart, Barry. *Building Community Justice Partnerships: Community Justice Peacemaking Circles*. Communications and Executive Branch, Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General of Canada, 1997.
- Zehr, Howard. *The Little Book of Restorative Justice*. Intercourse, PA: Good Books, 2002.
- *A Healing River: An Invitation to Explore Restorative Justice Values and Principles*. Produced and Directed by Cathie Douglas and Larry Moore. Heartspeak Productions, 2004.
- Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime: [www.crcvc.ca](http://www.crcvc.ca).
- Centre for Restorative Justice, Simon Fraser University: [www.sfu.ca/crj](http://www.sfu.ca/crj).
- Real Justice Conferencing in Criminal Justice: [www.realjustice.org](http://www.realjustice.org).
- Restorative Justice Online: [www.restorativejustice.org](http://www.restorativejustice.org).
- St. Leonard's Society of Canada (over 60 restorative justice web sites listed): [www.stleonards.ca/biblio/bilbio.htm](http://www.stleonards.ca/biblio/bilbio.htm).
- Victim Offender Mediation Association: [www.voma.org](http://www.voma.org).