Sprouts Community Engagement Project
Presentation outline

- Background/Context
- Research goals and objectives
- Methods
- Key results
- Discussion
- Preliminary recommendations for action and research
- Conclusion
A framework for community engagement and sustainable campus food systems...

- Student-run food outlets
- Two-way community engagement
- UBC campus sustainability and SEEDS
To tell the story of Sprouts’ role in the food system through an engaging and living community art piece that showcases Sprouts’ values and allows for two-way community engagement.
Background/context

- Sprouts is a student-run non-profit organization based at UBC
- Goal: To make healthy, affordable and sustainably produced food more accessible to the UBC community.
- Evolved to many initiatives currently run by 25 board members and about 150 student volunteers.
- Create an engaging and welcoming space at Sprouts Main cafe this fall
Specific research objectives

- Create a comprehensive narrative of Sprout’s history from interviews and document analysis
- Develop a meaningful community art piece
- Inform the development of an online database
- Contribute to student engagement with the food system
Community-based action research
Methods

- Literature review
- Historical data
- Interviews
A brief history of Sprouts

- **UBC Natural Food Coop**: 1997 - 2003
- **Reopen as a café and food store**: 2007
- **Sprouts reopens in the Pit**: 2017
- **Sprouts storefront opens in the SUB**: 2004-2006
- **Seedlings opens**: 2013
- **Sustainable Food Referendum**: 2018
How would you describe Sprouts?

“Sprouts is affordable, sustainable, volunteer, student run, and non-profit food club for all the students on campus.”
Benefits?

“Learning about food security and good food choice after Sprouts.”

“I like that it has taught me how to reduce my food waste.”

Improvements?

“Sprouts executive should get more recognition for being a time consuming position.”

“People also don’t know us without our own permanent space.”
What should be included in the community art piece?

“Art piece should be able to change throughout time as the sustainable view can be changed by time.”

“Create a timeline with Sprouts history. For the new generation of the Sprouts to understand where Sprouts is from.”
From repurposed wood...

...to a piece of Sprouts
Recommendations for action

Continue community building

Data collection moving forward using folders accessible by everyone

Bring more stakeholders on board through initiatives such as the Sustainable Food Access Fund Referendum
Community building
Design things together. Emphasis on dialogue.

Make it personal
Personalize and make memories.

Collaborative
Record keeping in a way that is organized and transparent.

Advocacy
Lobbying to bring more stakeholders on board.
Thank you!

Any questions?