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For Immediate Release

Bidders are invited at Khatsahlano

Away from the public eye, Vancouverites hear bidders routinely cleaning up our back lanes. On Saturday July 11, for the first time, bidders are center-stage as part of a social innovation program happening at the West 4th Avenue Khatsahlano Street Party.

Bidders are urban recyclers. Saturday, they will educate the public on recycling, monitor waste, and demonstrate the valuable contributions they make to our society. At the end of the event, they will cash in the refundable containers they divert from the waste stream, enabling them to supplement their regular binning income.

“I have been binning for over 15 years in Vancouver, and it wasn’t until I joined the Bidders’ Project that I saw myself as a recycler” says Michael Leland, Bidders’ Project lead bidder.

Khatsahlano is the first of the Bidder Event Program, an innovative social pilot organised by the Bidders’ Project. This program aims at increasing innovative economic opportunities for one of the most marginalized communities in Vancouver.

Previous research on recycling at events (City of Vancouver) shows that event attendees tend to be confused by the now standard four-stream recycling stations available for garbage to be sorted.

Already, a number of event organisers have reached out to the Bidders’ Project with the objective of integrating bidders in their events. This is in response to a growing demand from the public for more events to be socially inclusive, rooted in their communities and geared towards waste reduction. Burgeoning social and environmental conscientiousness make this project highly popular.

Khatsahlano project organiser Tim Furness says: “Our team is very enthusiastic about working with the Bidders’ project. Khatsahlano is Vancouver's largest street party; we’re hoping the bidders can help us increase waste diversion and we are excited to include people from the community.”

Created in April 2014 with support from the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, the [Bidders’ Project](#) is a group of waste-pickers dedicated to improving their economic opportunities and reducing the stigma they face as informal recyclable collectors.

Over the past year, it has engaged over 300 Vancouver bidders through monthly meetings, workshops, and activities, such as the [Coffee Cup Revolution](#) in October 2014. The Bidders’ Project is a project on [Tides Canada](#)’s shared platform, which supports on-the-ground efforts to create uncommon solutions for the common good. Tides Canada is a national Canadian charity dedicated to a healthy environment, social equity, and economic prosperity.

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