

# Design for Humanity

Bold, brave, impactful  
educational designs for  
equity, inclusivity and  
excellence



## How to Design for Humanity: Bold, Brave, Impactful Educational Designs for Equity, Inclusivity and Excellence

**Abstract:** Delve into the essence of sustainability and its profound impact on fostering real change within educational settings. To ignite transformation, we must first cultivate a space that welcomes open and courageous dialogues on equity, drawing in diverse perspectives from all community stakeholders. This inclusive approach lays the groundwork for addressing the complexities of implementing widespread cultural shifts that resonate throughout the entire educational community.

At the heart of this discussion is the concept of a sustainability culture—an ethos that not only champions our planet's well-being but also embodies core values of equity and inclusion. Discover how a sustainability culture sparks joy and optimism within early learning spaces and K-12 school districts alike, offering safe, healthy environments that promote ecological responsibility and often yield cost efficiencies. Moreover, delve into how sustainability initiatives contribute to the holistic well-being of students, educators, and all members of our educational communities. Through compelling examples, we'll examine how sustainable spaces serve as catalysts for nurturing a community culture rooted in equity and inclusion. This culture, in turn, fosters holistic student development and paves the way for a more equitable and just future for all.

Join us as we unpack the opportunities and challenges of implementing a framework that harmonizes leadership, environment, and equity, and discover the transformative potential that awaits within our educational spaces.



## **Dr. Sandra-Lynn Shortall, EdD**

### ***Director of Instruction – Inclusive Education, West Vancouver School District***

Sandra-Lynn is an educational leader driving systemic change for inclusivity in public education. Her educational background includes Bachelor Degrees in Education and Special Education from Memorial University, a Masters of Education from UBC, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership & Policy from the University of Kansas. Sandra-Lynn began her career teaching in Special Education on the east coast of Canada and has been a school administrator and district leader in West Vancouver for the past 20 years. Her work focuses on the importance of human connection – the value of nourishing both the heart and the mind as the foundation of successful healthy human development, community connections, professional learning, student engagement and equitable access to educational excellence for all.

## **Bridgitte Alomes**

### ***CEO + Founder, Natural Pod***

Bridgitte is a thought leader dedicated to creating better learning environments. Raising a strong, resilient generation of learners requires significant social change, and Bridgitte invokes conversations and takes action on how to do better business to facilitate such change. Through her work with Natural Pod, she is committed to sharing the importance of learning environment design with the global education and design community, shifting the paradigm of learning spaces toward a more collaborative, intentional, and student-centric model.



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Hello!



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Sandra-Lynn Shortall  
*Assistant Superintendent*  
*West Vancouver School District*



Bridgitte Alomes  
*CEO + Founder*  
*Natural Pod*

# Who is Sandra-Lynn?





**What's it like at  
West Vancouver  
Schools?**





Let's define:

# Courageous Conversations



# 4 Agreements of Courageous Conversations



**Stay engaged**



**Experience  
discomfort**



**Speak your  
truth**



**Expect & accept  
non-disclosure**



# Equity, Inclusivity, & Diversity?

These topics evoke strong emotions and differing opinions, creating a louder conversation as education becomes a microcosm of larger societal challenges.





**Let's dive in!**

**Q+A with Dr Shortall**







## Designing for Equity

SKWXWÚ7MESH ÚXWUMIXW  
Squamish Nation, BC, Canada



**If I'm a Designer..**

**Where do I start?**



**If I'm an Educator or  
School Admin...**

**Where do I start?**



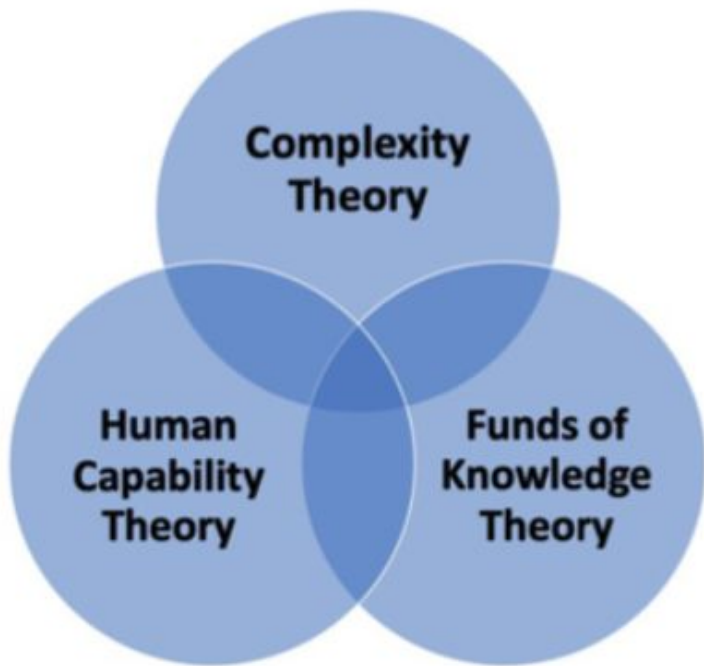


**What  
resources/tools are  
available to me?**



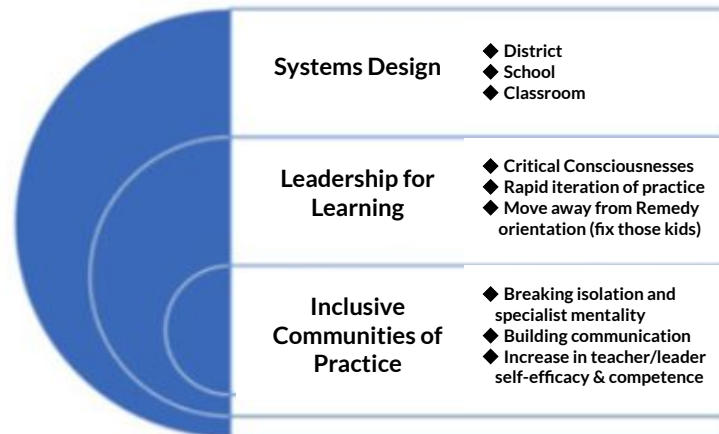
# Theoretical Framing:

Engaging Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity



The Way Forward  
Transformative Agenda

# Conceptual Framework:



Source: Shortall, 2022

# All means ALL: We are the answer.

There is not self development without self-awareness. You can read as many books as you like, but if you're unable to read yourself, you'll never learn a thing.



**Let's say yes.**

Let's be honest.

Let's be brave.

Let's be bold.

Let's be intentional.

Let's be intelligent.

Let's be thoughtful.

Let's care more.

**Are you designing for  
today AND tomorrow?**





## Sandra-Lynn Shortall

*West Vancouver School District*

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“I’m interested in driving systemic change for inclusivity in public ed. My work focuses on the importance of human connection as the foundation of successful healthy human development, community, professional learning, student engagement & equitable access to educational excellence for all.”

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## Bridgitte Alomes

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“Raising a strong, resilient generation of learners requires significant social change, and I’m interested in invoking conversations and taking action on how to do better business to facilitate such change.”

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