



VANCOUVER OUTSIDER ARTS FESTIVAL (VOAF) WALK

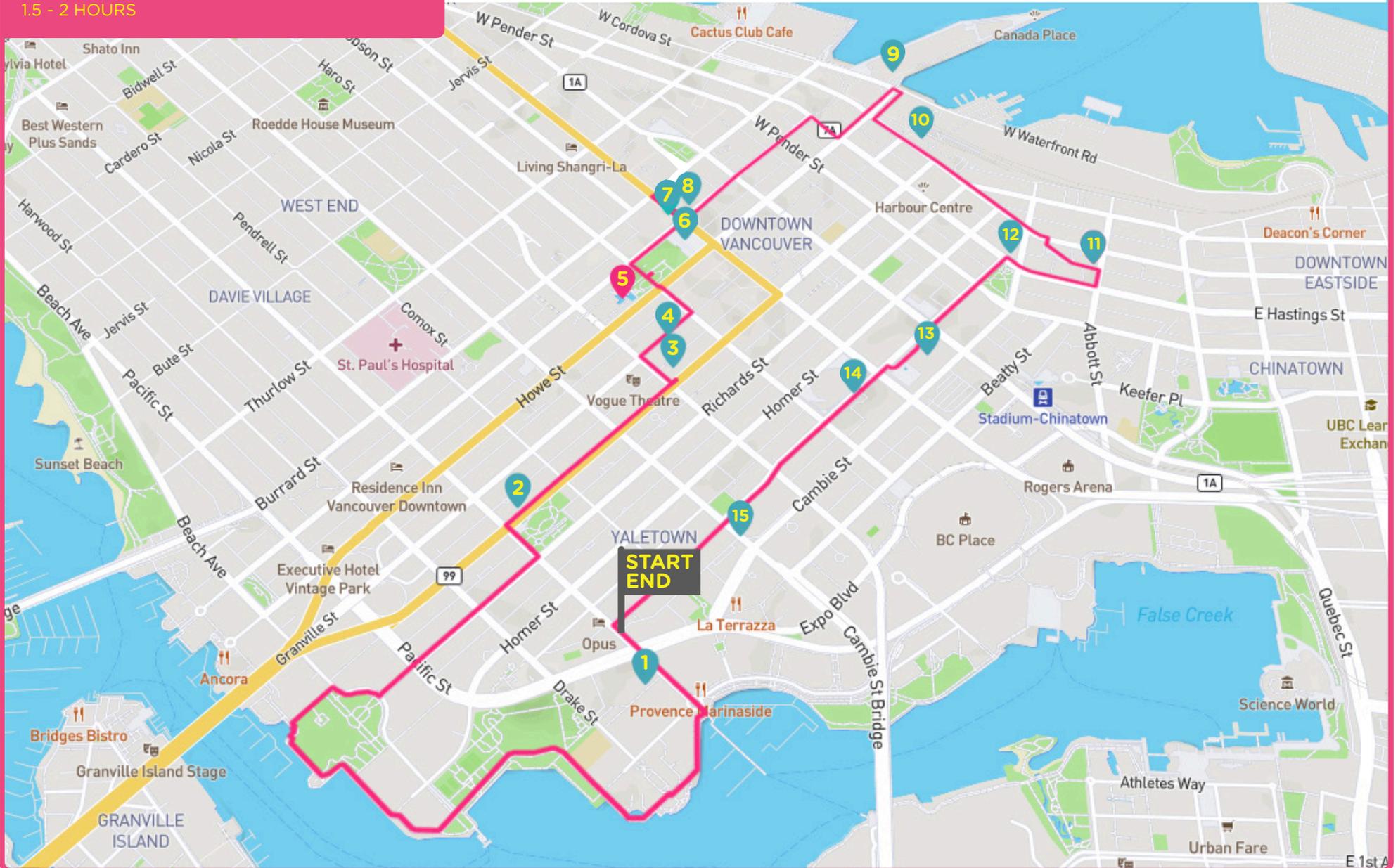
By Community Arts Council of Vancouver (CACV)

5 KM ROUND TRIP | 6,250 - 7,500 STEPS
1.5 - 2 HOURS

VANCOUVER BIENNALE VANCOUVER BIENNALE



PRESENTED BY





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ABOUT THE ROUTE

This unique tour starts and ends at the Vancouver Outsider Arts Festival – presented by The Community Arts Council of Vancouver. Take in this multi-day, art show and sale which features a multitude of visual and performing artists. This Scenic walking tour highlights some of Vancouver’s most celebrated districts, arts institutions, architecture and will take you through Yaletown, the Downtown core, and through Gastown before returning to the Roundhouse.

CREATED BY




VOAF VANCOUVER OUTSIDER ARTS FESTIVAL

VANCOUVER OUTSIDER ARTS FESTIVAL

October 15-17, 2021
THE ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS & RECREATION CENTRE

ONLINE FESTIVAL

Oct 27 - Dec 1, 2021

VOAF.CA

FREE ADMISSION
FREE WORKSHOPS

COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL OF VANCOUVER

RENDERING OF ARTWORK BY JOHN CLINOCK

ROUTE STOPS

1	ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ART & RECREATION CENTRE	181 Roundhouse Mews
2	VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL	1181 Seymour St.
3	ORPHEUM & VSO	601 Smithe St.
4	BC STAR WALK	Granville between Smithe & Robson
5	SPRING - ALAN CHUNG HUNG	Robson Square
6	VANCOUVER ART GALLERY	750 Hornby St.
7	HOTEL VANCOUVER	909 W Georgia
8	CATHEDRAL PLACE + CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL	925 W Georgia
9	CANADA PLACE	999 Canada Pl.
10	WATERFRONT STATION	601 W Cordova St.
11	WOODWARD'S BUILDING	333 Abbott St.
12	DOMINION BUILDING	207 W Hastings St.
13	CIVIC THEATRE COMPLEX	630 Hamilton St.
14	HAMILTON (TREE-LINED) STREET	Hamilton and W Georgia
15	YALETOWN	Nelson and Mainland





#1 - ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ART & RECREATION CENTRE

Vancouver Outsider Arts Festival: (VOAF) a creation of the CACV, is a celebration of Outsider Art, also known as Art Brüt. An Outsider artist is one who is challenged by social exclusion and other barriers, opportunities for exhibition and sales, performance and participation, connection and learning. The artists may be self-taught or trained, they are all devoted to their creative practices, and come from a point of view that is outside the mainstream art world trends. Outsider art is celebrated at significant fairs and museums around the world, including major annual fairs in Paris and New York. VOAF is Canada's first and only festival for Outsider Art. The Vancouver Outsider Arts Festival is currently celebrating its 5th year.

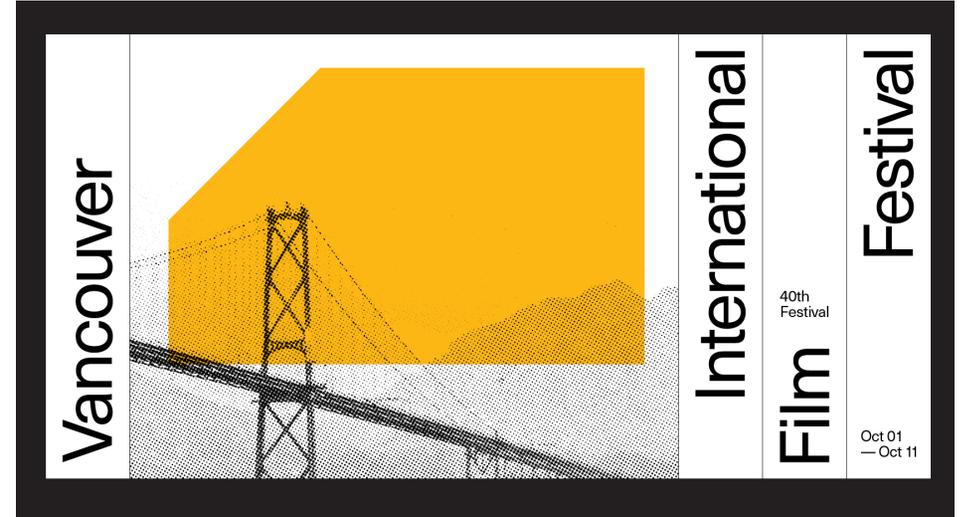
Roundhouse Community Centre: Home of the annual VOAF, the Roundhouse Community Centre has long been admired for its architecture and historical significance. Initially established as a group of buildings intended to house and service the great steam locomotives that ran the CPR tracks.

As steam engines were eventually replaced by diesel locomotives, the Roundhouse lost its function, and fell into disrepair. A group of train enthusiasts lobbied to save the historical building, they were joined by many Vancouver citizens and were successful in preserving the original structure.

In 1984 the BC Place Corporation secured Norman Hotson Architects to restore the Roundhouse, preserving its historic exterior, and transforming the interior space for use as a themed pavilion for Expo '86 World Fair. After the Fair, the building again lost its function until 1993 when Concord Pacific began the overall development plan for the False Creek area and designated the Roundhouse as a public amenity. The Vancouver Park Board stepped in and established the Roundhouse "as a unique facility dedicated to community development through arts and culture -an arts-orientated community centre that would serve not only the residents of the area, but all citizens of Vancouver."

DIRECTIONS

Once you have taken in the Outsider Arts Festival, Progress west on Davie St to Seymour St past the beautifully designed Emery Barnes Park.



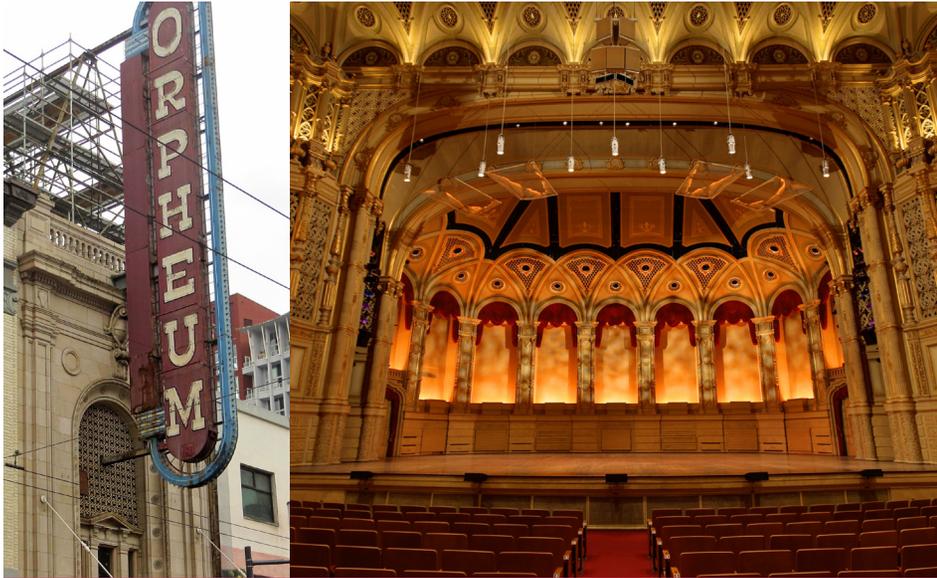
#2 - VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM CENTRE

The Vancouver International Film Centre, houses the VanCity Theatre and is home of Vancouver International Film Festival.

The Community Arts Council of Vancouver (CACV) launched the first Vancouver International Film Festival in 1958. After facing financial difficulties, the event was discontinued after the 1969 Festival. In 1981 it was relaunched in its current form by the Vancouver International Film Festival Society. Initially hosted at the independent Ridge Theatre, the Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) is now housed in the VanCity Theatre, located at the Vancouver International Film Centre. VIFF, one of the largest film festivals in North America, screens films from approximately 75 countries, hosts workshops, talks, performances and other special events related to cinema. The building itself, designed by Hewitt and Kwasnicky Architects, boasts a towering glass frontage that floods with light and pays homage to the screen. Pop into the lobby to and admire the collection of film posters on display.

DIRECTIONS

Continue North on Seymour to Smithe St. Turn West on Smithe to Granville St. Once at Granville, continue North (toward the mountains.)



#3 - ORPHEUM & VSO

The Community Arts Council of Vancouver became heavily involved in civic heritage preservation during the 1970s, a time when many of Vancouver's original structures were falling to new developments. The CACV initiated a 'Heritage Identification' project designed to identify structures of significant historical, cultural and artistic value to Vancouver. The Orpheum theatre, which was then slated for demolition, was identified as one such building. The CACV initiated negotiations between Famous Players and the city. Eventually, the city agreed to purchase and restore the theatre, restoring its magnificent interior. The Orpheum became the permanent home of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (VSO)

"The Orpheum debuted in 1927 as Vancouver's biggest vaudeville house. Later it transitioned into a movie palace and eventually a concert hall. Through its over 90 year tenure, the opulent venue has hosted everyone from visiting royalty and political leaders to wartime recruiters and charitable organizations. Patrons travelled to Vancouver from around the world to experience legendary performers like Fred Astaire and the Marx Brothers, as well as up-and-comers like tap dancer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. This connection to a range of cinematic and live entertainment continues today with the venue regularly hosting classical music performances, film viewings and live shows. The current venue retains key elements of its former splendour. Grand staircases lead to a series of lobbies. Scores of arches, varying from rounded Romanesque to pointed Gothic, lend the building a sense of progression and lead the eye to the proscenium stage." (Vancouver Civic Theatres)

DIRECTIONS:

Continue north on Granville Street (LOOK DOWN!)



#4 - BC STAR WALK

BC Star Walk, Created and Facilitated by the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame

The BC Entertainment Hall of Fame celebrates the performers, directors, dancers, critics, impresarios and theatre managers who make up the vibrant entertainment field in BC. The Star Walk, which starts outside the Orpheum Theatre, and continues to Robson Street, features Vancouverites known for their excellence and high public profile in the entertainment industry. Tucked into the walk, along with notables like Bryan Adams, Nicole Cavendish and Michael Bublé, you'll spot a star for the CACV's Iby Koener. Iby Koerner persuaded William Steinberg, conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra to come to Vancouver and conduct the VSO at a benefit concert for a new music school for music training for school age children. Her work connecting international artists to the Vancouver arts scene led to the establishment of the Vancouver School of Music (currently located in Vanier Park), the UBC School of Music, and had a major influence on the development of music programming in public schools.



#5 - SPRING - ALAN CHUNG HUNG

Spring
Alan Chung Hung
1981

Installed in 1981, *Spring*, is a red steel coil that looks like it might be keeping Erickson's concrete in place.

Chung Hung was born in Canton, China in 1946. He trained as a civil engineer in Hong Kong and moved to Vancouver in 1969. He went on to study sculpture at the Vancouver School of Art and to co-found the Chinese Canadian Visual Arts Society. Chung Hung was invited to design the sculpture after winning a juried competition put on by the BC Building Corporation. He died in 1994 at the young age of 48, but left a public art legacy here that also includes *Gate to the Northwest Passage* at Vanier Park, *Clouds* at 938 Howe and *Goddess of Democracy* at UBC.

DIRECTIONS:

Exit Robson Square on the east side and follow Howe St. to the back side of the Vancouver Art Gallery



#6 - VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

In 1975, the Provincial government proposed a municipal center building in the heart of Vancouver. The proposal included a tower that was over 200 meters (682 ft) tall. Opponents worried that the tower would cast a “dark shadow” over the heart of the city, and interrupt the skyline that was, until then, preserved. The CACV worked to secure an alternate proposal from legendary architect Arthur Erickson. When Erickson described the project he said, ‘This won’t be a corporate monument. Let’s turn it on its side and let people walk all over it.’ He anchored it in such a way with the BC courts — the law — at one end and the museum (Vancouver Art Gallery) — the arts — at the other. The foundations of society. And underneath it all, the government offices quietly support their people.

In 1949, CACV’s exhibit at the Vancouver Art Gallery, *Designed for Living*, posed the question “Does your house fit you?” The show attracted over 14 thousand visitors and has been credited with marking the beginning of Canada’s West Coast Modernist style of art and architecture.

Today, Robson Square also houses a University of British Columbia campus, community ice rink, public art installations and multiple public court yards for the community to gather. During the pandemic, the public spaces flooded with dancers and street performers of all genres, who used the space as a COVID safe rehearsal area. Each week, the reflective office windows in the lower levels serve as studio mirrors for hundreds of dedicated dancers, skateboarders and street performers honing their skills, giving the public a remarkable insight into the many hours of planning, and hard work that performance artists dedicate to their craft.



#7 - HOTEL VANCOUVER

In 1946, Vancouverites packed the Mayfair Ballroom of the Hotel Vancouver to celebrate the forming of the CACV (then known as the Community Arts Council). The hotel is one of Canada's original Grand Railway Hotels, built by Canadian National Railway. Construction began in 1929, but was not completed until 1939, as a result of funding issues that arose from the Great Depression.

The completion required additional funding from rival rail company Canadian Pacific Railway. Like other Chateau style hotels built across Canada in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Hotel features architectural elements typical of chateaus found in Loire Valley of France, and Renaissance architectural detailing with the inclusion of gargoyles and relief sculptures.



#8 - CATHEDRAL PLACE + CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Cathedral Place: Immediately to the east of Christ Church Cathedral is the Cathedral Place tower. This is the former location of the Georgia Medical Building, Vancouver's first art deco skyscraper completed in 1929, by the architects John McCarter and George Nairne who also built the Marine Building. The structure featured medical, religious and mythological symbols around the main entrance including three 11-foot high terracotta statues depicting nursing sisters of the First World War. Despite the intense bid, the Georgia Medical Building was demolished and replaced by Cathedral Place. Modern adaptations of the art deco style and replicas of the Nursing Sisters, the religious and mythological elements of the McCarter/Nairne design can have been included in the new design. In 1989, the City of Vancouver awarded CACV a Heritage Award in recognition of their campaign to save the building.

Christ Church Cathedral: Built in the Gothic Style, this is downtown Vancouver's oldest surviving building. With cedar ceiling beams, and floors made with old growth Douglas Fir, the church was built to serve the tiny residential logging town that Vancouver once was. Construction began in 1894 and Christ Church was dedicated on February 17th, 1895.

After being spared from the proposed freeway development in the 1960s, the church soon faced another urban challenge. In the early 1970s a proposal was put forth to demolish the church to make way for a high-rise tower complex designed by Arthur Erickson. In 1976, the CACV, along with other public heritage preservation organizations, were successful in their petition to have the Cathedral declared a Class 'A' heritage site by the City of Vancouver.

2016 marked the end of a near 20-year renovation and restoration project capped by the installation of the stunning bell tower that houses 4 brass bells inside a stained-glass spire. Return to West Georgia Street and continue east to Granville Street. Note that much of the historical architecture from West Georgia St north to the water that was preserved by CACV public petition against Freeway project in the 1960s.

DIRECTIONS

Continue north on Granville to West Cordova.



#9 - CANADA PLACE

On your way down to the base of Granville Street, the massive 'Sails' of the Canada Place Convention center will come into view. In 1978, Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments commenced planning for development of convention, cruise ship and hotel facilities at Pier BC Canada Place would be used as the Canadian Pavilion at the Expo '86 World Fair.

Among the largest and most elaborate pavilions presented by any nation at any World's Fair, the Canada Pavilion hosted more than 5 million visitors prior to the October 13, 1986 closing date. Wholly funded by the Government of Canada, the Canada Pavilion was converted into the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre in 1987 and was then officially turned over to the Province of British Columbia as a lasting legacy for the Canadian people.

DIRECTIONS:

At the base of Granville St., turn east on West Cordova Street.



#10 - WATERFRONT STATION

One of the many Gastown structures preserved by the CACV's efforts to prevent a freeway that would run through Gastown and Chinatown, the Waterfront Station was built in 1914, by the Canadian Pacific Railway. Waterfront Station is built in the "neoclassical" style, with a symmetrical red-brick facade dominated by a row of smooth, white columns. The columns are repeated in the grand interior hall. The main hall features two large clocks facing each other high on the east and west walls. Paintings depicting various scenic Canadian landscapes, completed in 1916 by Adelaide Langford, line the walls above the columns.

In the 1970s, Waterfront Station began its transformation into a multi-modal transportation hub with the addition of the Sea Bus terminal in 1977, and the Skytrain stations added prior to Expo '86.

DIRECTIONS:

Exit Waterfront Station and head east on Cordova to the Woodward's building.

#11 - WOODWARD'S EXPLORATION



A - WOODWARD'S BUILDING

Look for the icon 'W' that guards the inner courtyard. This spot will mark the start of your exploration of this remarkable space.

Woodward's, founded by Charles A. Woodward, was one of Canada's first department stores, and when this location was built in 1903, this area of Cordova street was the heart of Vancouver's shopping district. In 1944, the giant 'W' was mounted atop the store on a 25 meter tall replica of the Eiffel tower. It was a beacon that could be seen across the city. The site was redeveloped in the early 2000s, and upon completion in 2010, a replica 'W' complete with modern LED lights, was mounted atop the new structure.

In 1995, a proposal was put forward to develop the site into private housing. Many in the community objected, demanding that protections be in place to support social housing. Ultimately, the objections were heard and the project died.

In the Fall of 2002 a small group of community activists occupied the empty building for one week in a campaign to secure social housing from the Provincial government. After the police eviction a tent city was erected on the sidewalks around the building. The tent city continued for another three months. This series of events is known as the Woodward's Squat, and has been acknowledged for setting in motion the eventual community-led redevelopment of the landmark department store.

In 2003, the City of Vancouver, purchased the building and began a public consultation process, asking the community what they wanted from the redevelopment. The city selected Westbank Projects/Peterson Investment Group to develop the project together with the architecture firm of Henriquez Partners. The 400 million dollar, nearly one million square foot project, includes 536 market housing units, 125 singles non-market housing units, 75 family non-market housing units to be operated by the Affordable Housing Society, a market, pharmacy, bank, civic offices, a daycare, public atrium and plaza, and a 130,000 square foot SFU School of Contemporary Arts.

DIRECTIONS

Continue into the lobby atrium of the Woodward's building. Once inside, turn around, and look up at the dramatic lobby mural: Abbott & Cordova, 7 August 1971 by Stan Douglas

#11 - WOODWARD'S EXPLORATION



B - ABBOTT & CORDOVA, 7 AUGUST 1971

Abbott & Cordova, 7 August 1971 Stan Douglas

The enormous (13x8 meters) photo reenactment depicts an actual violent confrontation between police and the city's counterculture in what came to be known as the 'Gastown Riot', during which uniformed and undercover police officers attacked a peaceful "smoke-in" protest organized to oppose what was regarded as police harassment of the counterculture. The riot resulted in the area known as the Downtown East Side being stripped of residential zoning — while the city thought this would prevent the 'hippy youth counter culture' from settling in the neighbourhood, the action is now credited with the deterioration of the neighbourhood community over the decades that followed. The establishment of the Woodward's project was the first step toward rectifying the zoning and re-establishing a residential community in the Downtown Eastside.

Artist Stan Douglas was born in Vancouver in 1960. His multimedia work reenacts historical moments of tension that connect local histories to broader social movements of struggle and utopian aspiration. In the artist's intricate works, time and place fold back onto themselves to create a parallax of both vision and narrative: multiple moments in history and geography are experienced by the viewer simultaneously and reconciled into a new story.

Exit Woodward's building via the West entrance (under the Stan Douglas) and continue through the back exit of the courtyard (through the short laneway) west to Cambie street. South on Cambie street to West Hastings St.

DIRECTIONS:

Turn West on Hastings



#12 - DOMINION BUILDING

The Dominion building, With its vibrant copper rooftop, was Vancouver's first steel-framed high-rise. Upon its completion in 1910, the 53 m (175 ft), thirteen-story building was the tallest commercial building in the country. The building served as the hub for the city's legal and financial business until the courthouse (then located across the street in what is now Victory Square) moved to Georgia street in 1913.

Today it is a provincially designated Class "A" heritage structure. And one of the many iconic structures preserved by the CACV's efforts to preserve Vancouver Heritage sites.

DIRECTIONS:

Cross the street and continue South on Hamilton Street (past Victory Sq)



#13 - CIVIC THEATRE COMPLEX

Two iconic civic arts institutions nested together in one place, designed to supply Vancouver with the auditorium space required during a time when live theatre space was scarce. The theatres were built out of necessity for places where "important musical and dramatical events" could be staged for city patrons.

The Queen Elizabeth Theatre, opened in 1959, is a spectacular civic Arts complex. The auditorium features broad columns, dramatic crimson seating, and textured finishes that are both contemporary and cozy. The atrium's sweeping staircases, fairy-like chandeliers, and reflective surfaces add a playfully dramatic feel. CACV Board Executive Frank Low-Ber, and other members, lobbied the Vancouver City Council (with a 20,000 name petition) to include a theatre in the late 1950's five year plan. The impact of the theatre was immediate and profound: for the first time, major roadshows like My Fair Lady were able to stage productions in Vancouver, and shows staged across the U.S. border were compelled to extend their productions to Vancouver. Drama, opera, and the symphony were core activities, though the theatre also hosted events ranging from performances by internationally recognized artists to political meetings and holiday parties.

The Playhouse Board was formed by the City with CACV Mary Roaf as a member. Built in conjunction with the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, the Vancouver Playhouse opened in 1962 at a critical point in the development of the performing arts culture in Canada. Facilities for live theatre and musical groups were scarce. Today, the Vancouver Playhouse is home to DanceHouse, Friends of Chamber Music and the Vancouver Recital Society.

DIRECTIONS:

Continue South on Hamilton Past the CBC building.



#14 - HAMILTON (TREE-LINED) STREET

It is almost impossible to imagine, but there was a time, just after WWII, when there were almost no trees on Vancouver streets and open spaces were seemingly outside the scope of consideration for City Hall. The downtown area was deserted at night and on weekends. The canyons of buildings and littered streets—covered in billboards and commercial pennants — drove residents to leave the city for suburban areas.

When the CACV established the Civic Arts Committee in 1950/51 its initial concern was for the improvement of the appearance of downtown Vancouver. The CACV lobbied for the installation of well designed telephone booths, litter bins, bus shelters, and benches. Next the CACV pushed for trees to be planted along streets, and the preservation of open areas for citizens to gather.

Flash forward to today, and Vancouver’s downtown is known for its tree lined boulevards (like the one you’re strolling on now) green spaces, and boasts many beautiful parks and benches where our communities can come together.

DIRECTIONS:

Continue on Mainland St. through Yaletown historical/entertainment area to Davie St.



#15 - YALETOWN AND FINISH

Soon after the construction of bridges across False Creek in 1889, railway yards were developed by the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) and many of the CPR workers were resettled from Yale, BC. Yaletown takes its name from this labour migration.

The area was redeveloped for Expo 86, but from the start, the city planners imposed strict guidelines on the development, requiring a substantial amount of development of the public realm, and sensitive preservation of existing heritage stock. There are generous areas set aside for parks, waterfront access, community centres, and schools.

While little or no original housing from the 19th century survives, several older buildings from the industrial days still exist. Hamilton Street and Mainland Street are the most significant, comprising two intact streetscapes from that era. They are lined with handsome brick warehouses built on rail platforms, many with cantilevered canopies. These have been converted into apartments and offices, with boutique shops, bars and restaurants at the ground level. During the latter years of the Dot Com Boom, these streets were known as Vancouver’s “multimedia gulch.”

Yaletown is a great place to stop for a refreshment before returning to the Vancouver Outsider Arts Festival.

DIRECTIONS

Turn South on Davie to Pacific St. to complete the tour!

Once you arrive back at the Roundhouse Community Centre, you’ve completed the VOAF WALK. Welcome back to VOAF! Come on in, grab a schedule and see what’s live!