CYCLING

PEDAL WITH PRIDE!

By Vancouver Biennale

25 KM
2 - 3 HOURS

ABOUT THE ROUTE

Hop on your bike for Pride 2021! We've devised a ride combining LGBTQIA2+ relevant spaces and places with contemporary art installations throughout Vancouver. You'll start at Vanier Park, ride through downtown Vancouver and over to Commercial Street, and return to where you started along the False Creek Seawall. If you are interested in a hidden, frequently neglected, history of Vancouver, this ride is for you!

Many of the points of interest (POIs) and associated annotations during this ride come from Instagram via @queerheritagevan. While thanking them for sharing and posting images relating to the city's queer heritage and history, we encourage you to watch for the City of Vancouver's rainbow-coloured heritage plaques providing fascinating windows to the past. If you prefer, simply read the plaques' messaging in our annotations!

If you're a photographer who likes to post on social media, don't forget to tag your photos with #VanBiennale!

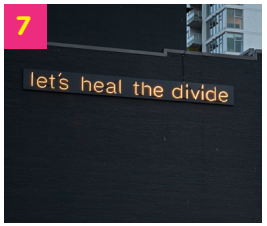
Bike Ride Safety

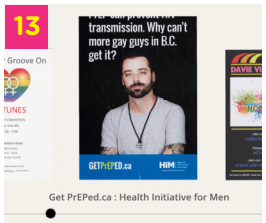
- Use bike lights and wear a helmet.
- Use designated bike lanes and routes, whenever possible.
- Ride at a leisurely pace and yield to pedestrians.
- When passing, ring your bell or yell "ON UR LEFT"

**Follow rules of the road. The Motor Vehicle Act and city bylaws apply to cyclists. **

ROUTE STOPS

1	ENGAGEMENT - DENNIS OPPENHEIM	Sunset Beach Park
2	LITTLE SISTERS BOOK & ART EMPORIUM	1221 Thurlow
3	THE SHAGGY HORSE	818 Richards St
4	VANCOUVER ART GALLERY STEPS	750 Hornby St.
5	BLANKETING THE CITY PART IV - DEBRA SPARROW	566 Richards St.
6	OUT ON SCREEN (VICTORY SQUARE)	200 W Hastings ST.
7	let's heal the divide - TONI LATOUR	133 Keefer St.
8	SUM GALLERY & PRIDE IN ART SOCIETY	268 Keefer St.
9	COMMERCIAL DRIVE	Commercial & Charles St.
10	HARRY'S OFF COMMERCIAL	1716 Charles St.
11	EYES ON THE STREET - MARIE KHOURI	1661 Quebec St.
12	GIANTS - OSGEMEOS	
13	BC GAY AND LESBIAN ARCHIVES	1150 Chestnut St.





#1 - ENGAGEMENT - DENNIS OPPENHEIM

Engagement
Dennis Oppenheim
2005 – 2007 Vancouver Biennale exhibition

Having constructed several large-scale sculptural works throughout the 1990s and 2000s, Oppenheim (1938-2011) remains one of the world's most influential and respected artists. His work was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Vancouver Biennale in 2007. The initial installation of this artwork in 2005 coincided with same-sex marriage debates taking place in Canada. This work is a Legacy Artwork of the 2005 – 2007 Vancouver Biennale.

Engagement is one of three versions that artist Dennis Oppenheim produced referencing the traditional engagement rings. In a "Pop Art" form where everyday domestic objects are taken out of their domestic environment and re-conceptualized as monumental sculptures, this version of Engagement rises nearly 30 feet. Where one would expect to find diamonds, there are two translucent houses of plexiglass and aluminum, which are illuminated and precariously tilted away from each other.

As a commentary on the precarious balances in marriage, that of the romantic, traditional, economic and the illusions inherent in the institution, the meaning of Engagement is intentionally open-ended. Oppenheim often declined to interpret or explain his work, leaving the interpretation to the viewer.

#2 - LITTLE SISTERS BOOK & ART EMPORIUM

CITY OF VANCOUVER QUEER HERITAGE PLAQUE

Store co-founder Bruce Smyth and his partner, Jim Deva, first opened Little Sister's Book & Art Emporium upstairs in an old residential house at 1221 Thurlow Street in April 1983, before moving to their current location in the 1990s.

Since opening their doors, Little Sister's has championed queer voices and created a community gathering place while surviving years of government harassment as they challenged censorship and survived three anti-gay terrorist bombings.

In 2016, Don Wilson took over the iconic store and continues the tradition of maintaining a great selection of queer books for all ages, vital coming-out info, sexy advice, hot erotica, queer art, fun clothing, and quality adult toys and supplies.

#3 - THE SHAGGY HORSE

CITY OF VANCOUVER QUEER HERITAGE PLAQUE

818 Richards Street was a gay and lesbian bar called the August Club from 1968 to the early '70s. In 1972, the bar reopened as The Shaggy Horse, becoming a popular Leather and Levis bar, also home to the Zodiacs Fraternal Society. The interior walls of the bar were covered in shag carpet, reinforcing the shaggy identity. The club was a live music venue, had a pool table, hosted weekly women's nights and gay leather events, and featured music nights ranging from punk and western to acid, jazz and techno. The bar sponsored a baseball team and produced calendars over the years featuring the Leather looks the bar was known for. The bar closed in the late '90s, and the building was demolished to make way for a parking lot.

The site is now under construction.

#4 - VANCOUVER ART GALLERY STEPS - GAY RIGHTS PROTEST SIT

CITY OF VANCOUVER QUEER HERITAGE PLAQUE

In 1958, ted northe, a Canadian drag queen and gay civil rights activist, staged a protest on these steps, then home to the Vancouver Court House, advocating for the decriminalization of homosexuality in Canada. At great personal risk, he protested in drag to bring attention to the action. It would be another 11 years before bill C-150 was passed on June 27th, 1969, the day before the Stonewall Riots in New York City.

On August 28th, 1971, 20 gay rights activists known as The Gay Alliance Towards Equality rallied on these same steps in the first national political action in Canada for gay rights. The action identified as "We Demand" and was one of several protests held simultaneously across the country demanding the Canadian federal government eradicate systemic discrimination against gays and lesbians embedded in Canadian law, ensuring equal rights for gays and lesbians in relation to employment, Armed Forces, immigration, child custody, age of consent and more.

ted northe is pictured above

#5 - BLANKETING THE CITY IV - DEBRA SPARROW

Blanketing the City IV – Cathedral Square
Debra Sparrow, Chief Janice George (Sḵwxwú7mesh), Angela George (səlilwətaɬ)
2018-2021

Blanketing The City is a public art mural series and Reconciliation process designed by acclaimed xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) weaver and graphic designer Debra Sparrow in collaboration with Vancouver Mural Festival. Begun in 2018, the series boldly affirms the resurgence and importance of Coast Salish weaving on these lands, and directly combats the ongoing systemic suppression of Indigenous visual culture.

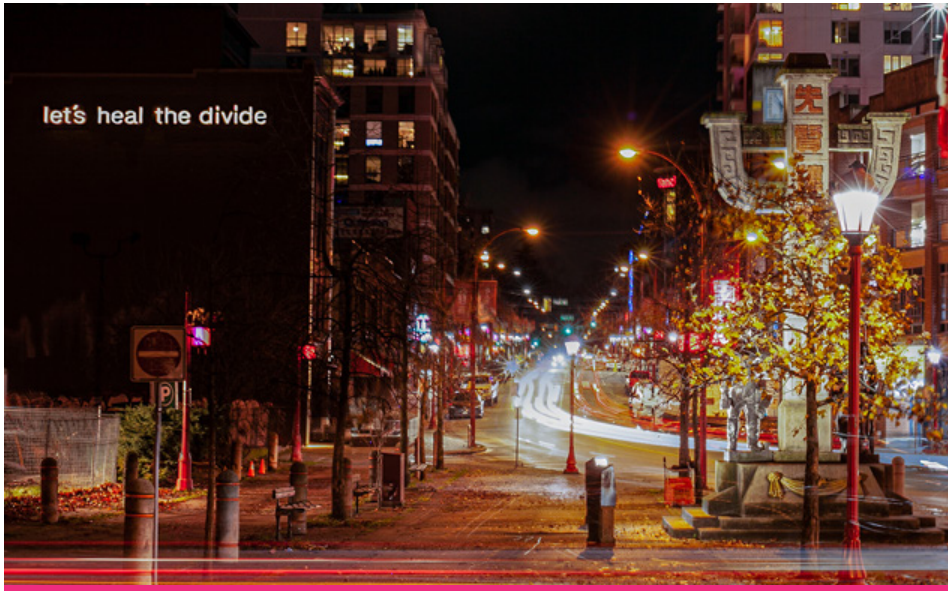
Debra Sparrow has invited master weavers Chief Janice George (Sḵwxwú7mesh) and Angela George (səlilwətaɬ) to collaborate on the design of 7 landmark murals blanketing Cathedral Square Park. *Blanketing The City IV: Cathedral Square* boldly transmits and magnifies the visibility of xwməθkwəyəʼm, Sḵwxwú7mesh and səlilwətaɬ culture on their ancestral lands. This project is a deep exploration and implementation of Indigenous visibility in public spaces via a multi-year collaboration amongst these weavers. *Blanketing The City IV: Cathedral Square* will be the first semi-permanent public art collaboration amongst weavers from the three local nations.

#6 - LEG IN BOOT SQUARE

CITY OF VANCOUVER QUEER HERITAGE PLAQUE

VANCOUVER QUEER FILM FESTIVAL & OUT IN SCHOOLS

For over 30 years, Out On Screen has proudly showcased films that illuminate transformative moments in the lives of queer, trans, and two-spirit people. Committed to fostering belonging, affirmation, and connections within the community and with other social movements since becoming an official non-profit society in 1989, Out On Screen is the umbrella company for Out In Schools (launched in 2004 as a pilot project, now reaching over 100,000 students across BC) and the annual Vancouver Queer Film Festival-- growing from a small festival among friends in 1988, to the first Vancouver Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in 1993, and eventually into the Vancouver Queer Film Festival in 2006. Over the years Out On Screen has fought and won censorship and discrimination battles while sponsoring scholarships, video-training programs, youth video contests; hosting legendary anniversary parties; and engaging Canadian artists through film commissions and community art focused on creating a legacy of queer visibility. The Vancouver Queer Film Festival is Western Canada's largest queer arts event, elevating the profile of queer artists through programming immersive films, thought-provoking panels, and captivating events.



#7 - let's heal the divide - TONI LATOUR

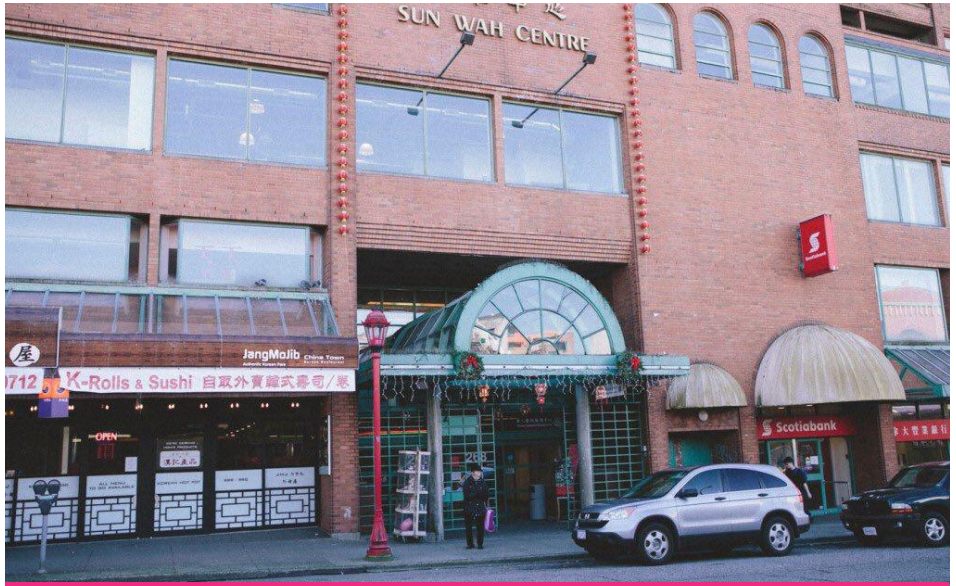
let's heal the divide
Toni Latour
2020

Look up! *let's heal the divide* was originally installed on the façade of Vancouver Community College for the 2015-2017 Vancouver Biennale. It marked the physical and perceptual divisions between the Downtown Eastside, one of the most impoverished postal codes in Canada, and one of the wealthiest commercial and financial districts.

Toni Latour, the artist, is an East Vancouver queer femme artist, educator, and single mother, living on the occupied territories of the Musqueum, Tsleil-Waututh, and Squamish Nations. She works in photography, installation, text-based practices, drawing, video, sound, public and performance art.

Reinstalled in December 2020, the artwork is now located in Vancouver's Chinatown, a neighbourhood confronted with gentrification, class inversion, and the threat of cultural displacement from urban developers and city rezoning.

From a broader perspective, the artwork also resonates beyond its physical surroundings. Globally, we have witnessed institutional and systemic racism and violence, intense political conflict, the rise of the Black Lives Matter and Me Too Movements, the fight to end targeted transgender violence and discrimination, the continued struggle for Indigenous rights and ***environmental***



#8 - SUM GALLERY AND PRIDE IN ART SOCIETY

CITY OF VANCOUVER QUEER HERITAGE PLAQUE

SUM gallery produces, presents, and exhibits with a curatorial vision favouring challenging, thought-provoking multidisciplinary work that pushes boundaries and initiates dialogue. The gallery began as Pride In Art, founded by Two-Spirit artist and activist Robbie Hong in 1998. In 2008, Pride in Art mounted the first Queer Arts Festival. In 2018, SUM opened as a permanent space presenting year-round multidisciplinary exhibitions and events that further the artistic vision of the Queer Arts Festival. SUM brings diverse communities together to support artistic risk-taking, incite creative collaboration and experimentation, and celebrate the rich heritage of queer artists and art. In collaboration with DTES and Chinatown-based arts organizations, artists and community agencies, SUM aims to counteract the established power imbalances of privilege in the arts, with the recognition that these communities have always been a significant part of their staff, board, community and organizational vision. The opening of the permanent space within the BC Artscape Sun Wah art hub provides a larger capacity to support exceptional Two-Spirit and BIPOC LGBTQIA+ artists who live, work and find meaning in their art practices. SUM is the only gallery in Canada presenting multidisciplinary queer art, and one of the only permanent spaces dedicated to the presentation of queer art worldwide.

#9 - COMMERCIAL DRIVE

Vancouver Biennale highly recommends you check out the shops along Commercial Street and maybe stop for a bite, too! However, there is not a bike lane along Commercial Street. If you are not comfortable riding in traffic, we recommend you dismount and walk along the sidewalk.

City of Vancouver Queer Heritage sign
Look for the new City of Vancouver Queer Heritage sign on the southeast corner of Charles and Commercial Drive, across the street from Grandview Park.

#10 - HARRY'S OFF COMMERCIAL

CITY OF VANCOUVER QUEER HERITAGE PLAQUE

Josephine's, a lesbian café, was established on Charles Street by Pat Hogan in 1992 in reaction to boycotting a local café that ejected two women for kissing in 1990. The café was short lived, and eventually taken over by Harry Grunsky and Geoff Chiasson in 1994. The café was rebranded as Harry's Off Commercial, proudly installing 10 Pride flags out front, announcing inclusivity and a safe space, while also serving coffee and meals, and providing space for community gatherings, performances and events. At a time pre-internet, when the queer community struggled to find space to share information and connect, Harry's had a wall inside the café reserved for posting community information and flyers for events, group meetings and queer businesses. Harry's was the first place outside the West End to display AIDS information and distribute free condoms and lube. Other businesses soon followed Harry's lead putting up queer event posters "if Harry had one up." Harry's was a key factor in establishing The Drive as a more queer-friendly neighbourhood. The café eventually closed its doors in 2000; however, over the years many queer artists, musicians, and writers have called this building home.

#11 - EYES ON THE STREET - MARIE KHOURI

Eyes on the Street
Marie Khouri
2018

Take a break and check out the beautiful sights on Pullman Porter Street. Here you can see the large metallic sculpture *Eyes on the Street* by artists Marie Khouri and Charlotte Wall.

The artists were influenced by Jane Jacobs, renowned activist influencing urbanism, who said, speaking of cities, that "there must be eyes upon the street, eyes belonging to those we might call the natural proprietors of the street." Jacob refers to the eyes of the many residents in areas of high density. They are always there providing a recording of the life on the street and in the environment.

Marie Khouri is an alumna of the Vancouver Biennale. Her sculpture entitled Le Banc was installed outside the Olympic Village Canada Line Station for the Biennale's 2009-2011 exhibition.

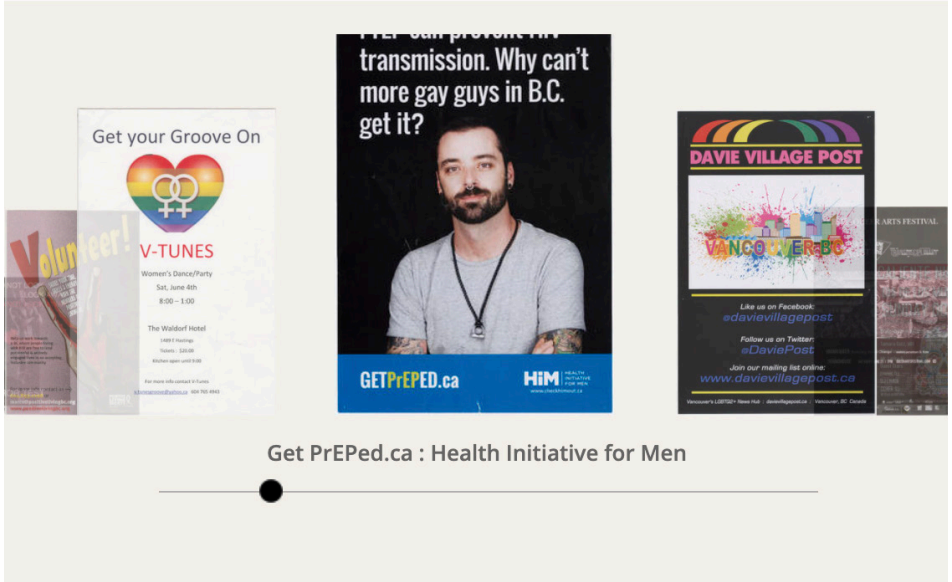
#12 - GIANTS - OSGEMEOS

Giants
OSGEMEOS: Gustavo and Otávio Pandolfo
2014 - 2016 Vancouver Biennale

"Every city needs art, and art has to be in the middle of the people."
- OSGEMEOS

The Vancouver Biennale transformed a Granville Island industrial landmark into a gigantic work of public art. OSGEMEOS created *Giants*, a 360-degree, 21.3-metre- (70-foot-) tall mural, the biggest public mural of their career and their public artwork debut in Canada. The mural, which measures a colourful 2,183 square meters (23,500 square feet), was created on the six gigantic silos that are part of the Ocean Cement manufacturing and distribution plant on Vancouver's Granville Island, alongside the world-famous Public Market and boat docks that attract 10.5 million visitors per year.

Photo Challenge: Take a selfie with the Giants (with your best gigantic smile, of course!) and tag #VanBiennale in your post or story!



Get PrEPed.ca : Health Initiative for Men

#13 - BC GAY AND LESBIAN ARCHIVES

CITY OF VANCOUVER QUEER HERITAGE PLAQUE

Founded in 1976 by archivist Ron Dutton, the BC Gay & Lesbian Archives were stored and maintained by Dutton in his home in Vancouver's West End. The collection was donated to the City of Vancouver Archives in 2018, and has been converted into a digital format that can now be accessed online. The archive holdings include 750,000 items that span from the 1700s to the present, and include media, personal papers such as diaries, photographs, posters, films, periodicals, government reports, and academic research documents. Dutton maintained a diverse collection, particularly focusing on women, people of colour, Two-Spirit people, and people with disabilities, histories often underrepresented by Vancouver's white and male-dominated media.

Since digitization, the BC Gay & Lesbian archives are some of the most frequently accessed archives from the city's collection. Academic researchers, the media, university students, authors, filmmakers, and representatives of gay and lesbian community organizations have found the BC Gay & Lesbian Archives a valuable resource documenting queer history in British Columbia, ensuring the history of the local queer community is neither lost nor erased. Safeguarding this historic legacy is especially important for a culture that has been shaped by oppression, violent attacks, and ongoing discrimination. Dutton continues to collect both historical and new materials as they emerge.

#14 - FINISH - PEDAL WITH PRIDE

We hope you enjoyed this ride and learned about some of the historically significant 2SLGBTQIA+ landmarks and a few of the contemporary artworks installed in the city. We'd love to see some of your photos; don't forget to tag us (#VanBiennale)!

If you're looking for more 2SLGBTQIA+ related events, check out Vancouver Pride, which has events running from July 16th to August 3rd!