



# A RIDE THROUGH TIME AND SPACE

By Community Arts Council of Vancouver

14KM  
1-2 HOURS

## ABOUT THE ROUTE

Ride Through Time and Space is an amazing self-guided tour celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Community Arts Council of Vancouver. Since 1946, this organization has been a leading contributor to establishing Vancouver's arts community. The tour delivers an eye-opening history of milestones in the development of the arts scene linked to CACV. Highlights include some of the most iconic art galleries, theatres, music schools, festivals, civic designs, architecture and community arts programs in our city.

A circle tour like no other! This route offers a combination of the Vancouver Biennale's most celebrated installations with the Community Arts Council of Vancouver's many cultural and architectural destinations.

A leisurely ride along this mostly seaside route will take you past some of Vancouver's most scenic beaches, shorefront neighbourhoods, truly remarkable public art and the many museums, galleries, education centers and theatres established by the CACV, including the Civic Museum complex (H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, Museum of Vancouver and Planetarium), City of Vancouver Archives and Vancouver Academy of Music at Vanier Park, the Granville Island Sea Wall extension, the Queen Elizabeth and Playhouse Theatres, the Vancouver Art Gallery, and more.

## ROUTE STOPS

1	<b>ECHOES   Michel Goulet</b>	<b>1305 Arbutus St (Kits Beach)</b>
2	<b>VANCOUVER MARITIME MUSEUM</b>	1905 Ogden Ave.
3	<b>VANIER PARK AND THE CACV</b>	900 Chestnut St.
4	<b>H.R. MACMILLAN SPACE CENTRE</b>	1100 Chestnut St
5	<b>THE MUSEUM OF VANCOUVER</b>	1100 Chestnut St.
6	<b>VANCOUVER ACADEMY OF MUSIC</b>	1270 Chestnut St.
7	<b>VANCOUVER ARCHIVES</b>	1150 Chestnut St.
8	<b>WELCOME FIGURE   Darren Yelton</b>	False Creek Seawall (South of Burrard Bridge)
9	<b>GRANVILLE ISLAND SEAWALL EXTENSION</b>	West 1st and Creekside Dr.
10	<b>THE BIRDS   Myfanwy Macleod</b>	Olympic Village Square
11	<b>TRANS AM TOTEM   Marcus Bowcott</b>	<b>Quebec St. and Milross</b>
12	<b>let's heal the divide   Toni Latour</b>	<b>133 Keefer St.</b>
13	<b>DR SUN YAT-SEN CHINESE GARDEN</b>	578 Carrall St.
14	<b>QUEEN ELIZABETH AND PLAYHOUSE THEATRES</b>	600 Hamilton St
15	<b>VANCOUVER ART GALLERY / ROBSON SQUARE</b>	750 Hornby St.
16	<b>HOTEL VANCOUVER</b>	900 W Georgia
17	<b>CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL</b>	690 Burrard St.
18	<b>FORMER SITE OF THE GEORGIA MEDICAL DENTAL BUILDING</b>	925 W Georgia
19	<b>BURRARD BRIDGE (VIEW OF CITY OF VANCOUVER)</b>	Burrard Bridge





## #1 - ECHOES | MICHAEL GOULET

### *Echoes*

Michel Goulet

2010 (current location)

2005 – 2007 Vancouver Biennale exhibition

*Echoes* is a series of sixteen one-of-a-kind stainless-steel chairs created exclusively for the Vancouver Biennale Open Air Museum in 2005 by Canadian artist Michel Goulet. Each chair is unique in design and has an inscription in French or English reflecting aphorisms of everyday emotions and dreamlike thoughts. The chairs have been positioned to encourage human interaction and communication and installed so that when sunlight hits them at the perfect angle, the phrases and aphorisms are projected onto the ground below as one large poem. The artwork was originally part of the Vancouver Biennale 2005 – 2007 exhibition, then re-installed by the artist in 2010. Its placement at Kitsilano Beach along the walkway is intended to provide a place of respite for passersby.

*Echoes* was donated to the City of Vancouver through the Vancouver Biennale Legacy Foundation, via financial support from the artist as well as the Buschlen Mowatt Nichol Foundation, at the conclusion of the 2009 – 2011 Vancouver Biennale.



## #2 - VANCOUVER MARITIME MUSEUM

Visit the Vancouver Maritime Museum to uncover the maritime history of the Pacific Northwest and Arctic.

Architecturally, the Vancouver Maritime Museum is a stunning building! It is a wood-shingled and glass A-frame building, designed by C.B.K. Van Norman & Associates in 1966.





### #3 - VANIER PARK AND THE CACV

H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, Museum of Vancouver, Vancouver Maritime Museum: In 1963, CACV noted concern for lack of museum facilities in Vancouver and gathered a museum committee from Civic Museum Board, secured a grant from H.R. MacMillan family to commission Dr. Theodore Heinrich— world renowned museum expert from the Met Museum in NY, and past director of Royal Ontario Museum. Heinrich's many recommendations received a lot of pushback from the city. Ultimately, the City of Vancouver approved the Heinrich Report and the new Centennial project- a collective of themed museums and civic archives was born. Today, these facilities run independently as the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, Museum of Vancouver (MOV) and the Vancouver Maritime Museum.

Museum of Vancouver: The Museum of Vancouver (MOV) connects Vancouverites to each other and connects the city to the world. An enthusiastic civic advocate, MOV is dedicated to encouraging a deeper understanding of Vancouver through stories, objects and shared experiences. The CACV exhibit titled *Vancouver Between the Streets* was held at the Museum of Vancouver in 1975. During the show's six month run it attracted over 140K visitors. The book, *Exploring Vancouver* by Kalman, Ward, and Roaf became the bible of Vancouver's architectural heritage was based on photos taken for the CACV survey of heritage buildings.

Vancouver Academy of Music: In 1976, CACV Board member Iby Koerner persuaded William Steinberg, conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, to come to Vancouver and conduct the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra at a benefit concert for a music school for school age children. Koerner further dedicated her efforts until the community Music School of Vancouver opened its doors to the community on May 9, 1976.



### #4 - H.R. MacMillan Space Centre

The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, known by many and lovingly referred to as the Planetarium, is one of Vancouver's iconic institutions. Located in Kitsilano's Vanier Park, a 15-minute walk from downtown Vancouver, it opened its doors on October 28, 1968 as a gift from lumber magnate and philanthropist H.R. MacMillan to the citizens of Vancouver.

With the advent of space exploration during the 1960s, H.R. MacMillan wanted to provide a resource for his day and future generations. When the facility opened, it consisted of the Planetarium Theatre. With the addition of an exhibit gallery and new demonstration theatre in 1997, the Space Centre evolved into a community resource centre providing learning opportunities for everyone.



## #5 - MUSEUM OF VANCOUVER

“The Museum of Vancouver (MOV) connects Vancouverites to each other and connects the city to the world. An enthusiastic civic advocate, MOV is dedicated to encouraging a deeper understanding of Vancouver through stories, objects and shared experiences. MOV is an independent, non-profit organization that seeks partners to support the evolution of the Museum’s visitor experience.

Our vision is to inspire a socially connected, civically engaged city.

We acknowledge that MOV is located within the unceded, ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.”



## #6 - VANCOUVER ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Founded in 1969, the Vancouver Academy of Music (VAM) is a non-profit institution spreading a love of learning and musical excellence. Minutes away from downtown in a traffic-calmed location, VAM’s spacious facilities offer a home for music-making against the scenic backdrop of Vancouver’s waterfront and the fields of Vanier Park.





## #7 - VANCOUVER ARCHIVES

The City of Vancouver Archives houses and acquires a variety of records that document the city's history.

The archivists ensure that these records are preserved so that future researchers, historians, and anyone interested in the story of Vancouver and its citizens can access these valuable primary and secondary sources.

These include:

- City government records and publications dating back to 1886
- Private sector records documenting the social, political, economic, cultural, and community life of Vancouver from non-government sources
- Photographs from the 1860s to the present
- Maps, over 4,000 dating from the late 1700s
- Architectural plans from ca. 1910 to the 1960s
- Ship plans of over 1000 commercial and private vessels, sailing local waters from the late 1700s to 1980
- News clippings dating back to the 1920s
- Artwork, including over 2,000 works from 1886 to the present
- Books, over 2,500 on British Columbia and Vancouver history from the late 18th century



## #8 - WELCOME FIGURE | DARREN YELTON

*Welcome Figure*  
Darren Yelton  
2006

The Welcome Figure was carved by Darren Yelton and erected by the Squamish Nation in 2006 to welcome visitors to the land that was once the site of a traditional Squamish village called Sen'ákw (pronounced "snawk").





### #9 - GRANVILLE ISLAND SEA WALL EXTENSION

In the 1960s, Vancouver was growing at a rapid rate, and city council was keen to push forward with some aggressive development plans. Then CACV member Hilda Symonds rang the alarm bells. Her efforts ultimately led to the expansion of the Vancouver Seawall through to Granville Island.

The Seawall, one of our city's most iconic features, connects the public with the surrounding waters and beaches, preserves city views looking north and south, and has become a hub for recreational, residential and entertainment use.

For the next 15 minutes, our tour takes you wheeling through the seaside parks, marinas, cobbled courtyards, the famed Olympic Village, past many public art pieces, ponds, and beautiful panoramic views of the city surrounding False Creek. Enjoy the ride, and turn onto the Carral Street Bike Lane — located about 200 meters past Science World.



### #10 - THE BIRDS | MYFANWY MACLEOD

**The Birds**  
**Myfanwy MacLeod**  
**2010**

This duo of giant sparrows is one of Olympic Village's well known landmarks. Inspired by the classic horror film *The Birds*, the artist Myfanwy MacLeod created an artwork to be installed at the site of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Think these birds can't fly? Think again! Due to several years of abuse, mainly from skateboarders trying to catch an edge, *The Birds* had to be flown to Calgary and subsequently China for repairs. They eventually made their way back to their perches in Olympic Village where they remain today.

The artist Myfanwy MacLeod, says this in regard to the inspiration behind the birds:

*"We have a kind of romantic relationship to nature and I'm interested in playing with that romantic notion and kind of inverting it, sort of like how the birds attack in the film... And the scale of [the installation] has that similar effect, where our relationship to the birds has changed. Because normally when you're on the plaza, you see little birds and you're this giant thing. Here it's the opposite: You're the small thing in relationship to the giant birds."*



## #11 - TRANS AM TOTEM | MARCUS BOWCOTT

### *Trans Am Totem*

Marcus Bowcott + Helene Aspinall

2014 - 2016 Vancouver Biennale Exhibition

Thanks to a generous donation from Vancouver philanthropists Chip and Shannon Wilson, this artwork, a legacy of the 2014-2016 Vancouver Biennale exhibition, is a recent addition to the City of Vancouver's public art collection.

North Vancouver-based artists Marcus Bowcott and Helene Aspinall, lifetime partners, created *Trans Am Totem* as a site specific installation. This 10-meter-high (33-foot), 11,340-kilogram (25,000-pound) sculpture, located at Quebec Street and Milross Avenue, is composed of five real scrap cars stacked upon an old growth cedar tree.

The artwork considers our consumer "out with the old, in with the new" culture in relation to the site, its history, and Vancouver's evolving identity.



## #12 - let's heal the divide | TONI LATOUR

### *let's heal the divide*

Toni Latour

2020

*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.

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 justice, and of course, a worldwide pandemic.

What does *let's heal the divide* mean to you? How does it touch on your experience and in what ways do you think we can reconnect and repair? Connect with The Vancouver Biennale on social media and share your thoughts.





### #13 - DR. SUN YET-SEN CHINESE GARDEN

Dr. Sun Yet-Sen Classical Chinese Garden is a registered museum and one of Vancouver's top tourist attractions. This Ming Dynasty-style garden-home is the first among its kind to have been built outside China, and continues to be unique in the world as the result of the joint collaborative effort of community members, the Canadian government, and the People's Republic of China.

Through the Winter Renewal program, and the widely celebrated Winter Solstice Lantern Festival, the CACV's custom-made community cube lantern decoration project provided for hands-on public engagement that is physically accessible and free of charge. More than 4,000 people attend the event. CACV's strong connections with the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden, the UBC Learning Exchange, and the Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver ensure the sustainability of the Winter Renewal program, an essential and celebrated part of Winter Solstice celebrations in Vancouver.



### #14 - QUEEN ELIZABETH AND PLAYHOUSE THEATRES

These theatres are 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, which 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-Beer, and other members, lobbied the Vancouver City Council (with a petition of 20,000 names) to include a theatre in the late 1950s 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. Today, the Queen Elizabeth Theatre is home to the Vancouver Opera, Ballet British Columbia, and larger touring shows, and is currently in the midst of a long-range strategy for restoration, rehabilitation, and renovation.

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 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.





### #15 - VANCOUVER ART GALLERY / ROBSON SQUARE

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.

In 1950, the museum conducted renovations reshaping the building towards the International Style. The cost of the renovations was \$600,000, funded by the City of Vancouver, government and funds raised by Lawren Harris, member of the Group of Seven and former President of the CACV.

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.

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.



### #16 - 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, one of Canada’s original Grand Railway Hotels, was 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 the Loire Valley of France, and Renaissance architectural detailing with the inclusion of gargoyles and relief sculptures.

In 1996, Mayor Philip Owen proclaimed the week of May 24-31 “Community Arts Council 50th Anniversary Week” in the City of Vancouver. Once again, CACV returned to the Hotel Vancouver, this time using the Pacific Ballroom to host the 50th Anniversary Gala. *The Arts and Our Town: The Community Arts Council of Vancouver 1946-1996* written by former CACV Board President Elizabeth O’Kiely was published just in time for the event.



### #17 - 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 17, 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, was successful in their petition to have the Cathedral declared a Class 'A' heritage site by the City of Vancouver.

2016 marked the end of an extensive renovation and restoration project, which lasted nearly 20 years and concluded with the installation of the stunning belltower that houses 4 brass bells inside a stained-glass spire.



### #18 - FORMER SITE OF GEORGIA MEDICAL DENTAL BUILDING

Immediately to the east of Christ Church Cathedral is the Shaw Tower at Cathedral Place, which opened in 1991. This is the former location of the Georgia Medical Building, Vancouver's first art deco skyscraper, completed in 1929 by 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 terra cotta 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 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.





## #19 - BURRARD BRIDGE (VIEW POINT)

In 1958, the Community Arts Council of Vancouver created and funded an original series of street banners to celebrate the First International Festival held at the Orpheum Theatre.

Since that time, the banners have become a familiar sight on Vancouver's streets. The City of Vancouver allows local business associations, non-profit groups, charitable organizations, and special events organizations to apply to install street banners and flags.

Business Improvement Association (BIA) banners are permanent installations in local BIA and Neighbourhood Societies use the banners to enhance their local streetscapes.

## VANCOUVER BIENNALE VANCOUVER BIENNALE



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