

# VPSN Public Space News & Events | 08.06.09

## VPSN UPDATES

- :: VPSN Newsletter - Revamp & Call for Submissions
- :: VPSN Website - What do you want to see?
- :: Burrard Bridge - Numbers, Economy, Community Art
- :: Where's "Where's the Square?"
- :: Community Garden Coordinators

## VPSN EVENTS & MEETINGS

- :: Tuesday August 11 - Transportation Meeting
- :: Monday August 17 - Urban Design Meeting
- :: Thursday August 20 - Mapping & Wayfinding Meeting
- :: Sunday, August 23 - VPSN Surveillance Day

## ENGAGE

- :: Height Review, View Corridors and the Look of the City
- :: Oppenheimer Park & DTES Greenspace Woes
- :: Summer Spaces - Ups & Downs
- :: Vancouver Citizen Summits
- :: MECS - Weeding Musqueam Park
- :: Libraries under siege

## PUBLIC SPACE HAPPENINGS

- :: August 15 - Voluntary Community Video Art Project
- :: August 29 - Women in Sport - Stanley Park
- :: Mosaic Workshops - West End Greenway
- :: AIBC Walking Tours
- :: Community Garden Walking Tours
- :: Review - The Miss Guides: Walking the Ruins

## VOLUNTEER

- :: VPSN Newsletter and other opportunities
- :: Wednesday September 2 - Volunteer Orientation

:: [DOWNLOAD PDF VERSION OF NEWSLETTER](#)

# VPSN UPDATES

## VPSN Newsletter - Revamp, Naming & Call for Submissions

It's a bit self-referential to start off with an item on the newsletter itself... but these are exciting times and we need your input.

After several years of foisting a text-based e-bulletin on you, our lovely readers and supporters, we're looking to going back to a wilder, better version of the sort of publication we first attempted back in 2006: a monthly mix of news, pictures, graphics and more.

The idea is to make it the main VPSN publication friendlier, less-text-driven, more visual, better laid out... and guided by a regular production cycle. We've got a great team of volunteers assembled to help with the process (and yes, still looking for more help too). Most importantly, we're looking for help in three key areas:

**Help us name the new publication.** As sexy as "Public Space News & Events" is, we think we can do better. We're looking for something catchy that reflects some or all of the following: the idea of public space, the VPSN's activities and values, the Vancouver urban experience, and...? Got any ideas? Sure you do. Send them our way by the end of the month!

**Tell us what sorts of things you want to see.** We're currently taking suggestions for things that people want to see in the new publication: new themes, regular features, story ideas, etc. We want to know what would be useful and interesting to you as readers.

**Become a Contributor.** This is the most important one! We want the new publication to feature a variety of 'voices.' To this end, we're looking for submissions of all sorts - stories, photographs, creative writing, graphics, maps, and more. We have some set submission requirements which will be posted shortly... but if you're interested in lending a hand (or pen, or picture) please let us know now, as we want to get a roster of contributors in place.

:: Email us on any of these items: newsletter [at] vancouverpublicspace.ca

## VPSN Website - Same as Above, Except Hyperlinked

You may have noticed that the VPSN website has been changed a little bit over the last few weeks. It's (hopefully) a little less cluttered, with a picture up front and some overdue additions to other pages finally in place. These are actually intended as interim steps, and are part of our Communications team's efforts to help us transition to a brand new website.

It's true! Our existing VPSN website and CMS are now well past their prime, and to meet our organizational and supporter needs we're going to be developing a whole new site over the next several months.

In anticipation of this we'd like to hear your thoughts on what you'd like to see in the new site, and how you'd like it to work for you. If you have a moment or two, please consider filling our quick and easy [VPSN website survey](#). It's only a few short questions, but your input will go a long way to helping us!.

:: Take the VPSN Website Survey - [click here](#).

## Burrard Bridge: Numbers, Economy, Community Art

The Burrard Bridge Lane Trial Reallocation is now almost a month old, and the first [usage numbers have just been made available](#). The City reports that “cycling is up, pedestrian traffic has remained steady and vehicle traffic has fluctuated, with a slight decline overall compared to pre-trial levels.” So much for the predicted chaos! Even the folks at CityCaucus were forced - after only a couple of days - to rebrand their Mayor-bashing GregorsGridlock blog as a communiqué supporting the initiative.

A couple of related items concerning the bridge, local economy and community art. First, there have been reports that [Art Knapp Urban Garden](#) has taken a bit of a hit financially since the beginning of the trial. Ditto for some of the other businesses on the north side of the bridge. With traffic patterns changed to accommodate the bike lanes, cars are now prohibited from turning right off onto Hornby from Pacific, which is making it more of a challenge for folks to get to these businesses. Please consider supporting these local shops and services if you're in the market for garden supplies, fine art (the Appleton Gallery) or a seafood dinner (The Fish House).

And now the community art side: a big thank you again to the 40-odd volunteers who came out to paint bike-friendly messages in washable paint. Owing to the warm weather of late, the fine community art work will take a few extra rains to come off, but, heck, this is Vancouver after all.

Response to this initiative has been overwhelmingly positive, which has more than offset the protests of a lone citizen who chose to dispatch a flurry of letters to local politicians and media alike before attempting to get officials (including the VPD) to charge us with mischief. To him, the washable purple dinosaurs, green grass and “Thank You For Sharing” messaging was “abhorrent,” “oppressive” and “visually brutal.” Goodness - to think Picasso had to deal with critics like this on a regular basis!

In any event, we stand by our volunteers and their use of washable, kid-friendly, Crayola paint to enliven the bike barrier with a sonata of friendly messages and images. The intent behind this initiative was to celebrate an important step forward for bike-friendly infrastructure in the city. We're fairly certain that City officials understood this when they contacted us to see if we needed to get a lane-closure permit.

- :: Read the [Vancouver Sun article on the VPSN Burrard Bridge art project](#)
- :: View [images from the night time art work](#)

## Where's "Where's the Square?"

So where is that square anyways? For those of you following the design competition that we held earlier this year, you may be wondering what comes next. Over first part of summer our project team took a bit, catching their collective breath after competition phase of the initiative. But now that we have our [three winners](#), of a break but come fall things will start rolling again. We're looking to plan the animation phase of 'Where's the Square?' by working to bring at least one of the entries to life. We are also in the early stages of developing some new events related to our advocacy for a grand gathering place in Vancouver.

- :: For more information - wts [at] vancouverpublicspace.ca

## Community Garden Coordinators

A warm welcome to Lynsey Dobbie and Kristina Parusel who are joining us as our new Community Gardens Co-Coordinator. Both Lynsey and Kristina have been longstanding VPSN volunteers (Lynsey with Where's the Square, Kristina with a range of projects). Most importantly, they bring a shared expertise in gardening, landscape design, community organizing and more. We're delighted to have them on board! Lynsey and Kristina take over from Emily Jubenvill - who has had the chance of a lifetime to go spend a year in New Zealand working on permaculture initiatives.

Lynsey and Kristina can be reached at [gardens@vancouverpublicspace.ca](mailto:gardens@vancouverpublicspace.ca).

## VPSN EVENTS & MEETINGS

### Tuesday August 11 - Transportation Working Group Meeting

Interested in pedestrian issues, cycling culture, sidewalks, roadways and the often-serpentine process of getting around the city? If so, please join us for our next Transportation Working Group meeting. We're just settling on a location, but the meeting will take place at 5:30-8:30pm.

- :: For more information - karen [at] vancouverpublicspace.ca
- :: Read VPSN [commentary on pedestrian issues in the latest West Ender](#)

## Monday August 17 - Urban Design Meeting

With all the excitement of the “Where’s the Square?” design competition, it’s been a little while since we’ve had a general Urban Design Working Group meeting. The time has now come!

There are, in fact, a number of VPSN initiatives connected with the city’s urban design. Among these are the **State of Public Spaces** evaluation project (a review of key public spaces in the city), our **major projects advocacy work** (particularly around the next steps associated with developments in the North East False Creek area and elsewhere), a potential **urban design speaker series** and, yes, the “**Where’s the Square?**” **Animation project** - where we aim to animate one or more of the [winning entries](#) from our recent design competition.

We’ll be discussing all these and more - and working to hone in on some priority projects for the next few months. The meeting will take place at 630pm at Bean Around the World, on the SW corner of Main and Broadway.

:: For more information - email [urbandesign \[at\] vancouverpublicspace.ca](mailto:urbandesign@vancouverpublicspace.ca)

## Thursday August 20 - Mapping & Wayfinding Meeting

Our team of community cartographers is convening their next gathering later this month - on the agenda is a review of current projects (including the billboard and green mapping initiatives) as well as scoping out new projects. Time and location TBD. All are welcome!

:: For more information - [eliana \[at\] vancouverpublicspace.ca](mailto:eliana@vancouverpublicspace.ca)

## Sunday, August 23 - VPSN Surveillance Day

Surveillance mapping was one of the very first activities we undertook at the VPSN. Now, in the lead-up to the Olympics, we’re planning to undertake a very timely update to that work - a one-day mapping of CCTV in the Downtown Eastside and Downtown business district. We’re delighted to be collaborating with SFU Professor Richard Smith and his class.

We need a tonne of help with this project, and are looking for all the volunteers we can get. If you have a keen eye and would like to help in this epic city-exploration, please consider joining us. Invite friends! We’ll be assigning streets and alleys to teams of two, with the hope of documenting every surveillance camera that looks into public space. The result will be a comprehensive map of how Vancouverites are being watched by CCTV. The maps and data will be used to inform the public, and to discuss surveillance issues with city hall and the police. We will also use the maps to create an art installation sometime in the fall.

Bring a pen and a clipboard if you have one, a digital camera too, (if you happen to have one at your disposal). We'll provide the recording sheets, and a quick tutorial and overview on how best to surveil the many unblinking cameras that monitor public space.

Meet at 10:00am at Victory Square (the public park at Cambie and Hastings). The mapping will probably take several hours. We're going ahead rain or shine.

:: For more details contact [cctv \[at\] vancouverpublicspace.ca](mailto:cctv@vancouverpublicspace.ca)  
:: Read the VPSN's comments in the Georgia Straight on the [use of new CCTV technology at the Celebration of Light](#)

## ENGAGE

### View Corridors & Height Review: The Look of Vancouver

Unless you're part of the architecture, design or construction industries, a fairly significant discussion on Vancouver's urban form may not yet be on your radar. City Council has directed the Planning Department to initiate a study of building height and view corridors in the downtown. The result of this study could radically affect the look of the city over the next few decades.

The thrust of the [Downtown Capacity and View Corridors Study](#) is in essence two-fold. The first aspect focuses on the allowable height of buildings downtown and is investigating whether or not developers should be allowed to build taller structures than they currently are allowed to under existing zoning regulations. The second component involves a review of the city's view corridors - the protected views of (mostly) the North Shore mountains - and is attempting to determine which should be kept, modified or eliminated. The study itself is linked to a review of allowable building height in the historic area of the city (Gastown, Chinatown, Victory Square and adjacent areas), as well as the use of density bonusing in the area.

There's been a lot of back and forth on certain design and politics focused blogs. Many industry folks (perhaps not surprisingly) favour opening up new building opportunities as a way to add new (and less-restricted) architectural vitality to the downtown. Others champion the view espoused by former Director of Planning, Larry Beasley, that the view and height-related requirements help to define Vancouver - and have made it the fantastic city that it is.

The very first stage of consultation on this program is now closed, but additional public review opportunities will be made available in the autumn. The VPSN is following this issue and will be sending out further information on the initiative over the next few months.

:: COV [Downtown Capacity and View Corridors Study web-page](#)  
:: COV [Historic Area Height Review web-page](#)  
:: COV [Transfer of Density Review web-page](#)

## Oppenheimer Park & DTES Greenspace Woes

The Downtown Eastside is one of the more park deficient neighbourhoods in Vancouver. It is also a neighbourhood whose greenspace - principally Oppenheimer, Pigeon and Crab Park - is heavily used by locals, many of whom, as residents of nearby SROs or shelters, use the parks as their chief gathering place. Oppenheimer itself is a very popular site and regular location for programming by the Parks Board.

For that reason, the timing around the simultaneous closure of two out of three parks in the neighbourhood is particularly unfortunate. Pigeon Park is being redesigned into Pioneer Place (part of the larger Carrall Street Greenway project), while Oppenheimer is undergoing a substantial redevelopment process that involves a complete reshaping of the park layout and facilities.

With Oppenheimer there had been an initial and concerted attempt to respond to the difficulties that the closure might impose on the community. Or at least this was the idea that had been presented for the bulk of the planning period leading up to the park closure.

In fact, the construction work was to occur in two stages - with half the park closed off and redesigned first, while the other half remained open for use (at which point, there would be a switch of sides and the whole park would be finished). For many of the community organizations that had been part of the planning work in the lead up to the redesign this was a sensitive and sensible approach.

But sometime in the spring of this year, the plan changed - and it is clear that many of the people who were part of the initial community planning were taken by surprise. That surprise (not surprisingly) has now [turned to visible frustration](#).

When we talked to Parks Board staff earlier in summer, we were told that the plans changed because of the late intervention of community members concerned about the removal of Legacy Sakura (cherry blossom) trees from the park - trees that had been planted to commemorate the role of the Japanese community in the area.

We were further told that many of the people involved in the initial consultation process (taking place as long as two years ago) were not present at the spring 2009 meetings in which the changes were made.

All of which, by way of explanation, seems plausible on a technical level but deeply unsatisfactory from a community planning perspective. While it's commendable that the Parks Board was able to amend their plan to account for the desire to save the trees, it is surprising that there was not a more concerted effort to notify original participants of the change in plans. (For that matter, it's not totally clear why the idea of doing the park redesign in two stages had to be dropped entirely - surely it wouldn't have added *that* much time to the park redesign.)

Given that residents in this neighbourhood often don't have the same means or abilities to travel to other areas to visit parks, it is particularly troubling that additional alternatives weren't put in place to remedy the effects of the full park

closure. Last week's heatwave only proves the importance of this point: Green and open space is important in all neighbourhoods. In the Downtown Eastside it's near-critical.

- :: Parks Board - [Pigeon Park \(Pioneer Place\) redesign](#)
- :: AHA Media - [Images and video of the Pioneer Place redesign work](#)
- :: Parks Board - [Oppenheimer Park Redevelopment Plan](#)
- :: View images of [Oppenheimer Park construction](#)
- :: [Coalition to Save the Legacy Sakura of Oppenheimer Park](#) website

## Summer Spaces - Ups and Downs

The City's Summer Spaces initiative is well under way. For the last little while, select commercial streets have been opened up on Sundays for local residents to experience as car-free public spaces. Roam freely on the streets with your neighbours and see what your local community has to offer.

The sites include: **Main Street - Market 1886** - along various sections of Main Street between 7 Ave and 16 Ave first three Sundays of July and August 12-5 pm; **Collingwood - Multicultural Summer Market** - near the Joyce Skytrain station every Sunday from July 26 to August 23; **Gastown Farmers Market** - near Maple Tree Square every Sunday throughout August and September 11-3 pm.

Sadly, the Commercial Drive site - the birthplace of the very Car-Free festivals that lead to Summer Spaces in the first place - has been suspended for the moment. A number of merchants along the Drive were reporting a loss of business - which seems to have led to meetings between them and the City and festival organizers. Unlike the other sites - which have strong BIA involvement - the 'Drive location was totally grassroots.

With no solution available, the organizers agreed to pull the plug. Assessing the Commercial Drive situation in light of the success of the other sites, journalist [Frances Bula](#) noted that "it seems to matter who's involved in organizing, which streets and how many blocks are closed, whether there's an activity for people to come out to that they normally wouldn't have, and other factors."

We're hoping there'll be some further analysis of the various sites as well. Given that local groups were given little more than a month to prepare a collaborative proposal for the various sites, we want to know what sorts of learnings are coming out of the initiative.

- :: For more information please visit [vancouver.ca/summerspaces](http://vancouver.ca/summerspaces)

## Vancouver Citizen Summit Series

Last Tuesday, City Council passed a motion to develop and undertake a new series of public engagement activities in the Fall. It's too early to know exactly what this

means, but it follows on the heels of the Vision Vancouver election platform - which called for greater public access to government.

The motion itself directs the City Manager to “facilitate a citizens’ summit series as part of an ongoing process of improving citizen engagement on public policy and planning decisions in Vancouver.” The motion further requests that the plan for the Citizens Summit Series be integrated into an on-going review of engagement and consultation series. Planning for the Summit(s) is expected to include “appropriate citizen leadership,” suggesting room for the involvement of community groups and other interested parties in the planning and design stage.

The VPSN is supportive of this initiative, as it accords with (and potentially responds to) the findings of our Consultation on Consultation work undertaken in 2008. In this project we found that many residents were frustrated with the current consultation process because they didn’t feel listened too, felt like there wasn’t an opportunity to provide real input (i.e. comment card), or felt like they were being asked for their opinion after most of the critical decisions had already been made. If the Citizen Summit Town Halls are well designed - and if there is a clear process through which community ideas will be incorporated into civic process, then this could change the way planning gets done at 12<sup>th</sup> and Cambie.

:: [Motion on Notice - Citizens’ Summit](#) (PDF)

:: Read the [Think City’s article on the Citizens Summit](#)

## **MECS - Weeding Musqueam Park**

Earlier this month, VPSN volunteers lent a hand with the removal of invasive species along Musqueam Creek, Vancouver’s last wild salmon stream. Running adjacent to Musqueam Park in the southwest corner of the city, the meandering creek is home to local flora and fauna. Unfortunately, over successive decades it also become home to several unwelcome species like English ivy, holly and others. These tenacious plants have set down roots and are in danger of crowding out the native species.

The Musqueam Ecosystem Conservation Organization (MECS), a community based non-profit organization “working through science and traditional ecological knowledge”, was formed four years ago to address this problem. Their aim is to preserve the creek and its watershed - and each month they host a clean-up party where volunteers take part in pulling out the invasive, replacing them with native plants such as soapberry and cedar.

It’s solid, rewarding work to say the least - and the crew at MECS is always looking for more hands. If you’ve got a couple of hours to spare, consider finding your way to Musqueam Park for their next clean-up event. MECS provides the gloves, and a fun lunch. All you need to do is show up with a bit of grit and a willingness to match wits with some very viney interlopers.

:: For more information - [Musqueam Ecosystem Conservation Organization website](#)

## Libraries under siege

From the group “Stop BC Library Cuts”:

“The provincial operating grants for BC Public Libraries are in SERIOUS danger! These grants fund programs and services that are currently free to all BC residents, and represent an investment in the future of our amazing province.

We have to act NOW and let the Provincial government know that we won't stand for cuts to important province-wide library programs and services. If we let these cuts happen this time, we will surely face more cuts down the road!

Times are tight, but the return on investment in public library services and programs is so high that this is a completely irrational place to make cuts. The programs and services funded by these grants are run collaboratively, which saves significant taxpayer dollars. The potential cuts could also affect smaller libraries' day-to-day operations and collections...”

:: Stop BC Library Cuts [Facebook Page](#)

:: Sign the Stop BC Library Cuts [On-line Petition](#)

## PUBLIC SPACE HAPPENINGS & OTHER EVENTS

### August 15 - Voluntary Community Video Art Project

Genevieve Cloutier is an Emily Carr graduate currently developing a community art/performance video project and she's looking for participants to lend a hand. According to Cloutier, “it's a voluntary community video taking place in contested spaces around Vancouver.” As such, the project presents “the opportunity for anyone interested to work together using different forms of story-telling as a way to explore the life of the city of Vancouver and its people.” Last month, the project set up shop in Victory Square. In August, there'll be another location in play.

:: for more information, check out the project's [Facebook Page](#)

### August 29, 2009 - Freedom of Mobility: Women, Sports and Recreation in Vancouver's Stanley Park, 1880-1920

From the Herstory website:

“A walking tour by historical interpreter Jolene Cumming, featuring rare archival photographs. Walk on the land where Vancouver's women found “freedom of mobility”. Highlights include: the Bicycle & Canoe Crazes of the late 1800's, archery, grass & ice hockey, Brockton Pt Athletic Grounds, hiking, horseback riding, company sports days, fishing, roller skating, ice skating, the 1898 Queen's Birthday girls foot races,

swimming, boating & boating excursions, women who worked in the Park, a visit to the Frances E. Willard plaque (WCTU & author of "A Wheel Within a Wheel, How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle, 1895), track & field and much more. Presented by the Stanley Park Ecology Society and Herstory Cafe."

Takes place 10am-12pm. Tickets \$10, max 20 people. Pre-register at (604) 257-6908 or just drop in the day of the tour. Departs & returns to the Stanley Park Dining Pavilion (across from Malkin Bowl and by the city bus #19 loop).

:: For more information - [www.herstorycafe.ca](http://www.herstorycafe.ca)

## Ongoing - Mosaic and Greening Workshops - West End Greenway

The VPSN has been lending a hand with an excellent design process in the West End - involving the revitalization of the pathway linking the West End Community Centre, King George Secondary and the various adjacent streets. As part of the work involved, there will be mosaic and art related workshops, followed later in the year by landscaping workshops. All are free, and are open to anyone interested in lending a hand to beautify this intriguing space.

:: Sign up for information on the project by emailing [wegreenway \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:wegreenway@gmail.com)  
:: See [images of the greenway](#) on the VPSN Flickr site

## Ongoing - Architectural Institute of BC Summer Walking Tours

*From the AIBC Website:*

"The Architectural Institute of British Columbia offers six stunning architectural perspectives of Vancouver and Victoria through its summer walking tours. Tours are available from Thursday, July 2 through Saturday, August 29, 2009. No tours are given on Sundays or Mondays.

Tours are \$5.00 CAD each (including GST) per person; Register on-site before each tour. Groups of eight or more must register ahead of time by calling 604-683-8588, ext. 333 or by e-mailing [tours@aibc.ca](mailto:tours@aibc.ca). All afternoon tours start at 1:00 p.m. and last approximately 1.5 to 2 hours, rain or shine." The six tours are:

(1) Victory Square & Gastown: Where the City Began; (2) Chinatown: Yesterday & Today; (3) Strathcona: Neighbourhood of Change; (4) Yaletown & False Creek North: Industrial to Residential; (5) The West End: The Manhattan to Mole Hill; (6) The Downtown Business Core: Modern & Contemporary

:: For more info see the [AIBC Walking Tours](#) Page

## Self-Guided Community Garden Walking Tours

The City has developed a series of free personalized tours have been developed to supplement a new brochure outlining self-guided walking or biking routes created by the City. The brochure encourages people of all ages to discover Vancouver's rich network of community gardens through 8 individual self-guided routes. With 44 gardens to see, the walks lead you from the oldest gardens to the newest, the smallest to largest. Each route is less than 3 km one-way, and takes in 3 to 6 gardens, all with their own unique character. Some routes are close enough to one another that you can combine a few walks in one day.

Brochures can be found at libraries, community centres, garden centres, City Hall rotunda, and Vancouver's farmers markets. For more information about community gardens and the walks, visit [www.vancouver.ca/gardens](http://www.vancouver.ca/gardens). You can also download tours directly at the following link.

:: Download [Community Garden Walking Tours](#)

## Review - Walking the Ruins: Fragments of Vancouver

By walking, one engages with the city in an immediate way and in a fashion that allows for manoeuvring and enables the walker to forge a path that isn't constrained by technology the way driving a car or riding a bicycle is. This opportunity to "subvert the topographical" (to paraphrase French cultural theorist Michel de Certeau) is what local arts collective the Miss Guides explored in a pair theatrical downtown and downtown eastside walking tours that they gave over several weeks in July.

For those used to the standard formula of walking tours - a few steps here and there, an exposition by the group expert, some questions, repeat, etc. - the work of the Miss Guides could be disarming to say the least. The three principals - Natalie Doonan, Sean George and Katherine Somody - are more intent in the process of unearthing the shards of our urban history than they are packaging them into rationale explanations. The result is a presentation that is a walking tour in the literal sense of the term, but it's also a theatrical archeology of the city.

As a participant, the path that the Miss Guides take you on moves at a rhythmic, allusive pace that channels local history, critiques the prevailing discourse of city planning and opens up alternative ways of seeing (and hearing) Vancouver. A detour into the basement of the Sinclair Centre evokes voices from the city's depression era strike, while wandering across Granville Square opens up a narrative on view corridors. And so the tour continues, building layer upon layer.

Teasing out these elements of cultural strata, the three actors manage to weave together an pastiche of different 'voices:' switching seamlessly between the whispered first person conversations of historical figures, the mellifluous intonations of an ebullient tour guide and the distanced (and footnoted) interjections of cultural theorists (among others). So many voices are introduced that the effect is destabilizing: with no one narrative acting as a constant, the tour unfolds in the way the city itself evolves, as a bricolage, an assemblage of threads and pieces.

And here is where “Walking the Ruins” succeeds at being truly subversive, because it repeatedly alludes to, but never actively engages, the question of power relations - first in city building and second, and perhaps more importantly, in city telling. It is part of the nature of power that it takes the looseness of the aforementioned bricolage of voices and transforms it retroactively, polishing out the rough and often unsavory bits and turning the raw pieces of history into the official narrative of ‘heritage.’ The strength of the Miss Guides performance is in the treatment of this reality: their work never becomes preachy or moralizing, it merely unearths...leaving you, the viewer to draw your own conclusions.

As street theatre goes, this is interesting stuff, perhaps even a little agitating (in a good way). Interesting because of the weave that the performance and its ‘voices’ create, but agitating because it doesn’t necessarily allow for an easy outlet for further exploration or dialogue. Similarly, if you’re not versed in city history, or have some experience with the planning decisions of the last few decades, you may struggle to catch the allusions that are made, or to understand some of the terms that get used. One lament here is that there’s no easy way to capture some of what’s unearthed for a little future digging of your own. (You actually do get a hand out of some of the academic quotes that are used during the performance - but no similar set of references to the key historical, and Vancouver-specific, fragments that are unearthed).

The other lament - perhaps trifling - is that the notion of “ruins” seems more than a little contentious in its own right. An exploration of contested space that employs this term as a descriptor has the potential to add to the contestation before it unearths it, particularly in a place like the Downtown Eastside - where the official voice of the City preaches “revitalization” (i.e. de-ruinification) while the community clamors for recognition of its strengths and assets.

These concerns are small ones... and perhaps (looking at things with a more immediate sense of hindsight) they also part of the grand unearthing that Doonan, George and Somody have in mind. Either way, the Miss-Guides exploration of the city is a thought-provoking one, and definitely a highlight of the summer.

*Regular tours have now been wrapped up, but the Miss Guides do offer private walks for the groups of 6-8 at the same price as their public tours. \$20/person - which includes a trip up the Harbour Centre observation tower.*

:: Miss Guides [Website](#) and [Facebook](#)  
:: Read the [Vancouver Courier Review](#)  
:: Read the [Regarding Place Review](#)

## **VOLUNTEER @ VPSN**

### **VPSN Volunteer Job Board**

Got a few hours to spare? Searching for a steady volunteer opportunity? Got some expertise to share? The VPSN is always looking for help with our projects.

**Newsletter Writing, Photography, Editing and Graphic Design** - The new VPSN newsletter is coming soon and we need lots of help to make it the sharpest public space publication around.

**Surveillance Mappers** - Our upcoming CCTV mapping project takes place on August 23. Mappers will work in teams of two to document surveillance cameras in the Downtown and Downtown Eastside.

**Guerrilla Gardening Coordinator** - Help us green the neglected corners of the city! The Guerrilla Gardening Coordinator will lead a team of greenthumbs as they beautify Vancouver's orphaned spaces.

**Parks Advocate** - As part of the Greenspaces team, the Parks Advocate will monitor activities in the city's parks - including key policy work, redevelopment projects, and community initiatives.

**Events Coordinator** - Working with our Campaign Coordinators, the Events Coordinator will help to facilitate the creation of signature VPSN events and outreach activities.

**Development & Fundraising Coordinator** - This position will focus on assisting the VPSN with important grant-seeking, fundraising and social enterprise projects.

:: For more information - erin [at] vancouverpublicspace.ca

## Wednesday September 2 - Volunteer Orientation

Each month our Volunteer Coordinator runs an informative orientation session for new volunteers. If you're interested in lending a hand with the VPSN and haven't yet signed up for a project this is a great way to learn about key opportunities. You'll get an overview of the VPSN, details on our key initiatives, and information on current volunteer jobs.

:: For more information - erin [at] vancouverpublicspace.ca

## CONTACT

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**General info:** info [at] vancouverpublicspace.ca

**Newsletter Submissions:** newsletter [at] vancouverpublicspace.ca

**Facebook:** [VPSN Facebook Group](#)

**Flickr:** [VPSN group](#) and [photostream](#)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/vpsn](#)