



VPSN Public Space Update | 09.10.22

VPSN UPDATES & KEY ACTIVITIES

- :: Thursday October 22 & Saturday October 24 - Make A Greenmap - **TONIGHT**
- :: Thursday October 22 - Billboards & Public Space - **TONIGHT**
- :: Saturday October 31 - VPSN Halloween Party - Starting at the SkyTrain!
- :: Tuesday November 3 - West End Community Garden Meeting
- :: Wednesday November 4 - Volunteer Meeting
- :: Greenspaces - New Community Garden Opportunities
- :: Urban Design - North East False Creek Update
- :: Where's the Square - Recognized in City's Greenest City Plan
- :: PubliCity #2 - The Art of Space

OTHER EVENTS

- :: Saturday, October 24 - Bridge to a Cool Planet
- :: October 28 - November 8 - 6th Annual Heart of the City Festival
- :: Friday October 30 (and beyond) - 5th Annual Night for All Souls
- :: Saturday October 31 - Productive Landscapes: A Guided Tour of UBC Farm
- :: Thursday, November 26 - Learning from Toronto (lecture by Elyse Parker)

VPSN UPDATES & KEY ACTIVITIES

Thursday October 22 & Saturday October 24 - Make A Greenmap with VPSN & Pedestrian City - **TONIGHT**

As the City of Vancouver states that the "greenness" is a key to our collective identity and that we live in a green paradise, the VPSN is initiating a Green Map-style inventory to help us advocate for public "green" space within the City. A Green Map can "create perspective-changing community 'portraits' which act as comprehensive inventories for decision-making and as practical guides for residents and tourists."

Our first event will be on Thursday, October 22nd at the Toast Collective. Natalie Ethier of Pedestrian City will lead us in an exercise to discover the local public spaces that matter to us. The event takes place at 7pm at Toast Collective, 648 Kingsway in Mt. Pleasant. We will also be collecting information at the West End Farmer's Market on October 24th from 9 am to 2 pm. Come join us!

Thursday October 22 - Billboards & Public Space - **TONIGHT**

Our map of non-compliant billboards is complete and has been generating attention since it's recent publication in the first issue of PubliCity, but there's much more to be done! The VPSN's Corporatization of Public Space working group will be having a meeting on the 22nd of October to discuss the next steps in our Non-compliant Billboard campaign. Several current issues related to public advertising in Vancouver will be discussed, such as the Squamish Nation's proposal to install electronic billboards next to the Burrard st. Bridge and the enforcement of Vancouver Sign bylaw, which is potentially up for review. The meeting will be held at Bean around the World at Main and 10th, 6:30pm. To join in the discussion or help out with this campaign, come out to the meeting or contact stephanie: [stephanie at vancouverpublicspace.ca](mailto:stephanie@vancouverpublicspace.ca)

October 31 - VPSN Halloween Party - Starting at the SkyTrain!

The VPSN's annual Halloween Party is back! This is your chance to take part in one of the craziest, most unique and fang-tastic parties of the year. Meet at VCC Clark Station - where we'll start a Halloween journey ... to the dark side!! Boarding a slightly possessed train, we'll ride 'round the loop before ending up downtown, at one of the staples of Vancouver's late night scene. Do you dare to pay the fare for this ride? If so, don your scariest costume and join us as we fly around greater Vancouver like a bat out of hell!

Details as follows:

- 1) Meet at VCC-Clark station at 8:15pm. Board the train when you hear the conductor's call. We depart at 8:30pm SHARP so arrive on time or you'll miss the fun. Don't forget to pay your fare.
- 2) The route will make a full loop on the Millennium Line, making regular stops at every station along the way.
- 3) Get off at Stadium station and proceed to the party location

We make our way to the main party venue which this year will be at the Funky Winker Bean's at 37 West Hastings. We've joined forces with the good people who host *No More Strangers* every Saturday to keep this party bumping and make this Halloween the spookiest, most exciting and off-the-wall ever! Bands: Don Cash, Humans & Kidnap Kids! DJ's: Hunk the Drunk and Christian Flores! More Halloween madness: \$1.50 beer special! \$7 reduced cover for VPSN friends.

:: For more information - [VPSN Halloween webpage](#) - check for updates!

Tuesday November 3 - West End Community Garden Meeting

VPSN Community Garden Coordinators are holding a meeting to discuss the potential for new community garden space downtown. The meeting location will be finalized shortly. Meeting will take place at 6pm.

:: RSVP to gardens@vancouverpublicspace.ca.

Wednesday November 4 - Volunteer Meeting

A monthly orientation meeting about the VPSN's mission, what we do, and how we do it. This meeting will be held monthly - first Wednesday of the month, 7pm. All VPSN coordinators are welcome to attend. Open to the public. 7pm - 8pm at Café Deux Soleils, 2096 Commercial Drive.

:: RSVP to erin @ vancouverpublicspace.ca

Greenspaces - New Community Garden Opportunities

"2010 garden plots by 2010" is a challenge to encourage the creation of 2010 new garden plots in Vancouver by January 1, 2010, as an Olympic legacy. The challenge was issued to individuals, families, community groups and neighbourhood organizations in 2006 to establish more food producing gardens in the city. Several potential sites for community gardens have been identified, and the City of Vancouver is seeking applications from community groups to manage them. Applications must be submitted by October 31st for one or more of the potential garden sites. If any members are interested in collaborating on a proposal, please let us know!

:: VPSN Community Gardens team - gardens [at] vancouverpublicspace.ca

:: Details of the application process can be found at www.vancouver.ca/gardens

Urban Design - North East False Creek Update

A report regarding direction for the redevelopment of the North East False Creek area of Downtown Vancouver will be before City Council on October 22nd. The Vancouver Public Space Network has notified City planners and City Council about concerns regarding the process and content of the NEFC High Level planning review. A copy of the letter can be viewed here [add link]. The VPSN believes that the proposed plan has not fully expressed the potential for the proposed redevelopment to attract visitors and business, maintain livability for residents or the sustainability of the renowned high density model of downtown Vancouver.

:: [Read the complete story and view the VPSN letter to Council](#)

Where's the Square - Recognized in City's Greenest City Plan

We continue to hear good things about the "Where's the Square?" design ideas competition. The latest kudos come from the City's *Vancouver 2020: A Bright Green Future - An Action Plan for Becoming the World's Greenest City by 2020* which specifically references the many "brilliant concepts" that were produced for the competition. The reference is part of a section on 'reimagining Vancouver's public spaces. We'll be discussing this report more over the next few months, but for the moment... Where's the Square designers - take another bow!

:: View the [Vancouver 2020 Report](#) (PDF)

PubliCity #2 - The Art of Space

Thanks to everyone who submitted story and art proposals for PubliCity. Response to our call-out was fantastic and we're now moving ahead with assigning stories and taking care of design and planning work. Look for the publication to come out in the early part of December... just in time for your holiday reading and gift-giving needs. On that note, we still have some print copies still available for PubliCity 1 - and if you'd like to get your hands on one they're available for the modest sum of \$5.00 (which includes postage) via our on-line [donation portal](#). Your contribution will be supporting a brand new (and we think much needed) publishing venture. Good one!

For those of you who'd rather just see it for free we are also open source. A low-res version of PubliCity is also available on our [website](#).

:: Get your print copy of PubliCity - [click here](#).

OTHER EVENTS

Here's a few of the many upcoming public space-related events that can be found on our VPSN [Events](#) page

Saturday, October 24 - Bridge to A Cool Planet

Advocates working on climate change issues have had to jump a number of hurdles over the years. Later this month, as part of the International Day of Climate Action, they'll be aiming to cross a very big bridge.

The Bridge to a Cool Planet event takes place on the Cambie Street Bridge and is intended to send a message to politicians of all stripes that we need action on climate change now. Later this year there'll be a massive gathering of international leaders in Copenhagen working to review and update the Kyoto Accord. Let's make sure they go there knowing that Vancouverites expect action.

:: For more information, see the Bridge to a Cool Planet [website](#)

October 28 - November 8 - 6th Annual Heart of the City Festival

Twelve exciting days of music, theatre, film, poetry, forums, workshops and art shows celebrating the creative and committed artists, residents and activists of the Downtown Eastside. A full calendar of events taking place at over 25 locations in the neighbourhood. Open to all.

:: For more information - 604.628.5672, or see www.heartofthecityfestival.com

Friday, October 30 (and beyond) - 5th Annual Night for All Souls

Mountainview Cemetery, Vancouver's only public cemetery has a series of events happening over the course of the weekend. Starting with an opening prayer at sundown on Friday night, the events aim to create an atmosphere of contemplative beauty with music, warming fires and fragrant teas to comfort the living, and public shrines to remember the dead.

Events include workshops to create personal memorials and garlands, a tea ceremony in honour of First Nations people buried at Mountainview, readings by local poets, an evening of Mexican traditions to honour the dead. Featuring mariachi, ancient dances of the Aztecs, and traditional refreshments such as café de olla and pan de meurtos, and a tribute to Vancouver area poets Robin Blaser, David Dawson, Kuldip Gill and Billy Little.

:: For more information see the [Mountainview Cemetery webpages](#)

Saturday October 31 - Productive Landscapes: A Guided Tour of UBC Farm with Spring Gillard

Why should city people care about farmers and farmland? We look at our very own west side urban farm and its vital role at the University and in our community. Join author Spring Gillard on this guided tour of UBC Farm. We discuss how important farmland is to our food system. Catch the Saturday Farmers' Market beforehand, then tour the market garden that supplies the market. We'll talk with gardeners in the Mayan and Aboriginal Gardens. Learn about the intergenerational landed learning project and other innovative programs operating out of this local productive landscape. Walking tour, limited to 20 participants. 1:30-3:30pm. Meeting place provided upon registration. \$35 per person.

:: To register - email info@gardenheart.ca.

Thursday, November 26 - Learning from Toronto (lecture by Elyse Parker)

Elyse Parker, as the Director of the Public Realm Section for Toronto's Transportation Services Division, is helping to actively re-envision streets and public spaces for city greening, sustainable practices, beautification and active transportation. Find out how Toronto is taking designs for a healthy city — and healthy people — to the streets. Takes place at 7:00pm, UBC Robson Square, 800 Robson Street. Free admission reservations required.

:: To Register - Call 778-782-5100 or email cstudies@sfu.ca

SUPPORT THE VPSN

The Vancouver Public Space Network is an all-volunteer, community-driven enterprise that works on advocacy, education and outreach pertaining to the city's public realm.

We depend on member contributions in order to undertake our projects and activities. Looking to lend a hand? Please consider [making a donation](#) or signing up for one of our [volunteer projects](#). Thanks!

CONTACT

Vancouver Public Space Network
Box 2754 Station Terminal
349 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC, V6B 3X2

General info: info [at] vancouverpublicspace.ca
Newsletter Submissions: PubliCity [at] vancouverpublicspace.ca
Facebook: [VPSN Facebook Group](#)
Flickr: VPSN [group](#) and [photostream](#)
Twitter: twitter.com/vpsn