

VPSN Public Space Update | 15.Jan.10

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VPSN UPDATES & KEY ACTIVITIES

Thursday, January 21 - Neighbourhood Businesses Research & Advocacy Project

Our Transportation Working Group is currently developing a project that will look at how residents use sustainable transportation options (walking, biking or transit) for their shopping needs - and the impact that these transit decisions can have on planning for more environmentally-friendly transportation amenities. The next project meeting is Thursday, Jan. 21, 6pm at JJ Bean on 402 Davie Street (corner of Davie and Homer, near Yaletown Skytrain Stn.)

We're also moving ahead with our **Pedestrian Safety Project** and will have more to announce on this initiative in the next few weeks.

For details on these and other Transportation projects, contact Karen Parusel - Karen [at] vancouverpublicspace.ca

PubliCity 2: The Art of Space - Now Available

The inaugural issue of PubliCity sold out last year - which was, truth be told, pretty exciting for us! Now, hot on its heels, the winter edition of PubliCity, the VPSN's full-colour, urban affairs magazine is available for the extraordinarily delicious non-profit price of \$5 (+\$1 shipping). Loaded with awesome articles, artwork and information, the handsome publication will make you the envy of neighbours, co-workers and SkyTrain riders alike. You'll also be helping to support a new and locally-based public space venture.

Issue 2 focuses on *The Art of Space* and features articles on False Creek's public art legacy, the design and use of Yaletown Park and Thurlow Plaza, Surrey's Town Shift design competition, experiencing the West End, billboard take-overs, architecture as art, a comparison of sustainable transportation options... and a whole lot more. It's chalk full of all the public space vitamins and minerals you'll ever need.

The catch, for the moment, is that you can only buy it on-line through our website donor portal - but we hope you'll give it a shot. It's safe, secure and takes less than two minutes. Not bad eh?

:: Order [PubliCity 2: The Art of Space](#)

VPSN VOLUNTEER

New Coordinators Needed. Are You Leadership Material?

As noted in our last Bulletin, the VPSN is currently undertaking a call out for people interested in taking on a leadership role in the Vancouver Public Space Network. As part of this, we'll be hosting a workshop and presentation next **Tuesday, January 19** for interested candidates.

The VPSN is has continued to grow substantially over the last two years - more members, more projects, more excellent public space initiatives to implement. To meet the demands of this growth, we are in the process of expanding each of the our various working groups. We're looking to create a few new work

teams and ensure that each and every VPSN working group has two co-coordinators. This will effectively double the number of coordinators and enable us to be better at our various advocacy, education and outreach activities.

To meet this need, we are looking for a series of smart, committed, public-space enthusiasts who are willing to commit to taking on a leadership role for a minimum of one year in the following areas.

- Corporatization & Privatization- 1 new Co-Coordinator
- Greenspaces - Parks Advocate - 2 Co-coordinators
- Urban Design - 1-2 Co-Coordiators
- Public Art - 1 Co-coordinator
- Mapping & Wayfinding 1 Co-coordinator
- Surveillance & Security - 1 Co-coordinators
- Transportation - Pedestrian - 2 Co-coordinators
- Transportation - Cycling - 2 Co-coordinators
- Transportation - Public Transit - 1 Co-Coordinator
- Communications - 2 Co-coordinators
- Fundraising & Development - 1 Co-Coordinator
- Event Facilitation - 1 Co-Coordinator

If you think you might be up for the challenge, please let us know. To find out more about these positions, or to get the details for the orientation session, please contact Erin O'Melinn, VPSN Volunteer Coordinator.

:: More information - erin [at] vancouverpublicspace.ca

ENGAGE

Regarding Place - *Urbanists Guide to Vancouver* - Your Suggestions Welcome

Our good friends at [Regarding Place Magazine](#) are looking for your help - and in particular, suggestions for a new initiative called the *Urbanists Guide to Vancouver* which they describe as “an online list of off-the-beaten path places, events, products, etc. that we want to have live for visitors in town for the Olympics and local urbanists who want to know what’s happening in and around the city.”

But they’re not looking for the usual guidebook stuff.

“As wonderful as Granville Island, Capilano Suspension Bridge and Robson

Street are we think the Vancouver area has a lot more to offer. So what we want to compile is a pretty comprehensive list of off-the-beaten path places, events, products, etc. that most people may not be aware of, but that reflects a more balanced concept of what this city is all about.”

Check out the full post at [Regarding Place](#) and be sure to send your suggestions in by January 27, 2010.

:: [Jump to the Regarding Place Urbanists Guide to Vancouver article](#)

Tuesday, January 19 - City Council Reconvenes - Height Review, View Corridors, Corporate Wayfinding in the Olympic Village, and the Granville Mall...

When Council sits down for their first session on January 19 they'll have a full session. A few items of note pertain to public space issues that we've discussed in recent months.

First, a series of reports and recommendations will be going ahead on the [Historic Area Height Review](#) (PDF) and [Downtown View Corridors Study](#). Both reports can be reviewed here. The latter puts forth a number of proposals, including a strengthening of many of the existing view corridors, the creation of some new view corridors, and the “opportunity for a maximum of four taller buildings in the downtown skyline that exhibit exceptional architectural excellence and superior environmental performance while still maintaining important views to the mountains...”

Then, later in the session, Council will also be discussing a policy proposal for [Corporate Wayfinding Signage in South East False Creek](#). Millenium the developer building the Athlete's Village neighbourhood, is requesting the opportunity to put directional signage on city streets for the retail tenants that will be occupying the post-Olympic commercial space.

Lastly - and this is an item that's got us curious - a motion to scrap the current [Granville Mall Bylaw](#) (mostly focused on commercial loading) and replace it with something new. Not sure what this is, but hopefully we'll find out in advance of the meeting...

Tuesday, January 19 - Grandview Park Community Consultation

Grandview Park, in the heart of Commercial Drive, is the site of proposed upgrades by the Parks Board. An event next week will showcase conceptual designs, review previous feedback and provide opportunities for further

discussion on park improvements. The event takes place 6:00-8:00pm at Britannia Community Centre, 1661 Napier Street. For further information contact David Yurkovich, Landscape Designer, 604-257-6932, david.yurkovich@vancouver.ca

:: Parks Board [Grandview Park Consultation Webpage](#)

REGIONAL NEWS

Langley City Unveils Public Space Friendly Downtown Master Plan

Kudos to Langley planners for making the public realm such a substantive component of their latest Downtown Master Plan. Unveiled earlier this week, the plan calls for a range of public amenities to be installed in the downtown core, traffic calming, and transportation options that will encourage neighbourhood walkability and the use of trolley buses. Best of all, they're plugging the idea of a major civic gathering space. An article in today's Langley Advance notes "under the plan, Innes Corners would be developed as a major public space, the centrepiece of the City, where public celebrations could take place."

:: Read the [Langley Advance](#) article by Heather Colpitts

OTHER EVENTS

January 16 & January 20 - Mount Pleasant & Carnegie: Two Community Centres, One Launch, One Anniversary

Two auspicious dates for lovers of the city's community centres. On Saturday, January 16 the much anticipated grand opening of the new **Mount Pleasant Centre** at (1 Kingsway) takes place. There will be tours and events throughout the day, as well as a formal opening ceremony at 1:00pm. The date marks a great chance to check out the new facility, which is home to the Mount Pleasant Community Centre, Mount Pleasant Library, 3 Corners Child Care Centre and rental housing.

Four days later and the **Carnegie Community Centre** - the living room of the Downtown Eastside - celebrates its 30th anniversary. The festivities take place on Wednesday January 20 starting at 2:30 pm, with a meal at 5:00 and more events and reflections taking place at 7:00pm.

January 17, 28, 30, and 31 - Matt Hern Coffee House Discussions

Our friend Matt Hern has recently launched a new book, and is also holding a series of coffee house readings and discussions around the city. All feature a lively set of guest speakers.

January 17 at Rhizome Cafe (Broadway and Kingsway) at 6 pm. “All great cities have a certain flavour and vitality. How does a city get that life and vitality? How does Vancouver get some flavour? With David Beers, Michael Geller, Joan Seidl, and Marcus Youssef.

January 28 at 7 pm - Riddim and Spice (1945 Commercial Drive at 3rd). A great city has to take care of its people. But what does security mean? What is real safety? Who has a right to the city? How might Vancouver be designed so that ‘city air’ really does make people free? With Am Johal, David Eby, Harsha Walia, and Lance Berelowitz.

January 30th at 7 pm - Riddim and Spice (1945 Commercial Drive at at 3rd) What is a great city? Should Vancouver even be trying to be one? What would a great city look like here? With Frances Bula, Erick Villagomez, Gord Price, Carmen Mills, and Dustin Rivers.

January 31th at 1 pm - The Purple Thistle Centre (975 Vernon Drive at Parker). A great city has to be an ecological city. What should urban agriculture look like here? What does ‘food security’ really mean? Can a real city feed itself - should it even try? Does ‘greening’ the city undermine its social vitality? With David Tracey, Conrad Schmidt, and Cease Wyss.

January 27 - PlanTalk: The Chicago School - Insights from Sadhu Johnston and Mike Shiffer

From the SFU City Program: “Come welcome two of Vancouver’s newest city-shapers as they share their experiences from one of North America’s most vibrant cities - Chicago. Vancouver Deputy City Manager Sadhu Johnston and TransLink Vice-President of Planning Mike Shiffer both worked in the Windy City, one in the Mayor’s office, the other in the Chicago Transit Authority, at a time when sustainability was emerging as a key platform in the city’s political culture. Come learn what they learned, and what it might mean for Vancouver.”

The event takes place 7:00-9:00 at the SFU Segal Building, 500 Granville Street (corner of Pender and Granville). Admission is free, reservations are required. Reserve at www.sfu.ca/reserve

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 your 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

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