



WALKING DESTINATION DOWNTOWN WALK

Sponsored by Downtown Vancouver BIA

4.5 KM | 5,625 - 6,750 STEPS
1.25 - 1.5 HOURS

ABOUT THE ROUTE

Sometimes between all the shopping and the working we can forget that Downtown Vancouver is full of incredible public spaces, artwork and history!

This self-guided tour is sponsored by the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA), which supports, promotes and represents the shared interests of thousands of businesses and property owners in the central 90-block area of Vancouver's downtown core.

This walk, which will take you on a journey through the vibrant and diverse neighborhoods in Downtown Vancouver, will highlight some really cool public art initiatives and beautiful spaces and will also provide plenty of opportunities to grab a bite to eat or check out the many funky businesses along the way!

Don't forget to share your journey with us: tag us in your photos and social-media posts on using [#VanBiennale](#) and [#DowntownVan!](#)

ROUTE STOPS

1	VANCOUVER ART GALLERY	750 Hornby St.
2	COMMUNITY SPIRIT - RAFAEL MAYANI	701 W Georgia St.
3	EIHU LANE CANVAS CORRIDOR	Between Robson and Alberni (Enter on Burrard)
7	JASPER JOHN CLEMENT	Robson and Jervis St.
6	NEED KAMBIZ SHARIF	Intersection of Melville, Pender, Jervis St.
5	LIGHTSHED LIZ MAGOR	1199 W Cordova St.
9	DIGITAL ORCA DOUGLAS COUPLAND	1055 Canada Pl.
4	THE DROP INGES IDEE	1055 Canada Pl.
8	BEYOND THE SEA, AGAINST THE SUN MARTIN BOYCE	800 Robson St.





#1 - VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

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.

Community Arts Council of Vancouver (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 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.

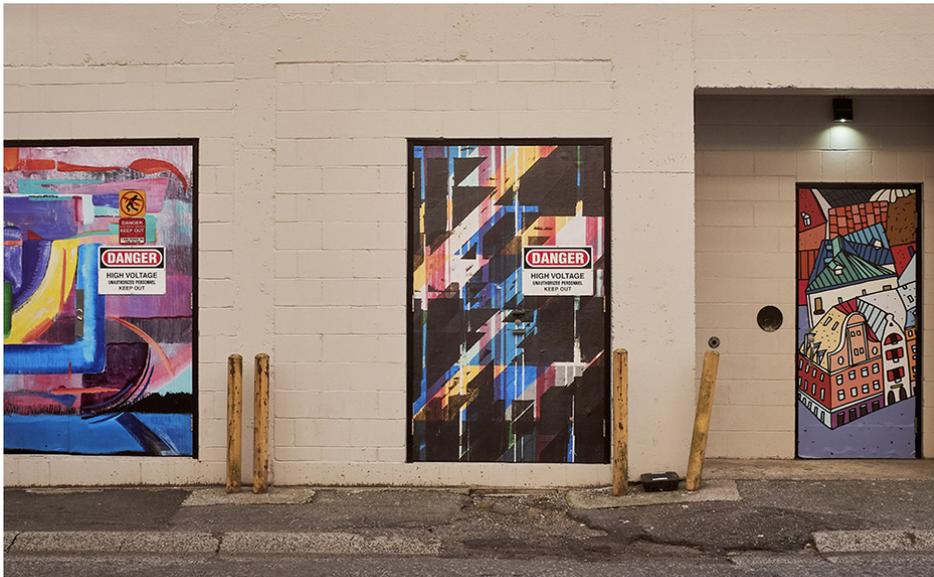


#2 - COMMUNITY SPIRIT | RAFAEL MAYANI

Community Spirit
Rafael Mayani
2020

Stemming from the redevelopment of the old glass rotunda entrance to the Pacific Centre Mall, a call to local artists was made to create a mural and transform the space. The theme chosen for the project was “Transforming Communities for a Vibrant Tomorrow,” and Vancouver-based artist Rafael Mayani’s vision of depicting the city’s vibrant culture, regional events, and diverse population best captured the convictions of the underlying theme.

What are some of Vancouver’s cultural events that you can see in Mayani’s work?



#3 - EIHU LANE CANVAS CORRIDOR - VARIOUS ARTISTS

Canvas Corridor

Various (information is noted beside the artwork)
2019

Watch out for artworks on various doorways and garage entrances!

The Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA) and Robson Street Business Association (RSBA) teamed up in 2019 to invigorate Eihu Lane bordering Robson Street with a series of 45 doorway murals by local artists. In collaboration with Simon Fraser University and the Vancouver Mural Festival, 27 artists were chosen to bring the laneway to life and create a vibrant and accessible art walk for all to enjoy.



#4 - JASPER - JOHN CLEMENT

Jasper

John Clement
2005 - 2007 Vancouver Biennale exhibition

Jasper is a whimsical sculpture by Brooklyn-based artist John Clement. His trademark steel spirals with bold primary colours invite children to touch and play. The turns and loops of *Jasper* challenge the inherent properties of rigid tubular steel, and the result is an implied movement with the sense of twisting right out of the ground. This sculpture is a Legacy Artwork from the 2005-2007 Vancouver Biennale.

"Each work is informed by the lineage of pieces, mine as well as others, that came before. All I can ask is that my process continues, further expanding my understanding of my own voice, and of the simplicity and beauty that lie in the three-dimensional composition of line and form that is sculpture."

- John Clement

What do the shapes and forms of *Jasper* make you think of? Let us know by using #VanBiennale in your photos and social-media stories.



#5 - LIGHTSHED - LIZ MAGOR

LightShed
Liz Magor
2004

Located on the downtown seawall near the Coal Harbour Community Centre and facing Stanley Park, this artwork is based on the old boat sheds that used to line the shoreline. The artist cast a half-scale model in aluminum and coated it with luminescent paint. Perched on top of cast pilings, the artwork emanates nocturnally a slow glow from the inside. Grosvenor, an international property group, commissioned this work by Liz Magor as a gift to the city. The artwork was cast in the Harman Foundry in Robert's Creek, operated by Stephen Harman, son of artist Jack Harman.

Can you imagine what Coal Harbour used to look like many years ago? As a building, *LightShed* resembles the early fishing and shipping industry buildings that existed along the harbourfront when Vancouver was coming into its own as a city.



#6- DIGITAL ORCA | DOUGLAS COUPLAND

Digital Orca
Douglas Coupland
2009

The *Digital Orca* artwork acts as a sculptural conduit that allows the viewer to travel in time between the past and the future while permitting the viewer to marvel at the people and activities that created Vancouver's thriving harbour culture. The artwork also addresses the massive changes currently reshaping the economy of British Columbia.

Through the act of "pixelizing," an orca whale in three dimensions--a process that creates a crackling and unexpected sensation in the viewer's mind--the orca cliché is turned upside down, and what we thought we knew well is rendered exciting and new. On closer inspection, the colours and materials used in the sculpture's surfacing evoke the everyday life of the harbour and the diversity of those workers on busy waterfronts throughout British Columbia.

How does *Digital Orca* make you feel about the connection between the natural world and the virtual world?



#7 - THE DROP - INGES IDEE

The Drop
Inges Idee
2009

The artwork depicts a raindrop, captured descending and in its moment of contact.

According to Inges Idee, a group of four German artists, the artwork is “homage to the power of nature” and represents “the relationship and outlook towards the water that surrounds us.”

The Drop has been noted to have a playful relationship with viewers and serves as a “big inside joke” to Vancouver residents. Can you think of why? (Clue: it has to do with our weather.)



#8 - BEYOND THE SEA, AGAINST THE SUN - MARTIN BOYCE

Beyond the Sea, Against the Sun
Martin Boyce
2016

Beyond the Sea, Against the Sun consists of three continuous chains of hanging lanterns that converge at the point where the Richards Street lane meets the alleyway running from Robson Street to Georgia Street. Though their form is sculptural, the lanterns' state of partial collapse evokes an air of incompleteness in deep contrast to their urban environment. They are not resolved in the way architecture requires, but, instead, hover with a sense of openness. Scaled up and clustered in colourful constellations, their presence heightens the dramatic possibilities of the site while making and activating the space below them.

There are many alleyways and lanes throughout Vancouver. What kind of art would you put in them to bring them to life?



End your walk where you began in Robson Square. As one of the most central spots in the city, this plaza hosts activity nearly all the time. From performers to protests, you're sure to see something exciting. Grab a seat and experience it for yourself.

Thanks to the Downtown Vancouver BIA for sponsoring this tour. Head on over to their social media and website to stay up to date with the latest updates and events in the area!

Thank you for exploring with us, and don't forget to tag us on your photos and videos on social media. We'd love to see highlights of your #VanBiennale WALKennale!