

Art installation aims to heal the divide between DTES and Downtown

BY [JILL SLATTERY](#)

5:26 PM PDT, FRI MARCH 13, 2015

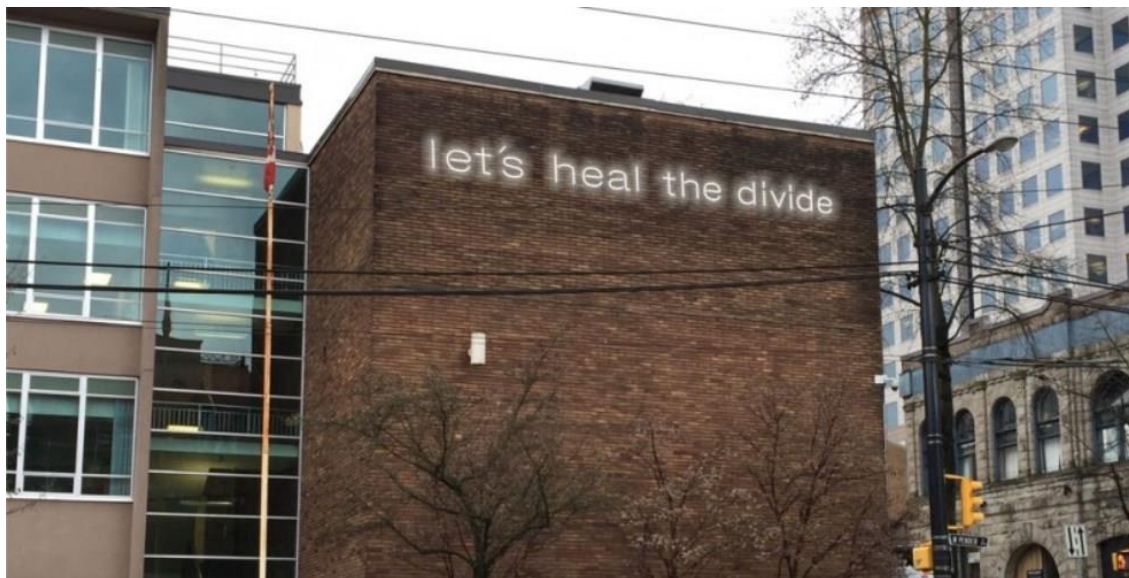


Image: [Vancouver Biennale](#)

Located at 250 West Pender Street, the new art project produced by the Vancouver Biennale aims to provoke questions about the divide between the Downtown East Side and the commercial and financial districts that border it.

Hanging on the façade of Vancouver Community College, the art's location "highlights the glaring economic disparity between neighborhoods and addresses the socio-economic, political and cultural points of disconnect," according to the Vancouver Biennale.

The piece, titled 'let's heal the divide', is by Toni Latour, a queer feminist artist based in East Vancouver, and was supported by a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts and Kwantlen University funding. Latour has worked with

the Vancouver Biennale before with another piece located on the Canada Line in Richmond.

“We have Ai Weiwei’s *F Grass*, which is a commentary about the individual and collective acts against systemic censorship in China, and now this work has us thinking about divisiveness right here in our own backyard. It’s a call to action to our elected government, spiritual leaders, the business community, educators and ultimately all of us as individual citizens to come together as neighbours and lead social change. Our exhibition is heavily inspired by Martin Luther King’s *I Have A Dream* that together we rise up and take action for justice, equality and freedom for all,” – President and Artistic Director, Barrie Mowatt

The [Vancouver Biennale](#) is a non-profit charitable organization that celebrates art in public space.

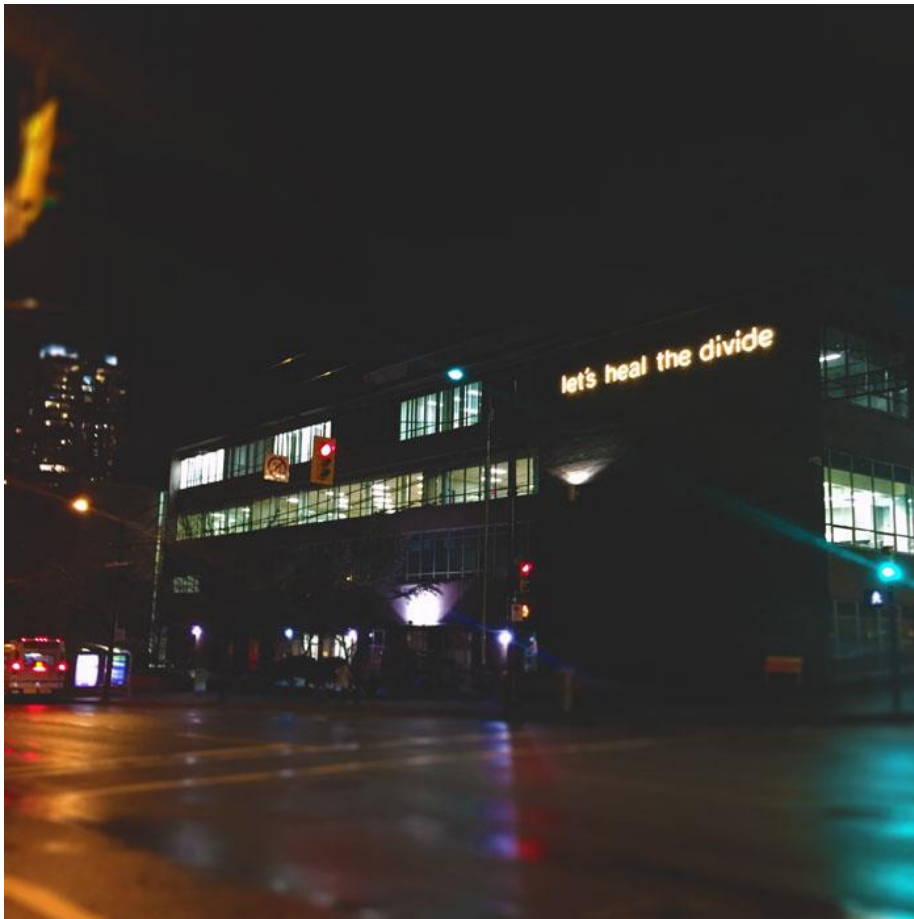


Image: Karm Sumal / Vancity Buzz

About the author



Jill Slattery Jill Slattery was born and raised in Vancouver, where she also earned an Arts degree from UBC in English and Creative Writing. She is an avid TV-watcher and a shameless Taylor Swift fangirl. Jill is a Staff Writer at Vancity Buzz.

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