

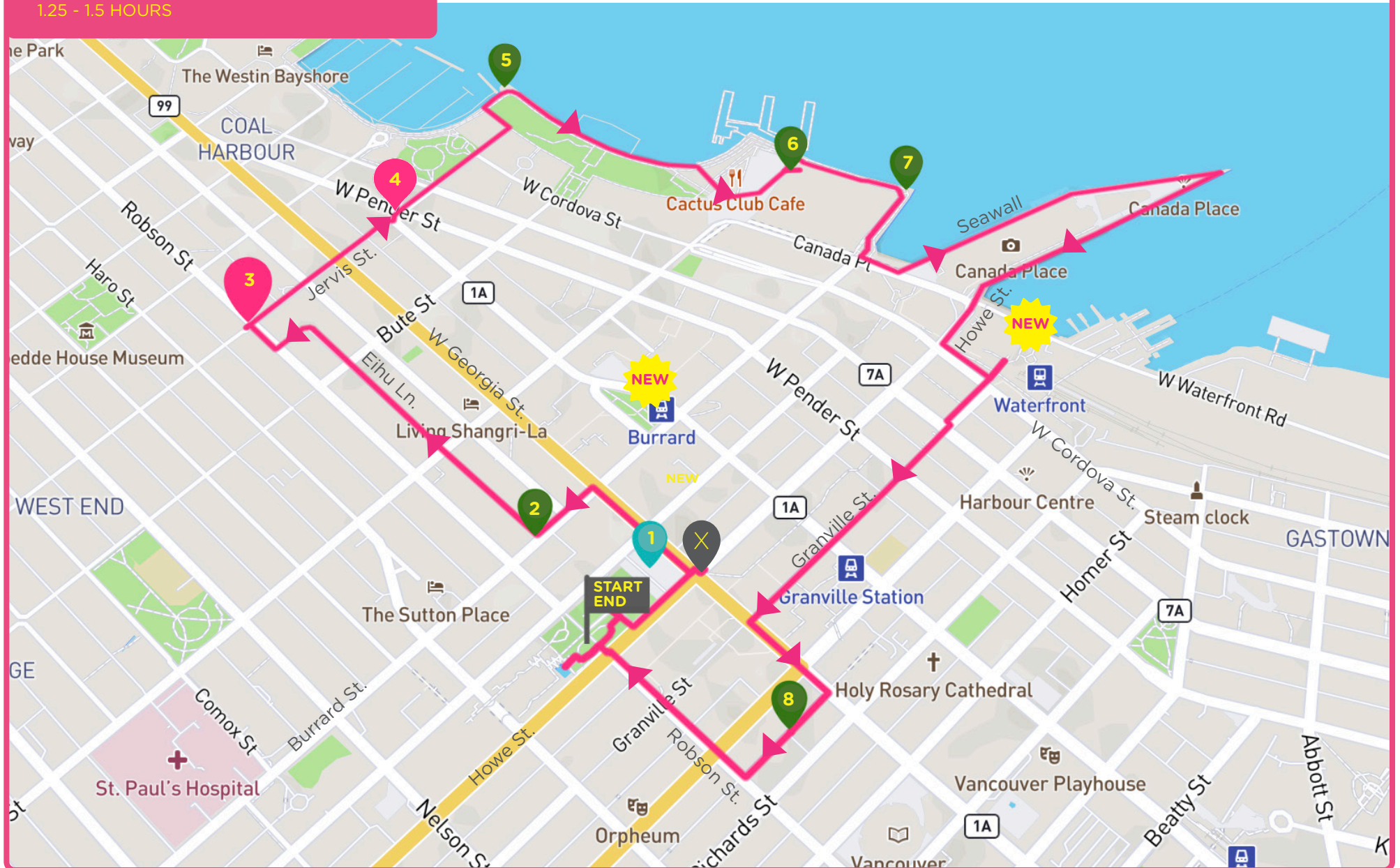


## DESTINATION DOWNTOWN WALK

Sponsored by Downtown Van

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

## VANCOUVER BIENNALE VANCOUVER BIENNALE





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## 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!

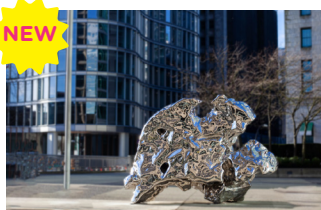
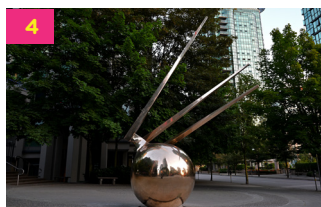
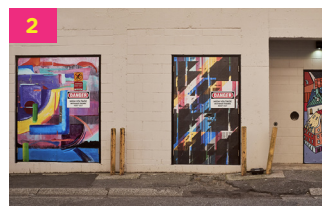
This self-guided tour is sponsored by **Downtown Van**, which supports, promotes and represents the shared interests of thousands of businesses and property owners in the central 90-block area of Vancouver's downtown core.

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	EIHU LANE CANVAS CORRIDOR	Between Robson & Alberni (Enter on Burrard)
NEW!	OVERFLOW IV   JAUME PLENSA	Three Bentall Centre - 595 Burrard St.
3	JASPER   JOHN CLEMENT	Robson and Jervis St.
4	NEED   KAMBIZ SHARIF	Intersection of Melville, Pender, Jervis St.
5	LIGHTSHED   LIZ MAGOR	1199 W Cordova St.
6	DIGITAL ORCA   DOUGLAS COUPLAND	1055 Canada Pl.
7	THE DROP   INGES IDEE	1055 Canada Pl.
NEW!	ARTIFICIAL ROCK #143   ZHAN WANG	200 Granville St.
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 - EIHU LANE CANVAS CORRIDOR - VARIOUS ARTISTS

### *Canvas Corridor*

**Various (information is noted beside the artwork)**

Watch out for artworks on various doorways and garage entrances!

Downtown Van and Robson Street Business Association (RSBA) teamed up in 2019 to invigorate Eihul 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.



## NEW! - OVERFLOW IV - JAUME PLENSA

### OVERFLOW IV Jaume Plensa

OVERFLOW IV was the inspiration for WE, featured in the 2009-2011 Vancouver Biennale, that was subsequently reinstalled in Tokyo where it currently remains. OVERFLOW IV was first exhibited in front of Vancouver's Buschlen Mowatt Gallery in 2007 and in 2013 exhibited at Ambleside in West Vancouver by developer Grosvenor International.

Jaume Plensa is one of the most sought-after artists of our time and follows in the 20th century Spanish tradition of producing leading artists of the era such as Picasso, Miró, and Dalí. Plensa's works are exhibited throughout Europe, North America and Japan, including the prestigious \$17 million Crown Fountain in Chicago's Millennium Park. His vibrant and inspiring artwork has been featured in major art installations and institutions worldwide, from Paris and Barcelona to New York, Rio and Tokyo. Downtown Van has partnered with Bentall Centre and the Vancouver Biennale to exhibit this sculpture for the first time in a decade.



## #3 - JASPER - JOHN CLEMENT

### Jasper John Clement

*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.





#4 - NEED - KAMBIZ SHARIF

*Need*  
Kambiz Sharif

**Need** by Iranian-Canadian artist Kambiz Sharif is a summation of his experience as a new immigrant, a life based on re-imagining oneself in a new place. The idea for the sculpture came to Sharif during his first year in Canada in 2009.

Despite its apparent abstraction, this shape carries deep personal meaning. It reaches upwards with an expression of need and gratitude and the potential of reciprocity, like three outstretched fingers or a seedling pushing upwards. Its core contains the untold desires held by all new immigrants and the continuous re-imagining of one's home in this new place.

**Need** marks a junction where the converging streets lead the flow of traffic to vastly different neighbourhoods of the city. At these crossroads, the sculpture's reflective surface makes it come into view like a mirage, or a flash of recognition of shared experience in a stranger's eyes.

What is your experience of displacement or rootedness? What shape does it take? Where do your roads cross? Let us know your thoughts by tagging your photo with #VanBiennale.



#5 - LIGHTSHED - LIZ MAGOR

*LightShed*  
Liz Magor

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 Harmon, 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 - THE DROP - INGES IDEE

### *The Drop* Inges Idee

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.)



## #7- DIGITAL ORCA | DOUGLAS COUPLAND

### *Digital Orca* Douglas Coupland

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?





## NEW! - ARTIFICIAL ROCK #143 - ZHAN WANG

*Artificial Rock #143*  
Zhan Wang

ARTIFICIAL ROCK #143 was artist Zhan Wang's Canadian debut when it was installed for the 2009 – 2011 Vancouver Biennale exhibition. It became a downtown hub for gathering during the 2010 Winter Olympics.

One of the most renowned sculptors working in China today, Zhan Wang represents the emergence of contemporary Chinese art onto the world stage. Jiashanshi, which means “fake mountain rocks” in Mandarin, dates back to the Han Dynasty over 2000 years ago, when they were placed in front of important buildings and in gardens for decoration and meditation, restoring man's connection to nature.

Downtown Van has partnered with Cadillac Fairview and the Vancouver Biennale to exhibit this sculpture for the first time in a decade.



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

*Beyond the Sea, Against the Sun*  
Martin Boyce

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?

## FINISH - DESTINATION DOWNTOWN WALK



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 Van 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!