

PRESENTING SPONSOR:

## Vancity

THIS EXHIBITION IS SUPPORTED BY THE CITY OF VANCOUVER'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROGRAM WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA.



TO BEGIN, AN IMPERATIVE:
THE MARKET IS NOT EXPERIENCE.
THE CITY IS NOT THE DISTANCE BETWEEN BODIES.

WITHIN YOU, RUNNING THROUGH THE SPACE YOU INHABIT, A CITY.

TO COMPLETE THIS MOVEMENT

YOU NEED TO GO BEYOND VALUE.

YOU ARE NOT REDUCIBLE TO A VALUE.

WHEREVER YOU GO, YOU WILL BE A CITY.

YOUR BODY IS THE CITY INSTANTANEOUS AND FRAGILE.

THE CITY IS WHAT YOU GO TOWARDS, WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW.

NOW BRING YOUR GOING-BEYOND BACK INTO YOUR BODY.

HOW ELSE COULD YOU RECOGNIZE ANYTHING YOU'D CALL NEW?

THE CITY IS THE GENUINE NEWNESS OF LUXURY.

### **DEFINITION OF GENUINE LUXURY:**

OSTENTATIOUS GIFTS! RUINOUS CEREMONIES! CONSUMPTION ONLY EVER FOR STRANGERS! ABSURDIST ECONOMIES OF LOSING! WHY NOT STAKE YOUR WHOLE BEING! REVOLTING EXUBERANCE! SQUANDERED SURPLUS! DISSOLUTION OF SUBORDINATION! KNOWLEDGE AS FLEECING! TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM THE GAME OF UTILITY AND PRODUCTION! LIE DOWN AND SCOFF! UNFORESEEABLE FORTHCOMING WHATEVERNESS, AND THE NEED FOR NIGHT!

FALLING OUT OF THIS PERFECTLY BROKEN CITY, YOU BECOME UNPITYABLE.

HERE YOU ARE CALM AND ALERT AND LUSTY AND RECEIVING.

**EVERY MINUTE YOU PLAY WITH GRAVITY.** 

YOUR NERVES ARE THE CITY'S LACEWORK.

YOUR FASCIA IS THE CIVIC LUBRICANT.

YOUR MUSCLE IS A CITY-WIDE TISSUE OF LINKING GATES.

AND THE SOFT INSURRECTION OF YOUR FACE!

NOW YOU LEARN TO BECOME INDISCERNIBLE, CONFUSING.

YOUR PLAY WITH GRAVITY IS AMAZINGLY COMPLEX.

**YOU** MAKE OF YOUR LIFE AN INFINITELY RUINED SPLENDOUR.

YOU FIND THE FEELING OF RICHNESS.

YOU FIND WHAT RICHNESS SAYS OF THE EXPLOSIVE, THE PRODIGIOUS AND THE OVERFLOWING.

YOU FIND RICHNESS ONLY IN THE SPLENDOUR OF RAGS AND ABSOLUTE INDIFFERENCE.

**YOU REFUSE EVERYTHING BUT REAL BEGINNING!** 

YOU SEIZE A FLOURISHING.

YOUR BODY DOES NOT EFFACE ITSELF.

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IT ADMINISTRATES ABSENCE BY SPREADING ABSENCE.

YOUR BODY IS THE AUTHENTIC LUXURY.

THE CITY IS A STAGE FOR BODY-WIDE THOUGHT EXPERIMENTS.

IT IS LOVE COMPLETED OUTSIDE OURSELVES!

THIS SHOULD BE THE CITY'S TASK:

TO BE SUPER-FRAGILE BEGINNING.



URBANITES—ALL WHO DWELL IN CITIES FROM VANCOUVER TO MUMBAI, PRINCE GEORGE TO PRAGUE, BOSTON BAR TO BOGOTA—WHERE WILL REVOLUTION BEGIN? WE'VE SNAPPED TO, COLLECTIVELY, FROM THE EUPHORIA OF THE NEOLIBERAL MOMENT—SO CRUEL IN ITS PROMISED PLEASURES, SO DEAD IN ITS IMAGINATION. BUT EVEN NOW IN THIS TIME OF DISCONTINUITY, THE VERY IDEA OF REVOLUTION HAS, FOR THOSE MADE COMFORTABLE IN THE GLOBAL NORTH, FALLEN OUT OF OUR POLITICAL IMAGINATIONS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE REVOLTS THAT ESTABLISHED CAPITALIST SOCIETIES, REVOLUTION HAS BEEN ERASED FROM THE MEMORY BANKS OF FUTURE SOCIAL POSSIBILITY. HISTORY IS SCATTERED WITH REVOLUTIONS OF EVERY COLOUR: HOW COULD THIS BROADER LOSS OF POLITICAL IMAGINATION HAVE SEEPED INTO OUR SOULS? WE'VE HAD BOTH THE FURY OF THE RIGHT, PRIVATIZING COMMON GOODS AND CREATING A COLD "OWNERSHIP SOCIETY," AND POLITICAL INACTION ON THE LEFT. AND THIS, EVEN AS CITIES ARE REVOLUTIONIZED FROM ABOVE! VANCOUVER DEEPENS ITS INEQUITIES, BETWEEN OWNER, RENTER AND HOMELESS, AS SPACES FOR DWELLING BECOME MORE DISTORTED BY THE HEROES OF MARKET FORCES. THE TRAGEDY TURNING TO FARCE HERE, IN THIS CITY, IS THAT A "LIFESTYLE" FOR THE FEW HAS ECLIPSED THE GOAL OF A FULL LIFE FOR ALL! AND IF A FULL LIFE IS NOW CALLED UTOPIANISM OR UNREALISTIC, THEN LET'S HOLD ONTO IT! SUDDENLY THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FUTURE LOOKS RADICALLY OPEN: IF EVEN TEN YEARS AGO THE FUTURE SEEMED FIXED AND CHANGE IMPOSSIBLE, THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC MELTDOWN AND RECESSION HAVE WRECKED THIS NEOLIBERAL CERTAINTY. AND THE POLITICAL RIGHT UNDERSTANDS IT IS OPEN IN A WAY NOT NECESSARILY AUSPICIOUS FOR THEM, FOR THEY DO NOT HAVE HOLD OF THE IMAGINATION OF THE FUTURE. FROM PARIS TO ATHENS TO REYKJAVIK TO LONDON, THE STREETS ARE RUMBLING WITH ACTS WE RECOGNIZE FROM HISTORY: OUTRAGE AGAINST THE STATE, DISMAY AT THE HEADS OF TOWNS WHO CLOSE THE IMAGINATION OF THE FUTURE FOR SMALL FIXES, AND GOVERNMENTAL MANAGEMENT THAT BLOCKS **AUTOGESTION OR SELF-MANAGEMENT! THE FUTURE IS INDEED RADICALLY** OPEN IN A WAY UNPRECEDENTED JUST MONTHS AGO, AND IT WOULD BE INTELLECTUALLY SHIFTLESS NOT TO ANTICIPATE SOCIAL UPHEAVAL OF SOME SORT. IT IS NOW THE TIME TO END "UTOPIAN ANTI-UTOPIANISM" AND JUMP-START HISTORY AGAIN! CHANGE CAN AND DOES HAPPEN MERCURIALLY. THE QUESTION IS, IN WHOSE INTERESTS? CITIES CAN NOW TURN TRULY CREATIVE— FOR WHAT IS MORE CREATIVE THAN REVOLUTION? TO ERASE THE POSSIBILITY OF REVOLUTION IS TO THROW AWAY "THE POETRY OF THE FUTURE."

A MANIFESTO FOR THE POETRY OF THE FUTURE URBAN SUBJECTS AND NEIL SMITH

WE: VAN COU VER DEMOCRATIC SPACES INVOLVE CITIZENS IN THE CHOICES AFFECTING THEIR LIVES. TRANSPARENT CIVIC PROCESSES CREATE SPACE FOR MORE INFORMED DECISIONS, INCREASED OWNERSHIP, AND A FEELING OF PUBLIC EMPOWERMENT. CONSULTATION IS TOO SHALLOW A FORM OF DEMOCRACY—REPLACE IT WITH MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT.

GREENSPACES AND OPEN SPACES ARE CENTRAL TO THE IDENTITY AND ENJOYMENT OF OUR CITY: PARKS, GARDENS, AND BEACHES ENABLE AN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC RIGHT TO ENJOY SUN, FRESH AIR, AND THE SOCIAL LIFE OF THE CITY. AS FUNDAMENTAL AMENITIES, THESE NEED TO BE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE FROM EACH HOME AND UNIVERSALLY AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.

PUBLIC ART HINTS AT THE CREATIVE ENGINE UNDERPINNING THE CITY. IT'S A DYNAMIC AND ETHEREAL CURRENT THAT ISN'T LIMITED IN SHAPE OR SUBSTANCE TO DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS, RANDOM SCULPTURES OR OLYMPIC LEGACIES. THE ARTS COMMUNITY IS UNDER SIEGE. VANCOUVER: PULL OUT ALL STOPS AND HELP ARTISTS MAKE EXTRAORDINARY THINGS HAPPEN IN OUR STREETS, ALLEYS AND FORGOTTEN SPACES.

PUBLIC PUBLIC SPACES? HALF OF THE BILLBOARDS IN VANCOUVER CONTRADICT CITY BYLAWS. THIS CORPORATE BLIGHT IMPOSES MESSAGES OF PRIVATIZATION AND ERODES THE VERY FOUNDATION OF PUBLIC SPACE—TAKE 'EM DOWN!

URBAN DESIGN IMPACTS THE WAY WE EXPERIENCE PUBLIC SPACE. NEIGHBOURHOOD DESIGN SHOULD STRIVE FOR MORE PEOPLE IN ONE PLACE TO ENCOURAGE WALKING, CYCLING AND TRANSIT, AND TO EVOKE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND IDENTITY. WE NEED GOOD URBAN DESIGN TO BALANCE DENSITY WITH THE AMENITIES NEEDED FOR A GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE. VANCOUVERITES DESERVE A BUILT ENVIRONMENT THAT IS HEALTHY, LIVELY, SAFE AND CONVIVIAL.

SURVEILLANCE & SECURITY MEASURES OFTEN HAVE LITTLE OR NO EFFECT ON CRIME, OR ON PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION OF SAFETY. CITIZENS ARE ENTITLED TO THE FREE ENJOYMENT OF PUBLIC SPACES WITHOUT CONSTANT MONITORING BY POLICE, CAMERAS AND SECURITY GUARDS, ESPECIALLY WHEN SAFETY ISSUES CAN BE BEST ADDRESSED THROUGH SENSIBLE URBAN DESIGN.

THE LACK OF AN ICONIC MEETING SPOT IS A GLARING ABSENCE IN OUR CITY. THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROBSON SQUARE AS A CENTRAL GATHERING PLACE IS A KEY STEP TOWARDS BUILDING SUCH A CIVIC HUB—A LONG AWAITED PUBLIC SPACE TO ENCOURAGE CIVIC INTERACTIONS, BUILD UNDERSTANDING AND SPARK NEW IDEAS AND SOCIAL CAPITAL.

MOBILITY IN VANCOUVER NEEDS TO "WALK THE TALK" WHEN IT COMES TO TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES. THINK OF PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES AND SAFETY FIRST, THEN CONSIDER OTHER ACTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE CHOICES. WE WANT A CITY THAT MAKES HEALTHY CHOICES EASIER FOR EVERYONE, AND THAT SUPPORTS LIVELY AND SOCIALLY ACTIVE CITY STREETS.

LIVELY GATHERING SPACES IN EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD: PUBS, MUSIC VENUES AND OTHER SOCIAL PLACES ENSURE OUR MAIN STREETS STAY VIBRANT (AND SAFER) THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND NIGHT. THESE ARE NOT TO BE SEEN AS SPECIAL EVENTS, BUT A NECESSITY FOR EVERYDAY URBAN VITALITY.

A PUBLIC SPACE MANIFESTO WE BELIEVE: VANCOUVER PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

WE: VAN COU VFR WE RECENTLY BUMPED INTO A COYOTE WHO WAS STROLLING DOWN A BUSTLING DAVIE STREET SIDEWALK, HIS THICK COAT GLEAMING IN THE WINTER SUN. WE WERE HAPPY TO SEE HIM. AND TO OUR SURPRISE, HE GESTURED FOR US TO COME CLOSE, AND WHISPERED:

## **VANCOUVERITES, IMAGINE...**

GLIDING THROUGH LUSH GREEN VALLEYS ON SHINY ESCALATORS. RISING PAST CHIRPING BIRDS, DRIPPING MUSHROOMS AND ROAMING RACCOONS. THE CACOPHONY OF URBAN LIFE AND ITS BUBBLING OVER OF CHANCE ENCOUNTERS WITH FRIENDS, FORMER LOVERS AND ENEMIES, ALL UNFOLDING WITHIN THE KALEIDOSCOPIC EMBRACE OF MOSS, ALGAE AND FERNS.

PIERCING THE NEW HANGING GARDENS OF BABYLON IN ELEVATORS THAT SHUTTLE YOU TO UNKNOWN LEVELS OF PRODUCTIVITY. WORKING ON THE SIXTY-NINTH FLOOR WHERE BIRDS EAGERLY BUILD NESTS OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW. GAZING THROUGH TOWERING FORESTS AMONGST FORESTS OF TOWERS. YOUR OFFICE ANIMATED WITH THE DAPPLED LIGHT OF SUN REFLECTING OFF THE RAIN-HARVESTING POOLS EMBEDDED IN THE FAÇADE.

STROLLING PEACEFULLY IN A ROOFTOP FOREST TO PICK APPLES ON YOUR LUNCH BREAK. THE SMELL OF FRESH SOIL AS TEAMS OF FARMERS TILL THE ADJACENT VEGETABLE SKY-GARDENS. BARROWS OF PRODUCE READIED FOR MARKET AS YOU FLIRT WITH BUTTERFLIES AND MAKE SPARROWS JEALOUS. BEFORE RETURNING TO WORK YOU DOWNLOAD DATA FROM YOUR FAVOURITE TREE.

SOME CRUISE SILENTLY IN E-CARS. OTHERS KAYAK COMMUTE. YOU COUNT DEER FROM THE SKYTRAIN. THE ENERGETIC PULSE OF HUMAN MOVEMENT IS MIRRORED IN THE WILDLIFE CORRIDORS THAT TRAVERSE THE CITY. SQUIRRELS SCURRY. BEAVERS MEANDER. FISH JUMP. HUMANS WHIZ.

HIKING UP GENTLE SLOPES AND THROUGH WAIST-HIGH GRASSES TO DOWNTOWN CAFÉS. CHATTING WITH FRIENDS OVER DIM SUM AND SOUVLAKI WHILE THE DEER GRAZE BELOW. DROPPING INTO ENTERTAINMENT CANYONS, HOPING TO GET A SEAT FOR THAT NEW MOVIE.

SHOUTING LOUDLY IN THE PONDS AND EDDIES OF POLITICAL PROTEST. HOLDING YOUR BREATH AND SWIMMING FAR UNDERWATER TO ESCAPE THE POLICE.

PLUCKING TOMATOES FROM YOUR WALLPAPER. PICKING FRESH STRAWBERRIES FROM YOUR LIGHT FIXTURES. OPENING VINE CURTAINS TO MOUNTAINS OF HOUSING, ARCHIPELAGOS OF SHOPPING, MEADOWS OF MEDIA AND PLATEAUS OF WORK.

WHERE THE CITY STOPS AND NATURE STARTS IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW.



WE: VAN COU VFR

- VANCOUVER HAS A SHORT HISTORY, YET ITS MEMORY IS EVEN SHORTER.
- 2.
  HISTORY MAY BE WRITTEN BY THE VICTORS,
  BUT WITH SCISSORS RATHER THAN THE PEN.
  DELETED CHAPTERS BLOW AROUND LIKE THE
  GHOST OF A FORGOTTEN BOOK.
- 3.
  WHY DID MARGARET MEAD, MOTHER TERESA, BUCKMINSTER FULLER, PAOLO SOLERI, ARTHUR ERICKSON, MAGGIE AND PIERRE TRUDEAU, SUSTAINABILITY ECONOMIST BARBARA WARD AND THE ENTIRE UNITED NATIONS ALL COME TO VANCOUVER IN 1976?
- WHO REMEMBERS HABITAT FORUM? WHO REMEMBERS THAT THE WORLD GATHERED HERE TO DISCUSS THE LOOMING HOUSING EMERGENCY IN ITS OVERFLOWING CITIES?
- 5.
  TO UNWRITE HISTORY, START BY DEMOLISHING THE BUILDINGS IN WHICH HISTORY IS MADE.
- 6.
  LET'S SAY YOU ARE STANDING AT JERICHO
  BEACH, JUST EAST OF THE SAILING CLUB.
  WHERE YOU ARE STANDING NOW, ONCE STOOD
  FIVE ART DECO WWII SEAPLANE HANGARS.
- 7.
  WHO REMEMBERS THAT IN 1976, AN ARMY OF VANCOUVER CITIZENS CONVERTED THESE HANGARS INTO AN PLACE FOR THE WORLD TO DISCUSS THE CHASM BETWEEN RICH AND POOR?
- 8.
  LET IT BE BURNED INTO THE CITY'S MEMORY THAT 11,000 VANCOUVER LABOURERS, VOLUNTEERS, ARCHITECTS AND STUDENTS CONVERTED THE DECO HANGARS IN UNDER SIX MONTHS, AND THAT THEY DID IT WITHOUT BUREAUCRACY, WITHOUT REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS, WITHOUT STOCK BROKERS AND WITHOUT BANKERS, AND IN THE FACE OF CONSTANT OPPOSITION FROM CITY HALL.

- THEY DID IT WITHOUT WASTE. THEY RE-USED SALVAGED BC LUMBER, THE HAND-FORGED IRON RAILINGS THAT HAD ONCE GRACED THE LION'S GATE BRIDGE, SILK FROM WWII PARACHUTES AND OTHER MATERIALS FROM VANCOUVER'S HISTORY. VAST MURALS BY HAIDA ARTIST BILL REID TRANSFORMED THE MAIN HANGAR INTO A LONGHOUSE OF UNDISPUTED AUTHORITY.
- 10.
  IF HISTORY IS WRITTEN BY THE VICTORS, WHO UNWROTE HABITAT?
- 11.
  WHEN THE WORLD WENT HOME, THE HANGARS
  WERE BULLDOZED BY THE PARKS BOARD,
  DESPITE PUBLIC OUTCRY, AND HABITAT WAS
  NOT MENTIONED AGAIN.
- 12.
  VANCOUVER IS YOUNG IN YEARS, BUT ITS ERASED HISTORIES FILL A GHOSTLY LIBRARY.
- 13.
  VANCOUVER, YOU ARE A TALE OF TWO CITIES.
  WHICH WILL PREVAIL? "THE MOST LIVABLE CITY
  IN THE WORLD," OR THE INFAMOUS CITY OF
  HOMELESSNESS?
- 14.
  VANCOUVER, YOU REMEMBER EXPO '86, THE 2010 OLYMPICS, YET YOU WILLFULLY FORGET A TIME WHEN YOU AIMED TO SHARE—NOT OWN—THE PODIUM.
- 15.
  CITIZENS OR SPECTATORS? WHICH WILL IT BE, VANCOUVER?
- 16. WE NEED NOT START FROM SCRATCH!



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WE: VAN COU VFR

- WE DON'T EAT ONLY FOOD. WE EAT CARS. WE EAT HOUSES. WE EAT STREETS. WE EAT MUSIC. WE EAT LAUGHTER. WE EAT FREEDOM. WE EAT SOULS. WE EAT ONE ANOTHER ALIVE.
- ON THE OTHER HAND, FOOD IS A GOOD PLACE TO START.
- 3.
  VANCOUVER! LIKE YOU, WE ARE
  UNCOMFORTABLE WITH MANIFESTOS! AND
  YET WE DO FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT THE
  FOLLOWING:
- 4.
  FOOD SHOULD NOT ONLY BE SOMETHING THAT YOU EAT, BUT SOMETHING THAT YOU DO.
- 5.
  THIS IS NOT ABOUT BEING A "FOODIE."
- 6.
  WERE YOUR GRANDPARENTS FOODIES? IS A FARMER A FOODIE?
- THIS IS ABOUT HISTORY. THIS IS ABOUT IMMIGRANTS FROM EUROPE WHO CARRIED THEIR SAUERKRAUT-PRESSING ROCKS TO THIS NEW LAND BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T BE SURE THEY WOULD FIND ROCKS THAT WOULD DO THE JOB AS WELL. THIS IS ABOUT IMMIGRANTS FROM ASIA WHO CAME WITH SEEDS IN THEIR POCKETS BECAUSE SEEDS, NOT MONEY, GUARANTEE LIFE ON EARTH.
- 8.
  BUT THIS IS ALSO ABOUT MONEY, IN THAT WE HAVE TRADED THE HOURS WE ONCE SPENT FINDING, GROWING, PREPARING AND PRESERVING OUR OWN FOOD FOR LONGER HOURS ON THE JOB TO EARN THE MONEY TO BUY CONVENIENCE FOOD.
- 9. ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE TRADEOFF?

- 10.
  THIS MANIFESTO IS MILD-MANNERED. IT DOES NOT CALL FOR A REVOLUTION, ONLY SMALL CHANGES.
- 11.
  YOU MIGHT START A GARDEN. OR MAKE BEER.
  OR DIG FOR CLAMS. OR PLANT A FRUIT TREE.
  OR MAKE JAM, MAKE PICKLES, GROW HERBS,
  KEEP CHICKENS, HUNT DEER, PICK BERRIES,
  BAKE BREAD, TAP A MAPLE TREE, TURN YOUR
  FRONT LAWN INTO A POTATO PATCH.
- 12.
  PLANT A FIELD OF EDIBLE FLOWERS! GET TO KNOW YOUR MUSHROOMS!
- 13.
  NO NEED TO DO ALL OF THESE THINGS, JUST ONE OR TWO OF THEM. LET SOMEONE ELSE KEEP BEES OR MILK THE COW. MAYBE YOUR CALLING IS TO MAKE CARAMELS WITH THE HONEY AND THE CREAM.
- 14.
  MAKE ENOUGH TO SHARE. ABSOLUTE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IS ANTI-SOCIAL.
- 15.
  SMALL STEPS ARE ENOUGH. THEY ARE ENOUGH TO BEGIN THE LONG PROCESS OF WITHDRAWAL FROM A SYSTEM THAT WANTS TO SELL US EVERYTHING WE ONCE DID FOR OURSELVES OR WITH THE PEOPLE AROUND US. A SYSTEM THAT ASKS US ONLY TO EAT, EAT, EAT.
- 16.
  ONE RULE: NEVER TRUST YOUR FOOD TO A SYSTEM THAT YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN TO A CHILD. (BECAUSE SUPPOSE ONE DAY YOU HAD TO.)
- 17.
  MAYBE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A REVOLUTION AFTER ALL.

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VANCOUVER THRIVES WHEN IT EMBRACES ITS MANY ORIGINS, PEOPLES, IDEAS AND FORMS. VANCOUVER FALTERS WHEN IT STRIVES FOR PURITY, ISOLATION, UNITY OF FUNCTION. WE ARE A CITY OF HYBRIDS, SO INTEGRATED THEY SLIDE INTO EACH OTHER AS HYBRID-CITY. OUR METROPOLITAN STRENGTH, OUR URBAN ENGINE'S POWER IS CREATIVE DIVERSITY—WITHOUT IT, WE BECOME BRITTLE, UNCARING AND DULL.

## **INVENTING HYBRIDCITY:**

THIS CITY WAS INVENTED AT THE STROKE OF A PEN. IN UTTERLY NO SENSE DID VANCOUVER EVOLVE ORGANICALLY—AS IN STANDARD URBAN NARRA-TIVES, BE THEY OF ETRUSCAN ROME OR HOMER SIMP-SON'S SPRINGFIELD—BUT RATHER CONCEIVED IN A SINGLE BUSINESS AND POLITICAL CONTRACT FOR THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY. VANCOUVER WAS BORN AND RAISED IN A REAL ESTATE DEAL TRANSFERRING A PUBLIC GOOD TO PRIVATE DEVELOPERS, AND THIS PRECEDENT, THIS FUSION OF CASH WITH BUILDING DEEDS, HAS SHAPED US EVER SINCE. VANCOUVER HAS ALSO ALWAYS BEEN MÉTIS IN SPIRIT, A MELDING OF FIRST NATIONS VISUAL/MATERIAL CULTURES WITH THOSE OF ASIA AND EUROPE. THE RAILWAY WAS **BUILT WITH CHINESE LABOUR, AND VANCOUVER'S** POPULATION HAS BEEN ONE FIFTH OR MORE ASIAN FROM THE GET-GO, MAKING OUR DIETS, BUSINESS CULTURE, ARCHITECTURE AND GLOBAL OUTLOOK PER-MANENTLY EURASIAN. FOR OUR HYBRIDCITY, I PRO-**CLAIM THE PENTECOSTAL POTLATCH, AND CELEBRATE EQUINOX, EID AND EASTER WITH BUBBLE TEA!** 

FORGETTING AND DENYING HYBRIDCITY: FOR GRANVILLE'S SAWMILLS, THEN VANCOUVER'S HOUSES AND AVENUES, THE SALISH WERE PERCHED IN PERIMETERS—WHAT ARE LATER KNOWN AS STANLEY PARK, KITSILANO AND THE SOUTHLANDS. **VANCOUVER WILL NEVER BE AT PEACE UNTIL IT** RECONCILES WITH ITS INDIGENAITY, A CORNERSTONE OF HYBRIDCITY. VANCOUVER MUST ALSO CONFRONT ITS HISTORY OF APARTHEID. EARLY 'RACIAL ZONING' MANDATED ASIANS' RESIDENCES AND BUSINESSES TO BE LOCATED IN CHINATOWN'S FEW BLOCKS, AND NOWHERE ELSE. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY 'CHEMICAL **ZONING'**; THROUGH MUCH OF THE 20TH CENTURY, THE DTES WAS THE ONLY NEIGHBOURHOOD WHERE THE CITY GRANTED BAR AND TAVERN LICENSES. FINALLY, IN A DEADLY COLLUSION OF CIVIC LEFT WITH RIGHT, THE DTES BECAME THE SOLE LOCUS FOR SOCIAL HOUSING AND POVERTY SERVICES IN THE TWO **DECADES BEFORE 2005.** 

### **BUILDING HYBRIDCITY:**

VANCOUVER NOW GROWS NEVER BEFORE-SEEN HYBRIDS OF BUILDING FORMS AND TYPES: THIN CONDO HIGH RISES SET ON TOWNHOUSE PODIA (A HYBRID OF MID-LEVELS HONG KONG WITH BROOKLYN **BROWNSTONES); TOWERS LAMINATING OFFICE** WITH RESIDENTIAL WITH HOTEL; FOUR CONDO SKYSCRAPERS ERUPTING UP OUT OF A COSTCO; A VILLAGE FOR 400 RESIDENTS SET ON THE ROOF OF A HOME DEPOT, ITSELF SET ON A SAVE-ON FOODS. **OUR BEST PLANNING ACTUALLY BUILDS (NOT JUST** PROMISES) HOMES FOR THE POOR, THE ELDERLY AND THE CREATIVE, ALL INTEGRATED SEAMLESSLY WITH THOSE FOR THE WEALTHY, THE GLOBAL AND THE ITINERANT. OUR CITY-BUILDING SUCCESSES ARE REAL AND EXPORTED HAPPILY AS "VANCOUVERISM," A NOW-GLOBAL COMMODITY SHAPED OUT OF OUR **COLLECTIVE FANTASIES OF SPLENDID PROTECTED** VIEWS, EVER INCREASING VALUE, AND A FEW CUTE **SHRUBBERIES OUT FRONT.** 

### **HYBRIDCITY NOW:**

REAL ESTATE IS VANCOUVER'S CIVIL RELIGION, AND MARKETERS, POLITICIANS, DEVELOPERS AND PLANNERS ARE THE DESCENDING RANKS OF ITS PRIESTLY CLASS. HYBRIDCITY AT ITS BEST IS A CREATION OF OUR REALTORS, BUT WITHOUT PUBLIC GUIDANCE, THEY ARE JUST AS LIKELY TO DESTROY IT. REAL ESTATE IS REALITY FOR EVERY CITY, BUT FEW THIS LARGE ARE SO SINGULARLY CONCEIVED, NAMED, SHAPED, IMPROVED AND GOVERNED BY THIS ONE INDUSTRY.

**VANCOUVERITES NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR HYBRIDCITY—AS ARTIFACT AND IDEA—IS THE** CREATION OF PUBLIC POLICY. THE DTES IS AS MUCH A CREATION OF VANCOUVERISM AS YALETOWN'S GLASS TOWERS. A DTES SOLELY FOR THE ADDICTED POOR IS AS MUCH A CORRUPTION OF HYBRIDCITY AS A DOWNTOWN GIVEN OVER SOLELY TO HIGH-END CONDOS UNLEAVENED BY NEW WORKPLACES AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING. TO CONCENTRATE BAR AND CABARET LICENSES ALONG GRANVILLE DENIES THE NECESSARY NOISE AND CONFLICT OF HYBRIDCITY ELSEWHERE. TO GHETTOIZE CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN AN ARTS PRECINCT DENIES VARIETY AND ANIMATION TO OTHER DISTRICTS. TO MAKE **OURS THE GREENEST CITY WILL REQUIRE A LOT OF** GREENWASHING. HYBRIDS CAN BE STERILE, OR THEY CAN FLOURISH—THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

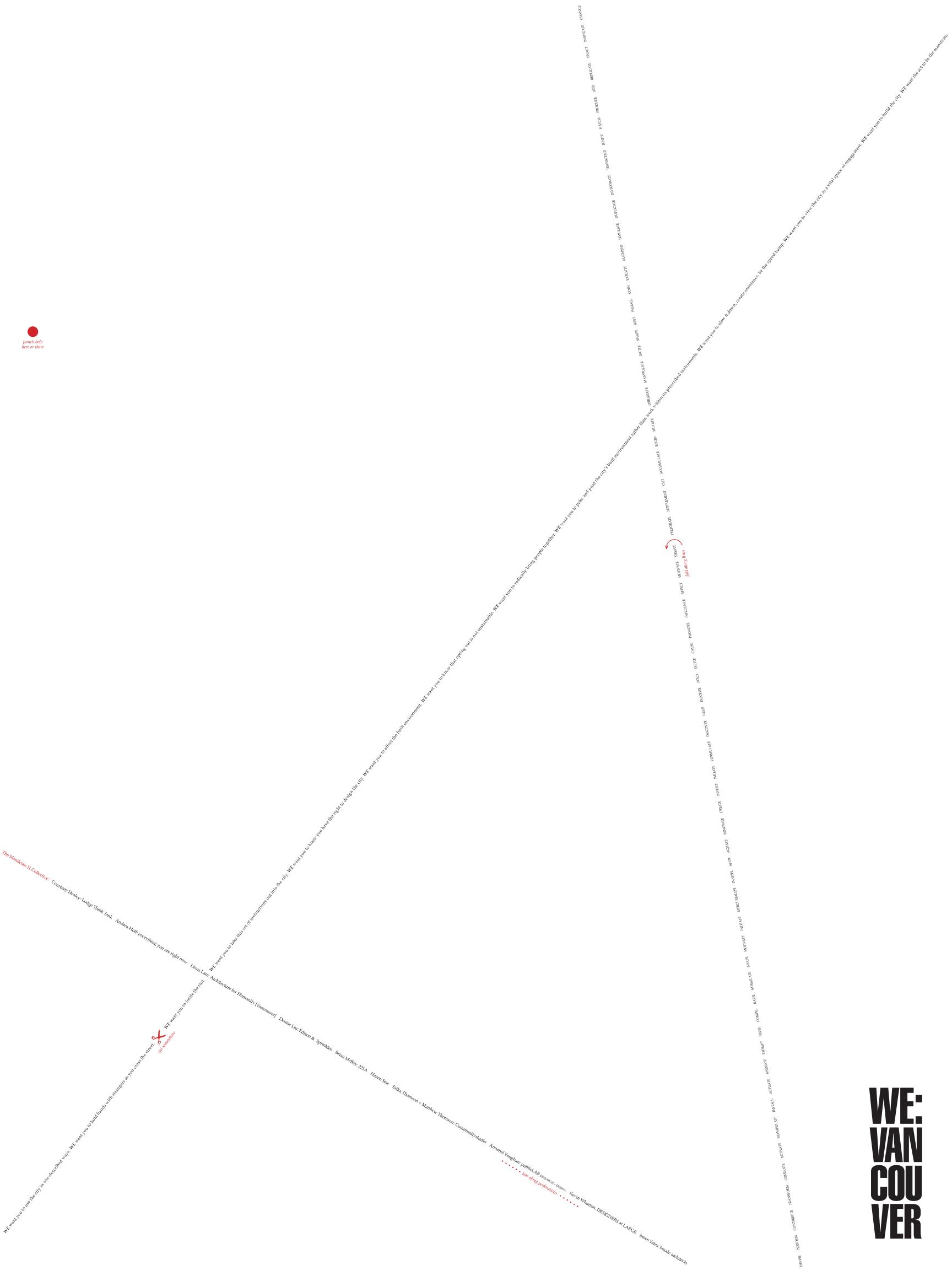




URBANITES—ALL WHO DWELL IN CITIES FROM VANCOUVER TO MUMBAI, PRINCE GEORGE TO PRAGUE, BOSTON BAR TO BOGOTA—WHERE WILL REVOLUTION BEGIN? WE'VE SNAPPED TO, COLLECTIVELY, FROM THE EUPHORIA OF THE NEOLIBERAL MOMENT—SO CRUEL IN ITS PROMISED PLEASURES, SO DEAD IN ITS IMAGINATION. BUT EVEN NOW IN THIS TIME OF DISCONTINUITY, THE VERY IDEA OF REVOLUTION HAS, FOR THOSE MADE COMFORTABLE IN THE GLOBAL NORTH, FALLEN OUT OF OUR POLITICAL IMAGINATIONS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE REVOLTS THAT ESTABLISHED CAPITALIST SOCIETIES, REVOLUTION HAS BEEN ERASED FROM THE MEMORY BANKS OF FUTURE SOCIAL POSSIBILITY. HISTORY IS SCATTERED WITH REVOLUTIONS OF EVERY COLOUR: HOW COULD THIS BROADER LOSS OF POLITICAL IMAGINATION HAVE SEEPED INTO OUR SOULS? WE'VE HAD BOTH THE FURY OF THE RIGHT, PRIVATIZING COMMON GOODS AND CREATING A COLD "OWNERSHIP SOCIETY," AND POLITICAL INACTION ON THE LEFT. AND THIS, EVEN AS CITIES ARE REVOLUTIONIZED FROM ABOVE! VANCOUVER DEEPENS ITS INEQUITIES, BETWEEN OWNER, RENTER AND HOMELESS, AS SPACES FOR DWELLING BECOME MORE DISTORTED BY THE HEROES OF MARKET FORCES. THE TRAGEDY TURNING TO FARCE HERE, IN THIS CITY, IS THAT A "LIFESTYLE" FOR THE FEW HAS ECLIPSED THE GOAL OF A FULL LIFE FOR ALL! AND IF A FULL LIFE IS NOW CALLED UTOPIANISM OR UNREALISTIC, THEN LET'S HOLD ONTO IT! SUDDENLY THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FUTURE LOOKS RADICALLY OPEN: IF EVEN TEN YEARS AGO THE FUTURE SEEMED FIXED AND CHANGE IMPOSSIBLE, THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC MELTDOWN AND RECESSION HAVE WRECKED THIS NEOLIBERAL CERTAINTY. AND THE POLITICAL RIGHT UNDERSTANDS IT IS OPEN IN A WAY NOT NECESSARILY AUSPICIOUS FOR THEM, FOR THEY DO NOT HAVE HOLD OF THE IMAGINATION OF THE FUTURE. FROM PARIS TO ATHENS TO REYKJAVIK TO LONDON, THE STREETS ARE RUMBLING WITH ACTS WE RECOGNIZE FROM HISTORY: OUTRAGE AGAINST THE STATE, DISMAY AT THE HEADS OF TOWNS WHO CLOSE THE IMAGINATION OF THE FUTURE FOR SMALL FIXES, AND GOVERNMENTAL MANAGEMENT THAT BLOCKS **AUTOGESTION OR SELF-MANAGEMENT! THE FUTURE IS INDEED RADICALLY** OPEN IN A WAY UNPRECEDENTED JUST MONTHS AGO, AND IT WOULD BE INTELLECTUALLY SHIFTLESS NOT TO ANTICIPATE SOCIAL UPHEAVAL OF SOME SORT. IT IS NOW THE TIME TO END "UTOPIAN ANTI-UTOPIANISM" AND JUMP-START HISTORY AGAIN! CHANGE CAN AND DOES HAPPEN MERCURIALLY. THE QUESTION IS, IN WHOSE INTERESTS? CITIES CAN NOW TURN TRULY CREATIVE— FOR WHAT IS MORE CREATIVE THAN REVOLUTION? TO ERASE THE POSSIBILITY OF REVOLUTION IS TO THROW AWAY "THE POETRY OF THE FUTURE."

A MANIFESTO FOR THE POETRY OF THE FUTURE URBAN SUBJECTS AND NEIL SMITH

WE: VAN COU VER



DEMOCRATIC SPACES INVOLVE CITIZENS IN THE CHOICES AFFECTING THEIR LIVES. TRANSPARENT CIVIC PROCESSES CREATE SPACE FOR MORE INFORMED DECISIONS, INCREASED OWNERSHIP, AND A FEELING OF PUBLIC EMPOWERMENT. CONSULTATION IS TOO SHALLOW A FORM OF DEMOCRACY—REPLACE IT WITH MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT.

GREENSPACES AND OPEN SPACES ARE CENTRAL TO THE IDENTITY AND ENJOYMENT OF OUR CITY: PARKS, GARDENS, AND BEACHES ENABLE AN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC RIGHT TO ENJOY SUN, FRESH AIR, AND THE SOCIAL LIFE OF THE CITY. AS FUNDAMENTAL AMENITIES, THESE NEED TO BE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE FROM EACH HOME AND UNIVERSALLY AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.

PUBLIC ART HINTS AT THE CREATIVE ENGINE UNDERPINNING THE CITY. IT'S A DYNAMIC AND ETHEREAL CURRENT THAT ISN'T LIMITED IN SHAPE OR SUBSTANCE TO DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS, RANDOM SCULPTURES OR OLYMPIC LEGACIES. THE ARTS COMMUNITY IS UNDER SIEGE. VANCOUVER: PULL OUT ALL STOPS AND HELP ARTISTS MAKE EXTRAORDINARY THINGS HAPPEN IN OUR STREETS, ALLEYS AND FORGOTTEN SPACES.

PUBLIC PUBLIC SPACES? HALF OF THE BILLBOARDS IN VANCOUVER CONTRADICT CITY BYLAWS. THIS CORPORATE BLIGHT IMPOSES MESSAGES OF PRIVATIZATION AND ERODES THE VERY FOUNDATION OF PUBLIC SPACE—TAKE 'EM DOWN!

URBAN DESIGN IMPACTS THE WAY WE EXPERIENCE PUBLIC SPACE. NEIGHBOURHOOD DESIGN SHOULD STRIVE FOR MORE PEOPLE IN ONE PLACE TO ENCOURAGE WALKING, CYCLING AND TRANSIT, AND TO EVOKE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND IDENTITY. WE NEED GOOD URBAN DESIGN TO BALANCE DENSITY WITH THE AMENITIES NEEDED FOR A GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE. VANCOUVERITES DESERVE A BUILT ENVIRONMENT THAT IS HEALTHY, LIVELY, SAFE AND CONVIVIAL.

SURVEILLANCE & SECURITY MEASURES OFTEN HAVE LITTLE OR NO EFFECT ON CRIME, OR ON PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION OF SAFETY. CITIZENS ARE ENTITLED TO THE FREE ENJOYMENT OF PUBLIC SPACES WITHOUT CONSTANT MONITORING BY POLICE, CAMERAS AND SECURITY GUARDS, ESPECIALLY WHEN SAFETY ISSUES CAN BE BEST ADDRESSED THROUGH SENSIBLE URBAN DESIGN.

THE LACK OF AN ICONIC MEETING SPOT IS A GLARING ABSENCE IN OUR CITY. THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ROBSON SQUARE AS A CENTRAL GATHERING PLACE IS A KEY STEP TOWARDS BUILDING SUCH A CIVIC HUB—A LONG AWAITED PUBLIC SPACE TO ENCOURAGE CIVIC INTERACTIONS, BUILD UNDERSTANDING AND SPARK NEW IDEAS AND SOCIAL CAPITAL.

MOBILITY IN VANCOUVER NEEDS TO "WALK THE TALK" WHEN IT COMES TO TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES. THINK OF PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES AND SAFETY FIRST, THEN CONSIDER OTHER ACTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE CHOICES. WE WANT A CITY THAT MAKES HEALTHY CHOICES EASIER FOR EVERYONE, AND THAT SUPPORTS LIVELY AND SOCIALLY ACTIVE CITY STREETS.

LIVELY GATHERING SPACES IN EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD: PUBS, MUSIC VENUES AND OTHER SOCIAL PLACES ENSURE OUR MAIN STREETS STAY VIBRANT (AND SAFER) THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND NIGHT. THESE ARE NOT TO BE SEEN AS SPECIAL EVENTS, BUT A NECESSITY FOR EVERYDAY URBAN VITALITY.

# A PUBLIC SPACE MANIFESTO WE BELIEVE: VANCOUVER PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

WE: VAN COU VER