



# Do you have an aptitude for mapping public space?

The Vancouver Public Space Network is looking for an a Digital Mapping Whiz to help create an interactive map of Vancouver's public spaces

The VPSN is an all-volunteer, non-partisan organization that engages in advocacy, education and outreach relating to Vancouver's public spaces. Among other things, our activities involve research, place-making and creative interventions.

Over the past few years, our team has pulled together an inventory of key public spaces and public realm features in Vancouver's downtown and surrounding neighbourhoods. Now we need some help to take it to the next level.

We're looking to work with one or more people who can help us to transform this data into an online, interactive map that will live on the main VPSN wordpress-powered webpage. We've also got a bit of funding from our friends at Evergreen to help make this happen.

Does this sound like a project you might like to be involved with? If so, please read on...

## *What We Have - Our Starting Point*

The key inputs for the proposed map and mapping platform are

- Point data for several hundred sites and features in the downtown area and beyond, including geospatial coordinates, key details and descriptions, and an array of other information that our team has gathered
- A Flickr set of current and archival images for each space
- City of Vancouver Open Data sets
- Additional volunteer energy for any further data entry and data cleaning

## *Our Vision - How You Can Help*

Our ideal map and mapping platform:

- Is attractive and engaging, and goes beyond the standard google map 'n pins. Makes use of the full range of data to showcase Vancouver's public space assets in a comprehensive yet readable fashion. A platform that is more than just a map on a web-page

- Identifies the location of all downtown public spaces, privately owned public spaces, and key public realm features (a mixture of point and polygon data) based on the data we've gathered;
- Allows users to click on spaces (or icons) and open up a pop-up or other form of reportal and see details of the site - including data on the site's physical and social characteristics, it's history, a gallery of images, links to relevant documents, etc.;
- Will also likely need to be comprised of several layers and will ideally come equipped with good search/filter features (important given the number of spaces and features that we've inventoried, the final map);
- Is easily integrated into our current Wordpress-based website (vancouverpublicspace.ca), and has a back-end that can be easily updated and is user-friendly for the VPSN team
- Will work well - on desktops, smartphones and tablets
- Will allow data to be exported in one or more standard formats - should future upgrades be required

Nice to have but not 100% necessary: a mapping platform that has

- Some integrated opportunities for users to provide input on the spaces - comments, ratings, photos, etc.
- The ability to generate attractive static maps for printing

### *Some examples*

Here's a few examples of public space - or feature related maps. We're not necessarily looking for something exactly the same... but offer these for the sake of providing some examples:

- New York - Privately Owned Public Space Map - <http://bit.ly/1UGavav> (our current "best precedent" for "a map that is more than a map")
- Vancouver Heritage Foundation - <http://bit.ly/1t91NCY>
- San Francisco Public Space Map - <http://bit.ly/1cQBPC>

### *The Ideal Candidate*

Are you interested in taking on this project? We're looking for someone with

- A passion for Vancouver, urbanism and the public realm, who understands how a map like this will be used, and who wants to contribute to the larger project of public space advocacy and celebration in our city
- Is willing to work on a very tight budget and for a figure that probably counts more as an honorarium than a professional fee. Funding for this project is thin.
- Expertise with a range of mapping APIs, Wordpress, and Wordpress mapping plug-ins
- Solid experience using one or more online javascript-powered mapping platforms such as googlemap, openmap, etc.
- Broader coding and javascript abilities in the event that the best solution for what we need goes beyond

- Someone who can make the call on the best API and/or Wordpress plug-in (e.g. Maps Marker, Mapify.it), for what we need - or something that we don't even know exists but will knock our socks off?

*Still interested?*

Please get in touch with us. We want to begin with this stage of the project as soon as possible, so shoot us an email and let's start the conversation! Depending on the nature of the responses we receive, we will then set up individual meetings and/or a group session to discuss next steps.

Contact:

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