

# VPSN - Public Space News & Events - March 8, 2007

## VPSN PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

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- Monday March 12 - Public Art - St. Patrick's Day Meeting
- Tuesday March 13 - VPSN Corporatization Meeting
- Thursday March 14 - Urban reDesign - Public Square Project Meeting
- Thursday, March 15 - VPSN Communications - Mapping Public Space
- Friday March 16 - St. Patrick's Day Snake Painting
- Tuesday March 20 - VPSN Coordinator's Meeting
- Monday March 26 - VPSN Big Monthly Meeting
- Eggs in Space!
- EcoDensity Backgrounder
- Whitecaps / Central Waterfront Hub Backgrounder

## PUBLIC SPACE ENGAGEMENT

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- Thursday March 8 and Saturday March 10 - Whitecaps Stadium and Central Waterfront Hub Public Consultations
- March 14 - April 5 - City of Vancouver Supportive Housing Public Workshops
- Saturday, March 10 - Renfrew-Collingwood Community Meeting
- Tuesday, April 10 - False Creek Large Vessel Marina Proposal - Development Board Meeting
- Stanley Park Restoration - Survey
- NDP Port Mann & Highway 1 Expansion - Charge Up the Opposition
- Architectural Institute of BC Student Design Competition Alternatives to Podium & Tower Development - Call for Volunteers

## PUBLIC SPACE EVENTS

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- *Ongoing* - March 8 - The Five Ring Circus
- Thursday, March 8 - Shaping the Region's Future: Connecting Land Use and Transportation
- Thursday, March 8 - Midnight Mass Bike Ride
- Saturday, March 10 - Seedball Workshop - Guerrilla Gardening Meet-up
- Monday March 19 - Fred Herzog: Vancouver Photographs
- Saturday, March 24 - Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition AGM
- Saturday, March 24 - Inaugural Surrey Critical Mass
- April 6 - 12 - Radiant City - VanCity Theatre Screenings
- *On-going* - April 2007 - Private Vision to Public Space
- *On-going* - April 29 - BC Binning Exhibit - Vancouver Art Gallery

- *On-going* through to May 13 - Fred Herzog Exhibit - Vancouver Art Gallery
- *On-going* through Spring 2007 - Group Search: Art in the Library
- May 10-13 - Business Improvement Areas of BC - Annual Conference. Featured Presenter - Fred Kent of Project for Public Spaces
- Tuesday, June 19 - Guerilla Gardening: A Manifesto

## OTHER EVENTS

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- Saturday March 10 - Vancouver East Green Agenda - And What Could It Be
- Sunday March 11 - Vision Vancouver - Politics and Activism Forum

## VANCOUVER PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK - NEWS

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### VPSN Portfolio/Working Group Meetings

The Network's Portfolio meetings have been going extraordinarily well over the last month or so. The initial idea for the working-group gatherings was to allow team members to prioritize key projects for the year. That much has been going better than expected and work is now underway on a bunch of initiatives - everything from new design backgrounders, to urban animation projects, to policy analysis, to mapping to guerrilla gardening reconnaissance and more. A synopsis of the active projects will be on-line in the next week or so, along with new web-pages for each of our nine portfolio/working groups.

Next week sees the last Working Group Prioritization meeting taking place:

**Tuesday March 13 - Corporatization** - Looking at billboard and advertising related concerns as well as project ideas around advocacy against the privatization of public space. The meeting takes place at Calhoun's Coffee House - 3035 Broadway Avenue West at MacDonald at 7:00pm.

We also wanted to alert you to a couple of project specific meetings that will be taking place as well:

**Monday March 12 & Friday March 16 - St. Patrick's Day (Public Art WG)** - We're working on a plan to animate the Downtown area in a fashion similar to our Valentine's heart-stamping exercise... minus the hearts and the mawkish sentimentality. This time it will be snakes! And maybe something even more ambitious. Our planning meeting is on Monday and our actual roll-out will be on Friday. This one will be big up fun! Locations to be announced.

**Wednesday March 14 - Design Competition Planning meeting (Urban**

**reDesign WG)** - We're currently in the planning phase of developing a collaborative public space design competition with our friends at ThinkCity. This meeting will review our proposal and develop a more elaborate work plan for the event. Takes place at 7:00pm at Rhizome (341 East Broadway at Main).

**Thursday March 15 - Mapping Meeting (Communications WG)** - The VPSN has already started on an ambitious surveillance mapping project over the last year. This year, we're looking to expand the Network's mapping activities with new tools and formats, as well as the possibility of GIS interfacing. This meeting will further shape this component of our communications portfolio. Takes place at 7:00pm in the Main and Broadway area, please RSVP for the address.



### **VPSN Coordinators Meeting and Big "Monthly" Gathering Workshop/Meeting**

Because we love meetings so much (seriously - these are good gatherings - people laugh and joke, are respectful, collaborative and have never, ever, been known to refer to Roberts Rules of Order) we also have a couple more upcoming shindigs to let you know about:

**Tuesday March 20 - VPSN Coordinator's Meeting** – A gathering for Portfolio Coordinators, folks on the Organizational Development Working Group and anyone else interested in Network administration and coordination activities. Time: 7:00pm. Location TBD.

**Monday March 26 - VPSN Big "Monthly" Meeting & Workshop** - Our first of the year, in fact! As per previous gatherings of this sort, we try to divide the meeting into a quick overview of VPSN activities (each portfolio coordinator will be giving a short update) and then a learning opportunity connected with an aspect of public space. Details on this event are being finalized and will be posted shortly.



### **Upcoming VPSN Projects of Note**

**Eggs in Space!** In celebration of spring, and corresponding roughly with the dates of Easter, the "Events Committee" of VSPN will be organizing a public egg hunt in the city!

How we will do this, and what this will look like is up to the people who want to be involved. We need good ideas people to think up some good ideas about what the eggs might look like (plastic? wood? 2D? 4D?) and what we might do

with them (messages? media? mystery?). And we will also need people to get out there with the eggs on the "day of" and make it happen.

If dressing up like a bunny was one of your new year's resolution, you love painting pretty pictures on round surfaces, or you just like the idea of an egg hunt, get in touch with Surya at [info@vancouverpublicspace.ca](mailto:info@vancouverpublicspace.ca) to be on the project team! Spring is coming!



## **New VPSN Design and Planning Backgrounders on EcoDensity & the Whitecaps/Central Waterfront Hub**

**EcoDensity Backgrounder** - Our backgrounder on the City's EcoDensity plans has been well-received (thanks to everyone for the complements). We even got a very nice plug on Dawn Paley's Co-op radio show last Friday during her interview with our Urban reDesign Coordinator. For those of you still wondering what the EcoDensity fuss is about, check out our four-pager for a list of the pros and cons.

**Whitecaps / Central Waterfront Hub Backgrounder** - We've also released a new backgrounder this week to offer some commentary on the new Whitecaps stadium and Central Waterfront Hub development proposal. (More on this plan below).

Both backgrounders are available on our [vancouverpublicspace.ca](http://vancouverpublicspace.ca) website under "Tools > Publications." Or click on the following URL:  
<http://vancouverpublicspace.ca/index.php/Tools/Publications>.



## **PUBLIC SPACE ENGAGEMENT**

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### **Thursday March 8 and Saturday March 10 - Whitecaps Stadium and Central Waterfront Hub Public Consultations**

Remember the Whitecaps Stadium proposal from last year? There's a new proposal up for discussion, and along with it an opportunity to comment on the revamped plan. The proposal has grown in size - and the City's public review on the stadium has now been appended to a larger consultation about the central waterfront area of Downtown.

One consultation took place earlier this week on March 6. Two additional public consultation events take place on Thursday, March 8 (at the Chinese

Cultural Centre auditorium, 50 East Pender between 3-7pm) and Saturday, March 10 (at the VPL Central library concourse (north end) 350 West Georgia, between 10am -2pm).

As the City’s web-page notes: the main objectives of the Central Waterfront Hub program are to: Create a transportation hub which better integrates the many transit modes which converge in this area - Skytrain, Canada Line, West Coast Express, Seabus, Helijet and numerous bus lines; Establish planning and urban design guidelines for the various development sites which exist in the area; Introduce measures to enhance the public realm - streets and open spaces - in this important location.” They also add that “the early stages of the Hub program will also involve a review of the proposal by the Vancouver Whitecaps to build a 15-30,000 seat soccer stadium on the site of the existing Seabus terminal...” though this actually seems a bit misleading, since the Whitecaps proposal looks to be one of the main drivers of the whole initiative.

The VPSN has produced a new backgrounder on this important development proposal - and attempt to provide some of the context for the development, as well as key considerations for and against. As the backgrounder notes: “on the plus side, there are provisions to include a new 5,000+ public gathering space outside the stadium at street level off Cordova (this is in addition to another area public space: Granville Square. As well, no new parking is proposed - which in theory is a plus, except that it is not clear whether or not there is sufficient capacity to (a) support the out-of-town fans who drive, or (b) ensure that out-of-towners have a decent incentive to take transit. Also on the ‘con’ side, there is still significant community concern around the well-being of the neighbourhood that needs to be addressed.”

There’s more to it than this, of course, so to see the backgrounder, visit: <http://vancouverpublicspace.ca/index.php/Tools/Publications>.

The City reports are available on-line at [www.vancouver.ca/commsvcs/currentplanning/whitecaps/index.htm](http://www.vancouver.ca/commsvcs/currentplanning/whitecaps/index.htm).



### **Saturday, March 10 - Renfrew-Collingwood Community Meeting**

From the City posting: “Renfrew-Collingwood families, friends, neighbours... you’re invited to the annual community-wde meeting hosted by the R-C CityPlan Committee. Find out what’s happening with Community Vision Implementation and how you can get involved in local projects and events like traffic calming, neighbourhood greening, Still Creek, Norquay Village Neighbourhood Centre, Renfrew Ravine Moon Festival, Collingwood Days, and much more...

The R-C Community Vision, approved by City Council in 2004, is the area’s

neighbourhood plan for the next 15-20 years. The meeting takes place at Renfrew Park Community Centre, 2929 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. For more information contact Catherine Sinasac at 604-871-6321, or email [catherine.sinasac@vancouver.ca](mailto:catherine.sinasac@vancouver.ca).



### **March 14 - April 5 - City of Vancouver Supportive Housing Public Workshops**

Not only does the current shortage of supportive housing for those dealing with mental health or addictions issues act as a gap in our social support network, it also takes its toll on the city's public spaces - the streets and parks and other spaces that often act as shelters to those that have nowhere else to go.

From the City Posting: "The City of Vancouver and Vancouver Coastal Health invite you to participate in discussions on the City's Draft Support Housing Strategy for people with mental health and/or addiction issues. City Council policy is to locate supportive housing throughout the Vancouver. Currently there are over 1,200 units of purpose build supportive housing in the City. This 10-year strategy discusses where and how an additional 450 units (10-15 buildings) could be built. The purpose of these meetings is to (1) provide information about mental illness, addiction and supportive housing and; (2) discuss the recommendations in the strategy with an emphasis on how supportive housing can be integrated into neighbourhoods."

There are a total of ten smaller neighbourhood based community meetings taking place over the next month (March 7 - *completed*, 14, 20, 23, April 4, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 24 - each being held between 7:00pm and 9:00pm) as well as two general public meetings taking place on March 26 and April 5, both between 7:00 and 9:30pm). The City recommends that you call 604-871-6434 and register so that they can ensure adequate space. Complete details on the meetings can be found at [www.vancouver.ca/housing/supportivehousingstrategy](http://www.vancouver.ca/housing/supportivehousingstrategy). More information can also be obtained from Peter Greenwell at [peter.greenwell@vancouver.ca](mailto:peter.greenwell@vancouver.ca).



### **Monday April 10 - Development Permit Board - New False Creek Large Vessel Marina**

Concord Pacific has submitted a proposal to develop a Large Vessel Marina beside George Wainborn Park on the north shore of False Creek. The proposal calls for mooring infrastructure for a total of 22 big boats - over half of which will be in excess of 50 feet in length.

While Concord owns the title to the area in question, (Water Lot 249), the VPSN feels there are a number of public space-related concerns that need to

be addressed as part of this process. Among these are the potential impact that these large 2-3 story boats will have on the surrounding viewscape and related public amenities both at Wainborn Park as well as the surrounding seawall pathways. Rider Cooley, campaigner with False Creek Alert has also identified that the Large Vessel Marina proposal fails to balance these public concerns with commensurate public benefits. "The combined value of the proposed Right-of-Way and free ferry-ramp that will link the Marina to the surrounding area will not cover the lost public amenity value of this site -- where a public park meets False Creek."

The Development Permit Board is meeting at 4pm on April 10. VPSN members are encouraged to attend and to raise questions. To register to speak email Scott Barker at City Hall - [scott.barker@vancouver.ca](mailto:scott.barker@vancouver.ca). Written submissions may also be sent to this address.

**More information:**

False Creek Alert - <http://www.falsecreek-alert.net/>

City of Vancouver BlueWays Policies:

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/engsvcs/streets/blueways/policies.htm>



**Stanley Park Restoration - Survey**

The Parks Board has released a public survey to solicit input on how to proceed with the Stanley Park restoration. Quoting their recent public advertisement: "Since the December 15 windstorm that ravaged Stanley Park, the Park Board has been working on plans to the recovery and restoration of the park. The restoration process will not be a "quick-fix" for the park. There are many challenges and opportunities along the path to recovery [*a 12-step process perhaps?*] We will need to make decisions that will affect the park, all those who use the park now and for generations to come. Some decisions will be guided by scientific and professional expertise, but some questions offer opportunities for the public to share their ideas."

These ideas, in particular are being sought in six key areas: forest access, demonstration projects, new buildings in the park, retaining new views, use of fallen trees, and what kind of forest to we want? The survey, as it is designed, provides a fairly limited (agree/disagree) set of binary options for responses, thought you can add some additional comments. It's available on-line at [www.vancouverparks.ca](http://www.vancouverparks.ca). Or you can email comments to [stanleyparkrestoration@vancouver.ca](mailto:stanleyparkrestoration@vancouver.ca).



**NDP Port Mann & Highway 1 Expansion - Charge Up the Opposition**

From Bonnie Fenton of the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition - "As you may

know, although the provincial NDP has been raising some good questions regarding the Port Mann Bridge and Highway 1 expansion - they have not taken a firm position against it, for fear of losing voters in Surrey. This stands in contrast to the strong position they took in opposition to the proposed coal fired power plants in Princeton and Tumbler Ridge - which they have raised repeatedly, and which seem to be in serious jeopardy now.

However, I understand there will be an internal debate within the NDP about whether or not to change their position of the Port Mann issue (i.e. stand up in opposition to the twinning and highway expansion) - given the increased awareness of climate change issues.

E-mails sent to your MLA (find contact info here: <http://www.leg.bc.ca/mla/3-1-1.htm>) with a copy to transportation critic David Chudnovsky [david.chudnovsky.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:david.chudnovsky.mla@leg.bc.ca) would probably be very helpful right about now. Please send letters as soon as you're able. Just something simple would be great - expressing your opposition to the expansion and your wish that the NDP take a strong stand.”

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### **Architectural Institute of BC Student Design Competition - Alternatives to Podium & Tower Development - Call for Volunteers**

The AIBC - POTO group is currently planning a significant architectural idea competition in order to generate alternatives to the podium-and-tower building type (POTO) which dominates Vancouver's new architecture.

The Competition shall be a catalyst for critical public discourse, an opportunity for the dissemination of architectural ideas, and a call to action for architects to reengage in the shaping of the city. The competition is supported by the AIBC Intern Committee, and a high-profile jury of prominent architects should yield a highly publicized event.

The competition will culminate in a day-long event in September. This event will include the unveiling of winning entries and a public discussion forum. The competition will be open to architects, artists, planners, students, and others willing to explore viable and innovative proposals for the future of Vancouver.

The POTOgroup would like to invite you to be part of the POTOtype Competition as a volunteer. Your participation will help shape the city, meet like minded people and create exposure to the AIBC. The jury members are notable architects influencing the city.

Please support us in celebrate a diverse and vibrant urban centre and a competition that will steer the course of Vancouver's future.

For more information contact Varouj Gumuchian - varouj@telus.net, or by phone at 604-872-6075



## **PUBLIC SPACE EVENTS**

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### **Ongoing to March 8 - The Five Ring Circus**

A film about the “untold story of the Vancouver 2010 games” showing at 9:15pm in the comfortable confines of the newly renovated Rio Theater (located on the SW corner of Commercial and Broadway). With three years to go before the games, this controversial documentary examines how the commitments to environmental, social and economic sustainability have not been kept and how the preparations for the games are affecting diverse communities. This independent documentary irrefutably demonstrates how a three week event is changing Vancouver forever, and not necessarily for the better. For more information see [www.thefiveringcircus.com](http://www.thefiveringcircus.com).



### **Thursday, March 8 - Shaping the Region’s Future: Connecting Land Use and Transportation**

Greater Vancouver is likely to reach 3 million people by 2031. How do we accommodate this growth while maintaining our livability, ensuring good local and regional accessibility, protecting the environment, and supporting continued economic prosperity? Come hear ideas on the challenges and possible solutions. Speaker: Anthony Downs, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution. Author of numerous books including "Stuck in Traffic" and "New Visions for Metropolitan America." See also: <http://www.anthonydowns.com/>.

Lecture co-sponsored by the Greater Vancouver Regional District, TransLink, and Transport Canada and the SFU City Program and takes place 7:00-8:30 pm at SFU Harbour Centre, 515 West Hastings Street. The event is free but a reservation is required. Contact [cs\\_hc@sfu.ca](mailto:cs_hc@sfu.ca) or call 604.291.5100



### **Thursday, March 8 - Midnight Mass Bike Ride**

Do you have a bike? Do you like riding it? At night? Wear some warm socks, dig up some bike lights, and pack yourself a nice hot beverage. Meet 11:45 pm at Grandview Park (Commercial Drive at Charles Street -- across from the Havana and Turks) and ride at midnight. The ride happens the 2nd and 4th Thursday of

every month, so mark your calendars. Tell your bike loving friends, and hope to see you there! For more information and videos: ; [www.midnight-mass.blogspot.com](http://www.midnight-mass.blogspot.com); <http://www.flickr.com/photos/midnightmass>



### **Saturday, March 10 - Seedball Workshop - Guerrilla Gardening Meetup**

A workshop on seedball making taking place at 1:00pm in Mt. Pleasant. Seedballs are little clusters of clay, soil and seed that are among a guerrilla gardeners best friend. They manage to survive the elements (and hungry birds) quite well, and are an excellent tool in greening brownfields, abandoned lots and anywhere else that needs a verdant splash. To find out more about the workshop, visit <http://commgardens.meetup.com/56/>.



### **Saturday, March 24 - Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition AGM**

The VACC's AGM is taking place on Saturday, 24 March 2007 from 12:00 to 3:00 pm at the North Surrey Recreation Centre (10275 - 135 Street, meeting room #2). Guest speakers are Jack Becker and John Fair, VACC members who rode from Vancouver to Madison, Wisconsin for the 2006 ProWalk/ProBike conference. All are welcome but you must be a VACC member to vote for the board of directors. For more information, visit <http://www.vacc.bc.ca> or contact Bonnie Fenton at [blfenton@lightspeed.ca](mailto:blfenton@lightspeed.ca)



### **Monday March 19 - Fred Herzog: Vancouver Photographs**

Join us to hear Fred Herzog and Grant Arnold, VAG's Audain Curator of British Columbia Art, talk about the newly released book Fred Herzog: Vancouver Photographs and accompanying exhibition being held at Vancouver Art Gallery.

Fred Herzog has been a well-known photographic personality since the late 1950s. In 1970 his work was shown by the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa, and it has been exhibited in other cities throughout the country. He has taught photography at both Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia and he has participated in numerous exhibitions up to the present. This new book contains many iconic and fascinating colour images of Vancouver street life, taken by a master photographer who has spent the last fifty years documenting the city. The book has been published to coincide with a major exhibition of his work, currently featured at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

The event is free at VPL Central Library, Alice MacKay Room (350 West Georgia Street). For more information please contact VPL - Special Collections at 604-

331-3778, or visit [www.vpl.ca](http://www.vpl.ca).

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### **Saturday, March 24 - Inaugural Surrey Critical Mass**

Speak out against the gateway project and assert the presence of a bike community in Surrey! The date and time is set for 3:30pm on Saturday March 24, rain or shine, meeting in the plaza outside the Central City tower (the big tower at Surrey Central Skytrain. For more information - <http://www.bikesexual.org/cm/home.htm>

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### **Friday, March 30 - Monthly Critical Mass**

Critical Mass takes place on the last Friday of each month. Critical Mass Monthly Ride - Vancouver Art Gallery (5:30pm).

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### **April 6 - 12 - Radiant City - VanCity Theatre Screenings**

Public space... or no public space: the suburban experience! Canada, 2006, 86 min, 35mm. "Canada's kitchen-sink surrealist Gary Burns (Kitchen Party, waydowntown) and CBC journalist Jim Brown team up for a lively, insightful and frequently hilarious exploration of urban sprawl, Western Canadian-style. The directors provide intimate peeks into the lives of a seemingly average suburban Calgary family, the Mosses—husband, wife and two precocious kids, recently relocated to a new suburban home and its dystopian landscape—and juxtapose them with expert testimonies from urban planners and cultural critics on the city of the present (and, likely, the future).

Though many things in this invigorating reworking of the documentary form may not be exactly what they seem, one thing is certain: "community" and "neighbourhood" have become sales pitches meaning little more than unchecked suburban development. Riffing off sitcoms and reality TV, Burns and Brown offer a mesmerizing vision of a contemporary hell, one that over 90 percent of North Americans call home. Winner of the Special Jury Prize for Best Documentary at 2006 VIFF "for its innovative narrative strategies to engage, amuse and enlighten about the changing face of the suburbs." Plays at the Vancity Theatre. For more information or showtimes, see [www.viff.org](http://www.viff.org)

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### **On-going - April 2007 - Private Vision to Public Space**

Recently installed at the Listel Hotel, 1300 Robson Street, is an exhibit by one

of the Official Biennale photographers, Dan Fairchild. The exhibition shows the evolution of the sculpture "217.5 Arc X 13" by French sculptor Bernar Venet, and will be on display through the end of the Biennale, April 2007. The exhibition is located between the hotel lobby and O'Doul's restaurant. For more information, see the Biennale website - [www.vancouverbiennale.com](http://www.vancouverbiennale.com)



### **On-going - April 29 - B.C. Binning Exhibit at at the Vancouver Art Gallery**

B.C. Binning will present approximately 50 works by Bertram Charles Binning, one of Canada's foremost artists, architectural innovators, art educators and seminal figure in the arts in British Columbia. Drawn from the Vancouver Art Gallery's collection, this exhibition presents key examples of Binning's drawings and paintings and reflects his enduring interest in architecture through the inclusion of maquettes for large mural projects Binning undertook for public buildings in the Greater Vancouver area. For more information see the VAG website at [www.vanartgallery.bc.ca](http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca).



### **On-going - May 13 Fred Herzog Exhibit at the Vancouver Art Gallery**

Born in Germany, Fred Herzog came to Vancouver in 1953. Since that time he has produced a substantial body of photographs, taking urban life in Vancouver second-hand shops, vacant lots, neon signage and the crowds of people who have populated the city's streets over the past fifty years as his primary subject. Herzog has self-consciously drawn upon documentary traditions in photo-graphy, while incorporating an outsider's idiosyncratic sensitivity to a new environment into his images. This exhibition, the first to examine Herzog's overall body of work, will include more than 100 photographs and will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue. For more information see the VAG website at [www.vanartgallery.bc.ca](http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca).



### **On-going - Spring 2008 - Group Search: art in the library**

The Vancouver Public Library, The City of Vancouver Public Art Program, and Other Sights for Artists Projects are pleased to present a series of site-specific art projects in the spaces and systems of the Central Branch of the VPL. Group Search: art in the library investigates this active public space as a node in the flow of information, as an architecture designed for contemplation, and as a system of categorization, containment and dispersal. The project opened in September 2006 and runs through to Spring 2008,

Trappings by Marina Roy, is a series of book interventions, inserting images and texts into the print collection to trace the path of her research. Dan Starling and Jillian Pritchard will present Twelve Subjects, a rotating series of photographs based on the displays created by library staff. Kathy Slade interacts with Fifty-two Weeks of Transactions at the Lending Library - a year-long performance that will result in a book documenting her interactions with library materials and lending policy.

Group Search: Art in the Library is a 21-month program featuring temporary, library-specific artist projects, whereby the library is offered to artists and curators as a site for research, development, and presentation of artworks relevant to the library context. The project is funded by proceeds from the Library Square Endowment Fund, with generous assistance provided by the Canada Council for the Arts, Spirit of BC Arts Fund, and the BC Arts Council. The exhibits take place the Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street. For more information >> Lorna Contact: Lorna Brown, groupsearch@othersights.ca, or call 604.876.5137



### **May 10-13 - Business Improvement Areas of BC - Annual Conference. Featured Presenter - Fred Kent of Project for Public Spaces**

Fred Kent will be presenting three talks over the course of the BIABC Annual Conference in the spring of this year. The conference takes place in Whalley at the Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel. Mr. Kent, who spent some time last year consulting with the City of Vancouver, is noted as “ a leading authority on revitalizing city spaces and one of the foremost thinkers in livability, smart growth and the future of the city.” Some years ago he founded Project for Public Spaces ([www.pps.org](http://www.pps.org)), which, in addition to a range of consulting work, has produced some excellent resources for anyone interested in public space. The conference is a bit pricey for those without sponsorship (\$399 early bird). But for those that can make it, Kent’s three talks should be quite animated. He’s an excellent public speaker. According to the BIABC Conference website, his three talks will cover:

- Thursday May 10 - Project for Public Spaces
- Friday May 11 - Public Markets
- Saturday May 12 The Role of BIA’s in Turning Communities Around

For more information >> visit [www.bia.bc.ca](http://www.bia.bc.ca)



## Tuesday, June 19 - Guerilla Gardening: A Manifesto

From the Necessary Voices Website: "The term "guerilla" may bring to mind a small band of armed soldiers, moving in the dead of night on a stealth mission. In the case of guerilla gardening, the soldiers are planters, the weapons are shovels, and the mission is to transform an abandoned lot into a thing of beauty. Once an environmentalist's nonviolent direct action for inner-city renewal, this approach to urban beautification is spreading to all types of people in cities around the world.

These modern-day Johnny Appleseed's perform random acts of gardening, often without the property owner's prior knowledge or permission. Typical targets are vacant lots, railway land, underused public squares, and back alleys. The concept is simple, whimsical and has the cheeky appeal of being a not-quite-legal call to action. Dig in some soil, plant a few seeds, or mend a sagging fence -- one good deed inspiring another, with win-win results all around. Guerilla Gardening outlines the power-to-the-people campaign for greening our cities. Event takes place at the Alice MacKay Room from 7:30 to 9:30 PM of the Central Branch of the Vancouver Public Library (350 West Georgia). Admission is Free. For more information see [www.necessaryvoices.org](http://www.necessaryvoices.org)"

## RELATED ITEMS

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### Saturday March 10 - Vancouver East Green Agenda - And What Could It Be

With Libby Davies and special guests - Tracey Axelsson (Cooperative Auto Network); Herb Barbolet (Centre for Sustainable Development); Morag Carter (David Suzuki Foundation); Jason O'Brien (My Own Back Yard); and David Tracey (Strathcona Community Gardens). Takes place 2-4 pm at Carnegie Community Centre.

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### Sunday March 11 - Vision Vancouver - Politics and Activism Forum

Hosted by Vision Vancouver's Youth Wing at the BCIT Downtown Campus. The notice in this weeks Courier suggests that speakers at event will "discuss politics and activism" and include COPE Parks Board Commissioner Spencer Herbert, David Eby (Pivot Legal Society), Mira Oreck (Canadian Jewish Congress), Jason O'Brien (My Own Back Yard) and Ben West (former candidate for both the Green Party and the Work Less Party. Reservations are required: email [Kevin@votevision.ca](mailto:Kevin@votevision.ca).

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