

THE GRANDEST GATHERING PLACE: IMAGINING A PUBLIC SQUARE FOR VANCOUVER

Tuesday, September 23, 2008 @ 7pm

Join us for the inaugural event – and formal launch – of the VPSN's **Where's the Square** Ideas Competition.

We've invited a selection of prominent thinkers to help explore the importance of public gathering places, and benefits that a grand gathering space – like Times Square in New York, Trafalgar Square in London, or Piazza Navona in Rome – might have for Vancouver.

The discussions and dialogue that take place will set the stage for our Design Competition. Starting in Fall 2008, we'll be inviting members of the public – artists, designers, thinkers, walkers, everyone – to submit their plan for Vancouver's ideal public square.



The launch event takes place in the Alice MacKay room of the Vancouver Public Library, 350 West Georgia Street. More details to follow. It's free, but you need to register to attend. To do so, email info@vancouverpublicspace.ca, or call 778-239-7544.

WHERE'S THE SQUARE: DESIGN COMPETITION

Help us to find Vancouver's missing plaza...

Public squares form the heart of many great cities around the world. When well-designed, they provide a central location for accessible, year-round activity – whether these be as straightforward as eating a bite of lunch, catching some sun, or playing a game of chess, or as elaborate as community celebrations, concerts and political rallies. Public squares are engines of cultural and local economy, as well as the spatial realization of democratic principles.

Vancouver has a number of public squares scattered throughout the city – Victory Square, Granville Square and Robson Square to name a few. However, Vancouver is also missing the type of “grand public square” that could – and should - act as a centre point for civic life in the city. For many people, the closest thing that we seem to have is the steps of the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Starting in Fall 2008, the Vancouver Public Space will be launching a public ideas competition that will aim to generate ideas about where such a square might be located in the city, and what it might look like. The competition will be open to any individual, school and organization in the city that wishes to participate. This will be a competition for the best ideas, not necessarily the best drawings.

If you'd like to participate in the competition, please contact us so that we can make sure you're on our “Where's the Square” mailing list. Then stay tuned... a design brief will be released in October 2008.

And if you'd like to join the Urban Design volunteer crew that will be managing the competition please let us know! We're looking for help with all aspects of the project.

For more information:

Urban Design Working Group:
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