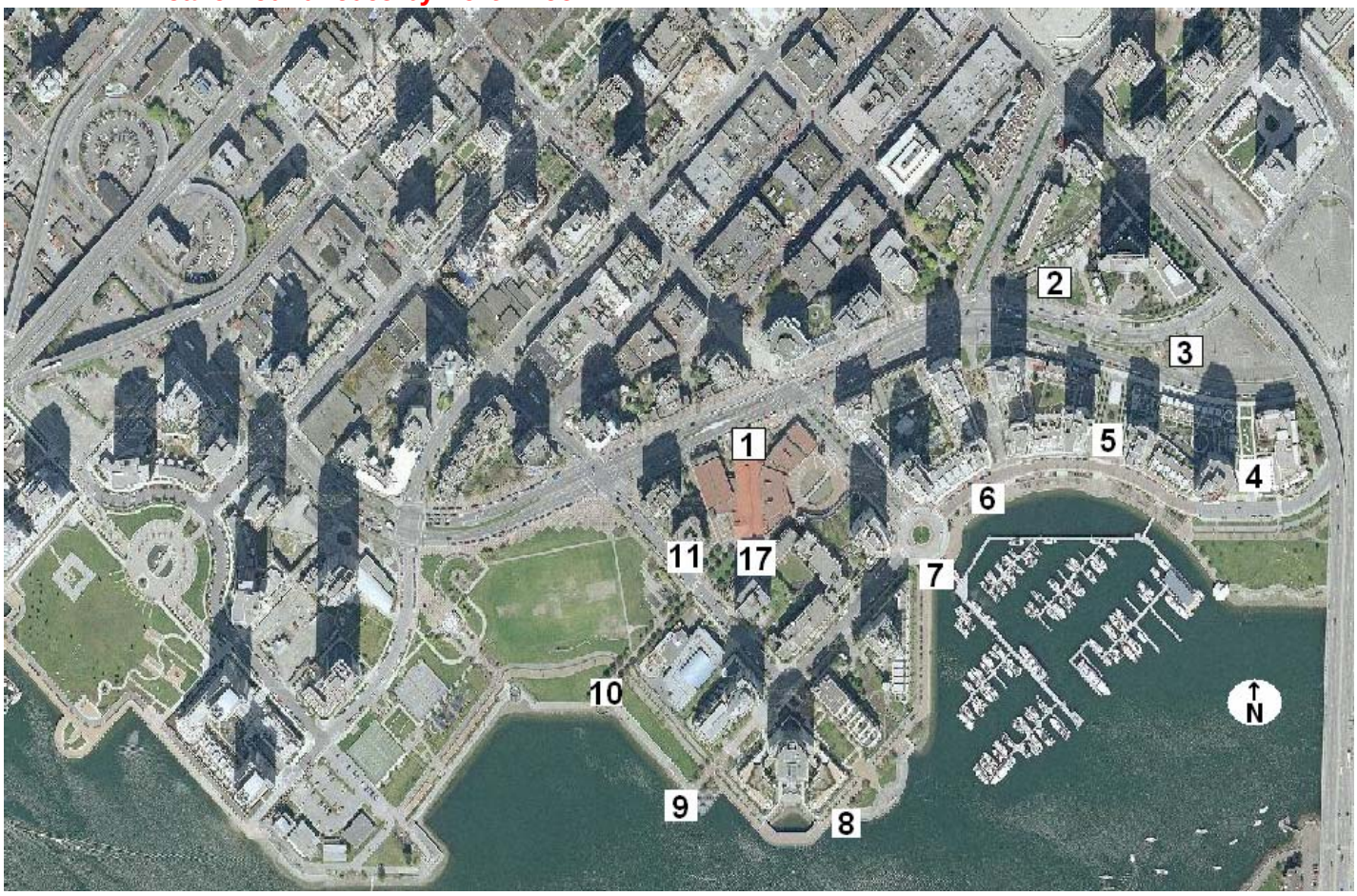
Active Communities Art Walking Tour
Yaletown Shoreline
Route 2 (1.8km)

Leave Roundhouse by North Door.



Turn right along the lower pathway

 # 1 - watch yOUR step

Leah Decter, coordinating artist
Mosaics depicting colourful motifs were designed by groups of young people with the guidance of Artistic Director Leah Decter. They were designed for four sites: Downtown South Park, Gathering Place Community Centre, the Roundhouse, and David Lam Park.. The works were created by youth team members, street youth participants and other community members.

Cross Davie at Pacific and cross at Cambie (east side)

#2 – Perennials

Barbara Steinman, artist
A semi-circle of shattered glass screens with etched leaves is visible from the street and lit at night. In the courtyard is a 4,500 sq. ft. leaf-shaped pool; situated around it are black granite seats with a word - hybrid, seasonal, wild, uprooted, perennial, transplanted - carved into each like the title of a botanical drawing. The leaf pool is visible in it's entirety from the suites above.

Retrace your steps and walk east along Pacific

#3 - Ring Gear

Maker unknown
The 8 metre high gear is installed as a monument to commemorate the designers and builders of the many bridges across False Creek. The gear was part of the second Cambie Bridge (or Connaught Bridge) which opened in 1911 and remained in service until 1984. Installed on the centre pier, the gear supported the steel truss swing span.

200 meters before the bridge, turn right on Cooper's Mews

#4 - Coopers Mews

Alan Storey, Artist
Harkening badk to the cooperage that used to inhabit the area in the early twentieth century, the art work starts with a galvanized steel track that runs overhead and wanders through the tall buildings between Pacific Boulevard and the False Creek seawall. Cement and wood planks are interspersed with grass to create a walkway underneath the overhead track. The planks are reminiscent of a winding keyboard. The overhead track ends at the False Creek side with a row of 5 wooden barrels. Below the barrels is a board walk of 12 segments. Stepping on each board distinctly will cause steam to be forced through the barrels and out one side, creating a sound like a calliope on which you can play a tune.

Walk west to Boathouse Mews and enter

#5 Untitled Fountain

Al McWilliams, Artist
A low black granite "lotus" radiating from a round centre ring sits in the middle of a long narrow pool. Water spills out over the stylized petals, falling from between the serrated points into the pool below. The full flower is visible from the apartments above. The lotus form honours the history of Chinese immigrants and their contribution to the railway and the industries around False Creek. Three black granite circles are inset into the white concrete around the pool. These rings echo the Ring Gear on Pacific Boulevard.

Retrace your steps to Marinaside Crescent and cross the road. Continue west.

#6 – Lookout

Noel Best, Christos Dikeakos, Artists
A sculptural installation consisting of two glass-roofed pavilions separated by approximately 120 metres. The elliptical roof of each pavilion is supported by two walls made of stainless steel with cutout silhouettes of industrial and natural forms. A second component of Lookout is a perimeter railing with cantilevered glass panels. The panels are inscribed with sandblasted words, written especially for this site in consultation with poet Robin Blaser. Midway between the two pavilions, the cut-out images are cast into the concrete walkway. As well, the artists have placed 13 simple bronze chairs throughout the site.

Continue west to Davie and Marinaside Crescent

#7 - Street Light

Bernie Miller and Alan Tregebov, Artists.
Six 12-metre high bronze I-beam towers each hold up an image from the history of the area cut into a metal plate. The plates cast the shadow of the image onto the street. Texts etched in the limestone bases refer to the events relevant to the site. The positioning of the panels has been carefully calculated so that their optimum contrast and focus on the street is the month, date, and time that the event occurred. For example, if the sun is shining just before noon on June 17, the projected image of Vancouver's "Great Fire" will be visible on the promenade below.

Stay on waterfront to southern-most tip of walkway.

#8 – Welcome to Land and Light

Henry Tsang, Artist
Aluminum letters spelling out phrases in Chinook (an early coastal trading language) and English are placed along the railing of the sea wall in two parallel lines. Coloured light pulses through an inset fibre-optic cable in the sidewalk directly below the letters.

Continue around point, keeping an eye westward.

#9- Brush with Illumination

Buster Simpson, Artist
An illuminated environmentally interactive "brush" responds to wind, tide, and wave action, and rests on a steel piling balanced by two large spun steel buoys. The brush moves with the currents.

Continue along shoreline walk.

#10 Marking High Tide and Waiting for Low Tide

Don Vaughn, Artist
There are two sculptural elements along the shore of False Creek and below the pump station: a circle of stones and a concrete ring resting on columns. There is a text inscribed on the inside of the concrete ring.

Walk up staircase and into park (toward water fountain)

#11 - Watch yOUR step - See #1

Rreturn to Roundhouse

#17 - Terra Nova

Richard Prince, Artist
Terra Nova has two main parts: a) the Theatre of Discovery, a bronze curtain and hoop attached to the exterior wall of the Roundhouse b) the Cone of Analysis resting on the plaza walkway below the wall - a large bronze cone which appears to be cut into parts, the nose of the cone is on a cart.

FINISH at Roundhouse south entrance.