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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)  
Date: 9/22/2021 1:12:36 PM  
Subject: [Upcoming news release: Sea2City Design Challenge launch \(September 23, 2021\)](#)

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Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below news release on September 23 regarding the launch of the [Sea2City Design Challenge](#). Please keep this news release embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account at 11:30 AM on September 23.

This news release will be shared after a media technical briefing on September 23 from 10 to 11 AM. This is an opportunity to give the media more information on how the City is planning for sea level rise, and introduce the two design teams (selected through a RFP process) who will work with the City and project partners to create design concepts that respond to sea level rise and coastal flooding in False Creek. There will be many opportunities for the public to learn more and participate over the course of the project from September 2021 to July 2022.

Should you wish to receive the link for the technical briefing, please email: [media@vancouver.ca](mailto:media@vancouver.ca).

Best,  
Paul

**Paul Mochrie** (he/him)  
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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**City of Vancouver**  
**News release**  
**September 23, 2021**

## **City launches innovative Sea2City Design Challenge for False Creek**

This week, the City of Vancouver is launching a design competition to explore ideas for addressing sea level rise and coastal flooding in False Creek. A first-of-its-kind in Canada, the [Sea2City Design Challenge](#) (Sea2City) brings together two multidisciplinary teams over a 12-month period to explore solutions to guide urban development and ecological revitalization in the False Creek floodplain and inform the next phase of the City's [Climate Adaptation](#) plan and Vancouver Plan.

"Sea level rise is an unprecedented challenge for a coastal city like Vancouver," said Mayor Kennedy Stewart. "It requires bold and creative thinking and the City is looking forward to welcoming new perspectives and ideas

to address climate change and sea level rise in False Creek.”

Guided by the community values and design principles identified through earlier engagement with residents, business owners, and others who work and play in and around False Creek, the Sea2City design teams will work cooperatively with the City and project partners to:

- Explore coastal adaptation approaches that respond to the social equity, economic, and ecological challenges posed by sea level rise and coastal flooding.
- Investigate coastal adaptation approaches for sea level rise beyond one metre.
- Expand the City’s toolbox of coastal flood management approaches.
- Increase public awareness of climate change and sea level rise.

Sea2City will include three rounds of activities, including public learning and design events, advisory group sessions, and decolonization and Indigenous perspective workshops.

### **Attend a Sea2City community conversation**

Learn more about the Sea2City Design Challenge and sea level rise in False Creek at our community conversations on:

- [September 23, noon](#)
- [September 27, 6 pm](#)
- [September 29, noon](#)

### **Additional quotes from City staff and Sea2City design teams**

After a competitive application process, the City is pleased to welcome two multidisciplinary teams with practitioners based in Vancouver, San Francisco, New York, and the Netherlands, led by Mithun+One and PWL Partnership. Each team brings together specialists in landscape architecture, equity, reconciliation, urban planning, environmental sciences, and engineering that have experience planning and designing for sea level rise and coastal flooding.

“We’re looking forward to bringing together a range of people, practitioners, and thinkers to address a complex challenge. It’s an exciting opportunity for the City to connect innovative design with public engagement. A successful outcome will be one that connects with the public and builds a shared understanding of climate change, sea level rise and the land and water we call False Creek.” – Angela Danyluk, Senior Sustainability Specialist, City of Vancouver.

“The visions that emerge from Sea2City will inspire public conversations and initiate action. The process of imagining an adapted waterfront can elevate multiple intersectional and urgent issues— climate adaptation, economic development, and truth and reconciliation—and how these might change our experiences and shape an equitable built environment.” – Deb Guenther, Project Director, Mithun+One.

“We share a collective passion for protecting, enhancing, and adapting urban waterfronts in response to climate change. Addressing the challenges of sea-level rise is always cherished work. It fulfills our personal and corporate values regarding protecting our planet for future generations and fighting climate change.” – Derek Lee, Principal, PWL Partnership

### **More information**

Vancouver is situated on the unceded traditional homelands of xwmə kwəy’əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh). The area currently known as False Creek is of significant meaning to the local First Nations who stewarded the land since time immemorial. Vancouver is a coastal community defined by its proximity to the ocean, river, and mountains. The City recognizes the need to plan for future sea

level rise and to make its neighbourhoods more resilient to coastal flooding.

Learn more here: <https://vancouver.ca/sea2city>

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**Media Contact:**

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**City of Vancouver**

**Media Advisory**

**September 22, 2021**

## **Media briefing on Sea2City Design Challenge for False Creek**

Media are invited to join a virtual briefing to learn about the [Sea2City Design Challenge](#) and meet the design teams. Sea2City is an innovative project to advance sea level rise planning in the False Creek area. City staff will provide an overview of the project, previous City progress and next steps, along with presentations from the design teams on how they will explore ideas for addressing sea level rise and coastal flooding in False Creek.

Following the briefing, City staff and design team staff will be available for questions.

**Date:** Thursday, September 23, 2021

**Time:** 10 am – 11 am

**RSVP:** To receive the link for the briefing, please email: [media@vancouver.ca](mailto:media@vancouver.ca)

**Spokespersons:**

- Doug Smith, Director, Sustainability, City of Vancouver
- Angela Danyluk, Senior Sustainability Specialist, City of Vancouver
- Design team members from Mithun+One.
- Design team members from PWL Partnership

**\*\*Cameras and recording devices for broadcast are not permitted\*\***

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