

# SEA2CITY DESIGN CHALLENGE

## PROJECT STORY





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## Project Story

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# WELCOME TO THE STORY OF THE SEA2CITY DESIGN CHALLENGE.



It is a story of how an innovative design project came to life along the shores of False Creek.

It is a story of how the project grew and changed with the gifts of the people who helped it become something special.

It is a story of a new Vision for False Creek. A vision that acknowledges our rising seas, hosts water in a good way, restores the health of False Creek, and rebuilds our connections to the Salish Sea.

It is a story of a process built on restoring relationships with the Host Nations who have stewarded the lands and waters of False Creek from time immemorial.

It is a story of a two-eyed seeing approach to coastal adaptation that integrates Host Nations' ways of knowing alongside western science, and the teams professional experience.

It is a story full of spirit that shows the value and importance of involving Host Nations whenever we plan on these lands and waters.

It is a story that belongs to everyone, but where we can see and recognize our Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh relatives in it.


Let's keep telling this story as we journey together with the transformation of False Creek.

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**CHARLENE ALECK**  
Knowledge Keeper  
Tsleil-Waututh Nation

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**CORY DOUGLAS**  
Cultural Advisor and Designer

An aerial photograph of Vancouver, British Columbia, showing the city skyline with numerous high-rise buildings. In the foreground, a bridge spans False Creek. The background features the mountains of the Pacific Northwest. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box at the bottom of the image.

*Flanked to the north by Burrard Inlet, to the west by the Salish Sea, and to the south by the north arm of the Fraser River, Vancouver has always been a coastal community defined by its proximity to the ocean, river, and mountains. Vancouver is situated on the unceded traditional homelands of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (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.*

## SEA2CITY DESIGN CHALLENGE:

# A Snapshot

The Sea2City Design Challenge (Sea2City) was a collaborative design challenge to rethink the future of the False Creek shoreline. The project brought together two multi-disciplinary design teams, City staff, local coastal adaptation experts, and Host Nation representatives, knowledge keepers and designers from Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh over a 12-month period to reimagine key sites along Vancouver's False Creek shoreline. The teams showed how these sites can adapt to rising sea levels while accommodating urban development and fostering ecological revitalization. The work will also inform the next phase of the City's Climate Adaptation Plan and Coastal Adaptation Plan.

Sea2City was designed as a deeply collaborative initiative to demonstrate a more decolonized planning approach and to create a long-term Vision for a beloved urban waterfront that is vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal flooding. Guided by Host Nation values, community values and design principles identified through earlier engagement, Sea2City provided a collective learning and capacity building opportunity for the City, project partners, and design teams to:

- Increase public awareness of sea level rise and coastal flooding and opportunities to address it.
- Explore and develop a coastal adaptation approach that centres reconciliation with Host Nations who have stewarded Vancouver's coastline since time immemorial.
- Investigate coastal adaptation approaches that respond to the social equity, economic, and ecological challenges posed by sea level rise and coastal flooding.
- Examine options for sea level rise of at least two metres.



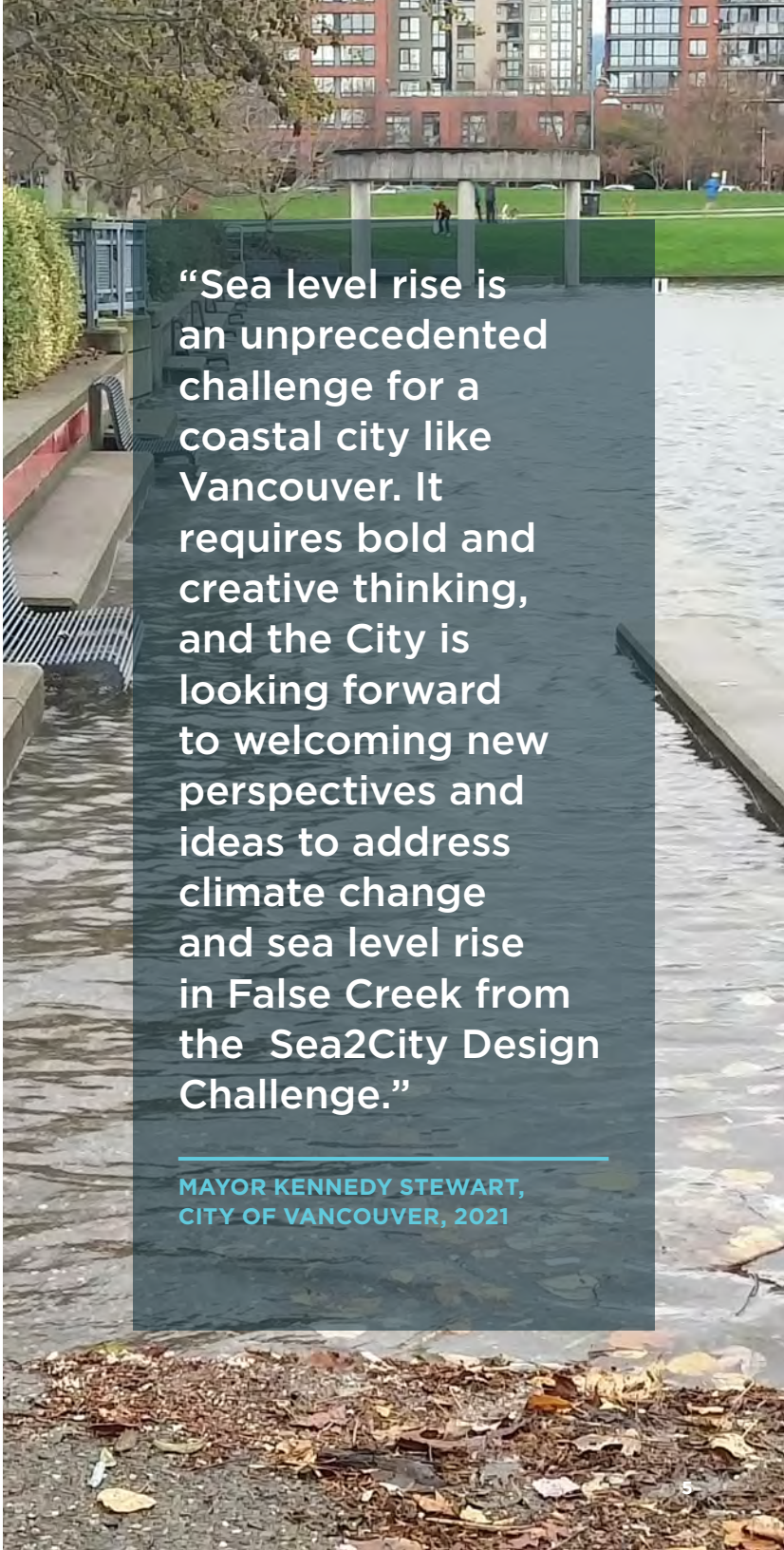
Sea2City was organized around three rounds of advisory sessions and workshops called Collaboratoriums (collaborative laboratories). The Collaboratoriums brought together the design teams, city staff, technical experts, Host Nation cultural advisors, and youth. Alongside the Collaboratoriums, Sea2City included decolonization workshops and Host Nations' perspectives learning sessions, and a series of public outreach events. The final round of engagement included a one-day, inter-team design charrette for a large, undeveloped City-owned site on False Creek.

Sea2City was intentionally organized as a challenge, rather than a competition. Coastal adaptation is a generational project that involves a range of knowledge, multi-disciplinary expertise, and collective experience. The project facilitated inter-team collaboration and embraced a reflective learning approach.

Sea2City was grounded in a commitment to decolonization. The design process involved Host Nation representatives, knowledge holders, cultural advisors, and artists that played key roles in the design teams and larger project. Their stories, advice, and input guided the development of powerful and positive vision for False Creek and helped shift the language and approach to coastal adaptation. This reframing of our approach to coastal adaptation was one of the most significant outcomes of Sea2City.

The Vision and new approach to coastal adaptation for Vancouver guided the teams in the development of their designs and near-term pilot projects. The focus of this work was to produce concepts in which Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh people can see themselves, their values, their knowledge, and their culture represented.

The Vision, new approach to coastal adaptation, and the teams' designs will support the transformation of the False Creek waterfront into a place of natural abundance and restored relationships with the dynamics of land and water.



**“Sea level rise is an unprecedented challenge for a coastal city like Vancouver. 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 from the Sea2City Design Challenge.”**

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**MAYOR KENNEDY STEWART,  
CITY OF VANCOUVER, 2021**

**LOOKING FORWARD TOGETHER:**

## A Vision of False Creek's Future

The project team, advisory groups, Host Nation knowledge holders, and cultural advisors co-created a project Vision. The Vision tells the story of what False Creek can look like in a future where sea levels have risen two metres, but we have kept true to the process and vision of Sea2City.



## A False Creek Vision


**The Salish Sea has risen, and False Creek has transformed.** The area remains a vibrant and much-loved place. The naturalized shoreline is a healthy and safe place for people to connect with the water. Restored habitat areas provide homes for many species.

Host Nations are active partners in the transformation and are visible and celebrated as the stewards of the lands and waters. Their knowledge and guidance continue to breathe life into the place.

The False Creek shoreline can accommodate higher waters. Buildings have changed and are safe during the occasional flooding that is a part of life along Vancouver's coastline.

We have now practiced coastal adaptation for generations. As Vancouver continues to learn and prepare for the future, the city celebrates the ever-changing nature of its shorelines and the communities that call them home.





“Our existing adaptation approach is a very colonial approach to our relationship with the water. It places people at the top of the value hierarchy and doesn’t really respect the water.”

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ANGELA DANYLUK, SENIOR  
SUSTAINABILITY SPECIALIST,  
CITY OF VANCOUVER

## MOVING TOWARD THE VISION:

# A Decolonized Approach to Coastal Adaptation

The transformation of False Creek described in the Vision was driven by the climate emergency. It sits at a moment in the future when, as expected, sea levels have risen two metres, severe weather and storms have become more intense and frequent, and extreme heat has become a regular occurrence.

The journey to this Vision of False Creek will be shaped by the teachings of Host Nation knowledge holders. Their continued guidance is a critical component of rethinking and decolonizing Vancouver’s relationship to the shoreline.

A key recommendation from Sea2City is for the City of Vancouver to change the language of coastal planning. Current conventional language speaks to three approaches to flood management: **protect**, resisting water through dikes and other built features; **accommodate**, letting occasional flood water come in depending on risk tolerances; and **move** or **avoid**, moving development out of the floodplain.

Through learning from Indigenous perspectives, Sea2City came to understand that traditional adaptation language reinforces a colonial approach to flood management that sees water as separate and distinct from the land and not part of larger, interconnected, and holistic system.

## A NEW APPROACH TO COASTAL ADAPTATION

With this learning, new language was adopted by the Sea2City team, including Host Nation knowledge holders and cultural advisors. The approaches are not mutually exclusive and can be interwoven throughout False Creek with a foundation of Host Nation values embedded in them.

- **ACKNOWLEDGE:** spaces are retrofitted or relocated over time to improve their resilience and better care for and steward natural systems.
- **HOST:** a dynamic place where water, nature, and culture are welcomed and stewarded. Human uses are flexible, adaptable, and leave a light-touch. Infrastructure works with nature to enhance resilience.
- **RESTORE:** a revitalized and rehabilitated shoreline that restores natural functions, features, and ecosystems and includes improved flood protection for upland communities.

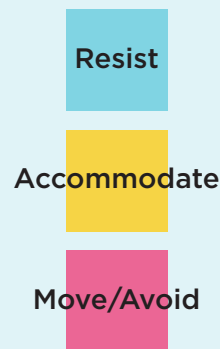
The illustration reflects the embedded Host Nation values in the new approach, but also their holistic and interlinked structure. The more resilient, layered approach incorporates components of acknowledge, host, and restore with each application, with certain elements being emphasized depending on the site or phase of work.

As our understanding about adaptation evolves over time, we will collaborate with Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh as appropriate to explore opportunities to reflect the hə́ŋqəmiḥəḥ and Skwxwú7mesh Sníchim languages in adaptation language and concepts.

“Language changes our design thinking”

DEREK LEE, PRINCIPAL, PWL PARTNERSHIP,  
SEA2CITY DESIGN TEAM LEAD

### CONVENTIONAL APPROACH



### NEW APPROACH



## SEA2CITY COASTAL ADAPTATION COMMITMENTS

The larger Sea2City team developed a set of coastal adaptation principles or commitments that they recommend the City of Vancouver formally endorses and adopts to reinforce the new approach and help guide future work in False Creek and other coastal areas.

### *Coastal adaptation in the City of Vancouver:*

- *Is grounded in respect for the waters, land, and each other.*
- *Meaningfully involves Host Nations in planning and implementation and ensures that Host Nation knowledge holders continue to provide guidance and leadership.*
- *Embraces living with water and builds kinship with the dynamic conditions of water, land, and the species that call them home.*
- *Is coordinated across and within departments and agencies at the City of Vancouver (Planning, Sustainability, Engineering, Transportation, Real Estate and Facilities Management, Parks) in recognition of the cross-cutting challenges posed by sea level rise.*
- *Is informed by and enriched through partnerships with academic institutions, utility and asset operators, and the private sector.*
- *Recognizes that human systems can fail, and that working with nature is often the best long-term approach.*



## A COAST SALISH SHORELINE:

# Coastal Adaptation, Decolonization, and Reconciliation

Thousands of years before European settlement, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and səliłwətat (Tsleil-Waututh) villages and settlements dotted the shorelines, with trade and travelers using the waterways to travel great distances. Each Host Nation had, and continues to have, its own relationship to the area, including place names and uses for the lands and resources. Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh hold millennia of knowledge about these lands.

As part of Sea2City, the City worked with Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh representatives to move forward in a good way on coastal adaptation planning and build better relations with Indigenous peoples. Through reconciliation and decolonizing civic processes and planning, the City is learning from the Host Nations in the spirit of reciprocity. The goal of this work is to better steward the land and support communities.

Sea2City was grounded in the question, “What does a decolonized shoreline look like?” To help answer this question and support the City in moving forward in a good way on coastal adaptation, Host Nation knowledge keepers, cultural advisors, and designers were an integral part of the design teams. Their stories guided development of the Vision, site concepts, pilot projects, and helped change the language of coastal adaptation.

Decolonization workshops with the larger Sea2City project team during each project phase further supported team learning and un-learning around decolonization and reconciliation.

With guidance and active involvement from Host Nation representatives and Host Nation advisors, the concepts developed by Sea2City are rooted in Host Nations’ use, history, and stewardship of False Creek.

**“It’s extremely moving and humbling seeing this work. There are sparks of joy seeing what we’ve talked about in the drawings”**

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**SEA2CITY KNOWLEDGE KEEPER,  
TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION**



*Indigenous knowledge has defined and protected the health of our coastal waters since time immemorial. Indigenous knowledge is needed to inform conversations and ideas around adaptation to sea level rise. This decolonized approach is at the centre of Sea2City.*

*“Decolonizing the Shoreline” brought together Chief Dr. Frank Brown (Heiltsuk Nation), Christine Smith-Martin (CEO of Coastal First Nations – Great Bear Initiative), Joanne Nelson (Ts’m syen Nation and UBC PhD student), and Sea2City Cultural Advisor Cory Douglas in dialogue regarding the significant and recent initiatives Coastal First Nations have championed for shoreline health and to provide insights for the City of Vancouver to learn through Sea2City.*

*Hosted by SFU’s Centre for Dialogue, the workshop was one of the organization’s best attended with 330 attendees.*

## BUILDING CAPACITY AND AGENCY:

# Advisory Groups and Outreach

At each step of Sea2City, design teams worked closely with advisory groups that were established to help build coastal adaptation capacity at the City, engage residents in the area, and build agency with local partners, including youth and Host Nations.

Advisory group members participated in Sea2City Collaboratoriums, decolonization and Host Nation perspectives workshops, Sea2City arts and engagement events, and contributed to the project's final deliverables.

- **City Advisory Team:** A 28-member group made up of staff from key departments (e.g., planning, engineering, transportation, real estate and facilities, sustainability) at the City and the Park Board, Host Nations, and CMHC – Granville Island were active participants in the three Collaboratoriums and the final design charrette.
- **Technical Advisory Group:** A 21-person group made up of Vancouver-based experts from private firms with coastal adaptation expertise, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and asset operators (e.g., BC Hydro, Metro Vancouver).
- **Community Advisory Group:** A 17-member committee made up of residents representing a range of community perspectives and a shared interest in coastal adaptation in False Creek. The group provided a forum for feedback, guidance, and advice to Sea2City teams.
- **Youth Adaptation Lab:** A cohort of 15 youth engaged in a 10-month partnership with CityHive, a youth-led and youth-focused civic engagement organization. This group developed three unique projects to inform Sea2City and the future of coastal adaptation planning in the City of Vancouver.

“Thank you and well done for everyone’s work on this project. I left each session with positive feelings about the future of Vancouver and that’s a pretty neat thing. As I hopefully transition into a career in the environmental design field, this group has given me a lot to think about and look forward to.”

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SEA2CITY COMMUNITY  
ADVISORY GROUP PARTICIPANT



In addition to these advisory groups, Sea2City was the subject of two post-graduate research projects, one at UBC and one at SFU. The academic collaborations engaged student researchers directly in the project and provided the project team additional feedback on important project elements (equity, justice, and incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing). The researchers participated in Sea2City activities and interviewed project team members on their work.

Sea2City built upon an engagement program that started during the 2020 False Creek Coastal Adaptation Plan process. Public engagement included three rounds of online community conversation sessions, a social media communications program through all project phases, and three well attended community information sessions. Total attendance across all events reached 1,200 people.

Sea2City also generated considerable media coverage (online, radio, TV, print) with stories in local and national outlets including CBC News, CBC Radio, the Globe and Mail, and the Georgia Straight. Sea2City was shared broadly as a feature story in 16 media pieces, with several more publications mentioning Sea2City, sea level rise, and coastal flooding.



*In April 2022, the City worked with several environmental organizations to host a public event. Herring Day was held to educate and inspire the public about the ecology of the Salish Sea, raise awareness about environmental groups supporting herring ecology in False Creek, and to educate the public about sea level rise and the Sea2City Design Challenge. The design teams' early concepts were shared with the public for feedback.*

*Timed to highlight herring spawn events in False Creek, seven environmental groups participated and almost 400 people attended throughout the day.*



## WORKING TOWARD THE VISION:

# Long-Term Concepts and Near-Term Pilot Projects

False Creek is a bustling urban waterfront area that is a major destination for residents and visitors. Historically one of Vancouver's industrial centres, the last few decades have seen the area transition into the social and recreational heart of Vancouver. Diverse neighbourhoods, including portions of Yaletown, Chinatown, and Fairview surround False Creek. False Creek includes Granville Island, which is one of the most visited, yet flood-vulnerable areas in Vancouver. False Creek is also home to critical infrastructure including water, wastewater, heating, electrical, communications, and transportation systems.

Two Sea2City design teams were selected after a widely circulated request for proposals attracted nine submissions from local, Canadian, and international firms. Both teams had experience working on leading edge coastal adaptation projects and studies in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Both teams were supported by design consultant and cultural advisor Cory Douglas, a Vancouver-based, Indigenous designer as a core collaborating design consultant and cultural advisor with a deep understanding of Host Nations cultural expression. Design teams were also supported by Tsleil-Waututh Knowledge Keeper Charlene Aleck, who provided additional cultural advisory support.

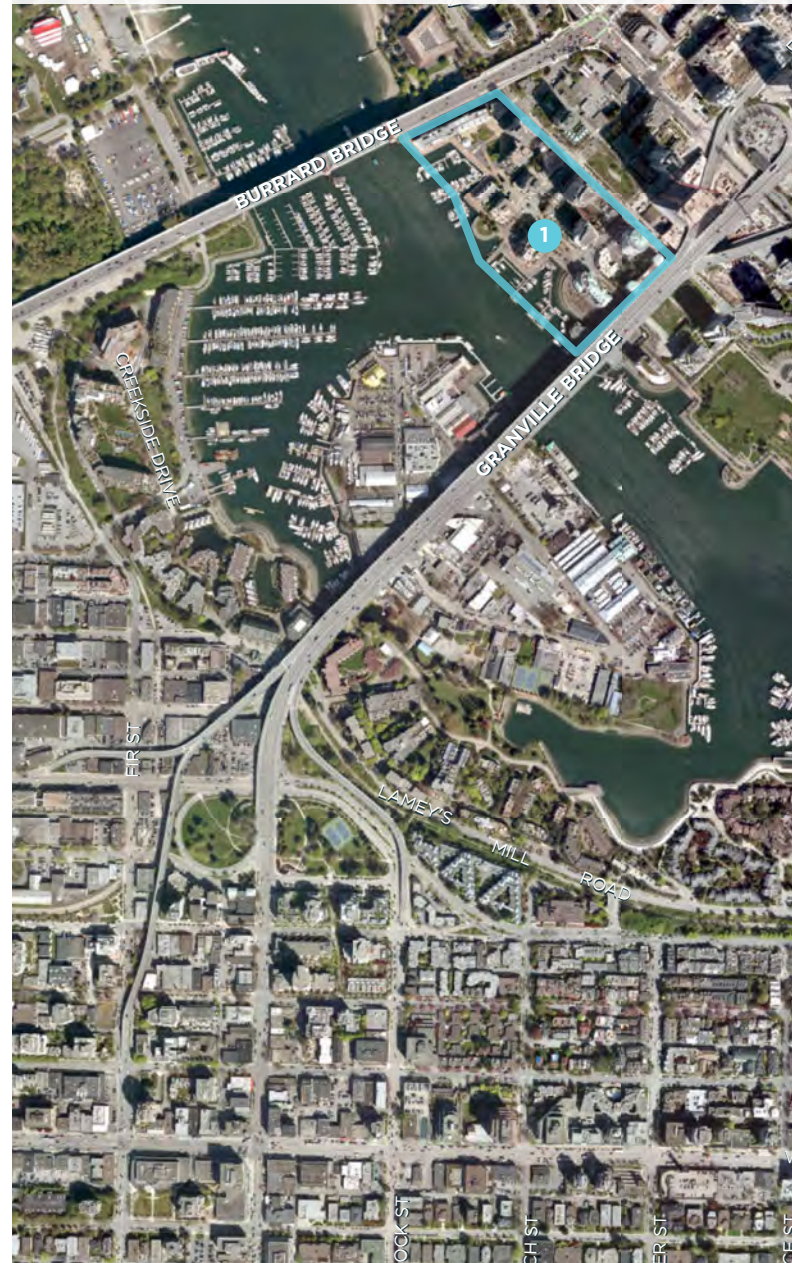
Sea2City design teams were assigned two challenge sites divided between the north and south shore of False Creek. The concepts generated by the teams were created to explore options and provide a foundation for more detailed coastal adaptation planning, research, and engagement in the future.

## CHALLENGE SITES

- 1 Between Bridges
- 2 Coopers' Park
- 3 Stamps Landing
- 4 Olympic Village

## CHARRETTE SITE

- 5 East of Cambie





# NORTH SHORE

## NORTH SHORE DESIGN TEAM

### Led by:

- PWL Partnership Landscape Architects (Vancouver-based architecture firm)
- MVRDV (Rotterdam-based architecture, and urban design practice)
- Deltares (an independent knowledge institute for applied research in the field of water, coastal flooding, and climate adaptation with offices in the Netherlands and around the world).
- Modern Formline (Vancouver-based design and Indigenous cultural advising)

The team also included WestMar Advisors (local foreshore engineering), G.L. Williams & Associates Ltd. (local biologist), Happy City (socially focused planning), Modus (urban planning), and Goudappel (mobility).



- **BETWEEN BRIDGES:** Located east of Burrard Bridge and west of Granville Bridge, the site includes the seawall, the Hornby False Creek Ferry dock, a private marina, residential towers, and commercial and office uses. The area was developed between the mid-1980s and the early 2000s.



- **COOPERS' PARK:** Located under the north end of Cambie Street Bridge, the site includes open park, an off-leash dog area, and a playground and basketball court under the bridge. The site is bordered by residential buildings with some commercial and office uses.

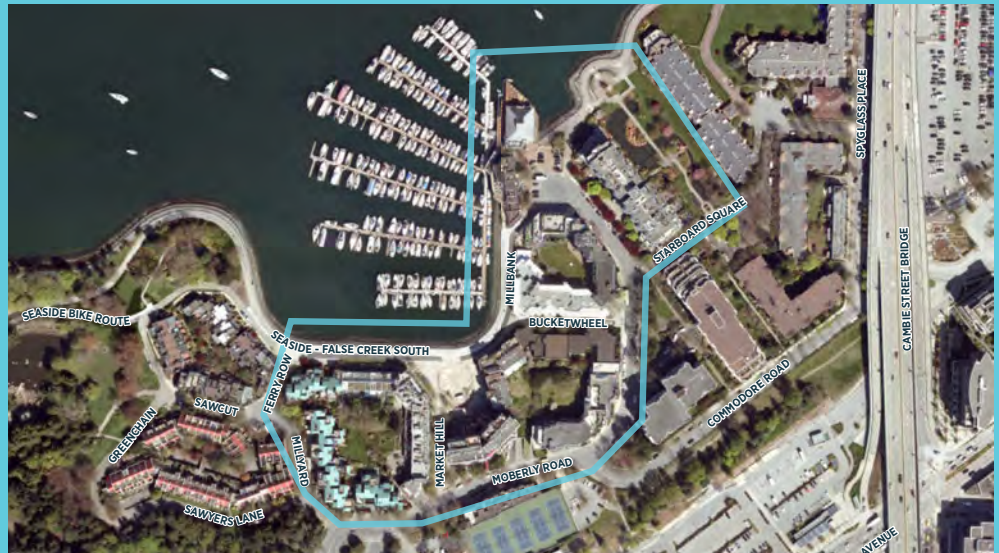
# SOUTH SHORE

## SOUTH SHORE DESIGN TEAM

### Led by:

- Mithun (Seattle-based landscape architecture firm)
- One Architecture & Urbanism (ONE) (design and planning firm with offices in Amsterdam and New York)
- Modern Formline (Vancouver-based design and Indigenous cultural advising)

The team also included Moffatt & Nichol, an infrastructure advisory firm with offices in Vancouver, and Herrera Environmental Consultants, an engineering and scientific consulting firm focused on restoration, water, and sustainable development headquartered in Bellingham, WA.



- **STAMPS LANDING:** Located between Charleson park and the Cambie bridge, the site includes park areas and mixed use commercial residential development, including several waterfront restaurants and a large public marina.



- **OLYMPIC VILLAGE:** Located in the southeast corner of False Creek, the site was developed for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games as the athletes' village. The area includes rental, strata, and co-operative housing, and ground floor commercial. The area is home to the Creekside Community Centre and a dock complex that supports False Creek's paddling and dragon boat community.

# North Shore Sea2City Sites



## RE-WILDING FALSE CREEK

The “North Shore Collective” team envisions the gradual transformation of the two sites to a ‘re-wilded’ urban waterfront that will help redefine Vancouver’s relationship with water and become a zone of cultural adaptation in the city that enables the evolution of an inclusive, prosperous society. The designs incorporate the natural topography of the sites, and imagine a future where new development sits higher and closer to the boundary of the floodplain. This approach helps restore the natural shoreline to buffer new development while helping improve False Creek water quality and rainwater management. The team imagines a shoreline that creates room for False Creek to safely host more common coastal flood events in the future and expand public access to the shoreline.



**BETWEEN BRIDGES TODAY**



**BETWEEN BRIDGES FUTURE (2100 AND BEYOND)**



## **BETWEEN BRIDGES**

The design team's long-term vision for this site is a creative community and thriving ecosystem. This future vision for Between Bridges proposes transforming it into a place where urban and aquatic life overlap and thrive - a creative, uplifted land-water community with green-blue connections to the rest of the city. It demonstrates that innovative nature-based solutions along with floating and adaptive building structures have the potential to support ecological and cultural abundance, even on constrained urban sites. In the future, the city and nature will have a renewed relationship based on a reciprocity of care.



COOPERS' PARK TODAY



COOPERS' PARK FUTURE (2100 AND BEYOND)



## COOPERS' PARK

The design team's long-term vision for this site is the "Tidal Community of False Creek" that features creative, cultural, and recreational facilities with intertidal park areas that provide a mix of ecological zones for accessible exploration. The space features tidal gardens with adaptive building clusters and pavilions that can host a broad community of species and circular initiatives, while inviting people to reconnect with the water. Flood management is achieved through setback elevations, behind the natural areas. Like Between Bridges, some intertidal habitat areas are protected to limit access with an elevated walkway.

Unique features include a floating restaurant managed by Host Nations featuring Indigenous foods that have returned to False Creek and a Community Garden Tower.



## NORTH SHORE - PILOT PROJECTS

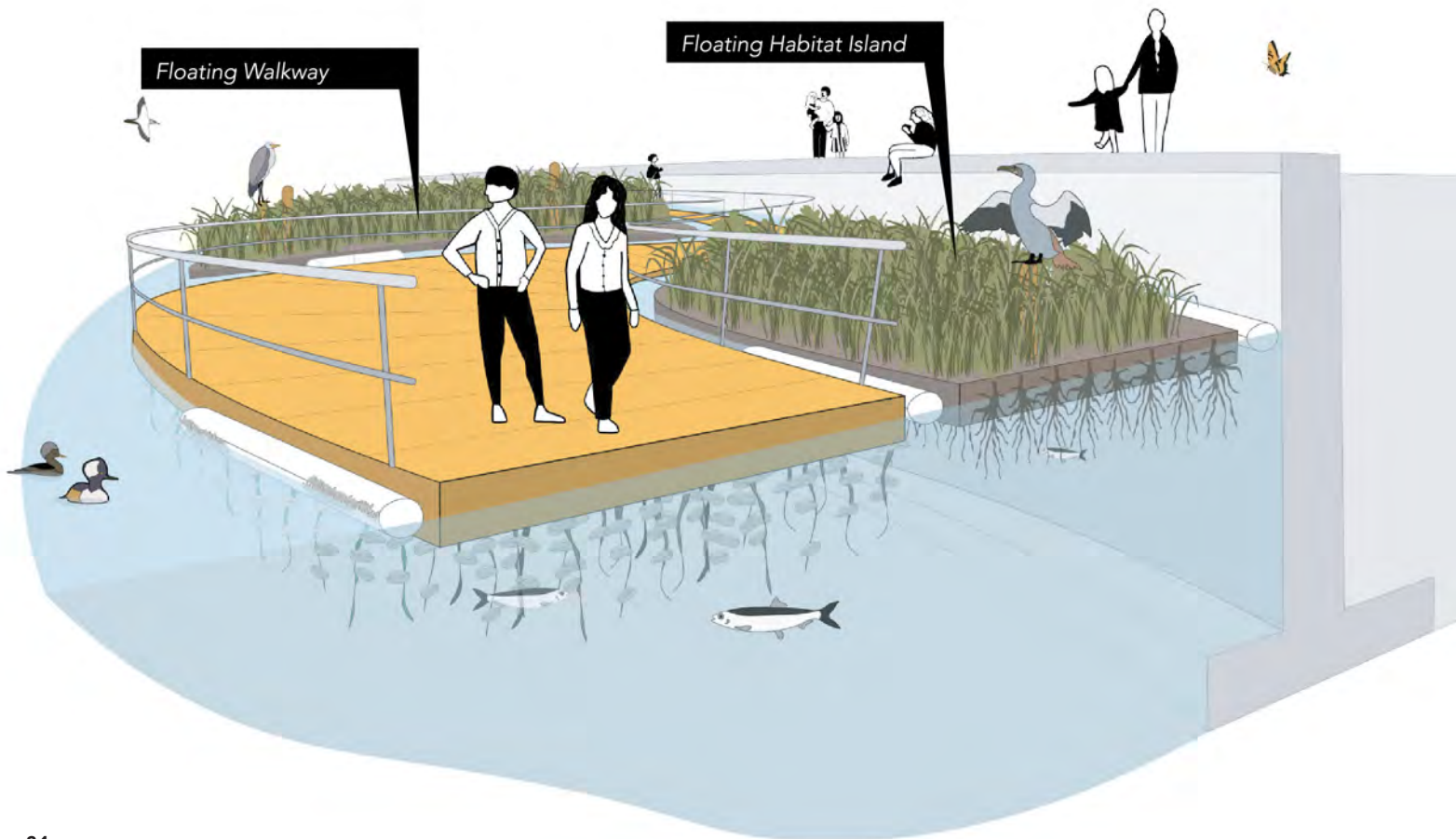
The North Shore Collective proposed four pilot projects aimed at testing ideas and demonstrating practical steps that can be taken towards further development of site concepts and achieving the Sea2City Vision.

The first pilot project is a floating habitat island and walkway that could be installed along Coopers' Park. The walkway and island would test habitat modules and rewilding techniques, while providing a new way for people to experience the seawall and access False Creek. The pilot would also provide an opportunity to investigate and check the permitting, governance, and construction techniques that will be needed for longer-term adaptation projects.

**“Things like habitat islands are like visible, public conversations on climate change and sea level rise that also help address pollution and contaminants in False Creek”**

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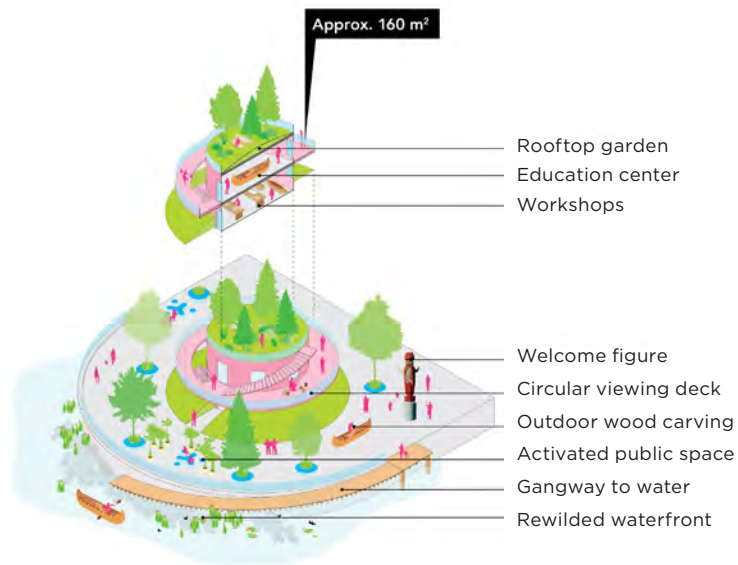
**COLLABORATORIUM III PARTICIPANT**





The second pilot project is a Coast Salish cultural learning garden and test plot nursery. The nursery would provide a chance to put reconciliation into action by reintroducing native shoreline, upland, and aquatic plants to False Creek. The facility could also host stewardship and community learning events and programs. In collaboration with Host Nations and academic partners, studies could be run on the adaptability of species to climate change and the co-benefits they can provide.

Alongside these two pilots, the North Shore Collective also proposed a Host Nations Pavilion to be located at their Between Bridges site and a floating Paddler's Pavilion that could be developed at either of their two sites.



# South Shore Sea2City Sites



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## A SHORELINE RESTORED

The south shore design team's long-term concepts for the two challenge sites were closely linked and integrated given the sites' proximity to one another. The two concepts would be developed incrementally as existing density is gradually shifted south beyond a blue-green corridor (pictured) along 1st Avenue that would provide improved flood protection for areas behind it.

The design imagines two other corridors linking and connecting the two sites. A Host Corridor integrates and connects First Nations facilities (including a canoe house and cultural hub and canoe journey landing beach), interpretive elements, and cultural use landscapes and habitats. A recreational corridor continues the seawall pathway legacy and provides pedestrian and cyclist connections between the two sites along a restored shoreline featuring salt marshes, forested berms, and intertidal habitat areas. The long-term 2100+ (or 2m sea level rise) concept is illustrated below.



STAMPS LANDING TODAY



STAMPS LANDING FUTURE (2100 AND BEYOND)



## STAMPS LANDING

The design team's long-term vision for Stamps Landing features a restored shoreline with a large tidal wetland and marsh area occupying the central portion of the site, fed by a historic, daylight creek. Existing density is moved behind a blue-green corridor on 1st Avenue while a Host Corridor provides connections to a canoe house and cultural facility operated by Host Nations and linked to a canoe landing beach and launch.

A multi-modal bridge spans a portion of restored salt marsh and historic stream restoration, while a native tree canopy provides shade for pedestrians. A restored salmon stream and Indigenous food plants line a marshland walkway.



OLYMPIC VILLAGE TODAY



OLYMPIC VILLAGE FUTURE (2100 AND BEYOND)



## OLYMPIC VILLAGE

The design team's long-term vision for Olympic Village features restored tidal mudflats that were once the dominant feature of False Creek, edged by a forest berm of mature cedars and other indigenous species. The berm provides flood protection to buildings behind it and serves as a park space. The historic Salt Building remains at the edge of the False Creek shoreline and provides a community amenity.

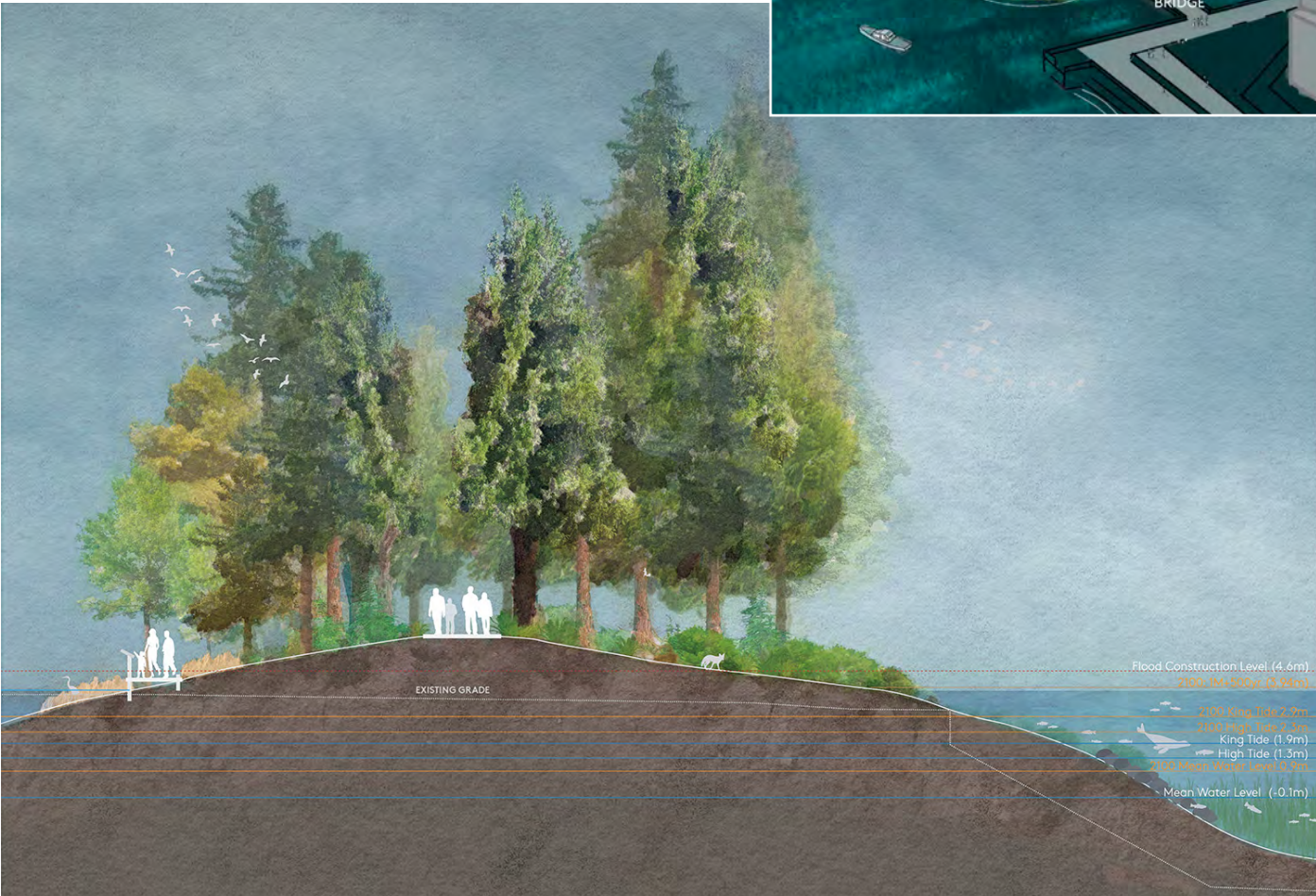
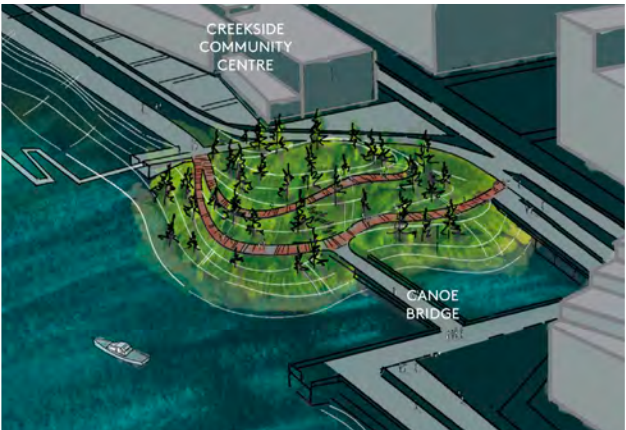
A pathway connects the forest berm to the shoreline and provides a central link through the site. The berm provides a location for a new ferry dock and marine transit hub. The 1st Avenue blue-green corridor runs down the rear of the site and provides transportation and coastal flood management for new development behind it.



# SOUTH SHORE - PILOT PROJECTS

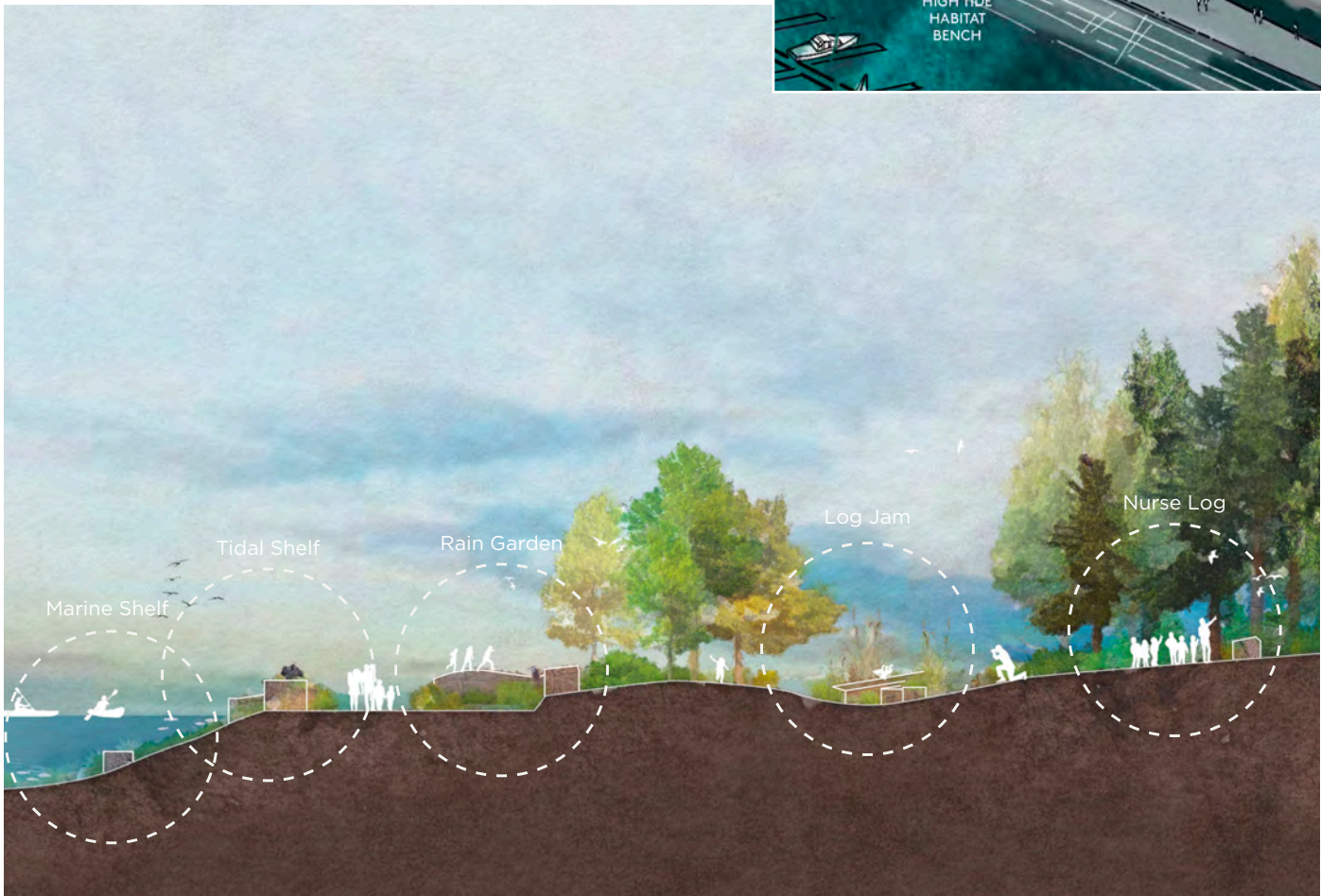
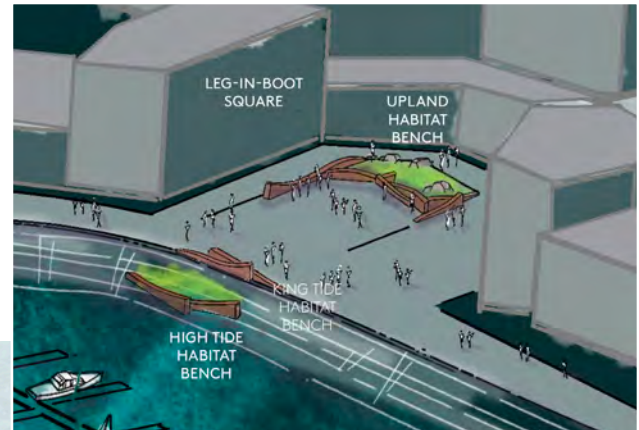
There are two pilot projects imagined that integrate flood protection measures, habitat creation, and traditional knowledge on the south shore.

In Olympic Village, a forested berm tests how tree and plant species will adapt to changing temperatures, including red cedars, yellow cedars, and sequoias. The berm also serves to raise the elevation at the site and acts as an anchor for the gradual transition of the area.



In Stamps Landing, a habitat bench will provide an oasis for people and nature in Leg-in-Boot Square. The habitat bench will demonstrate a soft shores approach to temporary flood protection in an urban setting in the near-term. As sea levels rise, the habitat bench will decay and evolve from an upland, to intertidal, to subtidal feature.

Both pilot projects will test how these spaces can be maintained to support functioning ecosystems.



## ART AND ADAPTATION:

# Telling the Story in Different Ways

To broaden the reach of Sea2City communications and engagement, the project included an arts component that created sea level rise and coastal adaption themed exhibitions and productions around False Creek and Vancouver. One piece was launched in early 2022, to align with Chinese New Year, and two other pieces were launched during the final Sea2City showcase in mid-July that showed the teams design work.

### WATER REMEMBERS

How Water Remembers, by interdisciplinary artist LAIWAN, was launched in February 2022 and explored sea level rise in Vancouver using culturally appropriate mythological traditions rooted in ancient teachings of the Tao. With an exhibition at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden courtyard and a display of different False Creek intertidal inhabitants on transit shelters throughout the city, the project explored the intersections between culture and a more resilient creek.



## TOWN CHOIR

In four different coastal cities facing the challenge of climate change and rising sea levels — Vancouver, New York, Mumbai, and Tokyo — four writers who call these places home typed out observations of the changing world unfolding around them. In that same moment, the Vancouver Youth Choir, singing on stage in Milton Wong Plaza in Olympic Village received their observations via a large screen and sang them out to the public.

For this special presentation of Theatre Replacement's acclaimed international work, Town Choir was adapted to speak to themes of sea level rise and climate change. Approximately 300 people attended the performance, which also included a showcase of Sea2City design concepts and photos from an Intergenerational Photo Project.



## INTERGENERATIONAL PHOTO PROJECT

As part of Theatre Replacement's activities for Sea2City, the company also worked with project partners to deliver a citizen-led photo project. Eight pairs of intergenerational participants imagined themselves engaged in, and adapting to, activities that will be impacted by rising sea levels in and around False Creek. The photos premiered prior to the Town Choir event.





## NEXT STEPS:

# Helping Build a Sea2City Legacy

Sea2City was as much about the process as it was the final design products. A great deal of learning took place among all people involved in Sea2City. The Vision, new coastal adaptation approach, and pilot projects provide an opportunity to build a project legacy. They have opened an opportunity for Vancouver to provide a testbed for coastal adaptation planning and implementation.

As the Salish Sea rises, the Sea2City project team collectively recognizes that the story is only beginning. While there will be future challenges, obstacles, and more learning, we believe Sea2City has set us down the right path.

The following summary of lessons learned and recommendations were developed by Sea2City participants. The recommendations are organized in rough order of priority.

## LESSONS LEARNED



### **Host Nations involvement is foundational**

The involvement and guidance of Host Nation representatives, leadership, participants, and cultural advisors in Sea2City shaped and guided outcomes and supported an open, reflective, and collaborative work environment that is reflected in project outcomes.



### **Be bold and embrace uncertainty**

As climate change accelerates, so are the impacts it is generating. For coastal adaptation, the directive is clear — plan for two metres of sea level rise and be prepared to adjust upwards and act more quickly, if necessary. Planning decisions made today must consider how climate change and sea level rise will impact coastal development in both the near- and longer-term.



### **Collaborate and mainstream**

Coastal adaptation demands a collaborative response that engages a range of disciplines, skills, and experience. Moving forward, coastal adaptation must be mainstreamed across City departments, programs, policies, and plans.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### ★ **Apply new approach and commitments to future coastal adaptation planning**

Future coastal planning work should adopt new language and the shift in thinking and approach it entails.

### ★ **Engage Host Nations and share Sea2City learning and outcomes**

Coordinate sharing of information and materials like the new adaptation approach and coastal planning commitments with Host Nations staff, Councils, and communities as appropriate.

### ★ **Establish a Coastal Collaborative Working Group**

An interdepartmental working group should be established to maintain Sea2City learning and support pilot projects.

### ★ **Apply relevant UNDRIP Strategy actions to coastal adaptation planning**

Vancouver adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) strategy in 2022. There are several strategy actions that should be applied to future coastal adaptation planning at the City.

### ★ **Conduct additional feasibility assessments on Sea2City pilot projects**

Additional screening and feasibility work is required to prioritize and implement pilot projects.

### ★ **Conduct East of Cambie Business Case**

Explore how different development scenarios would perform on technical, financial, community, and Host Nations value criteria.

### ★ **Continue Granville Island collaboration**

Granville Island is a critical partner in adaptation and resilience work in False Creek.

### ★ **Update technical guidelines**

Sea2City participants noted the need for Vancouver to update technical guidelines to reflect new data.

### ★ **Establish a Youth Climate Resilience Committee**

Climate change disproportionately impact youth. Their place at the table could be supported with the creation of a Youth Climate Resilience Committee as one of Vancouver's standing council committees. Incentives and other opportunities should be leveraged to support the participation of Indigenous youth in this committee.

“Tactics and mainstreaming the approach and Vision in the City [is so important]”

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COLLABORATORIUM III PARTICIPANT

“We need to change the model of development to something that’s more transitional and hold space rather than defining it too tight”

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COLLABORATORIUM III PARTICIPANT

“Phasing and seeding is key for first step projects”

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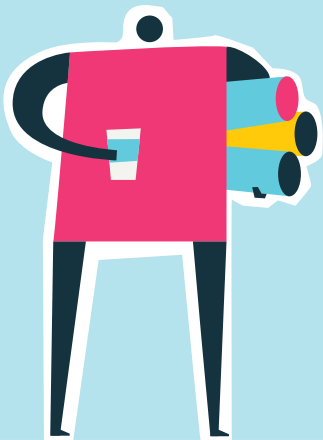
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**Hỏi chi tiết    Obtenga Información**

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