

# David Foster Way: Partnering to Create a Unique National Landmark



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# David Foster Way: Partnering to Create a Unique National Landmark

In May 2012, the City of Victoria honoured a Canadian music legend with the naming of its stunning harbour waterfront pathway, David Foster Way. Once complete, it will be one of the longest, continuous pedestrian and cycling harbour pathways in North America, linking several of Victoria's special places and showcasing the new, premier celebratory venue of the Provincial Capital.

Each special place along the pathway will be a key destination. Together, they will make a unique national landmark.

## Special Places Along David Foster Way

Situated on the historic lands of the Lekwungen people, David Foster Way is more than just a scenic route for cyclists and pedestrians. It's about experiencing the Capital City's spectacular waterfront, whether it's learning about its rich First Nations heritage, gathering with family and friends, celebrating community events, watching marine-based activities, or enjoying nature and all that the magnificent land and seascapes have to offer.

Providing continuous waterfront access from Ogden Point to Rock Bay, widening the existing pathway, and creating new thematic and interpretive experiences in the form of stylized bridges, coves and boardwalks, are key to David Foster Way establishing national – and international – recognition.

David Foster Way links a number of unique locations along Victoria's waterfront – “special places”, each with its own theme. Some special places recognize the contributions of First Nations, while others showcase Canadian arts, culture and music, or demonstrate leading edge environmental restoration, and enhance recreation and leisure opportunities for residents and visitors. Some of these special places include Barclay Point, Canoe Club, Bastion Square Waterfront, Ship Point, the Upper and Lower Causeway, Belleville Street, Laurel Point, and Heron Cove at Fisherman's Wharf.

David Foster Way will also be a spectacular destination that welcomes international visitors who arrive by air and sea. Showcasing Victoria's arts and culture, heritage and coastal habitat, David Foster Way will sustainably connect business to the water's edge – spurring economic development in British Columbia's Capital City.

## Celebration Place

Adjacent to David Foster Way is Celebration Place, a distinctive special place, destined to be the premier celebratory and ceremonial venue in the Provincial Capital. This block-long, urban plaza transforms British Columbia's Legislature lawns, Belleville Street and its sidewalk into a dynamic public space for special events, and connects the Legislature Building with David Foster Way and the Inner Harbour.

Tiered stairs and ramps improve accessibility to the water's edge, providing prime ocean views and seating for large scale celebrations such as Canada Day and Symphony Splash. The section of the plaza above the Lower Causeway serves as a stage for small events, and a new “VICTORIA” sign greets visitors to the Inner Harbour.

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## Next Steps

The City of Victoria has developed conceptual plans for eight of the 11 special places along David Foster Way to articulate a vision and the enormous potential the pathway holds for Victoria's harbour. There are 97 properties affected by or in the vicinity of David Foster Way. The concept plans are assisting City staff in sharing this vision for Victoria's harbour with landowners and potential funders.

The concepts are the next thoughtful step forward in advancing Victoria's Harbour Pathway Plan, which was developed with extensive public consultation and approved by City Council in 2008. The Plan recommends special

places be created along the harbour pathway which model environmental sustainability, provide an opportunity for cultural, historical and natural interpretation, and aspire to excellence with the aim of creating a preeminent public space.

Victoria's harbour is a prized asset for transportation, development, recreation and tourism. Through community partnerships with First Nations, governments, private donors, landowners and businesses, the concepts for the special places along David Foster Way can become a reality.

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### For More Information:

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# Pathway/Trail Route



# Special Places Along David Foster Way

Below are descriptions for eight of the 11 special places along David Foster Way. Conceptual plans can be viewed on the pages that follow.

## Barclay Point

Working closely with First Nations, Barclay Point is a special place for a new footbridge to link David Foster Way with Bay Street in Rock Bay. This special place provides a non-motorized boathouse with a green roof surrounded by Garry oak meadow plantings. A large deck provides space for public events, and includes a covered area for a permanent marine/historical interpretation display and signage. Bridge and deck areas are furnished with park benches and lighting. The shoreline habitat restoration includes extensive concrete tidal pools, beach construction and artificial reefs – perfect for school field trips and community coastal plantings.

## Canoe Club

The Canoe Club boardwalk is a special place to rest and view Victoria's harbour. Its design is inspired by the traditional canoes of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, and pays tribute to the popular canoe races which took place on the Gorge waterway in the 19th and 20th centuries. Canoe prows lining the curved wooden boardwalk serve as waterfront lookouts. The lower section of each prow provides informal seating, encouraging people to linger and enjoy the harbour. Tall canoe paddle sculptures line the boardwalk. This special space demonstrates how design can work with existing businesses such as the Canoe Club restaurant's outdoor patio.

## Bastion Square Waterfront

The Bastion Square Waterfront special place brings the livelihood of Bastion Square across Wharf Street to the water's edge. A ramped pathway and stairs provide access for everyone to the beach at low tide and the ocean at high tide. A unique shoreline restoration design combines art and nature to form sculptural "wave" intertidal planting ledges set at various elevations to suit different coastal plants. Constructed tidal pools at various elevations attract a variety of marine life. This special place features a fish scale pattern on the upper walkway and a lighthouse red and white colour scheme for separation walls and stepped seating.

## Ship Point

Ship Point is a music-themed special place that provides a dramatic setting for the many performing arts events and festivities that occur in Victoria's spectacular Inner Harbour. It is a celebration of Victoria's musicians – famous, celebrated and those who make music for their own enjoyment. Large, theatrical columns decorated with fiddle head "capitals" are intended to catch the eye from Wharf Street and beyond. Seating surrounds each column at the base to provide rest stops and viewing points of the Inner Harbour. A partially transparent bridge allows glimpses of the ocean water lapping beneath, while connecting people to the adjacent wharf. Reinforcing the music theme is the hard surface design with piano key and treble clef inspired paving, and tubular bell and gong instruments suspended from the trail gateway that can be played by anyone. Dramatic lighting makes this space come alive at night.

## Celebration Place

Celebration Place is the “centrepiece” of special places along David Foster Way and is destined to be the premier celebratory and ceremonial venue in the Capital City. A block-long, hardscape plaza featuring Maple leaf and Dogwood patterns, transforms a portion of the British Columbia Legislature lawns, Belleville Street and sidewalk, enhancing and connecting this public space with David Foster Way and Victoria’s Inner Harbour. Heritage elements on the Legislature lawns and Causeways remain prominent. Bollards are used to enlarge the celebratory space and for traffic control. Tiered stairs and ramps improve accessibility from Belleville Street to the water’s edge, and provide prime ocean-view seating for large-scale events such as Canada Day and Symphony Splash. The section of the plaza above the Lower Causeway serves as a stage for small events. A new “VICTORIA” sign greets visitors to the Inner Harbour.

## Belleville Street Lookout

The Belleville Street Lookout is a special place that serves as the gateway to Canada for many who visit our beautiful city. It’s designed with compact seating and viewing to celebrate British Columbia’s forests, mountains and oceans. Fish scale paving marks the entrance. Being situated close to the Clipper and Coho’s arrival and departure areas, enables views of Victoria’s key landmarks: the Songhees, Johnson Street Bridge and the Inner Harbour. Raw, heavy timber makes up the seating, walls and floors, allowing visitors to experience the natural wood textures, colours and fragrances. Wooden walls help control the views and mimic the outline of distant mountain ranges. The ocean wind chime is a stainless steel frame which suspends stylized fish.

## Laurel Point

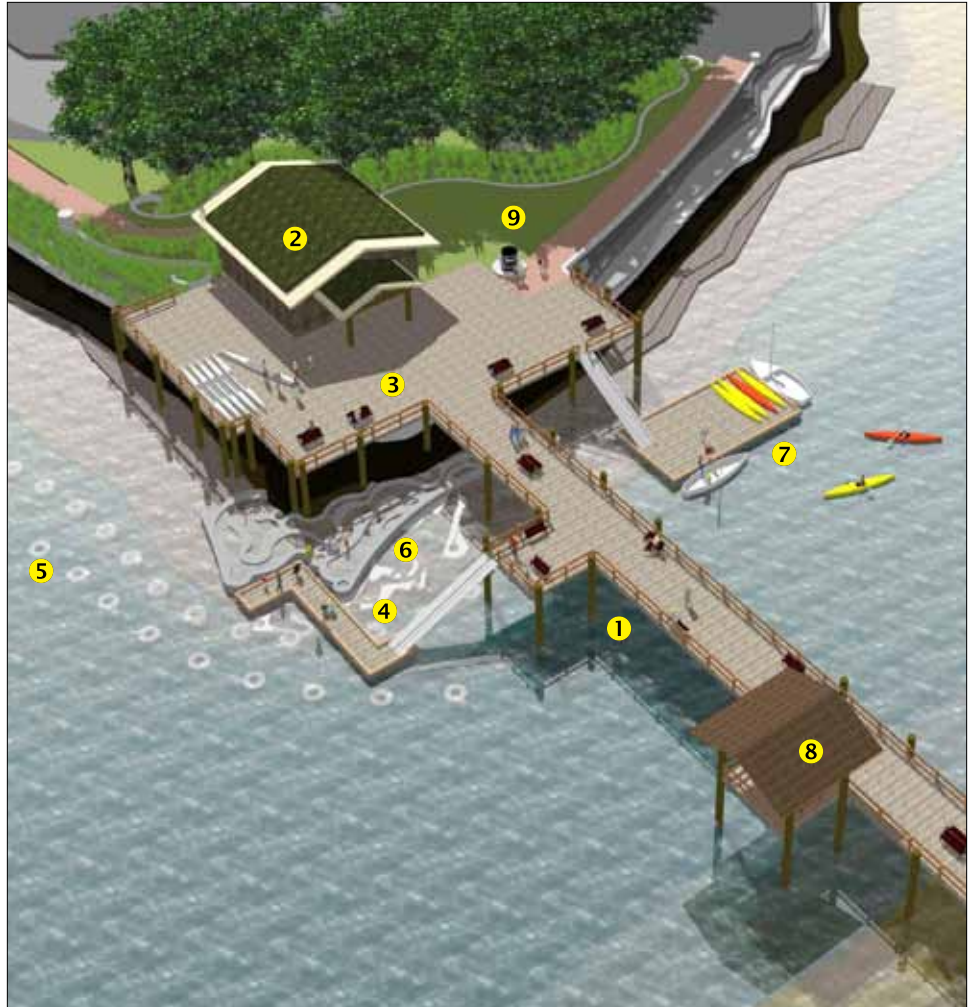
Situated on a grassy slope, this special place provides an opportunity for freedom and play as depicted in the mother and baby orcas in the area’s design. Accessible pathways meet mid-slope where water sprays and jets emanate into a series of terraced ponds. The space becomes a water play park during hot weather and is enjoyable during other times of the year. The grassy stage and whale tale sections are used for small performing arts events such as the International Buskers Festival. A separate pool with a high water fountain represents a whale’s spout. Curved wall seating provides views of marine activities in Victoria’s harbour.

## Heron Cove at Fisherman’s Wharf

Heron Cove at Fisherman’s Wharf is a special place that features shoreline restoration and the construction of intertidal pools to complement the Fisherman’s Wharf Park rain garden nearby. A new bridge connects commercial business with the waterfront, and a new ramp for kayaks and small boats enhances recreation opportunities. Seating encircles a stylized Heron Cove sign which is anchored by a tall mast, providing a restful viewing area of Victoria’s Inner Harbour.



# Barclay Point



1. Footbridge Bridge Link to Bridge Street
2. Non-Motorized Boathouse With Green Roof
3. Boathouse Work Space and Public Event Area
4. Marine Habitat Restoration Demonstration Area
5. Artificial Reef Marine Habitat Spheres
6. Constructed Tidal Pools
7. Non-Motorized Boathouse Dock
8. Covered Interpretation Area (Historical/Marine)
9. Barclay Point Sign

Barclay Point is a special place for a new footbridge to link David Foster Way with Bay Street (site of the former Rock Bay Bridge).

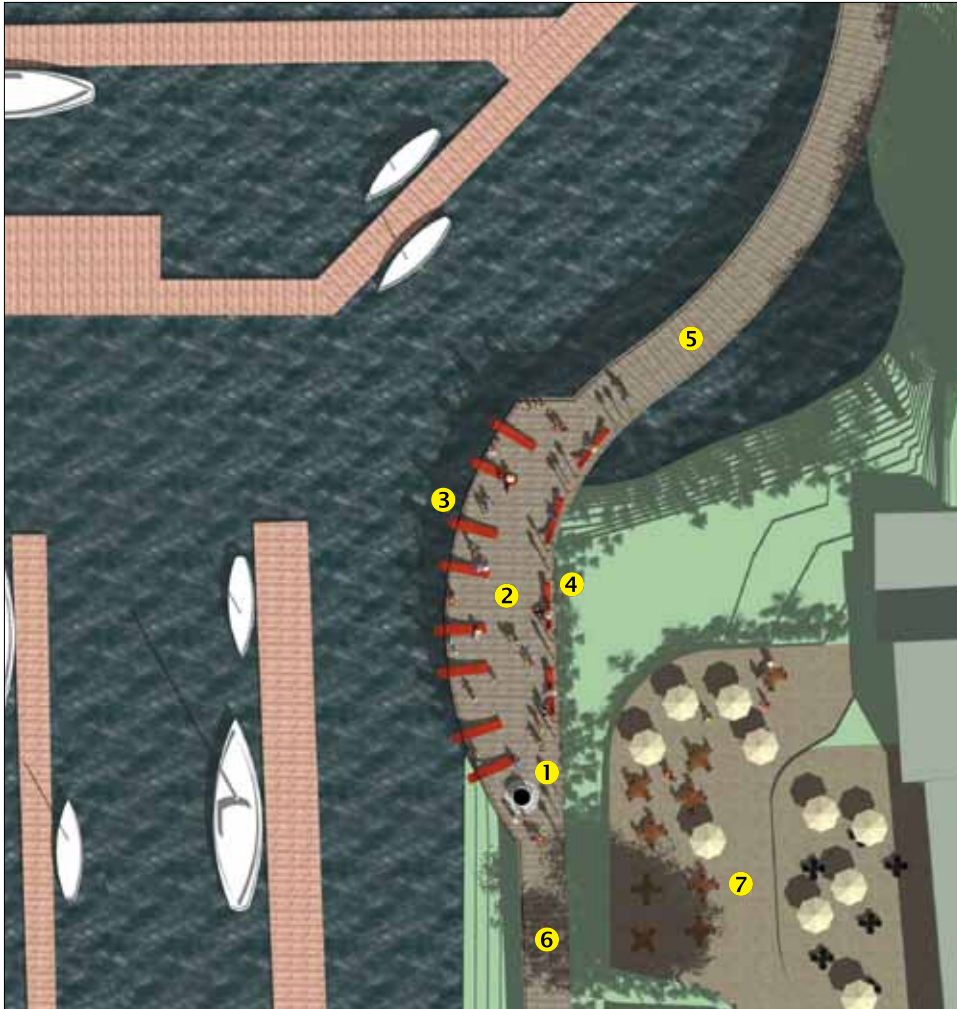
This special place provides non-motorized boat facilities and environmental education opportunities (marine habitat restoration). The bridge axis is aligned with the building and a large deck surrounds the building's frontage, providing space for boat repairs and events, etc. The facility features a green roof and is surrounded by native Garry oak meadow plantings.

The shoreline habitat restoration work includes extensive concrete tidal pools, beach construction and artificial reef spheres and planting, potentially involving local schools.

The bridge may incorporate a covered area for permanent display of historical information.

Bridge and deck areas are furnished with park benches and lighting.

# Canoe Club



1. Canoe Club Sign
2. Wood Deck Surface
3. Wood Seat Shaped as First Nations Canoe
4. Upstanding Wood Paddle
5. Future David Foster Way Boardwalk Connection
6. Boardwalk Connection to Swift Street
7. Canoe Brewpub Patio

The Canoe Club special place is a rest stop and view point on the “over water” portion of David Foster Way. The design is inspired by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations’ traditional canoe forms which were simple and sleek. It is also a tribute to the popular canoe races which took place on the Gorge Waterway in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The canoe prows appear to be watchful lookouts surveying the water as they radiate around the curved deck in pairs and frame views of the harbour activity, both industrial and pleasure. The lower body of the “canoe” provides informal seating, encouraging people to linger and enjoy the ambience. Tall, canoe paddle sculptures edge the landward side of the deck and make a visual link with the adjacent popular Canoe Brewpub.



# Bastion Square Waterfront



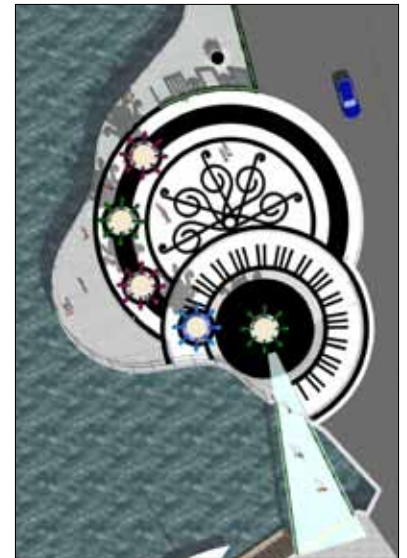
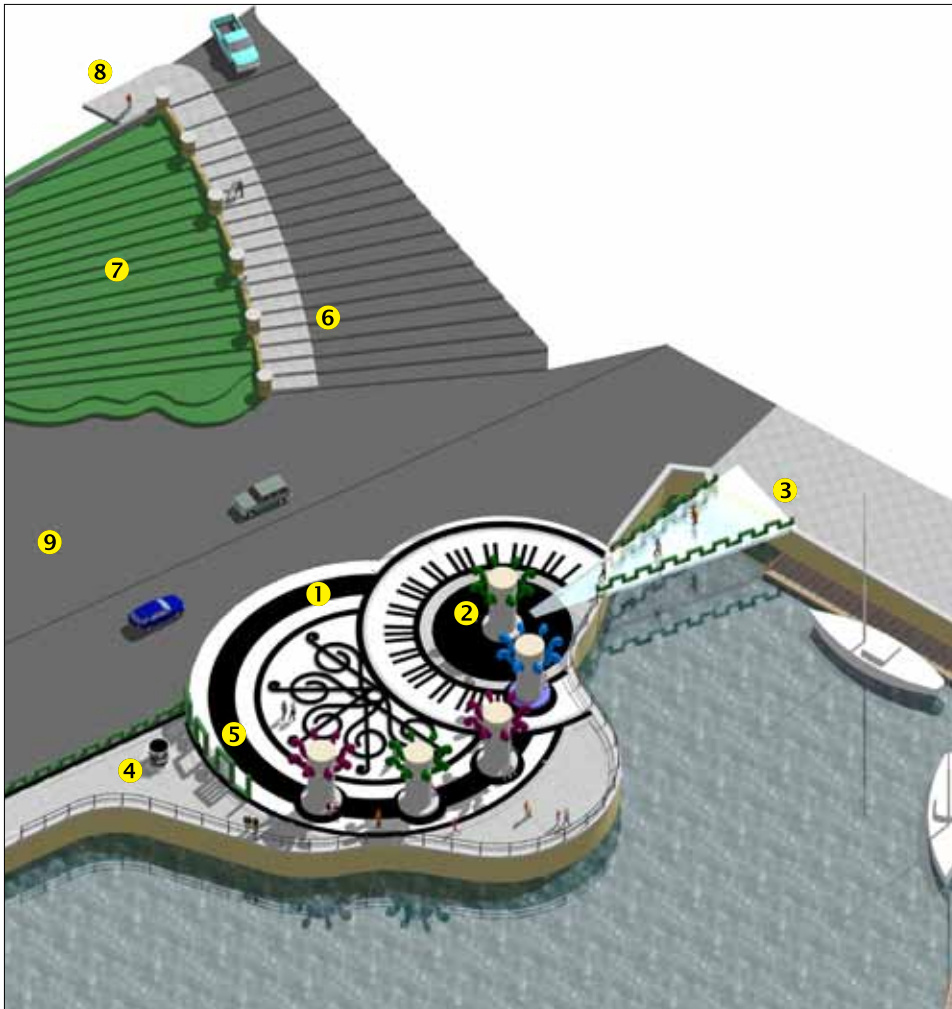
The Bastion Square Waterfront special place brings the activity and life generated in Bastion Square across Wharf Street and down to the water's edge. A ramped path and stairs allow access for everyone to the beach at low tide and to the water at high tide.

A unique shoreline restoration design combines art and nature to form sculptural “wave” intertidal planting ledges set at various elevations to suit different coastal plants. Constructed tidal pools set at varying elevations attract a variety of marine life. The intent is to provoke awareness and a sense of connection to life in the oceans.

The “fish scale” paving pattern of David Foster Way, in association with the lighthouse influenced walls and seats, accentuates the vibrancy of the place. The trees add greenery and provide shade to this urban space.

1. Bastion Square Waterfront Sign
2. Fish Scale Pattern Upper Walkway
3. Accessible Ramp to Beach
4. Stepped Seating
5. Public Beach Area
6. Constructed Tidal Pools
7. Salt Marsh Vegetation Ledges
8. Separation Walls and Seating, Lighthouse Colour Scheme
9. Sculptural “Wave” Walls

# Ship Point



1. Organized Event Stage Surface
2. "Landmark" Columns with Fiddle Neck Capitals (Illuminated)
3. Footbridge With Transparent Elements
4. Ship Point Sign
5. Suspended Tubular Bells and Gong
6. Sidewalk Access from Wharf Street
7. Greenspace Viewing Area
8. Wharf Street
9. Parking Lot

This musically-themed special place provides a dramatic setting for the many performing arts events and festivities which occur in the Inner Harbour. It is a celebration of all of Victoria's musicians, famous, celebrated and those who simply make music for their own enjoyment.

The large, theatrical-looking columns which are decorated with fiddle head "capitals" are intended to catch the eye from Wharf Street and beyond. Seating surrounds each column at the base to provide a rest stop for trail users as well as a viewing point in the harbour.

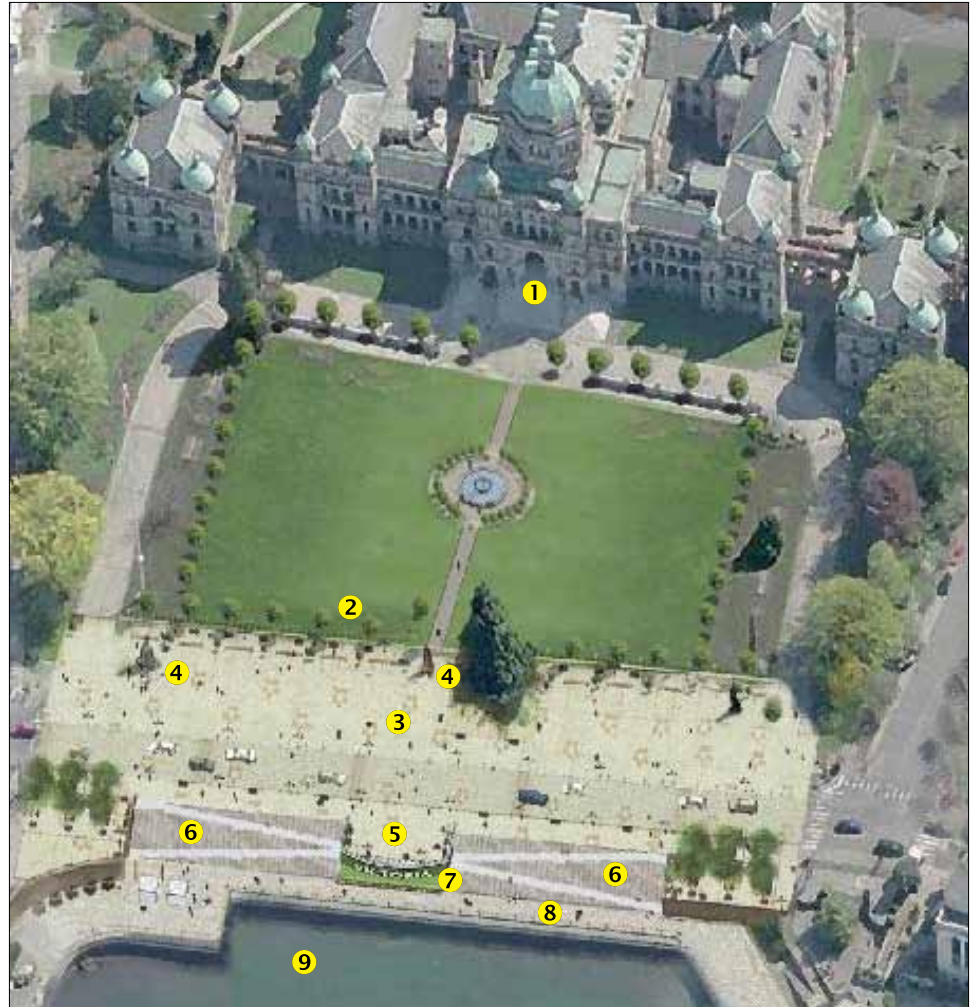
A bridge to the adjacent wharf improves the harbour/waterfront experience by avoiding the traffic and parking lot. The partially transparent bridge allows glimpses of the ocean water lapping beneath.

The hard surface design reinforces the musical theme, with the piano key and treble clef inspired paving, as does the tubular bell and gong instruments which are suspended from the trail gateway structure and can be played by anyone.

Dramatic lighting, which can also be used during performances, plays an important role in making the space come alive at night.



# Celebration Place



Celebration Place is the “centrepiece” of special places along David Foster Way – destined to be a premier, celebratory and ceremonial venue in the Capital City.

Enhancing and connecting David Foster Way and Victoria's Inner Harbour with the Legislature is a block-long, urban plaza that transforms the lawns, Belleville Street and sidewalk into a dynamic public space for special events. Bollards are used to enlarge the celebratory space. Heritage elements on the Legislature lawns and Causeway remain prominent.

Tiered stairs and ramps improve accessibility from Belleville Street to the water's edge and provide prime ocean viewing and seating for large-scale events such as Canada Day fireworks and Symphony Splash. The section of the plaza above the Lower Causeway serves as a stage for small events. A new “VICTORIA” sign welcomes visitors to the Inner Harbour.

1. British Columbia Legislature Building
2. Legislature Front Lawns
3. Hardscape Plaza Featuring Maple Leaf/Dogwood Paving Pattern and Shared Roadway (Belleville Street)
4. Retention of Heritage Landmarks (Cenotaph, Queen Victoria Statue, Giant Sequoia Tree) and Potential for Future Features
5. Small Stage and Viewing Area of Victoria's Inner Harbour
6. Tiered Stairs and Ramps Improve Accessibility to Waterfront and David Foster Way (Lower Causeway)
7. New “VICTORIA” Welcome Sign
8. David Foster Way (Lower Causeway)
9. Victoria's Inner Harbour

# Belleville Street Lookout



1. Fish Scale Sidewalk Paving at Entrance
2. Heavy Timber Decking
3. A Mountain Scene Sculptural Wood Wall
4. Wind Chime Polycarbonate Marine Life
5. Low Height Mountain Scene Wood Wall To Screen Ferry Vehicles
6. Heavy Timber Seating
7. Heavy Timber (Carved) Posts
8. Decking Is Cantilevered Over Embankment
9. Belleville Street Sign

The Belleville Street Lookout special place is designed as a compact viewing and seating space which celebrates BC's forests, mountains and oceans. It is situated close to the arrival and departure area for the Clipper and the Coho ferries, and its views take in the City's key landmarks: the Songhees, Johnson Street Bridge and the Inner Harbour.

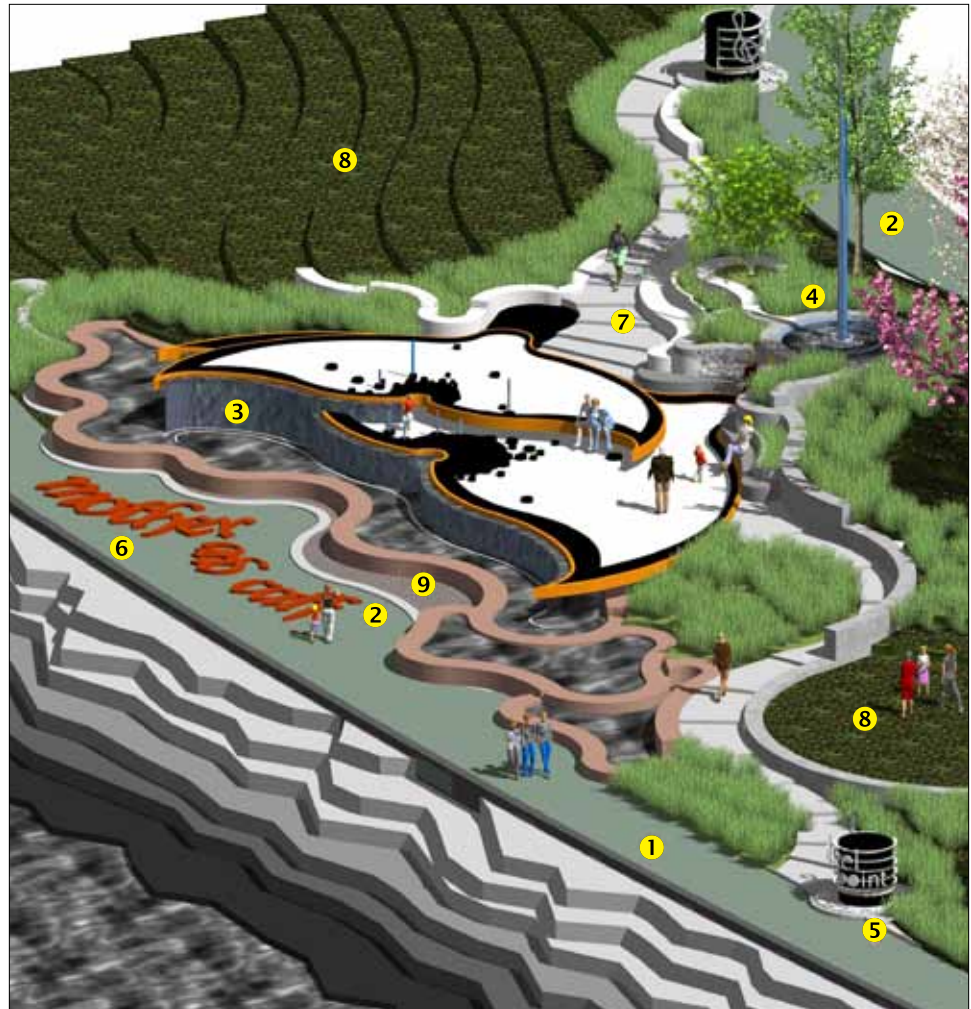
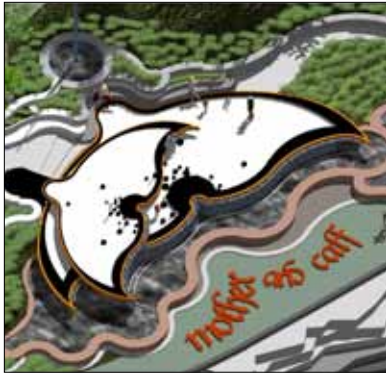
The primary construction material is raw, heavy timber, confirming BC's commercial reliance on the forest, and provides for floors, walls and seating to allow the visitor to experience the natural wood textures, colours and fragrances. The wood walls, which help to control the views, are designed to mimic the outline of distant mountain ranges.

The "ocean" wind chime is a stainless steel frame which suspends stylized fish. It is activated by a light breeze, bringing movement, colour and sound to the space.

This special place sign is positioned on the edge of Belleville Street sidewalk, set within a decorative surface treatment which connects the "Lookout" space with Belleville Street.



# Laurel Point



“Mother and Calf” celebrate Victoria’s proximity and relationship to the Pacific Ocean. Situated on a grassy slope, this special place provides an opportunity for play and freedom as is also enjoyed by the mother and baby orca flukes depicted in the design.

Accessible pathways meet mid-slope where water sprays and jets emanate from the flukes and feed the water curtain which flows off the flukes into a series of terraced ponds. The space becomes a water play park in hot weather and is equally enjoyable at other times of the year. The grassy “stage” and the whale tail spaces can be used for performing arts events.

A separate pool with a high water jet fountain infers a whale spout. Wall seats provide year-round seating and views of the activities taking place on outer harbour waters.

1. Lower Walkway
2. Upper Walkway
3. Orca Fluke Waterfall
4. Orca “Water Spout” Fountain
5. Laurel Point Sign
6. “Mother and Calf” Text Inlay
7. Accessible Pathway Link
8. Lawn
9. Lower Pond With Seat-Level Edge

# Heron Cove at Fisherman's Wharf



1. Footbridge Link to Existing Boardwalk
2. Seating Space Anchored by Tall Mast
3. Permanent Small Boat Launch Ramp and Tie-Up
4. Heron Cove Sign
5. Constructed Tidal Pools
6. Shoreline Vegetation Restoration
7. Existing Boardwalk
8. Fisherman's Wharf
9. Heron Cove

Heron Cove at Fisherman's Wharf special place draws from an earlier concept put forward by the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority to provide an alternative bridge link over the water at Heron Cove to join with the existing trail, and a "mast" focal point to the seating and viewing space. This concept introduces a small boat ramp for water access as well as shoreline restoration to include coastal vegetation planting and constructed tidal pools.



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