

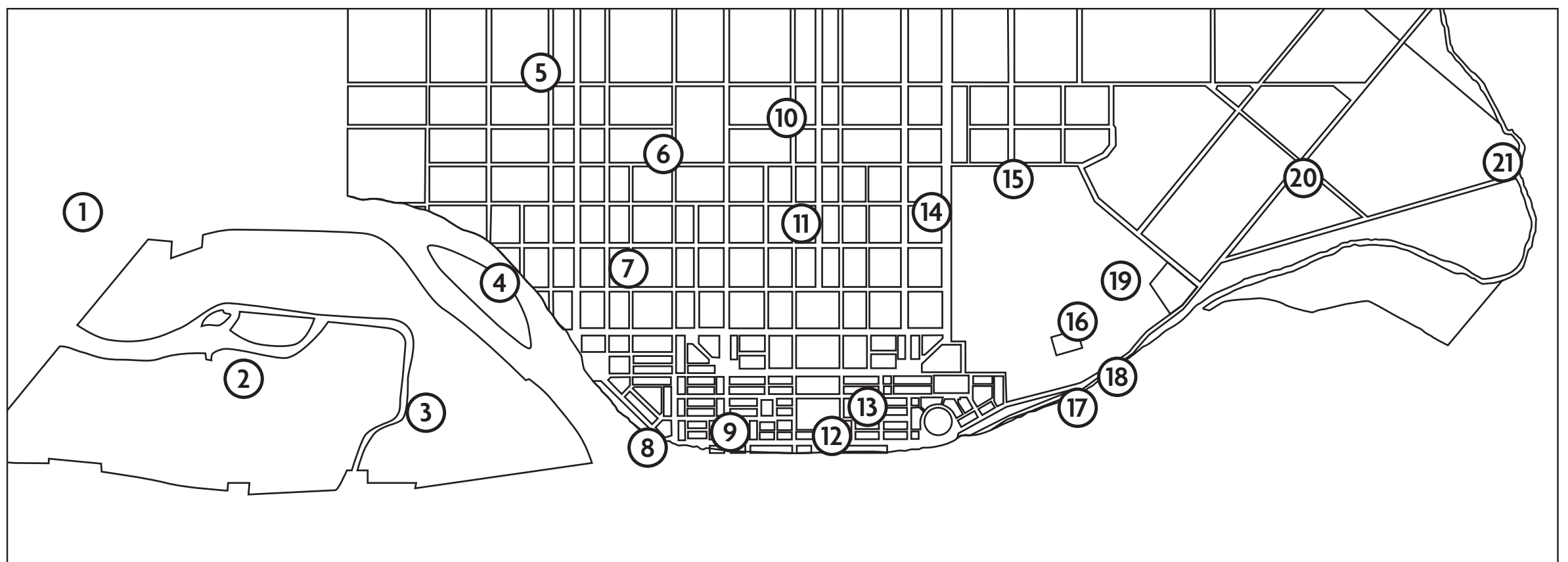
***Woven Histories*, 2018**

Heads and Tales Cooperative: Sonya Iwasiuk and Pilar Mehlis

In the artwork *Woven Histories*, the raised, current New Westminster map silhouette is made of repurposed paper pulp, plaster and acrylic and is etched with important names, dates and events. The original district map of 1880, excluding the islands, is laid over top of the mainland area. Poplar and Lulu Island were added to the map in 1892. Relief images of landmarks, monuments, the Qayqayt First Nations, explorers and cultural groups who settled in the area to work in the forestry, railway and fishing industries are placed on the map along with lights that highlight their locations.

The anthropomorphic fish figures carry objects on their backs to symbolize the migration of both the salmon of the Fraser River and people to the area. These Antrofish depict the creation of community, the building of important structures and the portrayal of significant events that took place in New Westminster through the ages. Many Coast Salish people in the area considered the salmon a symbol of wealth and trade. To them, these highly esteemed beings were their main source of food and were believed to be relatives and superior to people. The Antrofish sculptures also represent the large and successful commercial fishing industry built around this resource.

Heads and Tales Cooperative comprises mixed media artists Pilar Mehlis and Sonya Iwasiuk. This collaborative artist team combine their mutual interests to create pieces from diverse media, developing the best visuals from often discarded objects and daily recyclable items. The team explores narratives around migration, immigration, belonging and history of place. Development of community and connection, sustainability, and a profound need to protect and experience the natural world are other resounding themes important to their work.



1. Fraser River Sturgeon caught by the Fraser River Fish Co.
2. 1913 Peerless
3. New Queensborough School – 1912
4. Poplar Island – Quarantine site for Indigenous people with smallpox. Smallpox and other diseases were brought to the Qayqayt First Nation and other Coast Salish peoples by European colonists. Pre-colonization Indigenous people were a healthy and strong people with a large population.
5. Providence Orphanage – 1900-1960. Established by the Sisters of Providence.
6. One of many heritage houses built in the late 1800's – early 1900's in New Westminster
7. New Westminster Health Department
8. New Westminster Quay – 1986
9. The Anvil Center – 2014
10. Westminster Brewery
11. Vancity New Westminster community branch
12. BC Telephone Exchange
13. Courthouse – 1891
14. Streetcar from downtown to Queens Park – 1892
15. Provincial Exhibition Buildings – 1890-1929. In 1929, a fire destroyed the buildings. This ended the Exhibition in Queens Park.
16. Woodlands Provincial Asylum – 1878-1996
17. Qayqayt historic village site
18. Brunette Sawmill on the left. The Automatic Can Company in the distance.
19. Provincial Penitentiary – 1879-1980
20. Royal Columbian Hospital – 1862
21. Braid SkyTrain Station – 2002

All photo-based images courtesy of the New Westminster Archives.