



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

July 13, 2013

### **MOV and partners to take over Granville Street in day of spectacular transformation and playful design**

(VANCOUVER, BC) — On Saturday, July 13 the Museum of Vancouver and its partners invite the public downtown, to help enliven and transform the 700 block of Granville Street using hundreds of super-sized polystyrene building blocks.

“MOV’s Upcycled Urbanism challenges Vancouverites to do more than just talk about urban design, public space, and environmental sustainability. It brings people together to build their ideas in the public realm—but just for one day,” says Charles Montgomery, Curatorial Associate at the Museum of Vancouver. “The project takes advantage of pioneering work by Langley-based Mansonville Plastics, which rescued polystyrene salvaged from the construction of the Port Mann Bridge and ground it down for use in new blocks. After our event, materials will be returned for a third round of recycling.”

The project was born from the common aspiration of UBC’s School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (SALA), the Vancouver Public Space Network, Maker Faire Vancouver, Spacing Magazine, and the MOV to offer people new ways to re-imagine public design. Three teams will use the blocks to create giant games, social machines, and art installations.

The public is invited to watch, encourage builders, and experience the interactive landscape at any time between 10:00am and 6:00pm. Orientations for anyone who wants to join a build team will be at 10:00am, 1:00pm, and 5:00pm.

“This project has been an exhilarating and productive challenge for SALA students,” says SALA lecturer Bill Pechet. “They were asked to design beautiful block prototypes that anyone could use in construction. We’ll be putting the premise of the project and hundreds of these interlocking pieces to the test on July 13.”

People of all ages are welcome to participate. Register by emailing [upcycledurbanism@museumofvancouver.ca](mailto:upcycledurbanism@museumofvancouver.ca)

*Upcycled Urbanism is a Museum of Vancouver initiative in partnership with the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (SALA) at the University of British Columbia, the Vancouver Public Space Network (VPSN), Maker Faire Vancouver, and Spacing Magazine, with generous additional support from SALA, Mansonville Plastics, and the Vancouver Foundation.*

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*The Museum of Vancouver is an independent non-profit organization with the mandate to hold a mirror to the city and lead provocative conversations about its past, present, and future.*

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