

**Vancouver Community Connector  
Vancouver, Washington**

Landscape Architect:	Gustafson Guthrie Nichol
Client:	City of Vancouver; Fort Vancouver National Trust
Architect:	Allied Works Architecture
Engineer:	ARUP
Other consultants:	Beliz Brother, Public Artist



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**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

When Interstate 5 was built over a century ago, it took the place of an important historic trade route extending from present day Washington to California. While the historic route was a place for people to gather, the interstate formed a divide both physically and culturally, severing historic Fort Vancouver from Downtown Vancouver. This project reconnects the severed city by 'putting the land back' in the form of a landbridge spanning the divide.

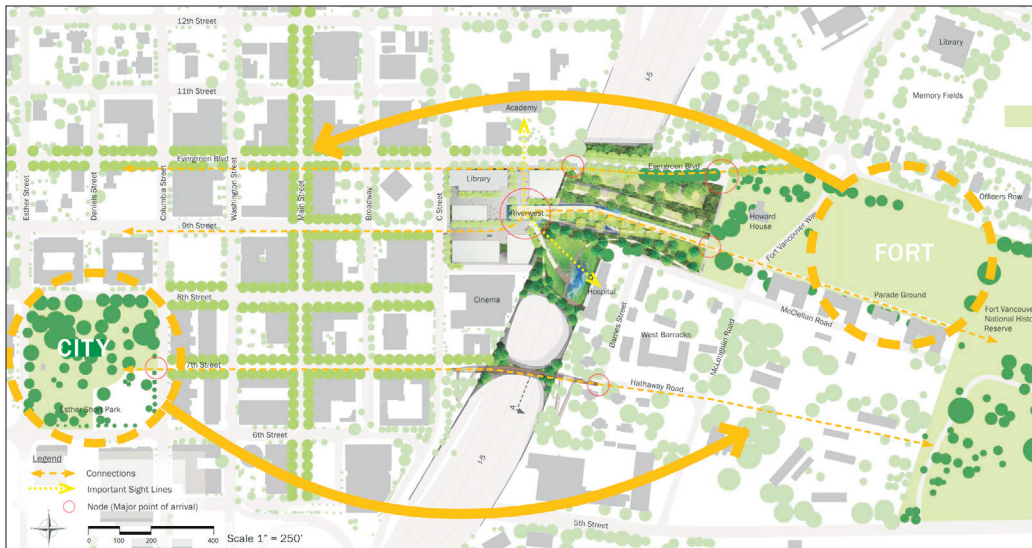
The Vancouver Community Connector is inspired by the elemental forces and cultural interventions of the region. It is intended to educate and instill a sense of wonder in the inherent beauty of this place. Designed to mask sound and span the widened interstate, the structural forms also reference Washington's geology. These forms are delineated into

a series of plates, fissures (translucent walls), and lifts (opaque walls), all of which reinforce that the Connector is land.

Entering Washington State on I-5, the Connector becomes a gateway for travelers. It creates the impression of moving through the earth, capturing glimpses of light and landscapes.

**JURY COMMENTS**

The jury was impressed with the very appealing way in which this design heals ancient rifts in the community fabric: restoring functional, environmental, and cultural connections. New pathways offer recreation and reconnection, while new meadows re-present the landscapes on either side, to be seen anew, long-damaged perceptions restored. Including an impressive gateway experience for interstate users, this compelling concept is an inspiring model for infrastructure transformation.



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