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Media Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AIBC Architectural Walking Tours Heighten Appreciation of Built Environment

Victoria, B.C.—Did you know that over 11,000 prisms are embedded in the sidewalks of downtown Victoria? This and many other facets of B.C.'s capital will be illuminated through the Architectural Institute of British Columbia's (AIBC) popular Architectural Walking Tours starting July 1. Three different tours will run on weekends throughout July and August, **starting on Canada Day!**

The AIBC is proud to offer Architectural Walking Tours of three Victoria and six Vancouver neighbourhoods. For locals and tourists alike, the tour program has proven to be an engaging way to learn about the architectural, cultural and social histories of two major British Columbian cities," says Mark Vernon, CEO of the AIBC.

Victoria tours include Canada's oldest Chinatown, historical Fort Victoria and James Bay—the childhood home of famed Canadian artist Emily Carr. Architectural Walking tour participants will experience:

1. **Chinatown:** Explore public plazas and back alleys from Yates Street to Waddington Alley and Johnson Street, the heart of Old town. Inspect surrounding examples of circa 1880's architecture, Market Square and Fan Tan Alley.
2. **Fort Victoria:** Learn about the development of Victoria, from a small Hudson's Bay company fur-trading fort to the provincial capital it is today. Follow the outline of the fort walls along Government Street, and learn about the architectural conservation and re-use strategies employed over time.
3. **James Bay:** Discover James Bay, Canada's oldest residential neighbourhood on the West Coast. Learn about the historic homes of some of Victoria's most influential residents, dating back to the days of colonial administration. Explore houses built in architectural styles from Queen Anne Cottages to Arts & Crafts, many of which have been designated as Provincial Heritage Sites.

"Whether you're looking to explore key Victoria neighbourhoods or engage in an active and social learning opportunity suitable for all ages, the AIBC's affordable and accessible Architectural Walking Tours are sure to heighten your appreciation of the built environment," says Pauline Schipani-Deschryver, Lead Tour Guide with the AIBC.

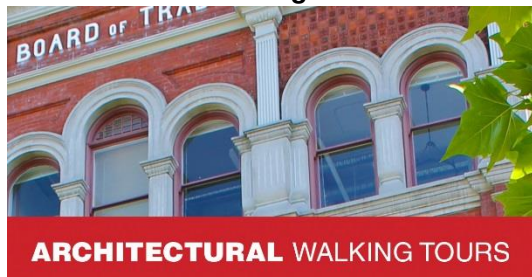
Architectural Walking Tours are \$10 and run throughout July and August. Tours are available on weekends at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Victoria. Space is limited, so the public is invited to visit

www.aibc.ca/tours, email tours@aibc.ca or call 1.800.667.0753 (toll free in B.C.) to book a tour today!

Tours begin outside the Tourism Victoria Visitor Centre at 812 Wharf Street and the AIBC asks that participants arrive 15 minutes before departure time. A distance of 3 kilometres (2 miles) is covered over a period of 1.5 to 2 hours.

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Event Calendar Listing



Event: Architectural Walking Tours

Dates: July 1-August 31, 2016

Times: Weekends at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Looking to explore key Victoria neighbourhoods or engage in an active and social learning opportunity suitable for all ages? The Architectural Institute of British Columbia's affordable and accessible

Architectural Walking Tours are a great way to spend a summer morning or afternoon. To expand your knowledge of Chinatown, Fort Victoria or James Bay, visit www.aibc.ca/tours and book your tour today!

Social Media Message

Learn about Chinatown, Fort Victoria or James Bay with @AIBCCConnected's Architectural Walking Tours! www.aibc.ca/tours #YYJ #ExploreBC

Photos, Interviews, Media Passes and Backgrounder Available

- High-resolution **photos** available on Flickr: <http://bit.ly/28TCBf2>
- To set up an **interview** and/or join a **complimentary tour**, please contact Communications Specialist Christine Leclerc (details below).
- Download **Backgrounder**: <http://bit.ly/28R3HBH>

Media Contact

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About the AIBC

The Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC) is an independent, professional self-regulatory body established in 1920 by provincial statute (the *Architects Act*) with the mandate to regulate the profession of architecture on behalf of the public. For more information about the AIBC, please visit www.aibc.ca.