

NWXR 2025: Beyond the Stage

Embodied Mapping in Public Space – A Series of Interdisciplinary Workshops

In the 2025 season, NWXR invites artists, technologists, and creative explorers to reimagine Vancouver as a living, breathing canvas. Through a series of interdisciplinary workshops led by Avidah Saadatpajouh, XR Program Coordinator for 2025, and featuring guest facilitators and lecturers, we'll explore how movement, extended reality (XR), and sensory experiences can transform urban spaces into stages for embodied navigation.

This program creates a collaborative space where creativity flows freely, the process is the purpose, and the city becomes a participatory landscape. Dance becomes both a guide and a map, leading us into unexpected relationships with the spaces we inhabit and each other.

Participants will learn from a dynamic cohort of peers and guest experts, each bringing unique perspectives and tools to inspire exploration and expand creative boundaries. Through a chain of workshops, outcomes from each session will be passed to the next, allowing participants to build on traces and offerings left behind. From augmented movement trails to sensory-driven waypoints, the methodologies are open and emergent—it's up to the group to discover and shape the work collectively.

Each workshop offers opportunities to explore new tools, perspectives, and collaborative approaches. The series culminates in a shared space for learning, reflection, and celebration. Join us in this playful, rhizomatic exploration of movement, technology, and community, and let's imagine new ways of connecting with the city and each other.

Call for Participation – Winter & Spring 2025

What if the city could teach us something new about collaboration, creativity, and connection? **NWXR 2025: Beyond the Stage** invites you on a seven-week journey to explore how text, movement, senses, and technology can transform our urban landscape into a shared canvas. Through workshops and a culminating jam session, we'll discover, create, and learn from one another in a collaborative environment that celebrates the journey over the destination.

What You'll Learn

As a participant, you'll:

- **Explore Interdisciplinary Approaches:**

- Experiment with text, movement, sensorial experiences, and technology.
- Learn how to integrate different creative practices into your own.
- **Enhance Your Creative Tools:**
 - Develop skills in storytelling, choreography, XR tools, and soundscapes.
 - Discover new ways to engage with urban spaces.
- **Collaborate Across Disciplines:**
 - Gain insight into the creative processes of peers from diverse fields.
 - Practice collective creation, learning to adapt and expand on others' ideas.
- **Reflect and Build Community:**
 - Participate in open dialogues and shared reflections.
 - Celebrate creativity in a non-hierarchical, inclusive environment.

The final jam session offers a unique space to weave together our collective learnings and imaginings. It's not about producing a polished piece—it's about playing, experimenting, and discovering what emerges when we bring together our shared skills, ideas, and experiences.

Program Structure

- **Duration:** 7 weeks (January 18th to March 30th, 2025)
- **Workshop Capacity:** 8-10 participants per workshop
- **Format:**
 - **Weeks 1–6: Exploration Workshops**
 - Each week is guided by a different creative focus:
 1. **Textual Exploration:** How words and stories can map emotions onto the city. (Sarah Finn)
 2. **Movement Exploration:** Using the body as a tool for navigation and communication. (TBD)
 3. **Sensorial Exploration:** Engaging all senses to rediscover urban spaces. (Avidéh Saadat Pajouh)
 4. **Technological Exploration:** Merging digital tools like XR with artistic practice. (TBD)
 5. **Collaborative Fusion:** Intertwining insights from previous workshops. (TBD)
 6. **Creative Expansion:** Building and reflecting on collective ideas.
 - **Creative Chain:** Each workshop cohort will pass its outcomes—be it movements, sounds, texts, or digital traces—to the next group as an offering to expand or transform.
 - **Week 7: Final Jam Session**
 - A shared space for **interdisciplinary reflection, learning, and play.**
 - Participants from all workshops come together to explore what we've created collectively.
 - An open, collaborative session designed to celebrate process, not performance.

- Public work-in-progress sharing at the Roundhouse Community Centre, Sunday, March 30, 2025
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Why Participate?

- **Be Part of a Creative Community:**
 - Connect with others who share a passion for interdisciplinary exploration.
 - Learn from and collaborate with artists, dancers, technologists, sound designers, and writers.
 - **Expand Your Artistic Practice:**
 - Gain hands-on experience in new creative approaches and tools.
 - Use the city itself as your canvas, stage, and source of inspiration.
 - **Celebrate Process Over Product:**
 - This is about learning and experimenting—not about a polished final result.
 - The jam session lets you reflect on what we've discovered together.
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Who Should Apply?

We welcome individuals from all disciplines and experience levels who are curious about:

- Collaborative creation and non-hierarchical processes
- Merging art, technology, and urban exploration
- Learning from diverse creative practices

This program is perfect for:

- **Artists and Writers:** Interested in storytelling and textual exploration.
 - **Dancers and Movers:** Excited to navigate the city through embodied gestures.
 - **Sensory Enthusiasts:** Who find inspiration in sound, textures, smells, and visuals.
 - **Technologists:** Passionate about using XR and other digital tools to enhance creative work.
 - **Interdisciplinary Creators:** Looking to collaborate and experiment with new approaches.
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Participation Details

- **Commitment:**

- Attend one or more workshops and, if possible, join the final jam session.
 - Engage with your cohort's offerings and build on them thoughtfully.
 - **Free workshops:**
 - We believe the knowledge sharing should be accessible.
 - **Accessibility:**
 - If you need additional resources (e.g., travel subsidies, childcare), let us know in your application.
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How to Apply

1. [Complete the Participation Form](#)
2. **Indicate the Workshop(s)** you'd like to attend.
3. **Submit Your Responses by December 20, 2024.**

Please complete the Participant Form to secure your place in this limited capacity program, including learning and showcasing opportunities.

There may be limited ad-hoc opportunities to engage and learn as part of this program as space allows, but can not be guaranteed. Respondents to the Participant Form shared before December 20 will be prioritized as full program participants.

If you have a question, email avideh@newworks.ca with the subject line *NWXR 2025 Questions*.

Join Us

Reimagine Vancouver as a city alive with movement, text, sound, and digital echoes. Let's explore together, weaving a carpet of ideas and offerings across disciplines. Whether you join for one workshop or the full series, your voice and vision will help us map this creative journey.

Apply now to be part of **NWXR 2025: Beyond the Stage**, where the city becomes our shared space for learning, reflection, and imagination.