

SEA CHANGE POETICS // CHALK TALK WALK

ASSEMBLY • 2017 • SEATTLE

Part of the "Out in the City" Activities

FRIDAY, APRIL 21 3-6PM

Guided by
Artist Buster Simpson

Chalk, the CaCO_3
instrument and implement
of our chalk talk walk.

Chalk, the shell and bone
of living matter
and carbon burial.

Chalk, the ephemeral
communication medium
purged and mitigating
washed away into rain.

Chalk, the stopgap
pharmaceutical antidote
to our increasingly
acidic anthropocene planet.



ALASKAN WAY VIADUCT

After a short introduction at the W Hotel, our Friday afternoon walk will take us to the Seattle Waterfront. Here two major infrastructure projects are underway: the new Seattle Seawall replacement and the adjacent seismically compromised Alaskan Way Viaduct, soon to be demolished. These large concrete viaduct columns, relics of our petroleum/carbon culture will be our “carbon blackboard” to share our chalk talk assessments from a pedestrian point of view. Might the large footings of these columns be repurposed as the next generation’s seawall buttress as higher tides from climate change begin to lap at their base?



Alaskan Way column indigenous chalk talk



Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington Workshop, Alaskan Way Viaduct





SEA RISE
TRUMPS
DENIAL

BATTERY STREET TUNNEL

As we Chalk Talk Walk our way north along the waterfront, the decommissioned 1950s viaduct structure transitions to a lidded Battery Street Tunnel, soon to be abandoned and replaced by a deeper larger tunnel nearing completion. Currently WSDOT plans to backfill and seal the Battery Street Tunnel, but the Belltown Community is lobbying to repurpose this valuable space as a civic asset. With an obsolete combined storm and sewer system, Belltown could reimagine the Tunnel as a gift of sustainable urban infrastructure showcasing green strategies of stormwater management and gray and black water reuse. Here at the Battery Street Tunnel, our Chalk Talk Walk transitions to marking our assessments on the sidewalk. Where will your assessments be?



West portal, Battery Street Tunnel



Volumetric assessment, Battery Street Tunnel



Capacity assessment, 1st Avenue



Water table assessment, 1st Avenue



Collective assessment, Vine Street



Vertical self-maintaining assessment, Vine Street

GROWING VINE STREET

A nearby example of an innovative green engineering approach to urban watershed design is “Growing Vine Street”, developed in 1998. Growing Vine Street is a series of projects that either capture stormwater for reuse or allow it to infiltrate locally, biomitigating toxins and creating habitat.

After the Chalk Talk Walk, we will compile our assessments as digital photo documentation and present to the Assembly during the Cocktail Reception at Seattle Art Museum 6-9pm.



We distill our assessments to foster graceful migration, resilient infrastructure, slow growth and seventh generation planning. What are our happenstance whisperings to the present and future?

Community assessment, Vine Street