



UBC WELCOME CENTRE

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS SELF-GUIDED TOUR

ESTIMATED DURATION: ABOUT 60 MINUTES, PLUS
TIME TO VISIT ATTRACTIONS

DISTANCE: 3 KILOMETRES

This self-guided walking tour will orient you to campus and help you get a feel for UBC life.

We'll take you to some iconic spots and point out a few beloved student hangouts.

We'll show you some of Vancouver's best attractions, located right here on campus.

(Check hours in advance at visit.ubc.ca.)

Along the way, we'll share a bit of history and insider tips on where to eat and explore.

Curious? Let's get started.

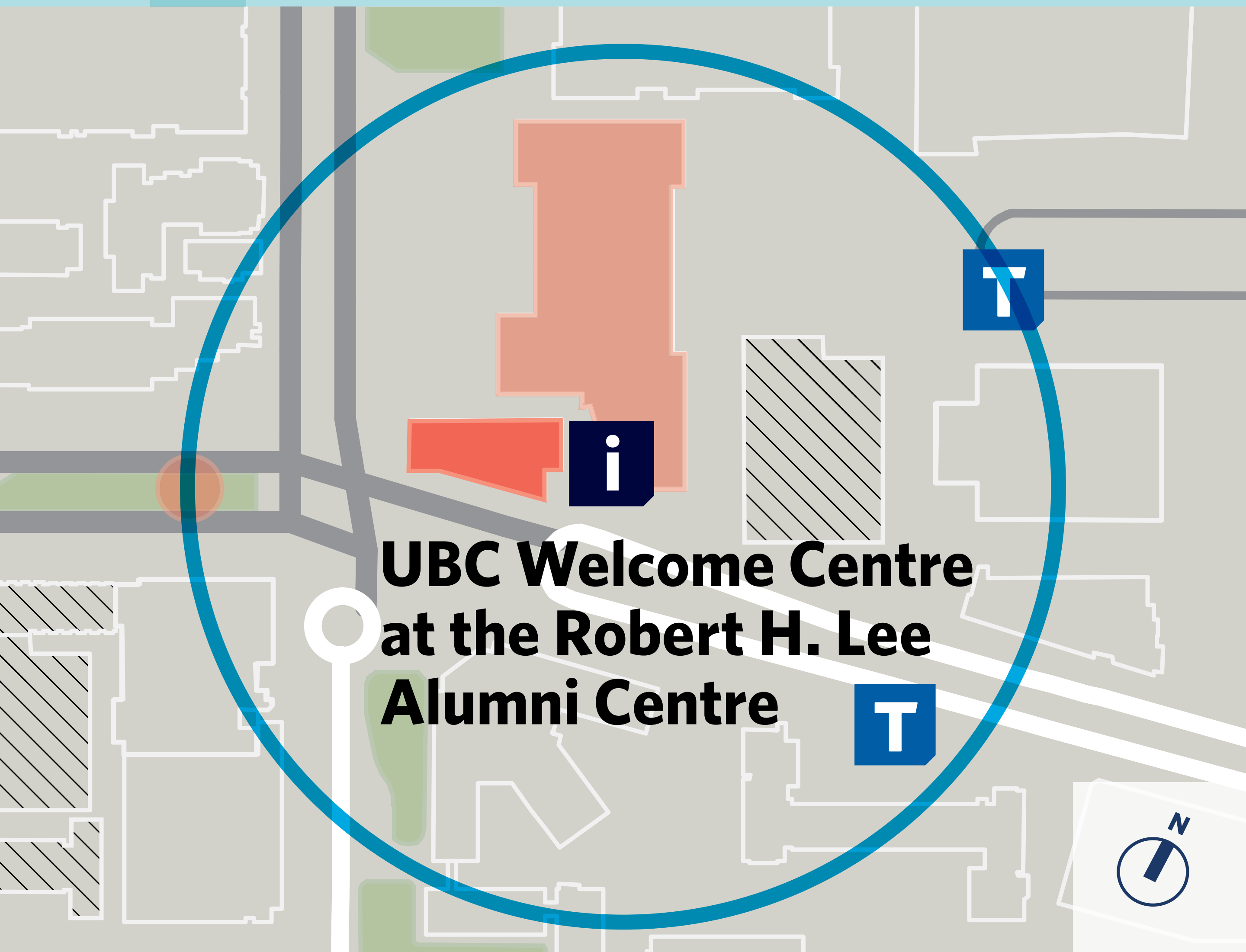
ROUTE OVERVIEW



UBC WELCOME CENTRE IN THE ROBERT H. LEE ALUMNI CENTRE



1. UBC WELCOME CENTRE IN THE ROBERT H. LEE ALUMNI CENTRE



HOW TO GET HERE

- The UBC Welcome Centre is located on the first floor of the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre (6163 University Blvd).
- It's a five-minute walk from UBC's main transit hubs.

1. UBC WELCOME CENTRE IN THE ROBERT H. LEE ALUMNI CENTRE

You're standing at the friendly front door to our campus. We're happy to answer your questions and provide maps here. If you're an alumnus or alumna, check out the interactive wall—you can search for your name or that of anyone you know who graduated from UBC.

DID YOU KNOW?

Famous UBC alumni include Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, actor Kim Cattrall and inclusivity advocate Rick Hansen.

sʔi:ɬqə́y qeqən (DOUBLE-HEADED SERPENT POST)



“sʔi:ɬqə́y qeqən (double-headed serpent post)”
Brent Sparrow Jr., Musqueam, UBC Vancouver campus

2. sʔi:ɬqəy̓ qeqən (DOUBLE-HEADED SERPENT POST)



HOW TO GET HERE

- Outside the Welcome Centre, head west about 100 metres on University Boulevard.

2. sʔi:ɬqəy̓ qeqən (DOUBLE-HEADED SERPENT POST)

UBC's Vancouver campus is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam people. This post, carved by Musqueam artist Brent Sparrow Jr., was raised to recognize Musqueam's history and presence on this land. It depicts the origin story of the Musqueam people.

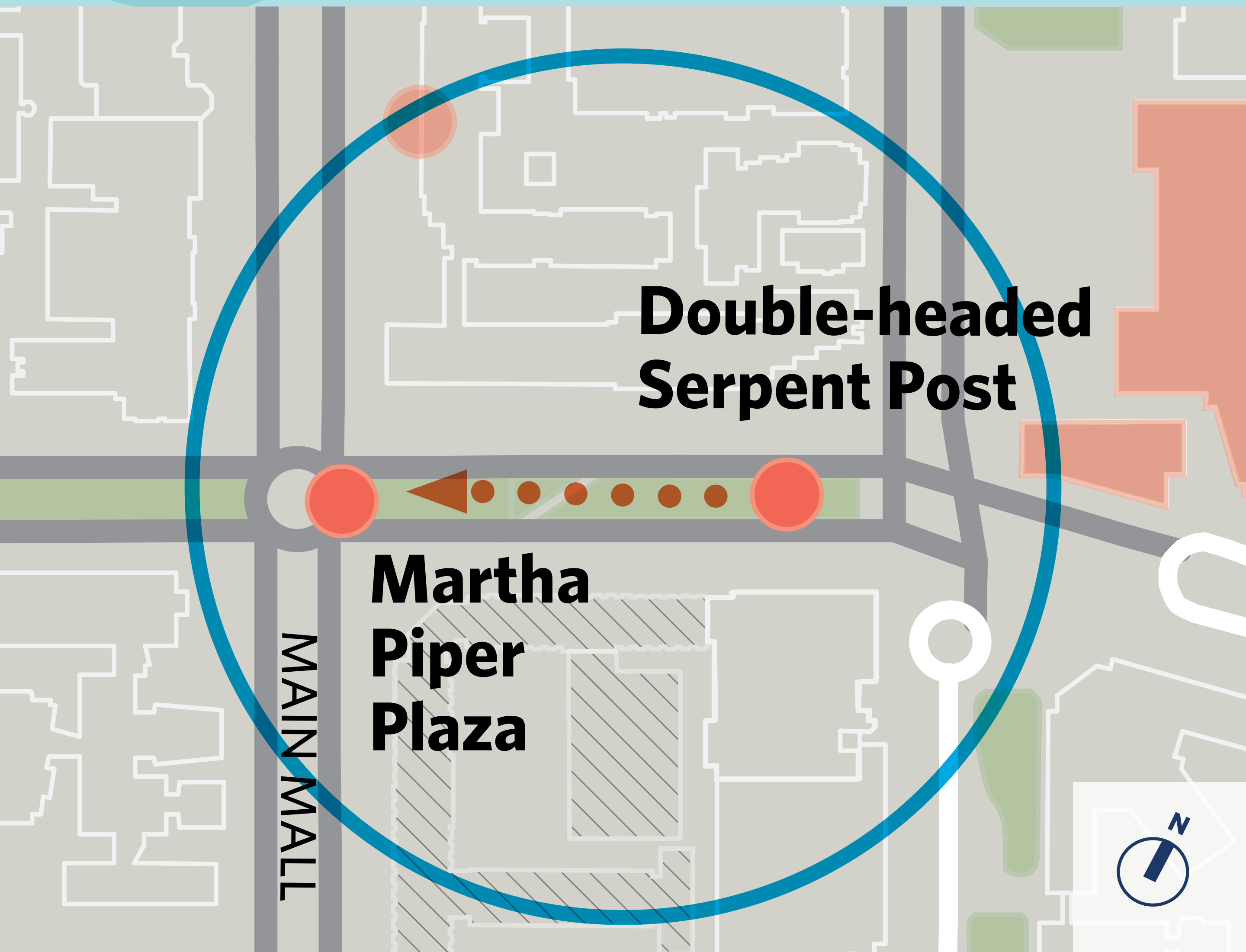
WHAT'S NEARBY?

The UBC Bookstore. You'll find souvenirs like UBC T-shirts and mugs, electronics, snacks—and umbrellas if you need one.

3 MARTHA PIPER PLAZA



3. MARTHA PIPER PLAZA



HOW TO GET HERE

- Continue to walk west about 180 metres on University Boulevard until you reach Main Mall.

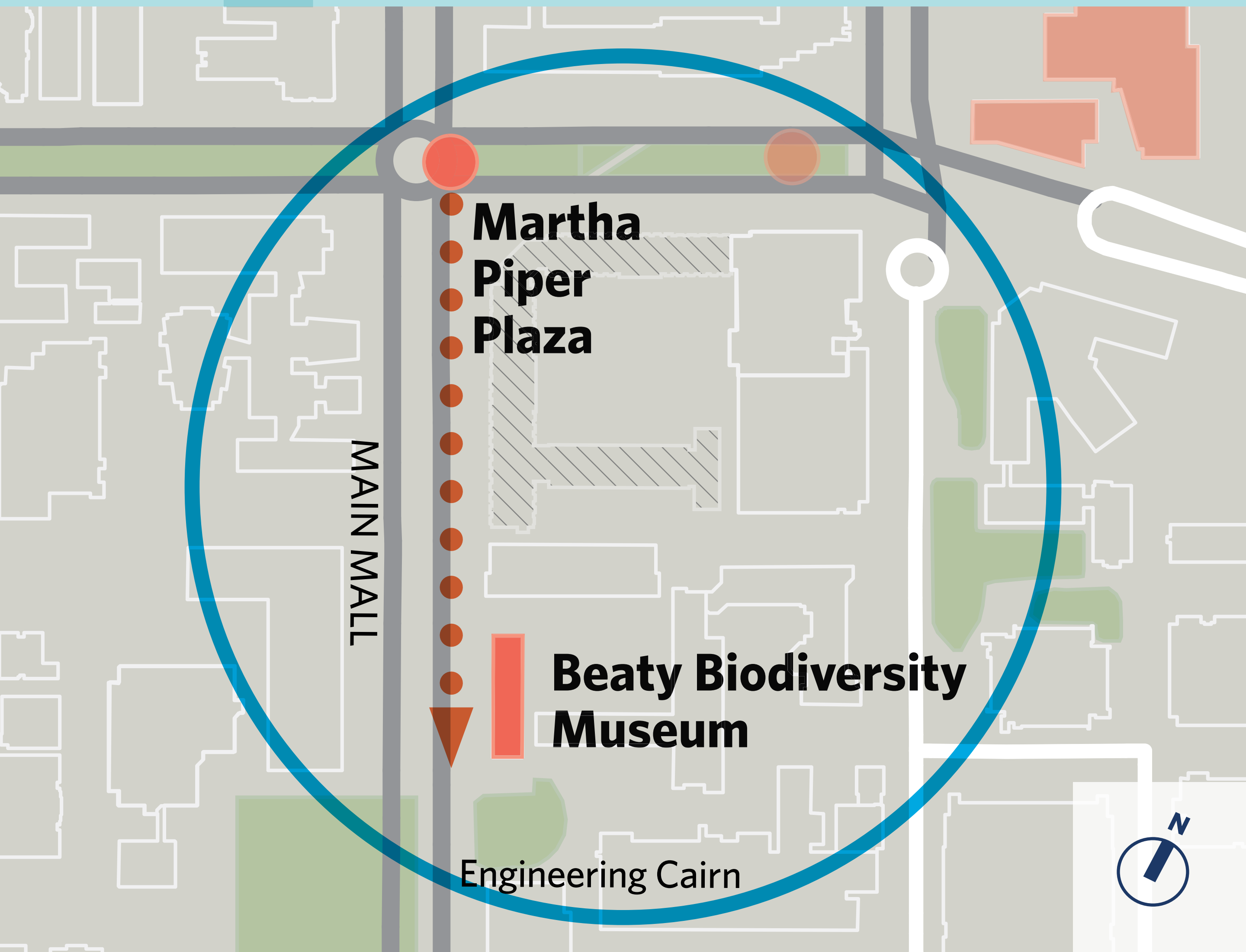
3. MARTHA PIPER PLAZA

Located at the intersection of University Boulevard and Main Mall, the Martha Piper Plaza — named in honour of UBC's 11th president — offers a bit of respite along one of the busiest pedestrian intersections on campus. This fountain is a popular meeting spot as it's roughly in the centre of campus.

BEATY BIODIVERSITY MUSEUM



4. BEATY BIODIVERSITY MUSEUM



HOW TO GET HERE

- Head south about 200 metres on Main Mall. You'll see the museum displaying its whale skeleton on the left.
- *Estimated visiting time: 20 minutes (There is an admission fee to enter the museum.)*

4. BEATY BIODIVERSITY MUSEUM

This natural history museum, which is also a working research museum, aims to educate people about the importance of biodiversity. Inside, you'll find fossils, shells, insects, birds, reptiles and plants from around British Columbia and the world.

The skeleton you see through the windows is Canada's largest blue whale skeleton.

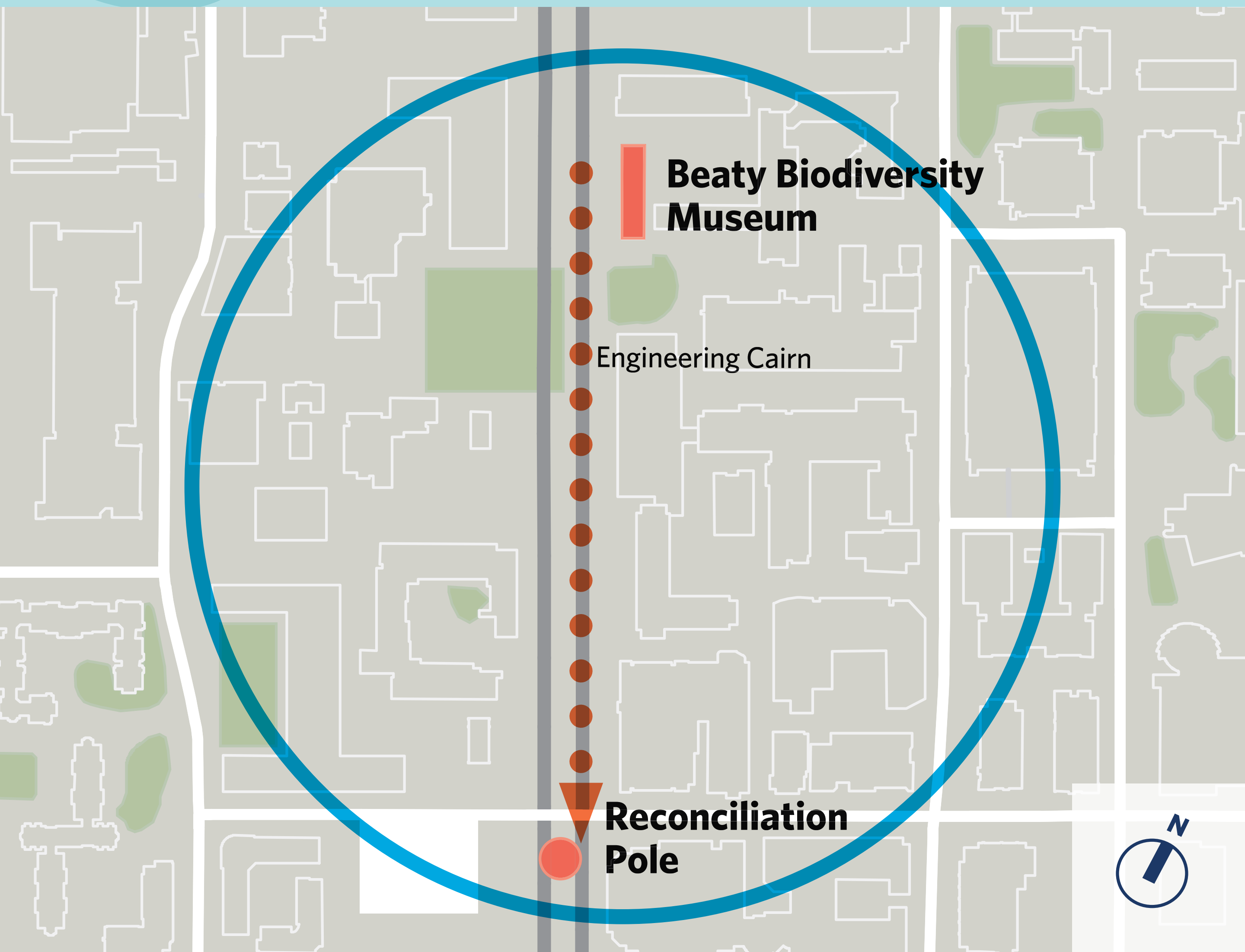
The whale washed up on a beach on Prince Edward Island in 1987, most likely after colliding with a ship.

5 RECONCILIATION POLE



Reconciliation Pole
7idansuu (Edenshaw), James Hart
UBC Vancouver campus

5. RECONCILIATION POLE



HOW TO GET HERE

- Walk south on Main Mall about 400 metres.

ON YOUR WAY LOOK OUT FOR:

The Big E. That's the Engineers' Cairn, an iconic spot for pranksters on campus who try to claim the letter as their own. By tradition, UBC engineers have 24 hours after a prank to return the Big E to its original condition.

5. RECONCILIATION POLE

Reconciliation Pole recognizes the complex history of Canada's Indian Residential Schools. The 17-metre-high pole was carved from 800-year-old cedar that came from Haida Gwaii in Northern BC. It was carved under the direction of hereditary chief 7idansuu (Edenshaw), James Hart, and raised in the traditional Haida manner in 2017.

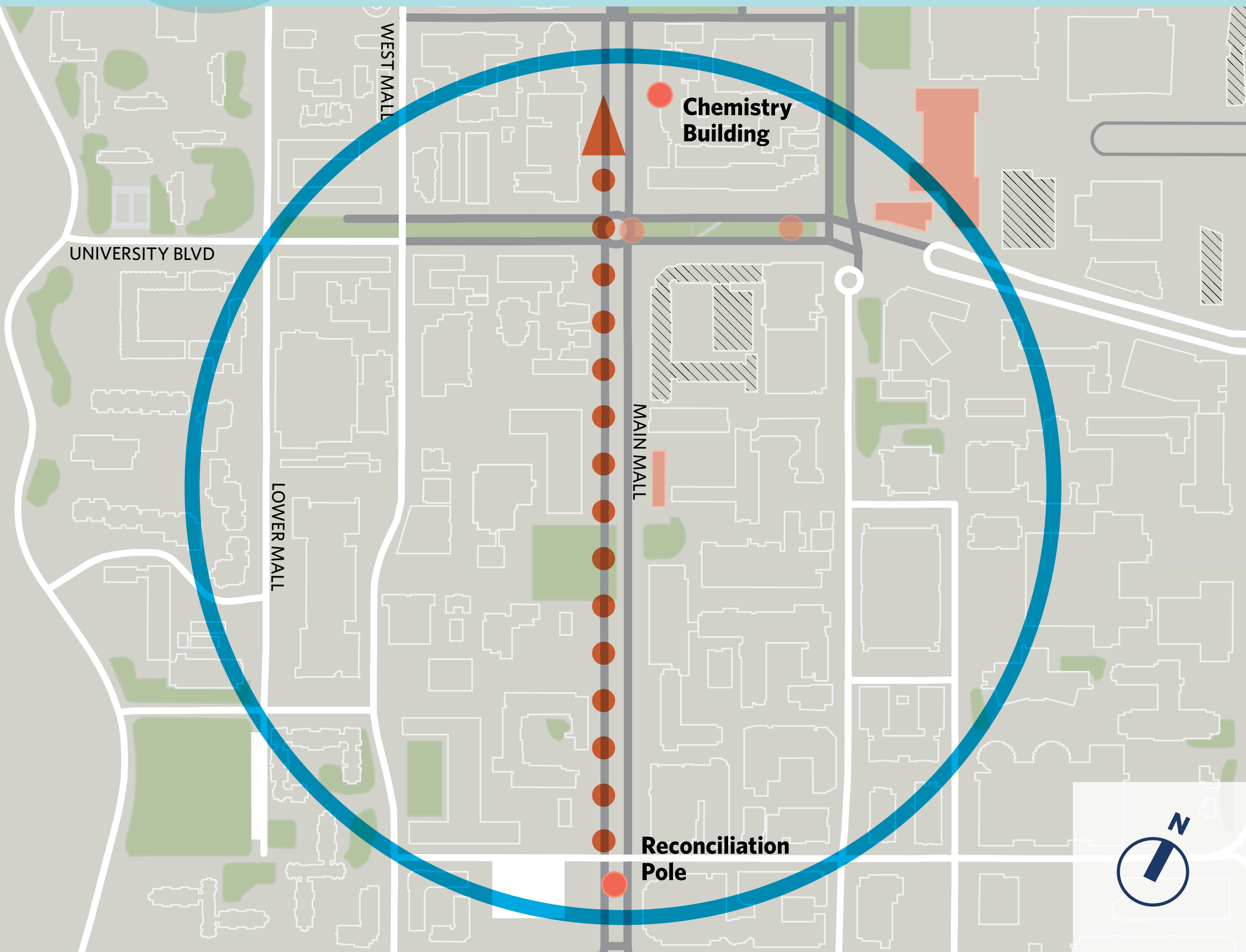
Residential schools, instituted by the Canadian government, operated for more than 100 years with the last school closing in 1996. The schools forcibly separated an estimated 150,000 children from their parents, community and culture.

From bottom to top, the pole details the time before, during and after Indian Residential Schools through traditional Haida symbols and contemporary imagery.

CHEMISTRY BUILDING



6. CHEMISTRY BUILDING



HOW TO GET HERE

- Turn around and retrace your path north on Main Mall past Martha Piper Plaza. After about 750 metres, you'll see a stone building on your right.

6. CHEMISTRY BUILDING

The chemistry building was one of the first buildings at UBC and is a big part of university lore.

In 1908, the BC government created UBC on paper, and the Point Grey peninsula was chosen as the permanent site for the campus. But the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 halted campus development, including the preliminary construction of the chemistry building. So UBC opened in facilities and shacks previously occupied by McGill University College of British Columbia (in the area that is now known as Vancouver General Hospital) and amalgamated that student body into UBC.

Students and faculty viewed the shacks as temporary, but as the student body kept growing and no development ensued,



frustration grew. In October 1922, students organized a petition and embarked on a “Building the University” campaign known as the Great Trek. They trekked from Fairview to the Point Grey peninsula to occupy the walls of the chemistry building, as seen below.



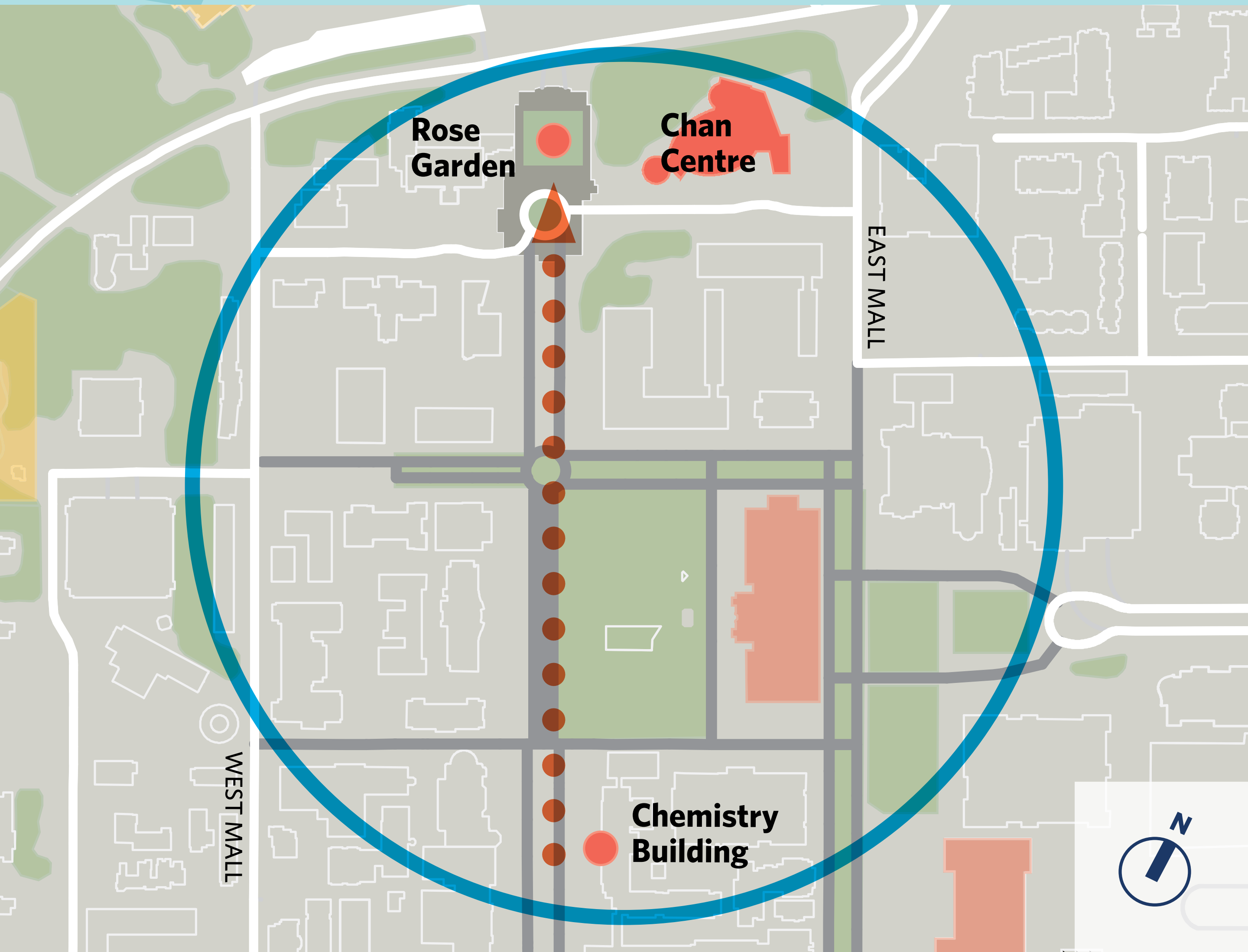
DID YOU KNOW?

Neil Bartlett's groundbreaking discovery of the first noble gas compound in 1962 occurred in this chemistry building.

ROSE GARDEN AND CHAN CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



7. ROSE GARDEN AND CHAN CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



HOW TO GET HERE

- Walk north on Main Mall about 450 metres towards the flag pole. You'll see the garden at the end and the Chan Centre on your right.

7. ROSE GARDEN AND CHAN CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Look at that view! On a clear day, this grassy area offers a beautiful vista of mountains and ocean. With over 50 varieties of roses and plenty of benches on which to relax, this is a wonderful place to take a break.

Adjacent to the garden is the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, a popular venue for music, theatre and film screenings. Past performers and guest speakers include Anoushka Shankar, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Yo-Yo Ma and Herbie Hancock. Shaped like a cello inside, the Chan Shun Concert Hall boasts stellar acoustics.

CHOOSE YOUR ROUTE:

Follow the optional attractions loop below, or [tap here to continue on the main tour.](#)

OPTIONAL ATTRACTIONS LOOP (1.2 KM)



HOW TO GET TO NITOBE MEMORIAL GARDEN

- Head west Crescent Road and walk 170 metres. Turn left on West Mall and walk 140 metres. Turn right on Memorial Road and walk 130 metres. Turn right on Lower Mall. The entrance to the garden is ahead.
- *Estimated visiting time: 15 minutes (There is an admission fee to enter the garden.)*

OPTIONAL ATTRACTIONS LOOP



NITOBE MEMORIAL GARDEN

Considered to be one of the most authentic Japanese gardens outside of Japan, this garden honours Inazo Nitobe, whose goal was to build a bridge across the Pacific. It was designed to create a reverence for and sense of harmony with nature. The Tea House hosts traditional Japanese tea ceremonies throughout the summer.

OPTIONAL ATTRACTIONS LOOP (1.2 KM)



HOW TO GET TO THE MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY

- Walk north down a path through the forest. Turn right when you reach Marine Drive and walk east alongside it. At the intersection, cross Marine Drive and walk north.
- *Estimated visiting time: 60 minutes (There is an admission fee to enter the museum.)*

OPTIONAL ATTRACTIONS LOOP



MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Designed by Canadian architect Arthur Erickson, this museum houses one of the world's finest displays of Northwest Coast art, including works by Bill Reid. It also features extensive collections from Asia and Oceania.

DID YOU KNOW?

You might notice signs around campus that read “Today Your Host Is...” followed by the name of a First Nation. If you look closely, you’ll also notice that the signs feature British Columbia written backwards.

The signs collectively make up *Native Hosts*, an art exhibit by Hock E Aye VI Edgar Heap of Birds. The work aims to shed light on colonial history, land claims, public space, and thoughts of generosity and sharing. Each sign does not mark the traditional territory of the First Nation it names; the UBC Vancouver campus is located entirely on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

OPTIONAL ATTRACTIONS LOOP (1.2 KM)



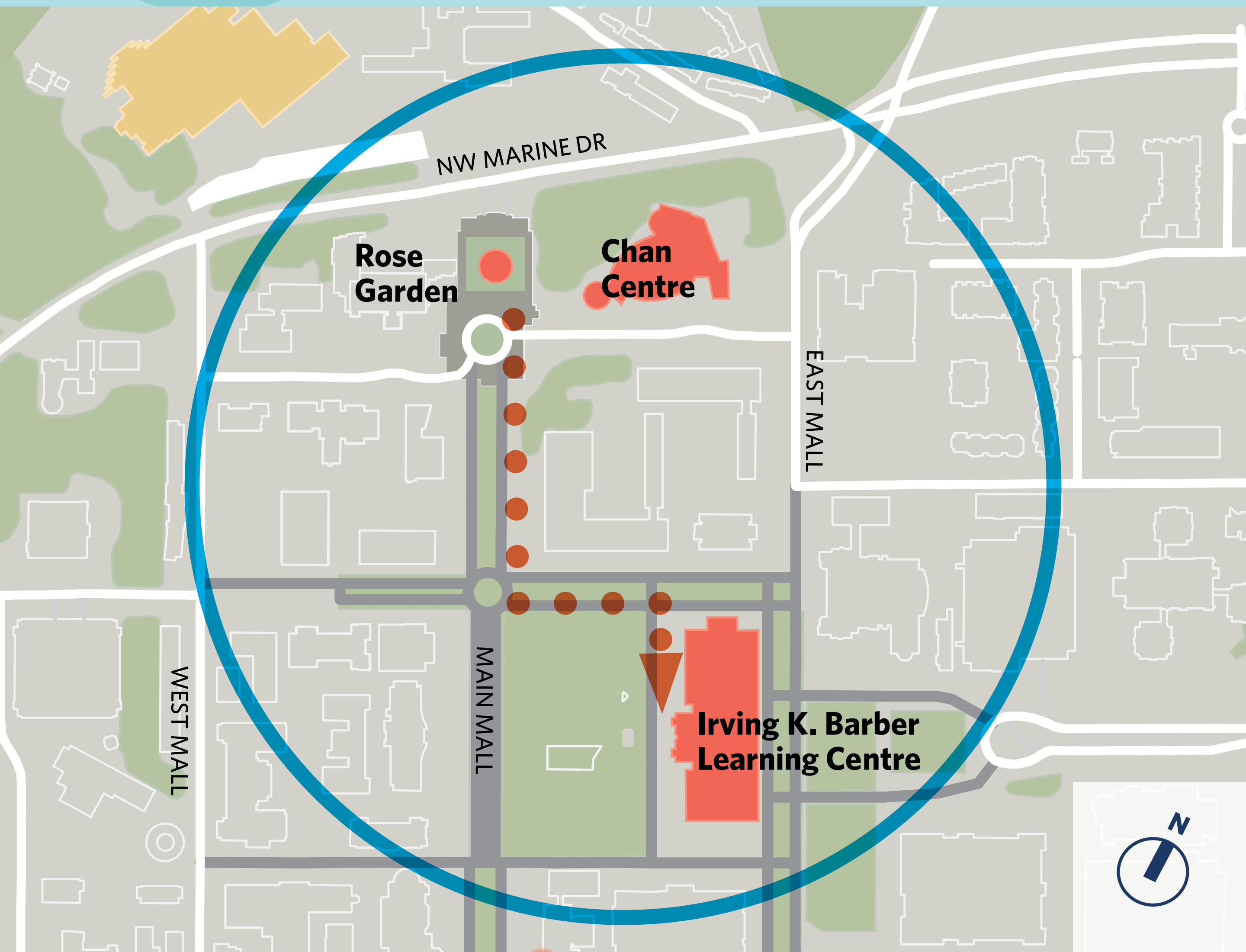
HOW TO RETURN TO MAIN ROUTE

- Cross Marine Drive at the intersection. Head east along Marine Drive until you reach the Rose Garden Parkade. Turn right and head west up the stairs beside the garden.

IRVING K. BARBER LEARNING CENTRE



8. IRVING K. BARBER LEARNING CENTRE



HOW TO GET HERE

- Walk south on Main Mall for 140 metres.
- Turn left on Memorial Road and walk 75 metres.
- Turn right onto a pathway and walk another 50 metres to the front of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre.



8. IRVING K. BARBER LEARNING CENTRE

Formerly the Main Library, this building dates back to 1925. A 2008 renovation added modern glass wings while retaining the old gothic style. Inside, the Riddington Room is often referred to as the “Harry Potter” room.

DID YOU KNOW?

UBC was the first academic library in Canada to use a robotic warehouse system for automated retrieval and storage of materials.

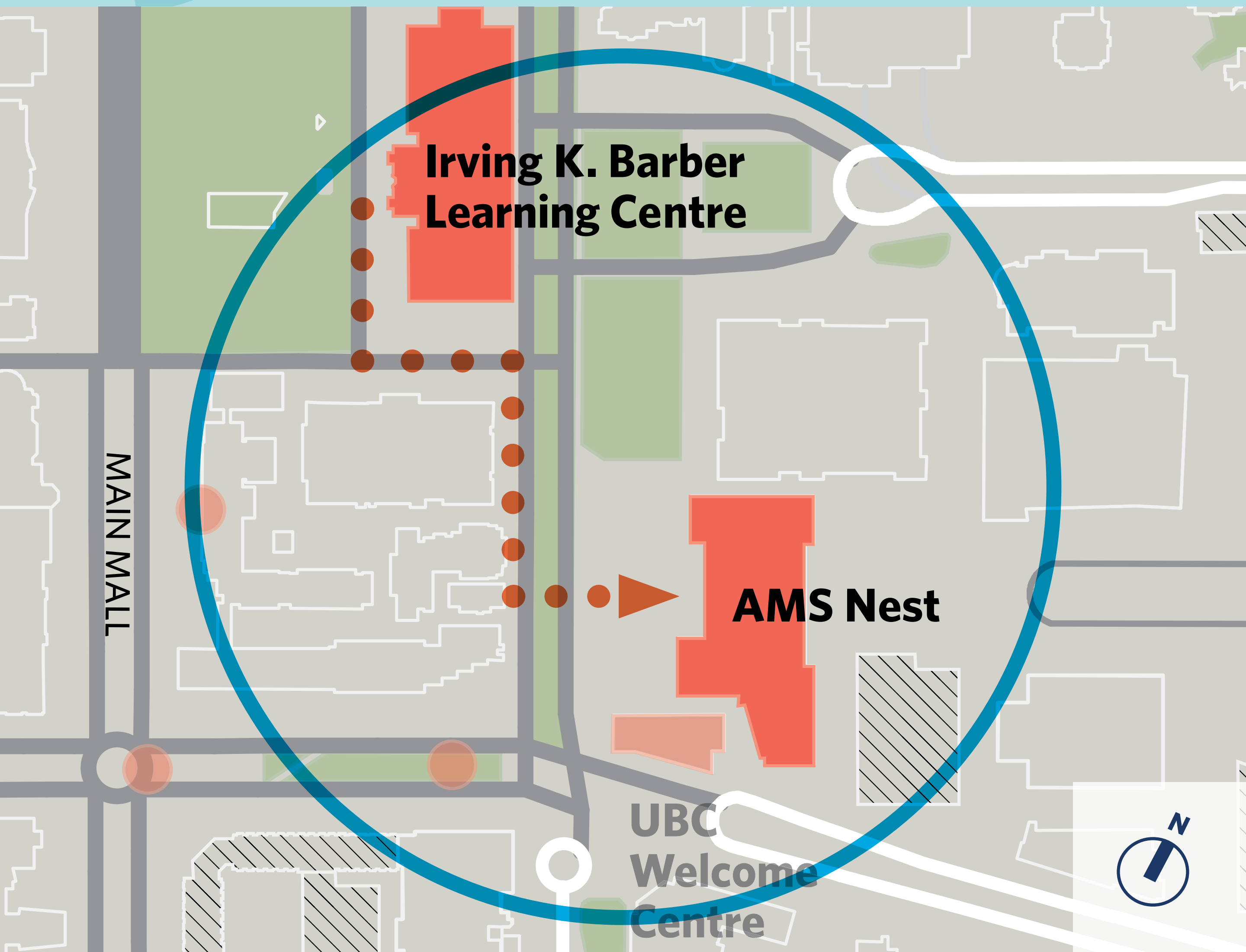
INSIDER TIP

Located inside the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, Ike’s Café is a good place to pull apart one of UBC’s beloved cinnamon buns.

AMS STUDENT NEST



9. AMS STUDENT NEST



HOW TO GET HERE

- Walk south along the pathway in front of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. Turn left at Agricultural Road and walk 120 metres.
- Turn right and walk south along East Mall for 170 metres. The AMS Student Nest will be on your left, across a large plaza.

9. AMS STUDENT NEST

This sustainable LEED Platinum Certified building is UBC's third student union building, which replaced the old SUB next door in 2015. Run by the UBC Alma Mater Society, it was built by the students for the students as a community space. It's a hub of activity with many places to eat, study, shop and socialize—there's even a rock climbing wall.

INSIDER TIP

Try the Marbelous cookie at Blue Chip Café or the made-to-order sandwiches at The Delly.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Pit Pub, located in the lower level of the Nest, is the successor to AMS' legendary



student bar. The original pub opened in 1973 after UBC associate professor David Suzuki—known for his environmental activism—wrote an article for *UBC Reports* entitled “What this Campus Needs is a Pub.” After advocating for a liquor license for the SUB, Suzuki named the original basement pub “The Pit.”

WHAT’S NEARBY?

The AMS Nest is next door to the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre, which is where this tour started. Feel free to return to the UBC Welcome Centre for information and directions elsewhere on campus.

We hope you enjoyed your visit!

