

Short Bio

Designing for Public Space (Jean Chisholm, Charlotte Falk, and Laura Kozak) is a design research team affiliated with Emily Carr University in Vancouver, Canada that investigates human-scale matters situated in the public realm. Stewardship, incremental change and place-based knowledge are defining values in our work with land trusts, municipalities, social service organizations, and schools.

Full Group Bio (308 words)

Designing for Public Space is a Canadian design research team that investigates human-scale matters situated in the public realm. Our work is situated on unceded, traditional and ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and səliilwətaʔɫ (Tseil-Waututh), as well as the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh. We are affiliated with Emily Carr University of Art + Design (Vancouver, B.C.), and collaborate with land trusts, municipalities, Indigenous social service organizations, and schools to develop prototyping methods for site-specific interventions in public space. Utilizing principles adapted from architecture, urban design, industrial design and community engagement practices, our projects consider context, way-finding, materiality and scale; as well as collaborative and practical aspects of working in public space. Stewardship, incremental change and place-based knowledge are defining values in our work.

Jean Chisholm (MDes) is from Prince George, BC, and lives and works in Vancouver as a communication designer and researcher. Her research explores community engagement, local identities, and transitions towards sustainable ways of living, often with a focus on her hometown and other northern Canadian communities.

Charlotte Falk (MArch) is an interdisciplinary designer and educator working in public art, industrial design, communication design, and architecture. Her practice considers how materiality and technique impact design processes. Since 2011, Falk has worked as a project designer supporting artists in the realization of permanent public art projects across Canada. She is a Lecturer at Emily Carr University of Art + Design and an Instructor at Langara College, Fine Arts Department.

Laura Kozak (MASArch) is a design researcher and community organizer. She has built partnerships and collaborated on projects with local and international artists, designers and cultural organizations for 15 years. A core interest in collaborative design of the urban environment informs her research and teaching practice. She teaches in the Jake Kerr Faculty of Graduate Studies at Emily Carr University of Art + Design.