



A Walk Across Space and Time

A walk and talk in and around 259 Lakeshore Blvd East

Saturday, November 30, 2019 | 1:30 - 4:00 PM

**TORONTO
BIENNIAL
OF ART**

Sept
21 —
Dec 1,
2019

Toronto Biennial of Art Programs: Storytelling

How do we learn and listen with the lake? Taking up experiential and artist led approaches, the Toronto Biennial of Arts Public Programming & Learning explores issues, practices, and methodologies related to The Shoreline Dilemma. Within this context, the Storytelling stream seeks to shift the medi-ation of contemporary art away from conventional modes of interpreting and informing to narrating and embodying through weekly walks and conversations.

A Walk Across Space and Time takes participants through places that embody different (and often contradictory) ideas about what it means to live in relation to Lake Ontario. The distance between today's waterfront and the lake edge of the Toronto Purchase includes monuments to trade and industry, like the Redpath Sugar Factory and the Saint Lawrence Market. It crosses major roadways, like Lakeshore Avenue and the Gardiner Expressway, and pedestrian streets, like the lanes of the Saint Lawrence neighborhood. It passes through new public spaces that aim to reconnect everyday life to the lake. As we walk and talk with special guests James Roche, Sandy Smith and Grandmother Kim Wheatley, we'll invite observations and conversations about the constant (and constantly changing) relationships among land, water and inhabitation. The walk will end at a temporary field station installed at the Bi-ennial site on 259 Lakeshore Blvd E; there, we invite participants to record and share what they've encountered and reflected on.

This walk and installation form part of a long-term research project cultivated by Jane Wolff and Susan Schwartzberg. Wolff and Schwartzberg have been working to encourage the careful observation of complicated landscapes that are subject to change — and to use shared observations as a means for public discussion about the future.

Contributors

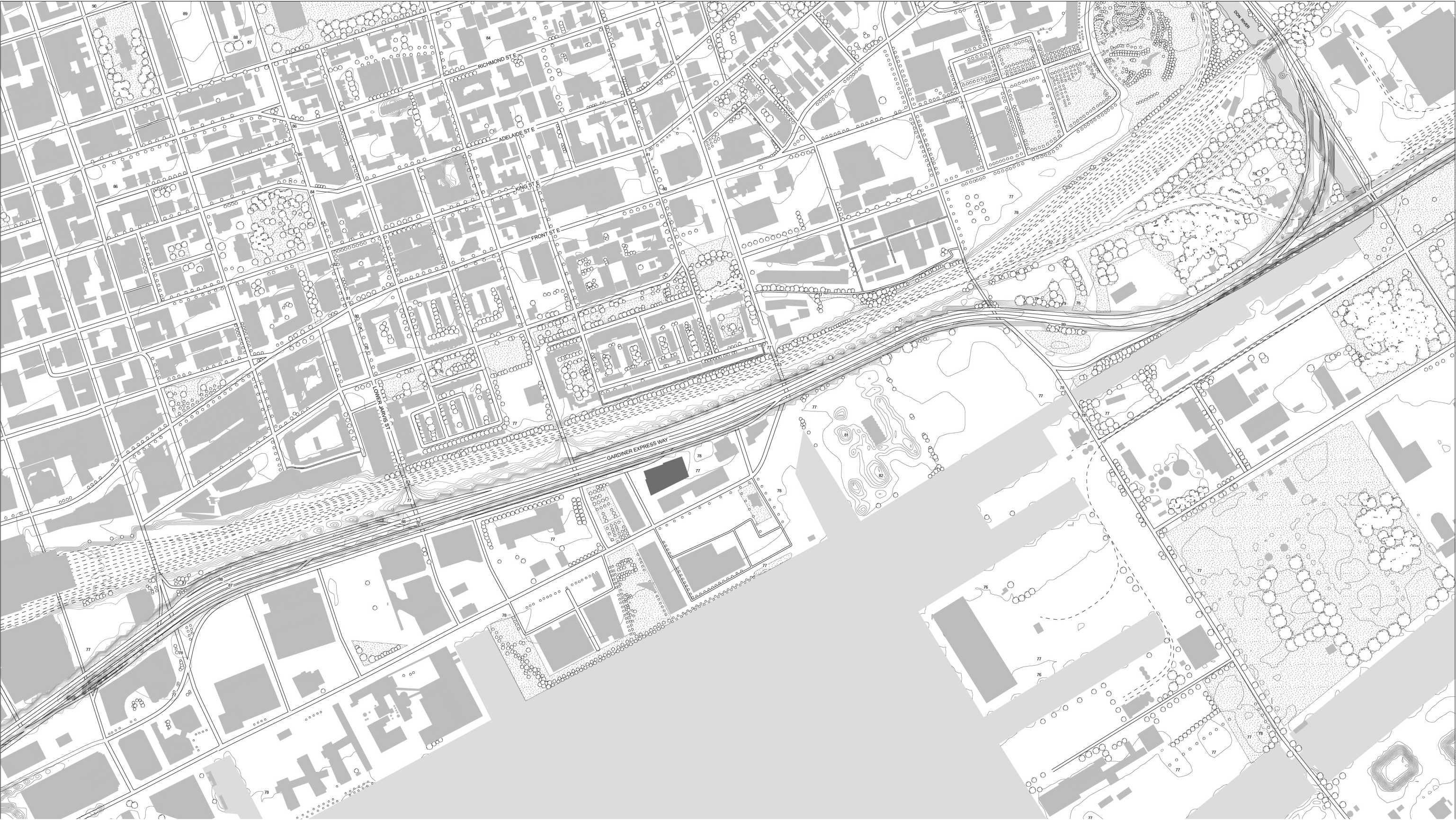
James Roche (born and lives in Toronto, ON) is a Partner at DTAH with over twenty years of experience working across North America. As a landscape architect, James's work encompasses all aspects of public realm design including parks, plazas, waterfronts, campus master plans, revitalizations, streetscapes and transportation-related urban design. Prior to joining DTAH, he was the Director of Park Design and Construction with Waterfront Toronto where he worked on several award-winning projects including Sherbourne Common, Sugar Beach, and Queen's Quay Revitalization.

Sandy M Smith (born in Alberta, lives in Toronto, ON) is a professor at University of Toronto specializing in forest health and urban forestry and is a leading expert in the ecology and biological management of invasive forest insects. She has published over 150 journal articles and book chapters, supervised 65+ graduate theses, and served as a reviewer for international journals, national NSERC committees, and scientific panels, as well as on several not-for-profit Boards. As a 7th-generation Canadian, she grew up near Ottawa, spent her summers in Montreal and BC, made annual trips to the Maritimes, raised her three boys with her husband in Toronto, and worked many years in the forests of northern and southern Ontario.

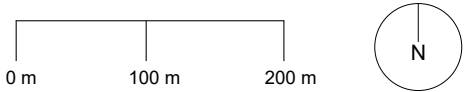
Susan Schwartzberg (born in Chicago, IL; lives in San Francisco, CA) is a visual artist, photographer, and curator whose work engages the public dialogue through themes of memory, history, and the psychology of place. She works in the public realm investigating the ways stories of people and place find form within the surrounding landscape and environmental conditions. She is the director of the Fisher Bay Observatory, Exploratorium, San Francisco and a Loeb Fellow in Advanced Environmental Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, US.

Kim Wheatley is an Anishinaabe Ojibway Grandmother from Shawanaga First Nation Reserve who carries the Spirit name Head or Leader of the Fireflower and is Turtle clan. She has appeared on TV, radio and in many news articles connected to her passion of Indigenous Knowledge sharing. Grandmother Kim Wheatley is deeply committed to creating and promoting awareness of the Indigenous perspective utilizing her gifts of song, storytelling and Traditional teachings. Grandmother Kim Wheatley has worked with over 34 First Nation communities having organized many Indigenous events, authored four books, received city awards & volunteers on a variety of boards as an Indigenous Advisor.

Jane Wolff (born in Boston, MA; lives in Toronto, ON) studies, draws, and writes about the complicated landscapes that emerge from interactions between natural processes and cultural interventions; her goal is to make these difficult (and often contested) places legible to the wide range of audiences with a stake in the future. She is an associate professor at the University of Toronto's Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design.



The Shoreline, 2019



Walking route:

Toronto Biennial galleries/259 Lakeshore Boulevard East to the Water’s Edge Promenade, Lake Ontario; pause for water songs and ceremony

From the shoreline into Sherbourne Common; pause at the skating rink and pump/filter house

Queens Quay East to Jarvis Slip; pause at the Redpath Sugar Refinery

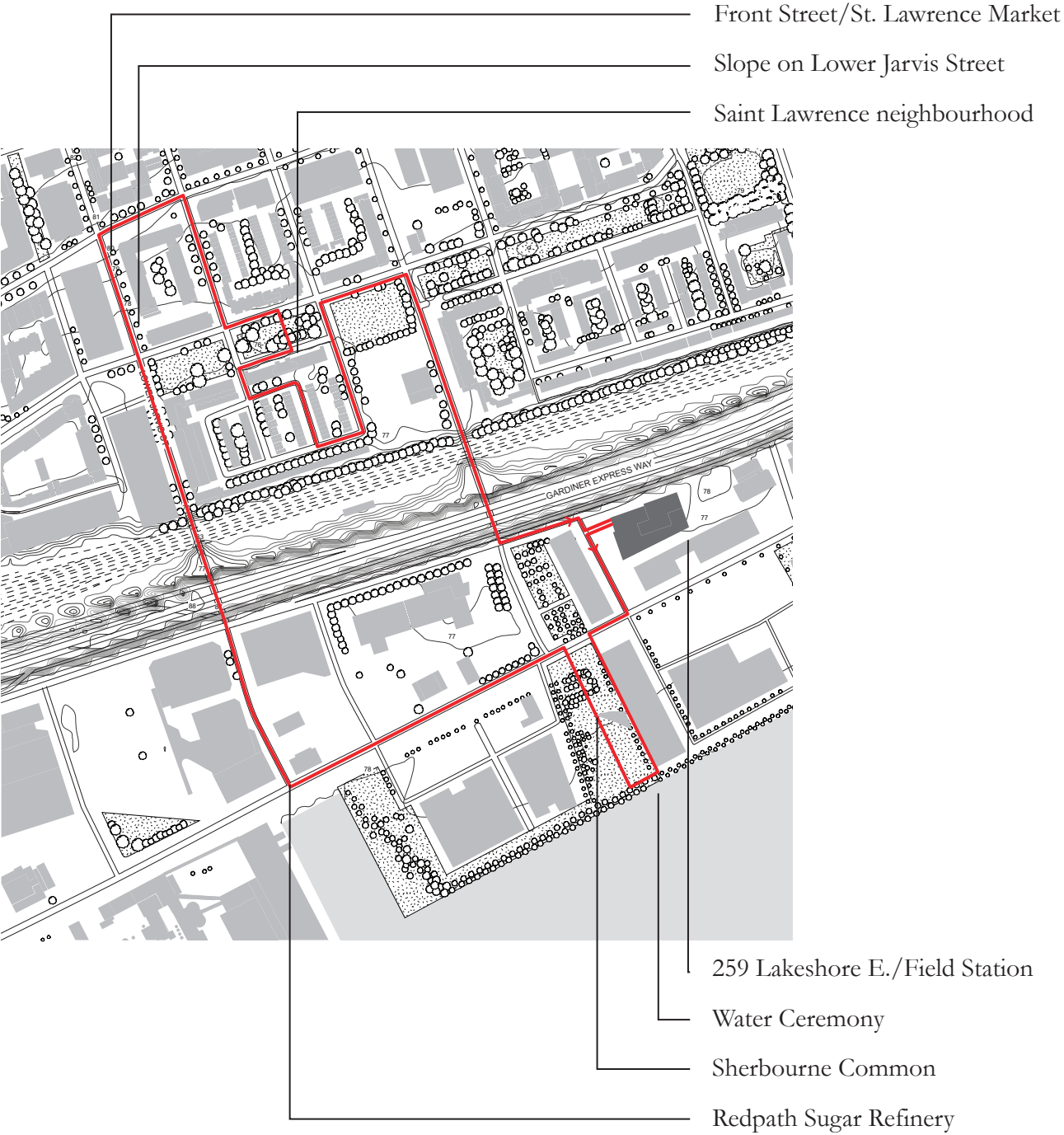
Up the slope of Lower Jarvis Street to Front Street East; pause at the Saint Lawrence Market

Along Front Street to George Street South to David Crombie Park; pause under the trees

George Street to Albert Franck Place to Henry Lane Terrace; pause for a glimpse of the GO train through a break in the building wall

Henry Lane to Frederick Street; through David Crombie Park to Lower Sherbourne Street

and 259 Lakeshore Boulevard East; pause for tea, talking and drawing at the Biennial Field Station





From the gallery into the landscape:
The group convened at Adrian Blackwell's representation of Toronto's changing shoreline and walked together to the water's edge.



At the foot of Sherbourne Common:
Grandmother Kim Wheatley celebrated and honoured the water and the land with ceremony and song.



On the constructed landscapes of Sherbourne Common and Jarvis Slip:
James Roche discussed the park's water filtration system; Jane Wolff talked about the persistence of shoreline industry at the Redpath Sugar Refinery; and Susan Schwartzberg reminded everyone of the importance of observation.



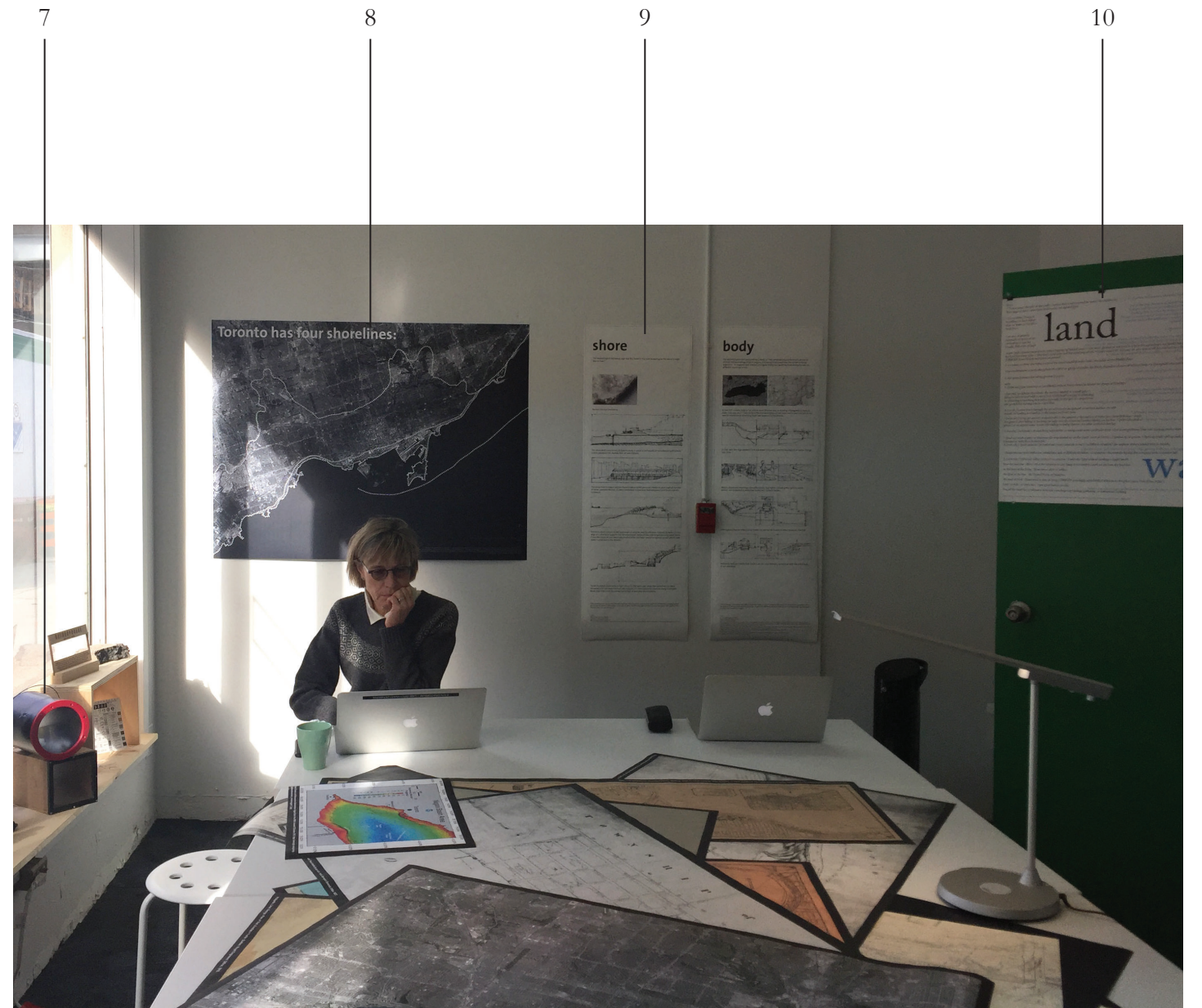
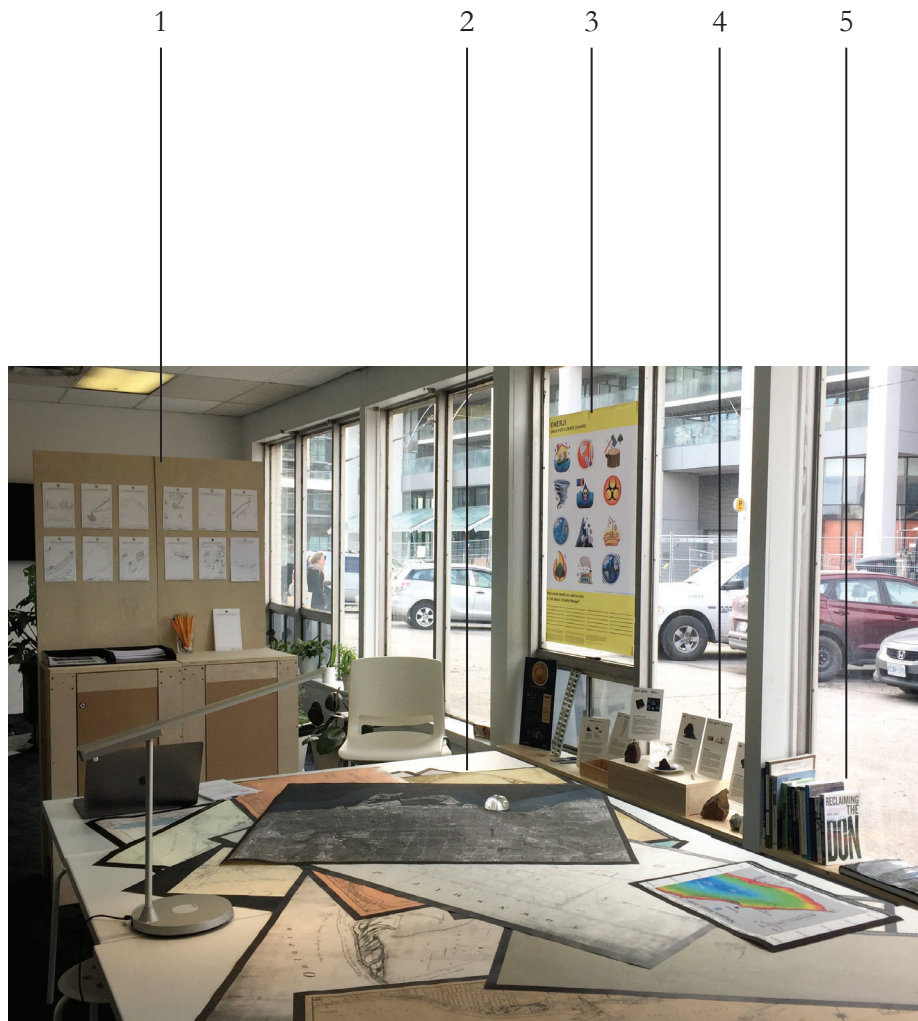
From the present shoreline to the past:
The group walked up the slope of Lower Jarvis Street to the Saint Lawrence Market and Front Street, where land met water until the reclamation projects of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.



Through the Saint Lawrence neighbourhood:
Land built for railroads and factories was remade for urban domestic life. Sandy Smith pointed out that relationships among living beings (in this case, trees and dogs) continue even in constructed environments.



After the walk in the shoreline field station:
Walkers traced the day's path on maps from different eras and drew the shoreline as they now imagined it.



1. *Draw the Shape of the Shore*, ongoing.
2. Toronto map table.
3. Sara Dean and Beth Ferguson, *Emerji: Emoji for Climate Change*, ongoing.
4. Ilana Halperin, excerpts from *Library of Earth Anatomy*, 2017.
5. Shoreline library.
6. Viewing frame.
7. Observation tools.
8. Jane Wolff, *Toronto's Four Shorelines*, 2019.
9. Jane Wolff, studies from *Toronto Landscape Index*, 2018.
10. Jane Wolff, *Land and Water*, 2009.

Field Notes

Citations and Credits

Images:

Cover and Field Station photographs by Jane Wolff, 2019.

The Shoreline, 1827:

Chewett, James Grant and Thomas Ridout. *Plan of the Town of York*. Four chains to an inch. York: Suveyor Generals Office, 1827.

The Shoreline, 2019:

Fortin, Marcel. University of Toronto Map and Data Library. *Toronto Contours 1 metre intervals*. Shapefile. Toronto: Marcel Fortin, 2002. Accessed November 12, 2019. <https://mdl.library.utoronto.ca/collections/geospatial-data/toronto-contours-1-metre-intervals/index>.

City of Toronto and U of T Map and Data Library. *City of Toronto Building Outlines*. Shapefile. Toronto: City of Toronto & U of T Map and Data Library, July 21, 2014. Accessed November 12, 2019. <https://mdl.library.utoronto.ca/collections/geospatial-data/city-toronto-build-ing-outlines>.

City of Toronto Information & Technology. *Toronto Centreline (TCL)*. Shapefile. Toronto: City of Toronto Information and Technology, 2019. Accessed November 12, 2019. <https://open.toronto.ca/dataset/toronto-centreline-tcl/>.

Google Maps. “Toronto, Ontario.” Accessed November 12, 2019. <https://www.google.ca/maps/@43.6470739,-79.3728116,14.36z>.

Walk photographs by Yuula Benivolski, 2019.

Project Participants:

<i>Artists</i>	Susan Schwartzenberg Jane Wolff
<i>Research Assistants</i>	Maddy Appleby Amelia Hartin Alyssa Langana
<i>Installation</i>	Alex Moyle
<i>Contributors</i>	James Roche Sandy M. Smith Grandmother Kim Wheatley
<i>Curator of Public Programming and Learning</i>	Clare Butcher
<i>Intern & Production Assistant</i>	Roxanne Fernandes

TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART

For more information on this ongoing research please contact:

Jane Wolff at jane.wolff@utoronto.ca

Susan Schwartzberg at sschwartzberg@exploratorium.edu