

Alex Mah:	0:00	The track you're about to hear is part of Earth Witnessing, an audio project for Vines Art Festival that invites you to engage with this park through this audio track, using each of your senses to connect to the earth. First a word about the land this park is on.
Charlene George:	0:21	[Speaks Skwxwú7mesh sníchim]
Charlene George:	2:12	So I said hello, good day. My name is S7atsáliya that's my ancestral name and my given name is Charlene. I am Skwxwú7mesh, I am Selílwatuh, and I come from the villages Eslhá7an and [Speaks Skwxwú7mesh sníchim]. Eslhá7an is also known as the Mission Reserve, part of the Skwxwú7mesh people's villages and [Speaks Skwxwú7mesh sníchim] is also known as the Burrard Reservation, part of the Selílwat villages. And I'm very proud to come from both. And I'm very honoured to have been asked by Vines Festival to share the little bit that I know about our history of David Lam Park and some of the surrounding area. 04:32 And I kinda started off by saying that I had a conversation with one of my language teachers, Khelsilem, he's one of my friends and he was sharing with me that David Lam Park is relatively new to our people and to Vancouver city because False Creek used to extend about two kilometres east towards Clark Drive. And that kinda blew my mind because who would imagine, while you're walking around at David Lam Park, that that would've all been water at one point?
Music	3:27	[chords on keyboard]
K.P Dennis:	3:33	phew chile...
Jess Burgoyne-King and K.P Dennis:	3:35	let me show you the worlds we've created between our palms

K.P Dennis: 3:41 it is love, in the morning,  
Jess Burgoyne-King: for once, not mourning  
K.P Dennis: salted and stirred  
Jess Burgoyne-King: slow roasted in our “thanks for holding me”s.  
K.P Dennis: 3:55 thank you for holding me  
Jess Burgoyne-King: 3:58 worlds where we sweat and dance  
K.P Dennis: worlds without that neurotypical shit  
Jess Burgoyne-King: or that able-bodied shit  
K.P Dennis: where our homes smell of smoke and coals and  
rosemary  
Jess Burgoyne-King 4:11 i have never been so joyous!  
and K.P Dennis:  
Jess Burgoyne-King: 4:14 Our joy is magic.  
K.P Dennis: believe that.  
Jess Burgoyne-King: 4:19 there is comfort in your bones,  
K.P Dennis: rest in your skin,  
Jess Burgoyne-King: no matter what they tell you,  
K.P Dennis: you are so much more than resilience.

Jess Burgoyne-King: 4:31 you are.

K.P Dennis: 4:34 let us tell you about the eyes that have seen joy  
Jess Burgoyne-King: the ones that dance and ask if you've heard any Jazz or Blues today

K.P Dennis: the ones that say

Jess Burgoyne-King: today

K.P Dennis: i wish you happiness,

Jess Burgoyne-King: worlds where you sweat and dance

K.P Dennis: mango juice drip off sticky sweet lips.

Jess Burgoyne-King: abundance and

K.P Dennis: a bun dance,

Jess Burgoyne-King: to an "ooh this my song, every song" kinda playlists.

Jess Burgoyne-King and K.P Dennis: 5:04 i have never been so joyous!

K.P Dennis: 5:09 let me show you the worlds we created

Jess Burgoyne-King: from the future

K.P Dennis: from the surreal

Jess Burgoyne-King: the worlds that lil me got lost in the bumblebees and honeytrees

K.P Dennis: the world where i met myself twenty years later and held them

Jess Burgoyne-King: the worlds where my offering-cup holds tenderness and thank yous

K.P Dennis: 5:32 i am grateful,

Jess Burgoyne-King: and woeful

K.P Dennis: i am soft soil and sunny days

Jess Burgoyne-King: i bloom like flower petals,

K.P Dennis: my tenderness brings rain to rain dance,

Jess Burgoyne-King: finding space where freedom relaxes in our bellies and falls into rhythm,

K.P Dennis: rejoiced hands warm over a home cooked meal--

Jess Burgoyne-King: creating futures through kitchen slow-dances and morning routines --

Music 6:06 [arpeggios on piano, soulful vocal melody, bass]

Jess Burgoyne-King: 6:31 let me show you how i forgave myself for all the times i drowned that forgiveness looked like well

Jess Burgoyne-King and K.P Dennis: crying

Jess Burgoyne-King:		and then chopping some onions
Jess Burgoyne-King and K.P Dennis:		then more crying
K.P Dennis:		and then hoping i taste good for you. quality produce hand grown with love. blossomed out of shit,
Jess Burgoyne-King and K.P Dennis:		like all things.
Jess Burgoyne-King and K.P Dennis:	7:06	[sniffing and coughing, then pleasant mms]
K.P Dennis:	7:33	i have always wanted to be a good sinner. hated god like my mother, like the quitter she says i am.
K.P Dennis:	7:40	i have never been so joyous!
Jess Burgoyne-King:	7:43	i done died, and was reborn livid, so it's figured that i'm outta second chances, but i'm
Jess Burgoyne-King and K.P Dennis:		reborn wil'in' in love and angrier than i eva been.
Music	7:59	[keyboard loop with turntable sound]
K.P Dennis:	8:03	i fear becoming martyred revolutionary, another dead black boy,
Jess Burgoyne-King:		too bold in his livin'.

K.P Dennis: too proud in dyin' the way jesus taught.

Jess Burgoyne-King: 8:13 it's okay to be scared.

K.P Dennis: an omen is ill prepared if the outcome isn't predictable,

Jess Burgoyne-King: accept that your death is predictable

K.P Dennis: yes,

Jess Burgoyne-King: mango ripe and ready

K.P Dennis: yes,

Jess Burgoyne-King: terrified,

K.P Dennis: yes.

Jess Burgoyne-King: but each footstep lands steady on unfiltered, ancestral rage.

Music 8:42 [Scream/Wail from Tobe Nwigwe - FYE FYE]

K.P Dennis: 8:44 this grief cannot be undone.

Jess Burgoyne-King: i know.

K.P Dennis: each morning brings  
fresh mourning—  
names and memories  
endlessly sown.

Jess Burgoyne-King: 8:55 know,  
that your blood  
remembers where it comes from,  
even if you can't.

K.P Dennis: 9:06 know,  
that their dogs only hunt you because you still smell  
wild. a starch sort of woeful  
one whiff full curdles their howls,  
haunts them,  
like their freedom used to.

Jess Burgoyne-King: 9:20 i promise,

K.P Dennis: it's okay to be scared.

Jess Burgoyne-King: an omen is ill prepared if the outcome isn't predictable,

K.P Dennis: accept that your death is predictable.

Jess Burgoyne-King  
and K.P Dennis: become, anyway.

Music 9:41 [clip from noname's song shadow man]  
*[Harmonized vocals]*  
*How do you see me?*  
*How do you love me?*  
*How to do you remember me?*

Jess Burgoyne-King 9:51 what do you do when the world wants you dead?  
and K.P Dennis:

Jess Burgoyne-King: 9:55 I PROMISE,  
we tear this state down  
with these brown-dyke-fingers  
splintered hands and raggedy shirts  
covered in blood and earth  
seeped in the ocean's rage  
and longing for there,  
the oceans,  
calm moments.

K.P Dennis: 10:16 I promise,  
to get them  
to call you by your name, when you find it,  
when you own it,  
we'll grab [static hiss] out of the teeth  
of every ting that eva knew you.

Jess Burgoyne-King: 10:28 I PROMISE,  
we'll tear this state down  
we'll hold community sacred  
belly ache laughs and hot soups  
aloe-vera and salves  
learned from the way  
the plants move in the summer  
and rest in the fall

K.P Dennis: 10:48 I promise  
You'll remember  
that you taste like oxtail and callaloo.  
sorrel and ginger beer  
mango and fresh picked pear.  
also known as avocado,  
You'll remember,  
we had always don that shit first.



Jess Burgoyne-King: 11:04 I promise,  
the air will feel light again  
That these brown-dyke-fingers  
Will unclog our lungs  
molten and heavy  
crumbling and expanding  
learning to breathe again

K.P Dennis: 11:22 I promise,  
You won't become martyred revolutionary,  
another dead black body  
You'll get to be too bold in your livin'.

Jess Burgoyne-King: 11:34 I PROMISE  
we build new futures  
with these brown-dyke-fingers  
Queer loved and Black made  
right now surreal and unimaginable.

Jess Burgoyne-King: 11:47 I promise,  
you peace.  
in all things.  
In all things.

Music 11:56 [upbeat vocals, trumpet, piano, percussion]

Jess Burgoyne-King: 12:07 i ask myself, what is sacred?

K.P Dennis: what do worms discern from my desecrated flesh?

Jess Burgoyne-King: 12:17 That loving this body is genderless and holy --and not  
holy as in belonging to god but holy as in

K.P Dennis: that-fuck-your-hetero-colonizer-ass-shit

Jess Burgoyne-King: That-this-body-is-wisdom-and-magic-ass-shit

K.P Dennis: that-i-am-divine-in-my-gluttony-for-myself

Jess Burgoyne-King: that-yall-better-watch-out-kinda-divinity

K.P Dennis: 12:45 i know me better now.  
outside of tepid crown,  
haunted and righteous.  
this body is preserved in its wholeness  
protected by baobab tree leaves and  
scented like

Jess Burgoyne-King: rosepetals-lavender-citrus-rosemary  
mango-cardamom&ginger-sheabutter-cocoabutter-  
peppermint in the morning  
incense-smoke-curry-sweat-sex-  
stillcocoabutterandpeppermint at night

K.P Dennis: i am glory in darkness,  
night owl, unrepented,  
praying to the full moon,  
sun kissed and blessed.  
this body is whole and boundless  
ancient in its wisdom and magic

Jess Burgoyne-King: 13:33 did i tell you how i've always been  
growing and shaping this body? how i've  
always been collecting shells from the beach  
and asking what can call them?  
how each of the leaves that became  
my fingertips tell a different story of  
how i hold myself?

K.P Dennis: 13:56 this body is holy and genderless  
that means i'm learning how to not let you

Jess Burgoyne-King 14:02 step on them  
and K.P Dennis:

Jess Burgoyne-King: 14:04 how to love all the spaces, that were desecrated

K.P Dennis: this body has been learning its bounds

Jess Burgoyne-King: and how to treasure those bounds

Jess Burgoyne-King 14:16 i have never been so joyous!  
and K.P Dennis:

Music 14:20 [Funky bass synthesizer, drums]

K.P Dennis: 14:27 i hope i taste like sunshine.

Jess Burgoyne-King: like cloud break after rain.

K.P Dennis: a tart kinda sweet,

Jess Burgoyne-King: reminiscent of routine.

K.P Dennis: 14:37 my binder is always in the kitchen

Jess Burgoyne-King: stained with sweat and stew

K.P Dennis: probably laying on the counter

Jess Burgoyne-King: or the floor

K.P Dennis: containing left over giggles

Jess Burgoyne-King: or memories of pride.

K.P Dennis: 14:54 the sunshine in my skin,  
so filled to the brim with being,  
preens in peaceful mornings.

Jess Burgoyne-King: licks the sweat off their skin and rejoices  
in a life hard earned, from worms  
and other graceless beings.

K.P Dennis: today is the day we saw  
seven spiders rising and falling and rising again

Jess Burgoyne-King: they came to me at night

K.P Dennis: you know

Jess Burgoyne-King: dewy and chamomile-stained teeth

K.P Dennis: they told me this body is wholly

Jess Burgoyne-King: they showered me in midnight stars

K.P Dennis: they told me this body is holy

Jess Burgoyne-King: curled soft tender

K.P Dennis: salted and stirred  
slow roasted in our “thanks for holding me”s

Jess Burgoyne-King: Thank you for holding me

K.P Dennis: retracing smells i've already forgotten

Jess Burgoyne-King: and hands i've held and then whispering

Jess Burgoyne-King and K.P Dennis: 16:03 (WHISPERS): baby, all the things that you be those are all the perfect ways for me.

Music 16:11 [Calm piano chords]

K.P Dennis: 16:22 i am soft.

Jess Burgoyne-King: i don't mean to be.

K.P Dennis: know the world taught be hard and fight harder,

Jess Burgoyne-King: y'don't get far being this chicken finger tender.

K.P Dennis: So, let me show you how i offered petals, tears, whole sunflowers, plantain, cornbread

Jess Burgoyne-King: knuckles deep in cotton candy twists

K.P Dennis: 16:49 bitch I taste like sunshine!  
golden dripping sweet off their tongue, ripe, fresh, and plump,  
I am honeybush catastrophe.  
i am learning how to pray to me.

Jess Burgoyne-King: to give thanks to all we have started, the process is alarming

K.P Dennis: bells rejoice my dearly departed, who did her best by me,

Jess Burgoyne-King: my binder is always in the kitchen  
torn off after another day of  
sewn together stims and stems  
my binder is always in the kitchen  
resting with the other parts of me

K.P Dennis: 17:29 i want to be good for you.  
for myself,  
for the soil i owe my wealth.  
for my mouth full of scars  
that hopes

Jess Burgoyne-King: healing is not linear  
is laughter,  
is our existence as it has and will always be.

K.P Dennis: 17:49 joyous,

Jess Burgoyne-King: magical.

K.P Dennis: free.

Jess Burgoyne-King and K.P Dennis: 17:55 let me show you the worlds that we created

Music 18:00 [chords on keyboard, drum machine, vocals]

Alex Mah: 18:22 Thank you for listening to Earth Witnessing presented  
by Vines Art Festival. This is part of a series of six audio  
works related to parks in Vancouver. I hope this gave  
you a chance to deepen your connection to this place.  
As you look around David Lam Park, take a moment to  
imagine a future filled with joy and brimming with love.  
What does that look like to you? What does it sound  
like? How does it feel on your skin? Hold on to this  
feeling for a few more moments.