

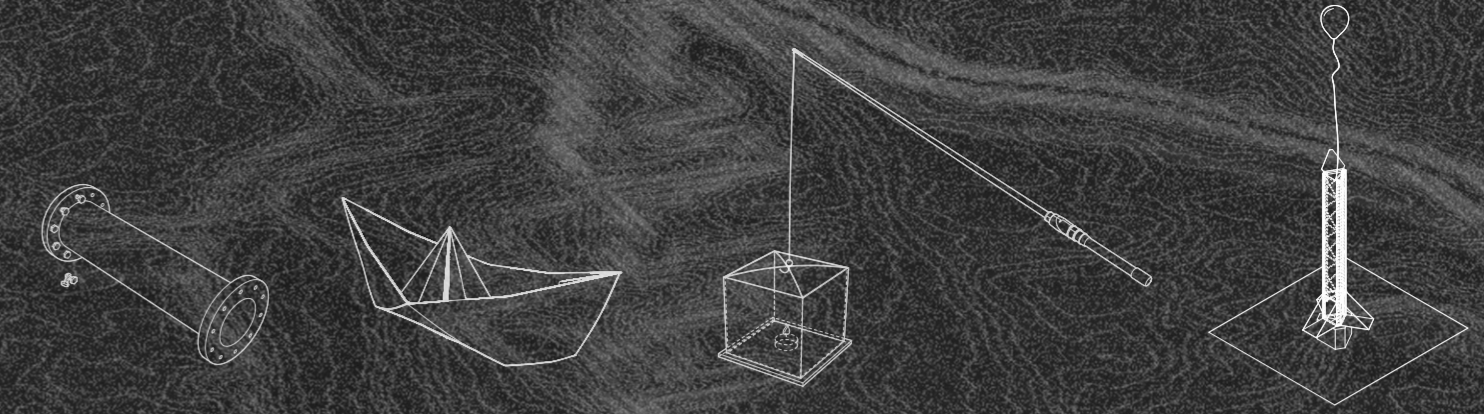
BALLOONING DEFICIT

Water flows uphill and invisible below the city streets. For over a century now, engineers and budget cycles have weaved these pressurized arteries underground, unnaturally supplying Calgary residents with unending clean water essential to modern life. This water is forcibly maintained, but still beholden to the chaos and rhythms of nature.

Winter begins, temperatures fall, water expands. The city sleeps, demand lowers, pressure builds.

Myopic decisions and shoestring budgets crystalize deficit in the physical infrastructure of the city. Natural rhythms probe this neglect, as pressure and expansion test the bounds of design and maintenance.

Tonight, the celebrations begin.



19500 BEARSPAW FEEDER MAIN
(BUILT 1975)





Rethinking the black and white understanding of infrastructural decision making and consequence this project aims to renegotiate the relationship between invisible infrastructure and resident, by seeing failure as an opportunity for community building. All infrastructure is a test. Failure is an inevitability – neither negative, nor positive – it simply is.

The celebration starts with a beacon: a single balloon released in the night sky, glowing high above the geyser of water erupting onto the road. Tethered to a polycarbonate wrapped spaceframe, the balloon welcomes all. Drivers escaping the sudden outpouring of water bask in the safe heat of a fire at the base of the frame. People gather to watch the spectacle, folding paper boats, and placing floating lanterns on the stream of water. A microcosm of the eternal human experiment with nature resounds in the spirit of place; water will flow, and humans will live.