
Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation Commits \$5 Million to Establish the Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation Centre for Creativity at the New Vancouver Art Gallery



September 26, 2023, VANCOUVER, BC // Traditional Coast Salish Lands including the Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəjəm), Squamish (Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw) and Tsleil-Waututh (səlílwətaʔt) Nations.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is thrilled to announce a transformative \$5 million gift from the Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation, dedicated to the creation of the Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation Centre for Creativity. This generous support represents a significant milestone, bringing the Gallery over the 85% mark in achieving its \$400 million fundraising target and will help advance the Gallery's mission of fostering creativity and artistic excellence.

Spanning more than 2400 square feet, the Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation Centre for Creativity will become an integral part of the new Vancouver Art Gallery at the Chan Centre for the Visual Arts. This dynamic space will feature education studios, dedicated exhibition space and a surrounding terrace offering panoramic views of the cityscape.

Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation President, Hamid Eshghi, expressed his enthusiasm for this significant partnership, stating, "As an architect with a profound appreciation of the arts, I am thrilled to support a project that champions creativity and learning in our great city. The Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation Centre for Creativity will be a dynamic space where artists, educators and the community can come together to explore and celebrate the possibilities of human expression."

Following the Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation's generous sponsorship of *Parviz Tanavoli: Poets, Locks, Cages* earlier this year, the organization was eager to build upon their legacy within the arts with a commitment to the new Vancouver Art Gallery.

"As we look forward to opening our doors in 2028, we do so with immense excitement and a deep sense of responsibility to honour this generous investment in our cultural future", said Anthony Kiendl, CEO & Executive Director of the Vancouver Art Gallery, "The Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation's support will leave an indelible mark on Vancouver's artistic landscape and we eagerly anticipate the impact it will have on the lives of countless individuals who will find inspiration within these walls."

The Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation has a longstanding commitment to philanthropy and community support. Their previous contributions have had a significant impact on organizations such as the University of British Columbia, BC Children's Hospital, Simon Fraser University and numerous international initiatives. The Foundation's dedication to enriching the cultural and educational fabric of Vancouver aligns seamlessly with the Vancouver Art Gallery's vision of nurturing artistic creativity and engagement.

Photo: Scott Little

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ABOUT VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's celebrated exhibitions, extensive public programs and emphasis on advancing scholarship focus on historical and contemporary art from British Columbia and around the world. Special attention is given to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists, as well as to those of the Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art founded in 2014. The Gallery's exhibitions also explore the impact of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design and architecture.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a charitable not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is situated on the ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and is respectful of the Indigenous stewards of the land it occupies, whose rich cultures are fundamental to artistic life in Vancouver and to the work of the Gallery.

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