

"The Build Up" Begins for a New Vancouver Art Gallery

September 15, 2023, Vancouver, BC // *Traditional Coast Salish Lands, including the Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəy̓əm), Squamish (Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh) and Tsleil-Waututh (səlilwətaʔ) Nations*

Today, the [Vancouver Art Gallery](#), one of North America's most innovative visual arts institutions, marks a significant milestone in the development of its future home. Earlier this morning, a special Ground Awakening Ceremony was held at the site for the new Vancouver Art Gallery at the Chan Centre for the Visual Arts, a moment that its supporters have been working toward for more than a decade. Site remediation and construction on the new Gallery begins this fall with an estimated completion in 2028.

To date, the Gallery has raised more than \$340 million of its \$400 million fundraising target (85 percent), with multi-level support from private and corporate donations as well as funding from the federal and BC provincial governments and the City of Vancouver. As the project moves into its final fundraising push, the Vancouver Art Gallery has launched a new campaign to engage wider communities, entitled The Build Up. The campaign represents the next chapter in the years-long journey toward the building of a state-of-the-art cultural hub.

The new, purpose-built Gallery, which will be located at 181 West Georgia Street, will transform the presentation of the visual arts in British Columbia more broadly. Notable features in the new building include dedicated space for the Institute of Asian Art, a multi-purpose Indigenous Community House, state-of-the-art theatre, public outdoor spaces and dedicated artist studios. In addition, the new building will double the Gallery's current exhibition space, enabling a wider breadth of works from its permanent collection to be presented, along with an even greater variety of Indigenous, Asian and international artists as well as iconic Canadian artists such as Emily Carr.

Designed by renowned Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron, with executive architect Perkins + Will and in close collaboration with four local Indigenous artists, the new building will be an iconic addition to the city's skyline, honouring a Coast Salish worldview in the very fabric of the exterior of the building, represented by traditional weaving techniques that will form part of the facade.

With a firm commitment to supporting art and artists, fostering community and learning, celebrating Indigenous cultures and stewarding environmental change, the new Vancouver Art Gallery will provide a platform for expanded access to art for all. An investment in the province's economy, the new Gallery is expected to generate \$88.2 million in tourism. The project is also anticipated to create more than 4,000 jobs during construction and ongoing operations, with an additional \$84.4 million in increased GDP related to general operations of the new Gallery.

The new Gallery will be at the heart of a modern cultural hub in the heart of Vancouver, sitting at the intersection of the Vancouver Public Library and the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, bordering Vancouver's historic Chinatown and Gastown neighbourhoods. One of Canada's most significant arts and culture

projects in a generation, the identity of the new Gallery is being shaped by an accomplished team of individuals assembled around CEO & Executive Director Anthony Kiendl. Recently appointed as Deputy Director & Director of Curatorial Programs, Eva Respini will lead the curatorial vision for the new Gallery. Sirish Rao, the Vancouver Art Gallery's new Director of Public Engagement & Learning, will continue to enhance the ways in which the Gallery's public experiences the institution, while laying the foundation for an expanded audience in the future. Working collaboratively to shape and drive the vision of the Gallery, the new leadership team will help solidify Vancouver's place amidst the other cultural capitals of the world.

To learn more about how you can be a part of The Build Up, please visit: www.newvanartgallery.ca.

NOTE: Today, the Vancouver Art Gallery is hosting a bonus Free First Friday Night in celebration of The Build Up. The Gallery is offering free admission for visitors from 4 PM to 8 PM and everyone is encouraged to come down for an inspiring evening of art and enriching public programs. For more details and to reserve your timed ticket, visit www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/free.

MEDIA ASSETS

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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), Skwxwú7mesh (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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New Vancouver Art Gallery at the Chan Centre for the Visual Arts – Quote Sheet

Anthony Kiendl, Vancouver Art Gallery CEO and Executive Director –

“Our goal is to redefine in a global context what an art museum can be in the 21st century. The Gallery’s new building will provide an optimal platform to serve our audiences with newly commissioned works of art, exhibitions, programs and our celebrated permanent collection. By reimagining elements of the building with a group of artists—and keeping art and artists at the centre of everything we do—we start this process from a place of collaboration and community engagement, which is essential to our vision.”

David Calabrigo, Vancouver Art Gallery Association Board Chair –

“This is a moment of celebration for the future of the Vancouver Art Gallery. On behalf of the Vancouver Art Gallery Association Board of Trustees, I want to thank all of the donors, government agencies and generous private supporters whose contributions have helped us reach this stage and created the momentum we need to carry us over the finish line. Now, with ‘The Build Up,’ we look forward to engaging even more people in our plans and in supporting our progress.”

Premier David Eby – Government of British Columbia

“For generations, the Vancouver Art Gallery has thrilled, inspired and challenged visitors. Just as a community grows and evolves, so must an art gallery. This new facility will be a cultural jewel to be shared by all British Columbians.”

Honourable Dr. Hedy Fry, Member of Parliament, Vancouver Centre – Government of Canada

“British Columbia can proudly celebrate the start of this eagerly anticipated project. The Vancouver Art Gallery at the Chan Centre for the Visual Arts, a state-of-the-art facility to be built to the highest energy-efficiency standards, is designed to be sustainable, inclusive, and community-focused. The federal government is proud to be a part of this innovative art centre. It will serve as a dynamic platform for showcasing the extraordinary talents of Indigenous, Asian, international, and Canadian artists, and feature an Indigenous Community House and rich programming to bring residents together to forge strong community connections.

We look forward to the enriching experiences the Gallery will bring to our diverse community and beyond.”

The Honourable Dr. Hedy Fry, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Centre, on behalf of the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, and the Honourable Pascale St-Onge, Minister of Canadian Heritage

Minister Lana Popham, Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport – Government of British Columbia

“The Vancouver Art Gallery is a longstanding pillar in the arts community in B.C, and an iconic cultural institution beloved by both residents and visitors. Today’s ground awakening represents a significant step in the completion of this project that when built will play a vital role in the future prosperity and vibrancy of the arts, culture and tourism sectors in the Vancouver region, B.C. and Canada.”

Brenda Bailey, MLA Vancouver–False Creek – Government of British Columbia

“Today’s ground awakening ceremony signifies a pivotal moment in the transformation of our city’s cultural landscape. I am thrilled to announce the imminent arrival of this remarkable arts and cultural institution in Vancouver, which will serve as a beacon of creativity and inspiration for both our local residents and international guests.”

Mayor Ken Sim – City of Vancouver

“The new Vancouver Art Gallery is not just an investment in our city; it’s a testament to the profound importance of art and culture to the vibrancy of Vancouver. It will contribute more than \$84 million dollars annually to our local economy through its operations and hospitality activities and serve as a beacon, drawing visitors year-round to our streets, invigorating local businesses and reaffirming Vancouver’s position as a dynamic cultural hub. The City is excited to welcome this transformative project to the heart of our downtown.”

Claire Chan – Chan Family Foundation

“The Chan family believe deeply in the power of arts and culture to bridge divides, bring people together and amplify the beauty of our shared diversity. The new Gallery will be a place that transcends social and cultural barriers, and join us through our collective creativity and humanity.”

FACT SHEET

New Vancouver Art Gallery at the Chan Centre for the Visual Arts

About the 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 new building will have an impact on every part of its programmatic mission—while also supporting the wider Vancouver and BC economy, as follows:

Art + Artists

- 50% more exhibition space for exhibitions of contemporary and modern, Indigenous, Asian and international art, as well as art by iconic Canadian artists such as Emily Carr.
- Increased space to feature the Gallery's permanent collection of more than 12,600 works of art.
- Dedicated space for the Institute of Asian Art to expand its public and academic engagement.
- Dedicated and shared classrooms with artist studios.

Celebrating Indigenous Cultures

- Community house dedicated to Indigenous programs and celebrations.
- Year-round exhibitions of Indigenous art from BC and around the globe.
- Traditional Coast Salish weaving techniques incorporated into the design of the building's exterior facade, a visible and public reminder of this commitment to Indigenous cultures.

Community + Learning

- Exponentially growing the amount of public programming space to foster creative thinking and problem-solving for all ages and demographics.
- A library and reading room, including an art library and archive available to artists, curators, scholars, educators and the general public.
- A 265-seat theatre that will host film screenings, talks and performances.
- Public dining spaces, including a restaurant and café/teahouse.

Stewarding Environmental Change

- The building is being designed to zero carbon building standards to ensure the project optimizes reductions in embodied carbon.
- Adhering to stringent energy standards, the project will use locally-sourced woods, high efficiency heat pumps and high-performance triple-glazed windows.
- Multiple green spaces, including an exterior courtyard and two exterior terraces.
- Enhanced accessibility via public transit.

Economic Benefits

- More than \$870 million in economic benefits are anticipated due to construction of the new Gallery. This includes:
- \$84.4 million expected growth in the local economy as a direct result of the new Gallery's operations and corresponding hospitality activities.
- A projected \$88.2 million in annual economic growth from tourism.
- More than 4,000 FTE direct and indirect jobs from construction, Gallery operations and increased demands on other local businesses and services.

Funding for the New Vancouver Art Gallery

- The Vancouver Art Gallery has secured more than \$340 million (85 per cent) of its \$400 million campaign goal.
- The project has received more than \$190 million in private donations, including \$100 million from the Audain Foundation in 2021 and \$40 million from the Chan Family Foundation in 2019.
- In 2022, the federal government invested \$25 million from Infrastructure Canada through the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program, as well as \$4.3 million from the Department of Canadian Heritage Canada Cultural Spaces Fund for a total of \$29.3 million.
- In 2022, the Province of B.C. fulfilled a longstanding commitment to invest an additional \$50 million toward a new home for the Vancouver Art Gallery for a total of \$100 million.
- In 2013 the City of Vancouver committed in-kind the value of the land for the future home of the Vancouver Art Gallery, estimated at \$100 million.

This funding builds upon the Vancouver Art Gallery's multi-level support from other private and corporate donors.

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Press Release

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Website

<https://www.newvanartgallery.ca/>

Assets

Vancouver Art Gallery logo

New Renderings

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