

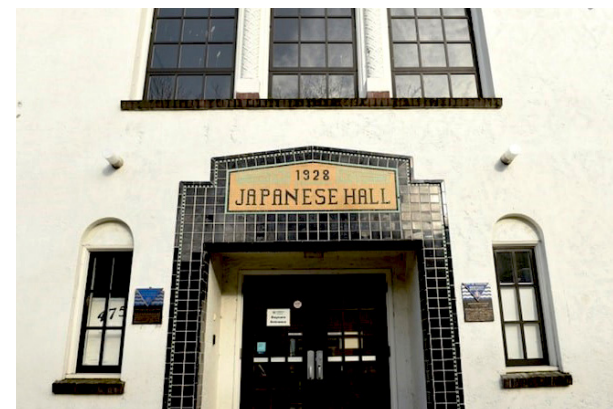


# VANCOUVER HERITAGE PROGRAM

MARCH 2020

Vancouver residents have acknowledged the importance of their diverse heritage. Inclusivity and equity, key formative principles of our society, are upheld by respectful and meaningful stewardship of our heritage. The Truth and Reconciliation spirit and cultural redress of systemically excluded ethnocultural groups are fundamental to the well-being of our communities. It is the collective responsibility of all to not only relate to our past, but to identify, protect, and pass on diverse cultural values and assets to future generations.

In March 2020, City Council approved the Vancouver Heritage Program (VHP), including its guiding principles, vision, goals, and directions. The new VHP expanded the meaning of heritage to firmly embrace cultural heritage as often manifested through both tangible and intangible aspects. Specifically, the VHP supports Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations', and Urban Indigenous peoples' self-expressed histories and heritage. At the same time, the VHP enables policy framework and planning tools to further integrate heritage conservation within citywide planning and urban development processes.







Gastown, Vancouver, BC





Members of the Coastal Wolf Pack, a traditional Musqueam dance group. Photo Dan Toulgoet

# VISION

The City of Vancouver's Heritage Program recognizes that Vancouver is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, embraces heritage of the Indigenous Nations and Vancouver's diverse communities, and enables stewardship of heritage resources across the city while supporting sustainable development.



# DRIVERS OF CHANGE

- 1. Reconciliation with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and Urban Indigenous People**

VHP advances the Reconciliation framework to ensure that Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and Urban Indigenous population are provided with opportunities to tell their own stories and share their Cultural Heritage.
- 2. Cultural Redress**

VHP embraces cultural diversity, equitable and inclusionary practices for all peoples of Vancouver, including those communities that have suffered from discriminatory policies and actions.
- 3. Cultural Heritage**

VHP promotes and supports a broader concept of Cultural Heritage which includes both tangible (buildings, monuments, natural landscapes) and intangible or living heritage (oral traditions, celebrations, social manners, performing arts).
- 4. Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) Approach**

VHP adopts the HUL planning model, with its UNESCO-established principles of heritage resource management, emphasizing that a city is made up of many layers, both tangible and intangible, all of which contribute to the city's uniqueness. HUL reiterates that the safeguarding and regeneration of cultural activities and the social fabric within heritage areas and sites is as important as the protection of the physical integrity of historic places.
- 5. Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada**

VHP applies citywide Standards and Guidelines to reflect international best practices through promoting the protection of a historic place's heritage value, while retaining its tangible and intangible character-defining elements.
- 6. Sustainable Heritage Rehabilitation**

VHP promotes retention and conservation of historic places through the application of sustainable rehabilitation practices using a combination of economic, social, cultural, and environmental objectives to ensure the long-term viability of historic places while retaining their heritage value.



# VANCOUVER HERITAGE PROGRAM

## UNDERSTANDING

### HERITAGE REGISTER

#### GOAL 1

Recognize a diversity of heritage values

## PLANNING & MANAGING

### MANAGEMENT TOOLS

#### GOAL 2

Enhance heritage management tools

#### GOAL 3

Link heritage to other city goals

## SHARING

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & AWARENESS

#### GOAL 4

Promote public awareness, engagement, and support

### PLANNING & REGULATORY

- Community and land use plans and policies
- Zoning and Development By-law
- Heritage Property Standards of Maintenance By-law
- Heritage Procedure By-law
- Heritage Policies
- Heritage Guidelines
- Design Guidelines
- Cultural Policies and Guidelines
- Other by-laws (Vancouver Building By-Law, Parking, Subdivision)

### SUPPORT

- Zoning Incentives
- Transfer of Density
- Property Tax Exemptions
- Grants
- Standards and Guidelines
- Statements of Significance
- Heritage Value Statements
- Heritage Assessments
- Conservation Plans
- Historic Context Statements
- Heritage Advisory Bodies
- Dedicated Heritage Staff
- Heritage, Social and Cultural Asset Mapping and Impacts

### PROTECTION

- Heritage Designation
- Heritage Revitalization Agreements
- Heritage Restoration Covenants
- Temporary Protection
- Heritage Alteration Permits
- Historic Areas
- Heritage Conservation Areas

## GOAL 1

# RECOGNIZE A DIVERSITY OF HERITAGE VALUES

Identify, celebrate, and protect a broad range of historic places, including those with social and cultural heritage significance, illustrating the rich diversity and histories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and citizens of Vancouver.



Top: Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, Vancouver, BC.  
Bottom: Tamura House, Vancouver, BC

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- Upgrade the Vancouver Heritage Register to further a values-based understanding of historic places, including those that have value for and that represent the living history of Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, histories of Urban Indigenous people, and diverse communities of Vancouver
- Enable the Vancouver Heritage Program, Heritage Register, and Heritage Policies to embrace cultural heritage, including Indigenous Cultural Heritage and that of systemically excluded ethnocultural communities
- Work with all communities, in particular with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, Urban Indigenous people, ethnocultural communities, and interdepartmentally, in the identification and recognition of heritage values and historic places
- Protect heritage values and historic places based on principles of diversity, inclusivity, and equity, in a meaningful and respectful way
- Continue heritage conservation support for Vancouver Heritage Register-listed sites

## VHP COMPONENTS

- Vancouver Heritage Register
  - Vancouver Historic Context Statements and Thematic Frameworks
  - Self-determined Indigenous Cultural/Historic Context Statements (by Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and Urban Indigenous people)
  - Historic Context Statements by systemically excluded ethnocultural communities
- Statements of Significance
- Heritage Value Statements
- Heritage Assessments
- Heritage Evaluations
- Heritage, Social and Cultural Asset Mapping and Impacts

## GOAL 2

# ENHANCE HERITAGE MANAGEMENT TOOLS

Provide leadership through clear and consistent heritage policies, effective heritage management tools, and meaningful heritage conservation incentives.



Skwachâys Lodge, Vancouver, BC

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- Create supportive, inclusive, and integrated policies and regulations
- Ensure effective heritage conservation incentives and tools, including appropriate tools to support intangible cultural heritage
- Provide support to pilot projects on intangible cultural heritage, such as Chinatown transformation work
- Streamline processing of heritage applications
- Review and update recruitment, training, outreach, and terms of reference for heritage advisory committees and Vancouver Heritage Commission, to ensure diverse representation and inclusive leadership roles and practices
- Develop the necessary engagement processes and support to fully engage with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, Urban Indigenous population, and systemically excluded ethnocultural communities

## VHP COMPONENTS

- **Planning and Regulatory Tools**
  - Community and land use plans and policies
  - Zoning and Development By-law
  - Heritage Property Standards of Maintenance By-law
  - Heritage Procedure By-law
  - Heritage Policies, Guidelines, Procedures and Bulletins
  - Other by-laws (Vancouver Building By-Law, Parking, Subdivision)
- **Support Tools**
  - Zoning Incentives
  - Transfer of Density
  - Grants
  - Property Tax Exemptions
  - Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada
  - Statements of Significance
  - Heritage Assessments
  - Heritage Value Statements
  - Conservation Plans
  - Heritage, Social and Cultural Asset Mapping and Impacts
  - Heritage Advisory Committees
  - Vancouver Heritage Commission
  - Dedicated Heritage Staff
- **Protection Tools**
  - Heritage Designation
  - Heritage Revitalization Agreements
  - Heritage Conservation Covenants
  - Temporary Protection
  - Heritage Alteration Permits
  - Historic Area (HA) zones and design guidelines
  - Heritage Conservation Areas



## GOAL 3

# LINK HERITAGE TO OTHER CITY GOALS

Acknowledge the environmental, social, cultural, and economic benefits of heritage conservation. Leverage heritage conservation to meet other City goals and strive for outcomes that balance multiple objectives.



Top: Alhambra, Vancouver, BC. Bottom: Stanley Park Seawall, Vancouver, BC.  
Right: Gathering of Canoes in False Creek, Vancouver, BC

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- Implement Reconciliation, equity, inclusion, and cultural heritage objectives and goals (Making Space for Arts and Culture and Culture|Shift)
- Embed Vancouver Heritage Program guiding principles, goals, and directions into all planning activities
- Work together with Arts, Culture, and Community Services (ACCS) to develop cross-departmental approaches that include intangible cultural heritage in heritage planning
- Integrate heritage planning with community planning, urban design, and urban development processes
- Support achieving multiple sustainability outcomes through heritage conservation and integrated design processes
- Improve stewardship of City-owned heritage resources

## VHP COMPONENTS

- Community plans
- City initiatives
- Statements of Significance and heritage conservation plans for City-owned heritage resources
- Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) Planning Model and Planning Tools



## GOAL 4

# PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS, ENGAGEMENT, AND SUPPORT

Promote and support the celebration and protection of the city's heritage values and historic places (tangible and intangible heritage), and its living cultural heritage. Provide opportunities for a broad spectrum of public education and awareness.



Top Left: African Descent Festival, Vancouver, BC, Top Right: Pinoy Fiesta, Vancouver, BC,  
Bottom Left: Diwali Festival, Vancouver, BC, Bottom Right: Powell Street Festival, Vancouver, BC

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- Promote and support Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous Cultural Heritage
- Support the writing and telling of Indigenous history by Indigenous Peoples
- Promote and support cultural redress and celebrate diverse cultural histories
- Promote understanding of arts and cultural heritage (tangible and intangible)
- Improve heritage awareness, inclusive leadership practices and opportunities, and engagement programs, tools and resources
- Maximize strategic community partnerships to build greater public awareness, engagement, and support for heritage of all communities

## VHP COMPONENTS

- Heritage information on the city website
- Partnership with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, Urban Indigenous people, and systemically excluded ethnocultural communities and marginalized community groups
- Heritage plaques
- Heritage awards
- Heritage public advisory committees
- Vancouver Heritage Commission
- Vancouver Heritage Foundation





For more information on heritage planning and conservation visit the Vancouver Heritage Program webpage ([link](#)) or refer to the following:

1. Vancouver Heritage Register: [Link](#)
2. Heritage Policies: [Link](#)
3. Heritage Incentive Program: [Link](#)
4. Heritage Façade Rehabilitation Program: [Link](#)
5. Heritage Procedure By-law: [Link](#)
6. Heritage Property Standards of Maintenance By-law: [Link](#)
7. Heritage By-law: [Link](#)
8. Transfer of Density Policy and Procedure: [Link](#)
9. Zoning and Development By-law: [Link](#)
10. Parking By-law: [Link](#)
11. Subdivision By-law: [Link](#)

Cover page photos (left to right):

- Vancouver School Board posts carved by members of the Squamish and Musqueam First Nations. Photo Dan Toulgoet
- Arbutus Coffee Shop, Vancouver, BC
- Chinatown Millennium Gate, Vancouver, BC
- Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall, Vancouver, BC
- Marine Building, Vancouver, BC