

Heritage Conservation Education Program

Heritage Conservation Certificate

VHF's Heritage Conservation courses teach homeowners, building owners, and professionals skills and knowledge related to the care and maintenance of older buildings and heritage sites.

Formerly known as "Old School," these courses and workshops are offered in a variety of formats, with in-person sessions being held in the Lower Mainland as well as virtual sessions hosted via Zoom.

Participants are welcome to attend individual talks and workshops or they may choose to work towards the Heritage Conservation Certificate. There is no additional fee to receive the certificate.



All courses are delivered by heritage professionals working in the fields of architecture, trades & construction, heritage conservation, planning, landscaping, and related professions.

All courses are eligible to receive Professional Development credits from AIBC, AIC-BC, BCSLA, BOABC, PIBC and IDIBC. These organizations are self-reporting so please check with your professional body about how to register your attendance.

See below for the courses, workshops and tours you can take to complete your Heritage Conservation Certificate.

How to complete your Heritage Conservation Certificate

Step One: Enroll in Heritage 101

Heritage 101 (3 credits)

Heritage 101 covers the basics of heritage conservation in Canada, with topics ranging from intangible cultural heritage values to writing conservation plans for historic sites. It is available on demand, so you can work through it at your own pace.

Step Two: Earn 15 credits from any of the following courses*

Full-Day Courses (3 credits each)

- Building Exteriors
- Conservation of Interiors
- Planning & Managing a Heritage Project

Half-Day Courses (2 credits each)

- Architectural Photography
- Creating a Heritage Conservation Plan
- Drafting a Statement of Significance
- Maintenance and Repair of Wood Windows
- Masonry

Courses & Talks (1 credit each)

- Heritage Designation
- Heritage Hour and/or Heritage Lunch and Learn (to a maximum of 3 credits)
- Heritage Paint Schemes
- Planning a Heritage Garden
- Researching the History of a Building (Archives or VPL Special Collections)
- Steps for Sustainability (available online)

Step Three: Attend a House Tour OR 3 Walking Tours

House Tour

Heritage Discovery Day takes place the first Sunday in June. *If you have attended a past House Tour (ie. Laneway, Neighbourhood, Mid-Century Modern, Vancouver Special), please contact VHF's Program Manager.

Walking Tours

Walking tours are offered throughout the year, primarily from June to September. Upcoming tours are posted on our website. Please note that virtual strolls do not qualify for the walking tour requirement.

Completion of the Heritage Conservation Certificate typically takes two years, depending on course schedules. *Not all courses are offered every year and courses may be subject to change.

For course descriptions, enrollment information, and more information on the certificate program, please contact VHF Program Manager: golmehr@vancouverheritagefoundation.org.