VANCOUVER
HERITAGE
FOUNDATION



VANCOUVER HERITAGE FOUNDATION 2026

Making Meaning,
Making Community,
Making History,
Together.

Vancouver Heritage Foundation

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Registered Charity # 891765968

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2026 has been a year of milestones, celebrations and changes for VHF!

This year we are celebrating the 15th anniversary of Places That Matter (PTM), and we dedicated the 100th PTM plaque over the summer. We will be dedicating the 102nd plaque before the end of the year. The program is going strong and engaging significant heritage sites and present day communities throughout Vancouver. PTM is a living document with the potential to grow indefinitely. This is also the program that is the most in need of funding, as there has never been a funding stream dedicated to PTM from any level of government or grant funder. PTM continues to be funded by VHF's program revenue and donations from community members like you.

Our Grant Programs Manager, Meghan Lenz, is moving on after six years with VHF. Meghan is moving into a new role as a heritage consultant, with her new business Heritage Lens. Meghan's work as Grant Programs Manager has meaningfully contributed to the conservation of heritage buildings and cultural assets throughout Vancouver. All of us at VHF wish Meghan all the best in her new endeavor, we will miss her wry sense of humor on the team. We now welcome our incoming Grant Programs Manager, Merissa Lompart, who joined the team in early October. Merissa's experience as a planner in Brampton, ON and her master's degree in architecture from UBC makes her the perfect fit for the role and we look forward to VHF's grant programs all continuing as scheduled with no disruption.

Our Community Engagement Manager Jessica Quan is also planning to move on in Spring 2027 after 16 years in various roles with VHF. Jessica has been the beating heart of the Places That Matter program since its inception. Her community connections and deep knowledge of Vancouver's history has been invaluable to our organization. In the last year we have expanded the PTM team to include our Program Manager Golmehr Kazari, who will be taking over the role of Community Programs Manager in 2027. Golmehr has blossomed in her Program Manager role, and her calm, organized and friendly demeanor makes her an ideal person to oversee PTM.

Finally, we look forward to 2027 when VHF will be celebrating our 35th anniversary. I am so proud to be at the helm of our wonderful organization during this milestone. We look forward to celebrating our achievements with you, as we could not have accomplished our work without the support of our program participants, volunteers and donors. Thank you for your support of VHF and our work.



With gratitude,

Laura Carey

Laura Carey
Executive Director
Vancouver Heritage Foundation

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Support VHF's Work Conserving Vancouver's Heritage

From walking tours and speaker series, free public events and credit-earning coursework to grant funding for heritage conservation, Vancouver Heritage Foundation (VHF) is committed to engaging Vancouverites and visitors with the heritage all around us. Your gift helps make this work possible.

Donate now and help us connect people with Vancouver's unique history.

In 2026, VHF continues to deliver our year-round educational programming, public engagement and conservation activities with the help of our donors and program participants. This year marks the 15th anniversary of our award-winning program Places That Matter, established in 2011. We dedicated 5 new Places That Matter plaques, including plaque #100 at Mount Pleasant Family Centre.

Donations of Any Size Make a Big Impact!

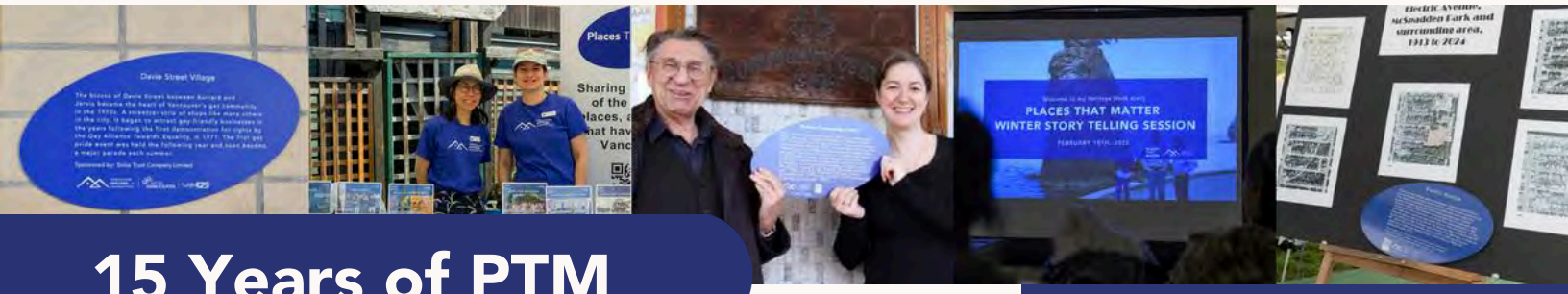
In 2027, we will be celebrating the 35th anniversary of Vancouver Heritage Foundation. We have a long history of creating meaningful opportunities for heritage awareness and conservation, and VHF can be trusted to follow through on our promises and our goals.

Our work is relevant because we promote values-based conservation practices that center people's connection to heritage and to each other. We build meaningful relationships with Vancouver communities and platform their priorities in our educational programs, grant programs and special events.

VHF prioritizes conserving the full scope of heritage in our work through valuing both tangible and intangible heritage. We achieve our mission to advance the appreciation and conservation of Vancouver's heritage places and their stories through our three branches of work.

The Three Branches of VHF's Work

1. Education & Awareness
2. Policy Work with the City of Vancouver
3. Practical Support for Conservation Projects

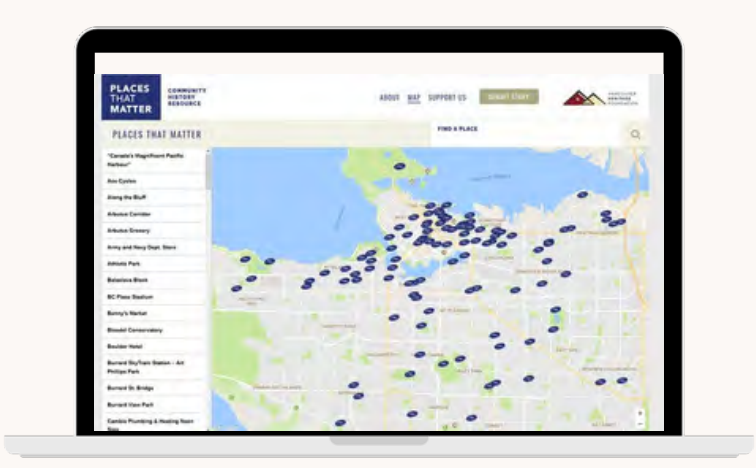


15 Years of PTM

Places That Matter (PTM) is a program that acknowledges the lesser-known stories of Vancouver's history, as told by the Vancouver communities. The project components include a series of over 100 physical plaques in Vancouver and a web-based community history resource with information about over 125 historic places, people and stories from the city's past and present. Each of the 125 sites is profiled with their own webpage exhibiting plaque text, historic research, oral histories, contemporary and historic photos, as well as opportunities for community contribution.

As each site is community nominated, the power to determine what is deemed important is in the hands of the public. PTM prioritizes self-representation by Vancouver's many cultural communities.

Places That Matter maintains the stories of Vancouver's roots and our collective identity while the city around us constantly changes.



Learn more about PTM at
placesthatmatter.ca

The intention of the program was to honour Vancouver's 125th anniversary. PTM has only gained relevance since 2011, and we are celebrating 15 years of Places That Matter in 2026.

Since 2011, VHF has presented 101 plaques via community celebrations at Places That Matter sites.

Plaque #1 was presented at Stanley Park Rock Garden in October of 2011.

Plaque #101 was presented to the former Cellar jazz club on June 30, 2026.

Notably, Musqueam nation has nominated five sites to the Places That Matter program. Places That Matter is filling a gap by documenting and conserving precious information about Vancouver's cultural heritage, including buildings and beyond.









15 Years of PTM

2026 Plaque Dedications

In 2026 we were able to dedicate six new plaques to PTM sites, including plaques #97 through #102. This year marks two major milestones for us, celebrating both the 15th anniversary of the project and dedicating the 100th plaque, located at the Mount Pleasant Family Centre.

Every PTM site was nominated by a Vancouverite like you, making public relevance the arbiter of what's included.



Photo credit: Ritvika S

Strengths of the PTM project include that it has no end date and no maximum number of sites to be included. If there is a place that you think should be included, please reach out to us to discuss your thoughts - we want to hear from you!

Plaque #97 City Farmer Garden

Founded in 1978, City Farmer Society established the Strathcona Community Garden and the Lord Roberts School Garden to demonstrate urban agriculture across diverse Vancouver environments. In 1981, City Farmer boldly transformed a former parking lot at 2150 Maple Street into an organic food garden and in 1990 this site became the City of Vancouver's Compost Demonstration Garden.


Photo credit: Ritvika S

City Farmer now receives thousands of visitors from around the world eager to see how urban land can be managed in a productive and environmentally sustainable manner. As a living classroom, it features a variety of compost systems, a cob shed with a green roof, and cultivated beds of vegetables, herbs, fruit, and pollinator-friendly perennials. In warmer months, visitors may observe local wildlife, feed mulberry leaves to silkworms, and harvest hops used in beer making.



15 Years of PTM

Plaque #98 Larwill Park



Photo credit: Ritvika S

As early as the 1880s, this historic site was known as the Cambie Street Grounds and was a much loved park, sporting field, and parade ground, a vibrant gathering place for public meetings and athletic events. In 1901, the grounds formed part of the route and gathering place for the parade honouring the visiting Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York. Baseball, cricket, and lacrosse teams played here year round and it served as military drill grounds during the Boer War and the two World Wars. In 1943, the park was dedicated to Al Larwill, celebrated as the "father of amateur sports in Vancouver," and was officially renamed Larwill Park. From the mid 1940s to 1993 the block was Vancouver's central bus depot. Today, Larwill Park remains a landmark of community spirit and cultural heritage and is designated as the future home of a new, purpose-built Vancouver Art Gallery.

Plaque #99 Labor Temple

On this site, a former Methodist church became a home for Vancouver unionists in 1899. In 1911–12 a new Labor Temple, designed by architect Thomas Hooper, was built here to house union offices, meeting rooms, a print shop, and a bookstore. It became a major centre of labour organizing and public debate and was the headquarters for Canada's first general strike on August 2, 1918, called to mourn the death of labour leader Ginger Goodwin, resulting in a violent clash with returned soldiers. Financial pressures forced the sale of the building in 1922, and it later passed into provincial ownership. The 411 Seniors Centre Society's drop-in centre (1977 - 2012) continued the site's long tradition as a place of community support. In 2014 a local developer completed a major renovation, including seismic upgrades and an addition, restoring the building to its former prominence.


Photo credit: Alireza Dashti



15 Years of PTM

Plaque #100 Mount Pleasant Family Centre

Mount Pleasant Family Centre was inaugurated as a non-profit society in 1976 in response to the needs of local mothers for a safe, child-friendly space to meet for mutual support. The original centre was located on 6th and Main in the heart of old Mount Pleasant, in East Vancouver. In 1980 the society negotiated with the Vancouver Park Board to move to its present location, leasing the then vacant clubhouse in the northwest corner of Robson Park, at St. George St and E 13th Ave. The parent volunteer board worked with staff to raise the funds to renovate the building, equipping it with a playroom and adult lounge area which remain at its core to this day.

Through the Circles of Care and Connection Early Years Refugee Program, Mount Pleasant Family Centre Society supported refugee families from 2009 to 2025. For more than 15 years, the program was a vital resource for Government-Assisted Refugee families with children aged 0–6 settling across Metro Vancouver. Through family support, parent education, social activities, outreach, and home visiting, the program helped families build strong relationships, reduce isolation, and develop a sense of belonging in their new country.



Left: MPFCS Executive Director Sanja Sladojevic and John Quinton installing plaque #100. Right: MPFCS staff and community.
Photo credits: Jessica Quan & MPFCS



15 Years of PTM

Plaque #101 Original Jazz cellar club

2026 marks 70 years since the Cellar jazz club first opened its doors at 2514 Watson Street. Although the club closed in 1964 and the location has been redeveloped, we recognize the lasting impact and enduring legacy it holds in musical history, as well as its influence on the contemporary jazz scene in Vancouver and beyond.



Photo credit: Ritvika S

Vancouver's original Cellar on Watson at Broadway in the heart of Mount Pleasant was a legendary jazz club that first opened in 1956. The subterranean club began as a place for expressive local jazz players like John Dawe, Al Neil, and Dave Quarin to make music. It developed a reputation as an important venue on the North American west coast, where Charles Mingus, Art Pepper, Wes Montgomery, and other iconic jazz artists performed. The Cellar, which also offered experimental live theatre and displayed striking art, closed in 1964. Its legend lives on as one of the most memorable jazz joints in the history of Vancouver's live music scene.



Photo credit: Bill Boyle. Musicians John Dawe, trumpet and Harold Krause, piano, at the Cellar.



15 Years of PTM

UPCOMING

Plaque #102 - Cory Weeds' Jazz Cellar Club

In 2000, saxophonist Cory Weeds opened the Cellar, on West Broadway in Vancouver's Kitsilano neighbourhood. Despite the challenges of running a jazz club and restaurant, Weeds' Cellar found its resilient, swinging groove. The basement venue was a vital catalyst for bringing the best out of the city's jazz musicians, such as Ross Taggart, Jodi Proznick, and Weeds himself. Intimate and beloved, the Cellar often featured acclaimed visiting players: David "Fathead" Newman, Dr. Lonnie Smith, George Coleman, and many others. The friendly staff made patrons feel at home. While the final notes resonated in Weeds' Cellar in 2014 after a glorious 13-and-a-half year run, the jazz club endures as a warm memory.


Cory Weeds and Lou Donaldson Photo credit: S Mynett

VHF will celebrate the final plaque presentation of 2026 on November 15th.

FROM THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

It's been a privilege working at VHF for the past (almost) 16 years in various special projects which have become annual celebrations, new annual programs, grants and core to VHF's mission of education and awareness. Places That Matter holds a special place to me, as it's helped define what heritage is and can be, for communities of all types, in Vancouver. In PTM's 15th Anniversary year, we celebrated with two panel style lecture events, 6 plaque presentations and 3 outreach events. I look forward to seeing how the next 15 Years of PTM evolves and continues to be relevant.



- Jessica Quan



Education

2026 YEAR IN REVIEW

70+
GRANTS AWARDED

600+
HOUSE TOUR PARTICIPANTS

1500+
EVENT ATTENDEES

800+
STUDENTS & EDUCATORS REACHED

330+
WALKING TOUR PARTICIPANTS

180+
VOLUNTEERS

OUR IMPACT TO DATE

540+
GRANTS AWARDED

71k+
HOUSE TOUR PARTICIPANTS

17.5k+
EVENT ATTENDEES

9k+
STUDENTS & EDUCATORS REACHED

8k+
WALKING TOUR PARTICIPANTS

1750+
VOLUNTEERS

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Reflecting on my sixth year with VHF, I am always amazed at how much our small team can accomplish over the course of twelve months. The highlight of 2026 for me was all the events commemorating 15 Years of Places that Matter - from plaque presentations to special events held on site at some of these important spaces, it was an exciting year filled with diverse, dynamic programs! The project has grown into a pillar of the work we do and the continued community support for it is always inspiring to see. 2027 promises to be a year of change and celebration as VHF turns 35 and I am looking forward pursuing new opportunities and ideas, as well as bring back some old favourites.



- Sarah Carlson



Education

FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

As I enter into my 3rd year as a Program Manager, I am grateful for all the programming that I have accomplished. I have found meaning in connecting with our audience, planning our programs and growing my skills. This past year, as part



of celebrating Heritage Week we continued to grow our programming to include four separate events that each exemplified the theme of "Stir the Pot." Having the privilege to celebrate food as a form of heritage through sharing personal experiences, community stories, and shared practices exemplified that food and heritage is both deeply personal and widely shared experience.

- Katherine Figueiredo

FROM THE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS MANAGER

As a Program Manager, I'm excited for continuing to work on meaningful programs and to grow the capacity of our programming. A fulfilling part of my job has been the opportunity to expand our reach and audience by offering low-barrier programs such as virtual Heritage Lunch and Learn sessions and offerings during the Culture Days.



Making connection between place-based histories, events and intangible heritage continues to be a focus of our public programming, and sold-out programs shows the public's interest.

I am excited to step into the Community Programs Manager role in 2027, taking on Places That Matter project and the privilege to work with community storytellers, and cultural spaces across neighbourhoods.

- Golmehr Kazari



Education

Places That Matter Community Fair

The PTM Community Fair during Heritage Week is a free, family-friendly event designed to connect community members with cultural organizations that steward Vancouver's historic places and stories. Our 2026 Community Fair at Heritage Hall hosted over 50 delegates from 28 different community organizations that represent PTM sites. We counted 318 attendees to the Community Fair, making 2026 our most attended iteration of the event to date.

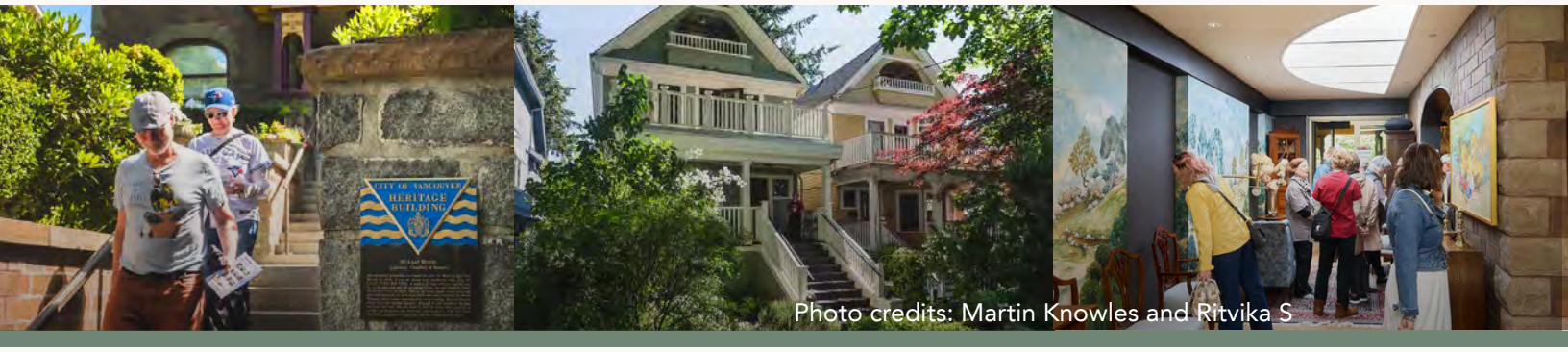


Photo credits: Martin Knowles and Ritvika S

Heritage Discovery Day

On June 6th with the support of over 165 volunteers, this year's event brought over 600 ticketholders through nine heritage sites in Mount Pleasant and Riley Park, representing a wide range of housing styles and adaptive re-use – from a 1910 Craftsman to a distinctive Riley Park residence that blends Mid-Century Modernist roots with the layout and design that later defined the Vancouver Special.

Sneak Peak at 2027 →

In 2027 we will be highlighting the neighbourhoods of Hastings-Sunrise and Grandview-Woodland!



Photo credit: Martin Knowles



Education

Our Educational Programs

We offer a year-round calendar of events including walking tours, Heritage Hour lectures, virtual Lunch & Learn sessions, professional development days for teachers and special events like book launch celebrations.

VHF also celebrates three major annual events: Heritage Week in February, our signature Heritage Discovery Day tour of a Vancouver neighborhood's heritage homes and community sites in June and Historic Places Days in July. We are the primary organization in Vancouver that celebrates Provincial BC Heritage Week and National Historic Places Days. Each year, the Mayor or Deputy Mayor of Vancouver delivers an official proclamation recognizing VHF's Heritage Week events as having cultural, historic and civic value to Vancouver.

Heritage Week

Our Annual Winter Storytelling event highlighted the provincial theme of 'Come to the Table' and brought together speakers and storytellers who reflected on how food brings us together and shared who we are and where we come from. In 2026, we were proud to have Chamiya-Janis Campbell, a Squamish Language and Cultural Instructor share traditional Squamish Stories. Our panel included Shookofeh Manesh of the Vancouver Fruit Tree Project, Grace Nombrado of Free the Fern, and Tanya Campbell of Copley Community Orchard and we learned how their cherished recipes, beloved dishes and community tie us all to the powerful theme of food. Deputy Mayor Sarah Kirby-Yung presented the Proclamation of Heritage Week 2026 at the Winter Storytelling event.



Photo credit: Kamran Safari



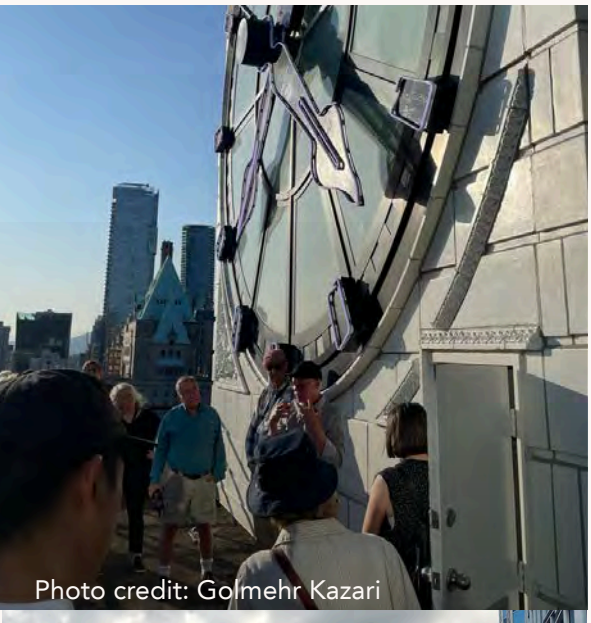
Photo credit: Alireza Dashti








Education


Photo credit: Golmehr Kazari

Historic Places Days

Historic Places Days is a platform for individuals and organizations to showcase the places and stories important to them in their own words. As the presenter, the National Trust for Canada recognizes that Canada's history and heritage is complex and contentious, dominated by settler perspectives, and that individually or collectively the stories may lack diversity.

For the third year in a row, VHF's expanded capacity allowed us to host events during National Historic Places Days. We held a sold-out tours of the Vancouver Block with a behind the scenes look at the iconic clock, hosted by friend of VHF and renowned heritage consultant Don Luxton.

In 2026, we introduced a new special event walking tour - Behind-the-Scenes with Vancouver's Chinese Societies. A visible and yet commonly overlooked fabric that lines the streets of Chinatown and the surrounding neighbourhoods are Chinese Societies and Vancouver is home to one of the largest concentrations of them. This walk included access into the Chin Wing Chun Tong Society building with guide Larry Chin.


Photo credit: Katherine Figueiredo


Photo credit: Sarah Carlson





Education

Field Trip Grants

VHF has been offering field trip grants to encourage explorations with Vancouver's diverse local history and heritage places since 2019 as part of our Heritage in Schools program, thanks to public donations and dedicated funding from major donors like the Christopher Foundation.

In the 2025-2026 school year, 20 field trip grants were awarded, allowing 29 classes with over 740 students to participate in a heritage-focused workshop or attend a walking tour in their community or field trip at a local museums and heritage sites. There were nearly double the number of applications than funding allows, providing an area of growth for partnerships and increased donors.

Selected field trips destinations included the Chinatown Storytelling Centre (bottom left, center right), the Chinese Canadian Museum (bottom right), the Museum of Vancouver's Immmigration Nation exhibition (top right).



Photo credit: D. Egersdorfer



Photo credit: Sandra Boyland



Photo credit: Stephanie Ng



Photo credit: Pam Grewal



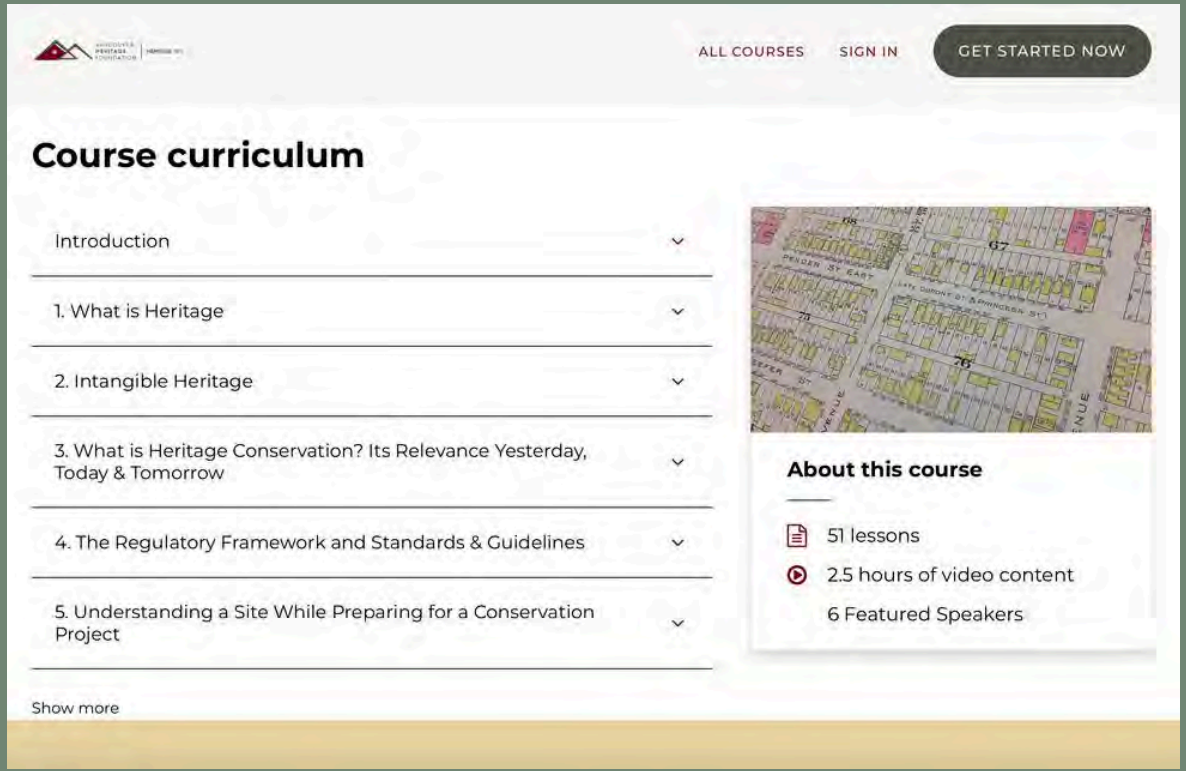
Education

Heritage Conservation Education Certificate

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

Heritage 101

Our updated and fully online Heritage 101 course – the cornerstone of our Heritage Conservation Education certificate program – launched in early 2025. This is a major accomplishment for VHF, as the new remote access and self-determined pacing to Heritage 101 makes the Heritage Conservation Education program available to more people – from more places, provincially and nationally - than ever before!



Enroll in Heritage 101 on Demand



Education

Heritage Conservation Education

VHF offers a variety of Heritage Conservation Education workshops, each of which earns credits towards our Heritage Conservation Certificate.


Photo credit: Golmehr Kazari

The first of VHF's 2026 offerings was Maintenance and Repair of Wood Windows with Ryan Bahris, owner of Extraordinary League Contracting Ltd (pictured right.) Windows are one of the key character defining elements of buildings, and with proper maintenance, they can have a life cycle of a hundred years before needing replacement. This in-person workshop discussed the design and construction of wood windows, and practical considerations for their conservation and maintenance.

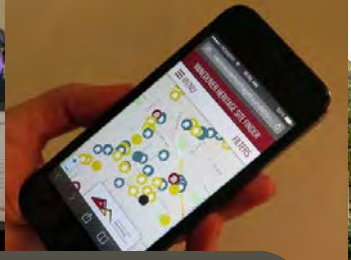
In many municipalities in BC, a Heritage Conservation Plan is a mandatory document for development permits involving a listed heritage property or for the purposes of a Heritage Revitalization Agreement, but it also represents a really helpful and thorough decision making process for owners of old buildings. VHF regularly offers a Creating a Heritage Conservation Plan workshop with Elana Zysblat, a local heritage consultant and former chair of the BC Association of Heritage Professionals. In this informative hybrid workshop participants learned how to create a Heritage Conservation Plan using real case studies. Each project is illustrated and analyzed from the research stage, through the owner's plans and needs, the construction phase and the crucial role of the Heritage Conservation Plan in guiding and solving the complexity of a heritage project.

From the Neo-classical to the Mid-century modern, architectural styles have reflected the trends and values of their day, while also being influenced by the iconic designers and architects of the era. Don Luxton of Luxton and Associates hosted our Architectural Styles workshop to a rapt audience in September (below, right). The presentation explored a selection of styles found in Vancouver and shares what influenced their creation and how best to identify them. In addition, participants learned about the complexity and reality of identifying a 'style' and discuss whether these labels help or hinder design decisions.



Photo credit: Golmehr Kazari







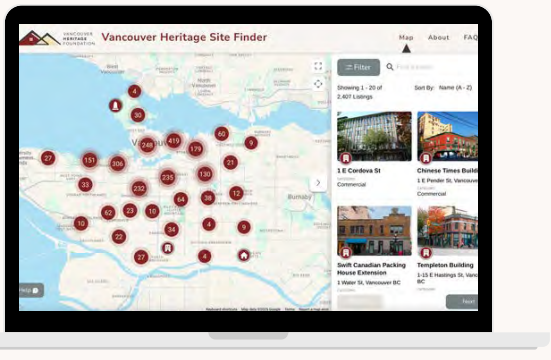

Policy Work

VHF's Relationship with the City

As a Civic Agency, Vancouver Heritage Foundation has a dedicated liaison to City Council as an ex-officio member of our Board of Directors. Our liaison has been Councillor Lisa Dominato, who has served in this capacity from 2023 to present. Our liaison to Council is updated after each municipal election. Our Board of Directors also includes City of Vancouver's Senior Heritage Planner, Zlatan Jankovic and Chair of the Heritage Commission, Michael Gordon as ex-officio members. VHF's robust relationship with the City of Vancouver creates opportunities for us to give feedback on policies directly to City Council and the department head of Heritage Planning.



Vancouver City Councillor Lisa Dominato



Heritage Site Finder

Vancouver Heritage Foundation's Heritage Site Finder website is a user-friendly, map-based guide to sites listed on the City's Vancouver Heritage Register. We collect community stories and relevant historical information about each site on the Heritage Register, creating an accessible resource for the public.

Scan to visit the website!

Heritage Site Finder is continuously updated with new community stories and relevant information about the changing landscape of the City of Vancouver's heritage policies, such as the discontinuation of the A/B/C classification.

Support the Stories That Built Vancouver!

Our city's heritage is more than buildings — it's the people, languages, and cultures that shape our neighbourhoods. Help us protect the full scope of Vancouver's history through education, policy, and conservation support.

Donate now to recognize stories that matter!







Conservation

FROM THE OUTGOING GRANT PROGRAMS MANAGER

After six years at VHF, I am saddened to be leaving the team, but very proud of the work I've done here. I look back on many successful conservation grants, from stained glass domes to gutter repairs; supporting the owners and stewards of so many of our city's heritage resources has been a privilege. I've also treasured the opportunity to



administer the Yosef Wosk publication grants and learn from many incredible authors and creators. But most of all, I've enjoyed connecting with the public to help broaden the understanding of heritage in Vancouver, especially through our Heritage Conservation Education programming. I'll continue to work with VHF in a volunteer capacity on programs such as True Colours and man the barbecue at the annual picnic- so don't worry, you won't get rid of me that easy!

- Meghan Lenz

FROM THE INCOMING GRANT PROGRAMS MANAGER

I am an architectural designer with a Master of Architecture from UBC, my interests lie in heritage conservation, adaptive reuse and uncovering historic narratives. I have worked in and around the heritage field for the last eight years. As a Heritage Planner



in Ontario, I led conservation projects, worked closely with the community, and actively added to the heritage register. As the incoming Grant Programs Manager at VHF, I am excited to get to know the Vancouver heritage community and continue to make Vancouver's tangible and intangible heritage more accessible.

- Merissa Lompart







Conservation

Robert Lemon Heritage Studies Prize

The 2026 Robert Lemon Heritage Studies Prize has been awarded to Aref Sadeghi Nik, a Civil Engineering PhD candidate at University of Victoria.


Robert Lemon

Aref's project proposes the development of sustainable, self-healing cementitious materials inspired by the long-term durability of Roman concrete, with applications in the conservation and resilience of built heritage. The project focuses on designing and optimizing self-healing materials through particle packing and material engineering, incorporating locally available waste-derived materials such as biochar and supplementary cementitious materials.

Heritage Conservation Grants

In the past year, VHF awarded 37 grants for heritage conservation projects, totaling $262,901. The grantees are located in 17 different neighbourhoods, with the highest numbers in Kitsilano, Grandview-Woodland, Mount Pleasant and Strathcona. Eight of the grantees are non-profit owned, including the now completed repainting of the Dr. Peter Centre in Mole Hill and planned accessibility upgrades to Joy Kogawa House.

"I thought it was amazing from start to finish...it's clear that this is a very effective program that supports the maintenance of Vancouver's character during this overwhelming push for ultra-modernization and our city of glass. Thank you again to everyone involved in the grant distribution process and to the Heritage Foundation on the whole. The work you do is important, and it will last for generations to come.".

– 2026 Heritage Conservation Grant recipient









Conservation

Heritage Conservation Grants

St. Augustine's is a neighborhood hub in Marpole, offering community meals, a food hub and a lending library for the local community. VHF has supported their efforts to maintain their heritage buildings with grants for siding repair and windows. In 2026 a conservation grant supported the church's new storm windows and window repairs in the vestry.

"Our ongoing program to restore the historic church has benefited greatly from the Heritage Conservation Grants Program. We are able to raise funds ourselves and then access the support of the grants program to progress the work in stages. The conservation of the building would not be achievable without this support."

– St. Augustine Church, 2026 Heritage Conservation Grant recipient



The Dr. Peter Centre has managed day health programs, a 24-hour licensed care residence, and an enhanced supportive housing program since 1997. Located in Mole Hill, the Centre is open seven days a week and serves 87,000 meals to participants and residents every year. They offer integrated care that combines HIV/AIDS support, mental health services, and addiction treatment with daily meals and therapeutic activities. The Centre includes a 1906 Edwardian house which was painted in historic True Colours, first in 1999 as part of the Mole Hill True Colours project (which you can read more about on our True Colours webpage) and now in 2026.

"Painting the building's exterior would not have happened without the financial assistance of the Heritage Conservation Grants Program. It offered a cushion for the Centre, as we have to fundraise for all our operational needs."

– Dr. Peter Centre, 2026 Heritage Conservation Grant recipient









Conservation

Heritage Conservation Grants

The Pennsylvania Hotel originally opened in 1906 as the Woods Hotel, the prominent bay windows with fire-proof sheet metal cladding drew their inspiration from contemporary buildings in San Francisco. The conversion from a single-room occupancy hotel to 44 studio apartments was completed in 2008. As part of its restoration, the turret roof and a historically authentic neon sign were reinstalled.

Since 2008, operations have included suites for vulnerable residents, many of them seniors, as well as the Community Transitional Care Team, co-managed by building owner and operator, non-profit PHS Community Services Society and Vancouver Coastal Health. At the end of 2025, with the help of a Heritage Conservation Grant, the building was repainted in a True Colours historic scheme determined by heritage consultant Don Luxton.

"Without this support, it would have been extremely challenging to allocate the necessary resources for specialized heritage restoration, including hazardous material reporting, scaffolding installation, surface preparation, and application of historically accurate colours. The grant made it possible to maintain the integrity of this designated heritage building, which serves as both an iconic landmark and a vital community resource providing housing and services for vulnerable residents.



We deeply appreciate the program's contribution, which not only enabled the technical completion of the project but also reinforced our commitment to preserving the Pennsylvania Hotel as a symbol of Vancouver's evolving history and cultural vibrancy."

– The Pennsylvania Hotel, 2026 Heritage Conservation Grant recipient







Conservation

Heritage Conservation Grants

Canuck Place is housed in the historic mansion of Glen Brae in Shaughnessy, where they operate as a children's hospice.

Glen Brae is a four-storey 16,000 sq. ft. mansion with 18 rooms and six bathrooms. It features two domed turrets that have arched window openings on third floor. Its ornate woodwork includes dentils on the soffits, heads & sills, eave brackets and expansive Corinthian-columned entry porch. It had one of British Columbia's first elevators, as Tait's wife used a wheelchair.

Between 1993-1995, the building underwent a renovation by architects Downs & Archambault. Canuck Place officially opened on October 26, 1995, becoming the first free-standing children's hospice in North America.

In 2026, a Heritage Conservation Grant from VHF supported a new Conservation Plan written by heritage consultant Hugh McLean. The conservation plan will provide much needed long-term guidance on the maintenance and care of this historic and beloved estate.



"Vancouver Heritage Foundation was incredibly supportive during the application process, and their guidance is greatly appreciated. Their online resources led us to a number of qualified consultants. We interviewed with three who were all strong candidates for our project… VHF was very knowledgeable and responsive to any questions during the application process."

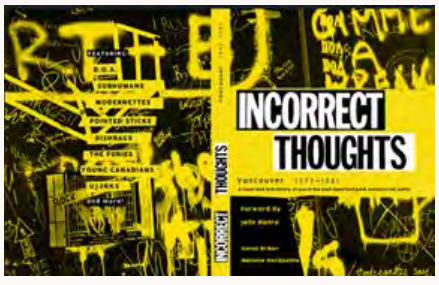
– Canuck Places Children's Hospice, 2026 Heritage Conservation Grant recipient



Conservation

Yosef Wosk Publication Grants

These grants support new, original publications on aspects of Vancouver's heritage places, their conservation and related topics.



Incorrect Thoughts – Oral and Visual History of Vancouver Punk and Art Scene '77-81
David Briker and Melanie Hardbattle

Incorrect Thoughts is a large-format oral and visual history of Vancouver's late 1970s punk and underground art scene. Drawing on nearly 60 interviews and extensive archival research the book documents how this movement emerged in Vancouver through a network of key cultural spaces such as artist-run centres, live-work environments, and venues.



RIDDIM: A Community Archive Audio-Visual Heritage Publication
Hogan's Alley Society

RIDDIM is an archival website featuring audio-visual interviews with Afro-diasporic Vancouver community members, presented alongside oral history recordings, archival photographs, and documentary materials centred on Hogan's Alley and Black life in Vancouver.



Wing Sang Stories: Then & Now: A Living Heritage Podcast Series
Chinese Canadian Museum

This project will produce a three-episode audio documentary series as part of the Chinese Canadian Museum's existing podcast platform, The School Room. The series will focus on the Wing Sang Building as a case study in heritage conservation, cultural continuity, and adaptive reuse within Vancouver's Chinatown.



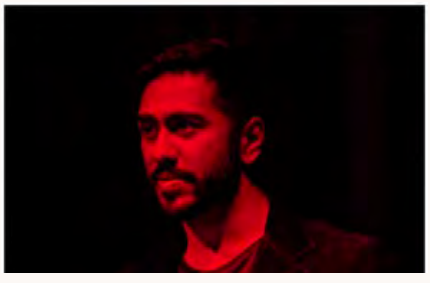
Conservation

Yosef Wosk Publication Grants



Musqueam Historical Atlas
Musqueam Indian Band

The Historical Atlas will be an interactive digital platform that preserves and showcases Musqueam cultural and territorial histories through maps, oral narratives, archival materials, and immersive multimedia storytelling. Designed as a dynamic virtual exhibit space, the platform will bring together place names, timelines, photos, audio, video, and community stories to share Musqueam knowledge, history, and language in an accessible and respectful manner.



Infinity in Concrete
Naveen Girn

Infinity in Concrete is a short documentary that tells the story of a pivotal moment at the intersection of faith, architecture, and cultural belonging in Vancouver: the commission of the first Gurdwara in North America, designed by iconic Canadian architect Arthur Erickson for Vancouver's growing Sikh community in the late 1960s.



Canadian Legion B.E.S.L. - Japanese Branch #9 Flag
NNMCC 2016.5.1.2.1

The History of Legion Branch No.9
Debbie Jiang

This publication contains new, original content on the unknown history of Canadian Legion Branch No. 9 (Japanese Canadians). Located in the Paueru Gai/Nihonmachi (Powell Street) neighbourhood in Vancouver, its military heritage of 200 Japanese Canadians remains untold due to a dearth of English primary sources and residual shame from the Second World War - forced removal, incarceration, dispossession and exile.







Conservation

Yosef Wosk Publication Grants



Let's Take a Walk! ʔi ɬe neḿ ʔəḿxasəḿ! 我們出去走走啦!
- A Musqueam Children's Book
Sarah Ling & Larry Grant

"Let's Take a Walk! ʔi ɬe neḿ ʔəḿxasəḿ! 我們出去走走啦!" is the only trilingual children's book in hən̓q̓əmiḿəḿ, traditional Chinese and English. This book shares a day in the life of Elder Larry Grant as a young child growing up on the Musqueam Reserve in the 1930s. Born to a Musqueam matriach and Chinese immigrant, he was fortunate to not have to attend Indian residential school. A lifelong educator and learner of his language, this project is intended to instill pride, support language revitalization efforts at Musqueam, and build intercultural bridges. An accompanying webpage that includes audio clips in all three languages will be developed.

True Colours Palette

Sponsored by Sherwin Williams

An additional element to our Conservation Grant program is the True Colours Paint Grant in partnership with Sherwin Williams. The grant provides paint from the True Colours palette, consisting of 40 original paint colours that were used on houses and buildings in Vancouver from the 1880s to the 1920s, often chosen by the first owners and builders. Accessing the True Colours grant contributes to Vancouver's many heritage streetscapes. This year saw the largest number of True Colours projects since the launch of the program in 2019 with 10 total, of which 5 projects completed and another 5 are currently underway!

"The True Colours program has been a remarkable experience. When the program started, we could not have anticipated the depth and richness of the historical palette that we would uncover, the interest that this would generate among homeowners and the general public and the ongoing desire for information about authentic heritage colours."

– Donald Luxton
Heritage Consultant



Volunteers

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 MILESTONE VOLUNTEERS!

10 YEARS

Kevin Bowers
Christine Bowers
Janice Masur
Judy Sheeshka

15 YEARS

Richard Hartfiel
Anne Lidstone
Jill Moberg

20 YEARS

Ingrid Hummelshoj

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION & VOLUNTEER MANAGER

A highlight of the 2026 year has been further engagement with research volunteers, leading to publishing new research on 14 Heritage Site Finder listings. Since launching last year, we have worked with 15 volunteers who've contributed to over 220 hours of research. Recent recruitments and continued interest show what a valuable opportunity this is for volunteers while uplifting the HSF resource for all. Heritage Discovery Day continues to be a popular event that allows us to connect with an eager and diverse volunteer team.153 volunteers joined us to showcase Mount Pleasant this year. Along with Heritage Week's Places That Matter Community Fair and two summer community events, volunteers have dedicated over 1000 hours to VHF events. We look forward to 2027 with VHF's 35th anniversary and how some of our greatest volunteer champions can continued to be recognized.



- Caroline McDonald







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Photo credits: Martin Knowles and Ritvika S







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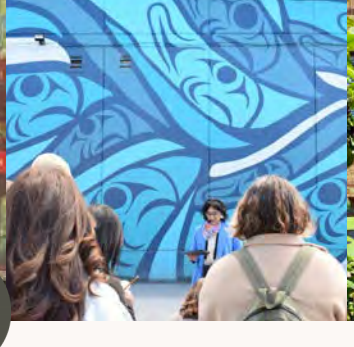
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- Heritage Conservation Grants Program funding

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Vancouver Heritage Foundation is grateful to the City of Vancouver for its continued support in the form of an annual operating grant. The existing operating agreement with the city recognizes the value of the work VHF does to encourage the appreciation and conservation of Vancouver's heritage buildings and places.

The annual grant received contributed $152,375 in 2026.

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Donations of any size are welcome, and can be directed to a program of your choice!

Donate here!

$30 Funds a subsidized ticket to one of our educational events for a student via our Student Access Program

$100 Funds materials for hands-on conservation workshops

$250 Funds a heritage-focused class field trip for a Vancouver school board elementary or high school classroom

$400 Funds an honorarium for a heritage professional presenting at an educational event

$1,000 Funds the venue rental for a free public event like our annual Places That Matter community fair during Heritage Week

$1,500 Funds a Places That Matter site, including research and documentation on PTM website, plaque production & installation and community event to dedicate the PTM site

$2,500 Funds the cost to run a full day heritage-focused Professional Development Day for 25 Vancouver teachers

VANCOUVER HERITAGE FOUNDATION

303-3102 Main Street
Vancouver BC V5T 3G7
(604) 264-9642
mail@vancouverheritagefoundation.org
Registered Charity # 891765968

Donate here!

There are several easy ways to donate:

- Visit vancouverheritagefoundation.org and click the 'DONATE' button
- Mail a cheque made out to Vancouver Heritage Foundation, using the self-addressed stamped envelope provided or mail to 303 – 3102 Main Street, Vancouver BC, V5T 3G7
- Scan the QR code
- Call the VHF office at 604-264-9642 to donate with your VISA or MasterCard

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Photo Credit: Alireza Dashti

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Above (Left to Right): Jessica Quan, Community Engagement Manager; Sarah Carlson, Director of Education; Golmehr Kazari, Community Programs Manager; Katherine Figueiredo, Program Manager; Monique Badun, VHF Board Chair; Laura Carey, Executive Director; Caroline McDonald, Administration & Volunteer Manager; Meghan Lenz, Grant Programs Manager













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