VANCOUVER
HERITAGE
FOUNDATION



VANCOUVER HERITAGE FOUNDATION 2025

Vancouver's Heritage Belongs to You

Every Heritage Place Has a Story. Help Us Tell It.

From neighbourhood walking tours, to expert speaker series, from community-driven plaque recognition to accessible online resources, Vancouver Heritage is committed to engaging people with the heritage all around them. Your gift helps make this work possible.

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

2025 Accomplishments

2025 has been a year filled with successes for Vancouver Heritage Foundation. With additional staff power to broaden our reach and share knowledge about Vancouver's heritage places and their stories, your donations are more impactful than ever!

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:

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







Education

We offer a year-round program 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, Historic Places Days in July and our signature Heritage Discovery Day tour of a Vancouver neighborhood's heritage homes and community sites. 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 Vancouver Heritage Foundation's Heritage Week events as having cultural, historic and civic value to Vancouver.

NEW! Our Heritage 101 on Demand course – the cornerstone of our Heritage Conservation Education accredited certificate program – launched in full in early 2025 after completing a pilot cohort in late 2024. This is a major accomplishment for VHF, as the new remote access and self-determined pacing to Heritage 101 on Demand makes the Heritage Conservation Education program available to more people – from more places, provincially and nationally - than ever before!

VANCOUVER HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Enroll in Heritage 101 on Demand



Education

We continued to celebrate our three annual major event series, Heritage Week in February, Heritage Discovery Day in June and Historic Places Days in July.

Heritage Week

Our annual Winter Storytelling event at Hycroft Manor featured speakers five speakers from important cultural communities in Vancouver who stories of their experiences and accomplishments. In 2025 we were proud to host Japanese Canadian Hastings Park Interpretive Centre Society (JCHPICS) President Daniel Tokawa and Lorene Oikawa, past president for the National Association of Japanese Canadians; Leona Brown, Indigenous Independent Cultural Facilitator and co-creator of Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation; Sheila Kirkby, longtime volunteer at Kitsilano Neighborhood House and Melinda Suto, Secretary of Vancouver Folk Music Fest's Board of Directors. Deputy Mayor Sarah Kirby-Yung presented the Proclamation of Heritage Week 2025 at the Winter Storytelling event.



Photo credit: Kamran Safari



Education

Places That Matter Community Fair

The Places That Matter 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 2025 Community Fair at Heritage Hall hosted 70 representatives of 29 community organizations that represent sites on Places That Matter, our community-nominated Vancouver heritage resource. Over 270 attendees to the Community Fair engaged with the proponents of some of Vancouver's Places That Matter this year.



Photo credit: Kamran Safari

Heritage Discovery Day

On June 7th over 550 ticketholders and 170 volunteers experienced a tour of the historic Kitsilano neighborhood. The nine sites on the tour consisted of seven privately owned heritage homes and two community sites.



Photo credit: Martin Knowles







Education

Historic Places Days



For the second year in a row, VHF's expanded capacity allowed us to host events during National Historic Places Days. We held two 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 expert Don Luxton.



We introduced a new event for Historic Places Days in 2025: An Evening of Heritage at Hollywood Theatre. With 120 attendees, the event was extremely well received by participants. Speakers Michelle Barile from West Broadway BIA and historians Tom Carter and John Atkin presented on the resilience of Hollywood Theatre, the fascinating history of movie theatres in Vancouver and their influence on the city.

Our second annual Summer Storytelling event featured a look back on 20 years of Heritage Discovery Day through the eyes of photographer and keynote speaker Martin Knowles.





Education

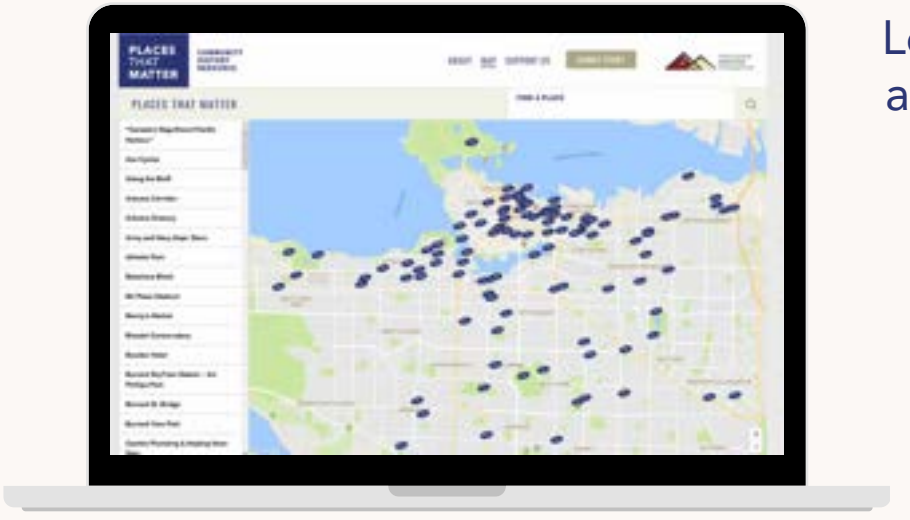
Places That Matter

Places That Matter

2025 marks the 14th year of Places That Matter, our community history resource celebrating the people, places, and stories that shaped Vancouver beyond traditional heritage recognition. While many past plaque programs have faded, VHF has continued to grow and maintain Places That Matter since 2011 — without continuous funding — thanks to the dedication of local communities. The program remains ongoing, with new nominations and plaques added each year. We look forward to celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2026.

Places That Matter thrives because of community champions like you. As we prepare to celebrate its 15th anniversary in 2026, your gift will help us keep this vital project growing and inclusive.

Help us tell more untold stories. Donate today.



Learn more about PTM at placesthatmatter.ca.







Policy Work

VHF's Relationship with the City of Vancouver

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 is Councillor Lisa Dominato, who has served in this capacity since 2023. Our Board of Directors also includes City of Vancouver's Senior Heritage Planner, Zlatan Jankovic and Chair of the Heritage Commission, James Evans 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



In late 2024, the City of Vancouver completed the first update to the Vancouver Heritage Register since its creation in 1986. Over a two-year consultation period, VHF provided input on the policy changes. Major updates include removing the A/B/C site categories, adding a Truth Statement acknowledging the exclusion of intangible heritage, and expanding eligibility to include more forms of cultural heritage.



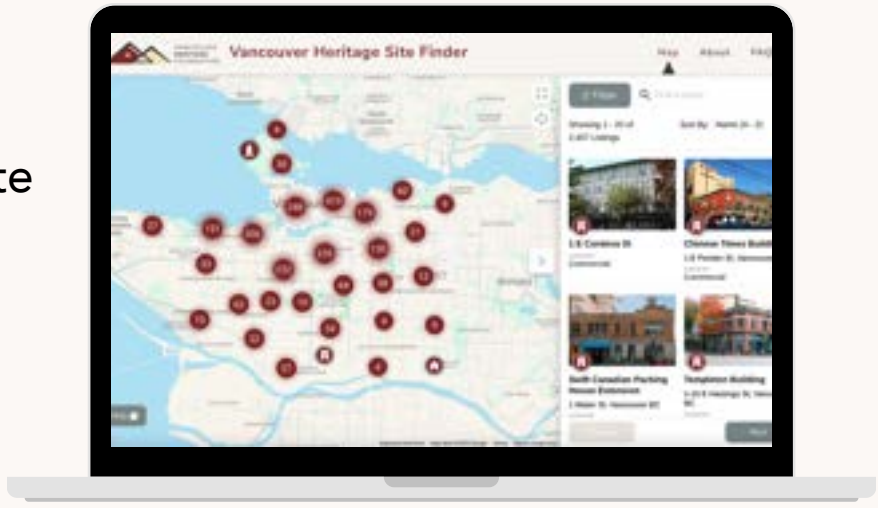




Policy Work

Heritage Site Finder

Vancouver Heritage Foundation's Heritage Site Finder website is a user-friendly, map-based guide to sites listed on the Heritage Register. We collect community stories and relevant historical information about each site on the Heritage Register, creating an accessible resource for the public. In early 2025 we completed updates to Heritage Site Finder that reflect the changes to the Heritage Register, keeping the resource up to date and relevant to the changing landscape of Vancouver's heritage policies.



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.

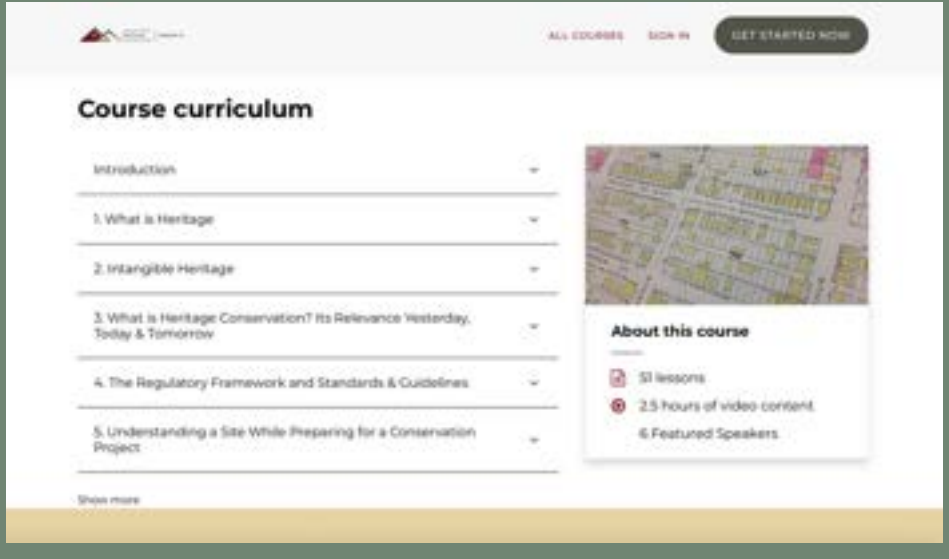
Donate now to recognize stories that matter!



Conservation

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.

Our Heritage 101 On-Demand course – the cornerstone of our Heritage Conservation Education accredited certificate program – launched in full in early 2025 after completing a pilot cohort in late 2024. This is a major accomplishment for VHF, as the new remote access and self-determined pacing to Heritage 101 on Demand 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



Conservation

Yosef Wosk Publication Grant

Yosef Wosk Publication Grants support new, original publications on aspects of Vancouver's heritage places, their conservation and related topics.



Jonah Lee-McNamee
2025 Recipient

The grant will support the production of a short documentary film that explores the architectural and historical significance of the Dodek Residence, a heritage home designed by Canadian architect Ron Thom.

Jonah has secured exclusive access to the property and will include interviews with Peter Dodek, Gail Dodek-Wenner, and Carla Dodek, who will offer firsthand perspectives on the home's legacy. The film will also feature commentary from architectural writer Adele Weder, author of a book on Ron Thom.



Christine Hagemoen
2025 Recipient

With the help of the grant, Christine will create "Mount Pleasant Stories: Historical Walking Tours, Walk 2" - a continuation of the 2021 publication of "Mount Pleasant Stories: Historical Walking Tours (Walk 1)".

This new edition focuses on Lower Mount Pleasant, spanning the light-industrial, commercial, and residential area north of Broadway to False Creek.



Carmel Tanaka
2025 Recipient

With the support of our Yosef Wosk Publication Grant, the Jewpanese Project, created by Carmel Tanaka, is amplifying stories at the intersection of Jewish and Japanese identity. By combining video and written interviews into an interactive online exhibit, the project explores powerful themes of cultural identity, belonging, and acceptance.







Conservation

Robert Lemon Heritage Studies Prize

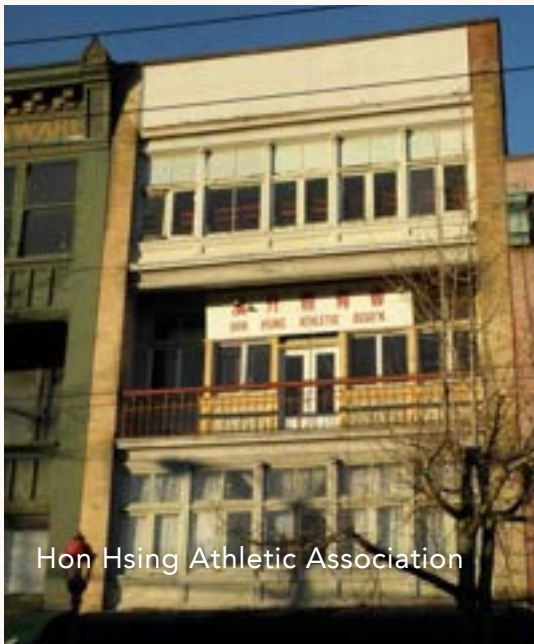
The 2025 Robert Lemon Heritage Studies Prize has been awarded to Marion Benkaiouche, a Simon Fraser University Urban Studies student. Her project, Mapping the Landscape of Publishing Businesses Continuity in Vancouver, explores the city's literary printing history and the role of the built environment in supporting artistic creation.


Robert Lemon

Heritage Conservation Grants

VHF awarded 29 Heritage Conservation grants in the last 12 months, totaling $253,625 in funding. Among the recipients are Arts Club Theatre Company's Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, Pennsylvania Hotel and Hycroft Manor, in addition to privately owned heritage properties.

> "Our windows were suffering for so long. The worst ones were on the top floor. In early 2025, after we had completed the work, we were approached by the Tan Academy of Balance which wanted to rent the space for a Traditional Chinese Medicine teaching facility. The owner said that the beautiful new period windows were what drew her to selecting the Hon Hsing building. Our dream was to find a tenant that was a cultural fit!"
>
> – Wongs' Benevolent Association
> Heritage Conservation Grant recipient


Hon Hsing Athletic Association



Conservation

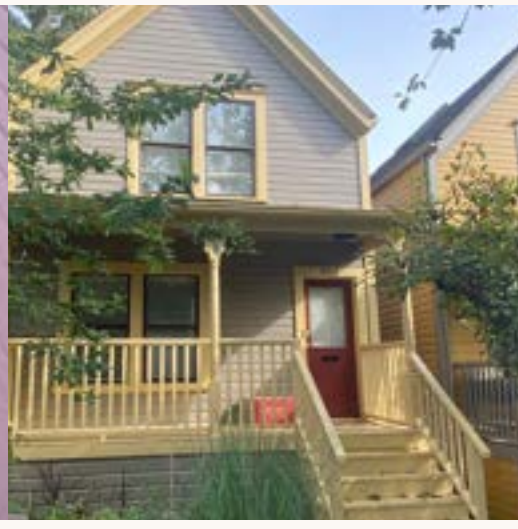
True Colours Palette

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. In the last 12 months seven heritage properties in Vancouver have accessed the True Colours grant, contributing to Vancouver's many heritage streetscapes.







"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

Continuing our Success in the Future: Strategic Priorities 2026-2028

In 2025 we complete our existing 2023-2025 strategic plan. A new 2026-2028 strategic plan was created over a period of four months with input from every member of the VHF staff team. We are excited to announce our five strategic priorities that support the major areas of our work: education, policy work with the City of Vancouver, and practical support for conservation. The guiding principle of our 2026-2028 strategic planning is to knit together all branches of VHF's work.

1 Education

With expanded staff capacity, VHF will deliver more educational programs than ever. From 2026–2028, we'll build on Heritage 101 On Demand to expand digital learning and deepen both in-person and online content for the Heritage Conservation Education Certificate program. VHF will continue year-round programming, including Heritage Week, Historic Places Days, and Heritage Discovery Day, while increasing participation by partnering with larger venues, offering double sessions, and repeating popular events like topical walking tours.

2 Branding, Marketing, and Communications

By tightening our branding, marketing and communications VHF can differentiate our identity and our work from other heritage organizations in Vancouver. Goals include creating a new marketing plan for 2026-2028 and annual marketing calendars that inform our programming and event promotions.

3 Community Connections

As community connectors, VHF will continue to build and maintain equitable relationships with our Host Nations and Vancouver's diverse culture groups. VHF will continue to platform communities who steward heritage places and their stories with our educational programming and Places That Matter project. VHF will celebrate the 15th anniversary of Places That Matter in 2026.

4 Support for Heritage Conservation

VHF will expand financial support for heritage conservation through its grant programs. We will continue to administer the Heritage Conservation Grant for the City of Vancouver under a renewed 2027–2030 agreement, and offer the Yosef Wosk Publication Grant, Robert Lemon Heritage Studies Prize, and True Colours paint grant annually. VHF will also maintain collaboration with the City of Vancouver, the Heritage Planning department, the Heritage Commission, and City Council to strengthen heritage retention policies in long-term planning.

5 Long-term Funding

To achieve long-term funding goals, VHF will collaborate with corporate sponsors, grant funders, donors, and the City of Vancouver while expanding revenue-generating initiatives. Priorities include developing a unified annual sponsorship package, a grant application plan, legacy giving opportunities, updated operating and investment policies, and increased capacity for ticketed programs and events.

None of this happens without your support.
Be part of the legacy. Donate today.

What Do Your Donation Dollars Accomplish at VHF?

VANCOUVER HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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

Donate here!

$30 Funds a subsidized seat in one of our programs for a student (our student access program)

$100 Funds instructor 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 expert presenting at an educational event

$900 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

Thank you for your support of Vancouver Heritage Foundation

I hope you will continue to support VHF this year to help us advance the appreciation and conservation of our city's diverse heritage places and their stories.

There are several easy ways to donate:

- Visit vancouverheritagefoundation.org and click the 'DONATE' button
- Complete the enclosed form and mail it back to us using the self-addressed stamped envelope provided
- 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
- Call the VHF office at 604-264-9642 to donate with your VISA or MasterCard

As you are aware, gifts of $1,000 or more are greatly appreciated and are instrumental to the success of our programs. To show our appreciation, major gift donors receive complimentary tickets to our Heritage House Tour. Your generous gift will also be recognized on our website and in our Annual Report.

Gifts of $20 or more will receive a tax receipt. To receive a tax receipt for 2025, please make sure your donation is received by December 31st.









Your donations in-action











VHF Board of Directors

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Kyle Krawchuk, Secretary
Jonathan Ip, Co-Treasurer
Carina Sun, Co-Treasurer
Neil Norris
Kathleen Larsen
Laura Saimoto
Amin Tabatabayi
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VHF Board Chair Monique Badun

VHF Staff

Laura Carey, Executive Director
Sarah Carlson, Director of Education (on leave)
Katherine Figueiredo, Program Manager
Golmehr Kazari, Program Manager
Meghan Lenz, Grant Programs Manager
Caroline McDonald, Administration & Volunteer Manager
Jessica Quan, Community Engagement Manager



A Message from the Executive Director

2025 has been another year full of growth and accomplishment for Vancouver Heritage Foundation. I hope you will continue to support VHF this year to help us advance the appreciation and conservation of our city's diverse heritage places and their stories. This year our staff team created a new 3 year Strategic Plan together, with details shared in this document.



VHF Executive Director
Laura Carey

We are eager to achieve our strategic priorities, and we need the support of donors like you to make it happen. In addition to our fee-for-service programs and operating funding from the City of Vancouver, donors like you make a world of difference for VHF. Donations fund grants, programs, staff, venue costs for events, and much more.

Vancouver Heritage Foundation could not have achieved our many accomplishments without the support of our volunteers and donors. Thank you for all that you do to uplift VHF.

2025 Accomplishment Highlights

- Launching Heritage on Demand online course with funding from the United Way
- Creating our 2026-2028 Strategic Plan
- Celebrating Historic Places Days for the second consecutive year
- Executive Director and Community Engagement Manager participating in a one year professional development program to increase our access and equity work at VHF
- Awarding over 80 individual grants through 6 granting programs to conserve Vancouvers built and intangible heritage