

# Boathouse Update from the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee

Scott Swan, Arts & Culture Advisory Committee, Chair

Kirsten Hall, Arts & Culture Advisory Committee, Art Museum Advisory Panel Representative

Christie Rosta, Cultural Services Manager

June 23, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

# February 24, 2025 Public Announcement

As announced on the District's website:

*Mayor and Council proudly announce the purchase of the building formerly home to the Boathouse restaurant in Horseshoe Bay, located on the waterfront at Sewell's Landing. The goal is to convert the space into a new home for the West Vancouver Art Museum.*

*The renovations will allow the Art Museum to maintain its current programming standards while also providing additional opportunities for arts programming and activities. The move will more than double the Art Museum's current exhibition and programming space, from approximately 3,800 square feet at Gertrude Lawson House, to approximately 8,800 square feet.*



# Arts & Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC)

## May 22, 2025 ACAC Meeting Minutes:

THAT

1. the Art Museum Advisory Panel's presentation and recommendations to successfully relocate the West Vancouver Art Museum on an interim basis from the Gertrude Lawson House to the Horseshoe Bay Boathouse be received for information; and
2. the recommendations for the relocation of the West Vancouver Art Museum to the Horseshoe Bay Boathouse on an interim basis as proposed by the Art Museum Advisory Panel be endorsed for Council consideration; and
3. a representative from the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee and the West Vancouver Art Museum bring forward the Art Museum Advisory Panel's recommendations to relocate the Art Museum to the Horseshoe Bay Boathouse on an interim basis for Council's consideration on June 23, 2025.

# About the West Vancouver Art Museum

- Welcomes all visitors and offers an in-depth destination experience.
- Celebrates the achievements of local, national, and international artists and architects through exhibitions, tours, events, lectures, receptions, and publications.
- Provides engagement with diverse forms of contemporary and historical art, architecture and design.



# West Coast Modern Architecture

- West Vancouver is the birthplace of West Coast Modern architecture, an identity the Art Museum proudly celebrates through its exhibitions, children’s education and architecture programs, and West Coast Modern Week.
- The Art Museum is nationally recognized for its demonstrated leadership in preserving and building appreciation of the architectural heritage—specifically West Coast Modernism.
- Only one museum in Canada that specializes in architecture, located in Montreal.
- The Boathouse provides an opportunity to elevate this programming and could enable the Art Museum to become the leading museum with this special focus in Western Canada.



# Art Museum – Need for Space

- Art Museum space in Gertrude Lawson House is 2,800 sq. ft.
- The Boathouse is 8,800 sq. ft. and features:
  - adequate exhibition, programming and event spaces
  - adjacent patios and park space
- For reference, the 2019 Arts & Culture Facilities Plan identified the need for approximately 11,953 sq. ft. dedicated space to serve the Museum’s programming.



# The Boathouse at Ch'axáy', Horseshoe Bay

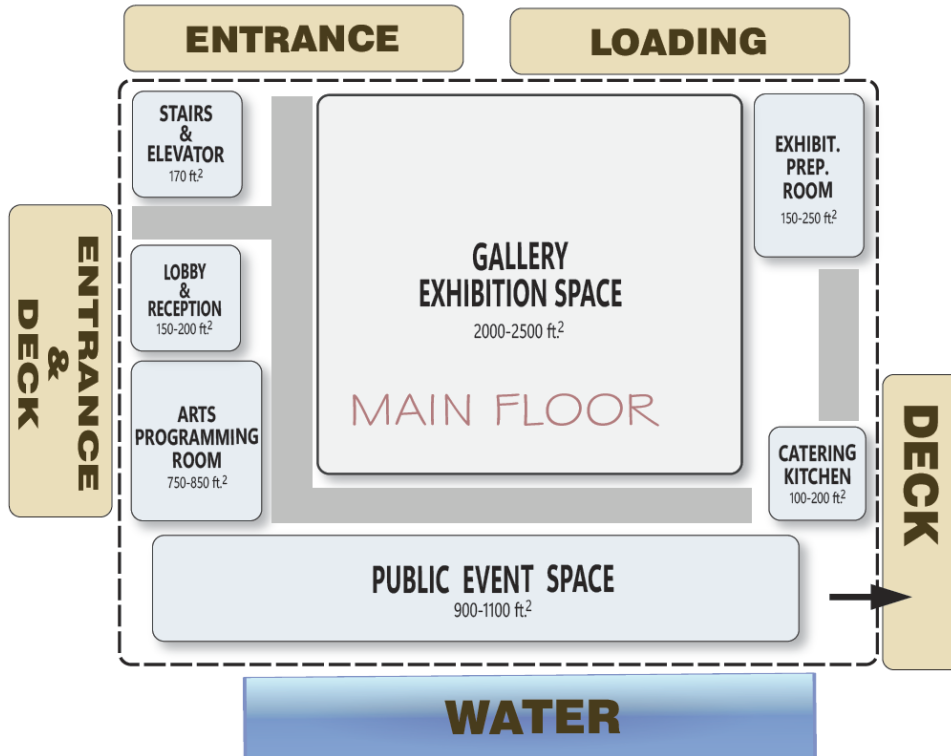
- Nestled within the ancestral and unceded territories of the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and Musqueam Nations, the Boathouse sits on the shores of Horseshoe Bay.
- Known to the Squamish people as **Ch'axáy'** (meaning "sizzling water"), this name captures the bay's distinctive phenomenon where herring, pursued by hunting salmon, create a bubbling, sizzling effect on the water's surface.



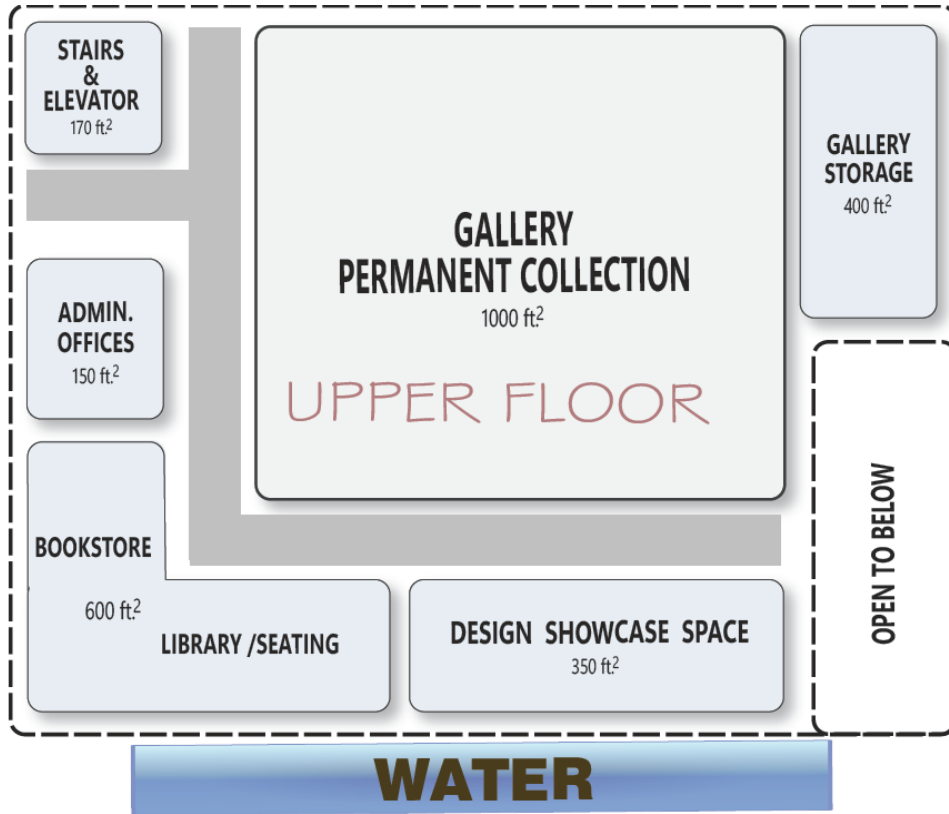
# Success for the interim Art Museum at the Boathouse

- The Art Museum is the sole tenant of the Boathouse building to ensure that the building can serve the programming needs and functional requirements of a professional curated museum.
- The Boathouse building is renovated to accommodate art museum exhibitions and programs with appropriate lighting, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to control temperature and humidity, and to secure the building from water and tidal fluctuation to ensure the safety of fine art displayed in the building.
- Accessible exhibition and program spaces are functional and located within the building to draw in a wide range of community members and visitors, and enhance the visibility of the arts.
- The Boathouse building will support the Art Museum's needs for the foreseeable future until a new purpose-built arts and culture centre is built.
- It is recognized that the District continues to seek to build a purpose-built arts and culture centre in the Ambleside area.

# Review of Lower Floor Spaces



# Review of Upper Floor Spaces



# Recommendation

THAT

1. the June 3, 2025 report from the Cultural Services Manager titled Boathouse Update from the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee be received for information;
2. staff move forward with planning to relocate the West Vancouver Art Museum to the Boathouse building on an interim basis with the provisions endorsed by the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee as listed below:
  - the West Vancouver Art Museum is the sole tenant of the Boathouse building to ensure that the building can serve the programming needs and functional requirements of a professional curated museum
  - the Boathouse building is renovated to accommodate art museum exhibitions and programs with appropriate lighting, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to control temperature and humidity, and to secure the building from water and tidal fluctuation to ensure the safety of fine art displayed in the building
  - accessible exhibition and program spaces are functional and located within the building to draw in a wide range of community members and visitors, and enhance the visibility of the arts
  - the Boathouse building will support the West Vancouver Art Museum's needs for the foreseeable future until a new purpose-built arts and culture centre is built
  - it is recognized that the District of West Vancouver continues to seek to build a purpose-built arts and culture centre in the Ambleside area; and
3. staff progress to the next phase of planning by posting an Expression of Interest to determine if there are interested parties for partnership and naming rights for the Boathouse building renovation.

**Thank You!**  
**Questions?**