

DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER ARTS & CULTURE CENTRE VISION OPEN HOUSE

NOVEMBER 1-2, 2022



WELCOME!

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), sə́lilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh Nation), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Nation). We recognize and respect them as nations in this territory, as well as their historic connection to the lands and waters around us since time immemorial.

PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The goal of this process is to build upon Council's direction to confirm the vision for a new consolidated Arts & Culture Centre to replace outdated existing facilities.

The vision for a new Arts & Culture Centre in West Vancouver builds on many years of previous work.

As we emerge from the COVID pandemic, this is a unique opportunity to rethink and explore the vision, tailoring it towards current and future needs.

An extensive outreach program to seek community input on the vision took place from June to September, 2022.

Five public workshops were attended by 150 participants, many of whom have a deep connection with the arts in West Vancouver. A **public survey** was also conducted, eliciting responses from 1,336 individuals, the majority of whom live, work, or study in West Vancouver.

The new vision for the Arts & Culture Centre builds upon all of the work done to date and is updated to reflect the 2022 community input.



Participants in the public visioning workshops, held in June 2022

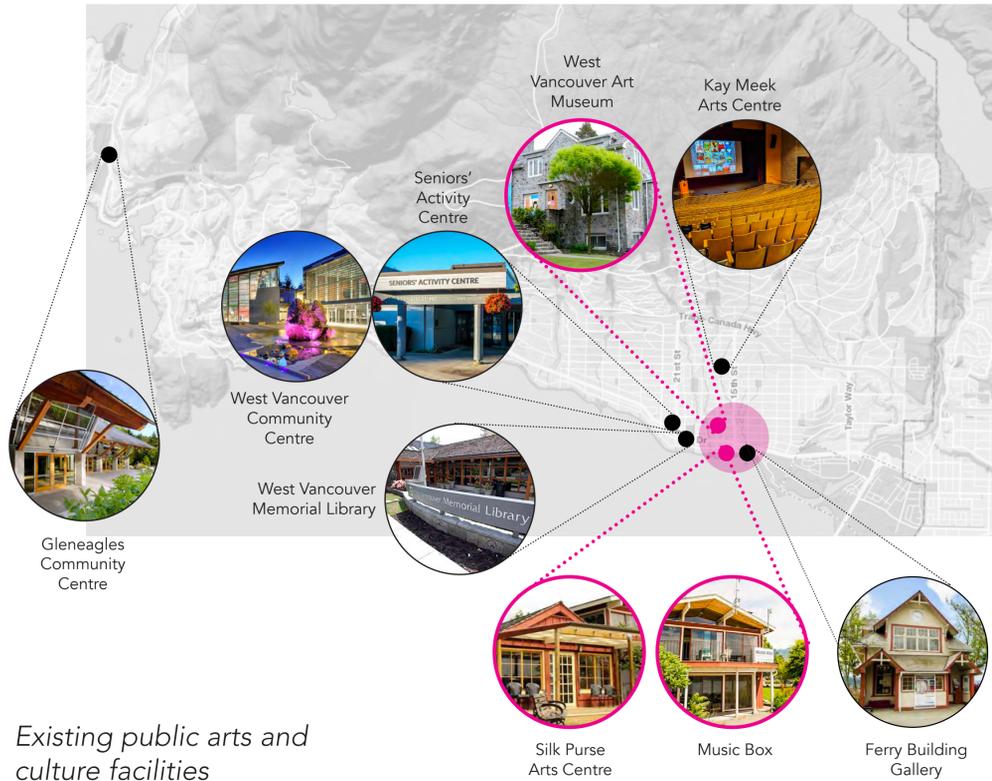
The following are **not** within the scope of this current study. Future phases will build on the overall **vision** and examine the following in greater detail:

- Facility location
- Project funding
- Specific architectural character
- Plans for existing buildings

TIMELINE



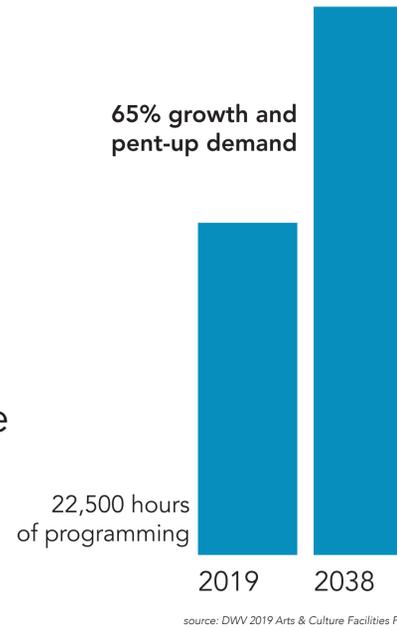
DEFINING THE NEED



The District of West Vancouver has completed numerous studies over the last twenty years exploring options for a new arts facility. Most recently, the *2019 Arts & Culture Facilities Plan* identified the need and demand factors, and included a preliminary program to support a projected **65% growth in the District's arts and culture programs by 2038.**

West Vancouver has a rich history of the arts, including visual and performance artists with strong interdisciplinary connectivity founded in West Coast Modernism. The arts community is vibrant, diverse, inclusive, and committed to mentorship for the next generation.

The District delivers approximately **22,500 hours of arts and culture per year**, in addition to festivals such as the Harmony Arts Festival and Bridge Festival, from **nine different locations.**



West Vancouverites are deeply engaged in arts and culture—and demand for arts and culture programming is growing.



Facilities in the District do not meet expectations with respect to quality of infrastructure and ability to host programs.

Three of the District's arts facilities in the Ambleside area are currently undersized for local demand, ill-suited for arts and culture programs, not accessible to all, and have ongoing maintenance issues.

Council has provided direction to explore replacement of the Silk Purse, Music Box, and West Vancouver Art Museum.

This will better align the District's Arts and Culture facilities with the expectations of the community and ensure the long-term success of local arts institutions.

DEFINING THE NEED - EXISTING FACILITIES

Three locations—Silk Purse, Music Box, and West Vancouver Art Museum—are under consideration for consolidation into a new West Vancouver Arts & Culture Centre.

- All three facilities are former houses and were not built for public access or for the delivery of arts programs
- The aging facilities are under-sized to suit the existing population and cannot accommodate projected population growth
- The West Vancouver Art Museum's growing collection is required to be stored in accordance with Canadian Museum Conservation standards
- The Silk Purse and Music Box locations on the waterfront are susceptible to ongoing risks of flooding
- All three facilities have ongoing building maintenance issues



West Vancouver Art Museum

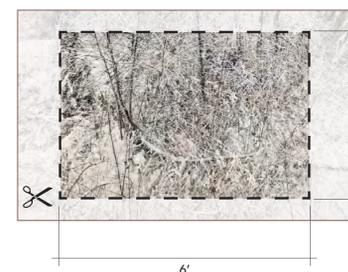
Located in Gertrude Lawson House, the Art Museum includes small galleries, a multi-purpose room, office space, and collections storage. The adjacent garage is also used as storage space.

Current limitations include:

- Second floor multi-purpose space that is not accessible due to lack of elevator
- Limited height in the gallery area severely limits size of art that can be displayed
- Inadequate storage space that does not meet conservation standards for growing collection
- Lack of appropriate and accessible administration areas (currently located in the basement)
- Ongoing building maintenance issues



Lack of elevator prevents key program spaces from being accessible to all users.



Facility limitations mean that the maximum size of artwork that can be displayed is 4' x 6'. Many artworks cannot be accommodated. Imagine having to cut down this Gordon Smith painting to fit in the space!

Gordon Smith
North Shore #5
2012, 5' x 8'



Silk Purse Arts Centre

Located in a seaside cottage, the Silk Purse is the home of the West Vancouver Community Arts Council. The existing house includes one art studio, one gallery for visual art and music, administration, and storage spaces. Programs include art exhibits, concerts, and children's programs.

Current limitations include:

- Second floor program space is not accessible due to lack of elevator
- Cottage is not designed for arts programs
- Spaces are currently undersized for arts programs
- Does not meet Building Code requirements
- Location is prone to flooding
- Facility is in poor state of repair



Ground floor exhibition space has low ceilings that limit extent of exhibits.



The Silk Purse and Music Box locations on the waterfront are susceptible to ongoing risks of flooding.



Music Box

The Music Box is located on the waterfront in a seaside cottage directly east of the Silk Purse. Home of the Harmony Arts Festival offices, the Music Box includes two multi-purpose rooms, administration and storage spaces. Theatre arts and visual arts programs are located on the both levels.

Current limitations include:

- Second floor space is not accessible due to lack of elevator
- Washrooms are not accessible
- Cottage is not designed for arts programs
- Spaces are currently undersized for arts programs
- Does not meet Building Code requirements
- Location is prone to flooding
- Facility is in poor state of repair



The upper floor can only be reached by stairs and is not accessible to all. Building infrastructure does not meet current building codes.



Public washrooms are not accessible and do not meet current standards.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Community engagement included five public workshops and a survey from July to mid-September, 2022



Defining the key characteristics of an Arts & Culture Centre:

This Word Cloud was generated from responses from participants during the public visioning workshops and represents common themes expressed multiple times.

WORKSHOPS:

Listening, learning, and working together

Each workshop started with a land acknowledgment, followed by a presentation sharing Council direction, setting the project context, understanding the issues present in the aging facilities, and sharing current trends in arts and culture facilities.

Participants shared their three preferred key characteristics of an Arts & Culture Centre and then, working in small groups, developed collages illustrating their vision. Participants shared their visions and areas of commonality were noted.

SURVEY RESPONSES

The public survey was available online from July 18 to September 16, 2022 and was also available at community facilities and the Harmony Arts Festival.

The goal was to expand community input, increase awareness, and gain insight into the vision for a new Arts & Culture Centre. The survey complements and augments the community workshops held in June 2022.

What would attract you (or someone in your family) to visit an Arts and Culture facility?



Responses from workshop participants emphasized ways in which a new Arts & Culture Centre could be a place for community creativity, incubation, and education.

Responses also emphasized community desire for participation in arts and culture, such as attending events and performances, and visiting exhibitions.

The survey and workshop responses are reflected in the Vision and Guiding Principles.

VISION

VISION

The **West Vancouver Arts & Culture Centre** will be a **central hub** for residents to share in **creativity through participation** in arts and culture programs, exhibits, and events.

The facility will reflect the **diversity** of the people and arts of West Vancouver, promote **community connectivity**, provide a home for the District's growing art collection, and **honour the land, forests, and water**.

MISSION

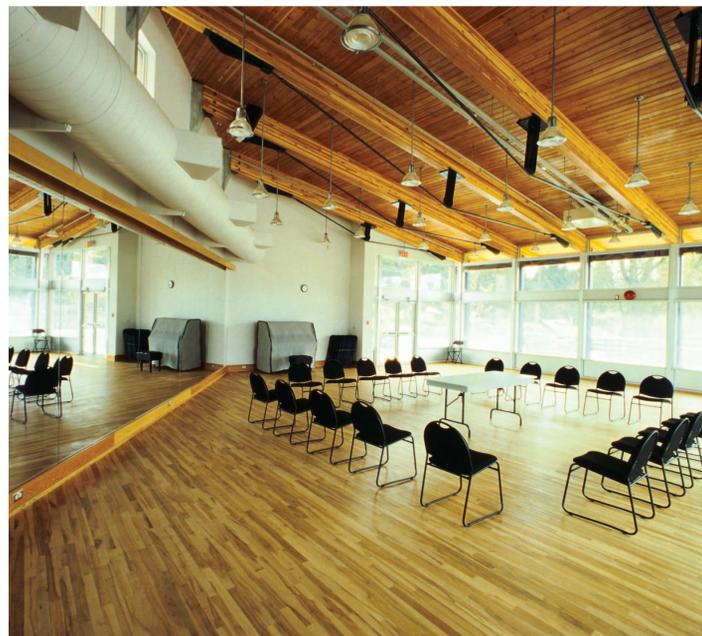
The West Vancouver Arts & Culture Centre will connect community, artists, and educators.

As an arts hub and place of creative energy, the West Vancouver Arts & Culture Centre will promote arts learning and enjoyment through participation, exhibits, and collections:

- Offering a range of programs in visual and performance arts
- Housing and managing the District's art collection
- Offering a range of exhibits and performances, building awareness of contemporary and historical arts and culture locally and beyond
- Providing a home base for community arts organizations and festivals
- Including rental space for community use
- Providing a safe and welcoming environment for all citizens to participate in the arts



GUIDING PRINCIPLES



1 Create an inspiring environment that celebrates the arts and reflects West Vancouver's diverse population.

2 Create a centralized arts hub that is appropriately-sized and community-focused to accommodate existing and future arts programming, including:

- Rehearsal space (music, theatre, dance)
- Small performance space
- Multi-purpose spaces for classes, workshops, lessons
- Galleries for community arts and the Art Museum
- Specialized collections storage spaces
- Administration space for local arts and culture organizations

3 Support exhibition, collections, and creation spaces with social space to promote collaboration and cross-pollination. Include:

- Outdoor plaza and welcoming lobby area for festivals, events, and gatherings
- Artist in residence space
- Gallery shop and art rental
- Flexible indoor gathering space

4 Continue the mission of the West Vancouver Art Museum to:

"Build awareness of diverse forms of contemporary and historical art, architecture, and design, engaging audiences with issues and ideas central to the community and the world beyond."

5 Establish a sense of place that draws inspiration from the land, water, and forests of West Vancouver, displaying art inside and out.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

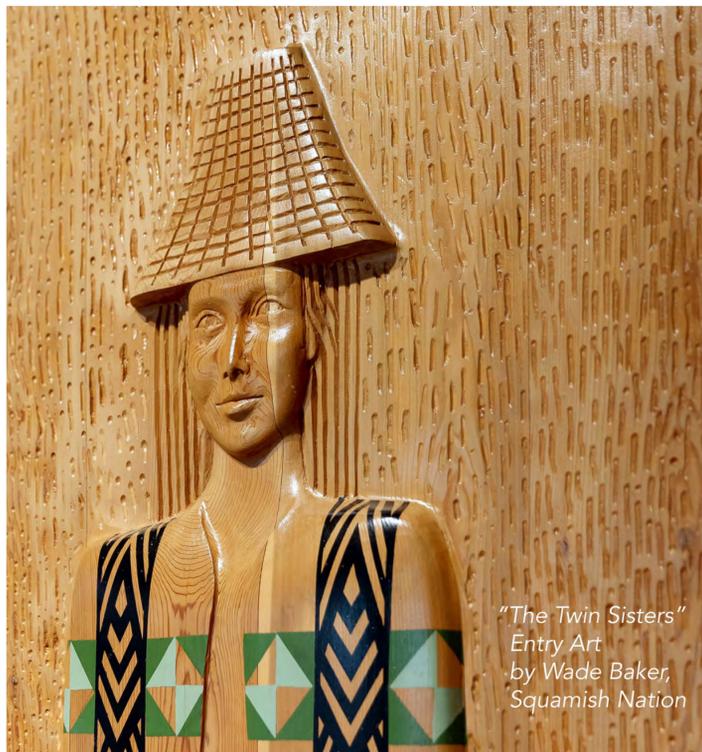


6 Demonstrate environmental stewardship and sustainable community development.

- Build appropriately-sized spaces with inherent flexibility
- Demonstrate innovative design, including passive design strategies, energy conservation, and aim for net-zero carbon
- Design a facility that is responsive to climate change

7 Incorporate Indigenous perspective and spaces, achieved through collaborative engagement with the Squamish Nation on whose traditional territories the District is situated.

8 Build upon West Vancouver's heritage, such as social, cultural, art & design, particularly West Coast modernism.



"The Twin Sisters"
Entry Art
by Wade Baker,
Squamish Nation

9 Ensure economic sustainability:

- 'Right-size' the facility to ensure functional, practical, and appropriate spaces
- Coordinate with existing facilities to complement services and avoid duplication
- Provide appropriate administration space for arts organizations and staff, allowing for future growth
- Include revenue generating spaces (rental, gift shop, food etc.)
- Include space and programs that will boost tourism

10 Weave the facility into the daily rhythms of the community by making it accessible by walking, cycling, transit, and car.

