

New Direction for Vancouver Art Gallery's Building Project

Dear Communities:

Following the temporary pause of on-site construction activity announced in August 2024, we have been reassessing the direction of the Vancouver Art Gallery's new building project.

Our goal is to create a building that embodies a diverse and inclusive artistic vision while ensuring financial sustainability within a fixed budget. We recognize that inflation has put tremendous pressure on our plans, as it has done with many capital projects following the pandemic. It has become clear that we require a new way forward to meet both our artistic mission and vision and our practical needs.

For the past decade, we have had the benefit of collaborating with the esteemed Swiss architectural firm Herzog & de Meuron on plans for a new Gallery. We are grateful for our partnership with them, which has helped shape our thinking around what a museum could look like in the 21st century and provided valuable research that can be applied moving forward. However, in view of our reassessment, the Gallery Association's Board has made the difficult decision to part ways with Herzog & de Meuron.

At the end of November 2024, the Board approved updated Strategic Priorities that will guide the Gallery as we move forward. These underscore our commitment to *build a new cultural hub that will be the heart of our communities and serve and inspire diverse audiences.*

With the Board's commitment to building a new cultural hub, the Gallery is in the process of reflecting and transforming our approach to this objective.

Throughout this process, we have been listening to feedback from our supporters, artists, Members and stakeholders, who are helping to shape the next phase of this transformative project. Your continued feedback and commitment are vital to the success of this endeavour.

Together, we will create the outstanding and innovative art museum that we know Vancouver deserves.

Over the coming months, we will schedule a series of opportunities at the Gallery to share more about the next phase of the project and discuss it with our Members and communities.

With thanks for your ongoing trust and support,

Anthony Kiendl
CEO & Executive Director
Vancouver Art Gallery