

Our work 2016



www.heritagevancouver.org | December 2016

To the members & donors of Heritage Vancouver

2016 has seen the beginning of some incremental successes towards the refined direction we took in 2015.

Last year, we were looking to have our programming more concentrated on and complementary to our core initiatives such as our **Top10 list** and we were very successful in attaining unity in this area.

Our event together with the Cultch celebrating the second anniversary of the York Theatre (it had been on our Top10 in 2008) started the year, followed by the release of our annual Top10 Watch List, Shaping Vancouver ran from the Spring to Fall, and a new series of Talk & Tours were launched in the Fall.

This was the 16th year for the Top10 Watch List and there was a variety of concerns. **Schools** and **churches** remain with issues surrounding seismic upgrading and delayed maintenance for schools and shrinking congregations for the latter.

Crown Life Plaza (1978) made it onto the list as a recent landmark that we consider significant and is an example of a topic we have been actively discussing and encouraging discussion on: delineation of the date for what is considered heritage in

Vancouver. **Townley & Matheson Homes**, in particular **The Electric House at 1550 West 29th** represents a host of interrelated issues in Vancouver including demolition, heritage values, skyrocketing property values, property rights, and housing issues.

Notably, there were three neighbourhoods on the list this year which raises the issues of threats to history, character and culture of entire areas- **Commercial Drive, Chinatown and False Creek South**.

Shaping Vancouver has become a defining event for us and is an integral channel to explore the question of what heritage is and open up the dialogue and have a nuanced discussion of all the various threads that make up heritage.

It completed its second year in October and the series continues to enjoy support from a range of professionals and community leaders as well as ongoing popularity; our final talk of this year on Chinatown reached maximum registrations and maxed out the wait list. The innovation, quality, thoughtful discussion, and inclusivity of the audience at these events carries on and we are committed to building on these qualities with each future talk.

Our gratitude goes out to all who participated on our panels. We are extremely pleased with and grateful for our ongoing relationship with SFU's Vancity Office of Community

Engagement for their support in making this series possible; earlier in the year, we were privileged to share a Heritage BC Heritage Education and Awareness Award of Honour with the office for last year's series. Our relationship with the office grows stronger as we look to our third season in 2017 of Shaping Vancouver with a focus on alternate histories and examine heritage that receives less attention.

With the enormous help of Helen Cain, past-chair of Heritage BC, we launched our new **Top10 Tour & Talk** series which brings together a diverse group of expert guest speakers to lead different legs of a tour of one of our Top10 sites.

In this way, participants get a very well-rounded and in depth two hours of learning while enjoying a nice walk. Our first Tour&Talk had great attendance and we are very encouraged by this format and more are planned for 2017.

Commenting

We were very active participating and presenting at conferences this year.

The National Trust Conference, the annual Canadian Conference on heritage, where we gave a presentation on *Contemporary Layers in Historic Contexts* and co-presented with Youth Collaborative for Chinatown on *Managing Change in Cultural Landscapes* is a good example of our impact.

It's exciting to report that we had excellent reception on a national stage for the quality of our ideas by many different stakeholders ranging from academics, planners, architects, to community development staff.

In particular, President Javier Campos' presentation was very well acclaimed and much talked about in subsequent sessions at the conference. Our ideas and thinking did not only come through in our presentations but also in our contributions to discussion in other sessions and we felt that we emerged as a leader in detailed and interesting ways of thinking of heritage. A direct result of this is the beginnings of connections with groups like *Vivre Le Patrimoine* of Montreal as a way of innovation and cross-pollination of ideas.

One of our key strengths is our ideas and detailed observations on heritage, placemaking, and social outcomes.

This care for nuanced discussion, reflection on the conventionally accepted, and a principled approach has informed our commenting of issues as well.

One example is 3594 Main Street (the former Burritt Brothers site and Bean Around the World on Main and 20th). We strongly asserted the need for the new development to reproduce or enhance the excellent human scale interior and exterior space the Bean Around the World offers the street and neighbourhood which seems to have been undervalued in the development proposal.

Two major current issues in the news at the moment include the **Character Home Zoning Review** and proposed redevelopment proposal for the **Main Post Office**. We're currently preparing informative, principled, and reasoned positions on these issues and look forward to contributing to the discourse.

Heritage Vancouver continues to be recognized as an important voice on heritage issues and we contribute this insight to the number of committees we are on including the **City of Vancouver False Creek South Advisory Committee**, **The City of Vancouver Heritage Action Plan Committee**, **The City of Vancouver Sign Bylaw Review Committee** and the **Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee**.

Looking on towards 2017

One of our key strengths is our ideas and detailed observations on heritage, placemaking, and social outcomes. We believe heritage is a part of us and that it exists everywhere.

As a result, one area we are increasingly pushing for is more integration of heritage into broader city issues both at a policy level and in our engagement with anyone who is interested in a better, more livable, and affordable city for all and how heritage fits into that.

One good indicator of the quality of our ideas is the number of very qualified and committed volunteers who want to be more deeply involved with us. Looking forward to 2017 as we aim towards growth, we are going to be significantly expanding the number of our permanent committees to include fundraising and communications and to populate these and our existing committees with this talent pool.

The new format for our website went live earlier in the year, and now we turn our attention to making it a robust online resource that houses the content that we have generated: our presentations, our research, summaries and media from our talks, editorials etc.

We are excited to be having some dedicated help in the form of a small paid position with this starting in 2017 and look forward to all this content being online to be used.

Growing our programming is also a part of 2017 and beyond. As with our York Theatre event in February, staying in contact with our members and donors is extremely vital and we are working on bringing more events for our membership and supporters so that we can have more in person contact to keep you updated on what we are working on.

In addition to our core programming such as Shaping Vancouver, the Top10, Tour&Talks and the Annual Garden Tour, we have also been planning some additional ideas for programming we feel are very compelling and result in a more widespread awareness for what heritage is.

We also look forward to collaborations with such groups as Youth Collaborative for Chinatown to look at placemaking through heritage. If you are looking at community development through heritage for your area, please contact us to see how we can help.

Lastly, we would like to extend enormous thanks to all our volunteers, members, and donors for which our work is made possible. We are very grateful and depend on your support.

We are extremely pleased to report that we continue to raise our profile, be more involved in contributing to policy and include heritage among broader city goals, expand the idea of heritage to more people, and work with community members on the ground.

As we start to modestly grow and look for funding for our initiatives, we hope that you will continue your support and consider making a donation to help us reach our incremental goals.

Your support will be absolutely essential to these efforts.

Bill Yuen

Manager, Heritage Vancouver Society
December 2016

We'd like to extend enormous thanks to all our volunteers, members, and donors for which our work is made possible.

2016 A summary of our work



Photo by Ed White Photographics

York Theatre Event

In early February 2016, we partnered with The Cultch to celebrate the 2nd Anniversary of the York Theatre by bringing together those with an interest in heritage as well as those interested in the arts.

The York Theatre was on our Top10 in 2008 and together with The Cultch, we celebrated it as an important cultural space on Commercial Drive and looked back at the threat to the theatre and its subsequent restoration of the space.

Wonderful presentations were given by Tom Durrie, and Heather Redfern about the campaign to save the York, Donald Luxton on the restoration, and Heritage Vancouver President Javier Campos on the continuity of place and future heritage.

Long time Heritage Vancouver member Megan Balmer treated all of us to a splendid performance with her friend; both Megan and her friend acted in plays at the York Theatre run by the Vancouver Little Theatre in the 1960's.

We were extremely happy with the turnout and wonderful response to the event but also it was significant being an event that:

- was in appreciation of our members' and donors' support
- focused on a core focus of the society – the Top10
- tied together our desire to not only focus on the past for heritage, but also the present and future
- tied together not only the physical building but also the intangible qualities of the space
- was a partnership between us and The Cultch

Top10 Tour & Talk

This fall we launched a new series of tours based off of our Top10, in a new series, called the **Top10 Tour & Talk**, which takes a new and different approach with our tours.

Devised as a moving version of our Shaping Vancouver series, these tours put together a group of guest speakers who lead different sections of the tour to provide information on a variety of different aspects of the area or site. It's a moving discussion facilitated by the leader for our first two tour, Helen Cain.

Our first tour on **Japantown** was very successful with a very strong turnout and guest list. This new format was very effective in providing a very well rounded and in-depth discussion of Japantown as a place of arrival and diversity, internment, loss of property and community, and perspectives on the current issues of cultural continuity and the critical importance of the retention and rejuvenation of historic sites within Japantown and the North Strathcona neighbourhood.

We were extremely pleased with the event and feel that it was an excellent learning experience as well as offered extremely good value for the ticket price. We intend to continue with this new format.

The **False Creek South** tour was one that we had scheduled but unfortunately had to be cancelled due to heavy rain. We look forward to holding this tour in 2017.

Garden Tour



This was the fifth year for our garden tour, an extremely important fundraiser for the society.

This self-guided tour of enchanting private gardens in Vancouver brings together over 500 garden lovers for two days every summer. 2016 highlights included grand estates with spectacular views and lush plantings, intimate courtyards showing how to be creative with a small space, winning ways with vegetable and fruits, and a delightful cottage garden created and tended by the renter of a 100+ year old home in a historic neighborhood. With a master gardener present as some locations to answer questions, the tour was also great inspiration for DIY projects.

Many thanks are due to our sponsors this year: Benjamin Moore, Atlas Pots, Bartlett Tree Experts, Adera Natural Stone Supply, Gaia Green, Garden Making Magazine, and Home and Garden Realty.

Additionally, this event wouldn't have been possible without the over 100 volunteers every year who have helped deliver this celebration of Vancouver's gardens. Over the past five years, over 60 homeowners have opened their gardens for us to enjoy.

We would also like to give enormous thanks to Penny Noble for without her, the tours would not be the overwhelming successes that they are.

Shaping Vancouver 2016

Our neighbourhoods

Info + to register : heritagevancouver.org/shapingvancouver.html

We're thrilled to present our award winning series for 2016.

The series will put together heritage and community experts together to engage in conversation with the public around the heritage of our neighbourhoods.

APR 13 What's a neighbourhood?

MAY 18 What's so special about "The Drive"?

JUNE 15 What do I want from my street?
Change is coming to Cambie, Main, Fraser

SEPT 28 What is the vision for Chinatown?

info@heritagevancouver.org | 604 254 9411



Shaping Vancouver 2016: Our Neighbourhoods

Shaping Vancouver was focused around neighbourhoods this year, consisting of:

- What's a Neighbourhood
- What Do I Want From My Street?
- Change Is Coming to Cambie, Fraser, Main, What's So Special About the Drive?
- What's the Vision for Chinatown?

Interest and attendance continued to be strong with record attendance at our final talk on Chinatown this year. Distinct about our Shaping Vancouver series is its focus on being a conversation representing a range of opinions and ideas relevant to the topic.

An key feature of this series is that the conversation isn't just for panelists but also is carried over to the audience through an extended Q+A (as long, if not longer than the panelist discussion itself) where they engage with the panelists.

We're excited that our relationship with SFU's Vancity Office of Community Engagement is very strong with them continuing to sponsor our talks.

Together, we took home a Heritage BC Heritage Education and Awareness Award of Honour earlier in the year for last year's series and we have just finalized the third season of Shaping Vancouver with the office on the theme of alternate histories.

We're looking at a third season, comprising:

- The update of the Vancouver Heritage Register with the new thematic framework
- First Nations Heritage
- Undefined heritage in the city
- Subcultures in Vancouver

Top10 Watch List of Endangered Sites

Every year for the past 16 years, we have published a list of the 10 most endangered heritage sites in Vancouver.

This is a key tool for us to reach the public concerning major heritage resources in our city at risk including the three areas of Commercial Drive, False Creek South, and Japantown.

Especially notable this year was achieving a higher level of unity between our programming and our Top10 list- much of our tours and events were based off of this and past lists such as the York Theatre Event, the Commercial Drive Shaping Vancouver talk and the Japantown/Strathcona North Tour & Talk; we will continue with this strategy.

Once again, the list was widely covered by local media and the accompanying bus tour was a great success. The Top10 committee is a very dedicated and long serving one at the society and we are extremely grateful to and proud of the over 400 hours of time that volunteers devoted to creating and maintaining this year's list.

Our Top10 lists since 2001:
www.heritagevancouver.org/top10-watch-lists

2016's Top10 Watch List is:

1. Bayview Community School (1913-14)
2. Crown Life Plaza (1978)
3. Chinatown
4. Salvation Army Temple (1950)
5. St. Stephen's United Church (1964)
6. Historic Red Light District of Alexander Street
7. Commercial Drive - Our main streets
8. Townley & Matheson designed homes
9. Vancouver College (1924, 1927, 1957)
10. False Creek South - The ideal planning community

Heritage and Chinatown

Chinatown is an extremely important heritage asset in Vancouver for its melding of place and culture.

In addition to our Shaping Vancouver talk on Chinatown, and its No. 3 listing on 2016's Top10 list, we're examining alternative ways to look at sustaining intangible cultural heritage and its relationship with contextual revitalization of place.

Our work encompasses research and reporting in the hopes of contributing to new policies and tools that address this cultural landscape. We're in the early stages of a draft and will be releasing our findings in the first half of 2017.

Parts of this research were also the basis of two presentations we gave at the **National Trust Conference** in Hamilton and the **BC Association of Heritage Professionals** annual meeting.

The categories of our work at this point are:

- Prescriptions for a sharp, differentiated identity
- The Necessity for Cultural Programming
- Prescriptions for Land Use and Financial Incentives

Issues concerning relationships, control, collective action and governance



Conferences and presentations

We were very active in conferences and presentations this year including:

- Organizing and conducting a panel discussion with accompanying workshop called *What would I Protect to Save our Neighbourhoods?* at the **2016 Heritage BC and Arts BC Conference**
- Presenting on heritage at the **BC Association of Heritage Professionals** annual meeting, at the Brock House morning lecture series, and at a **UBC Architecture in Context Class**
- Giving two presentations at the **2016 National Trust Conference**. Javier Campos presented on *Contemporary Layers in Historic Contexts* and Bill Yuen along with June Chow from Youth Collaborative for Chinatown presented on *Managing Change in Cultural Landscapes*.
- Being panelists on the **Planning Institute of BC Panel** discussion on “*The Human Scale*” and on **LOCO BC’s Panel Discussion** on *independent business and heritage*

In addition to presenting at these conferences, we’re very active in discussion participation, along with making connections with other conference participants and groups.

We’re especially happy to report that we’ve receive a lot of positive feedback on our presentations and contributions to discussions for the fresh ideas and innovative thinking that we bring to the table, which has really distinguished us as an organization in front of larger audiences.

Commenting and media

Every year we write letters to Council in response to heritage and character issues, rezonings, developments, etc. in the city.

Some of the major issues coming up this year included the **New Fountain Hotel & Stanley Hotel proposed rezoning**, the **Grandview Woodlands Community Plan**, **105 Keefer proposed Rezoning** in Chinatown and the **Mount Pleasant Industrial Zoning Changes**.

We’re also commenting on seemingly minor projects such as **3594 Main Street** that have large implications and also deserve attention.

In the works are three important letters on a few key heritage issues: the **Main Post Office proposed rezoning**, the **Chinatown Development Policies Review**, and the City of Vancouver **Character Home Review**.

We also continue to be sought out my media for commenting. The Top10 release continuously generates attention and dialogue throughout the year, being featured on radio, print as well as British Columbia Magazine.

Other topics we commented on in the media were the Townley & Matheson **Electric House showcase home**, new **development proposals in Chinatown**, and most recently the **Main Post Office redevelopment, character homes on South Fraser**, and the **Character Home Review** which included Javier Campos appearing on CBC News Vancouver.

Connections, collaborations and representation

We continue to participate on:

- False Creek Flats Advisory Committee
- The Heritage Action Plan Advisory Committee
- The Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee
- The DP Advisory Group
- The Sign Bylaw Review Committee
- The Vancouver Heritage Commission

We're also actively pushing for more representation for heritage across broader city policy in particular with housing and affordability issues.

Fostering connections with other groups have been important for us this year for the discussion, reflection, and the cross-pollination of ideas.

Two such groups include **Vivre Le Patrimoine** of Montreal which is a collective of youth responsible for Montreal Heritage Fest and Dynamic Cities which aims to create a vibrant and dynamic city through the exploration of ideas on housing in neighbourhoods.

We also have been collaborating with **Youth Collaborative For Chinatown** on projects surrounding intangible heritage and placemaking in Chinatown.

Our ongoing project: Historic building permits database

Launched Nov. 2011, and recipient of the City of Vancouver **2015 Heritage Award of Honour**, our ongoing Vancouver Building Permits Database, currently contains over 40,000 manually transcribed, searchable online historic permits from handwritten original City ledgers.

With thanks to a Vancouver125 Grant for making the project launch possible, and volunteers for ongoing transcriptions!

permits.heritagevancouver.org

This searchable online database, covers the three pre-1929 historic districts:

City of Vancouver (1901-04; 1909-1920)

Municipality of Point Grey (May 1912-26)

Municipality of South Vancouver (Nov 1911-22)

As transcriptions are completed, additional years will be uploaded online.

Interested to help transcribe? The more volunteers that we have to transcribe, the more data we can publish and share.

Details: patrick@heritagevancouver.org



Designed by Somervell & Putnam in 1912,
the Yorkshire Guarantee and Securities
Corporation Ltd, later renamed as the
Seymour Building



About Heritage Vancouver Society

We're an independent non-profit society, encouraging the community to preserve, restore, and appreciate Vancouver's heritage, and are dedicated to "Creating a Future for Vancouver's Heritage". We carry out a wide range of activities to create greater appreciation for our rich historical legacy and work with the community to conserve Vancouver's heritage.

Our heritage sites are community landmarks and are tangible expressions of our past that contribute to the character, attractiveness, and quality of life in our neighbourhoods. They define our communities, connect us to our history, and create a legacy for future generations.

Heritage Vancouver creates relationships with the architectural, business, arts, historic, cultural, conservation, and development communities. Together we create ideas, initiatives, and enterprises that contribute to creating a future for our heritage.

Support Heritage Vancouver Society

Donate

All donations are tax deductible and help preserve Vancouver's heritage and support Heritage Vancouver's programs. Donations of any size are welcome and make a difference. Please send cheques payable to Heritage Vancouver Society to: 1020 Denman St., PO Box 47036 Denman Place, Vancouver, BC V6G 3E1 or make a secure gift online at www.heritagevancouver.org. Thank you for your support.

Become a member

Members benefit from reduced event tickets, advanced notification of events, regular updates, and opportunities to become involved. All membership fees support the on-going services and programs of Heritage Vancouver Society. Individual, Student, and Corporate Memberships available:

Join online at www.heritagevancouver.org/membership.html
or contact: membership@heritagevancouver.org

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See heritagevancouver.org for links

Donate



YES! I want to help Heritage Vancouver create a future for heritage!

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I want to become a monthly donor.

Please take the following amount on the 1st of each month*

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A donation each month adds up to a big difference and is an affordable way to create sustainable revenue for Heritage Vancouver.



Or I'd like to make a one-time gift in the amount of \$ _____

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Cheque payable to Heritage Vancouver Society (for one time donations only)

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Thank you for your support of heritage in Vancouver

*you may cancel your monthly payment at any time by calling Heritage Vancouver Society at 604-254-9411

How your donation helps

Heritage Vancouver is dedicated to “Creating a Future for Vancouver’s Heritage”.

We create greater appreciation for our rich historical legacy and work as a community to conserve Vancouver’s heritage.

Just a few of our activities made possible through your support:

- Input to Heritage Action plan and educational updates about the Plan
- Protecting at-risk heritage sites
- Publication of annual Top10 Watch List of Vancouver’s most endangered heritage sites
- Identify and recommend sites to be listed on the City of Vancouver’s Heritage Register— assess and comment on public policy regarding heritage conservation
- Work with community groups to explore actions to protect specific heritage sites
- Prepare position papers to inform the community about threatened heritage sites
- Host forums to engage the community in conversations about opportunities to protect heritage sites
- Free online search function to find out when your house was built through historic building permits
- Increasing community appreciation of our built heritage:
- Events in heritage buildings, talks on our heritage sites and neighborhoods, tours of historic neighborhoods
- Reports on the history, significant features, and importance of individual heritage sites
- Assisting individuals, businesses, and community groups in initiatives to conserve community heritage
- Developing community relationships to create a future for our heritage

Heritage Vancouver may recognize donors on our website or newsletters or I would like to remain anonymous

HVS charitable number 1073758-52

Heritage Vancouver Society, PO Box 74123, Hillcrest Park PO, Vancouver, BC V5V 5C8

To donate online, monthly or one time, including options to honour a person or a special occasion and send them an e-card, and get an instant tax receipt: **visit www.heritagevancouver.org** and click DONATE

Heritage Vancouver Society

PO Box 74123, Hillcrest Park PO, Vancouver, BC V5V 5C8

604 254 9411

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