

Detailed Public Art Plan 2755 21st Avenue East & 3575 Kaslo Street

January 17, 2024



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Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge with gratitude that we are gathered on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and səʔlilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh Nation), who have cared for and nurtured the lands and waters around us for all time. We give thanks for the opportunity to live, work, and support care on these lands.



Introduction

BC Children's Hospital and the Provincial Health Services Authority are redeveloping the site at Slokan Street and East 21st Avenue in Vancouver into a centre for health complexity. The facility is planned to open in early 2028. For many years, the site was occupied by the Sunny Hill Health Centre, which moved into a new and purpose-built facility at the main BC Children's Hospital Oak Street Campus in 2020. That move created an opportunity for BC Children's Hospital to redevelop the site.



Project description

Project details

Owner: Provincial Health Services Authority
Development Permit Application DP-2023-00281
Legal Description: Lot 2 Block F District Lot: THSL
Plan Number VAP1160
Gross Floor Area: 12,464.58 square meters
Public Art Requirement: \$265,651.64
Project Architect: Arcadis-IBI Group
Public Art Consultant: Karen Mills, Mills + Mills Consulting Services Inc.

A first-of-its-kind centre

The new facility will be a first-of-its-kind centre in Canada to support children living with health complexity, and their families and caregivers. It will be a purpose-built facility for some of the most vulnerable children from across BC and Yukon. The centre will offer services both on site and virtually. [Learn more about the new centre by watching this short video.](#)



Patient population

Across BC and Yukon, there are several thousand children who have such significant medical complexity that they require 24/7 care. These children have complex, chronic conditions – conditions that a child was born with or the result of a traumatic or sudden event. Many conditions are rare, can be hard to diagnose, and can include complications that affect all aspects of the child’s daily life such as seizures, loss of sight or hearing, developmental delays, or behavioural/mental health challenges. Children with complex health-care needs are often dependent on medications and technologies. Their day-to-day care therefore requires their parent or caregiver to hold specialized knowledge and skills. The social determinants of health also impact family need. To learn more about the patient population, please consider viewing the following videos.

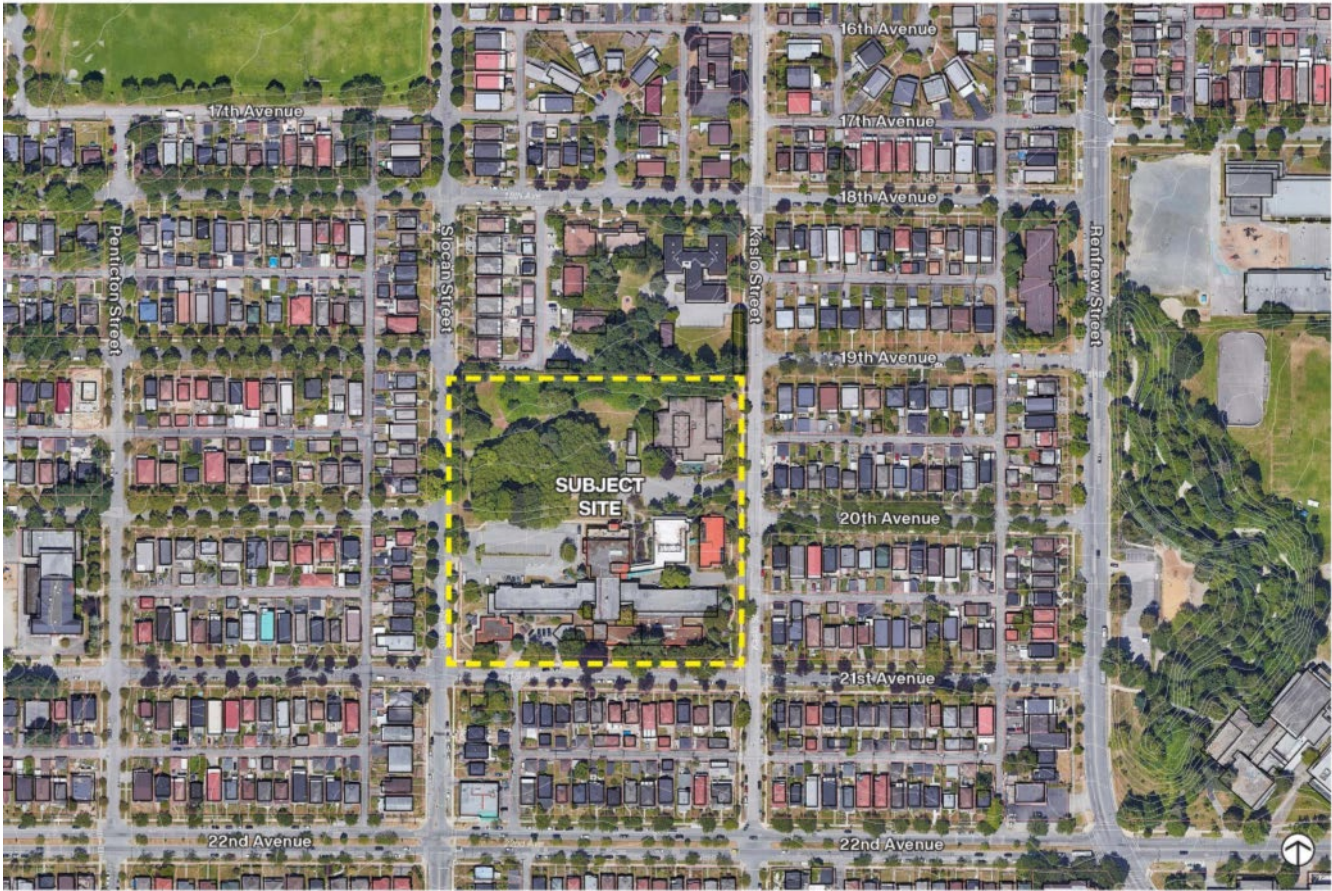
Video presentation by families: This presentation was put together by families in the Slokan Site Redevelopment Project advisory group in direct response to perceived blind spots in previous consultations, specifically around the lived reality of caring for a child with medical complexity. Three parents share details about their kids and what is involved in their care. At around 34 minutes, the presentation also speaks very clearly about trauma and triggers that come into play for parents of complex kids, particularly when visiting medical settings and/or being situated near facilities for healthy children (i.e. daycares).

Story and video about Emiliano: While this video was not produced by the project team, it features one of the families who are on the project’s advisory committee. It tells the story of that family’s struggle to get essential equipment for their son with health complexity.



Site context

The site is located between E 21st and E 19th Ave, and between Slocan and Kaslo Streets in East Vancouver.



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Neighbourhood

The site is in the Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood of Vancouver, and an important part of the local community. The neighbourhood around the site is largely made up of single-family homes. It's culturally mixed, with a majority of Chinese speakers (34.3%), followed by English (31.5%), as well as Tagalog (7.2%), Vietnamese (4.6%), and Punjabi (2%).

Neighbours have a strong attachment to the site and have historically valued the health-care services it provided. Neighbours also value the green space at the north end of the site, where many walk their dogs, bring their children to the playground, or just sit and enjoy the trees. Some neighbours used to send their children to the former daycare on site, while others volunteered at the Sunny Hill Health Centre.

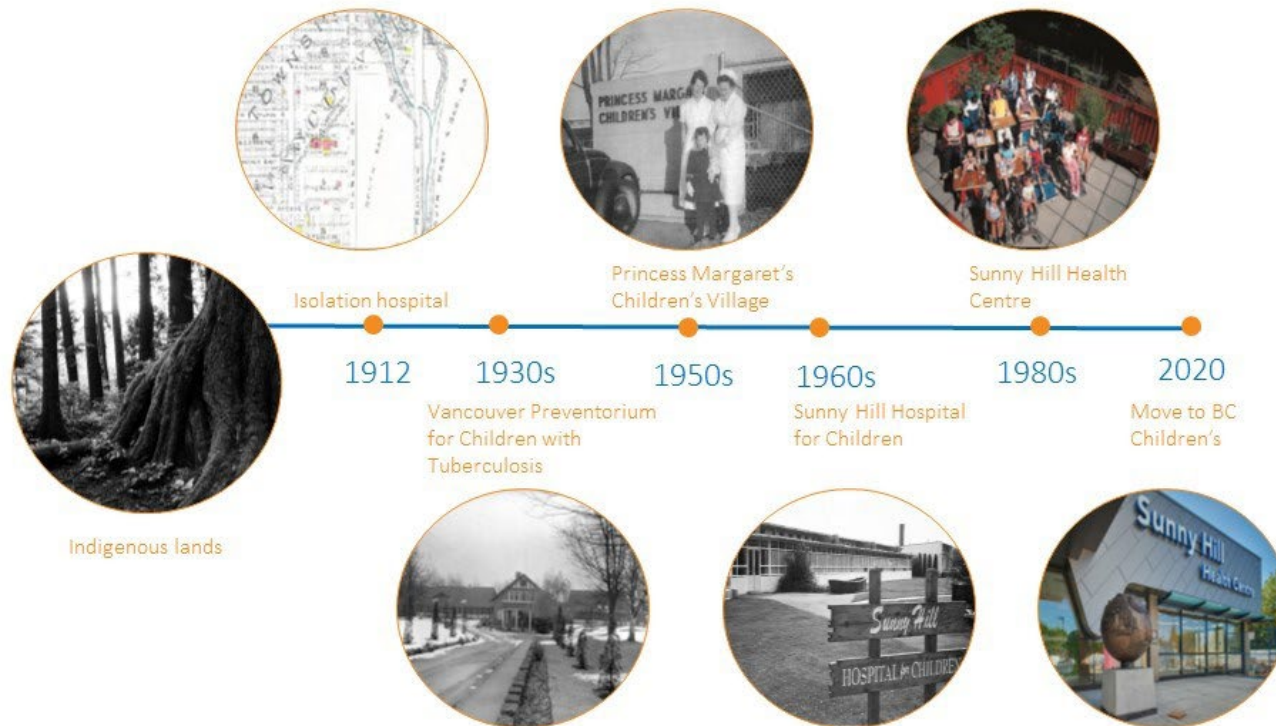
Through the project's Community Advisory Group, neighbours provided input on exterior elements and the landscape plan for the new facility, and we will ensure that this engagement continues with the public art process.



Site history

There have been health-care services at this location for over one hundred years. The lands were originally used by the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh for hunting and gathering food, medicine, and resources. It is unknown when the site was taken by settlers, but we do know that an individual landowner, who had cleared the land of trees, sold the site to the City of Vancouver in 1911 for the purpose of building an isolation hospital.

The isolation hospital opened in November 1912 and was used to care for people with smallpox. The buildings were next used by the Vancouver Preventorium to treat school-aged children who had been exposed to tuberculosis (TB). In 1958, a new wing with 70 more beds was built on the south side of the site, on 21st Avenue. The new Mrs. F.B. Begg Memorial Unit was officially opened by Princess Margaret, and for a short time, the site was renamed the Princess Margaret Children's Village in her honour. With the success of antibiotics in treating TB, preventoriums were no longer needed. In 1961, the site was renamed Sunny Hill Hospital for Children. It focused on caring for kids with cerebral palsy, disabilities, and children requiring extensive rehabilitation. Sunny Hill underwent several transformations before moving to the main BC Children's Hospital Oak Street campus in 2020. The new centre for health complexity will continue the legacy of providing health-care services at this site.



Architectural renderings



Rendering: bird's-eye view of the new centre. The entrance will be off Slokan Street, and the large green space to the north will include a wellness path and landscaping. The building on the north-west corner is the daycare. All renderings are courtesy of Arcadis-IBI.



Above: A set of 16 overnight family suites located at street level on 21st Avenue.



Above: View of the All Nations space and plaza from the north end of the site.

Public art opportunity

What we've heard so far

Families and caregivers from the project's Patient and Caregiver Advisory Group have offered comments about public art for the site based on their experience at other facilities. Here is what they had to say:

- “If you are not focusing on the patient, the art won't make a difference.”
- “We want fully sensory interactive art, experiential: when you are in a wheelchair with low muscle tone, you can't grab stuff. But you can move through stuff.”
- “Art needs to have a meaning for connection e.g. our kids need to hear it, feel it, sense it. Putting a pretty sculpture at the entrance does nothing.”
- “I want to see a focus on local artists, especially Indigenous.”

We want to be especially mindful that many of these children and families have experienced significant trauma. Both the public art process and the art itself need to be trauma-informed and culturally safe.

We have to go beyond what we typically consider to be accessible to develop an art program that these children, many of whom use mobility devices, can relate to. This is our opportunity to do something significant and innovative for the City of Vancouver.

Guiding principles for the therapeutic art

- To engage the neighbourhood community, the families, and caregivers
- To enhance the patient and visitor experience through the healing power of art
- To serve as an intuitive wayfinding landmark; durability as an exterior artwork
- To integrate with the landscape in a way that permits a meaningful experience for patients and visitors.

Therapeutic art: Neuroaesthetics

Neuroaesthetics is a developing field of study in brain science that explores the neural basis of aesthetic experiences, encompassing the intersection of neuroscience, psychology, and aesthetics.

This field of research is proving helpful in developing visual art programs that respond to the needs of children and youth with complex life limiting conditions as well as varying degrees of physical, sensory, and cognitive limitations. For example, we have learned that individuals on the autism spectrum respond well to designs that avoid surprise encounters (e.g. curved walls).

The Competition Brief and the accompanying online artist applicant briefings and subsequent competition briefings will be designed to provide a high-level view of critical considerations when developing artwork for children and youth with health complexity. This information may provide insight into design directions for the candidates, avoiding those forms which may present negative triggers causing confusion, anxiety, and sometimes pain.

Artwork examples



Lumiere Festival, Vancouver (photo Michael Wheatley)



One of six colourful sculptures that swallow, modify, and regurgitate sounds; part of [Sonic Playground](#), a four-month installation at the High Museum of Art Atlanta by Japanese artist Yuri Suzuki.



James Harry, [The Sisters](#), North Vancouver

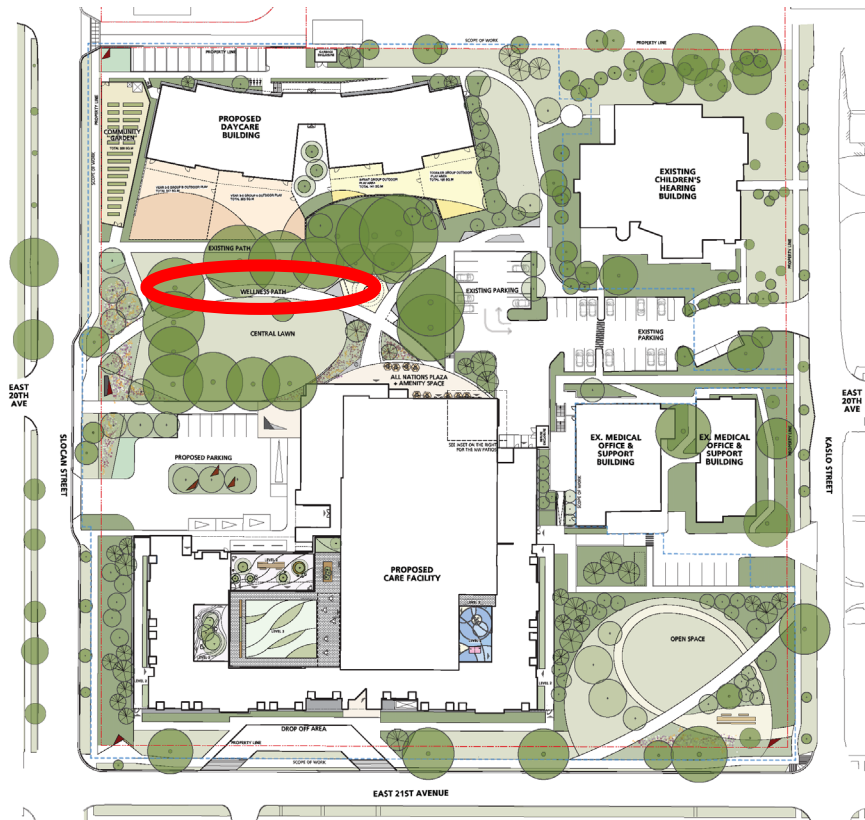


Ball-Nogues Studio designed this functional artwork integrated into the landscape design for Cedars Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles, California. <https://www.outdoordesign.com.au/news-info/the-healing-arts/5476.htm>

Preferred location: the wellness path

In choosing the right location for the public art, we needed to consider the following:

- safety
- the opportunity for sensory engagement
- wheelchair accessibility
- seasonality and the landscape
- the opportunity for engagement with the local community.



We have proposed and are asking for endorsement of the wellness path in the green space as the best location for the public art piece because it meets all of the required criteria. The wellness path is visible in the grove of trees between the main centre and the daycare. The red oval indicates the potential location for one or more artworks, or an artwork feature. Image courtesy of Perry + Associates.

Budget

Percentage	Description	Sub-total	Total
10%	Contribution to City		\$26,565.16
25%	Public Art Competition Costs and Fees		\$66,412.91
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public art consultant allowance (10%) 	\$26,565.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jury fees: 2-3 paid jury members (see section below “public art jury” for fees based on 2024 CARFAC rates) 	\$3,828.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 paid family/caregiver advisors (non-voting) – currently paid at \$25/hour (pay scale under revision by PHSA); allow 10 hours + pay increase 	\$500.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 paid neighbours with knowledge of art as observers (non-voting) – will be paid the same as the family/caregiver advisors; allow 10 hours + pay increase 	\$500.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artist fees for interview presentations (not ideas): up to \$1,000 each for 3 finalists 	\$3,000.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artist travel – to be determined and taken out of contingency 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contingency – to cover artist travel, additional time needed by jury to review applications, etc. (any unused funds will go to artist and artwork costs) 	\$32,019.91	
65%	Artist and artwork costs – artist fee to be determined by the artist as part of their proposal with a suggestion of 20% of the allowance as a design fee		\$172,673.57
100%	Gross public art budget		\$265,651.64

Selection process

We propose to carry out a two-stage competition:

- Stage 1 will be an invitation to artists for Expressions of Interest (EOI), which will follow provincial procurement guidelines and will be open and transparent.
- Stage 2 will comprise juried interviews to select an artist to develop concepts for the artwork.

Up to three Finalists will be selected to advance to the juried interview stage of the competition. Criteria for advancement as a finalist will include:

- Unique and distinctive identity as shown through past artwork
- Professionalism demonstrated through the CV/credentials, response to questions, and results of reference checks
- Understanding of the opportunity, schedule, and patient population – demonstrates an interest in the project and a willingness to learn and work with the project team.

The jury may add other criteria for advancement.

Meaningful engagement with our partners will form an integral component of this process. Extensive outreach to families/caregivers, Indigenous partners, clinical subject matter experts, and the community, along with recommendations from the public art jury and the art consultant, should ensure a strong response.

Public art jury

We propose 3-5 members for the jury:

- Up to 2 owner representatives
- 2 to 3 outside art experts.

For the 2 to 3 outside art experts, we recommend including one artist and at least one Indigenous representative. Potential candidates include:

- Mack Paul or Susan Point (Musqueam)
- Toonasa Luggi (DakelhWetsuwet'en)
- Temoseng Chazz Elliott (W_SÁNEĆ and Lekwungen Nations)
- Angela Grossman, visual artist (therapeutic art experience/knowledge)

We are open to suggestions from the members of the VPAC.

Jury fees will be based on CARFAC recommended guidelines, outlined in [Section 4 – 2024 Artist Professional Services Fee Schedule](#). Specifically, [section C.4.0 Jury Fees](#) states for following:

“For intensive jury processes, such as peer assessment juries at a federal, provincial, or municipal arts council, where an assessment panel is formed to review detailed applications and decide or make recommendations on grant recipients and amounts, that organization is likely to have its own internal guidelines for jury fees. If not, we recommend the following rates:”

Flat rate per half day, under 4 hours	\$362
Flat rate per day, over 4 hours	\$638

We will also have advisors and observers. These will include clinicians, families/caregivers, neighbours, and Indigenous partners who may be invited to observe the proceedings and provide written comment.

Two family/caregiver advisors and two neighbours with knowledge of art will be paid the same rate as current members of the Slokan Site Redevelopment Project's Patient and Caregiver Advisory Committee. That rate is \$25/hour (currently under revision). The paid advisors/observers will participate in four to five meetings in total.

Clinicians, Indigenous Health staff, and project staff acting as observers and already employed by the health authority will not receive any additional payment.

All jury members, advisors, and observers will be invited to participate in introductory information sessions about therapeutic art and Neuroaesthetics. We can tape these sessions and circulate the links to those who are not able to attend live sessions.

Stage 1: call for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

We will circulate the call for Expressions of Interest widely.

- Focus on BC and Yukon artists
- The EOI will be developed by the public art consultant in collaboration with the project team. Outreach via Akimbo, Facebook and Instagram, and connections of the BC Children's Hospital Foundation.
- Post on the Musqueam and Squamish call for artists pages and reach out to the Tsleil-Waututh.
- Build on past partnerships with local museums and art institutions.
- Offer virtual "how to apply" sessions for interested artists (up to 5 sessions).

The Expressions of Interest will be reviewed by the owner, public art consultant, and jury. Three finalists will be selected to advance to Stage 2 of the selection process. A marking matrix will be used to guide the evaluation and ensure that a written record of the proceedings is kept.

Stage 2: Competition Brief

The public art consultant will collaborate with project partners and representatives of the families on the development of the Competition Brief, taking into account trauma-informed considerations. Finalists will receive online briefings and may participate in supplementary presentations about therapeutic art.

Given the need for extensive consultation with partners, it is recommended that the winning artist be selected through juried interviews. The artist will then work with the various project partners, families/caregivers, and the project team to develop the public art concept. Clinicians will also be consulted. This system has worked effectively in several large health-care projects, where understanding of the patient population was critical.

The Commissioned Artist will be offered a Letter of Intent (LOI) for the concept design phase of the work. Upon acceptance of a concept, the artist will be given a full contract for the balance of the work.

Engagement strategy

The project team and art consultant are committed to authentic and meaningful engagement throughout the process of selecting the public art piece for this site. We will draw on our existing advisory groups and partners, inviting them to take part as observers in the public art selection process.

Patient and Caregiver Advisory Group

An advisory group of 11 former patients, families, and caregivers has been offering guidance to the team on the design of the services at the new centre. The group has also been advising on the design of the new facility to ensure that it meets the needs of children with health complexity and their families and caregivers. This group has already provided general input on their preferences for art within the facility. Representatives from this advisory group will be invited to participate as observers in the selection process for the public art piece.



Members of the of the Patient and Caregiver Advisory Group tour mock-ups of patient rooms at the new centre, providing feedback to the architects and project team. [Read the full story on the BC Children's website.](#)

Community Advisory Group

A Community Advisory Group of 24 members representing neighbours and local organizations has been providing the project team and architects with input into the exterior design of the new centre and the landscape plan. Representatives from this group will be invited to take part as observers in the selection of the public art piece. The group includes:

- Neighbours
- Children’s Hearing and Speech Centre of BC
- Children’s Foundation
- Italian Cultural Centre
- Renfrew Park Community Centre
- Vancouver Public Library – Renfrew Branch.



The project team organized a plant giveaway for neighbours on December 18, 2023 to save plants from the former Sunny Hill Health Centre prior to demolition of existing buildings on the site. [Read the full story on the BC Children’s website.](#)

Indigenous partners

Our Indigenous partnerships begin at the heart of our project team, and we are continually strengthening our connections with the Nations through the dedicated efforts of the following individuals.

Teka Everstz | Lead - Indigenous Engagement, Partnerships, and Cultural Safety, Slocan Site Redevelopment Project (PHSA)

Teka, a proud member of the Kanien'kehà:ka Mohawk Nation of Kahnawà:ke, embodies a deep commitment to his cultural heritage. Within the Slocan Site Redevelopment Project team, he plays an integral role, bringing invaluable expertise to lead our Indigenous Partnerships and Cultural Safety initiatives, aligning his efforts with the overarching reconciliation objectives of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA).

Amanda Kenoras | MST Relational Development Advisor

As a highly respected Indigenous consultant, Amanda (Musqueam) serves as a vital bridge, fostering profound partnerships across a wide spectrum of industries. Her collaborative endeavours play a pivotal role in bestowing invaluable insights and deep comprehension of matters pertaining to culture and protocol. Amanda's work ensures that the essence of Indigenous values, ways of knowing, and distinctive worldviews are intricately interwoven into the fabric of modern business practices.

Sherri DiLallo RN MN | Executive Director - BC Children's and BC Women's Hospitals Indigenous Health (PHSA)

Sherri hails from the Métis community of Northern Saskatchewan and serves as the Executive Director of BC Children's and BC Women's Indigenous Health. Sherri also plays a crucial role as a member of the Executive Governance Committee for the Slocan project.

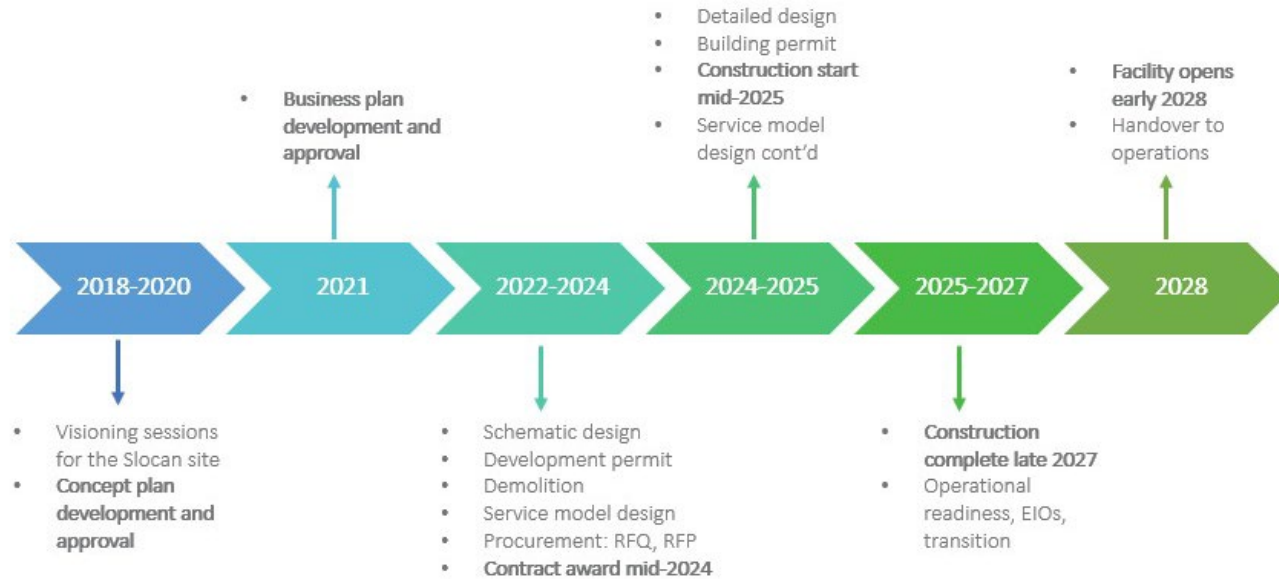
We are committed to collaborating closely with these individuals to ensure the active participation of appropriate Indigenous partners as both jury and observers during the selection process of the public art piece. Ensure that at least one member of the jury is a distinguished Indigenous artist or a respected professional within the realm of Indigenous artistry.

Clinical subject matter experts

The project team is working closely with front-line health-care staff from the BC Children's Hospital, regional health authorities, non-profit organizations and from community to help inform the clinical services that will be offered at the Slocan site. We will invite several members from this group to be involved as observers in the selection of the public art piece.

Project timeline

Construction milestones for facility



Public art competition schedule

Approval of DPAP triggers commencement of competition planning and preparation:

- Issue Expressions of Interest (EOI): Q4 2024 (4-week open period for online “How To” sessions and submission of applicant responses)
- Jury reviews applications: 2 weeks – Q4 2024
- Communicate with applicants/notify finalists: 2 weeks – Q4 2024
- Issue competition brief / hold online info sessions: 3 weeks – Q4 2024
- Conduct juried interviews: Q1 2025
- Issue Letter of Intent (LOI) to selected artist: Q1 2025
- Artist engages with families/caregivers, community, design team to inform concepts: 6 weeks – Q1 2025
- Sketch concept(s): Q2 2025 (allow 4- 6 weeks)
- Review concept(s), provide feedback to artist: Q2 2025
- Hold pre-contract meetings to finalize project delivery method, type of contract, and scope of work for all parties: Q3 2025
- Approve preferred design concept and sign contract: Q3 2025
- Install public art piece: Q3 2027 estimated.