

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

Date: 10/8/2024 4:04:00 PM

Subject: Upcoming information bulletin: Vancouver Heritage Register Upgrades (Oct 8, 2024)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Following your approval at this week's Council meeting, I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below information bulletin regarding upgrades to the Vancouver Heritage Register.

Angela will reply to this email with the relevant Vancouver.ca link and social media links, once these are live.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x'm k'y'm (Musqueam), S'wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and s'lilw'ta (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Vancouver modernizes Heritage Register with a focus on reconciliation and cultural heritage

Today, Vancouver City Council unanimously approved [upgrades](#) to the Vancouver Heritage Register (VHR) to better reflect the rich diversity of peoples, histories and cultures that make up our city.

This follows [Council direction](#) to simplify the criteria for adding new buildings to the VHR and make it easier for a wider range of cultural and historical assets to be recognized and preserved. The changes will provide clarity to developers, property owners and the public on the purpose of the VHR and streamline permitting processes.

A broader definition of Heritage

Before the upgrade, the VHR criteria heavily privileged tangible heritage, particularly Eurocentric design and history. The VHR evaluation criteria will now extend beyond the physical, architectural elements to consider intangible heritage elements associated with a place, such as:

- Cultural traditions, ways of life, memories and lived experiences
- A person, community, and/or organization
- Certain design, materials, and technology

A City of Reconciliation:

The City engaged extensively with the x'm k'y'm (Musqueam), S'wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and s'lilw'ta (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, working collaboratively to develop a Truth-Telling Statement and land acknowledgement. These additions, featured prominently in the updated VHR, recognize how the VHR has historically contributed to the erasure of Indigenous history and affirms the City's ongoing commitment to working with the Nations in the development of new, culturally appropriate tools to identify, steward and share Indigenous cultural heritage.

For more information about the VHR, please visit: <https://review.vancouver.ca/home-property-development/vancouver-heritage-register-vhr.aspx>.

Background:

Adopted in 1986, the original Vancouver Heritage Inventory was based on an architectural survey of the city. In 1994, it was renamed the Vancouver Heritage Register. Although the VHR has been updated annually with new listings and removals, it has never undergone a comprehensive policy review to incorporate Indigenous land acknowledgements or to reflect the city's growth and diverse communities.

In March 2020, City Council approved the Vancouver Heritage Program, setting the direction for the VHR Upgrade. The City's Reconciliation Framework and cultural redress initiatives also guided the process helping expand the definition of heritage to encompass intangible cultural associations alongside tangible architectural design.