

August 2024

## **City of Vancouver Kogawa House Q&A**

### **What is the City of Vancouver's relationship to Joy Kogawa House?**

The City of Vancouver is the owner of the property at 1450 W 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the Marpole neighbourhood, also known as Joy Kogawa House. To preserve a cultural and historic community asset, the City purchased this property in 2016, when the previous owner – The Land Conservancy – was undergoing bankruptcy proceedings. Visit [kogawahouse.com](http://kogawahouse.com) to learn more about the history of the Joy Kogawa House.

### **Who operates Joy Kogawa House?**

The City of Vancouver subleases the House to a non-profit operator, The Historic Joy Kogawa House Society.

### **What is the City's role as a facility owner?**

As the facility owner, the City is primarily responsible for working with the house's operator on capital responsibilities and physical safety of the house, including life cycle replacement, capital maintenance of major structure and base building systems.

### **What is currently happening at Joy Kogawa House?**

In July 2022, the City of Vancouver staff put forward a report recommending Council approve a Heritage Revitalization Agreement and Development Permit for the Joy Kogawa House. The report was withdrawn due to community advocacy related to the omission of the sexual abuse of children by Gordon Goichi Nakayama – Joy Kogawa's father and previous owner of the house.

In an effort to address this oversight, City staff are working with the house's operator, Historic Joy Kogawa House Society, to coordinate statements of apology and commit to open dialogue with survivors of Gordon Goichi Nakayama's abuse, the Japanese Canadian community in Vancouver.

In order to ensure the safety and accessibility of the house, the City has authorized necessary renovations and upgrades to proceed, while continuing to pause the heritage designation process.

### **What is the future of Joy Kogawa House?**

While the City will support cultural use of the House and facilitate required renovations, City staff will continue to pause the heritage designation process to prioritize restoration efforts with the survivor community in a trauma-informed manner.

City staff are committed to including the history of Gordon Goichi Nakayama's abuse in all future reports and documentation about the house, in addition to on-going, open dialogue with the Japanese Canadian community.