

Britannia Community Carving Pavilion

WHAT IS IT?



The Pavilion

The Britannia Community Carving Pavilion will be a permanent carving and cultural-sharing structure to promote cultural awareness of the rich heritage that the First Peoples offer in their traditional practices, and to provide education and carving production opportunities to students and members of the greater community.

Aboriginal cultural and traditional learning is based on a “hands-on” tradition where the teaching is entwined with the cultural and artistic practices that have been passed down through the generations. Learning by doing is, and was, the community educational standard on this land.

The Community Carving Pavilion will support hands-on curriculum development and support cultural sharing and understanding.



Why a carving pavilion?

Britannia was created through a unique partnership between the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver School Board to provide a range of community services and strengthen ties between community members. When the A'wila Canoe community carving project began at Britannia, it identified an unmet need in the community and provided room for new education opportunities and community relationship building.

Where will it be built?

Originally, it was proposed to build the pavilion in the green space outside Britannia Secondary. After receiving feedback from the community, the newly proposed location is in the parking lot near Britannia Secondary, not far from the ice rink. Britannia is located in the Grandview-Woodlands neighbourhood of the City of Vancouver, within the traditional territories of the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

Back in 2006 after a great wind storm blew through Stanley Park, a number of downed trunks were brought to Britannia in 2008 to be used for the A'wila Canoe community carving project. Over time, this became the place where carving happened at Britannia.



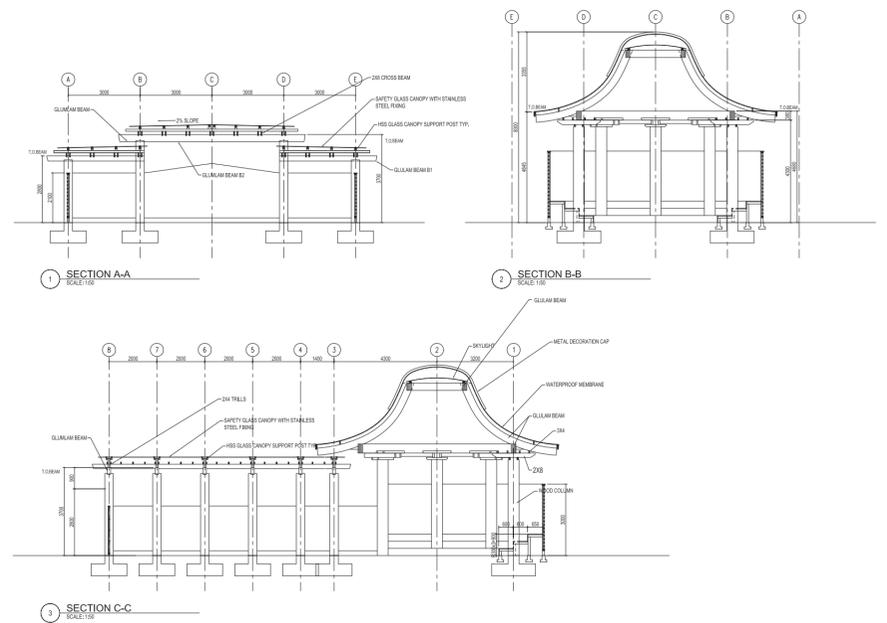
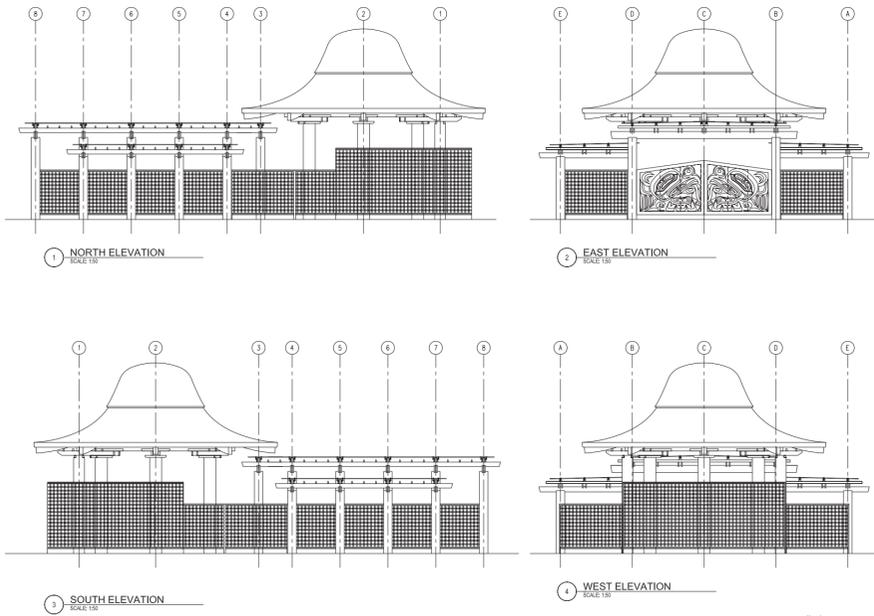
PHOTOS: GONORTH

Goals & Outcomes

- Develop curriculum focusing on experiential learning that leads to a deeper understanding of Aboriginal history, traditions, culture, and practices as a living force within today's community.
- Provide a space for large-scale carving projects such as totem poles, canoes, longhouse posts, and door panels as well as small-scale carving projects.
- Build upon the sense of pride and purpose within the Aboriginal student body at Britannia Secondary and within the Aboriginal community, and promote a sense of sharing and understanding with the non-Aboriginal community.
- Provide a public community space for gatherings and sharing circles that would allow for exchange between, within, and among a diversity of community groups.

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WHAT'S NEXT?



What you've told us

In the spring of 2013, Britannia began to engage our immediate community which included patrons, staff, students, families and children coming to Britannia. We gathered feedback on the location, design, use, and other elements of the Pavilion. This came on the heels of a major community outreach period while the Britannia Community Services Centre Society worked on a new Strategic Master Plan to guide Britannia into the future.

Much of the feedback reaffirmed the current direction of the Pavilion, such as:

- "Like the transparent design. Very positive First Nations project. Beautiful design. Creates a visual appeal in a rather drab area of the site. Great public view and proximity to kids and others."
- "A great way to involve all youth in Aboriginal culture!"
- "Beautiful design. I love the idea of opening up this site to ART. Clear and Present."
- "That would be an amazing idea for families, youth and the elders to share stories and gain knowledge."

Other feedback included the following helpful suggestions:

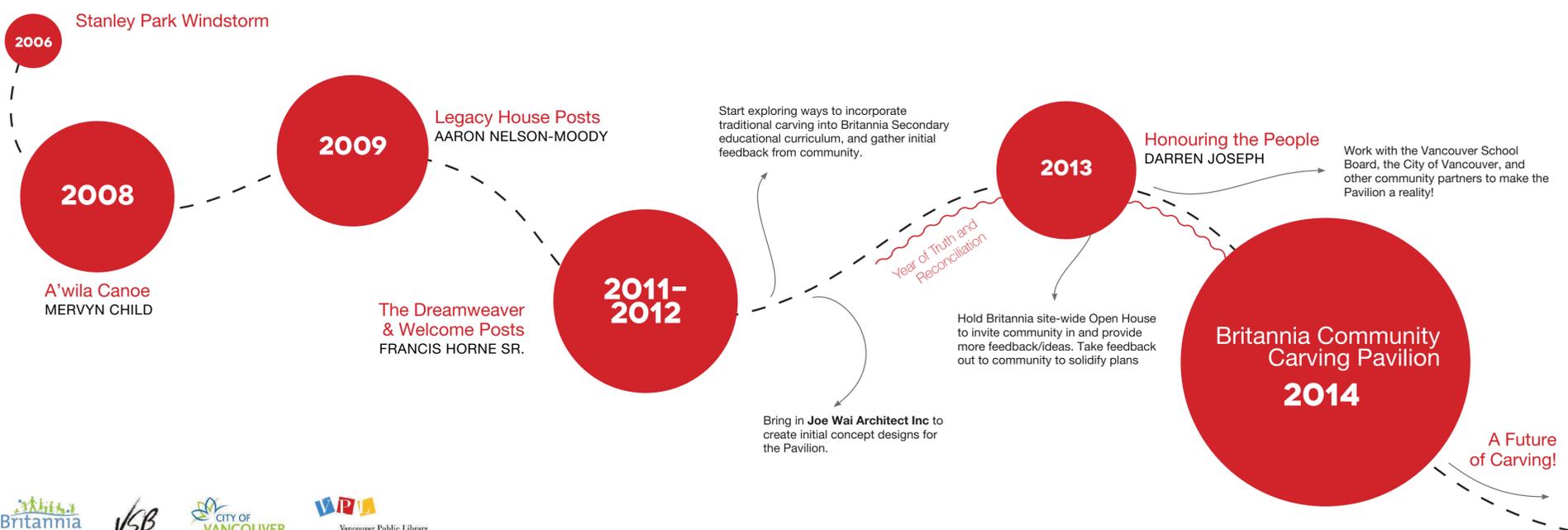
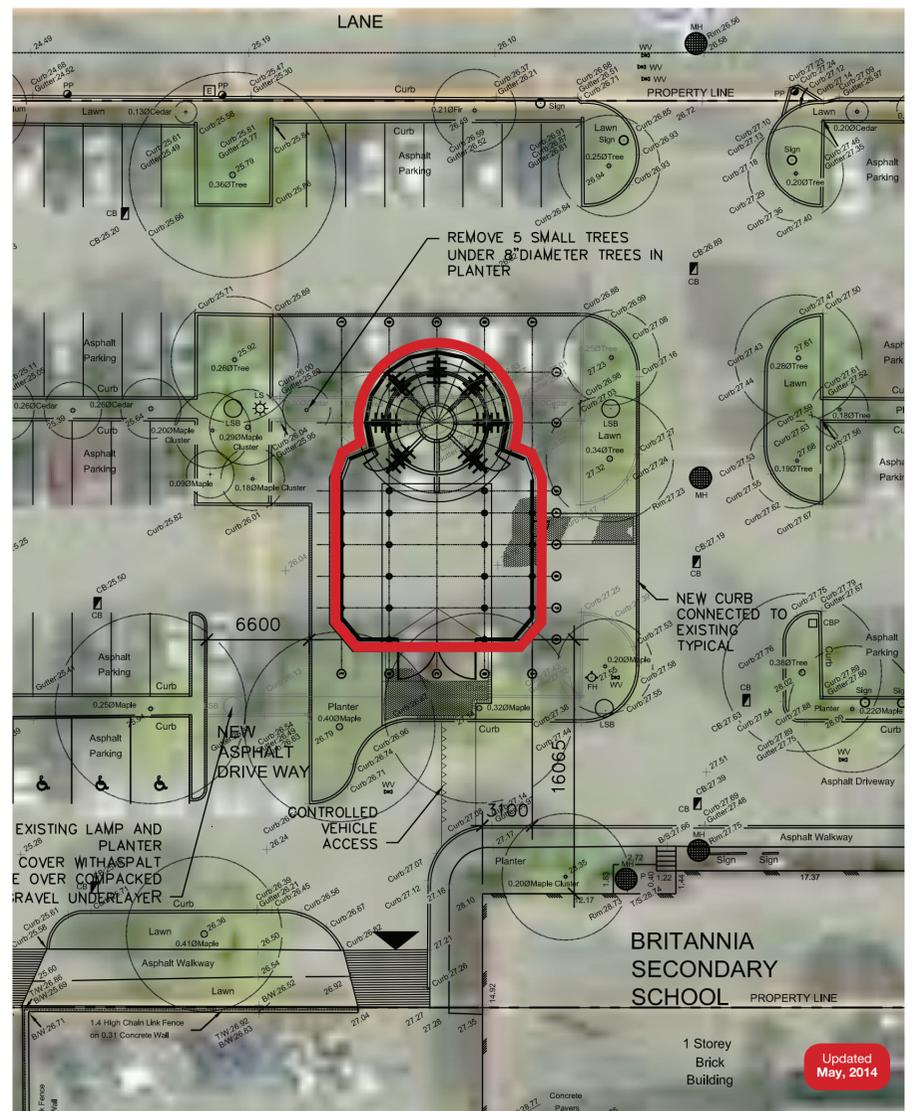
- "The shed should not be in front of the school there is a lot of room behind the school."
- "About time, but it should be more central for everybody to see. Not hidden in the back."
- "A pavilion with no indoor space means it is cold and useless much of the year. A mix of indoor and outdoor space would be more useful."
- "Restricting this Centre to Aboriginal Carving only would be a missed chance for exchanging carving techniques and traditions."

Alternate Locations

While considering the future of Britannia as laid out in the Strategic Master Plan from 2011, a number of alternate locations were considered for the pavilion, including in the parking lot at the north west end of Britannia near the tennis courts, or amongst some of the other programming spaces near the south end of Britannia. It was found that this site, with its history of carving, ease of access/visibility, and proximity to Britannia Secondary, would serve as the best place to construct the permanent Community Carving Pavilion.

Timeline

The story of carving at Britannia has only just begun. Here's how we've reached this point, and what the plan is for the future!



Britannia Community Carving Pavilion

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

NEXT STEPS

- Consultation with community on the design and location of the Pavilion
- Complete fundraising campaign
- Initiate and complete construction
- Set out the operating agreements with the partners
- Work with the community to define programming vision and mandate

May, 2014

WE HEARD YOU!

The location for the Pavilion has been changed.

The community was concerned about losing valuable mature trees. We have relocated the pavilion to provide better viewpoints around the building and access to make it more centrally located.

IMPACTS

- Loss of 22 parking spots (less than 10% of original 227)
- Change in traffic flow to create a different drop off point for students, and different vehicle access to school parking
- Controlled vehicle access between the pavilion and the Secondary School building for pedestrian safety and for a stronger connection between the main school and community buildings.
- Increase exposure to elements which may impact artist carving experience

Lift circle to see impacts of earlier proposed location



What do you know about the Pavilion?

If any of the statements below are true for you, please place a sticker next to that statement. We want to make sure our plans are on track with the needs of our community!

I knew there was a carving shed at Britannia.

The carving shed is located between Britannia Secondary, the ice rink, and the pool.

It's all new to me.

This is the first time I've heard about the Britannia Community Carving Pavilion.

My child/children participated in a carving project at Britannia.

Youth from Britannia Elementary and Secondary have been involved in a number of carving projects at Britannia since 2008.

I am concerned about loss of the trees but would support the project despite the loss.

I am a carver or have participated in other carving projects.

The new Britannia Community Carving Pavilion will be open to everyone regardless of which community you belong to.

I provided feedback on the new Carving Pavilion before today.

Feedback boards were posted in various buildings at Britannia and information was distributed to the community.

I would like to get involved!

Please contact Cynthia.low@vancouver.ca or call 604-718-5815

What are your ideas for the Pavilion?

Do you have an idea for a carving project? Are you interested in applying to be a Carver in Residence? What do you think of the design of the new Pavilion? Grab a post-it note below and let us know!