

Shaping Vancouver 2019

What's the use of
heritage?

Conversation 3/
Is heritage relevant?



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November 2019

There is a significant disconnect between heritage as a discipline and heritage as practiced locally on the ground.

As a discipline, heritage has changed considerably in recent decades. It has moved beyond traditional boundaries and intersected with issues such as equity, social values, climate change, housing, and community planning.

Provincially, nationally and internationally, experts and experienced professionals consistently identify several core themes and explore their impact on practice:

- There is a growing interest in heritage as a living system of relationships between people and place;
- There is an understood need for greater attention to cultural diversity and how different cultural groups value heritage (e.g. First Nations, women, LGBTQ2);
- Classical heritage concepts around building preservation alone do not address contemporary societal needs and issues; resolution of these needs requires broader and more interdisciplinary approaches

Panelists

Locally, the heritage field in general is just starting to consider these broader ideas.

Competing meanings have been attached to heritage, and there are opposing views on the evolution of the discipline expressed.

Some feel heritage has broadened too far while others feel strongly that heritage needs to continually re-examine its concepts in order to respond to current needs. This comes at a time when there is increasing questioning of the usefulness of heritage due to its traditional focus on preservation.

In this third installment of Shaping Vancouver, we will examine the disruption taking place in heritage and the challenges it faces in remaining relevant.

Co-presented by SFU's Vancity Office of Community Engagement and Heritage Vancouver Society.



Angie Bain is Nlaka'pamux from Lower Nicola, BC.

She is a researcher with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and also works on Traditional Use studies, crown land referrals, community planning and cultural heritage projects for the Lower Nicola Indian Band.

Angie a Research Associate, Volume Editor and member of the Indigenous Advisory Council on the Franz Boas Paper Project.

Together with Karen Aird and Gretchen Fox, Angie prepared the recent policy paper Recognizing and Including Indigenous Cultural Heritage in B.C.

Summaries of all previous Shaping Vancouver events, including audio recordings:

www.heritagevancouver.org/resources/past-talk-synopses

Panelists cont.

Paul Gravett has extensive experience working with not-for-profit organizations as an executive director, interim manager, consultant, and board chair.

As a consultant, Paul has worked with organizations in the arts, heritage and wellness sectors, focusing on building viable businesses through values-driven strategies.

Paul began work with Heritage BC as interim executive director in 2016, later taking the position on a permanent basis.

His work has concentrated on expanding the role of the organization and the inclusivity of its work.

Paul led the province-wide State of Heritage project that involved 25 meetings and 500 participants.

Aneesha Grewal Vice-Chair Punjabi Market Regeneration Collective. Aneesha values land back and eco-community care.

Aneesha is a second generation Punjabi settler. Their research interests include identity formation, cultural hybridity and settler colonialism; rooted in decolonial theorizations of oppression and its intersections.

Aneesha hopes to aid in the decentering and denormalization of capitalism and the white cisheteropatriarchy.

Moderator

Robert Lemon, Architect AIBC has had four decades of experience with heritage conservation in British Columbia.

His firm Robert Lemon Architect Inc. has completed award-winning conservation work on Vancouver landmarks including Hotel Georgia, Coastal Church, Shannon Estate, Jameson House and Downtown YMCA.

From 1991 to 1996 Lemon was the Senior Heritage Planner for the City of Vancouver where he oversaw the introduction of heritage legislation and developed the city's transfer of density policy,

Recent Landmarks program and Heritage Interiors initiatives. Lemon wrote the provincial Rehabilitation Standards and Guidelines and was co-author of the heritage provisions of the BC Building Code. He was a member of the working party for the federal Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada.

Lemon studied conservation at ICCROM (Rome) and completed his MA in Conservation at University of York (UK). He established local chapters of APT and DOCOMOMO and has given papers on conservation topics in Banff, Trent University, Ottawa, Chicago, Miami, Stockholm and Slovakia. He is the past chair of the Vancouver Heritage Foundation.

Bill Yuen is the Executive Director of Heritage Vancouver Society.

He is particularly interested in cultural landscape theory and practice as well as the role that normative economics, and behaviour play in heritage, heritage policy, and social outcomes.

Recent work includes being part of the team researching San Francisco's Legacy Business program and creating a Vancouver definition that is based off of a multitude of stakeholder values.

In recent years, he has presented on creative interventions in heritage policy and managing change in cultural landscapes.

Bill is involved in all aspects of the society from planning, program development and delivery, to administration and research.

About this series

Vancouver's heritage can play an important role towards creating a healthy, livable city that protects our cultural and social resources. In a city facing immense development pressure, heritage is an active part of shaping the city, rather than the common assumption that it is for preventing change.

Beyond its preservationist roots, heritage is actually a method of place management with the intention of guiding change. **Shaping Vancouver 2019: "What's the Use of Heritage?"** discusses how heritage fits in to planning Vancouver's near future, what some of its uses are, and how it contributes to the city in more ways than aesthetics and historic commemoration.

Major change will be taking place across Vancouver: there will be City-wide Plan along with other large scale planning programs such as the Broadway Corridor, Chinatown Cultural Heritage Assets Management Plan, and Making Room.

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Questions?

info@heritagevancouver.org

2019 Series 5

Register online at heritagevancouver.org

May 21

Reshaping local places

October 9

What do we do about neighbourhoods

November 5

Is heritage relevant

November 28

What's happening to heritage

About Heritage Vancouver Society

Heritage Vancouver is an **independent charitable non-profit society**, helping communities understand and participate in sustaining Vancouver's heritage.

Now in our 28th year, we promote public engagement and dialogue on changes to significant aspects of our city's cultural heritage, advance a comprehensive understanding of heritage that captures the diverse ways people establish meaningful connections with the environment around them—whether they be built, cultural, natural or social.

We apply this holistic view and promote its application in realizing engaged communities and a city that is layered thoughtfully with old, new, tangible and intangible qualities of place.

We do this through representations to the City of Vancouver on development and policies in the city, our **Shaping Vancouver** public dialogue series, our presentations and talks to community members, our research, and our annual **Top10 Watch List**.

Some of our most successful endeavors include efforts to preserve and restore elements from the art deco **Burrard Bridge** and Vancouver's oldest remaining wooden schoolhouse **Carleton Hall** (1896) now in use by the Greenthumb Theatre Company.

- Become a member to help support heritage initiatives in Vancouver
- Your tax deductible donation does make a difference to the Society



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Donations are tax deductible and help preserve Vancouver's heritage and support Heritage Vancouver Society's programs.

Donations of any size are welcome and make a difference.

To make a secure one-time or monthly tax deductible gift online via CanadaHelps:

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Memberships with us

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Your membership directly supports our on-going services and programs of Heritage Vancouver Society.

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