



LEGACY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (2018-2023)

BACKGROUND

University of Victoria Legacy Art Galleries (Legacy) is the university's art museum, responsible for the accessibility and stewardship of an art collection, which consists of approximately 20,000 objects including Canadian, Indigenous and international historic and contemporary art. Legacy activates the collection for research, teaching and learning for students, faculty and the general public through exhibitions, campus displays, publications, web-projects, public programs, and events—on site and through digital resources.

Legacy has three main sites for rotating exhibitions including the Legacy Art Gallery Downtown, and on campus at the Legacy Maltwood in the Mearns Learning Centre, McPherson Library, and in First Peoples House. Additionally, more than 2000 works from the collection are on display in buildings across campus and in the community, underlining the educational and community-building roles of art. The Legacy Downtown is also a site for public programs, and both university and community events.

Legacy supports the academic and teaching goals of the University through its activities including a special relationship with the Williams Legacy Chair. Legacy provides experiential learning opportunities for students through Co-op, work-study and internship programs. Mentorship is critical to Legacy's operations while providing real-life museum and collection work experience enabling students to be better prepared for future careers.

Legacy's exhibitions, programs and learning opportunities aim to link the university across communities and to support [UVic's Strategic Framework](#), its [Strategic Research Plan](#), and [Indigenous Plan](#), while addressing the [Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Calls to Action](#) and the United Nations [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#).

MISSION

At Legacy Art Galleries art activates research and learning through university and community collaborations. Our exhibitions and programs promote dialogue around issues that matter.

VALUES

At Legacy Art Galleries, in all our actions we value education, dialogue, collaboration, community, allyship, relevance, and our contribution to building positive change in the world.

CORE PURPOSES:

- To provide leadership and expertise in art for research, teaching, hands-on learning and student mentorship

- To partner in artistic and community collaborations that promote dialogue around ideas and issues relevant to our times and reflecting diversity and reconciliation
- To mobilize student and faculty research and enhance engagement of the university with communities through exhibitions and programs
- To build, care for, and exhibit a quality art collection which features strengths in Contemporary and Historical art of the Pacific Northwest Coast, Contemporary Indigenous art and Decorative arts for the benefit and education of present and future generations on and off campus

PRIORITIES (2018-2023)

In line with our core purposes, the following priorities will guide the development of our work plans and determine our new endeavours over the next five years:

1. Enhance relevance to our audiences and partners. Legacy has a dual mandate serving academic and broader community audiences. Because we provide leadership in art as a resource to support teaching, learning, and research inside and beyond the university, we must strengthen our relevance and quality of service to a broad range of communities in line with UVic's Strategic Priorities including: *Engage Locally and Globally, Promote Sustainable Futures and Intensify Dynamic Learning*. We will:

- Improve our communications in order to be better known as a resource on and off campus.
- Refine our operational procedures and planning documents related to exhibitions, collections, communications and programs in order to increase clarity for our partners and improve efficiency and effectiveness in achieving mutual goals.
- Be a preferred partner participating in a diverse array of collaborations.
- Build our reputation as a site for dialogue and discussion around "issues that matter" to people, places and the planet. We will develop exhibitions and public programs that contribute to current academic research, teaching and learning topics, and discourse of relevant societal issues.
- Be a leader in providing opportunities for, and training in, object and art-based teaching.
- Strengthen our commitment to audience engagement. We recognize our small size gives us an advantage to be able to connect personally with almost everyone who enters our space. Through the refinement of focussed visitor engagement training for all staff and collection and analysis of feed back we will experiment with new ways to engage visitors through our various platforms.
- Improve our digital presence as a public resource through our website and on-line database. We will strengthen our reputation for providing on-line teaching, learning and research resources to our academic, local, national, and international communities through re-development of our website and implementing a new collections database to improve data consistency, search capability and navigation.
- Provide mentorship opportunities for students that give them real life, community-engaged experiences working in various areas of the museum as well as meaningful projects that contribute to personal success.

2. Decolonize and Indigenize Programming and Museum Practice. Legacy recognizes that in its role as a Canadian museum in the context of Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Actions, and particularly in light of its strong Indigenous art collection, it must address its colonial roots with the intention of examining and changing its practices to ensure inclusion and respect for Indigenous knowledge, methods, and practices. In this respect, Legacy contributes to UVic's Strategic Priority to *Foster Respect and Reconciliation* and to the actualization of values presented in the Indigenous Plan (2017-22). We will:

- a. Offer a significant level of our Indigenous programming to reflect strengths of the collection, teaching at the university, and community interests.
- b. Advance programming, collection, and human resources practices that reflect Indigenous ways of working and diversity.
- c. Endeavour in all Indigenous exhibitions, programs, and collection projects to include Indigenous partners, ensuring all partnerships are collaborative and mutually beneficial.
- d. Respect, seek and apply Indigenous knowledge and expertise to improve access to, research, development and honouring of the Indigenous art collection and its associated records.
- e. Build Indigenous representation within staffing, committees, contract workers, student workers and interns in proportion to increased Indigenous programming.

3. Contribute to an overall campus-wide arts and cultural strategy. As a resource and in partnership with faculties and other units, Legacy will provide leadership to strengthen the arts on campus and contribute to UVic's strategic goals of *Cultivating an Extraordinary Academic Environment, Advancing Research Excellence and Impact, Intensifying Dynamic Learning and Engage Locally and Globally*. We will:

- a. Develop an arts and culture plan that elevates culture as a vital aspect of the university, working in collaboration with Deans and other campus partners.
- b. Mobilize faculty, staff and student art-related research and creative activities across disciplines through a variety of platforms to advance UVic's reputation, in local, national and international forums, for outstanding research and as a culturally vibrant environment.
- c. Lead the development of a university-wide public art policy and procedures in line with UVic's Campus plan.
- d. Create innovative and broad ways of providing physical and digital access to the collection and exhibits within and beyond the campus to assist in advancing the university's reputation and its values.
- e. Explore opportunities for the development of programs and campus installations of art that enhance object-based learning and reflect UVic's vision.

1 November 2018