Virtual Public Open House

Museum of Anthropology - Great Hall Renewal (DP#19025)

Overview

The Museum of Anthropology (MOA) is an iconic and beloved place of world arts and cultures that is renowned for its unique exhibitions of world art and culture, with a special emphasis on the First Nations peoples and other cultural communities of British Columbia. As well as being a major tourist destination, MOA plays a vital role as a teaching and research museum.

This Fall, MOA will begin preparations for a rebuild of its Great Hall to upgrade the resiliency of the museum and protect its irreplaceable collection in the event of a major earthquake. When the project is complete the Great Hall will look like it does now with some improvements, including new window glazing, lighting and carpeting.

MOA is also currently under construction for other building upgrades, such as updates to its skylights, lighting, roofing, window coverings and sprinkler system. Together, these improvements will better showcase and protect the collection. MOA’s landscape will also be fully remediated once construction is complete.

DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FEEDBACK

This is an opportunity to learn about the plans underway and ask questions about the Development Permit Application for the rebuilding of the Museum of Anthropology’s Great Hall. You can find information below about the purpose and rationale for the project along with the planning process, project scope and timeline.

You can provide comments by filling out a Feedback Form online; these will reviewed as part of the project planning process.

KEY INFORMATION

While the Great Hall will be closed during construction, the rest of the museum will remain open with many displays and exhibitions for visitors to enjoy.
For the last few years, planning has been underway to undertake extensive seismic upgrades to MOA’s Great Hall as part of UBC’s seismic resilience plan.

**Timeline**

**FALL 2018**
Public announcement about the MOA renewal project. Work begins on roof replacement along with project planning for seismic upgrades to Great Hall. Removal of objects in Great Hall begins.

**SUMMER 2017**
As part of ongoing seismic planning, Great Hall prioritized for seismic upgrades begins, after it was determined to have a high level of seismic risk.

**WINTER/SPRING 2019**
During the project planning process, it was determined that a complete rebuild of the Great Hall is the best approach to upgrading the resiliency of the space without compromising its architectural integrity.

**SUMMER 2019**
The project is presented to UBC’s Advisory Urban Design Panel, Arthur Erikson Foundation and others for information and to shape the architectural and construction approach to the project.

**SUMMER 2020**
Development Permit Open House and public comment period.

**FALL 2019**
MOA’s 70th Anniversary Celebration.

**FALL 2020**
- Starting mid-September, all objects from Great Hall will be relocated elsewhere in the museum.
- Once all objects in the Great Hall have been relocated, a hoarding wall will be erected in mid-October, closing the Great Hall from public access. Demolition will follow in November.

**EARLY 2022**
Construction is anticipated to be completed.

**ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES**
Campus + Community Planning’s consultation processes are guided by Engagement Principles, which ensure clarity and transparency in how we define, design, implement, and conclude public engagement in our community planning processes. The principles were created through consultation with a wide range of partners including campus stakeholders, student government, and Musqueam.

**Key milestones**
- Present to public, stakeholders and indigenous communities
Additional Information and Considerations

The project is currently in the design phase and the Great Hall will be closing in September for construction. Construction is anticipated to be completed in early 2022.

- During the planning process over the past year, technical studies revealed that it would not be feasible to achieve improved seismic performance of the Great Hall’s existing structure. To retrofit the existing structure would mean greatly compromising its architectural integrity, and so it was determined that a complete rebuild of the Great Hall is the best approach to upgrade its seismic resiliency while retaining Arthur Erickson’s intent and vision.

- MOA has important heritage value for UBC and a rebuild of the Great Hall involves a sensitive approach, one that follows conservation principles that address both the heritage values and character-defining elements of the site and the building. Feedback from the Arthur Erickson Foundation has shaped the architectural and construction approach to the project. Likewise, the Musqueam Indian Band has participated in the planning process.

- In addition to the rebuild of the Great Hall, MOA will also receive some other building improvements, such as updates to its skylights, lighting, roofing, window coverings and sprinkler system—some of this work has already been underway for the past year.

- While the Great Hall will be closed during the construction, the rest of the Museum will remain open. Visitors will still be able to enjoy the other exhibition spaces that the museum has to offer including much of the outdoor exhibits, including the Haida Houses and outdoor poles, which will also remain accessible to the public.

- In preparation for the seismic upgrades, all of the massive wooden carvings that reside in the Great Hall will be lowered and relocated elsewhere in the museum ahead of the construction. MOA is liaising with Indigenous communities and families whose cultural objects are being moved from the Great Hall. They will continue to provide input into protocols around moving and re-installing these works into the Great Hall post-construction. The safety and protection of these irreplaceable Indigenous objects is of the highest priority to MOA’s team, who will ensure they are well cared for before and during construction.

Additional information can be found on our website about the proposed plans for the rebuilding of the Great Hall, including details about key elements of the plans.

▲ View of MOA Great Hall and surrounding landscape