

Development Permit Application: Coast Salish 2-Spirit Mosaic

Project Statistics

- Total Site Area and Site Coverage: The mosaic will take up approximately 7 x 7 feet in the ground. Total sawcut area on the ground will be approximately 8 x 8 opening in existing pavers in front of the First Nation House of Learning (see photos).
- Net and Gross Floor Area by Use: 7 feet x 8 feet = 56 square feet inclusive of trim and signage
- Building Height(s): Not applicable (will be flush with ground)
- Setbacks: Not applicable
- Number of Parking: Not applicable
- Number of Dwelling Units: Not applicable
- Floor Space Ratio permitted and proposed 7 x7
- Summary of floor areas by level and exclusions (residential projects): Not applicable (not a residential project)
- List of variances requested and rationale: Not applicable
- Treatment of open areas, courtyards, pedestrian areas, etc: Maintenance will be required to clean up the grass between the pavers.
- Location of garbage facilities: Not applicable.
- Location of fire hydrants: Across the road on West Mall, 20-25 feet east of the proposed mosaic site.

Project Description

Mack (xwməθkwəyəm), the Musqueam protocol officer developed the Coast Salish Two Spirit Pride symbol as a visual representation of Coast Salish Two Spirit unity, dignity and respect. The design was created using traditional Coast Salish art style and shapes, and emulates the rainbow Pride symbol already used by our settler LGBTQ+ friends. It was created to support our own Two Spirit/Indigenous LGBTQ+ programming in our communities, and to acknowledge the land, identities and experiences of our Two Spirit ancestors and relatives. Staff from Musqueam, Campus and Community Planning and the Equity and Inclusion Office have been meeting for many months to plan and discuss installing a permanent Two-Spirit Pride Installation on the UBC Vancouver campus.

The mosaic will depict Mack's Coast Salish Two Spirit Pride symbol, but will be installed by mosaic artist Liz Calvin, who has been working closely with Mack on this process. It will be created in the artist's studio and then installed, rather than created directly on the site, leading to a less invasive and disruptive process that should have minimal impact on mobility patterns in the area. Campus + Community Planning will allocate funding for basic annual maintenance of the mosaic (cleaning) if needed, as part of our animation maintenance and safety budget.

The proposed location (on West Mall) was selected because of its close proximity to the First Nation's House of Learning, an important place for our Indigenous students, faculty, and staff, and home to the first Indigenous Collegium on campus.

The mural installation will be supported through Building Operations and will involve:

- Saw cutting an 8 x 8 opening in the existing pavers in front of the FNHL (see photo). This initial removal of the pavement will require the area to be cut out with a large wet saw, and re-poured with fresh concrete. The area opening will be excavated down to the base.
- The artist recommends at the time of pouring, Building Operations may wish to edge the outer perimeter to look finished.
- At the time of pouring, 1/2" plywood template is submerged flush with the surrounding pavement (Liz Calvin to supply). Set (2x) 4ft x 8ft x 1/2" plywood template into opening, and set top of plywood template to be flush with existing grade. The mosaic template will need to be on two sheets of plywood due to its size.
- Template will remain in until the concrete cures.

Artist Liz Calvin has met with Calvin Cheung, Municipal Services to discuss the installation process, and potential disruption to pathway access

Materials

The mosaic will be made from tile that has a matte glaze, (not gloss) and is cut into very small pieces. The grout is sanded. This allows the mosaic to have a "built in anti-slippage abrasion" due to the small pieces and grout lines, similar to the way aggregate pieces are added to concrete mix, to aid in drainage, slippage and traction for walking on pavement. All parties involved with this project have been made aware of the critical nature of ensuring the mosaic work is installed correctly and flush with surrounding concrete.

Maintenance:

Campus + Community Planning will be responsible for annual basic maintenance of the mosaic, which will include cleaning, and examining for any cracks or chips. This will be done via an annual service request to Building Operations, and paid for via the annual animation maintenance budget. Should the mosaic be damaged beyond repair or need to be removed, EIO will consult with the artists to discuss appropriate removal.

Primary hazard is the potential for rain pooling and freezing in winter around the edges or within the mosaic work—scheduling an examination and potential maintenance during this time may be beneficial. To mitigate this, a slight incline in grade towards any one direction is a huge bonus; the chosen site does have a slight grade already accounted for in the original concrete pour.

Objectives:

- To signify the partnership between Musqueam and UBC in working together to increase visibility of the Two-Spirit community;

- To acknowledge the history of the traditional, ancestral and unceded land of the Musqueam people on which UBC campus sits and to acknowledge how the history of this land has long celebrated diverse identities.
- Through the use of the Coast Salish Two-Spirit design, celebrate and amplify Two-Spirit pride through a vibrant, colourful installation in UBC's public realm.
- To challenge patterns of silence and create a more visibly welcoming, safer and non-exclusionary campus community for all, but especially those who are Indigenous and express diverse sexual and gender identities.
- Leverage the design and its symbolism/story-telling to empower people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.
- Inspire our community through art and ideas while creating an inclusive and identifiable space where others can bring to life their own events and experiences inspired by the Two-Spirit symbolism.
- Utilize the installation to create a place for reflection, gathering and programming; and to create linkages to other Musqueam installations, buildings and programming on campus.
- Support the goals and objectives of the UBC Indigenous Strategic Plan and the UBC Inclusion Action Plan.

Rationale: UBC is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people, who cared for and tended these lands for time immemorial. Musqueam art and culture is an integral part of UBC's history and deserves to be shared, celebrated, and acknowledged.

As the university returns to in-person activities, we must continue our commitment to upholding principles of anti-racism, equity, diversity, inclusion, and anti-colonialism. Public spaces should be welcoming to anyone and everyone, and all communities should feel that they belong in them. The Indigenous Strategic Plan sets out a goal to "Enrich the UBC campus landscape with a stronger Indigenous presence." Dedicating a permanent space to celebrating both Indigenous and LGBTQIA+ communities through a Coast Salish Two-Spirit mosaic is one way to actualize this goal in a meaningful and highly visible way.

Design Policy Compliance

As this project is a piece of community art, rather than a building, there does not seem to be design policy compliance that that would be relevant for this section. However, if we were to take the principles outlines in section 2.3.5 of the Vancouver Campus Plan, Architectural Expression, the following would be applicable:

1. Reinforce Sense of Place — Design of new buildings and additions must draw from, and reinforce, the unique 'sense of place' and West Coast beauty at UBC's Vancouver campus.
2. Architecture must animate and bring vitality to the campus

Although not a building, this Coast Salish 2-Spirit Mosaic encompasses these design policies. This project supports a number of broader institutional plans and priorities, including:

Indigenous Strategic Plan

Goal 5: Enriching our spaces

- *Enrich the UBC campus landscape with a stronger Indigenous presence.*

Public Realm Plan

UBC's Public Realm Plan outlines an objective to create a network of outdoor public spaces that:

- Animates, invigorates and brings life to campus.
- Enhances the educational experience with outdoor informal learning. Promotes the sharing of ideas, creative expressions and interaction across disciplines.
- Supports and nurtures the physical and mental health of our students, faculty and staff.
- Instills pride and a strong sense of place, showcasing to visitors from around the world UBC's culture.
- Are economically sustainable and well used and supported by the community.

Inclusion Action Plan:

Inclusive Spaces and Initiatives: Support mentorship, peer support, and affinity/resource groups that enhance spaces and initiatives toward inclusion. Promote extracurricular programming, professional development opportunities and events that help build inclusive cultures.

UBC Strategic Plan

Strategy 2: Inspiring spaces: Create welcoming physical and virtual spaces to advance collaboration, innovation, and community development.

Strategy 3. Thriving communities: Support the ongoing development of sustainable, healthy and connected campuses and communities, consistent with the *20-Year Sustainability Strategy, Focus on People*, and the *Wellbeing Strategic Framework*.

Tree Survey

As the mosaic will be inlaid in the ground (aligned with the concrete) it will not impact any existing trees or plant matter. There are trees and shrubs located in the general area, set away from the site; Building Operations has already scoped the area with the artist and has not noted any potential interferences from root systems below.

Context Plan

As this will be a ground-level installation that does not impact the surrounding buildings. Below are images of proposed installation sites and orientations.

It's important to note that the FNHL is undergoing construction throughout the fall, however it is separate from the proposed site for this installation. The mosaic will likely be installed in the spring, after nearby construction has completed. We are targeting completion prior to June, which is both Indigenous History Month, and well as Pride month.

Survey Plan

Street address, street name(s) and location

- Intersection of West Mall and Agricultural Road

Dimensions of site and site area, including north arrow

- 56 square feet
- 7 x 8

Location and dimensions of all existing buildings on the site

- No buildings on site

Ultimate property line

- Not known

Lane dedications, registered easements, encroachments and right-of-ways must be indicated on the surveys

- Not applicable

Location of existing street crossings

- East of site at West Mall and Agricultural Road. Mosaic is aligned with crosswalk.

Existing grades at each of the four corners of the site

- Not applicable

Existing grades at each corner of the existing and/or proposed principle building envelope

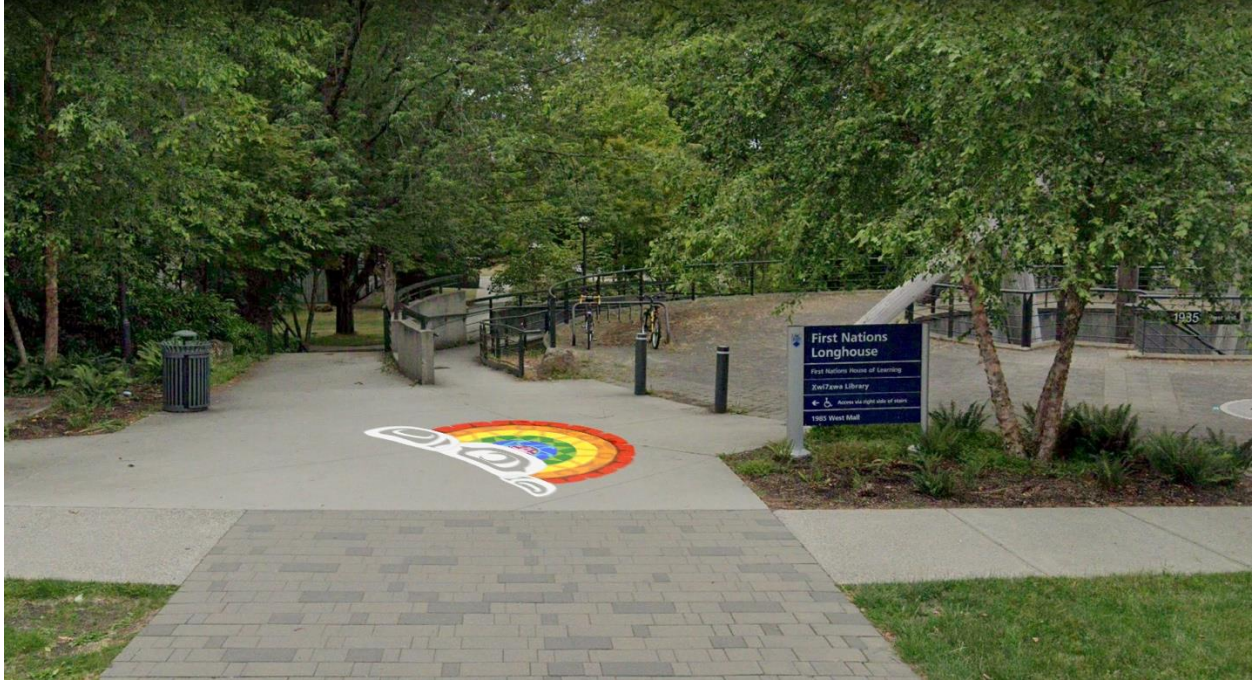
- Not know / applicable

Landscape Plan

While the mosaic will not have any direct impact on landscape, or require landscaping during installation, UBC Building Operations has noted that the area has been quite neglected due to COVID, and they have some plans to clean it up.

Photos

Below are mock ups of the proposed image and placement. The recommended orientation from the campus landscape architect was to align with the walkway. The mosaic artist has scoped this area with Building Operations, and determined it to be a feasible space to install the mosaic.



SYMBOLISM: Red represents Fire; Orange represents Vision or Visibility for Two Spirit People; Yellow is the Sun; Green shows the Land, where our Identity comes from; Blue represents Water; and Purple depicts the məθkwəy plant (in the territory where Mack is from), but it also represents the ecosystems of different Coast Salish territories. The rainbow design is cradled by Coast Salish clouds.

