



It's a lot more than a building we're building at **FIRST UNITED**.

Respectfully incorporating art by Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh artists, as well as giving space to Urban Indigenous and Downtown Eastside artists, the new **FIRST UNITED** building will stand as an example of what community-informed neighbourhood rejuvenation can look like.

In any community, the sharing of culture and stories creates a sense of purpose, identity, and pride. Art is one of the key ways in which these stories are told.

Who is included and who is excluded from these public narratives matters.

In the City of Vancouver, the largest concentrations of art are found in higher income neighbourhoods, and inclusion of art is not a requirement for developers building social projects. The lack of investment in public art in lower income neighbourhoods creates and perpetuates inequity in our urban environments.

Our project is changing this narrative.

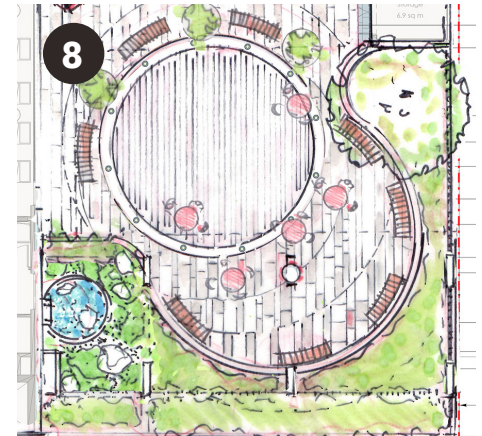
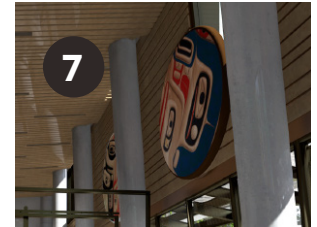
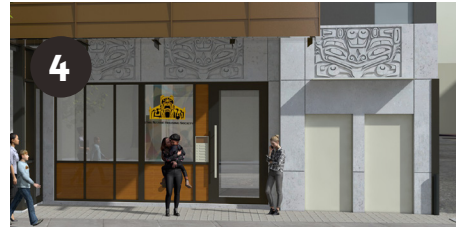
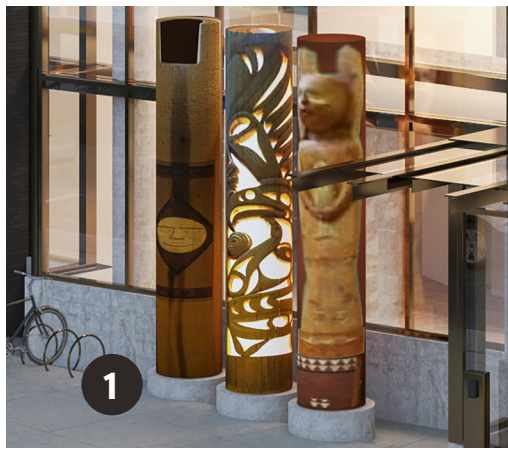
In the Downtown Eastside, where histories of colonialism and oppression are tied directly to the suppression and erasure of culture, particularly Indigenous culture, we believe that access to and inclusion in public art is inextricably linked to reconciliation and healing in this community.

In line with our vision of a neighbourhood where every person's worth is celebrated and all people thrive, we are working with Indigenous artists and consultants to build a building that is worthy of this community. Worthy of the deep and rich history of the land on which the building

stands, and worthy of the incredible strength of this community and the stories of perseverance and survival that often go unnoticed.

People are more than their trauma and deserve the dignity of safer and beautiful spaces where everyone's stories belong.

**Will you help bring
more art to Vancouver's
Downtown Eastside?**



Renders by Arcadis Architects, NSDA Architects, and matthew thomson design are placeholders.

Planned Features

- 1 House Posts by Brent Sparrow (Musqueam), Floyd Joseph (Squamish) and Jonas Jones (Tsleil-Waututh) will create a welcoming sense of arrival.
- 2 The sloping wall on Gore Avenue will be a copper-coloured metal wall laid in a horizontal pattern alluding to the traditional Salish plank houses.
- 3 Vertical sunscreens on the western elevation will have custom fabricated panels featuring laser-cut images designed by Ocean Hyland (Tsleil-Waututh).
- 4 The Hastings Street façade and the entrance to the residential tower on Gore Avenue will feature panels with commissioned art by Mack Paul (Musqueam).
- 5 A totem pole carved by master carver Bernie Williams (Haida Gwaii), gifted to **FIRST UNITED** in 2010, will be refurbished and set in a feature stairwell.
- 6 The Sacred Space will feature a façade on the glass windows that span levels three and four as well as a solid wood door carved on both sides.
- 7 Art installations by Host Nation, Urban Indigenous and Downtown Eastside artists will be featured in interior spaces, including the dining hall.
- 8 Additional elements will be expressed through interior design touches by Patrick Stewart Architects and landscaping detail by matthew thomson design.
- 9 A woven brickwork pattern designed by Debra Sparrow (Musqueam) will blanket the outdoor deck and lightwell of the building.