

A VISION FOR A VIBRANT ARTS CAMPUS & CREATIVE COMMUNITY SPACE



restaurant

cafe

organic coffee
fresh pastries
local ingredients

cafe

organic coffee
fresh pastries
local ingredients

cafe

organic coffee
fresh pastries
local ingredients

KLEE WYCK

TRANSFORMATION

REPURPOSING 1399 JOHNSTON STREET ON GRANVILLE ISLAND

Since Emily Carr University's relocation in 2017, the 1399 Johnston Street north building has remained empty. The vacant space has left a noticeable hole in the vibrant flow of Granville Island. We want to fix that, to reanimate the area. Many of us see a space brimming with untapped possibilities. Numerous conversations and feasibility plans have been put forward, promising action and revitalization. Despite these efforts, the building stands dormant.

Unlocking the Potential

We propose an ambitious process to transform this vacant space into a thriving, collaborative, artist community, bustling with creativity and commerce.

Our project will create over 200 affordable working artist spaces, offer a 30,000 sq ft flagship store for Opus arts supply, create multiple restaurants and opportunities for a brew pub, a coffee roaster, a full time theatre and multiple artist driven co-op galleries, and artist run shops.

We want to offer the world a welcoming and interactive experience that is integrated with the legacy and fabric of Granville Island.





CREATIVE COMMUNITY SPACE

A VIBRANT ARTS CAMPUS

Exploring 1399 Johnston will be a unique and interactive adventure for everyone who wanders through the building.

The space is meant to delight artists, locals, and tourists alike.

Hallways and common areas will feature vibrant murals and windowed units will give you sneak peeks into working artist studios.

Weekly co-op markets, open studio's and vibrant events will give everyone the opportunity to interact personally with hundreds of artists.

Visitors will wander through the maze of halls to discover art installations and hidden gems.

We hope this 'plan your own adventure' will be exciting and educational for our visitors, and will offer hours of joy for all, as an integral part of the Granville Island experience.

A COLLABORATIVE VISION

COMMUNITY-LED DESIGN

The Klee Wyck Proposal is firmly aligned with key guiding documents and strategies for Granville Island.

It builds upon the *Repurposing Strategy of ECUAD Building* from 2014, the *Granville Island 2040 vision*, and the 2017 *Granville Island Art Innovation Hub* plans.

Moreover, it seamlessly supports the City of Vancouver's Creative City Strategy, *Culture Shift 2020-2029*, underscoring our commitment to enriching the city's cultural landscape.

The Klee Wyck proposal incorporates several elements from the Granville Island 2040 report:

- Arts and Culture Promotion
- Emphasis on Public Spaces
- Sustainability
- A Commitment to Indigenous Inclusion





RECONCILIATION IN ACTION

THE LAND, THE PEOPLE, THE FUTURE

Granville Island exists within the unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), S^kwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

The land currently known as *Granville Island* has been important for hunting, gathering, travel, fishing and culture for these Nations for time immemorial.

We aim to be intentional and mindful of the need to include these groups in the very ethos of our proposal. We will strive to achieve 30% Indigenous inclusion in the building. We recognize that this will be no small task and that it will take hard work to achieve this goal, yet we are committed to making this promise a reality.

WHY “KLEE WYCK”

The University was named after Emily Carr to honour her significant contributions to the world of art and her role as an influential Canadian artist and writer. Emily Carr received the name "Klee Wyck" from the Indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast, and it translates to "the laughing one" in the Nuu-chah-nulth language.

We think it only fitting to both honour this legacy and at the same time honour Indigenous communities. We are using the name as a temporary placeholder, while seeking official consent from the appropriate parties, and we would be thrilled if this name is accepted.

OUR UNIQUE PROCESS FOR SUCCESS

Over the past two decades The Narrow Group has developed a process of cost effectively renovating/ repurposing older, under-utilized buildings and turning them into affordable art spaces. Our process is about keeping it simple, and keeping things safe.

We achieve this by sticking to some very basic tenants.

We negotiate long term, low cost leases in older buildings where capital costs are paid off. We pass these savings on to our artist tenants.

We work with the current City of Vancouver building codes as a guide, avoiding any major renovations or changes of use to avoid triggering major building upgrades.

We also focus on renovation and repurposing the building structural elements and the building materials we use, avoiding any unnecessary or costly changes.

We do not hire outside consultants or third party operators unless absolutely necessary. We lead our design and building teams internally. Property management for all of our buildings is also handled internally.

All of these elements allow us to keep costs low and to pass savings on to our final users, the artists and makers.





Photo courtesy of the Beaumont

PROJECT GOALS

WE ARE COMMITTED TO

Creating long-term, affordable artist workspaces, catering to all mediums and disciplines, honouring the building's original purpose.

Establishing an outward-facing and interactive experience within the building, becoming an integral part of the Island's fabric, attracting visitors from Vancouver and beyond.

Fostering a bustling creative environment inside and outside of the building, animated with artists, shows, and workshops that engage the broader community.

Ensuring inclusivity by actively engaging Indigenous collaborations and local businesses, reflecting the rich cultural diversity of the city.

CALL TO ACTION

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR KLEE WYCK

Now is the opportune moment to seize the potential of 1399 Johnston Street—to kindle a beacon of artistic inspiration that will shine brightly for generations to come.

We are asking the operators and landlords of Granville Island (CMHC) to move forward as quickly as possible with the public application process and to submit a request for expression of interest as soon as possible.

We invite you to help us motivate the powers that be by sending your opinion directly to info@granvilleisland.com

Join us on this exciting voyage as we forge ahead!

Together, we can turn this vision into a reality.



Photo courtesy of the Beaumont



CONTACT US

THE NARROW GROUP

At The Narrow Group, we have extensive experience in developing and managing diverse creative spaces. Over 17 years, we've built and operated artist work-only environments, restaurants, retail spaces, nightclubs, and live music venues in Vancouver.

We currently operate seven buildings, providing approx. 85,000 sq feet of creative space for 300 artists and arts groups.

Our expertise in the creative and hospitality industries uniquely positions us to lead a collective to repurpose the buildings at 1399 Johnston Street.

With a proven track record, we're confident in creating a vibrant arts campus and cultural destination that integrates seamlessly with Granville Island.

[VIEW THE FULL KLEE WYCK PROPOSAL](#)

Contact us: info@narrowgroup.ca

JOIN US

SHARE YOUR SUPPORT
FOR A CREATIVE
COMMUNITY SPACE

