



SUBJECT	First Nations Longhouse Expansion
SUBMITTED TO	Indigenous Engagement Committee
MEETING DATE	June 14, 2023
SESSION CLASSIFICATION	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
REQUEST	For information only - No action requested
LEAD EXECUTIVE	Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBCV
SUPPORTED BY	Margaret Moss, Director, First Nations House of Learning, UBCV David Shorthouse, Executive Director, Academic Initiatives, UBCV Chantal Bobyn, Senior Facilities Planner Facilities Planning, UBCV

PRIOR SUBMISSIONS

The subject matter of this submission has been considered previously by the Indigenous Engagement Committee on the following occasions:

1. [April 7, 2021](#) (OPEN SESSION)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The First Nations Longhouse Expansion project was undertaken to accommodate the significant growth of programs housed in the First Nations Longhouse at the UBC Point Grey campus, and aimed to provide additional space for the growing Indigenous student community, as well as academic meeting and support spaces.

The Longhouse expansion project included a 1,808 square foot addition and a 172 square foot renovation of existing space, totaling 1,980 gross square feet. The new space features a multi-purpose room for mid-size meetings, seminars and events, an adjacent meeting room separated by a movable partition, two offices and support spaces including a universal washroom, storage room and mechanical room. The design of the expansion remained consistent with the architectural language, form, and materials of the original award-winning building, which was designed by McFarland Marceau Architects (MMA) and constructed in 1993.

APPENDICES

1. First Nations Longhouse Expansion overview

Brief: First Nations Longhouse Expansion

The First Nations Longhouse Expansion project was undertaken to accommodate the significant growth of programs housed in the First Nations Longhouse at the UBC Point Grey campus. The Indigenous student community at UBC Point Grey has experienced substantial growth over the years, with an 18% increase in the last five years alone. The expansion project aimed to provide additional space for the Indigenous student community as well as academic meeting and support spaces.

The Longhouse expansion project included a 1,808 square foot addition and a 172 square foot renovation of existing space, totaling 1,980 gross square feet. The new space features a multi-purpose room for mid-size meetings, seminars and events, an adjacent meeting room separated by a movable partition, two offices and support spaces including a universal washroom, storage room and mechanical room. The design of the expansion remained consistent with the architectural language, form, and materials of the original award-winning building, which was designed by McFarland Marceau Architects (MMA) and constructed in 1993.

The expansion project has brought several benefits to the First Nations Longhouse and the Indigenous student community. It allows for more events of various capacities to take place simultaneously, such as seminars, conferences and workshops. The new space is equipped with IT/AV capabilities enabling increased flexibility in teaching and lectures that could be conducted in person, blended, or online. The project also creates space for additional staff, provides dedicated areas for confidential meetings and counseling, enhances the relationship between the First Nations House of Learning and the Xwi7wa Library by increasing accessibility and shared spaces, and offers a designated area for displaying temporary and/or gifted permanent artwork.

The expansion project included the repair of the existing site water feature, a waterfall located at the east end of the site adjacent to the area of expansion. The waterfall holds cultural significance and represents the importance of water in the cycle of life. The repairs involved work to ensure functionality & sustainability of this meaningful element.

Overall, the First Nations Longhouse Expansion project successfully addressed the growing needs of the Indigenous student community at UBC Point Grey campus. By providing additional space and improved facilities, the project supports the development of new programs, increases collaboration opportunities, and enhances the overall experience for Indigenous students, faculty, and staff within the First Nations Longhouse.