

Imagine an exciting new home for Pacific Cinémathèque!

Pacific Cinémathèque, which will celebrate its 40th anniversary next year, is at a crossroads. Following years of stable growth, the organization has long outgrown its current premises. Over the past few months, an extraordinary opportunity has emerged to build an exciting new home for our organization and all its programs within the TELUS Garden project in downtown Vancouver.

Pacific Cinémathèque's addition to the TELUS Garden development would create an iconic, flagship film arts and media education centre in Vancouver much like the new Bell TIFF Lightbox in Toronto (opened in September 2010) or the Film Society of Lincoln Center's new Elinor Bunin Monroe Film Center in New York (opened June 2011). It would provide a dynamic, high-traffic cultural anchor in the TELUS Garden, and also serve as a new hub for the film and media arts in an area rapidly developing into Vancouver's most important arts and entertainment precinct.

Pacific Cinémathèque is a long-established organization with a proven track record of accomplishment in providing quality cultural and community programming in Vancouver and award-winning educational outreach programs to students and other young audiences across British Columbia (including our annual TELUS Summer Visions Film Institute for teens). Every day, Pacific Cinémathèque brings the Vancouver public, including a great range and diversity of audiences, to a central cultural destination to partake of exciting programming that showcases the finest achievements in cinema and media arts, the most influential art forms of our time.

Since our founding in 1972 as one of the first organizations in Vancouver to advance film culture and provide institutional support for the city's growing film community, Pacific Cinémathèque has served as a leading centre for the celebration and promotion of excellence in the art of cinema and moving images. We strive, in our year-round program of public film exhibitions, to provide international programming of the highest quality and broadest scope, comparable to the efforts of any of the leading film institutes in the world; and also, within this larger, high-profile international context, to serve as an important showcase for the best achievements, contemporary and historic, of our local and national filmmakers.

Since 1986, Pacific Cinémathèque has been a tenant of Pacific Cine Centre at 1131 Howe Street in Vancouver, an early example of the City of Vancouver's Cultural Amenity program. Our organization's success in the years since 1986 is a great testament to the visionary approach of our City to building cultural infrastructure, which has provided worthy arts organizations an opportunity to grow and prosper.

The range of programs and services we offer has greatly multiplied since 1986, and now includes more than 500 public screenings per year and, since 1995, a full-fledged Education Department delivering an array of innovative community- and school-based programs aimed at young audiences. Our annual revenues have grown accordingly, increasing five-fold since 1986 (including a tripling in the decade between 1994 and 2003).



Screenings | Education | Film Reference Library | West Coast Film Archives

Due to the tremendous expansion of our organization, we now operate in cramped quarters inadequate to the current and future needs of our organization. We are without sufficient on-site space to support the many innovative programs for youth that our Education Department has worked hard to develop. We can not provide proper space and public access for important cinémathèque resources which serve the community, including our Film Reference Library, one of the finest specialty collections of its kind in Western Canada, and our West Coast Film Archives, a culturally-significant collection of Canadian films.

In 2007, as a first step towards addressing our pressing needs for expanded space, Pacific Cinémathèque engaged Resources Planning Group (RPG) of Vancouver to create a space planning report – a functional program identifying space requirements for our current and future needs. The report identified a need of at least 17,500 square feet for Pacific Cinémathèque to fulfill its mandated functions and properly serve the public.

Pacific Cinémathèque is a nimble, stable, vibrant organization with a well-earned reputation for being well managed, fiscally prudent, resourceful and entrepreneurial. We have benefited from established, long-serving senior executive and creative leadership which has kept the organization focused on our core activities and mandate while at the same time presiding over a major expansion of our education and outreach programs for the young.

We enjoy, as a non-profit society and registered charity, an enviably healthy and diverse stream of revenues, currently comprised of roughly 50% earned revenues, 15% private sector support, and 35% public sector support. We also benefit from the active contributions and support of many community volunteers; these number, at any given time, in the hundreds.

As we look to our future, we see Pacific Cinémathèque, Western Canada's leading film institute, as a destination cultural hub and media education centre within the TELUS Garden development in the heart of downtown Vancouver. We hope we can count on your support!

For more information on how you can help, visit: <http://www.cinematheque.bc.ca/support-a-new-home-for-pacific-cinematheque>