

**LANDSCAPE
PARTICIPATION**

URBANARIUM

CRITIQUE

EVALUATION

ENGAGEMENT

INSIGHT

PROCESS

EXPOSURE

VOICE

RESPONSIBILITY

UTILITY

2024 Update

**WE
MOTIVATE**

**Residents,
governments and
industry take
informed action
to improve their
cities.**

For 40 Years

Urbanarium has created original, high-production programming on the planning and design of cities. We host Canada's largest affordable housing competition series and Metro Vancouver City Debates, Talks and Studios that inspire actionable solutions to the urgent challenges of affordable housing and climate change

Over the next 3 years we look to dramatically amplify our position as the leading forum in Canada for creative and pragmatic urban solutions. To do this we will increase production capacity and engage other strategic urban centers across the country.

**URBANARIUM IS ON THE UNCEDED
HOMELANDS OF THE MUSQUEAM, SQUAMISH
AND TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATIONS**

Board Members

Andrea Smith
Brad Jones
Bruce Haden
Bryce Rositch
Derek Lee
Kari Dow
Marta Farevaag

Michael Mortensen
Mitch McKamy
Richard Henriquez
Rob Wilson
Sara Stevens
Shirley Shen
Travis Hanks

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Amy Nugent
Samantha Francey

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Catherine Alkenbrack
Gary Hack
Ian Grais
Joe Rekab
Larry Beasley

Leslie Van Duzer
Peeter Wesik
Ray Spaxman
Sam Khany
Scot Hein

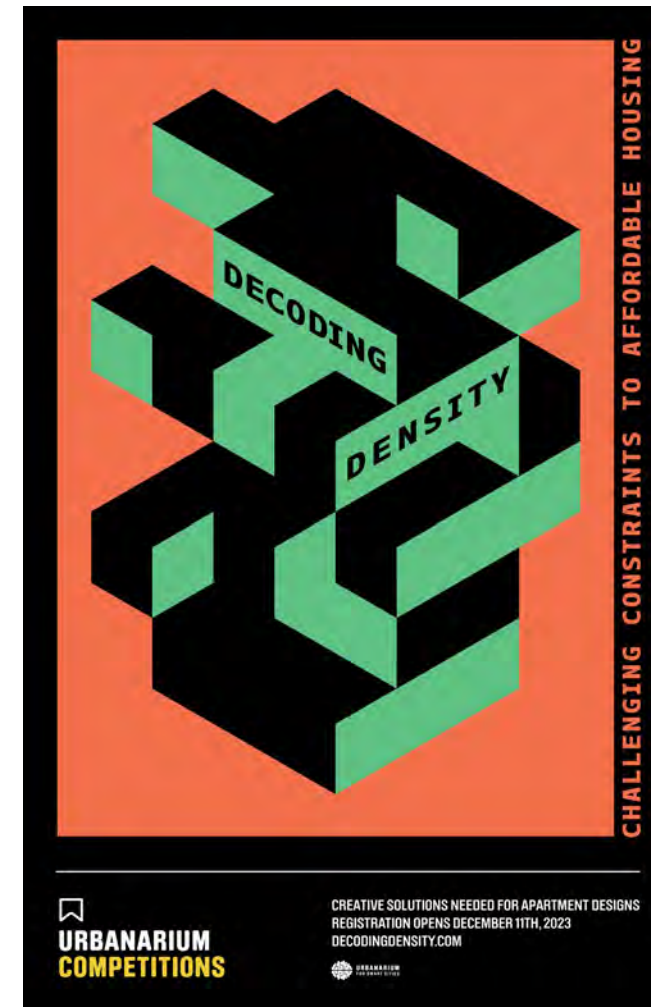


URBANARIUM COMPETITIONS

Urbanarium Competitions are unique opportunities for multi-disciplinary teams to solve issues at the local level while participating in an international competition. The only affordable housing competition series in the country, they have motivated real change such as informing new legislation on small-scale, multi-unit housing, mixed use in formally all-residential zones, and building code.

By focusing on the question of barriers to housing affordability across the regulatory landscape, competitions showcase the potential areas where there is overlap in design thinking and policy to instigate meaningful shifts.

Decoding Density was a global invitation to imagine new possibilities for six-story plus apartment forms in Metro Vancouver. 85 teams from 9 countries submitted creative and compelling entries. \$44,000 in prize money was awarded to winners from Canada, New Zealand, South Korea and the US.



DECODING DENSITY HAS HAD 60 PIECES OF LOCAL, NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE. THE 105-PAGE PUBLICATION SOLD OUT AND IS IN ITS SECOND PRINTING



1st Place (tied) team Switch from Vancouver for their submission Shared Density (seen here). Team members (above) at the Awards Show hosted at Surrey City Hall.

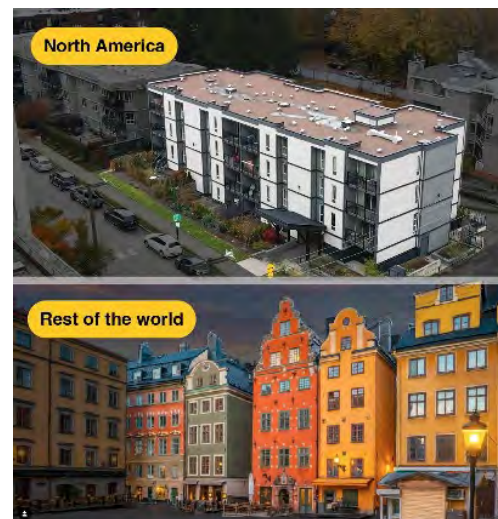


TOWERHOUSE

An open ground plane with an elegant checker-board site plan toggles open space and built form. Its climate strategies link the technical design decisions about reducing carbon to the more social side of climate resiliency by designing to encourage active transportation and connections with neighbours through the community room and shared outdoor spaces. It does not require land assembly, yet with one or two lots is able to add density and challenge the status quo.



Minister Kalhon and Team Switch and Uytæe Lee at Solutions Party



1st Place (tied) and Planner's Prize winner team Studio Oh Song, New York City for their submission Towerhouse (below). Just married, Ericka and Justine streamed into Awards Show and flew in for the the Solutions Party.





JURY

Cedric Yu, Architect AIBC
 Frances Bula, Urban Issues
 Journalist
 Inge Roecker, Architect AIBC
 Ly Tang, Senior Development
 Manager, Rize Alliance Properties
 Marta Maj, Principal, Timber
 Engineering
 Richard Henriquez, Architect AIBC
 Travis Hanks, Architect AIBC
 Sara Muir, Planning Institute of
 British Columbia, Climate Action
 Committee
 Shirley Shen, Architect AIBC



PLANNERS' PRIZE JURY

Suzanne Carter-Huffman, Urban
 Design, City of Richmond
 Gary Hack, Professor Emeritus,
 MIT and University of Pennsylvania
 Kevin Spaans, Assistant Director
 of Development Planning, City of
 Vancouver
 Sam Maleknia, Urban Design
 Planner, City of Surrey

TECHNICAL ADVISORS

Cost Consultants: Neil Murray and
 Ping Pang, BTY Global Directors
 Housing and Sustainability:
 Wilma Leung, Mobilizing Building
 Adaptation and Resilience at BC
 Housing

COMPETITION CO-CHAIRS

Catherine Alkenbrack
 Kari Dow
 Marta Farevaag
 Sara Stevens

COMMITTEE

Zoe Acton
 Travis Hanks
 Richard Henriquez
 Shirley Shen

**VISIT [DECODINGDENSITY.COM](https://decodingdensity.com) TO VIEW
 ALL 85 SUBMISSIONS, VIDEOS, THE
 PUBLICATION AND MORE.**

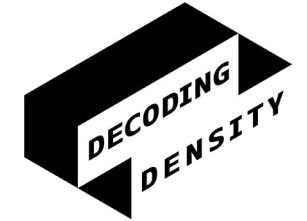
WHATS NEXT?

DECODING MASS TIMBER

Urbanarium will announce its 4th open international design ideas competition on mass timber towers in 2025 as a way to address two of the most existential problems we face today: climate change and housing affordability. Entrants will be challenged to propose creative optimized mass timber structures and processes that will influence the designs of the future, promote increased adoption of a more climate-forward building technology with newfound cost efficiencies while encouraging expanded participation from industry around the challenges of affordable housing.

Perfectly timed with Woodrise 2025, a global biannual event on mid- and high-rise timber construction and buildings, the competition results will demonstrate BC and Canada as a leader in tall-wood apartments.

SERIES SUMMARY



THE MISSING MIDDLE COMPETITION

THE MIXING MIDDLE COMPETITION

34 SUBMISSIONS FROM 2 COUNTRIES	44 SUBMISSION FROM 5 COUNTRIES	85 SUBMISSIONS FROM 9 COUNTRIES
\$28,000 IN PRIZE MONEY	\$37,000 IN PRIZE MONEY	\$44,000 IN PRIZE MONEY
1 ABOUT HERE VIDEO 178,000 VIEWS	2 ABOUT HERE VIDEOS 2,540,971 VIEWS:	3 ABOUT HERE VIDEOS 3,930,500 VIEWS
12 PIECES OF NEWS COVERAGE	55 PIECES OF NEWS COVERAGE	60 PIECES OF NEWS COVERAGE
64-PAGE PUBLICATION	77-PAGE PUBLICATION	105-PAGE PUBLICATION
5 POSSIBLE POLICY IMPACTS	6 POSSIBLE POLICY IMPACTS	17 POSSIBLE POLICY IMPACTS
15 SPONSORS \$56,000 (sponsorships and earned)	28 SPONSORS \$167,000 (sponsorships and earned)	25 SPONSORS \$377,747 (sponsorships and earned)
IMPLEMENTATION Missing Middle Provincial Legislation	IMPLEMENTATION Mixed use in formally all-residential zones/ modernization of home- based business regulations	IMPLEMENTATION Provincial building code change to remove the requirement for a second egress or exit stairwell

EXPERTS DISPUTE THE FUTURE OF OUR REGION. YOU DECIDE.

The first Urbanarium-SALA City Debate was in 2016. After a two-year hiatus, CityDebates were back in 2022 with an annual series of timely issues facing Metro Vancouver.

Moderators have included David Beers, founding editor of The Tye, Larry Beasley, CM, urban planner and former Director of Planning for the City of Vancouver, Dana Claxton, Hunkpapa Lakota artist and Head of the Department of Art History at UBC and Frances Bula, urban issues journalist.



Pro



Russil Wvong
 Software developer, housing advocate, Abundant Housing and Vancouver Neighbours Association volunteer



Helen Lui
 Nonprofit housing developer, Urbanism Vancouver podcast

Con



Andrew Merrill
 General Manager Planning & Development, City of Coquitlam



Sarah Ellis
 Executive Director, Squamish Community Housing Society, past planner, Housing Policy at CoV

REDUCE BUILDING CODE REGULATIONS

Tuesday, March 26th, 2024 / 7 PM
 UBC Robson Square Theatre / \$15
 urbanarium.org for more info



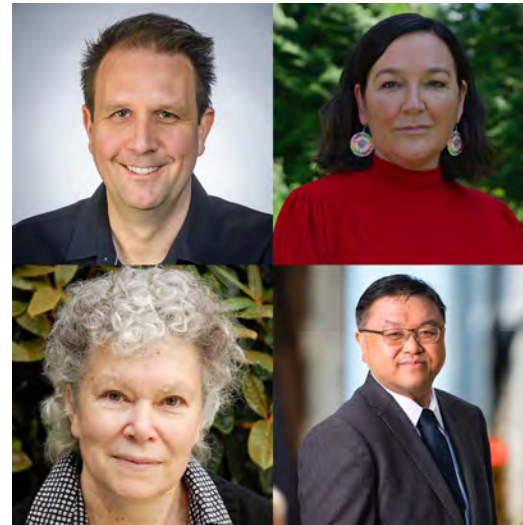
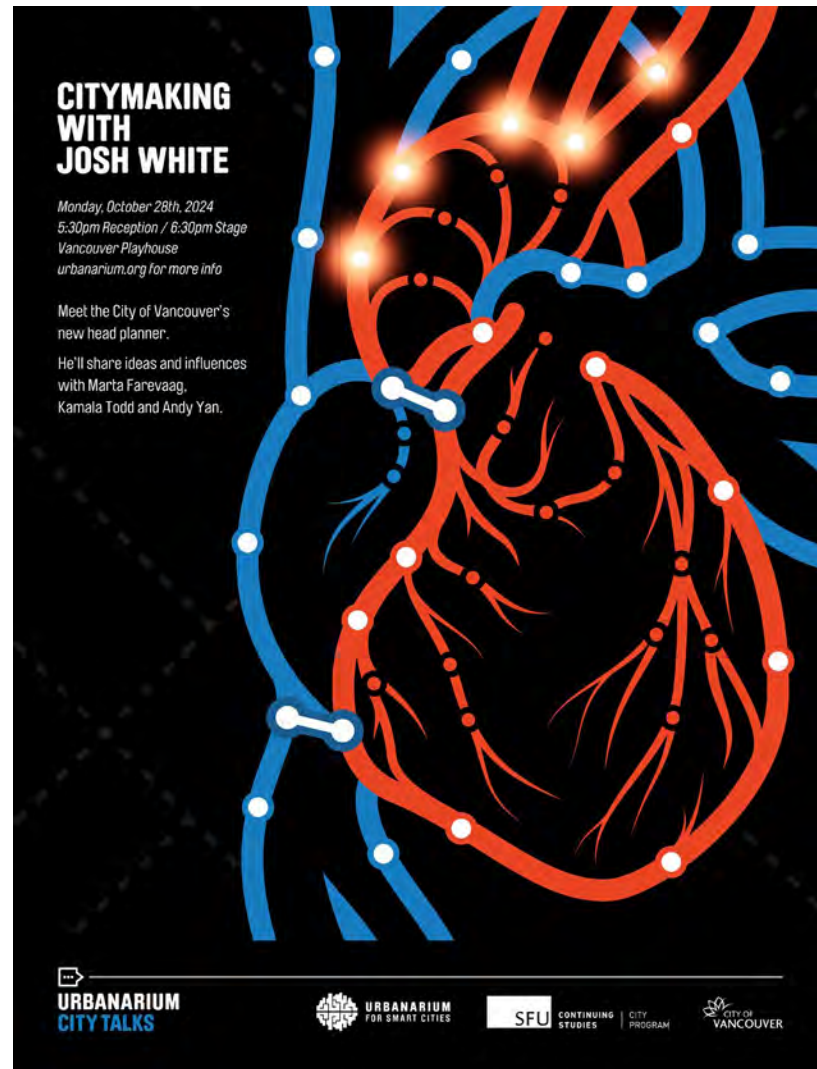
**URBANARIUM
CITY TALKS**

A PLATFORM FOR DIALOG

Online or theater-style panel discussions, one-on-one interviews or serial podcasts our CityTalks aim to inform, challenge, investigate and bring forward urban issues and emerging futures through convening professionals, advocates, students and

passionate residents in the complex process of city-making.

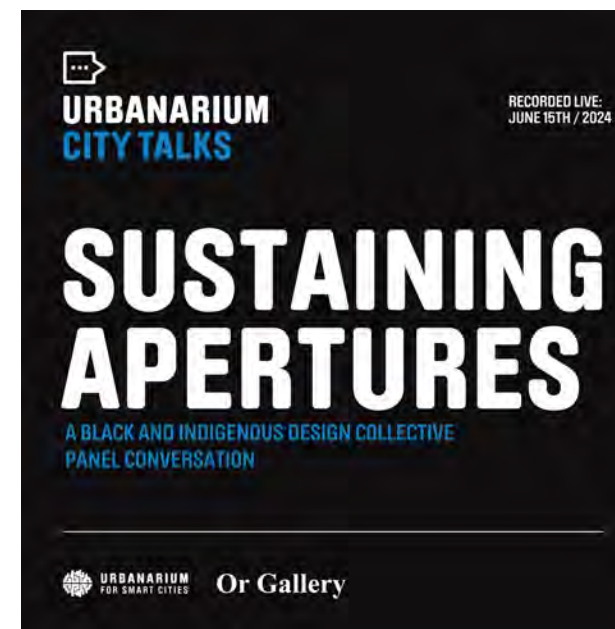
Partners over the last 5 years include City of Vancouver, Vancouver Parks Board, Vancouver Design Week, UBC SALA, SFU, Vancouver Architecture and Design Film Festival, Council for Canadian Urbanism and Microsoft.



Meet Vancouver's New Head Planner 2024

“Do you think that urban design is now considered a luxury during the housing crisis, or a NIMBY strategy, and how are you thinking about incorporating urban design into future planning processes?”

- Marta Farevaag asks Josh



Above image: Black Indigenous Design Collective collaborators Lys Divine Ndemeye, Sierra Tasi Baker and Krystal Paraboo.

BRINGING FORWARD URBAN ISSUES AND EMERGING FUTURES

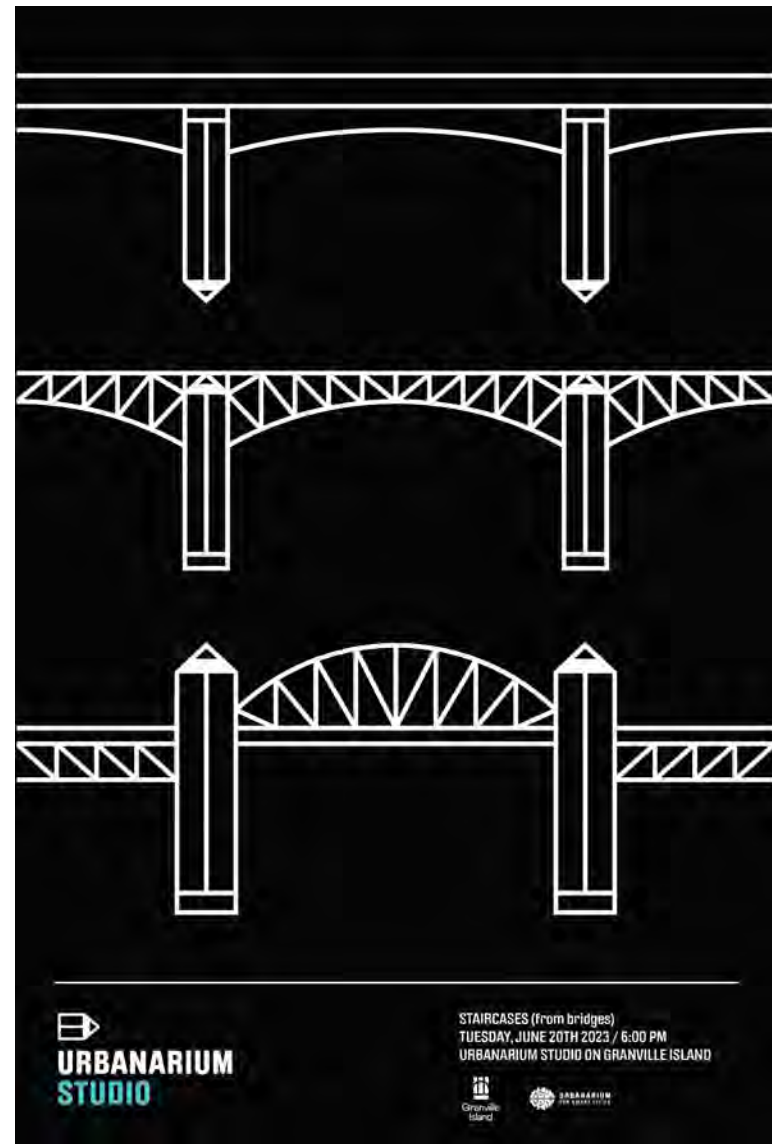
Sustaining Apertures was a discussion on place-based installation and design in contemporary art, architecture, and community planning as it relates to architects Lys Divine Ndemeye and Colin Berg Mbugua exhibition ‘Sustaining Apertures’ at Or Gallery. The conversation engaged in the exhibition’s principles of social and environmental justice with a focus on botanical resistance, listening to plants, new visions for public art, and what decolonization means to the collaborators themselves.

URBANARIUM STUDIO

URBAN DESIGN WORKSHOPS

Hosted by a collective of planners, designers and architects, these charrette-style events convene groups and facilitate graphic discourse and creative solutions for city-making challenges. Participants watch their ideas come to life in a fun, interactive, social setting that aims to inform, inspire and entertain.

A smart city is one that democratizes planning and seeks a variety of voices and creative processes, one that the Studio can help demonstrate.

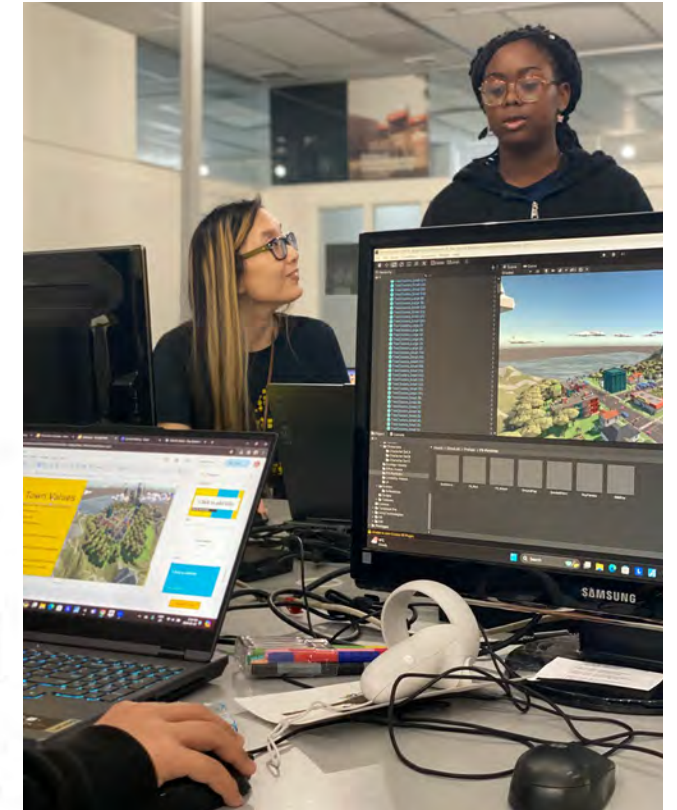
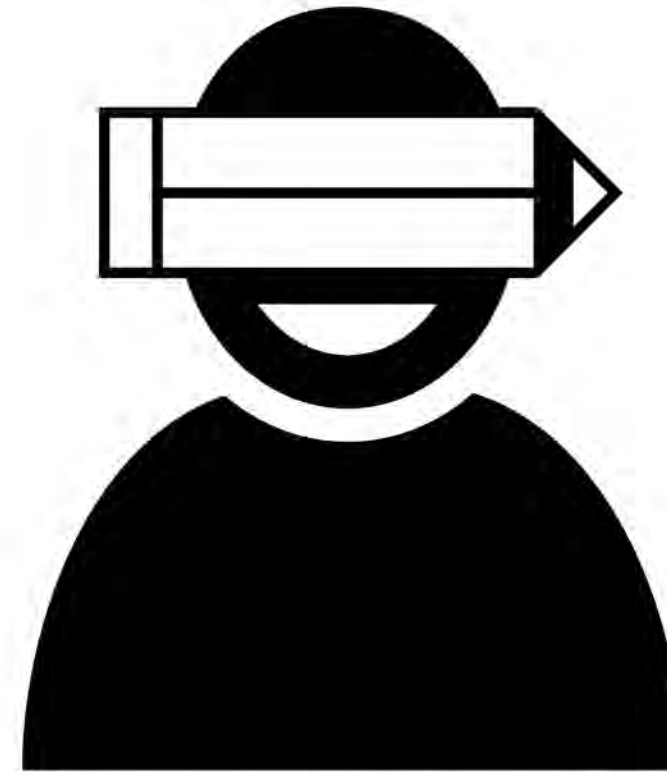


Summer Studios on Granville Island

YOUTH STUDIO CAMPS

Decoding Density in Virtual Reality was a spring and summer camp for Grade 8-12 participants. This marks our 5th year collaborating with Ethos Lab, a youth innovation academy centered on the Humanity of the Black experience.

Combining the powers of the Unity game engine with urban planning and architecture, campers designed neighbourhoods with increased density in order to create more affordable homes and social and food production spaces.



URBANARIUM
STUDIO

DECODING DENSITY IN VIRTUAL REALITY:
SUMMER CAMPS FOR GRADES 8-12
WEEK #1 STARTS JULY 15TH / WEEK #2 JULY 22ND 2024
VISIT ETHOSLAB.CA/CAMPS TO REGISTER

ethos lab | CENTRE FOR DIGITAL MEDIA | BTV | URBANARIUM





URBANARIUM
FOR SMART CITIES

1985 - 2025

1985-1987

Urbanarium 1.0 founded by Ray Spaxman, former City of Vancouver Director of Planning, with Richard Henriquez and a board of public-spirited architects, designers and planners. Produced *Lost/Unbuilt Vancouver*, a large scale exhibition and festival at the old motor vehicle testing station on Georgia St.

1990-1996

Urbanarium 2.0 produced live events including a series of debates, retrospectives, lectures and annual exhibitions from 1993 through 1996.

2013-2016

Urbanarium 3.0 founded. Produced *Your Future Home: Creating the New Vancouver* exhibit at the Museum of Vancouver, CityDebates #1-5 and the first Meet Vancouver's New Head Planner CityTalk.

2017

City Debates #6-10, 5 CityTalks (VANPLAY Series), Urbanarium CityTours launched - 13 walking and boat tours

2018

Missing Middle Competition, CityDebate #11, 4 CityTours

2019

CityDebates #6-10, 3 CityTalks

2020

Hired first full time staff - Amy Nugent, Executive Director, 1 About Here video, Studio Program launched online with a Metro Vancouver-wide youth Hackathon, global CityTalk convening Auckland, Stockholm, Edmonton, Ottawa and Vancouver on the practice of City-wide Planning

2021

Mixing Middle Competition, 3 Urbanarium Studio's, 4 City Talks - Meet the New Head Planner, 2 About Here videos, City Studies launched with CityHive.

2022

City Debates #12, 13, 14, 6 Urbanarium Studios, 2 City Talks including an 8 episode podcast and 2 About Here videos

2023

Hired second full time staff, Decoding Density Competition, City Debates #15, 7 Urbanarium Studios, 2 City Talks and 1 About Here video.

2024

City Debate #16 and #17, 6 Urbanarium Studios, 2 City Talks - Meet the New Chief Planner, Urbanarium-in-a-Box explorations, 2 About Here videos.

2025

Mass Timber Tower Competition, City Debate #18 and #19, 4 Studios, 2 Expert Workshops, 1 About Here video.

2024 REVENUE

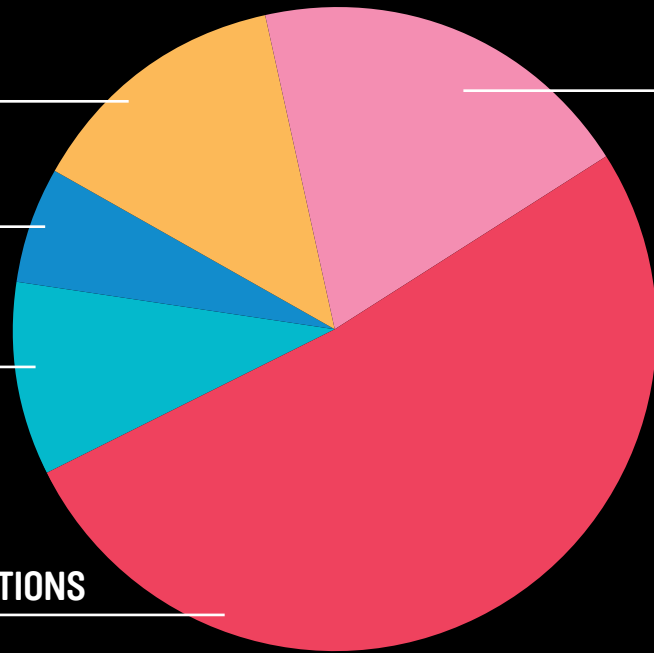
EARNED
9.6%

DONATIONS
5.8%

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION
13.4%

GOVERNMENT AND FOUNDATIONS
51.8%

CORPORATE
19.5%

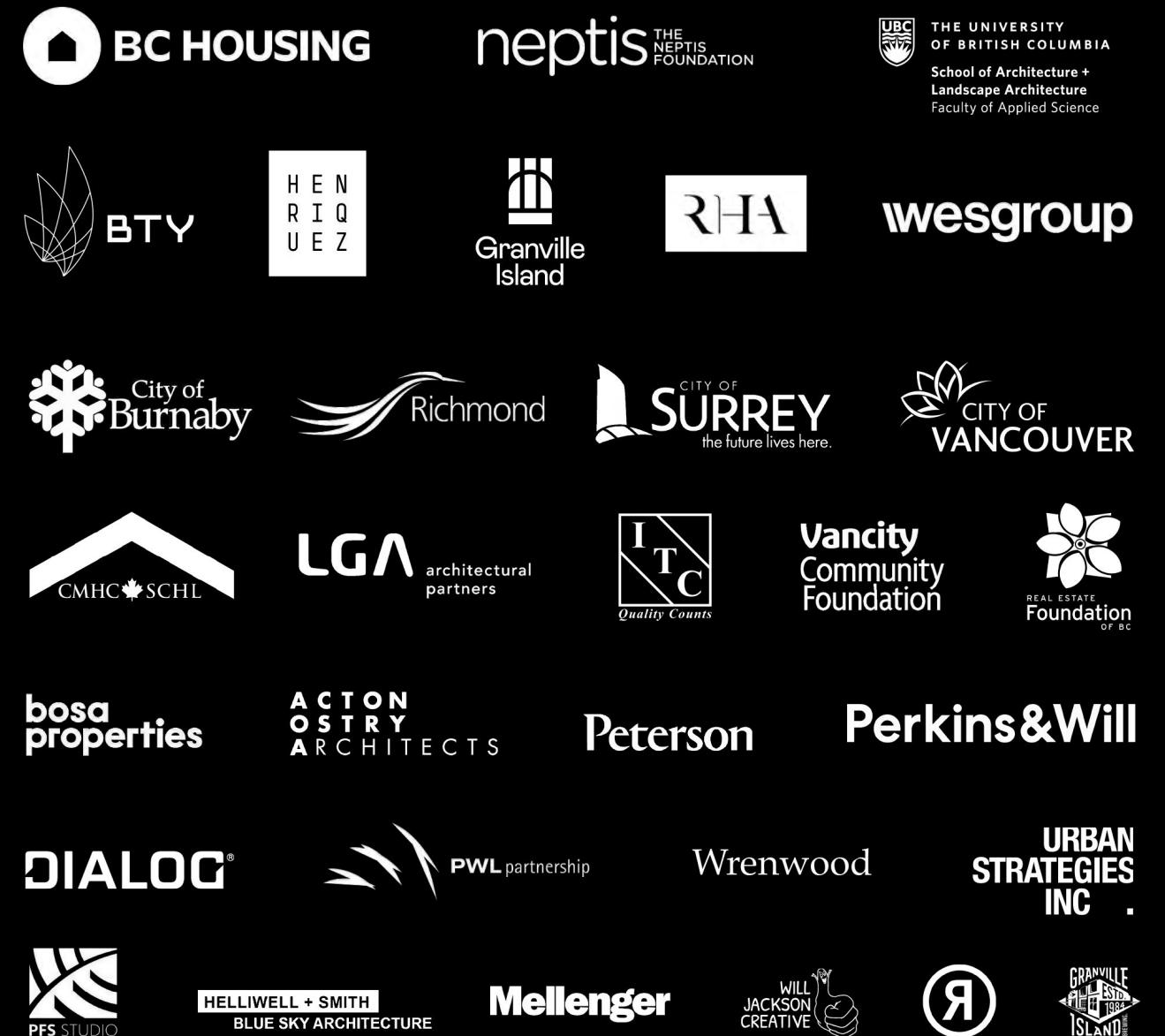
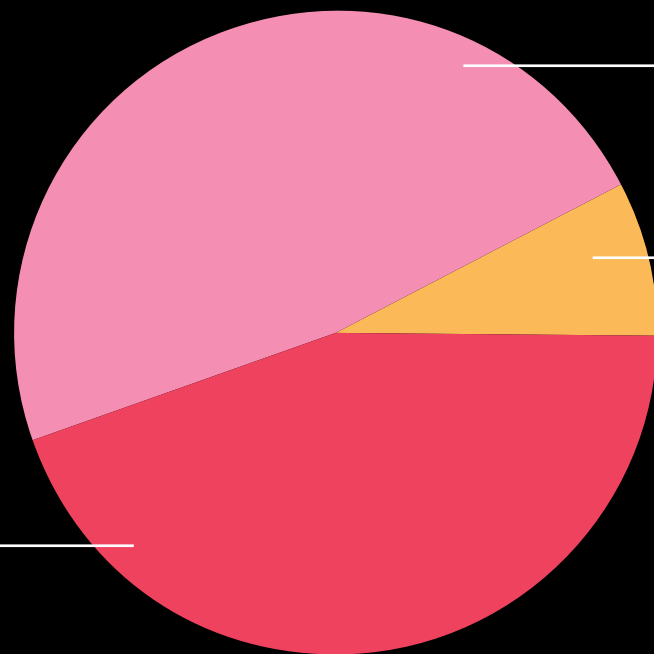


2024 EXPENSES

STAFF
44.5%

PROGRAMMING
47.9%

ADMIN
7.6%



Richard and Carol Henriquez, Peeter Wesik, Marcon, Microsoft, Scotiabank, Cushman & Wakefield, Singleton Renyolds, Glotman Simpson, Bruce Haden, Andrew Gruft, Leslie Van Duzer, Marta Farevaag, James Cheng Architects, Reliance, Anthem Properties, Rick Hulbert, Adera Development Corporation, Brook Pooni, Macdonald Developments, City of Coquitlam, HDR, Hollyburn, PCI, Intracorp, BOSA Developments, Quantum, Shato Holdings, Strand, DVBIA, BOMA BC, space2place, Ramsay Worden, Francl, NSDA, Lanefab, Shift Smallworks, Small Housing BC, Beasley & Associates, Liveable City Planning

URBANARIUM

PRESS



BC-Based Urbanarium's 'Decoding Density' Competition Drawing Global Attention

Howard Chai, Storeys

<https://storeys.com/urbanarium-decoding-density-competition/>



Can This 'Decoding Density' Architecture Competition Solve Vancouver's Housing Crisis?

Michael Harris, Vancouver Magazine

<https://www.vanmag.com/city/real-estate/urbanarium-decoding-density-architecture-vancouver-housing-crisis/>



Urbanarium's affordable housing competition series returns for third installment

Canadian Architect

<https://www.canadianarchitect.com/urbanariums-affordable-housing-competition-series-returns-for-third-installment/>



Winners of Urbanarium's design competition look past current building codes to increase density, livability. Vancouver and New York groups tie for first place

Shawn Conner Vancouver Sun

<https://vancouversun.com/homes/winners-of-urbanariums-design-competition-look-past-current-building-codes-to-increase-density->



Millennial architects redefine Canadian dream of homeownership

Saramansour, Spacing

<https://spacing.ca/vancouver/2024/06/10/millennial-architects-redefine-canadian-dream-of-homeownership/>



How to build a friendly building

Frances Bula, The Globe & Mail

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/real-estate/article-how-to-build-a-friendly-building/>



Urbanarium debate on the province overriding municipalities

Russil Wwong, Vancouver Needs More Housing

<https://morehousing.substack.com/p/debate>



Charitable Choices: Amy Nugent of Urbanarium

Demian Vernieri, Vancouver Guardian

<https://vancouverguardian.com/vancouver-charity-urbanarium/>