

Squamish Arts
Future Needs Study
February 2024



SQUAMISH
ARTS

studio**HuB**
architects

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Acknowledgments

This study was undertaken by studioHub Architects in consultation with Squamish Arts' management team. We would like to acknowledge and extend our thanks to the many people who contributed to the Squamish Arts Future Needs Study. Thank you to the Squamish residents who took part in the various engagement sessions; the District of Squamish Council for their participation; and the Squamish Arts management team for their input and support.

Squamish Arts would like to recognize that this is a living document and represents the first first step of many toward realizing dedicated arts spaces in Squamish. In its efforts towards reconciliation, Squamish Arts will continue to make space for the voice of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw in this strategy and its subsequent implementation.

**To the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation),
Chet kw'enmantúmi (We thank you) and are grateful
to live on this land.**

The Squamish Arts Council honours that the lands on which we live, work and play are the unceded ancestral territory of the Squamish Nation. As an arts council, we work in keeping with the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and commit to being active in our work towards Truth and Reconciliation.



Photo by: Squamish Arts

Background

Squamish Arts (formally Squamish Arts Council) acts as an arts umbrella for Squamish, supporting local organizations and artists through a variety of programs and initiatives. Historically serving as an umbrella organization, Squamish Arts represents more than 35 local arts, culture and heritage groups. Squamish Arts initiated this study to fully understand the arts infrastructure needs of the Squamish arts community.

For the past several decades, the local arts community has been able to rely on rented spaces within privately owned establishments and unused areas of municipal owned buildings. In the past, the District of Squamish's (DoS) industrial nature was well suited for creatives seeking affordable spaces with little neighbor interference over issues such as noise or mess. Recent development has brought higher densities and new neighbors, particularly downtown, leaving the arts community to face the reality that many of its spaces are no longer viable. Currently creatives face a precarious reality in which they must occupy undersized and poorly located spaces, facing restrictive usage rules and conforming to irregular schedule restraints due to the shared nature of many of the spaces. Squamish Arts has made the best of their situation, hosting popular outdoor events such as the Squamish Arts Festival and Amped in the Park. However, these events are restricted to warmer and dryer months, posing challenges for the arts community to be a part of the DoS's reputation as an all-season destination.

The DoS has provided Squamish Arts with a 112 sqm building in Junction Park over the past seven years that has housed public washrooms as well as Squamish Arts' primary office, meeting space, storage space, and public venue. However, the DoS faces its own challenges with infrastructure, and the future of this building including the public washrooms is undetermined due to necessary structural repairs. Additionally, the DoS has provided Squamish Arts space at the 55 Activity Centre. While this space is useful for some programming needs, it does not meet all the needs of Squamish Arts or the arts community as a whole.



Executive Summary

The **Squamish Arts Future Needs Study** provides a series of options and recommendations for facility planning for the creative community within the District of Squamish. The recommendations presented within this study are intended to guide decisions on capital investments in a strategic and fiscally responsible way, and provides information and considerations for Squamish Arts when approaching the DoS and other donors or investors about capital planning priorities.

It is Squamish Arts' primary intention to use this document to spur the creation of a dedicated arts space in the immediate future. What this study seeks to demonstrate is that the DoS needs to plant a metaphorical seed, in the form of a modest multi-purpose arts hub, from which larger arts infrastructure initiatives can grow. The DoS cannot and should not focus their arts facility planning solely around creating a single, big-ticket arts centre. This strategy is not only unhelpful to the current needs of the creative community, as it will most likely be over a decade until it is realized, but also not fiscally sustainable for a community of the DoS's size.

It must be noted that this document does not discredit the eventual need for a larger arts centre in Squamish. However, this type of facility has been designated as a long-term option. Short- and mid-term options detail facilities which should be given immediate funding priority by the DoS.



Document Summary

This document is organized into four parts.

Part I: Research

This section presents a study of all non-private creative facilities located within the District of Squamish and a comparative study of other communities within British Columbia.

Part II: Stakeholder Engagement

This section summarizes the findings from a series of engagement sessions with the community regarding their desires for creative facilities within Squamish.

Part III: Options

Within this section, eight schematic options for arts infrastructure in Squamish are presented, addressing short-, mid-, and long-term facility visions.

Part IV: Funding

This section summarizes funding strategies which Squamish Arts and the District of Squamish can pursue to fund the creation of creative facilities within Squamish.

Part I

Research



Research Summary

Squamish is in the midst of a massive shift. According to the 2021 national census, the DoS's population has increased 22% from the 2016 census, from 19,497 to 23,819 residents. This change is especially drastic when compared against the province's average rate of 5.2%, earning the DoS the distinction of being the fourth fastest-growing subdivision in B.C. Within these numbers a cultural shift is taking place as well. A town once dominated by resource extraction jobs with a reputation for being an outdoor, adventure-sport mecca, is now expanding its identity. While there has been much written about the issues caused by this growth, it is important to note that it has also created an influx of residents who identify as belonging to the arts community. To properly understand the current and future needs of Squamish's creative community it is necessary to conduct a thorough review of the current state creative spaces within the community.

This section of the document contains two studies of creative spaces. The first looks at the DoS, and the second widens the lens to examine the facilities which exist in 25 British Columbia communities.



Photo by: Squamish Arts

Squamish Community Study

Squamish has always been a community of creatives. While resource related jobs and outdoor adventure-sport activities have long dominated the image of the community, there is also a vibrant collection of artists and artisans whom reside here. As the community's broader identity has shifted, so too has its artistic identity. Home to Indigenous artists and more recently, film industry workers, these disciplines have been joined by an increasingly diverse list of creative professionals and hobbyists. Today, Squamish houses performing arts such as musicians, dance and theatre companies, and circus arts; visual artists that exhibit, teach, and offer workshops; and Indigenous artists that cover a wide range of disciplines. While the growth of the creative population is something to be celebrated, it is imperative that Squamish provide spaces for these groups or else risk their departure to better serviced communities.

This study presents an extensive list of spaces available to the creative community, both for creating and display. All ownerships types have been included and the artistic disciplines that use each space have been identified.





































The findings from this study show that there is a severe lack of designated spaces for all types of creatives. Squamish Arts runs three small community galleries, mostly located in private lobbies. These provide an opportunity to show small amounts of art in Squamish but no opportunities to gather and celebrate around that art.



Photo by Squamish Arts

Artistic Discipline Icons:

	Makers (Hand Craft)		Indig Indigenous Art
	Dance		Literature
	Digital / Media Art		Music / Sound
	Visual Arts		Theatre
	Meeting / Office Space		Film
	Other		Resident Accommodation

	Space	Typology	Capacity	Public or Private	Permanent or Temporary	Comments
1	Brennan Park Recreation Centre		Unknown	Public	Perm.	Small, outdated spaces. Not suitable for creative showcases.
2	Brackendale Art Gallery	      	75	Private	Perm.	Sold.
3	Eagle Eye Theatre (at Howe Sound SS)	  	179	Private	Perm.	Owned by the school board. Expensive to rent. Difficulties securing AV technicians.
	Wood/Metal Shops (at Howe Sound SS)		Unknown	Private	Perm.	Owned by the school board. Impractical for public use.
4	Library Meeting Room	 	50	Public	Perm.	Small space.
	Library Foyer Gallery	  	N/A	Public	Perm.	Good public exposure. Suitable for smaller artworks and objects.
5	Theatre at Adventure Center	 	50	Private	Perm.	Very small space. Not suitable for most performance types.
6	U Siyam Pavilion & Junction Park	   	N/A	Public	Perm.	Outdoor. Site of Squamish Arts Festival & Amped in the Park.
7	Al McIntosh Loggers Sports Grounds		N/A	Public	Perm.	Outdoor. Site of the Squamish Days Loggers Sports Festival.
8	37996 Cleveland Avenue Parking Lot		N/A	Public	Temp.	Outdoor. Site of the Squamish Farmers Market.
9	One and a Half Ave. (Formally Knotty Burl)		Unknown	Private	Perm.	Housed within a bar. Only suitable for certain musical acts.
10	Cleveland Tavern (Formally The Goat)		Unknown	Private	Perm.	Housed within a bar. Only suitable for certain musical acts.
	Howe Sound Inn & Brewing		80	Private	Perm.	Privately Owned
11	CN Roundhouse (at Railway Heritage Park)	 	1,200	Private	Perm.	Expensive to rent. Only suitable for large gatherings.
12	Capilano University Lecture Hall	  	270	Private	Perm.	Owned by the University. Not suitable for creative showcases, only lectures.
13	Totem Hall (Squamish Nation)		Unknown	Private	Perm.	Property of Squamish Nation
14	55 Centre		Unknown	Private	Temp.	Location of Squamish Arts office.
15	Waterfront Park		N/A	Public	Perm.	Outdoor. Site of Squamish Arts Festival.













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BC Communities Study










To properly contextualize the micro-scaled study of Squamish a macro-scaled study of British Columbia was undertaken. This study looked at 25 communities across the province, selected based on their similar sizes (as per 2021 Canadian Census data) and/or context to Squamish. Arts based facilities, excluding purely privately owned ones, were investigated. The following pages feature a comprehensive list of the community spaces and the artistic disciplines that they serve.

This study revealed that every community has designated arts facilities. Many communities, such as Canmore and Penticton, benefit from a historical legacy of arts facilities and/or municipally owned heritage structures which create a rich cultural base to build upon. While Squamish lacks a large register of historical properties to adapt, it should still look to these communities as examples for funding models and facility typologies. Alternatively, communities that lack these historical bases, such as Whistler and Revelstoke, have been able to harness the capital that comes with being tourism meccas and direct funding into building new facilities. Bowen Island, a community that lacks both of these factors, offers another alternative. Through a cohesive community desire and focused vision they were able to build a new multipurpose facility that serves as an exemplary model for Squamish.










1 Campbell River population: **40,704**

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Campbell River Art Gallery	https://crartgallery.ca/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Classroom Space Commercial Space	   
Sybil Andrews Cottage	https://crarts.ca/sybil-andrews-cottage/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Residential Accommodations	   









2 Comox + Courtenay population: **43,226**

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Comox Valley Art Gallery	https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Classroom Space Commercial Space	   
Sid Williams Theatre	https://www.sidwilliamstheatre.com/	Non-Profit	Theatre (479-seat)	    

3 Bowen Island population: **4,256**

















Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Bowen Island Community Centre (In Progress)	https://www.ourislandplace.com/	Municipal	Performance Space Gallery Space Classroom Space Municipal Offices Recreation Centre Community Spaces	        

4 Ladysmith population: **12,300**

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Ladysmith Amphitheatre	https://www.ladysmith.ca/parks-recreation-culture/parks	Municipal	Outdoor Amphitheater	   
Ladysmith Gallery	https://www.ladysmitharts.ca/ladysmithgallery	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Classroom Space Meeting Space	   














5 Saanich

population: 117,735

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
ArtSea Gallery	https://www.benjaminlumb.art/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space	  
Arts Centre at Cedar Hill	https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-community/arts/arts-centre-at-cedar-hill.html	Municipal	Gallery Spaces Makers Studios Performance Space Classroom Space	    
Cinecenta (At UVic)	https://www.cinecenta.com/	Non-Profit & University	Theatre (300-seat)	  
Mary Winspear Centre	http://marywinspear.ca/	Non-Profit	Theatre (310-seat)	    








6 Prince Rupert

population: 12,300

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Ice House Gallery	https://www.icehousegallery.ca/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Classroom Space Commercial Space	   
Lester Centre of the Arts	https://www.lestercentre.ca/	Non-Profit	Theatre (700-seat) Meeting Space Rehearsal Space Classroom Space Gallery Space	        






7 Terrace

population: 12,017



















Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
R.E.M. Lee Theatre	https://remleetheatre.ca/	School Board	Theatre (702-seat)	  
McColl Playhouse	https://www.myclt.ca/	Non-Profit	Theatre (100-seat)	
Terrace Art Gallery	http://www.terraceart-gallery.com/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Classroom Space Commercial Space	  

8 Smithers


















population: 5,378

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Smithers Art Gallery	https://www.smithersart.org/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Studio Space Commercial Space	    




9 Prince George population: **76,708**

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Omineca Arts Centre	https://www.ominecoartscentre.com/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space	  
Studio 2880	https://www.studio2880.com/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Studio Spaces Commercial Space Meeting Space	   
Theatre NorthWest	https://www.theatrenorthwest.com/	Non-Profit	Theatre (220-seat)	
Canfor Theatre (at UNBC)	https://www2.unbc.ca/communications-and-marketing/news-conference-locations	University	Theatre (350-seat)	 
Vanier Hall	https://www.facebook.com/pages/Vanier-Hall/115667638503123	School Board	Theatre (788-seat)	   
Two Rivers Gallery	https://www.tworiversgallery.ca/	Non-Profit	Gallery Spaces Studio Spaces Classroom Space Commercial Spcae	   

10 Whistler population: **13,982**










Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Maury Young Arts Centre	https://artswhistler.com/location/myac	Non-Profit	Theatre (230-seat) Gallery Space Studio Space Meeting Space	        
The Point Artist-Run Centre	https://www.thepointartists.com/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Classroom Space	 
Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre	https://slcc.ca/	Indigenous	Theatre (78-seat) Gallery Space Meeting Space Museum Space Cultural Spaces	     

11 Pemberton population: **2,970**

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Lilwat7ul Culture Centre	https://lilwat.ca/wearelilwat7ul/culture/	Indigenous	Gallery Space Community Space Meeting Space	  



12 Williams Lake

population: 23,608

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Central Cariboo Arts Centre	https://www.centralcaribooarts.com/arts-centre/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Studio Space Meeting Space Performance Space	    
Station House Gallery	https://www.centralcaribooarts.com/arts-centre/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Commercial Space	   




13 Gibsons + Sechelt

population: 32,170

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Sunshine Coast Arts Council	https://sunshinecoastartscouncil.com/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Studio Space	    
Gibsons Public Art Gallery	https://gpag.ca/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Studio Space Commercial Space Library	    
Evergreen Theatre	https://powellriverpc.ca/arts-culture/evergreen-theatre/	Municipal	Theatre (720-seat)	    
gathet ART	https://www.gathetart.ca/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Studio Space	   
The Arts Building	https://www.theartsbuilding.org/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Studio Space Childcare	   





14 Salmon Arm

population: 19,435

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Salmon Arm Arts Centre	https://www.salmonarmartscentre.ca/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Classroom Space	  































15 Invermere

population: 3,915

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Pynelogs Cultural Centre and Art Gallery	https://columbiavalley.com/venue/pynelogs-cultural-centre/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Commercial Space	   










16 North Vancouver

population: **88,168**

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Gordon Smith Gallery of Canadian Art	https://www.sd44.ca/school/artistsforkids/About/Pages/default.aspx#/=	Non-Profit	Gallery Space	 
The Polygon Gallery	https://thepolygon.ca/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space	 
Inuit Gallery of Vancouver	https://inuit.com/	Indigenous	Gallery Space Commercial Space	 
Griffin Art Projects	https://inuit.com/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Residential Accomodations	  
BlueShore Financial Centre for the Performing Arts (at Capilano U)	https://www.capilano.ca/student-life/campus-community/blueshore-financial-centre-for-the-performing-arts/	University	Theatre (372-seat)	   
Hendry Hall	https://northvanplayers.ca/	Non-Profit	Performance Space	
Presentation House Theatre	https://www.phtheatre.org/	Non-Profit	Black Box Theatre (150-seat) Studio Space Rehersal Space Studio Spaces	        
Centennial Theatre	https://www.nvrc.ca/centennial-theatre	Municipal	Theatre (660-seat)	   
North Van Arts	https://northvanarts.ca/events-exhibitions/cityscape-community-art-space/	Non-Profit	Gallery Spaces	  




















17 Vernon

population: **44,518**

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Vernon Community Arts Centre	https://vernonarts.ca/	Non-Profit	Makers Studios Performing Arts Studio Classroom Space Gallery Space Commercial Space	   
Caetani Centre	https://www.caetani.org/	Non-Profit	Artist studios Residential Accommodations Gardens	    















18 West Vancouver

population: 44,122

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
West Vancouver Art Museum	https://westvancouverartmuseum.ca/	Municipal	Gallery Space	 
Kay Meek Arts Centre	https://kaymeek.com/	Non-Profit & School Board	Main Theatre (488-seat) Black-Box Theatre (145-seat)	    
The Music Box	https://westvancouver.ca/parks-recreation/special-events/venue-rentals-0/art-programs-facilities/music-box	Municipal	Studio Space Meeting Space	   
Silk Purse Arts Studio	https://westvancouver.ca/parks-recreation/special-events/venue-rentals-0/art-programs-facilities/silk-purse-arts-centre	Non-Profit & Municipal	Studio Space Classroom Space Performance Space	       










19 Kamloops

population: 97,902

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Kamloops Centre for the Arts (Planned)	https://kamloopscentreforthearts.ca/	Non-Profit	Main Theatre (1,200-seat) Small Theatre (450-seat) Studio Space Rehearsal Space Meeting Rooms Residential Accommodations Commercial Space	       
Kamloops Art Gallery	https://kag.bc.ca/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Classroom Space Commercial Space	   
Kamloops Courthouse Gallery	https://kamloopsarts.ca/programs/galleries-exhibitions/	Non-Profit & Municipal	Gallery Space	 

20 Revelstoke

population: 8,275

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Revelstoke Performing Arts Centre	https://artsrevelstoke.com/	Non-Profit	Theatre (275-seat)	    
Revelstoke Visual Arts Centre	https://revelstokeartgallery.ca/	Non-Profit	Gallery Spaces Makers Studios Classroom Space	   

21 Kelowna population: 144,576

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Rotary Centre of the Arts	https://rotarycentreforthearts.com/	Municipal	Theatre (-seat) Gallery Spaces Studio Spaces Classroom Spaces Commercial Space	
Kelowna Art Gallery	https://kelownaartgallery.com/	Non-Profit	Gallery Spaces Studio Spaces Classroom Spaces	
Kelowna Community Theatre	https://theatre.kelowna.ca/	Non-Profit	Black Box Theatre (125-seat)	

22 Penticton population: 36,885


















Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Leir House Cultural Centre	https://www.pentictonartscouncil.com/	Non-Profit	Community Rental Room Pottery Studio	
Cleland Community Theatre	https://www.penticton.ca/our-community/arts-culture/cleland-community-theatre	Municipal	Theatre (443-seat)	
Penticton Art Gallery	http://pentictonartgallery.com/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Classroom Space Project Room Library	

23 Nelson population: 11,198

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Oxygen Art Centre	http://oxygenartcentre.org/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Classroom Space	
Touchstones Nelson	https://touchstonesnelson.ca/	Non-Profit & Municipal	Gallery Spaces Library Classroom Space Commercial Space	
Nelson Civic Theatre	https://www.civictheatre.ca/	Non-Profit	Theatre (306-seat)	
The Capitol Theatre	https://capitoltheatre.ca/	Non-Profit	Theatre (400-seat) Gallery Space Black-Box Theatre (125-seat) (Planned)	










24 Canmore, AB

population: 15,990

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Canmore Art Guild	https://www.canmoreartguild.org/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space	 
Canmore Opera House	https://www.springcreekcanmore.ca/listings/opera-house/	Non-Profit	Performance Space	   
Stan Rogers Memorial Stage	https://canmore.ca/projects/stan-rogers-memorial-stage	Municipal	Outdoor Stage	
Canmore Miners' Union Hall	https://www.canmoreminershall.ca/	Municipal	Performance Space	    
artsPlace	https://artsplacecanmore.com/	Non-Profit	Theatre Space (105-seat) Gallery Space Meeting Space Studio Space	        

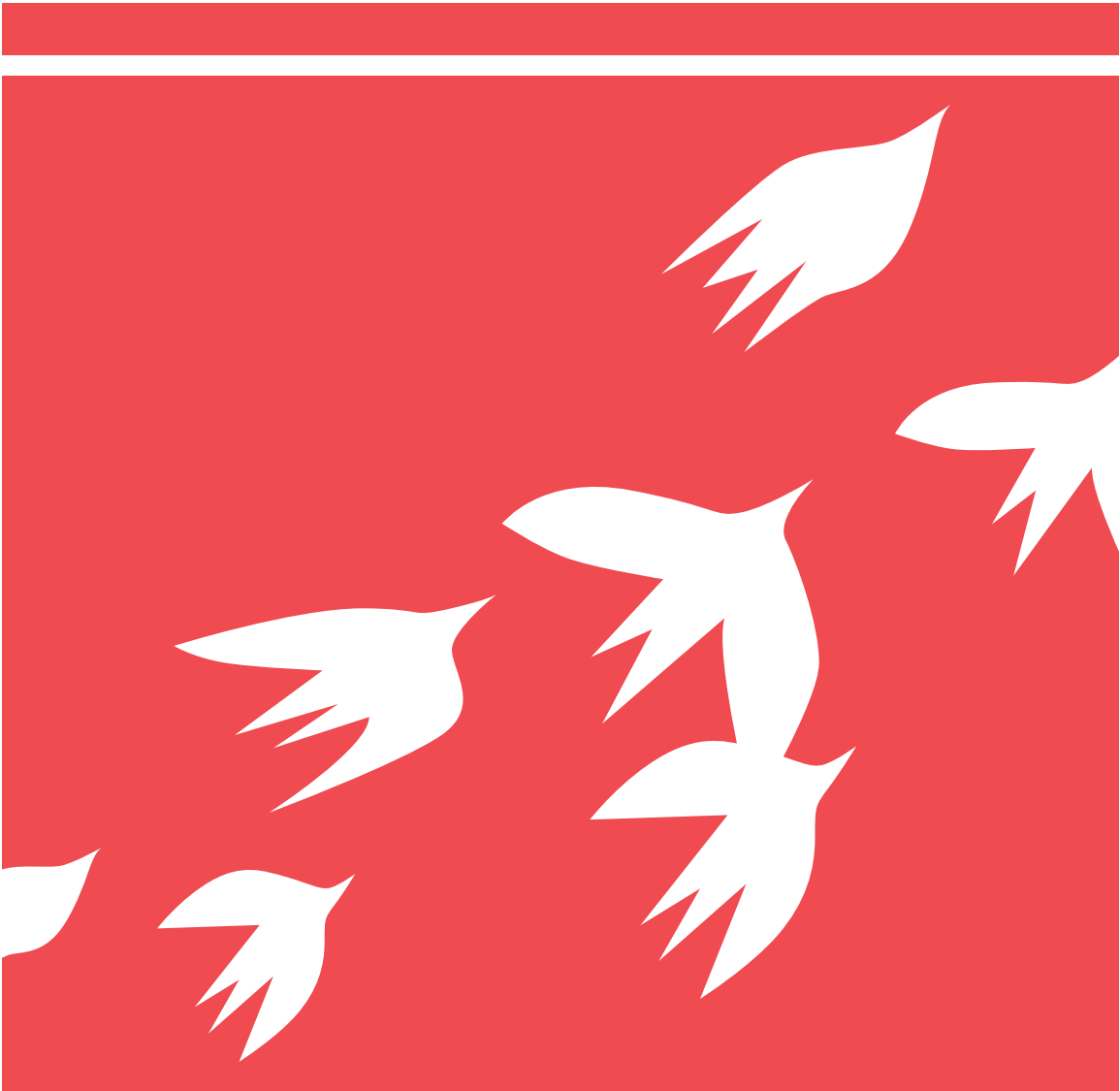
25 Golden

population: 3,986

Arts Facility	Website	Management Type	Types of Spaces	Supported Disciplines
Art Gallery Of Golden	https://kickinghorseculture.ca/art-gallery-of-golden/	Non-Profit	Gallery Space Commercial Space	   
Golden Civic Centre	https://www.goldenciviccentre.ca/	Municipal	Theatre (300-seat)	    

Part II

Community Engagement



Community Engagement Summary

To properly understand the needs of Squamish’s arts community our team conducted a series of engagement sessions. These sessions were divided into two typologies, listed below.

One-on-One Meetings

The community engagement process commenced with a series of one-on-one interviews with a diverse list of members of Squamish’s arts community.

Large Group Workshop

This open workshop, advertised through Squamish Arts and DoS channels, was attended by a diverse group of 50 members of the Squamish arts community. The workshop involved a series of exercises aimed at distilling a list of solutions to Squamish’s need for arts infrastructure.



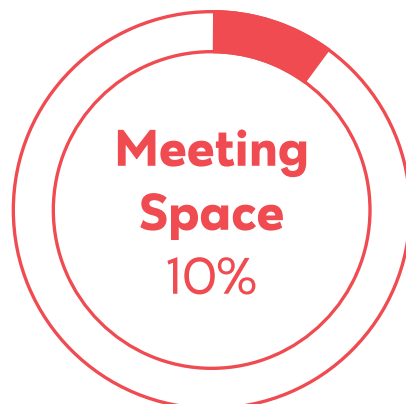
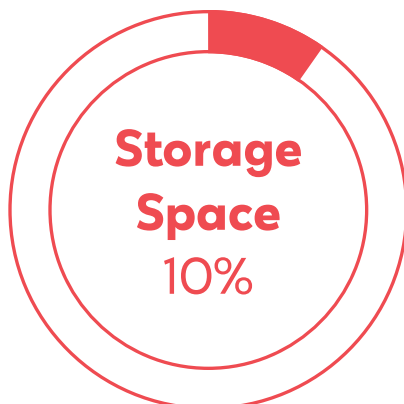
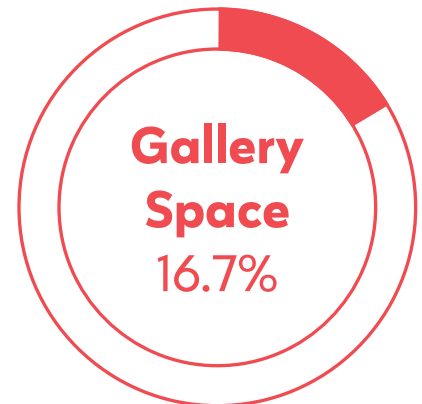
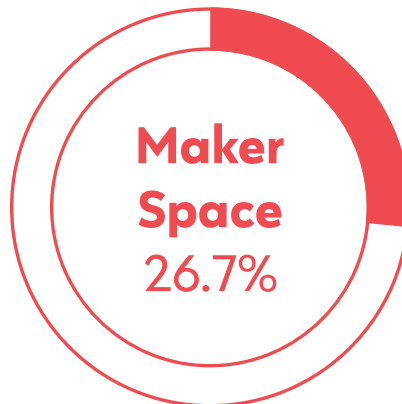
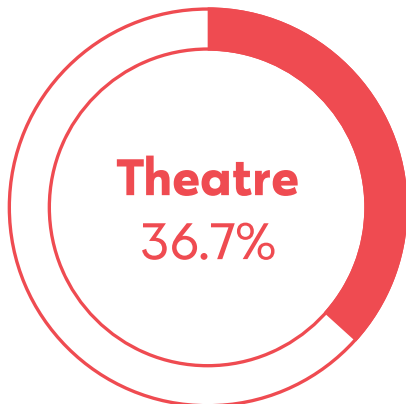
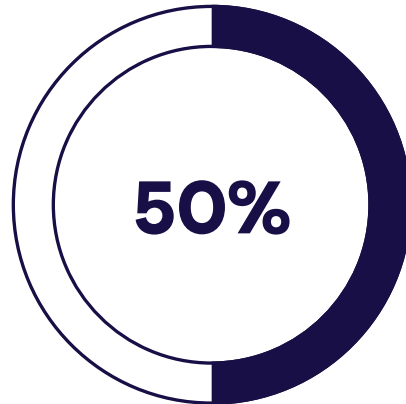
One-on-One Interviews

The community engagement process commenced with a series of one-on-one interviews with a diverse list of members from Squamish's arts community. Each interview began with an icebreaker exercise. The interviewee was shown a series of cards featuring images of creative spaces and asked to select the ones that spoke to them. Once a dialogue had been started, each interview was conducted using a series of long-form style questions.

These long-form questions revealed a unified desire for a multidisciplinary arts hub. While the disciplinary background of the interviewees were mixed, they all recognized the collective lack of studio/workshop spaces, no matter the artistic discipline. The need for these spaces to be affordable was also highlighted. Additionally, interviewees repeatedly expressed their desire for a theatre space. Opinions on this space varied however, while some stated they would be happy with a simple black-box theatre, others stated that nothing less than 400-500 seat venue would be sufficient to meet their needs. As for location, participants were offered a range of solutions. While most wanted a downtown location, the ideas of a Brennan Park location or having multiple neighborhood locations were also popular.

“What kind of arts space does Squamish need most?”

Half of the interviewees want a hub containing all of the creative spaces listed below.



“A black-box **theatre** with a lively bar for film and the performing arts”



“Creatives need a **maker space** where art can be created at a low cost”



“The **arts hub** needs to be a space for connection, gathering and information.”

“Any **arts hub** must be multi-disciplinary, affordable and inspirational!”

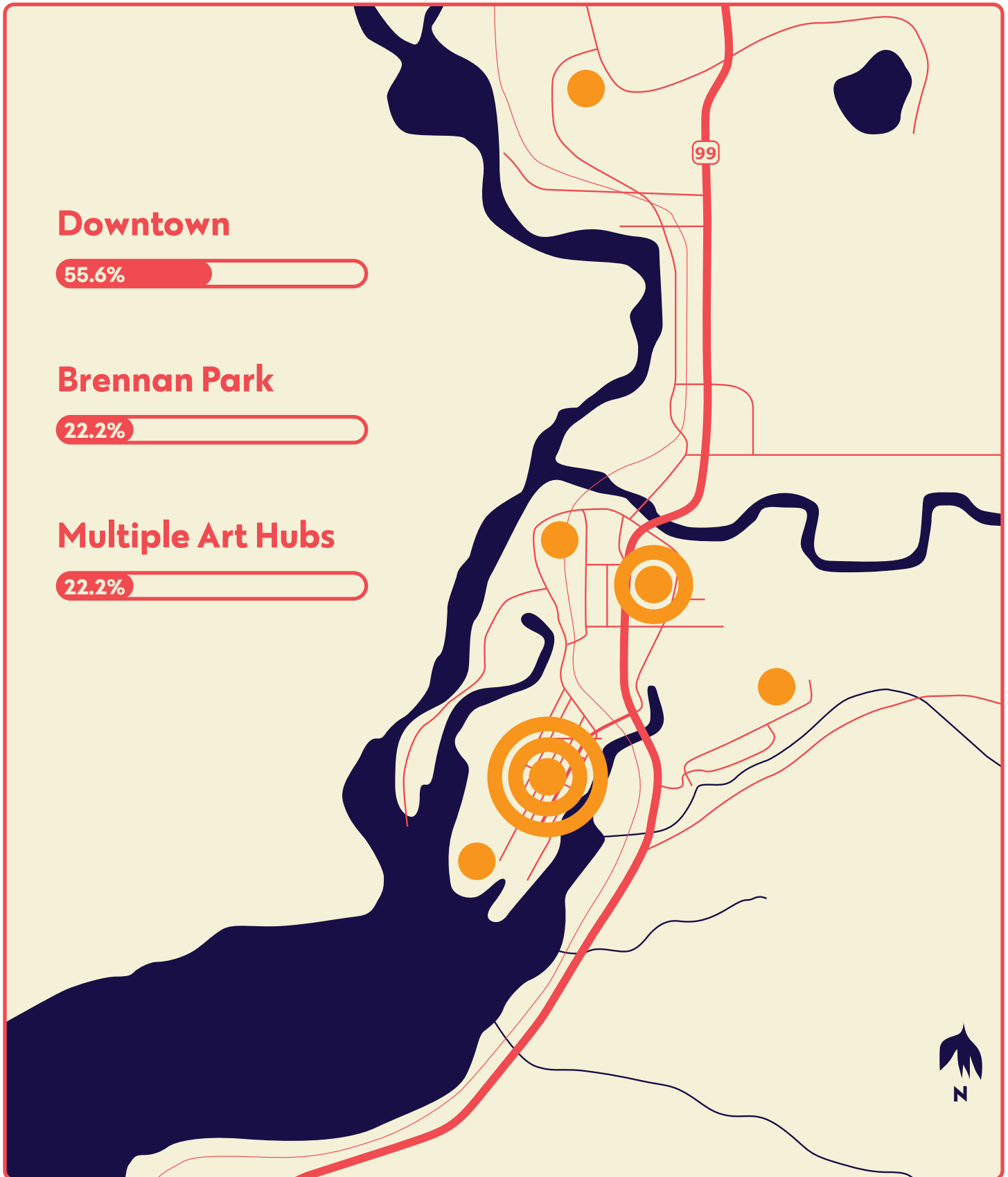


“Woodworkers are an integral part of Squamish’s history, we need a proper **maker space**”

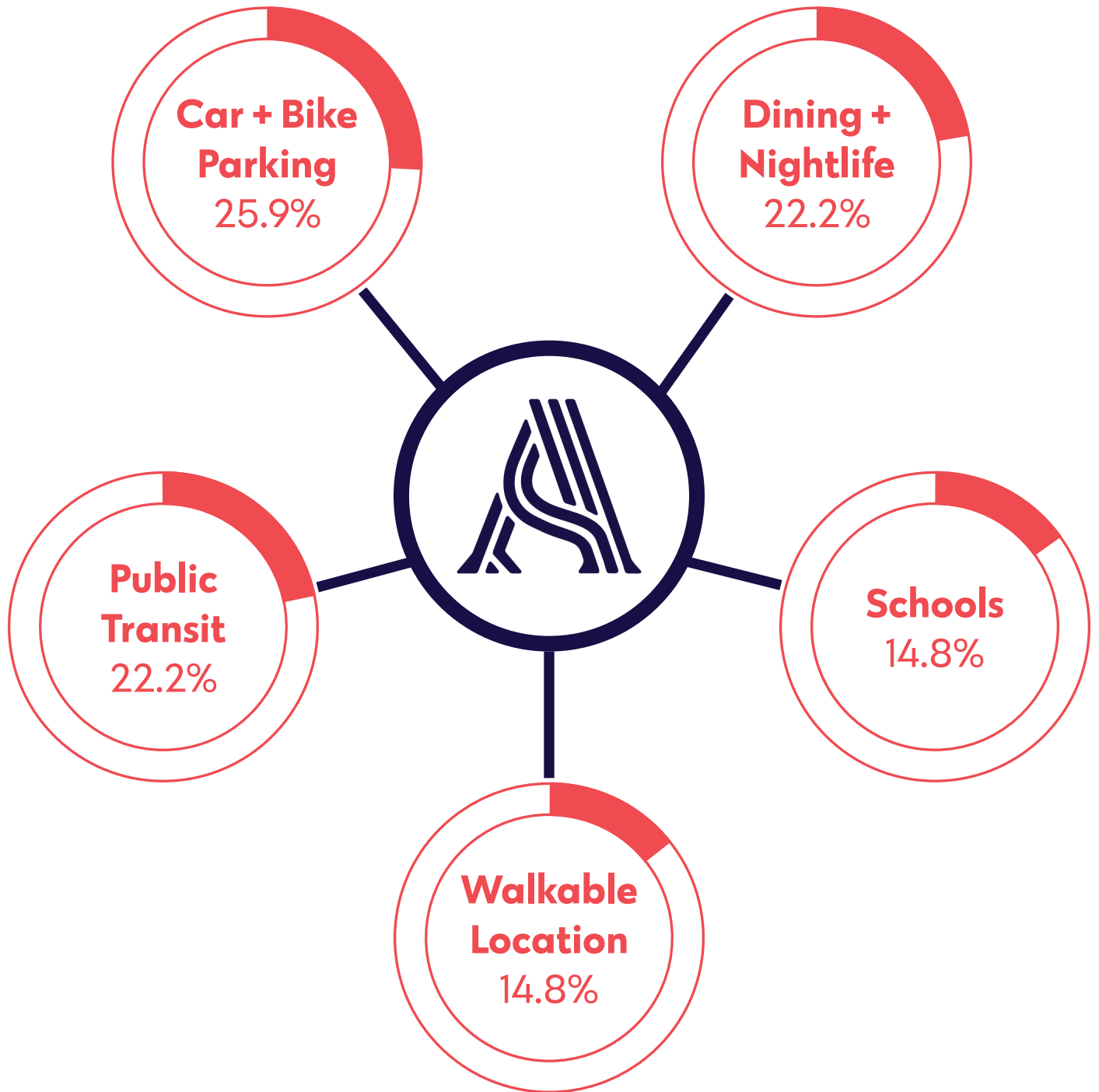


“A 400-500 seat **theatre** is the magic number for performances”

“Where should Squamish’s arts space be located?”



“What services should be near the arts space?”





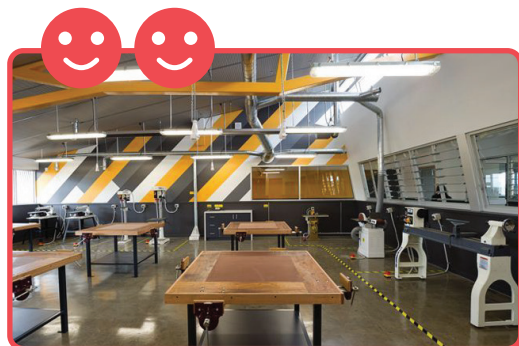
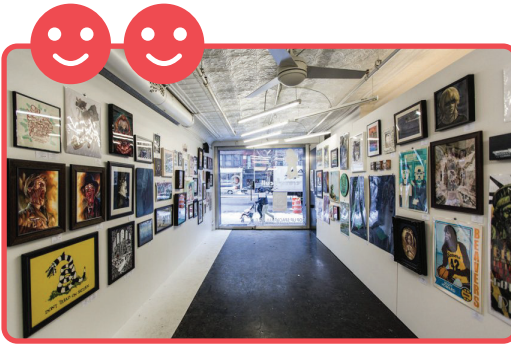
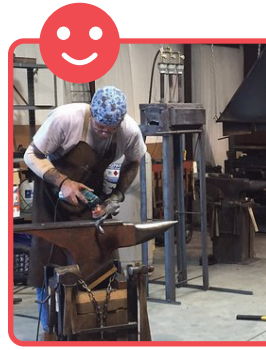
Large Group Workshop

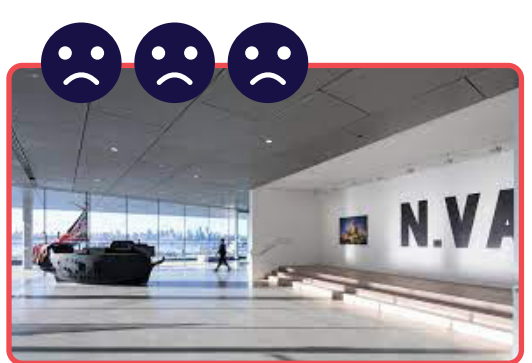
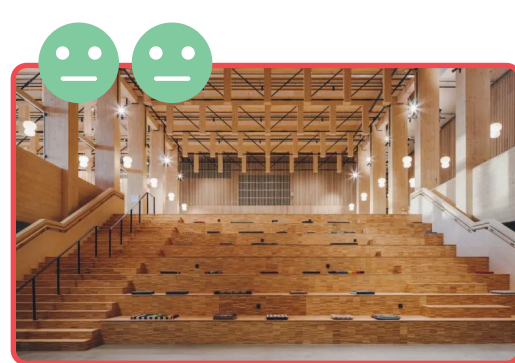
To expand upon the one-on-one engagement sessions, our team hosted a large group workshop at the 55 Centre. A diverse list of 50 members of the arts community participated in a series of exercises aimed at distilling a list of solutions to Squamish’s need for arts infrastructure.

The evening began with an icebreaker activity where participants placed coloured dots on images of creative spaces which they were drawn to or deterred by. Following this exercise the community members took part in a series of round-table discussions. These discussions revolved around participants ideas for short-term, mid-term, and long-term solutions for arts infrastructure in Squamish.

Participants stressed the immediate need for a socialization space for artists, as well as the lack of an ‘information hub’ where one could find information on all arts programs and creative spaces available in the District. In regard to short-term space solutions, participants concluded that at a minimum all they need is a ‘space with heat’. Many would be happy if there was a multi-disciplinary workshop with heat for them to use, noting that nothing fancy is needed in the short-term for production and rehearsal space.

“Share your feelings about the pictured arts spaces”





 **Yes!**
 **Meh.**
 **Nope!**

“What are your short-, mid-, and long-term visions

VISIONS

S

A heated, industrial
makerspace for
craft-based arts

Pursue multiple
partnerships
with developers

A black-box
theatre with
a lobby gallery

L

Multiple small,
specialty makerspaces
with their own galleries

for public/private arts infrastructure in Squamish”

A dedicated
multipurpose
room and offices

A small,
dedicated
gallery space

A rehearsal & set
building space for
the performing arts

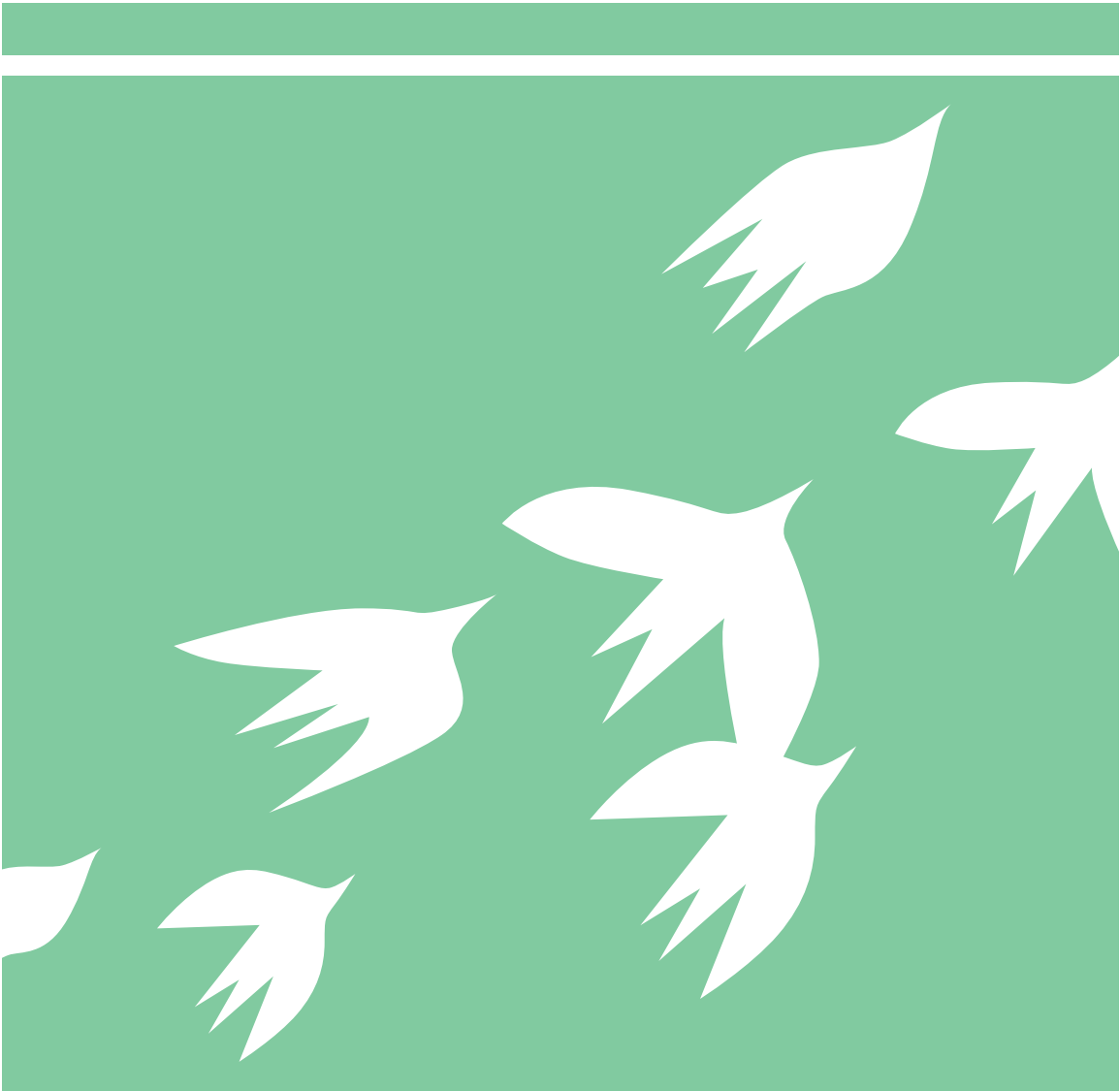
M

A creative space
above the new
Fire Hall No. 2

A new library
with a space
for creatives

Part III

Options



Options Summary

The findings from **Part I: Research** and **Part II: Stakeholder Engagement**, were used to develop a detailed compilation of programming options. All of the options presented address the needs of Squamish's arts community in various scales and timelines. Short-term options are envisioned to be realized in 0-3 years and could be delivered through renovations / additions to current arts spaces. Mid-term options are envisioned to be realized in 3-10 years via a new municipal build project or a via donated space as part of a developer's community amenity contribution. Long-term options comprise of projects which may not be realized for 10+ years, encompassing the full list of the local arts community's needs within a landmark arts centre. The following section contains ten options.



Short-term Options

Options A-1 & A-2 are both proposed to be located in Junction Park. These options present a hybrid of the District of Squamish's desire to have a public washroom within the park and Squamish Arts' need for office and multipurpose space. **Option A-1** proposes a renovation of the existing 1980's Junction Park building with an addition housing a multipurpose space and Squamish Arts office space. **Option A-2** features the same programming as the previous option but instead proposes demolishing the existing structure to construct a new facility.

Mid-term Options

Option B-1 and **Option B-2** are both intended to be located within residential or commercially zoned areas, preferably downtown or Brennan Park. These options both contain multipurpose spaces, the latter being sized to accommodate a black-box performance space. **Option C-1** and **Option C-2** are both intended to be located within industrial zoned areas, preferably the Squamish Business Park. These options both contain workshop spaces (makerspaces), with the former being sized to fit within an existing unit in the Squamish Business Park and the latter being larger in size to fully accommodate the workshop needs of Squamish's creative community.

Long-term Options

Option D-1 and **Option D-2** are both intended to be located within residential or commercially zoned areas, preferably downtown or Brennan Park. These options both contain performing arts spaces as well as multiple arts spaces. D-1 is sized to accommodate a black-box performance space while D-2 is sized to accommodate a full-sized 400-500 seat venue.

Option A-1 Renovation of Junction Park Building

Timeline: Short-Term

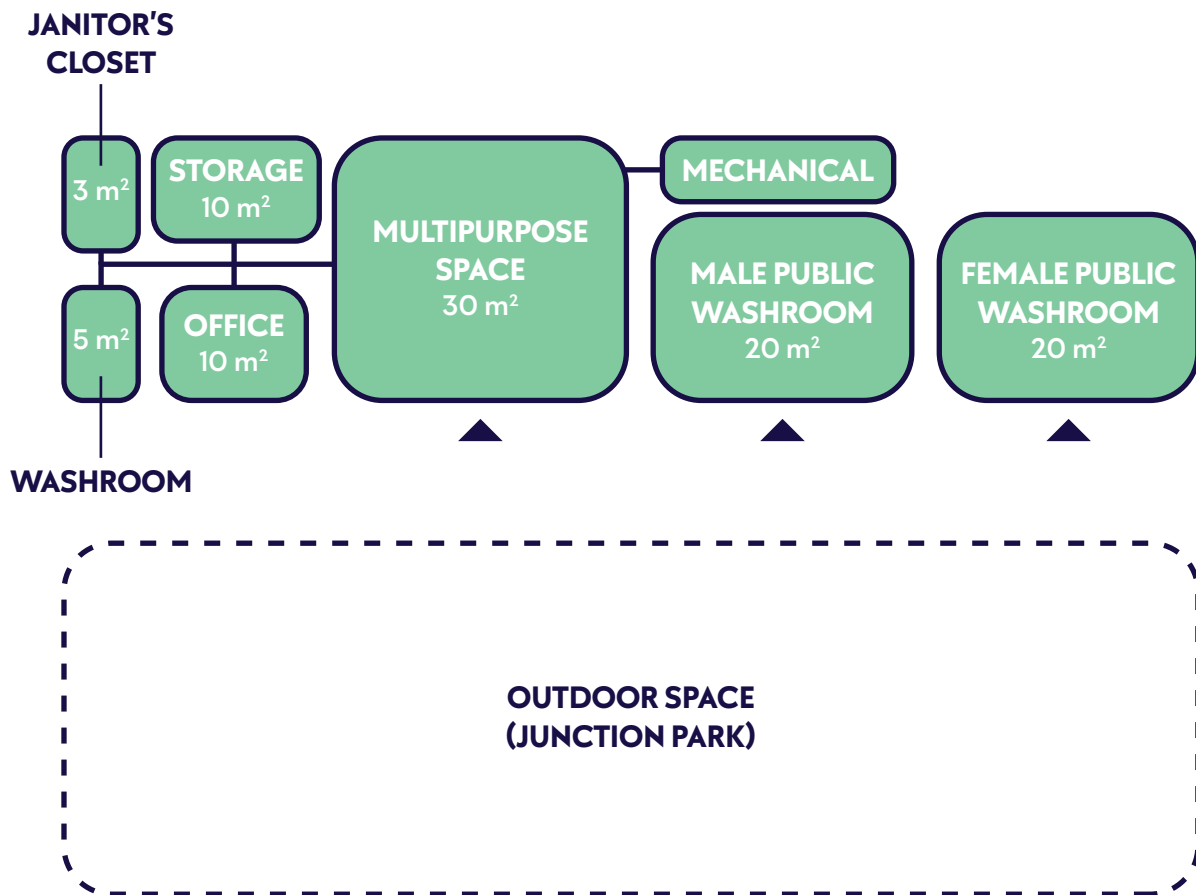
Location: Downtown – Junction Park

Area: Existing Building Size to be Confirmed

The DoS is reviewing options to either renovate or replace the existing Junction Park Washroom / Squamish Arts Building.

This option focuses solely on renovating the DoS’s existing public washroom facility in Junction Park. Already occupied by Squamish Arts, this option produces the most time and budget sensitive outcome. The existing building (*displayed in green*) was constructed in the 1980’s as a shop class project. In 2017, Squamish Arts’ portion of the building was deemed un-occupiable until structural renovations were completed. Currently the building houses two publicly accessible gendered washrooms, as well as space occupied by Squamish Arts which contains a small multipurpose space, an office space, a washroom, a janitor’s closet and a small storage room.

Room	No. Of Spaces	Indiv. Room Area	Total Room Area
Office Space	1	10 m ²	10 m ²
Storage	1	10 m ²	10 m ²
Multipurpose Space	1	30 m ²	30 m ²
Public Washroom	2	20 m ²	40 m ²
Janitor’s Closet	1	3 m ²	3 m ²
Subtotal			93 m²
Design Space: 20% of Subtotal (Circulation, Walls, Mechanical)			18 m²
Gross Total			112 m²



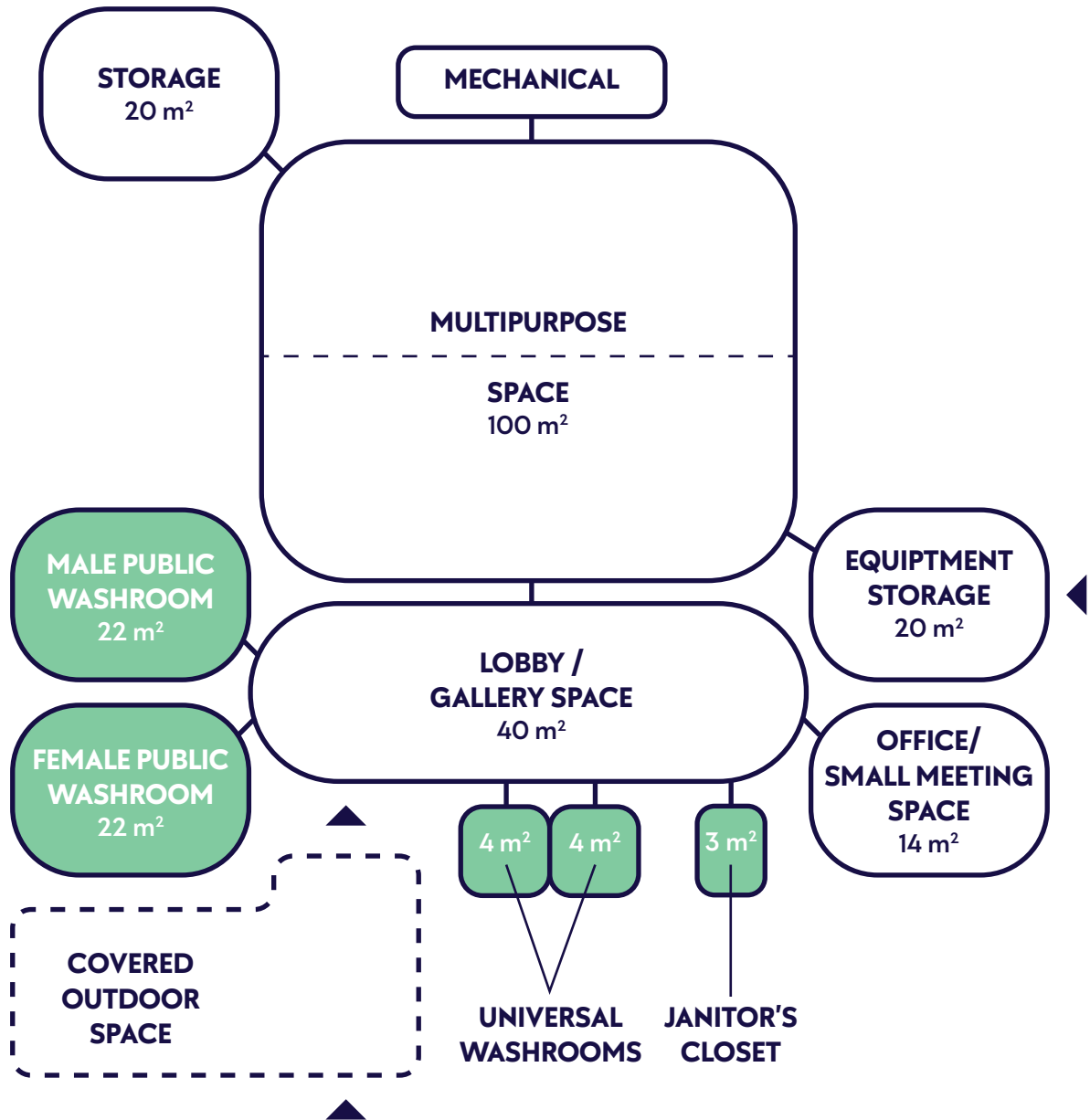
Option A-2 New Junction Park Building

Timeline: Short-Term
Location: Downtown – Junction Park
Area: 280 m²

The DoS is reviewing options to either renovate or replace the existing Junction Park Washroom / Squamish Arts Building.

This option combines the District of Squamish’s need to renovate the public washroom facility in Junction Park with an addition sized to meet Squamish Arts’ immediate needs. Within this option there are gendered publicly accessible washrooms, two universal washrooms and a janitors closet, as laid out in the District’s plan (*displayed in green*). Additionally, these services are combined with an office/small meeting space, a hybrid lobby-gallery space, and a 100 m² multipurpose space that can be subdivided into two 50 m² multipurpose rooms with an adjoining equipment storage room. The multipurpose space is large enough to be used for classes, meetings and workshops. As well, the space would be suitable for spoken word, poetry, and small dramatic/musical performances, but not for professional-grade lighting grids or large set pieces. A covered outdoor space is envisioned adjacent to the building, providing a programmable community space that is usable during the rainy seasons.

Room	No. Of Spaces	Indiv. Room Area	Total Room Area
Office / Small Meeting Space	1	14 m ²	28 m ²
Lobby / Gallery Space	1	50 m ²	50 m ²
Equipment Storage	1	20 m ²	20 m ²
Multipurpose Space	1	100 m ²	100 m ²
Public Washroom	2	22 m ²	44 m ²
Universal Washroom	2	4 m ²	8 m ²
Janitor’s Closet	1	3 m ²	3 m ²
Subtotal			233 m²
Design Space: 20% of Subtotal (Circulation, Walls, Mechanical)			47 m²
Gross Total			280 m²



Option B-1 Mid-Sized Arts Hub

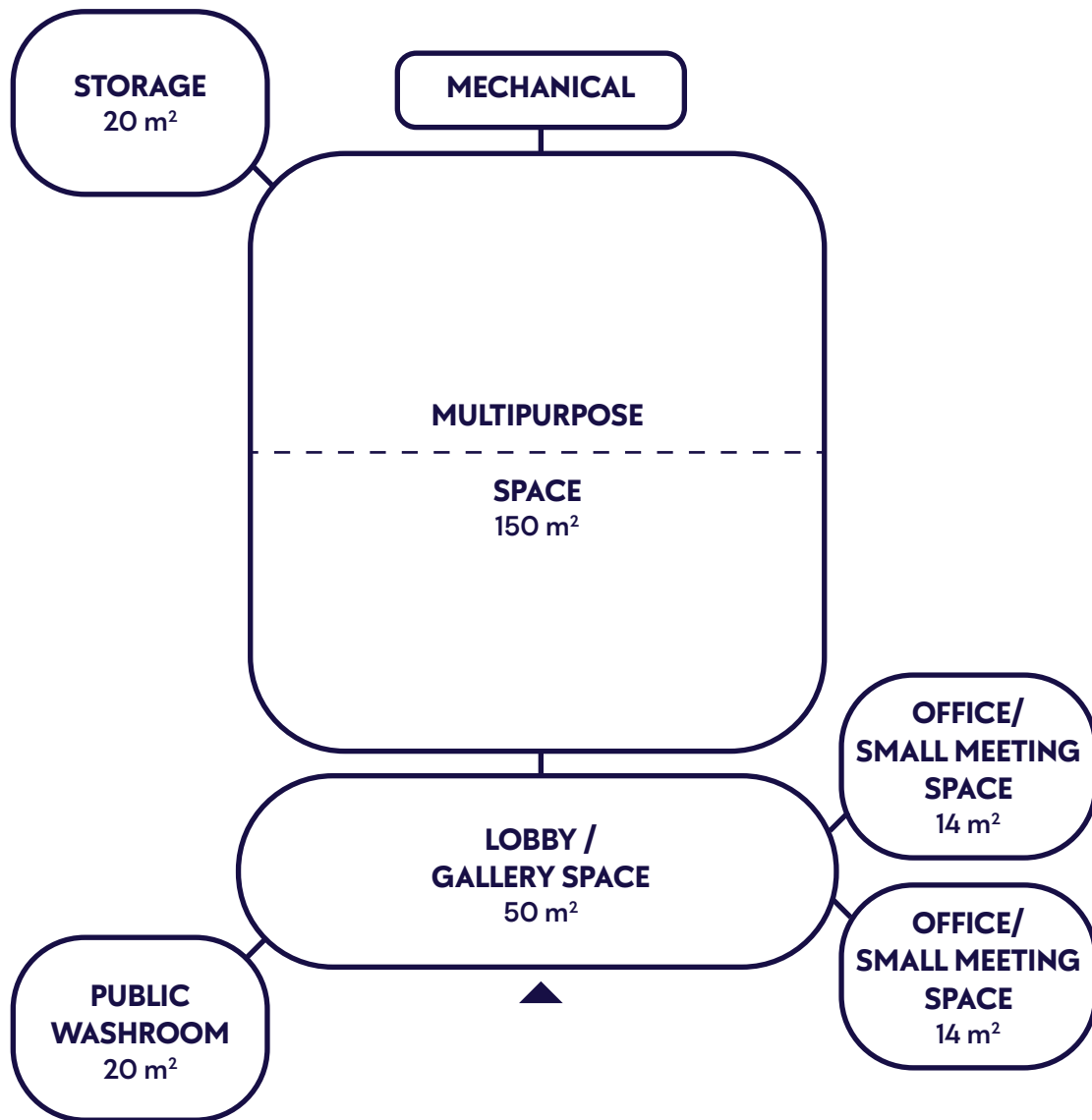
Timeline: Mid-Term

Location: Residential / Commercial – *Downtown or Brennan Park*

Area: 322 m²

This option, envisioned as a tenant improvement within a larger building, presents the minimum program size possible which still fulfills the immediate needs of the Squamish arts community. Within this option there are publicly accessible washrooms, office/small meeting spaces, a hybrid lobby-gallery space, and a 150 m² multipurpose space that can be subdivided into two 75 m² multipurpose rooms with an adjacent storage space. All spaces require a minimum ceiling height of 3 metres. The multipurpose space is large enough to be used for classes, meetings and workshops. As well, the space would be suitable for spoken word, poetry, and small dramatic/musical performances, but not be suitable for professional-grade lighting grids or large set pieces.

Room	No. Of Spaces	Indiv. Room Area	Total Room Area
Office/Small Meeting Space	2	14 m ²	28 m ²
Lobby/Gallery Space	1	50 m ²	50 m ²
Washroom	1	20 m ²	20 m ²
Storage	1	20 m ²	20 m ²
Multipurpose Space	1	150 m ²	150 m ²
Subtotal			268 m²
Design Space: 20% of Subtotal (Circulation, Walls, Mechanical)			54 m²
Gross Total			322 m²



Option B-2 Mid-Sized Black Box Arts Hub

Timeline: Mid-Term

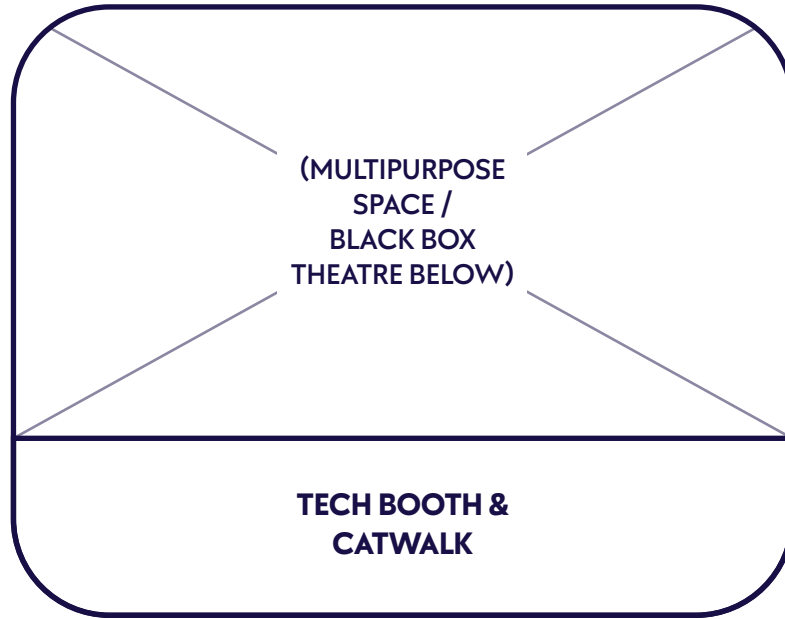
Location: Residential / Commercial – *Downtown or Brennan Park*

Area: 382 m²

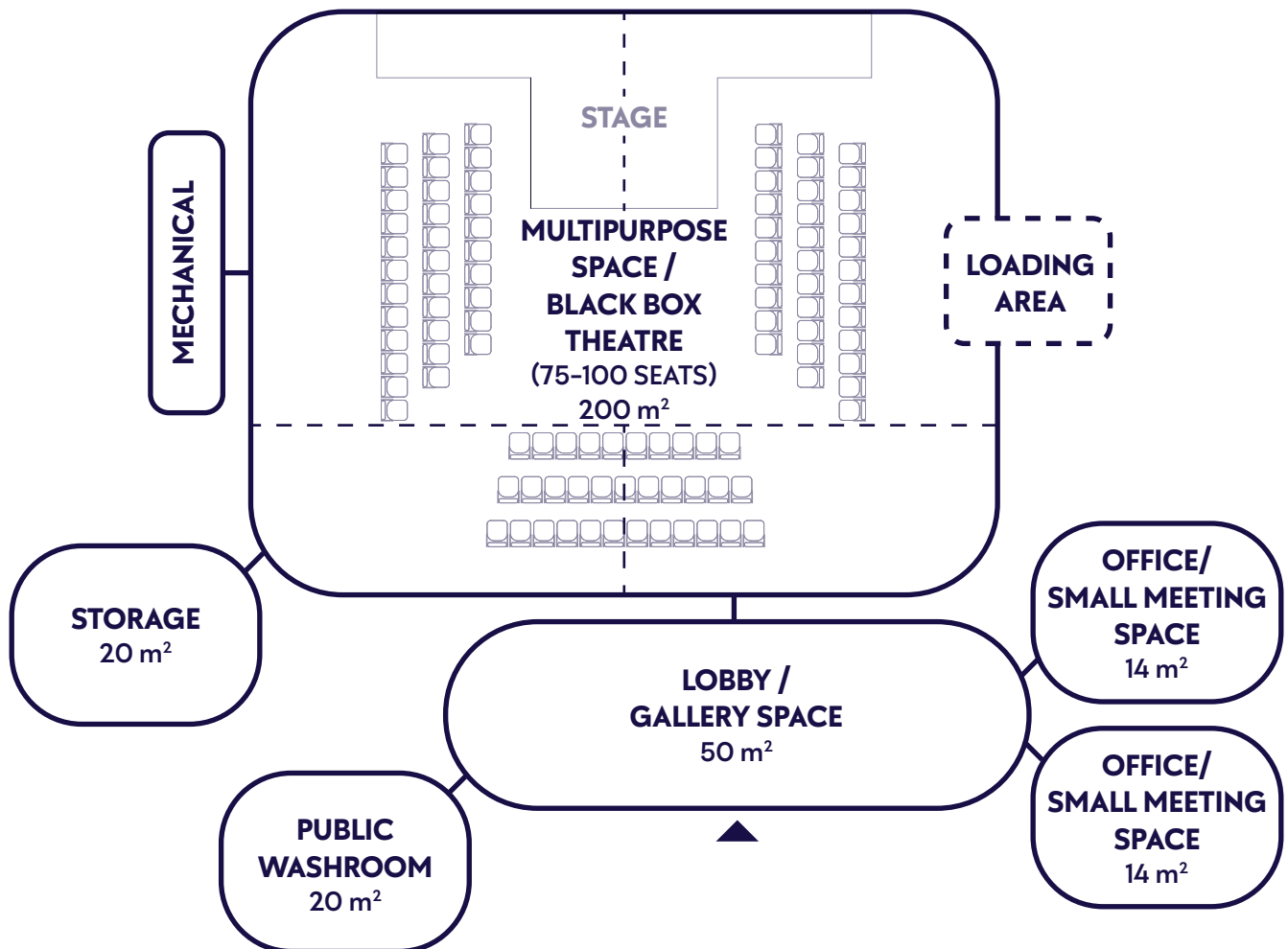
This option presents a slightly increased program size compared to Option B-1. This option fulfills the immediate needs of the Squamish arts community by providing a space which can host performances. Within this option there are publicly accessible washrooms, office spaces and storage for use by Squamish Arts’ employees, a hybrid lobby-gallery space, and a 200 m² multipurpose space, which could be subdivided into two 100 m² multipurpose rooms, that serves as a black box theatre that seats 75-100 people. This space would have a minimum clear height of 7-8 metres and would require specialized acoustic separation to allow for performances.

Room	No. Of Spaces	Indiv. Room Area	Total Room Area
Office/Small Meeting Space	2	14 m ²	28 m ²
Lobby/Gallery Space	1	50 m ²	50 m ²
Washroom	1	20 m ²	20 m ²
Storage	1	20 m ²	20 m ²
Multipurpose Space / Black box theatre	1	250 m ²	200 m ²
Subtotal			318 m²
Design Space: 20% of Subtotal (Circulation, Walls, Mechanical)			64 m²
Gross Total			382 m²

Mezzanine



Ground Floor



Option C-1 Small Makerspace

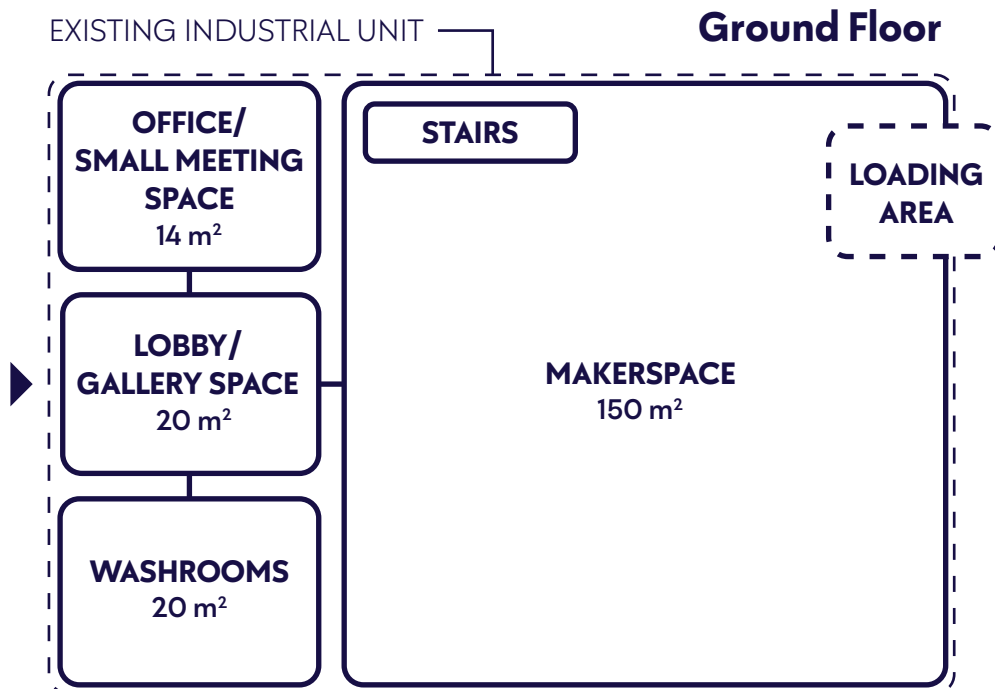
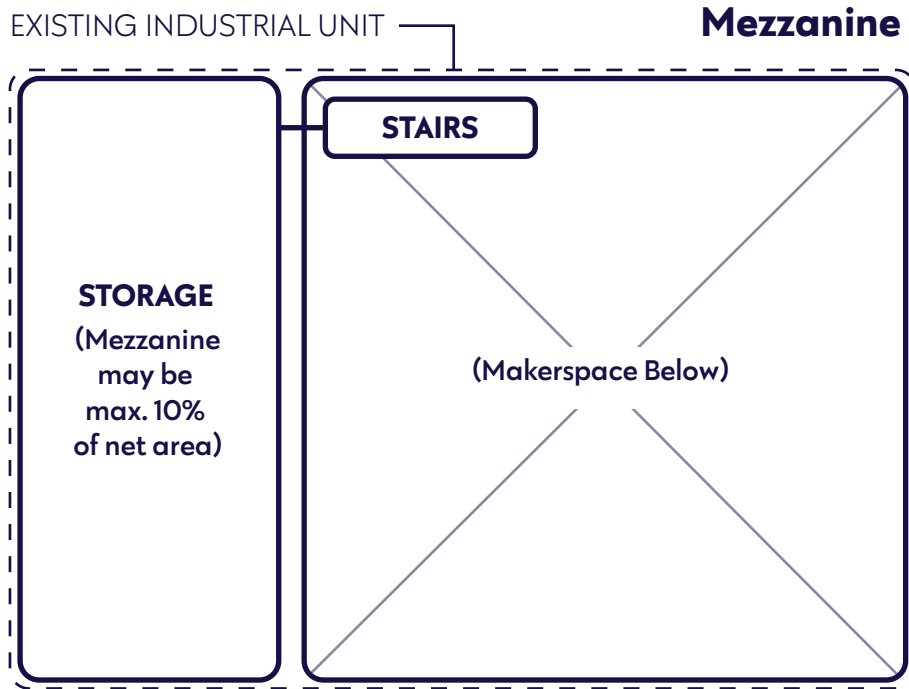
Timeline: Mid-Term

Location: Industrial – *Squamish Business Park*

Area: 245 m²

This option presents an alternative solution to options A and B, whilst still fulfilling the Squamish arts community’s immediate needs. The proposal is designed to fit within an existing unit in the Squamish Business Park and would contain a small multidisciplinary workshop (makerspace). This 150 m² space would have the ability to house woodworkers, sculptors, ceramicists, visual artists, textile workers, set builders and other artisans. Within this option there are washrooms, an office spaces for use by Squamish Arts’ employees, a hybrid lobby / gallery space, and a mezzanine storage space.

Room	No. Of Spaces	Indiv. Room Area	Total Room Area
Office/Small Meeting Space	1	14 m ²	14 m ²
Lobby/Gallery Space	1	20 m ²	20 m ²
Washrooms	1	20 m ²	20 m ²
Makerspace	1	150 m ²	150 m ²
Subtotal			204 m²
Design Space: 20% of Subtotal (Circulation, Walls, Mechanical)			41 m²
Gross Total			245 m²



Option C-2 Large Makerspace

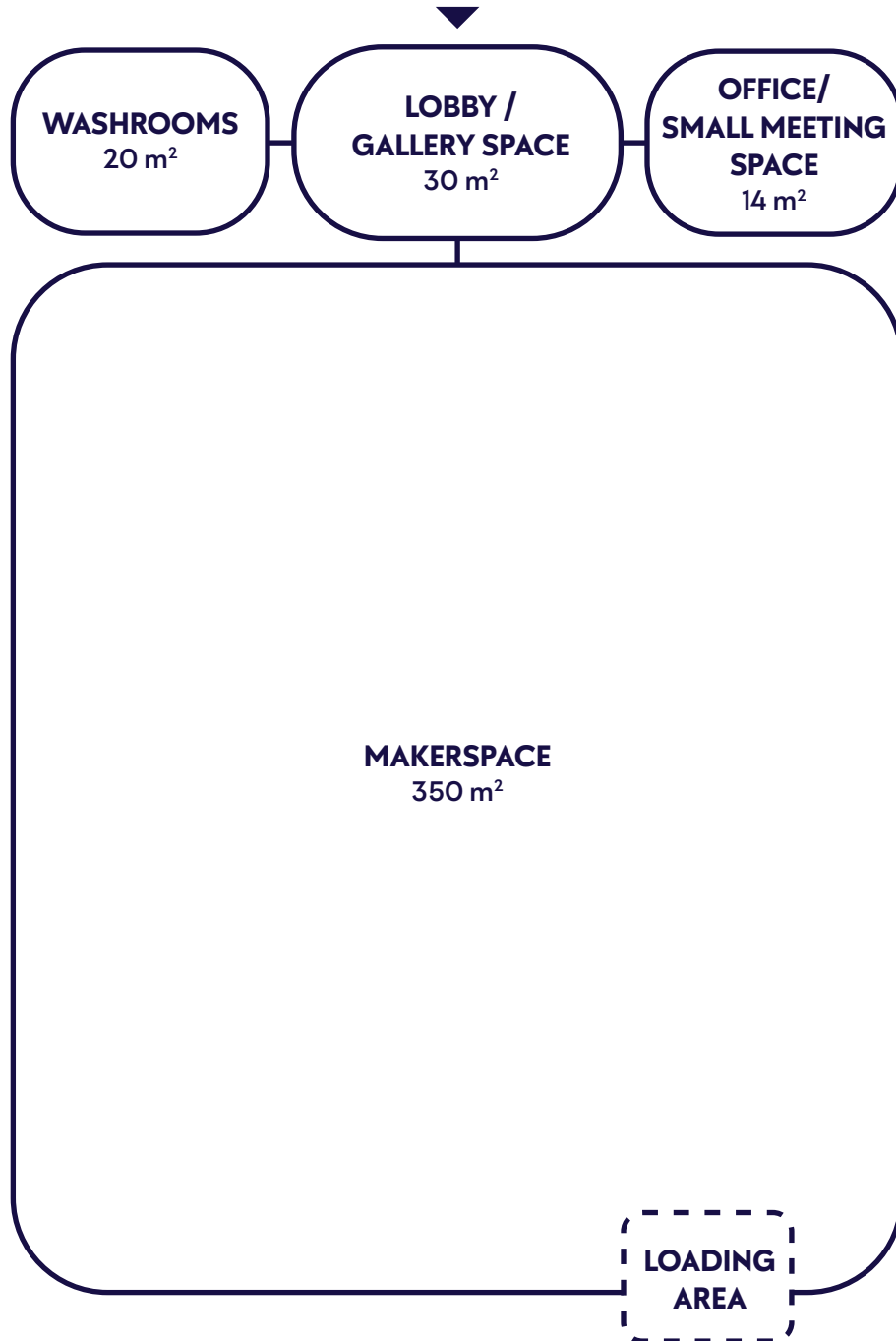
Timeline: Mid-Term

Location: Industrial – *Squamish Business Park*

Area: 473 m²

This option presents an alternative solution to option C-1. While the programming remains the same, the sizing has been modified. Within this option the multidisciplinary workshop (makerspace) grows to 350 m² to better accommodate large-scale projects and/or simultaneous use by different artistic disciplines. Within this option there are two individual washrooms, an office space for use by Squamish Arts’ employees, and a 20 m² lobby / gallery space.

Room	No. Of Spaces	Indiv. Room Area	Total Room Area
Office/Small Meeting Space	1	14 m ²	14 m ²
Lobby/Gallery Space	1	30 m ²	30 m ²
Washroom	1	20 m ²	20 m ²
Makerspace	1	350 m ²	350 m ²
Subtotal			394 m²
Design Space: 20% of Subtotal (Circulation, Walls, Mechanical)			79 m²
Gross Total			473 m²



Option D-1 Large Black Box Arts Hub

Timeline: Long-Term

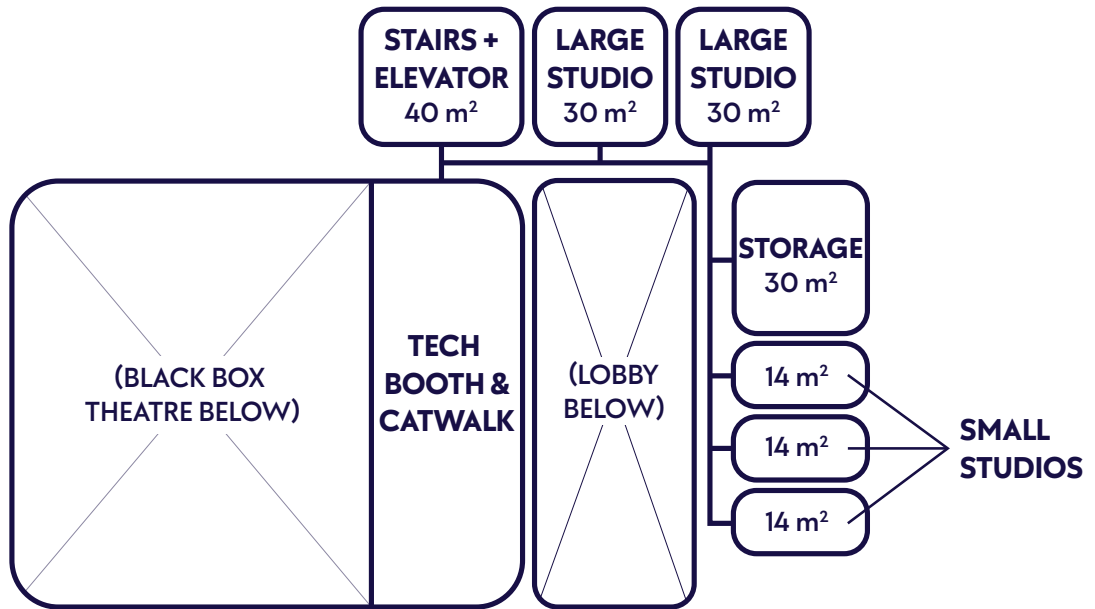
Location: Residential / Commercial - *Downtown or Brennan Park*

Area: 1195 m²

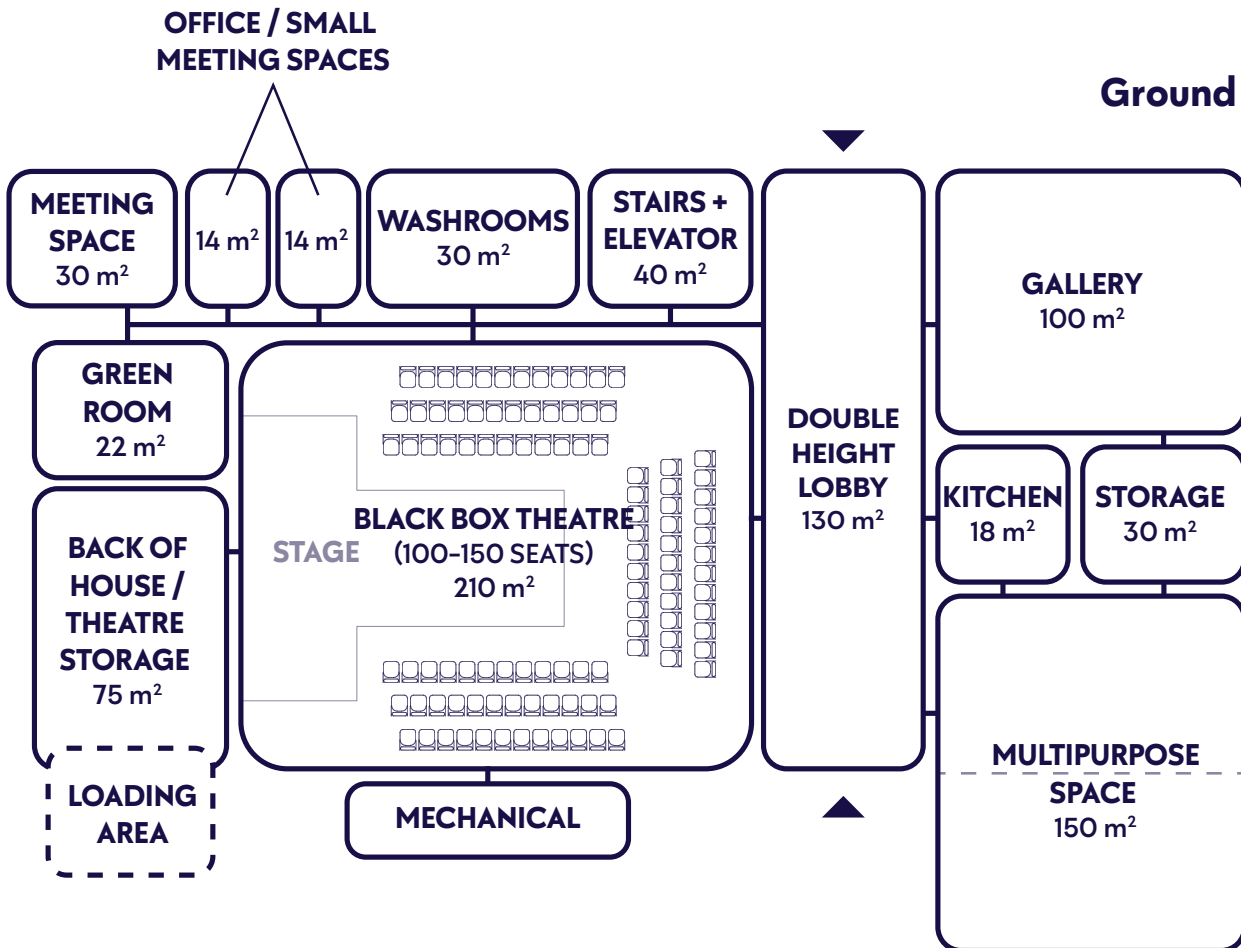
This option presents a smaller version of the “big ticket item” presented in Option D-2. Envisioned as a long-term goal, this facility would require a dedicated site to house the needs of multiple creative user groups under one roof. Programmed using the feedback from our research sessions, the facility includes a 100-150 seat black box theatre, a dedicated mid-sized gallery space, a multipurpose space which can be subdivided into two spaces and the appropriate supporting programs for all of these spaces. The facility would also house Squamish Arts offices and meeting rooms, as well as studio spaces of various sizes.

Room	No. Of Spaces	Indiv. Room Area	Total Room Area
Black Box Theatre	1	210 m ²	210 m ²
Double Height Lobby	1	130 m ²	130 m ²
Gallery	1	100 m ²	100 m ²
Multipurpose Space	1	150 m ²	150 m ²
Kitchen	1	18 m ²	18 m ²
Storage	2	30 m ²	60 m ²
Stairs / Elevator	1	40 m ²	40 m ²
Washrooms	1	30 m ²	30 m ²
Office / Small Meeting Space	2	14 m ²	28 m ²
Meeting Space	1	30 m ²	30 m ²
Green Room	1	22 m ²	22 m ²
B.O.H / Theatre Storage	1	75 m ²	75 m ²
Large Studio	2	30 m ²	60 m ²
Small Studio	3	14 m ²	42 m ²
Subtotal			995 m²
Design Space: 20% of Subtotal (Circulation, Walls, Mechanical)			200 m²
Gross Total			1195 m²

Second Floor



Ground Floor



Option D-2 Large Performing Arts Hub

Timeline: Long-Term

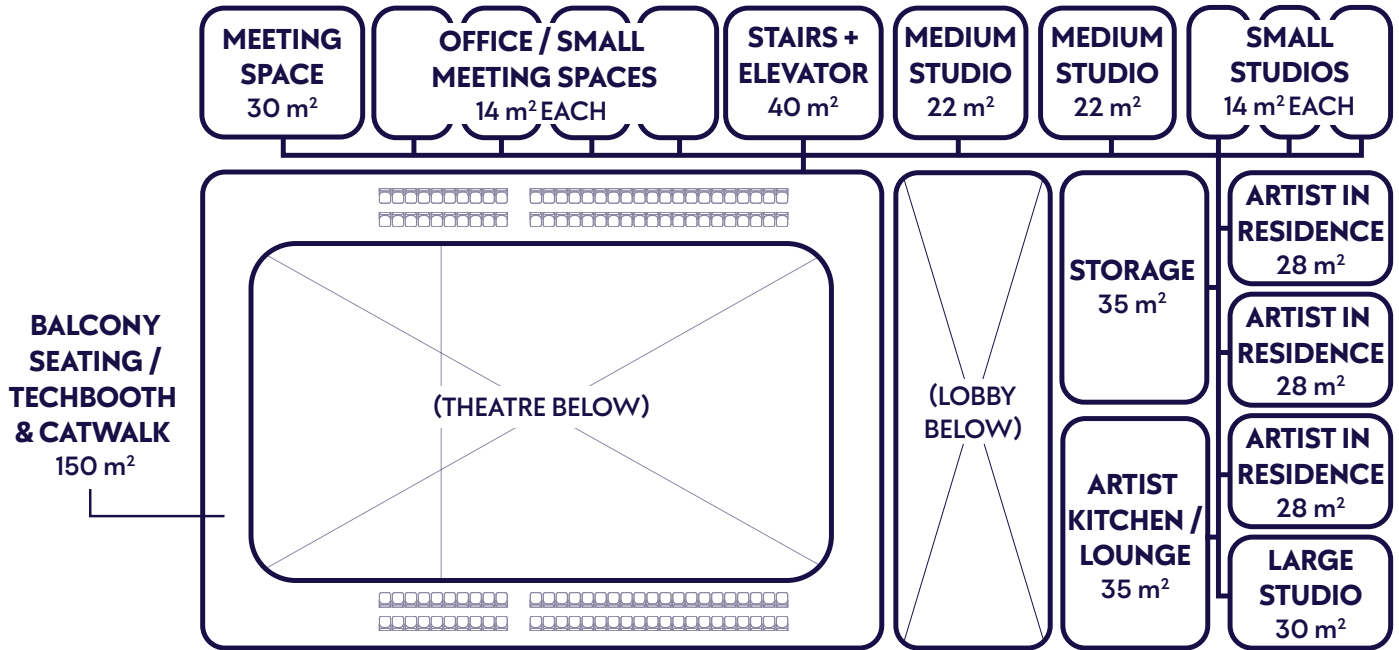
Location: Residential / Commercial - Downtown or Brennan Park

Area: 2453 m²

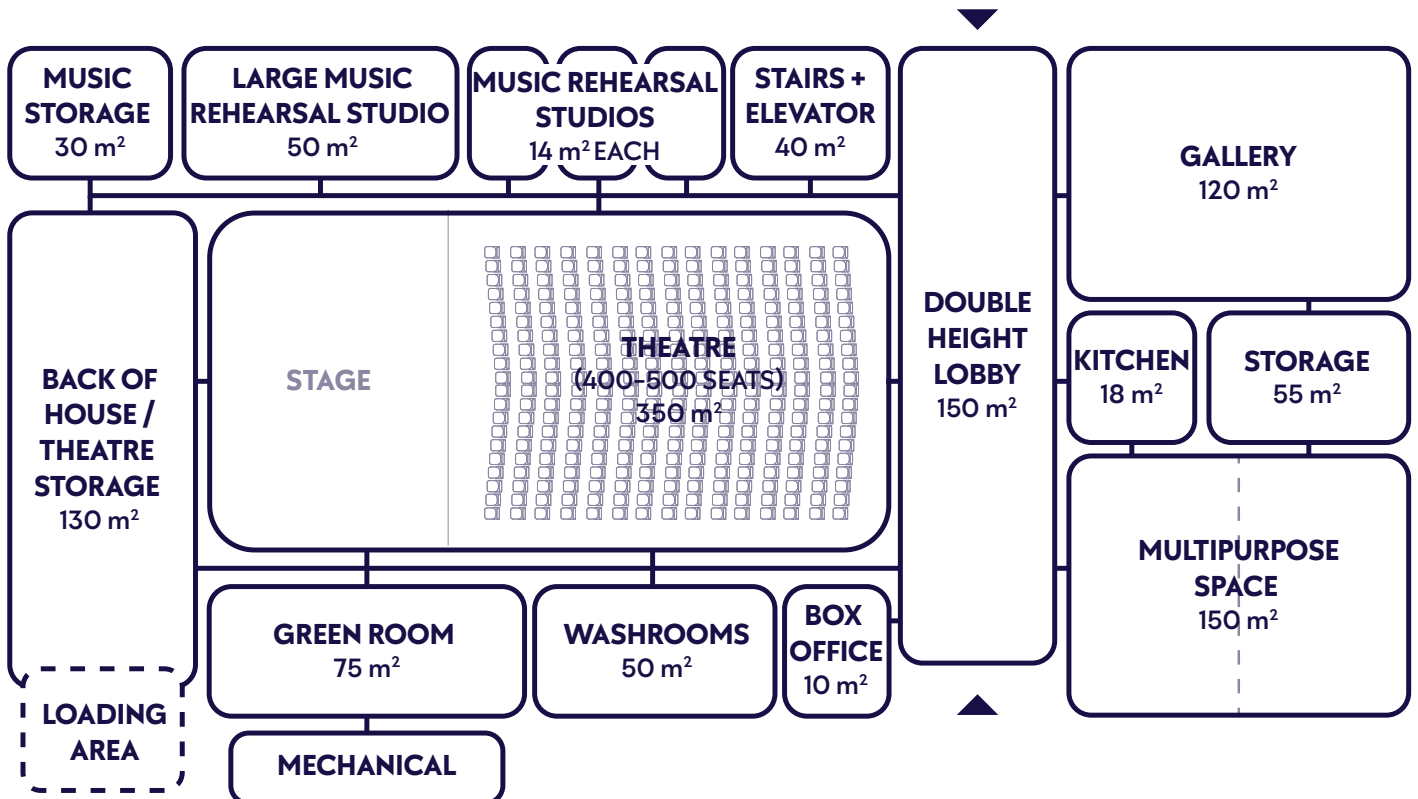
This option presents the cumulative “big ticket item” for Squamish’s arts community, as per the feedback from our research sessions. Envisioned as a long-term goal, this facility would require a large dedicated site. The facility centres around a 400-500 seat theatre, a dedicated mid-sized gallery space, a multipurpose space which can be subdivided into two spaces and the appropriate supporting programs for all of these spaces. The facility would also house Squamish Arts offices and meeting rooms, music rehearsal and recording spaces, and the ability to house artists through a residency program with accommodations and dedicated studios.

Room	No. Of Spaces	Indiv. Room Area	Total Room Area
Theatre	1	350 m ²	350 m ²
Double Height Lobby	1	130 m ²	130 m ²
Box Office	1	10 m ²	10 m ²
Gallery	1	120 m ²	120 m ²
Multipurpose Space	1	150 m ²	150 m ²
Kitchen	1	18 m ²	18 m ²
Storage	3	55 / 30 / 35 m ²	120 m ²
Stairs / Elevator	1	40 m ²	40 m ²
Washrooms	1	50 m ²	50 m ²
Small Music Rehearsal	3	14 m ²	42 m ²
Large Music Rehearsal	1	50 m ²	50 m ²
Green Room	1	75 m ²	75 m ²
B.O.H / Theatre Storage	1	130 m ²	130 m ²
Balcony / Tech Catwalk	1	150 m ²	150 m ²
Meeting Space	1	30 m ²	30 m ²
Office / Small Meeting Space	4	14 m ²	56 m ²
Small Studio	3	14 m ²	42 m ²
Medium Studio	2	22 m ²	44 m ²
Large Studio	1	30 m ²	30 m ²
Artist Residence	3	28 m ²	84 m ²
Artist Kitchen / Lounge	1	35 m ²	35 m ²
Subtotal			2044 m²
Design Space: 20% of Subtotal (Circulation, Walls, Mechanical)			408 m²
Gross Total			2453 m²

Second Floor



Ground Floor



Part IV

Funding



Funding Summary

The realization of an arts facility in Squamish has long been plagued by the lack of available funding. Our team has concluded this study by presenting two options which Squamish Arts and the DoS can explore to help actualize the options presented in Part III of this report.

Option 1: Community Amenity Contribution

The first recommendation is to utilize the DoS's existing Community Amenity Contribution policy. The policy currently focuses on providing affordable housing, parkland and community spaces such as daycares. By expanding the policy focus to include arts facilities, the DoS can secure spaces at a lower upfront cost. Giving proper priority to the arts community is paramount when negotiating these contributions with developers.

Option 2: Grant Funding

The second recommendation is to pursue grant funding. This option can be pursued in conjunction with *Option 1*.

