

Support The Polygon Gallery

INVESTING IN ART AND COMMUNITY



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THE POLYGON GALLERY

Grounded in photography and operating on the unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) Band, The Polygon Gallery creates space to challenge how we see the world.

The Polygon builds upon the legacy of Presentation House Gallery, its former home and name, which presented more than 300 exhibitions focused on photography and media art, growing a reputation over forty years as one of Canada's most adventurous public art institutions.

After relocating to its purpose-built home in 2017, The Polygon now welcomes over 150,000 visitors annually. Designed by Canada's leading architects, the building mirrors the stunning geography of Vancouver's North Shore, where the mountains meet the ocean. The Polygon has won many prestigious awards for the building's innovative design, including the 2019 Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia Medal in Architecture; the Governor General's Medal in Architecture in 2020; and the AIA Architecture Award and RIBA International Award for Excellence in 2021. The Polygon Gallery was also a shortlisted laureate of the 2022 Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize.

The Gallery seeks to remove barriers for all people to access and enjoy art as part of their daily lives. Admission is by-donation every day to all exhibitions and public programs, while educational programs for students are offered free of charge.

The Polygon's exhibitions reflect its commitment to presenting diverse voices and perspectives. Recent highlights include *As We Rise: Photography from the Black Atlantic*, celebrating Black identity and community through powerful, iconic images, and *Velvet Terrorism: Pussy Riot's Russia*, the first survey of the infamous feminist art collective's bold resistance to authoritarianism.

The organization's commitment to meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples is guided by Indigenous staff, who lead programs such as Response and the Indigenous Youth Program that offer workshops led by inspiring Indigenous artists and Knowledge Holders. To facilitate community connections, increased access to art, and a sense of belonging, all Indigenous Peoples of Canada are offered Membership at The Polygon at no cost.

Year-round education and outreach programming brings people of all ages together in the spirit of curiosity and exploration. Monthly art-making activities for children and their families, dedicated programs for students, and mentorship opportunities for emerging artists form the foundation of a life-long engagement with art. Adults deepen their understanding through artist talks, live performances, film screenings, and tours, while seniors find a welcoming community in the monthly Meet Me at the Gallery program.

Front and back cover: Installation view of the exhibition *Interior Infinite*, 2021
Opposite: Gallery guests view *As We Rise: Photography From The Black Atlantic*, 2023



The Gallery celebrates the diversity of its audiences. Nowruz and Yalda programming, and cinema from Iran, for example, have been appreciated by North Vancouver's Persian community as opportunities for healing and gathering. Programming has also been presented in partnership with The BLACK Arts Centre, Kara-Kata Afrobeat Society of Canada, and North Shore Pride Alliance, among others, which further allyship and mutual respect.

Alongside The Polygon's growth comes the added task of sustaining a state-of-the-art facility and expanded programming. Rising to meet the opportunity to manage its own facility, the Gallery has established new revenue streams through a robust venue rentals program, a carefully curated Shop featuring local makers, The Diane Evans Bookstore, and the creation of an endowment fund, as well as active sponsorship and membership programs.

While these new revenue sources bolster The Polygon's income, it is the generosity of individual donors that enables the organization to move beyond operational concerns into the space of vision and innovation.

The Polygon's Leadership donors help us bring our bold vision to life—fueling boundary-pushing exhibitions that challenge and inspire, and outreach programs that break down barriers and foster inclusion—ultimately reinforcing The Polygon's place as one of Canada's leading contemporary art institutions.

Thank you for your interest in learning more about opportunities to support The Polygon Gallery's work.



Guests of the opening celebration for Jeremy Shaw: *Phase Shifting Index*, 2023

LEADERSHIP SUPPORT: INVESTING IN EXHIBITIONS, PROGRAMS, AND PUBLICATIONS

The Polygon Gallery is a place for everyone: locals and visitors, kids and adults, advocates and sceptics, life-long art lovers and first-time gallery-goers. It's a space for curiosity, conversation, and cultural exchange. It is your place.

Your gift is an important investment in art and ideas, helping to sustain The Polygon's continued success as a vibrant hub of artistic activity.

Donors provide the strong foundation upon which the Gallery's vision is built and are the catalysts that bring creative ideas to life. Your generosity helps to remove barriers to powerful art experiences for others and allows The Polygon to reach new audiences and strengthen engagement with our diverse community.



Leadership support encompasses these donation levels:

ARTIST CIRCLE: annual donation of \$1,000 (or \$84 monthly)

- A tax receipt for the full amount of your gift
- Free entry for your household for one year
- Opportunity to host guests with free admission on every visit
- Exclusive access to VIP Previews of every exhibition with the exhibition curator and/or artist
- 10% discount in The Polygon Shop and The Diane Evans Bookstore
- 10% discount at Nemesis Coffee at The Polygon
- Invitation to the annual Artist Circle Cocktail Party
- Recognition on the Donor Sign and in the Annual Report

COLLECTORS CIRCLE: annual donation of \$2,500 (or \$209 monthly)

All the benefits of an Artist Circle Membership, plus:

- Invitation to the annual Collector's Circle Dinner Party
- Special access to the Lind Edition, an editioned artwork produced exclusively for Polygon donors (with a partial tax receipt) OR a tax receipt for the full amount of your gift

PUBLICATION CIRCLE: annual donation of \$5,000 (or \$417 monthly)

All the benefits of a Collectors Circle Membership, plus:

- Private tour of every exhibition with the Curator
- Lasting recognition in one publication produced during the year
- Invitation to participate in The Polygon's International Travel Program

EXHIBITION CIRCLE: annual donation of \$10,000

All the benefits of a Collectors Circle Membership, plus:

- Private tour of every exhibition with the Curator
- Recognition on the title wall of one exhibition during the year
- Priority access to participate in The Polygon's International Travel Program
- Invitation to the annual Exhibition Circle Dinner

Leadership gifts may be renewed each year, or you may wish to make a multi-year commitment to allow the Gallery to plan ahead with some measure of financial stability. In either case, you may choose to give monthly with a recurring donation that helps to sustain The Polygon's work by providing a steady source of income.

Propel our mission forward by pledging your support. The Polygon is just getting started in its next exciting chapter.

ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT: LASTING SUPPORT OF THE POLYGON'S WORK INTO THE FUTURE

The impact of investing in endowment funds cannot be understated—contributions to The Polygon's Endowment Fund are invested in perpetuity, with revenues allocated to the Gallery's artistic program every year, forever. Established in 2015, the Fund now holds over \$4.8 million, which contributes \$240,000 annually to the Gallery's operations.

The Endowment Fund was created with the following three aims:

- **Stable and Sustainable Income:** The Endowment Fund provides an ongoing source of reliable revenues in perpetuity, on which The Polygon can depend to fund its annual programming. Because of the reliable nature of this income, the Gallery can plan its growth responsibly, without putting pressure on its annual fundraising plan.
- **Program Expansion:** Designated endowment funding enables the Gallery to create new programs without additional pressure on resources, as in the case of The Lind Biennial that is now fully funded by designated endowment revenues.
- **Financial Flexibility:** The endowment offers the Gallery increased fiscal opportunity, by providing flexibility and self-sustaining income streams. The endowment broadens the overall revenue mix, improves the income statement, and provides leverage for future loans for facility expansion, while providing a measure of independence from economic, governmental, and political forces.

Notably, through the Endowment Incentives Component of the Canada Cultural Investment Fund, **The Polygon receives matching funds for all donations to its Endowment Fund.** The Government of Canada will match every donation allocated to The Polygon Gallery Endowment Fund, increasing the impact of each charitable gift.

Endowment donations are held in perpetuity, with annual revenues directly allocated to the Gallery's artistic program. At a minimum, 5% of the total investment is received every year from the endowment fund. For instance, in the case of a \$1,000,000 donation to The Polygon Endowment Fund, matching funding from the Federal Government may bring the total invested to \$1,600,000 (based on a 65% match, the recent average), which may provide approximately \$80,000 per year to the Gallery, every year in perpetuity.

Donations of \$1,000,000 (excluding matching funds from the Government of Canada) will be honoured in the naming of a Gallery program, which will be chosen in consultation with donors to match the spirit of the gift.

Because of the nature of the investment, The Polygon suggests a minimum donation of \$25,000 to its Endowment Fund. Multi-year commitments are accepted with gratitude.



THE CURATORS CIRCLE: MULTI-YEAR INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABILITY

The Curators Circle—a commitment of \$20,000 annually for five years—provides vital, multi-year funding for the Gallery’s acclaimed curatorial program, alongside support of The Polygon Gallery Endowment Fund, which provides access to exceptional art experience for future generations. You would join a small group of The Polygon’s closest supporters who have made this multi-year commitment to ensure the Gallery remains an incubator for ambitious artistic exploration.

As a member of the Curators Circle, half of your annual donation will support exhibitions organized by The Polygon and generated by its growing curatorial team. In this leadership role, you will help to further the Gallery’s mission to generate insights into contemporary and historical art and create critical new pathways for emergent voices.

For each year of your support, The Polygon would align recognition of your generosity with an exhibition of your choice from the dynamic curatorial program.

The other half of your commitment would be allocated to The Polygon Gallery’s Endowment Fund. Your cumulative donations over the five-year term, matched with Endowment Incentives grants, would provide distributions, in perpetuity, to the Gallery’s esteemed curatorial program and its accompanying publications and public programs. As a Curators Circle member, therefore, you would have a meaningful impact on the lives of many future generations.

Benefits for Curators Circle donors include the following for each year of your membership:

- Special access to the Lind Edition, an editioned artwork produced exclusively for Polygon donors (with a partial tax receipt) OR a tax receipt for the full amount of your gift
- Free entry for your household for one year
- Opportunity to host guests with free admission on every visit
- Recognition on the title wall for one exhibition
- Private tour of every exhibition with the Curator
- Invitation to the annual Exhibition Circle Dinner
- Priority access to participate in The Polygon’s International Travel Program
- 10% discount in The Polygon Shop and The Diane Evans Bookstore
- 10% discount at Nemesis Coffee at The Polygon
- Recognition on the Donor Sign and in the Annual Report

LEGACY GIFTS: FOR THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

Planned giving—choosing to designate a future donation as part of your will and estate planning—is a way to celebrate and honour those values that are important to you during your lifetime. Including a legacy investment in The Polygon Gallery’s Endowment Fund in your plan is a permanent commitment to the future of the arts in our community.

The following planned giving instruments are accepted, with gratitude:

- Bequests in the form of specific dollar amounts in cash
- Life insurance
- Charitable gift annuities and remainder trusts
- Retirement assets, including RRSPs, RRIFs and other pension assets
- Other registered savings plans, including TFSAs

Legacy gifts of all sizes are warmly welcomed, and donations of \$1,000,000 (excluding matching funds from the Government of Canada) may be designated for a specific purpose and named in honour of the donor. The cost of operating the named program must necessarily equal the annual revenues from the bequest – 5% of the total donation amount.

There are many different ways to designate testamentary gifts to your personal interests. Examples may be an International Lecture Series, a student scholarship program, or a commissioning program, which may then be named “The NAME International Lecture Series,” or “The NAME Curator-in-Residence,” and The Polygon looks very forward to working with interested donors to create a meaningful legacy aligned to their priorities and values.

Those considering a planned gift should be in touch with The Polygon about their intentions. Our team will work with you to ensure that the intention of the donation is able to be fulfilled in perpetuity, and that you are happy with The Polygon’s plan to honour your donation – both during your lifetime and in perpetuity.

As part of a long-term and thoughtful approach to philanthropy, planned giving not only benefits The Polygon Gallery and its diverse audiences, but it can also provide benefits such as tax deductions, avoidance of capital gains taxes, and reduced estate and gift taxes. As every situation is unique, donors are encouraged to consult with their personal financial and legal advisors in preparation for this donation.

The Polygon requests that all donors who have made a planned gift complete a pledge form as a record of their commitment, so that we can begin celebrating and acknowledging your generosity!

As The Polygon’s Endowment Fund is managed by the Vancouver Foundation, the following wording is important for legacy gifts:

Sample will clause:

To give [\$___ / ___% / the residue] of my Estate to the Vancouver Foundation, charitable registration #11928 1640 RR0001, to be added to The Polygon Gallery Endowment Fund.

When designating The Polygon as a beneficiary for gifts of life insurance, RRSP, RRIF or TFSAs:

Beneficiary: Vancouver Foundation, charitable registration #11928 1640 RR0001, to be added to The Polygon Gallery Endowment Fund.



Response participants welcomed to their exhibition opening with a drum performance by Squamish artist Xwalacktun



INVESTMENT SUMMARY

Thank you for joining The Polygon Gallery in its ambition to become one of the world’s most esteemed artist- and exhibition-focused galleries, working with the world’s most intriguing artists and curators to create seminal exhibitions and inspiring programming. Donations of all sizes are very meaningful to our work.

Contributions are gratefully accepted in three streams—Annual Leadership Support, Endowment Support, or Legacy Giving—each with different aims, but all significant in their impact on our work:

Annual Leadership Support:

- contributes directly to The Polygon’s artistic program in the year in which it is given;
- is recognized through different levels of support, ranging from Artist Circle to Curators Circle, each of which comes with social and educational engagement opportunities; and
- provides a base of support from which The Polygon can move beyond operational concerns into the space of vision and innovation.

Endowment Support:

- is invested immediately and in perpetuity, so that the original amount of the donation is never spent;
- will be matched by the Federal Government;
- contributes the interest generated (minimum 5% of the donation per year) every quarter to The Polygon’s annual revenues and directly supports its artistic program; and
- may be recognized through the naming of a program that the donor wishes to directly support (for donations of \$1,000,000 or more excluding matching funds from the Government of Canada).

Legacy Donations:

- are an opportunity to meaningfully reflect your values in perpetuity;
- may be designated to a specific area of investment (if \$1,000,000 or more) to be named in honour of the donor;
- should be carefully considered along with family and advisors, as the importance and impact of these gifts is substantial; and
- require communication with The Polygon Gallery to ensure suitable designation and recognition, both within your lifetime and in perpetuity.

All of these areas are important revenue sources for The Polygon: your donation helps to bring our mandate to life, fueling boundary-pushing exhibitions and innovative outreach programs.

Thank you for your consideration.



Your questions are always welcome!

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