



546 YATES

Our New Home

The Victoria Youth Clinic Society

Operator and Lead Agency for
Foundry Victoria

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED

In September 2023, the Victoria Youth Clinic Society-Foundry Victoria moved to 546 Yates!

Our big move was planned over the course of a few years, but rapidly came together in nine months. This included extensive engagement with staff, youth, and families, anticipating our future needs, and managing the realities of the existing space.

We are so grateful for and proud of 546 Yates. Every detail from paint colours, shelves, rooms, and flooring were chosen with our young people in mind. Following their advice, the space feels warm and welcoming to clients and provides all the resources our staff need.



* ABOUT US *

The Victoria Youth Clinic (VYC) started in 1998 as a non-profit organization that provided integrated and comprehensive primary health care services for youth aged 12 to 24 years. In the fall of 2017, the Victoria Youth Clinic Society became the lead agency for Foundry Victoria. This connected us to province-wide network of youth-focused healthcare providers and over 200 partners including government and community organizations. Our integrated healthcare teams work together to provide services at the forefront of the community's needs: mental health, substance use, primary care, social services, and peer support.

Our new space has helped us strengthen partnerships, offer new services, and better support the vulnerable young people who come through our doors.

The Victoria Youth Clinic Society – Foundry Victoria is grateful to live, work, and gather on the lands of the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples, specifically the stolen traditional territories of the T'Sou-ke, Scia'new (Beecher Bay), Xwsepsum (Esquimalt), Songhees, STÁUTW (Tsawout), W̱JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), W̱SIKEM (Tseycum), BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin), and MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat).

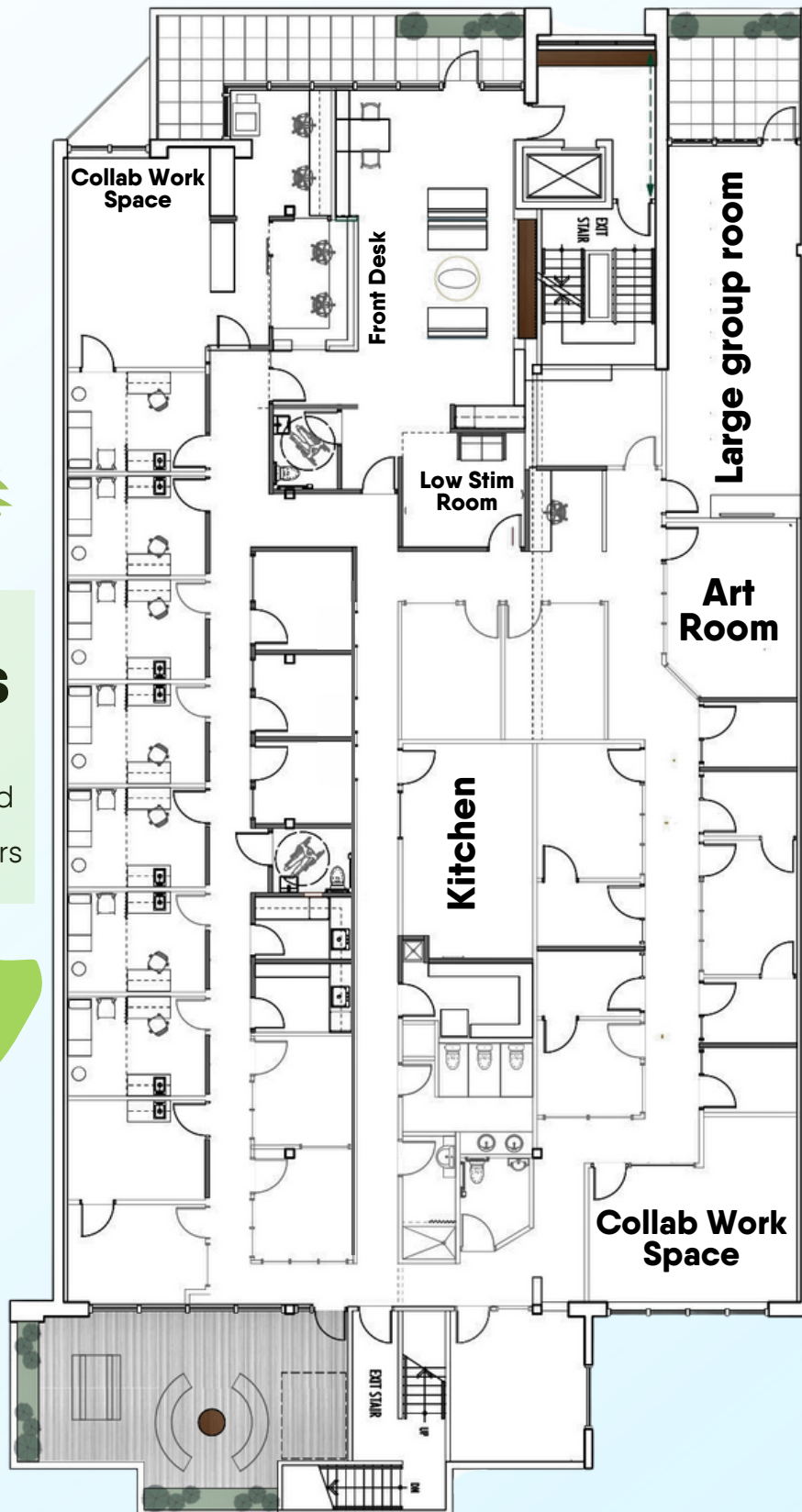
We honour Métis, Inuit, First Nations, and all Indigenous peoples whose stewardship of Turtle Island has protected the earth, water, and sky, as well as the health and wellbeing practices that have sustained us, and we seek to be good ancestors in our work.

As an organization, we commit to reconciliation, decolonizing our health care practices, and Indigenous youth-led health solutions that support current and future generations.

Art room used by art therapists, peer support workers, and all staff for meetings.

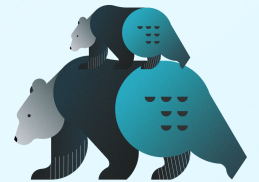


Welcome to 546 Yates!



Clinic Rooms

Used by doctors, nurses, and nurse practitioners



Talking Rooms

Used by counsellors, case managers, peer support workers, and Employment & Education support staff

WHAT WE'RE HEARING

Clients, staff, and the public love our new space!



"It is so close to other youth services, I am never going to miss another doctors appointment again!"
- Youth Clinic Client

"In this new location, [we] will be able to continue to provide vital supports in a low-barrier & stigma-free environment so that more young people and their families can get the supports they need"
- Minister Jennifer Whiteside

"We have such dedicated staff here who are willing to work, and now we actually have space for them."
- Neeraj Grewal, Centre Manager

Some Highlights

Location - Right in the heart of Downtown, with access to main bus routes and plenty of parking.

Space - With over 7,500 sqf, we can meet the unique needs of our youth, families, and programming. The offices and clinic rooms are large enough to feel comfortable. Plus, all of our staff will have somewhere to sit!

The Great Outdoors - With three patios, 546 Yates offers us new opportunities to help our clients and staff decompress. This will benefit wellness groups, counselling sessions, and provide new program options!

Plus: bike storage, tons of natural lighting, big group spaces, proximity to spaces for off-site client meetings, and great youth-focused non-profit neighbours!

Hallway view going toward the Bear talking rooms.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The Victoria Youth Clinic does essential work supporting vulnerable young people, exemplified by the story of one of our clients. He is kind, outgoing and community minded. He has accessed several of our services since 2020 to help manage his anxiety and substances use. With the support of our team's wrap-around care, he tapered off illegal benzodiazepines, navigated housing and family stressors, and began to thrive.

In his own words: "Without the support of [VYC], I truly have no idea how I would have navigated the terrible situation I was in. I walked into the office tearfully and in the blink of an eye I had been immediately surrounded by caring, supportive, and loving people who knew I needed help and were willing to do anything they could to support me through that terrible time. I avoided a relapse with a potent, dangerous medication, I avoided losing my job, I managed to stay relatively calm throughout the situation, I was able to keep myself healthy, clean, and fed, I was able to find a place for my cat to stay while we were out of our apartment, and I was able to achieve all of this because of Foundry and the support I received."

With our primary care, social services, and counselling teams all in one place and properly resourced with the space they need, we can do a better job offering young people the wrap around care they deserve.



Clinic rooms used by primary care.

FINANCES

We are so grateful for our community who rallied around us. We made this happen on a very quick timeline, and without our champions this never would have been possible.

TOTAL COST: \$2,000,000

Costs

Youth-focused renovations

With the help of our architect and construction team, we created a welcoming space for our young people. This included a much needed facelift as well as ensuring the space had all the needed soundproofing, wiring, and plumbing.

\$1,400,000

Project management fees

To make the best space, we had the best people on our team! This includes the fees for architects, designers, utility consulting and construction project management.

\$170,000

Furniture & supplies

We already had some great youth-friendly furniture, but we needed help getting it into the space. These funds were also used to purchase new furniture, install new phone & security systems, and add décor to make the space feel as youth-focused as possible.

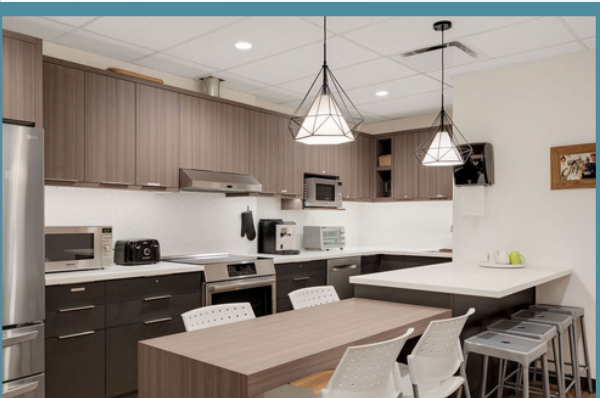
\$305,000

Administration

To make our space the best it could be, we had to invest our staff's time. We also compensated the youth and families who provided their insight. These funds also contributed to a future fund, helping us cover unexpected building costs to come.

\$125,000

Kitchen for staff + groups.



Nourish station for clients on their way to appointments.



THANK YOU!

Our wonderful new space could not have happened without the love and support of so many in our community. We are so grateful to our donors and partners for sharing our vision of a brighter future for young people, their families and caregivers, our community, and province.

Brenric Construction (Jeff, Brock, and everyone on site), we are so grateful for all your hard work.

Hillel Architecture (Karen and Ty), you designed this space perfectly for us! Thank you so much for all your thoughtfulness, intention, and patience

The Victoria Youth Clinic Society is so grateful for our funders, helping us meet the needs of our young people and bring this new space to reality: **Children's Health Foundation Vancouver Island, Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund, the R.K. Grant Family Foundation, the Watkins Bixby Fund, and Victoria Foundation's Vital Youth Program.**

Foundry Central Office was an incredible partner, helping us forge our new space. Steve, Karen, Molly, Marlow, Lito, and Brian, your support, creativity, and belief in us was instrumental in getting us to 546 Yates.

Foundry and their fundraising partner **St. Paul's Foundation** thank and recognize their funders for their leadership in creating and sustaining the Foundry provincial initiative:

Anonymous, Bell-Graham Boeckh Foundation Partnership, Government of Canada, Graham Boeckh Foundation, John & Claire Nicola, Morris Foundation, Province of BC, RBC Foundation, and Sun Life.

Questions, comments, or want to help out? Contact Sophia Seward,
Development Lead
sseward@foundryvictoria.ca.

One of our Talking Rooms, used by counsellors, peer support workers, and for non-medical appointments



SINCE WE MOVED IN...

631 young people have accessed VYCS-Foundry Victoria's services

3,076 visits to our new location, 546 Yates

4,100 services accessed, including scheduled & drop-in appointments

21%
of our clients
are trans & non-
binary

13%
of our clients
are
Indigenous

18
is the
average age
of our clients

What are clients getting support with?

