

2. Heritage Designation and Heritage Revitalization Agreement : 1450 West 64th Avenue (Joy Kogawa House) - SUPPORT

Date Received	Time Created	Subject	Position	Content	Name	Organization	Contact Info	Neighbourhood	Attachment
07/06/2022	14:53	PH3 - 2. Heritage Designation: 1450 West 64th Avenue (Joy Kogawa House)	Support	As Mayor and Council consider our application for heritage designation and a heritage revitalization agreement for 1450 West 64th Avenue, I ask for your approval of this motion to allow the house to continue to support the creation of new work by professional and emerging writers. The childhood home of Joy Kogawa, currently known as Kogawa House, is a vital space for writers and writing in the City of Vancouver. The place also has a deeper story that I would like to say more about. The house is a site of trauma and healing for unspeakable harm that happened before the War. Children were hurt here, and we take this harm very seriously. It is never far from our minds. The house was owned by Joy Kogawa's father, Gordon Goichi Nakayama, who worked with the Japanese Canadian community as a minister of the Anglican Church of Canada. In talking with Japanese Canadians, we have come to understand that in his position as clergy, Gordon Goichi Nakayama betrayed his position of trust and authority and brought considerable harm to the Japanese Canadian community. While owning and living in the house that now celebrates the work of his daughter, Joy Kogawa, we understand that Gordon Goichi Nakayama sexually abused many children. The victims of Nakayama's clergy sexual abuse include Japanese Canadian families who were living in the Marpole area before the outbreak of the Second World War when the Nakayama family lived at what is now Kogawa House. Those suffering under Nakayama's abuse include the victims, but also their friends, families, and descendants who now live in communities across Canada. We have made a full acknowledgment of our support for survivors and survivor families, and despite setbacks and mistakes, we hope that they will understand that we hear them. When our community group undertook the preservation and protection of this historic house, we thought it would be about the work of Joy Kogawa, her writing, and her work to share the story of the internment experience of Japanese Canadians. We thought we had a good idea of how the house could serve as inspiration for writers and the writing community. Discovering what was needed, we thought, would be accomplished by listening to what Japanese Canadians told us was important. We tried to listen openly and willingly, with what we thought was a good understanding of what they were going to tell us. But the stories that we heard were far from what was expected. Children and families were harmed here. We live this truth every day. In acknowledging this truth, our hearts go out to these children and to their families who spoke out against this abuse but were not heard. Kogawa House is committed to working with the community to help the healing process for those individuals and families affected by Nakayama's actions. We understand that acknowledging this history is important to healing. We know that you have waited far too long for this acknowledgment.	Ann-Marie Metten	Historic Joy Kogawa House Society	's 22(1) Personal and Confidential"	Marpole	APPENDIX A
07/07/2022	13:48	PH3 - 2. Heritage Designation: 1450 West 64th	Support	A Heritage designation for Historic Joy Kogawa House is invaluable to ensure the long-term protection of this site, a site that not only helps nourish writers but also serves as a place to remember and reflect upon historic injustice ' and to carry that message forward to help Vancouver residents reflect on current issues related to inclusion, diversity and cultural understanding.	Michael Mirolla			Unknown	No web attachments.
07/07/2022	14:01	PH3 - 2. Heritage Designation: 1450 West 64th Avenue (Joy Kogawa House)	Support	As a long-time Vancouver artist, arts leader and recipient of the Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award I strongly support heritage designation for Joy Kogawa House. It is an indispensable piece of civic cultural infrastructure, an ongoing and major support for writers; a piece of Vancouver and BC's history that is critical to preserve; an homage to one of the province's great writers, in her childhood home; a site for learning for both adults and the many school children who visit it. It is also remarkably well-managed and preserved. Everything must be done to ensure that this critical resource, landmark and holder of this city's history is preserved. Sincerely, Marcus Youssef	Marcus Youssef	Newworld Theatre		Grandview-Woodland	No web attachments.
07/07/2022	14:10	PH3 - 2. Heritage Designation and Heritage Revitalization	Support	Please support the Heritage Designation for Joy Kogawa House. I am one of the writers who attend cultural events there regularly. Even in the last two difficult years, their arts programming has been so good. Thank you, Danny Peart	Danny Peart			Dunbar-Southlands	No web attachments.
07/07/2022	15:14	PH3 - 2. Heritage Designation and Heritage Revitalization Agreement : 1450 West 64th Avenue (Joy Kogawa House)	Support	I support the Heritage Revitalization Agreement for 1450 West 64th Avenue (also known as 'Joy Kogawa House'). As a heritage site, the infrastructure of the Joy Kogawa House needs ongoing, long-term protection as it is a rare and precious space for writers and artists, especially those from disadvantaged and equity-seeking communities, from BC and beyond, as well as a place to remember historic injustice ' and to carry that message forward to help Vancouver residents reflect on current issues. Additionally, considering the insufficient cultural spaces in the city of Vancouver, the Kogawa House serves as a unique platform for cultural and knowledge productions. I urge the Council and Mayor to support this Agreement.	Henry Heng Lu	Centre A: Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art		Unknown	No web attachments.
07/07/2022	15:37	PH3 - 2. Heritage Designation and Heritage Revitalization Agreement : 1450 West 64th Avenue (Joy Kogawa House)	Support	Dear Honourable Mayor Kennedy and Councillors, I am Vancouver's current Poet Laureate. Having lived in Vancouver for over fifty years, and attended Vancouver elementary and high schools, as well as UBC, I feel strongly about the long-term protection of heritage sites such as the Historic Kogawa House. This house is part of Vancouver's essential literary history, associated with acclaimed author, Joy Kogawa, and now a essential Vancouver site for writers' residencies, readings, workshops and more, and overseen by a committed, diverse, and able board and executive director. It is a key hub for Vancouver's literary community. I'm writing to express my strong support for the application by Historic Kogawa House for heritage designation, and to urge Council to approve its application. I would provide long-term stability for this very special historic site and its wonderful ongoing cultural programming. In support of this application, I'm sending a poem by Joy Kogawa about the old cherry tree that grows on the property which was published in the anthology, Worth More Standing Poets & Activists Pay Homage to Trees (Caitlin Press, 2022). Yours truly, Fiona Tinwei Lam Vancouver's Sixth Poet Laureate 2022-2024	Fiona Tinwei Lam	Vancouver's Poet Laureate		Kitsilano	APPENDIX B

2. Heritage Designation and Heritage Revitalization Agreement : 1450 West 64th Avenue (Joy Kogawa House) - SUPPORT

07/07/2022	15 37	PH3 - 2. Heritage Designation and Heritage Revitalization Agreement : 1450 West 64th Avenue (Joy Kogawa House)	Support	The Historic Joy Kogawa House is an important space to both remember the injustices of the past, and to provide room for reflection and collaboration by artists today. It provides meeting space for writers and artists to collaborate, dialogue and work, as well as acting as a monument to a key literary figure in Canada. The work of Joy Kogawa shines light on the injustices of the government(s) of the time and society's blind acceptance of those policies. Today, the little house is as meaningful as any statue or plaque that aims to remind people of the importance of art, freedom, protest and peace. I fully support the Heritage Designation of this space. Help maintain its place in Vancouver as a space for artists, and place for creative work that benefits the deep cultural roots of Vancouver.	Leslie Hurtig	Vancouver Writers Fest	"s.22(1) Personal and Confidential"	South Cambie	No web attachments.
07/07/2022	15 53	PH3 - 2. Heritage Designation and Heritage Revitalization Agreement : 1450 West 64th Avenue (Joy Kogawa House)	Support	As a Canadian writer, I understand intimately the value of Joy Kogawa House as a gathering space. In my experience, it provides a welcoming, necessary venue for creating and sharing the stories that make us. Though humble, this powerful site offers profound insight into the lives of Japanese Canadians, and so many others whose communities endure through times of hardship and exclusion. Joy Kogawa house testifies to the power of maintaining our history and integrating it into a venue that serves the present and future as well. This rare cultural gem deserves Historical Designation, to support its ongoing service to the community locally and nationally.	Anna Marie Sewell	Writer		Unknown	No web attachments.
07/07/2022	15 57	PH3 - 2. Heritage Designation: 1450 West 64th Avenue (Joy Kogawa House)	Support	It is important that the Historic Joy Kogawa House have long-term protection as a heritage site. Not only does it have relevance for the history of Vancouver as a site of social injustice, but it also means so much to writers and the literary community with its writers residence and other public programs. These historical functions must be kept going to carry their message forward to help Vancouver residents reflect on current issues.	Beverly Cramp	BC BookWorld quarterly newspaper		West End	No web attachments.
07/07/2022	16 02	PH3 - 2. Heritage Designation and Heritage	Support	Adaptive reuse of historic buildings is an effective and necessary conservation approach. In this case the resulting artist and writer space at Joy Kogawa house aligns with the heritage values of the site and creates more needed cultural space in the City. It also protects a historic site with connections to the author Joy Kogawa and to the history of the Japanese Internment in Canada.	Meghan Lenz	Vancouver Heritage Foundation		I do not live in Vancouver	No web attachments.
07/07/2022	16 06	PH3 - 2. Heritage Designation and Heritage Revitalization Agreement : 1450 West 64th Avenue (Joy Kogawa House)	Support	Historic Joy Kogawa House is where I was writer in residence two years ago. It was an invigorating and life changing experience both as an artist and Canadian citizen. I went to the Historic Joy Kogawa House to write about the artifacts contained within and the monumental place it played in the history of the Japanese Canadians who lived there. I wrote a book for Joy Kogawa and all the other Japanese internment victims of the Second World War. This book is called Inside the Pearl and tells a poetical and visual story of the lives that were led there before the internment. This particular property serves as a reminder to all Canadians of the deep displacement, betrayal, and injustice the Japanese Canadian citizens faced during the Second World War. With this in mind, it is my conclusion that the continued gift of a place to write, probe and think are especially significant in these troubling times. I birthed this book there and am grateful to Ann-Marie Metten for her support of keeping Joy's home relevant to all citizens. Let's not bury historical wrongdoings any longer in this country and rightly choose to maintain this city's heritage for other writers, scholars, students and members of the public. I respectfully ask for your continued support of this venture. Sincerely yours, Jude Neale	Jude Neale			Unknown	No web attachments.
07/07/2022	16:12	PH3 - 2. Heritage Designation: 1450 West 64th Avenue (Joy Kogawa House)	Support	I believe that rezoning would better achieve the society's strategic objectives. The board of directors and I, in my position as its secretary support the application for the long term protection and the prevention of any future demolition of this important historic site.	Ayomide Olorunsanya	Historic Joy Kogawa House		Victoria-Fraserview	No web attachments.
07/07/2022	16:14	PH3 - 2. Heritage Designation and	Support	This house provides not only cultural & heritage context to our city, but serves the community in many capacities.	Jean Kindratsky			Riley Park	No web attachments.
07/07/2022	16 31	PH3 - 2. Heritage Designation and Heritage Revitalization Agreement : 1450 West 64th Avenue (Joy Kogawa House)	Support	I would like to state my support for the Heritage designation and Heritage Revitalization Agreement for Joy Kogawa House. The childhood home of renowned Japanese-Canadian author, Joy Kogawa was saved from demolition in 2006 and today stands as a literary landmark for writers and as a historical reminder of the Japanese internment during World War 2. Various literary presentations and workshops are hosted at the house throughout the year as a result of writer residencies that take place year-round. Writers have come to value this significant space to engage with each other and to share their stories. Educational programming about Joy Kogawa's writing and internment experience are highlighted through interpretive displays and tours for school groups and the general public. It is of utmost importance to preserve this house for its literary and historical significance and to carry forward its legacies of prejudice, resilience, and courage.	Joan Shigeko Young	Historic Joy Kogawa House Society		Unknown	No web attachments.



Healing for Whom?

More about Joy Kogawa House and Japanese Canadians

I would like to take the opportunity to speak to the truth about past harms that now I have come to understand more deeply and clearly.

The childhood home of Joy Kogawa, currently known as Kogawa House, was owned by her father, Gordon Goichi Nakayama, who worked with the Japanese Canadian community as a minister of the Anglican Church of Canada. In this position, he did many good things, including helping to build the Church of Ascension in Kitsilano and the Japanese Language School in Marpole. In talking with many Japanese Canadians, we have come to understand that Gordon Goichi Nakayama also betrayed his position of trust and authority and brought considerable harm to the Japanese Canadian community. While owning and living in the house that now celebrates the work of his daughter, Joy Kogawa, we understand that Gordon Goichi Nakayama sexually abused many children. Our hearts go out to these children and to their families who spoke out against this abuse but were not heard.

In acknowledging this truth, Kogawa House is committed to working with the community to help the healing process for those individuals and families affected by Nakayama's actions. We understand that acknowledging this history is important to healing. The victims of Nakayama's clergy sexual abuse include Japanese Canadian families who were living in the Marpole area before the outbreak of the Second World War when the Nakayama family lived at what is now Kogawa House. Those suffering under Nakayama's abuse include the victims, but also their friends, families, and descendants who now live in communities across Canada. We have made a full acknowledgment of our support for survivors and survivor families, and despite setbacks and mistakes, we hope that they will understand that we hear them.

When our community group undertook the preservation and protection of this historic house, we thought it would be about the work of Joy Kogawa, her writing, and her work to share the story of the internment experience of Japanese Canadians. We thought we had a good idea of how the house could serve as inspiration for writers and the writing community. Discovering what was needed, we thought, would be accomplished by listening to what Japanese Canadians told us was important. We tried to listen openly and willingly, with what we thought was a good understanding of what they were going to tell us.

But the stories that we heard were far from what was expected. Some of the most common stories that we heard were from survivors who talked about their experience of sexual predation and the silence that they felt they had to maintain about it because the perpetrator held a position of authority as a reverend of the Anglican Church of Canada. We heard about the loneliness and separation from their family — how they lost so much.

One aspect of the sexual harm that really proved to be quite distressing, was the stories from survivor families who, following the uprooting and dispossession that racism forced on individuals, community, and society, experienced further harm. As isolated families living on remote farms, Gordon Goichi Nakayama often stayed overnight when visiting. Those children were the most vulnerable.



We had no expectation that this would be a part of the work we were doing. We asked for more information. Now we are learning that a large number of children were harmed.

Over the years, as stories have been told, we have experienced a range of responses from survivor families. We have heard not only pain and anguish, but also anger that no one believed the stories they had told. We can also hear their sense that they have lost some hope that their truths will be acknowledged. They now know that we have heard them clearly and stand with them in empathy and understanding.

Our hearts go out to the survivors and the children and families of survivors who were harmed. We know that you have waited far too long for this acknowledgment. We must persevere in our investigation so that we know what happened. We need to ensure that we put in place healing programs and supports that will help survivors to gather and share their memories and stories.

The Anglican Church of Canada has awarded \$600,000 to the National Association of Japanese Canadians to a [Healing Fund for Japanese Canadians](#) pay for counselling, community healing workshops, and scholarships for survivors and survivor families. These amounts are being paid out now [by application](#).

We are now working to position Historic Joy Kogawa House as a site of trauma and healing for the unspeakable truths that happened at this house before the War. Children and families were harmed here. We take this harm very seriously. It is never far from our consciousness. We live this truth every day. It informs the way we do our work at Historic Joy Kogawa House. We make it a priority to host writers whose work explores historic injustice and cultural redress. We offer writing workshops and other programs on writing through trauma. We are working with respected museum interpreter Don Enright to include survivors and survivor families in stakeholder interviews about the visitor experience at the restored heritage house; this work is now in development with jury-approved funding from a City of Vancouver Cultural Small Grant awarded earlier this year.

We know that trauma happened here and that lessons can be learned from that trauma. Survivors and survivor families cannot be ignored. We say to them now, you are not forgotten. We are facing this.

Ann-Marie Metten
Founding director

Historic Joy Kogawa House
1450 West 64th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6P 2N4
www.kogawahouse.com
604-897-7438

Historic Joy Kogawa House is a home for writing, education and dialogue located on unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples with whom we share stories and histories

Dear Cherry Tree

Joy Kogawa

You are a noble tree. You are descended from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and you have survived in the back yard of my family's home in Marpole, Vancouver. Your branches have been severed as the branches of my family have been severed. You are wounded as my family is wounded and your sap is congealed, rusty and transparent, old and new. You weep, yet with the strength of the ages, through times of fire and drought, you live on, sheltering the passers-by in the back alley as you lean over the fence with your generous leaves.

My dearest tree, I don't know whether I have come to say hello or goodbye. I dream with you in all my unknowing and weep with you for the many crimes and sufferings past and present. And for your cousins, the uncounted trees being slaughtered for profit.

I pray that, despite all the evidence, we who love trees will prevail.