



**November 23rd, 2023**

**City of Victoria**

1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC, V8W 1P6

**SUBJECT : Information for Building Permit Application**

Bonjour Mayor and Council,

Since its creation in 1941, **the Société francophone de Victoria (SFV)** has created a rich history of arts and culture programming in Victoria. Its mandate is to represent and promote the French language and culture and to support the French-speaking community through events, programs and local partnerships.

**The Société creates *la Maison de la francophonie à Victoria***

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the SFV became the owner of the building located at 1218 Langley Street of which it has occupied the second floor since 2016. The Chancery Court building was designed by Rattenbury and built in 1905 and the building sits on two parcels (009-396-811 and 009-396-802). Our neighbors are the City of Victoria with the Yates Street Parkade and the Old Maritime Museum.

**Increased accessibility for all**

In 2022, the SFV received funding from the Federal Government and from the City of Victoria to increase accessibility. The project is in 2 phases, and the renovation of the kitchen and bathrooms was completed this past June. We are now seeking permission for phase 2 of the project, which involves installation of the elevator and landing at the back of the building as shown in the plans.

The addition of the elevator and landing will:

- Make the Community Centre accessible which will increase our programming and activities and allow people with reduced mobility such as our vulnerable seniors, families with children and any other persons.
- Make it a safer place to be / work because it will create an additional exit in case of emergency. The other exits are both located on the East side of the building, close to one another.
- Connect Boomerang Court on the West Side of the building to the Community space indoors thus adding more public use of an otherwise hidden space in Bastion Square curbing destructive behaviours by passersby.

## **Shutters and Trellis for increased safety**

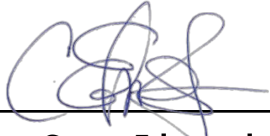
The addition of roll-down security shutters will ensure safety in case of fire as well as protect our assets. In the last year or so, Boomerang square and Bastion Square has seen increased vandalism, broken windows, broken lights, and overnight encampments. The shutters will help protect the additional exit in case of a fire and a decorative steel trellis is being installed to soften the appearance of the roll-down shutter boxes. The shutters will be closed only at night, mostly from 21h00 to 07h00.

We strongly believe that the design suggested in the plans will enhance the look and feel in Boomerang Court, and will not change the spirit of the building. It will allow the Francophone Society to increase programming and encourage more community events in Bastion Square, in the hopes of bringing more life to this space..

Please feel free to contact us for any additional information you may need.

We are available for any further questions.

Merci beaucoup,



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**Casey Edmunds**  
Executive Director  
[Casey@sfvictoria.ca](mailto:Casey@sfvictoria.ca)



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**Frédérique D Bouchard**  
President / Chair  
[presidence@sfvictoria.ca](mailto:presidence@sfvictoria.ca)