

VANCOUVER
INTERNATIONAL
Burlesque
FESTIVAL

2025 Accessibility Guide



The Vancouver Playhouse

600 Hamilton Street

Showcases: Glamorama Gala and Showpony Soiree,
April 4th and 5th

We respectfully acknowledge that all Vancouver International Burlesque Festival events take place on the stolen ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. As settlers on these lands, we encourage you to learn about the history of the land while celebrating and uplifting the people of our host Nations.

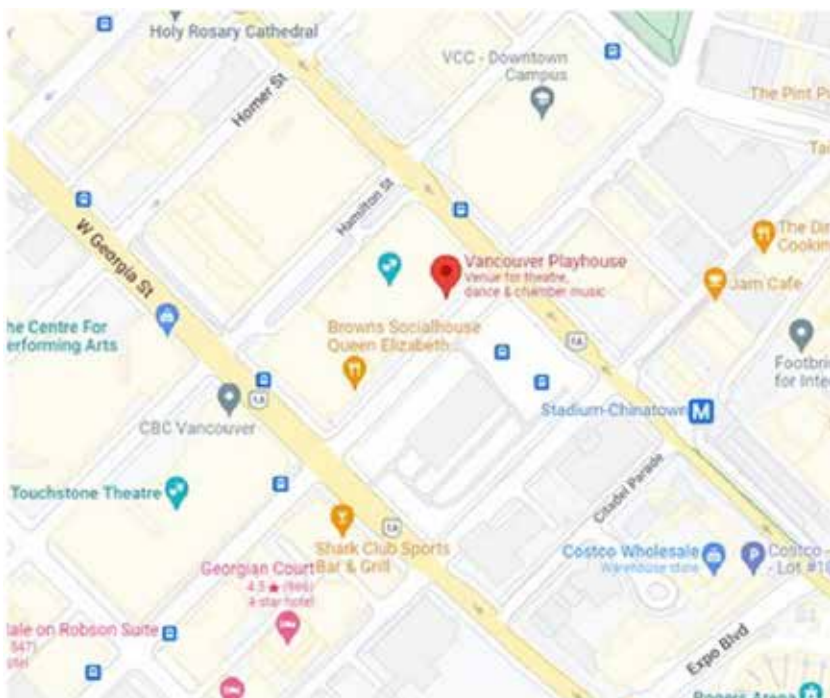
How to Get There

The Vancouver Playhouse is located at 600 Hamilton Street, Vancouver. The main entrance is on the corner of Hamilton Street and Dunsmuir Street and is at street level.

The Playhouse is one block away from the Stadium-Chinatown SkyTrain station, and four blocks away from the Vancouver City Centre SkyTrain station. Many Translink buses pass through downtown. There are also several City of Vancouver Mobi bike-share stations that are located nearby. Please visit www.mobibikes.ca for more details.

Parking is available at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre parkade, beneath the theatre itself. The entrance is off of Cambie Street between West Georgia and Dunsmuir Streets. Parking is limited, so arrive early. The cost for parking for an evening event is \$16. Accessible parking is available at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre parkade with an accessible parking decal on a first-come, first-served basis, with a limited number available. This includes extra space designated to allow access to and from a vehicle (12' wide; 26' high) and spaces to park mobility scooters. To reserve an accessible parking space, phone 604-665-2193 at least one week before the performance.

There is also a driveway outside the main entrance for taxis and for pick up and drop off. There is an automatic wheelchair-accessible entrance as well as signage indicating how to reach this entrance. There is not a doorbell lower than 48".



Venue Details

The Playhouse has an orchestra level of seating facing the stage in a semi-circle, as well as a balcony level of seating.

Wheelchair seating is on the orchestra level. There are 5 wheelchair spaces in the theatre which are located in the last row of the orchestra level.

Overall, The Playhouse was rated by the PuSh Festival in 2015 to have "full" accessibility. We thank PuSh for creating this resource and for providing much of the information we have captured here in our Access Guide, along with information from The Playhouse directly.



Getting Around

The Playhouse has stairs to get between the main lobby and balcony, and the stairs have a non-slip surface and both visual and tactile markers of where each step ends. The stairs only have a handrail on one side. There is also elevator access between the main lobby and balcony. The parking elevator buttons include Braille, and there is an audible sound when the elevator reaches each floor. There are no escalators or ramps inside the theatre. **The parking elevator does not open until 6pm.**

Washrooms

There is a wheelchair-accessible washroom on the orchestra level, which is a single stand-alone room. The washrooms have gendered signage, but at VIBF events washrooms are gender neutral. We encourage you to use whichever washroom suits your gender identity. Tampons and pads are not provided in the washrooms.

Blind, Low Vision, Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Neurodivergent Guests

Signage within the theatre is clear and visible, though there is not Braille accompanying all signage. Throughout the theatre, the lighting is bright and even, though this includes fluorescent lighting. Hearing-assist units and binoculars are available at the main lobby coat check. Hosts will use microphones. Showcases will include loud noises and bright lights. If you would like a quiet space to take a break, please leave only in between performances, and feel free to go outside the theatre on the balcony level, or outside the venue. Only certified guide and service dogs are allowed into The Playhouse.

Eating and Drinking

Both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks will be available for purchase, as well as light snacks. There are also two water fountains available: one on the lower level by the washrooms, and one inside the accessible washroom. This venue will have a designated sober space on the second floor mezzanine in the lobby.

Seating Sizes

There are three sizes of seats once inside the theatre that measure 18', 20' and 22' from between each arm rest support. There is one armrest between each seat that does not raise and is made of wood.

For patrons with larger bodies who require a wider seat, the Playhouse seats in row 16 are significantly wider and have more room between the other rows. Another option for those who need extra space is to select a loose seat in the balcony.

The theatre seating consists of lightweight folding chairs and a limited number of sturdy seats. If you have a larger body, it is recommended to contact us if you wish to reserve a more sturdy seat.

Other Amenities

There is not an ATM on site. There is a coat check on site. Child care is not available on site. At the Showcases, venue staff will be on site to help direct you to your seat and answer any questions.

Backstage Accessibility (for Staff and Performers)

There is an elevator for staff only that can be accessed in the lobby and takes you to the green room. In the green room and backstage area there are small sets of stairs between rooms, and two large staircases with handrails to get to the stage level.

Two VIBF Community Safety Liaisons will also be on site at every event. Community Safety Liaisons are volunteers who will be briefed and trained in VIBF policies and procedures and best practices for community safety prior to every VIBF event. Community Safety Liaisons can be approached by audience members, performers, volunteers, or any other VIBF personnel at VIBF events who may wish to report concerns or request VIBF Board follow-up on any incidents.

At all VIBF events, Community Safety Liaisons will be identifiable via their 'Community Safety Liaison' badges, and event hosts will indicate how attendees can report any concerns to Community Safety Liaisons during events.

What Can I do to Make the Space Safer and More Inclusive?

Please help keep yourself and others safe - at all times when you are not eating or drinking, we strongly encourage you to please continue to wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth. Be respectful of others' choices, including to continue to wear a mask and physically distance.

Set your phones to vibrate or silent, and put them away during the show. No photos or videos are allowed from audience members during the show, though we encourage you to take photos and videos in the lobby and before and after the show.

Abide by the VIBF Code of Conduct.

Be respectful of performers, staff, volunteers, and other audience members. Please keep the space free of strong perfumes or scented body products. Please refrain from bringing food into the space, especially products containing nuts.

Please ask us if you have any other questions!

Contact the VIBF Board at info@vibf.ca

