

# 12th World Congress THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY 23 - 27 July 2025



**Toward Insight and Wholeness:  
Our Role in Shaping the Future**

**150 YEARS of the Theosophical Society  
100 YEARS of the Theosophical Society in Canada**

# 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress

Welcome to the 12th World Congress of the Theosophical Society, taking place in Vancouver, Canada. The venue is at the esteemed University of British Columbia (UBC), which is surrounded by beaches, gardens, and a temperate rainforest. The theme is

*“Toward Insight and Wholeness:  
Our Role in Shaping the Future”*

Among the variety of programs, we celebrate

**150 years of the Theosophical Society** and

**100 years of the Theosophical Society in Canada**

This Congress is organized by the Theosophical Society, Adyar, and hosted by the Canadian Association of the Theosophical Society.



# President's Message



*Tim Boyd*  
*International President*

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For 150 years the Theosophical Society has been a source for the insights of the Ageless Wisdom tradition. In our current world, beset by challenges of all types, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and powerless to bring about meaningful change. In July of 2025 we will be coming together in Vancouver, British Columbia to celebrate with members from around the world the global impact of the TS. It will also be an opportunity for us to more deeply understand and to add our energies to the unfolding future of this much needed movement in the world.

150 years doesn't come around every day.

I invite you to join us in Vancouver, Canada.



# 12<sup>th</sup> WORLD CONGRESS OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

## TOWARD INSIGHT AND WHOLENESS: OUR ROLE IN SHAPING THE FUTURE

23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2025

Venue: THE NEST Great Hall, University of British Columbia (UBC)  
Vancouver, Canada

Wednesday, 23 July	7.00-9.00 AM	Registration
	9.00 AM	OPENING OF THE 12th WORLD CONGRESS First Nation's Welcoming Prayers of the Religions & Universal Prayer Greetings video Welcoming by the Host, <i>TS Canada</i> Address by Tim Boyd, <i>International President</i>
	10.30 AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS "150 Years of Theosophy" Michael Gomes <i>Theosophical Historian and Author, TS America</i>  Book launch "H. P. Blavatsky Collected Writings Russian Serials" Compiled by Boris de Zirkoff and edited by Michael Gomes  Awarding of the Subba Row Medal
	3.00 PM	DISCUSSION GROUPS
	4.30 PM	LECTURE "The Adepts' Dream for Humanity" Pedro Oliveira, <i>International Speaker, TS Australia</i>
	Free evening	

8.00-8.45 AM  BREAKFAST

10.00-10.30 AM  BREAK

12.00-1.00 PM  LUNCH

4.00-4.30 PM  BREAK

6.00-7.00 PM  DINNER

<b>7.00 AM</b>	Tai Chi, Led by Weiwei DU
<b>7.30 AM</b>	Bharat Samaj Puja Mantra, Vijayalakshmi
<b>9.00 AM</b>	<p>LECTURE</p> <p>"Strengthening the Core of Theosophical Work"</p> <p>Vic Hao Chin Jr, <i>International Speaker, TS Philippines</i></p> <p>Book launch:</p> <p>"On the Verge of Wisdom" by Tim Boyd</p>
<b>10.30 AM</b>	<p>WORKSHOPS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Nine Meditation Techniques According to the Yoga-Sūtra" Ricardo Lindemann, <i>TS Brazil</i></li> <li>2. "Practical Tools for Working Through the Personality" Barbara Hebert, <i>TS America</i></li> <li>3. "Education for Life - A Theosophical Perspective" Sonal Murali, <i>TS India</i></li> <li>4. "The Fundamental Work of the Theosophical Society" Pablo Sender, <i>TS America</i></li> <li>5. "Compassion in Action: Basics of the Energetic Healing Method, Therapeutic Touch®" Leonie van Gelder, <i>TS America</i></li> <li>6. "The Future of the Theosophical Society and the Work of its Young Members" Francis Lim and Leo Ta, <i>TS Singapore and Australia, WFYT</i></li> </ol>
<b>3.00 PM</b>	<p>INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE</p> <p>"Wisdom Across Borders: Toward a More Connected World"</p> <p>Moderator Renee Sell, <i>TS New Zealand</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Americas / Isis de Resende, <i>TS Brazil</i></li> <li>• Africa / Narendra Shah, <i>TS Africa East &amp; Central</i></li> <li>• Europe / Patrizia Calvi, <i>TS Italy</i></li> <li>• Indo-Pacific / Arni Narendran, <i>TS India</i></li> </ul>



**4.30 PM**

**CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF THE TS IN CANADA**

1. Video from Canada
2. "Philosophies of First Nations of the West:  
Similarities and Differences with Theosophy"  
Shawn Edenshaw  
*Haida Nation and Gitxsan Nation, Canada*
3. Presentation in French  
"La connexion de l'humain avec la nature"  
"Philosophies of First Nations of the East:  
The Connection between Human and Nature"  
Carole Flamand  
*Atikamekw of the community of Manawan, Canada*  
Grégoire Canapé  
*Innu of the Pessamit community in the Côte-Nord, Canada*

**7.30 PM**

**CELEBRATION CONTINUES**

1. Video on the History of Theosophy in Canada
2. "First Nation Teachings and Language" - A slideshow  
Sonja Nahanee, *Squamish Nation, Canada*
3. Cultural Dance Performance  
Shawn Edenshaw *and First Nation dancers*
4. Sharing period





<b>7.00 AM</b>	Tai Chi, Led by Weiwei DU
<b>7.30 AM</b>	Meditation, Guided by Juliana Cesano
<b>9.00 AM</b>	LECTURE "Toward Insight and Wholeness: Our Role in Shaping the Future" Elizabeth May, <i>Author, Activist, Lawyer, Canada</i>
<b>10.30 AM</b>	WORKSHOPS 1. "Nine Meditation Techniques According to the Yoga-Sūtra" Ricardo Lindemann, <i>TS Brazil</i> 2. "Practical Tools for Working Through the Personality" Barbara Hebert, <i>TS America</i> 3. "Education for Life - A Theosophical Perspective" Sonal Murali, <i>TS India</i> 4. "The Fundamental Work of the Theosophical Society" Pablo Sender, <i>TS America</i> 5. "Compassion in Action: Basics of the Energetic Healing Method, Therapeutic Touch®" Leonie van Gelder, <i>TS America</i> 6. "The Future of the Theosophical Society and the Work of its Young Members" Francis Lim and Leo Ta, <i>Singapore and Australia, WFYT</i>
<b>3.00 PM</b>	SHORT TALKS Moderator, Deepa Padhi, <i>Vice-President of the TS</i> • "That Which is Always Anew", Krista Umbjärv, <i>TS France</i> • "Insight into Nature of Man: Part Contains the Whole" Vibha Saxena, <i>TS India</i> • "Embracing Spiritual Wholeness", Deepa Padhi, <i>Vice-President of the TS</i>
<b>4.30 PM</b>	PRESIDENT'S LECTURE "Next Steps" Tim Boyd, <i>International President</i>
<b>7.30 PM</b>	DOCUMENTARY FILM "One Fire" – 150 Years of the Theosophical Society <i>At AMS NORM Theatre</i>

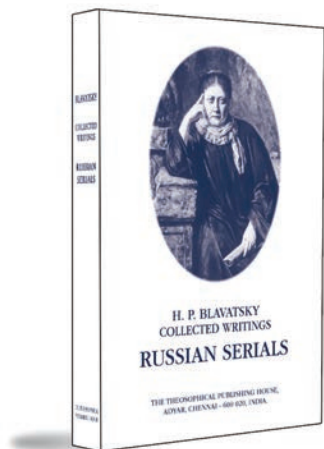
<b>7.00 AM</b>	Tai Chi, Led by Weiwei DU
<b>7.30 AM</b>	Meditation, Guided by Trần-Thi-Kim-Diêu
<b>9.00 AM</b>	LECTURE "Theosophy and Art: Reviving a Transformative Legacy" Elif Kamisli, <i>Exhibition maker and writer, TS Turkey</i>
<b>10.30 AM</b>	CONVERSATION "ROOTS & SHOOTS – 150 years of Theosophical Movement" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tim Boyd <i>International President of the TS, Adyar</i></li> <li>• Jonathan Colbert <i>Associate of the ULT, Member of TSA (Wheaton)</i></li> <li>• Kenneth Small <i>Point Loma Theosophist of the Eclectic Tradition, USA</i></li> <li>• April Hejka-Ekins <i>Professor Emerita of Public Administration, Co-founder of Alexandria West, USA</i></li> <li>• Eugene Jennings <i>ULT, California, USA</i></li> </ul>
<b>11.30 AM</b>	GROUP PHOTO
<b>1.00 PM</b>	HALF DAY OUTING (SEE PAGES 12-14) A 10% discount is applicable by showing the name tag badge in Nitobe Garden, Museum of Anthropology, Botanical Gardens. BUS RIDES FROM THE NEST WILL BE ARRANGED
<b>7.30 PM</b>	EVENING TOGETHER: "Adyar, the Multiverse" An illustrated presentation Catalina Isaza-Cantor, <i>TS Colombia/Adyar</i> Shikhar Agnihotri, <i>TS Adyar</i>  "The Divine Union - a Path to Insight and Wholeness" Indian Dance Suvralina Mohanti and Kritika Goel, <i>TS India</i>



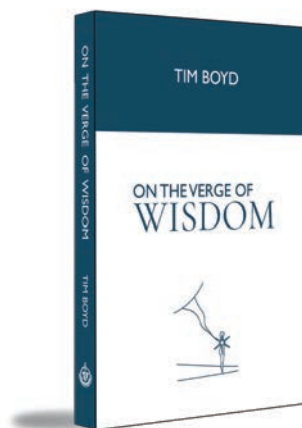


<b>7.00 AM</b>	Tai Chi, Led by Weiwei DU
<b>7.30 AM</b>	Meditation, Guided by Betty Bland
<b>9.00 AM</b>	LECTURE "The New Theosophy for the Coming Centuries" Stephan A. Hoeller, <i>Author, Lecturer, TS America</i>
<b>10.30 AM</b>	INTERVIEW with Tim Boyd Interviewed by Michael Gomes  Launched books signing
<b>3.00 PM</b>	WRAP UP Workshops wrap up with the facilitators
<b>4.30 PM</b>	CLOSING Video from the Congress Words by the Host Address by the the International President

## BOOK LAUNCHES AT THE 12TH WORLD CONGRESS



**H. P. BLAVATSKY COLLECTED WRITINGS RUSSIAN SERIALS**  
Compiled by Boris de Zirkoff and  
Edited by Michael Gomes



**ON THE VERGE OF WISDOM**  
Tim Boyd

## WORKSHOPS – 24th and 25th July

You may choose to attend one of six workshop options, each designed to explore different aspects of Theosophy and personal development.

You may select a different workshop on the 24th and 25th of July.

Workshops start at 10.30 AM.

### 1. "Nine Meditation Techniques According to the Yoga-Sūtra"

Ricardo Lindemann, *TS Brazil*

*24 and 25 July:* Blavatsky considered Rāja-Yoga to be synonymous with Practical Occultism. In this theoretical-practical workshop, at least nine classical techniques from Patañjali's Yoga-Sūtra will be presented to overcome distraction. These techniques, which are optional according to the tendencies or different temperaments of each practitioner, aim to reverse the nine obstacles or tendencies to distraction (vikṣepa), which will be studied as a diagnosis. Their objective is to avoid the projection of the mind outwards and thus enable the practice of Concentration, and later Contemplation and Ecstasy, which are the last stages of Rāja-Yoga in search of Liberation from human suffering.

### 2. "Practical tools for working through the personality"

Barbara Hebert, *TS America*

*24 and 25 July:* Throughout the Congress, we will be addressing our journey Toward Insight and Wholeness. This interactive workshop will focus on one of the ways that will facilitate our movement in this direction. Using quotes from a variety of theosophical authors and traditional psychological sources, we will explore some practical tools to facilitate working through the personality. In so doing, our own inner strength expedites our movement toward personal insight and wholeness. Ultimately, our individual growth aids all of humanity as it treads the path of awareness and healing.

### 3. "Education for Life - A Theosophical Perspective"

Sonal Murali, *TS India*

*24 and 25 July:* "Education for Life - A Theosophical Perspective"

Each child is a unique being, here to express themselves in the most fulfilling manner. What role do we play in nurturing the inner self and awakening the spark within? A theosophical school is a place where children are loved, nourished, and encouraged to develop a deep connection with nature and themselves. An educator serves as an interface for the child to explore both inner and outer worlds. Like life, education is not an isolated process; it is a collaborative journey, where both the teacher and the student are learners as equals.

Self-directed and child-centred learning nurtures a sense of wonder in children, helping to experience the joy of learning alongside a lifetime of education.

### 4. "The Fundamental Work of the Theosophical Society"

Pablo Sender, *TS America*

*24 and 25 July: A Workshop on the Origins, Nature, and Spiritual Mission of the TS*

The Theosophical Society was founded not merely as a philosophical association, but as a living conduit for spiritual influence—intended to uplift human consciousness and prepare the mental and moral soil for the emergence of the new humanity of intuition. In this light, the Society is not simply an institution but a spiritual organism with an inner purpose.

What is the essential work of the TS? What is it expected to offer a world in crisis? And how may we, members of this Society, participate in its sacred mission? This workshop offers a reflective exploration of the TS—its founding impulse, spiritual principles, and the vital role it plays in the evolution of humanity.

### 5. "Compassion in Action: Basics of the Energetic Healing Method, Therapeutic Touch®"

Leonie van Gelder, *TS America*

*24 and 25 July:* In this hands-on workshop, attendees will be introduced to the basic assumptions, uses and practices of Therapeutic Touch, an energetic healing method developed by lifelong Theosophist, clairvoyant and past president of the TS in America, Dora Kunz and longtime Theosophist and Professor of Nursing, Dolores Krieger Ph.D., RN. Incorporating the intentional and compassionate use of universal energy, Therapeutic Touch brings together the principles of the wisdom tradition and modern science with the insights and experiences of its founders. You will come away with practical skills of healing to help your family and loved ones.

### 6. "The Future of the Theosophical Society and the Work of its Young Members"

Francis Lim and Leo Ta, *TS Singapore and Australia,  
World Federation of Young Theosophists*

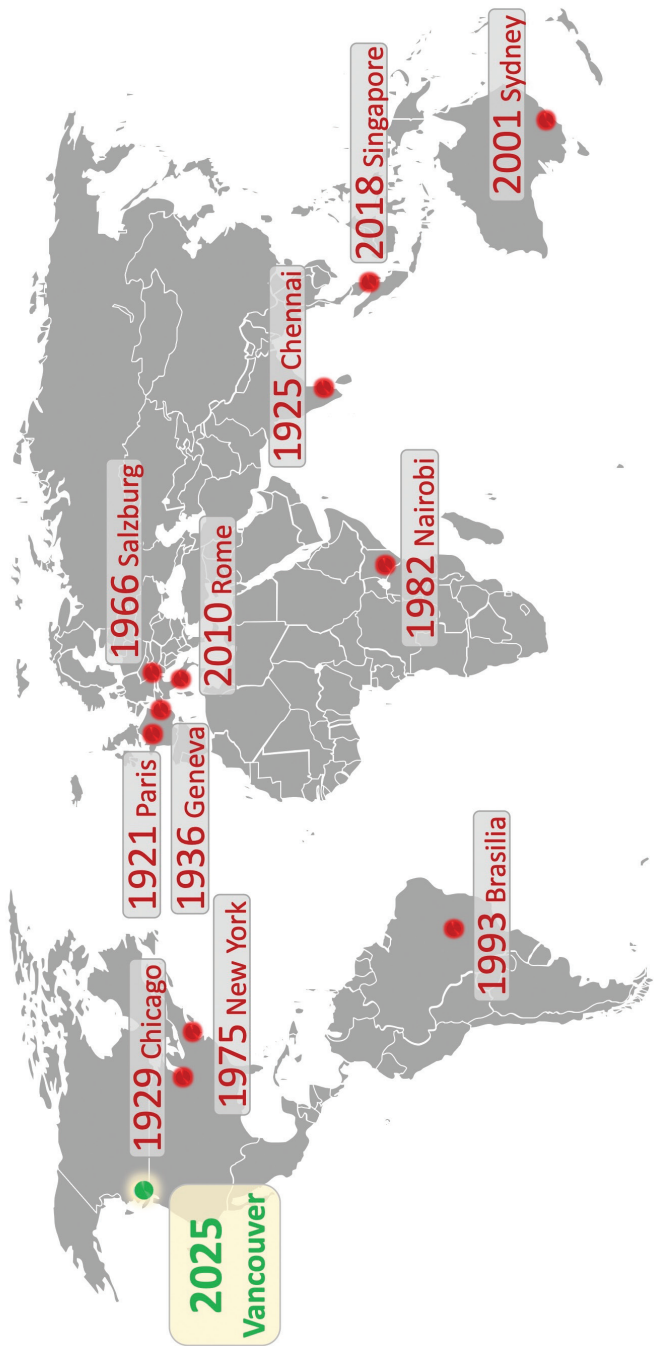
*24 and 25 July:* There are many questions and concerns about the future of the Theosophical Society. Some lodges worry about the declining number of members while some lose sleep over closing their lodge all together. Many passionate members put their heart and effort to popularise or bring awareness about Theosophy in hopes of sign-ups. However, seeing the same disheartening outcome over and over again.

What do the young members bring to the table in the modern and technologically advanced society?

In this session, we will discuss about:

1. Concerns about the future of the Theosophical Society, lodges, sections and federations from all around the world.
2. The purpose of the WFYT (World Federation of Young Theosophists) with respect to those concerns.
3. The approach and contribution to the future and Work of the Theosophical Society.

WORLD CONGRESSES : Around the World



## WORLD CONGRESSES

Sl. No.	Year	Place	President	Theme
1.	1921	Paris	Dr Besant	(A major topic was about the best method of educating youth)
2.	1925	Adyar	Dr Besant	World Congress
3.	1929	Chicago	Dr Besant	World Congress
4.	1936	Geneva	Dr Arundale	(There were live translations into 8 languages)
5.	1966	Salzburg	N Sri Ram	World Congress
6.	1975	New York	John Coats	"In the Footsteps of the Founders" Centenary of the TS
7.	1982	Nairobi	Radha Burnier	"Live to Benefit Mankind"
8.	1993	Brasilia	Radha Burnier	"Towards a Wise Mind and a Noble Society"
9.	2001	Sydney	Radha Burnier	"In Tune With the Universe"
10.	2010	Rome	Radha Burnier	"Universal Brotherhood Without Distinctions: a Road to Awareness"
11.	2018	Singapore	Tim Boyd	"Consciousness, Contemplation, Commitment: The Future is Now"
12.	2025	Vancouver	Tim Boyd	"Toward Insight and Wholeness: Our Role in Shaping the Future" 150 Years Anniversary of the TS

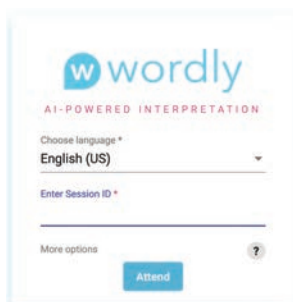
### LIVE TRANSLATION: How to use AI Wordly

#### Step 1



Scan QR Code or Go To:  
<https://attend.wordly.ai/join/GMCV-1984>

#### Step 2



Choose Language  
Click Attend

#### Step 3



Read Captions on Device  
Use Headset for Audio

Book yourself for a half-day outing at the registration desk.

On the 26th July, after lunch, there are three options for half-day outings.

You can choose the option that attracts you.

Write your name on the list at the registration desk.

Bus rides will be arranged for those who do not want to walk to the destination. Note that a 10% discount is applicable by showing the name tag badge at the options 1, 2, and 3:

**Option 1:** Museum of Anthropology (at UBC)

**Option 2:** Nitobe Japanese Garden (at UBC)

**Option 3:** Botanical Garden (UBC)



**Option 1:**  
**Museum of  
Anthropology**

**Duration:**  
2-3 hours

**Cost:**  
30 CAD - person  
Bus ride included

**Location:**

UBC (walk from the Nest at 1.5km and 15-20min walking time)

This is a MUST SEE place of world arts and cultures with a special emphasis on the First Nations peoples and other cultural communities of British Columbia, Canada.

## HALF-DAY OUTING OPTION 2 and 3



### Option 2: Nitobe Japanese Garden

**Duration:**  
1 hour or less

**Cost:**  
7 CAD - adults

**Location:**

UBC (5 blocks from the Student Union building)

Welcome to Nitobe Memorial Garden, a traditional Japanese stroll garden and authentic tea house located at the University of British Columbia (UBC).



### Option 3: UBC Botanical Garden Tour

**Duration:**  
3 hours

**Cost:**  
25 CAD - person  
Bus ride included

**Location:**

UBC (from the Nest at 2.3km and 30min walking time)

\*Optional: Additional 20 CAD paid at the entrance, for the tree walk (For the tree walk one has to be in good shape as it is made up of 14 very wobbly bridges).

Established in 1916 this is the oldest botanical garden at a university in Canada. Lots of places to walk and explore amazing fauna.



**YOU CAN ARRANGE YOURSELF WITH FRIENDS,  
NOT ORGANIZED BY THE TEAM**



**SelfTour A:**  
**Takaya Canoe**  
**Cultural Tours**

**Duration:**  
4-5 hours

**Cost:**  
120 CAD - person  
Bus ride included

**Location:**  
Cates Park, North Vancouver

Participants gently paddle in 30 foot (9 meters) replica ocean-going canoes, while First Nation Guides share songs, legends and point out ancient village sites and the history of the Burrard Inlet.

NOTE: All participants need to sign a medical and liability release form in order to participate. One needs to be able to hop in and out of a canoe and go on a short walk.



**SelfTour B:**  
**Vancouver**  
**City Tour**

**Duration:**  
4 hours

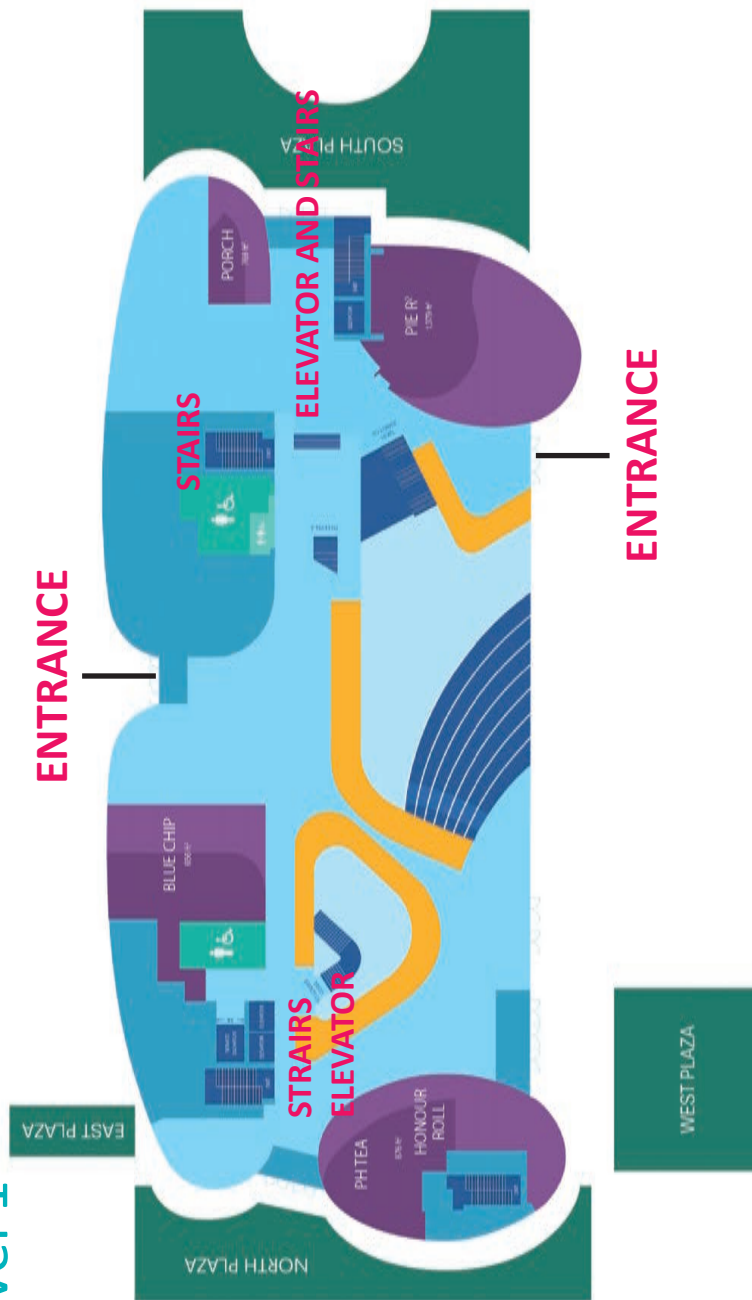
**Cost:**  
50 CAD - person  
Bus ride included

**Location:**  
UBC - Vancouver city - UBC

Here is your chance to pop around the main attractions in the heart of Vancouver.

# Level 1

WESBROOK MALL



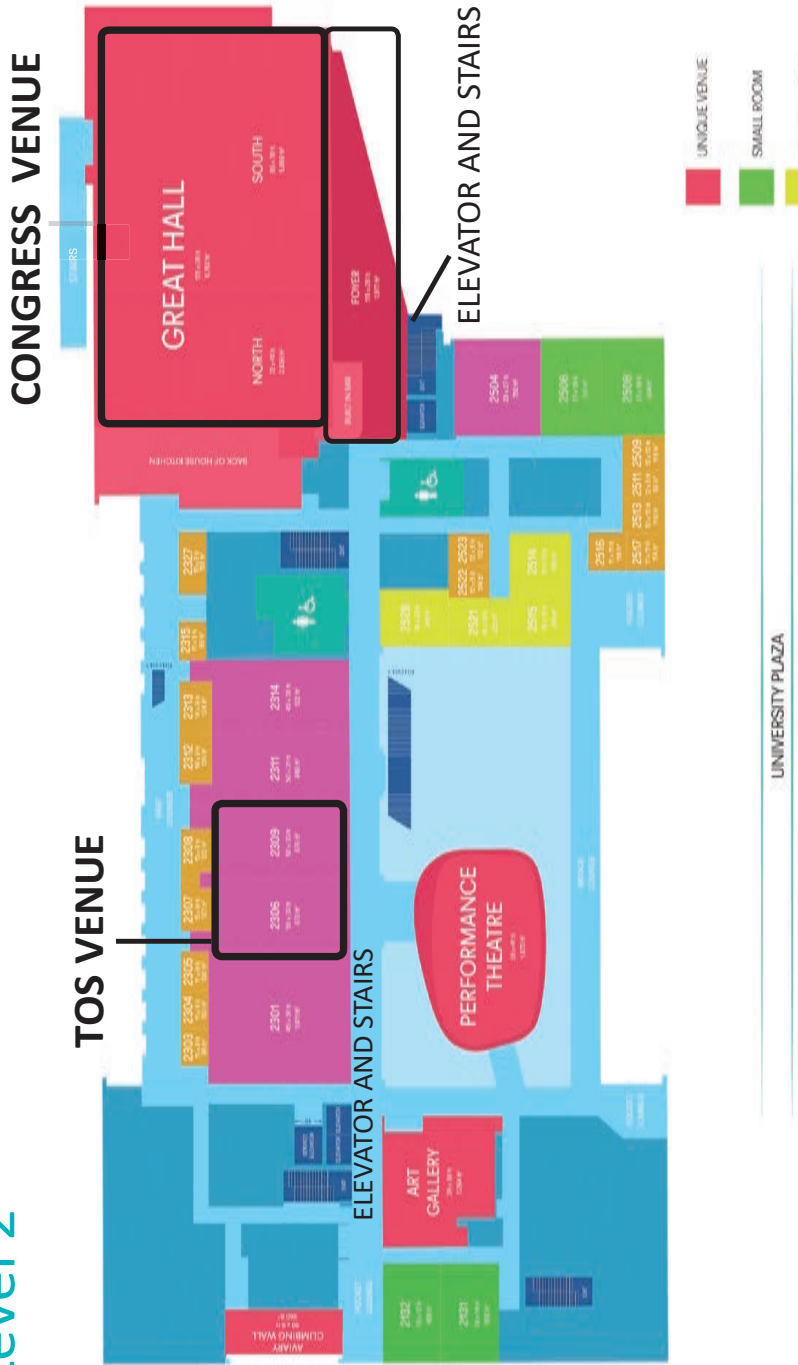
STUDENT UNION BLVD

UNIVERSITY BLVD



UNIVERSITY PLAZA

FOOD ENTERES



**BOWEN ISLAND**

**PACIFIC SPIRIT REGIONAL PARK**

**DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER & NORTH SHORE MOUNTAINS**

**GAGE ACCOMMODATIONS**

**THE NEST CONGRESS VENUE**

**ORCHARD ACCOMMODATION**

## ORCHARD ACCOMMODATION

## UNIVERSAL PRAYER

O Hidden Life, vibrant in every atom;  
O Hidden Light, shining in every creature;  
O Hidden Love, embracing all in Oneness;  
May all who feel themselves as one with Thee,  
Know they are therefore one with every other.

## MISSION

Mission of the Theosophical Society is to serve humanity by cultivating an ever-deepening understanding and realization of the Ageless Wisdom, spiritual self-transformation, and the unity of all life.

## OBJECTS

- To form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity, without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or colour.
- To encourage the study of Comparative Religion, Philosophy and Science.
- To investigate unexplained laws of Nature and the powers latent in man.



**The Theosophical Society**

International Headquarters, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020, India.

website: <https://www.ts-adyar.org/>

<https://worldcongress.ts-adyar.org/>