

CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS 2026 ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

We strive to make this event as accessible as possible for all participants. If you foresee or encounter a barrier not addressed here please let us know so we can update this guide and work with you to find an accommodation that works for you and/or others in the future.

Due to current technical limitations in the Reception Centre, the event will be in-person, with limited virtual participation available using zoom. If this is of interest, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator (below) for more information.

Format: Panel discussions, with short presentations by each presenter followed by discussion amongst panelists, driven by audience questions. There will also be a longer keynote presentation (45 minutes) and a garden tour (1 hour; see below for details about garden paths and bench locations).

Participation: Attendees will be invited to ask questions by raising their hands, writing questions on index cards or submitting them electronically via Mentimeter (a mobile phone app). Audience response will also be periodically solicited using Mentimeter and index cards.

Duration: from 9 am to 4:30 pm, with two coffee breaks and a 30 min lunch break.

TRANSPORTATION

Public Transit:

- Route 68, stop at Stadium Rd and West Mall, westbound direction only (2-3 min walk to Garden)
- Route R4, stop on 16th Ave between Wesbrook Mall and East Mall/Ross Drive (15-20 min walk to Garden)
- Routes 25, 33, stop at Wesbrook Mall and 16th Ave (20-25 min walk to Garden)
- Routes 4, 9, 14, 25, 33, 44, 49, 84, 99, UBC Exchange (25-30 min walk to Garden)

Attendees with mobility challenges who use a ride-share to get from the bus loop or other bus stop to the Garden, may request to have this cost reimbursed. Please contact the Accessibility Coordinator (below) prior to the event for more information.

Accessibility Shuttle: The nearest drop-off point is at Marine Residence (15-20 min walk to the Garden); see <https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/centre-for-accessibility/ubc-accessibility-shuttle/> for more information.

AUDITORY SUPPORT

Microphones: All speakers will use microphones.

Assistive Listening Devices: Available upon request. Please contact the Accessibility Coordinator (below) prior to the event for more information.

ASL: ASL interpreters are available on request, pending availability. Please contact the Accessibility Coordinator (below) prior to the event.

PRESENTATION MATERIALS

Event Program: The program will be available in digital and printed formats, including large-print if requested. Please contact the Accessibility Coordinator (below) prior to the event if you require the latter.

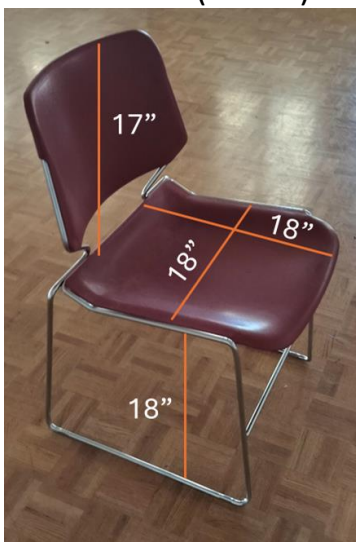
Slides & Handouts: PowerPoint slides will be used. Speakers have been asked to use large font and high contrast slides with audio captions on videos where necessary.

SEATING

Priority Seating: Reserved seating is available for attendees with accessibility needs. Please let the Accessibility Coordinator (below) know if you require this.

Capped Capacity: Ticket sales will be capped to enable attendees with wheelchairs or other assistive devices to navigate within the room.

Chairs: Please see images below for dimensions of the chairs available for use during the event. If you require a different kind of chair, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator (below).



SENSORY CONSIDERATIONS

Scent-free space encouraged.

Lighting: The room is well-lit by windows; overhead lighting is adequate but not overly bright.

SERVICE ANIMALS

Service animals can be accommodated with prior notice. Please contact the Accessibility Coordinator (below) for more information.

GARDEN TOUR CONSIDERATIONS

Pathways: Aside from a paved section that leads from the entrance of the Garden to the Moon Gate, garden pathways are covered in bark chips or fine gravel. Paths are sometimes a little unevenly graded, but slopes are generally modest, with one longer, slightly more steep section between the Moon Gate and Food Garden, and some shorter steep pathways through the Alpine Garden.

Benches: There are numerous benches in the Garden. Please see the following map for an indication of their distribution: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/zHDcupNhZnf1bsVx9>

Mobility Scooter and Golf Cart: Two rugged mobility scooters are available on request for use by individuals with mobility challenges. These scooters are capable of traversing many of the mulched paths in the garden. In the event of multiple requests, attendees can be driven through the Garden using a golf cart.



CONTACTING THE ACCESSIBILITY COORDINATOR

We are committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all participants. If you require any accommodations to fully engage in this event please let us know. We encourage you to reach out as early as possible so we can make appropriate arrangements to support your participation.

To request accommodations or ask questions about accessibility, please contact Erin Despard at erin.despard@ubc.ca or by calling 604-822-4208 and requesting a call-back. All requests and communication will remain confidential.

While we have endeavoured to proactively design in accessibility, we recognize that things might not be 100% accessible for everyone, and that access needs might sometimes conflict. We are committed to collectively working with presenters and audience members to create as much access as possible.