

# The Birdhouse – Access Guide



## Access Overview

The Birdhouse is a queer- and trans-operated community events space that prioritises creating safer, welcoming environments for queer, trans, and further marginalised community members. The venue is fully ground-level with step-free access, wide double doors, an accessible washroom, and multiple seating options including a reserved accessible seating section at the front of the stage. A lower-stimulation lounge is available for some sensory respite, but it is not closed off, so it will still be loud there. One raised seating area is not wheelchair accessible.

## Address

Street address: **44 W 4th Ave, Vancouver, BC**

Wayfinding notes: **The Google Maps pin for The Birdhouse takes you to the back alley. The entrance is actually on 4th Ave at this location: Michael St. Clair Cleaners.**

## Getting Here

### Public Transit

- Bus routes near 44 W 4th Ave include: 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 14, 16, 50, 84, 135, and night buses N8, N20, N35.
- Routes along West 4th Ave and Manitoba St offer stops within a short walking distance.
- Area sidewalks include curb cuts and level pathways.

## Parking

- Parking details not formally listed by the venue.
- Street parking and pay lots are available in the surrounding area.

## Bicycles

- Bike racks available near the venue.
- Some Birdhouse events include **free secure bike valet** (check event listing).

## Accessibility of the Building

### Entrances

- Ground-level entrance; no stairs or steps.
- Double doors: 70" wide.
- Single door option: 35" wide.
- Patio door: 35" wide.
- ½" cord runs parallel to the patio door on the ground.
- Ground slopes approx. 20° about 5 ft from patio door.

### Path of Travel

- Fully step-free through main areas.
- Only inaccessible area: raised seating area left of stage.

### Lobby / Rest Areas

- Lower-stimulation lounge available with couches, stools, and tables.
- Lounge has softer lighting and no moving lights.

### Policies

- All-genders washrooms.
- Community-centred safer space; staff are open to feedback.

## Accessibility Inside the Theatre / Performance Space

### Seating Format

- Reserved accessible seating at the front of the stage for disabled attendees. Please contact [info@vanvoquejam.com](mailto:info@vanvoquejam.com) to reserve in advance.
- Raised area left of stage is not wheelchair accessible.

## Seat Details

- Seating options include:
  - Couches and stools (main lounge and low-stim lounge)
  - Low, sturdy garden chairs with arms (patio)
  - Picnic benches without backrests (patio)

## Mobility Device Seating

- Reserved front-row accessible section.
- Staff and security available to assist in finding suitable seating.

## Additional Information

- Space available for guide dogs.
- Guests may bring fidgets or supports for sensory regulation.

## Washrooms

### General Access

- All washrooms are all-genders.
- One wheelchair-accessible washroom.
- Additional single-stall washrooms (27–32" wide).

### Accessible Washroom Features

- Door width: 35"
- Sink height: 33"
- Washroom dimensions: 94" × 70"
- Toilet paper height: 32"
- Paper towel dispenser: 44" high
- Grab rail on right side: 31" from floor
- Door swings inward
- Small floor ramp due to warehouse flooring: 2" height over 30" length
- Access via corner measuring 56" wide × 42" deep

### Baby Changing Facilities

- None noted.

## Sensory Environment

## Lighting & Sound

- Most events include bright, flashing lights and loud music.
- Earplugs available at the door and from event buddies.

## Lower-Stimulation Lounge

- Softer, static lighting.
- Slightly lower volume but still connected to the main space, so still can be quite loud

## Outdoor Patio

- Weather dependent
- No flashing lights or speakers (unless event-specific outdoor programming).
- Some sound bleed from indoors.

## Assisted Listening Devices

### Availability

- No built-in listening system noted.

### Viewing Considerations

- Accessible seating at front of stage offers best visibility for interpreters or lip-reading, when applicable.

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### Contact PuSh

Please contact Andrea, Accessible PuSh Coordinator, if you have further questions about this venue or if you'd like assistance reserving accessible seating.

Email: [access@pushfestival.ca](mailto:access@pushfestival.ca)

Phone: 604-605-8284 x204