EVIDENCE BASED RESEARCH

The foundation of this research is embedded in the evolution of our architectural practice to maximize positive social impact, and decades of experience responding to increasing client demand for universal spaces. HCMA conducted primary research into building regulations, as well as a literature review of the history of universal washrooms and change rooms.

HCMA collaborated with TransFocus Consulting and the City of Surrey in the creation of the document, drawing on:

- Lived experience, primary research, and subject matter expertise on transgender and non-binary inclusion, including and health and safety statistics.
- Social Planning and Civic Facilities expertise.
- Engagement with the local community and stakeholders.

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WHAT IS THIS DOCUMENT? WHY DOES IT MATTER?

What does washroom and change room design have to do with social justice?

A great deal.

As architects, we must consider the social impact resulting from all aspects of our work. HCMA created this document to help fill a gap in design knowledge around issues relating to universal washrooms and change rooms in community and recreation facilities. It is intended to be a resource for designers, municipal staff, facility managers, and anyone interested in understanding more about this topic and why they are increasingly part of evolving best practice considerations across project and building types.

This document discusses how universal washrooms and change rooms promote:

- Indusiality for people with disabilities.
- Indusiality for families.
- Indusiality for transgender and non-binary people.
- Increased privacy and safety.
- Increased efficiency.
- Forward-thinking design.

The objectives of this document are to provide context, identify benefits and challenges, and share design strategies that promote inclusivity for a wide variety of users. It shares a variety of critical background and information all in one place, including building regulations, human rights legislation, terminology and statistics on transgender and non-binary inclusion, typologies and precedents, and additional resources.

INDUSTRY INFLUENCE AND REACH

HCMA created this document to be useful to as many people as possible. Shared over 20,000 times within the first week of its distribution, it is an open asset that can be downloaded for free on our website at homeca/resources.

Our commitment to design for equity, inclusivity, security, and adaptability requires ongoing engagement with diverse users, stakeholders, and collaborators. We encourage open dialogue on the evolving nature of these strategies, and ask readers to share thoughts and experience that could help shape recommendations in the future.

HCMA received feedback of its use locally and nationally by designers, institutions, and governments. The contents have been presented at several regional and international conferences including the International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities (IA4SF) Congress 2018; National Sports Convention 2019; Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC) 2018; Newfoundland and Labrador Athletics Association (NLAAA) 2019 and Architecture Association of PEI 2019. It has also been published in the article "Inclusive Washroom Design" in Library Journal (May 2018) and featured in IB Magazine (Dec 2018).

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