What is “Making Connections”?

- A TLEF to create a new biodiversity science course in which students, faculty, staff, and community partners are all co-creators.
- The new course features the Beaty Biodiversity Museum and the role of natural history collections in science and society.
- Students will receive a foundation in historical, contemporary and cutting-edge collections-based research and modern museum practices.
- Woven throughout the course are anti-colonial themes of inclusive science practices related to collections, the role of collections in collaborative and reciprocal climate change research, and the inclusion of work by historically-marginalized groups.

The phases of course development

1. **Explore**
   - Student co-developers explore content generated by Beaty Museum in 2019.
   - Apr-Aug 2023

2. **Gather**
   - Students co-developers gather more detailed content to shape the course.
   - Sep 2023-Mar 2024

3. **Focus**
   - Student co-developers refine and focus the content generated in Year 1 of the project.
   - Apr-Aug 2024

4. **Finalize**
   - Course units finalized. Collaborators review materials in preparation for the course pilot.
   - Sep-Dec 2024

5. **Pilot**
   - Sep-Dec 2025

The current FOCUS phase

We are hard at work building the course calendar and lesson plans, integrating all of the feedback received during the GATHER phase.

Ongoing guidance

We would like to thank the following groups and individuals for their guidance during this project:

- Musqueam-UBC Development Team
- Resurgent Indigenous Scholars for the Environment, RISE Collective, UBC Centre for Indigenous Fisheries
- Carlos Ormond, Director, Indigenous and Intercultural Initiatives, Faculty of Forestry
- Dr. Sara Cannon, UBC Centre for Indigenous Fisheries
- Dr. Warren Cardinal-McTeague, Faculty of Forestry
- Gid yahk’ii, Sean Young, Curator of Collections and Saahlinda Naay, Saving Things House, Haida Gwaii Museum at Kay Llnagaay

Acknowledgement

Thank you to all of our project partners, Beaty Museum staff, faculty and event participants — your feedback and support has been invaluable.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support for this project provided by UBC Vancouver students via the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund.