

## The Rio Theatre Accessibility Overview



**Website:** [riotheatre.ca/](http://riotheatre.ca/)

**Address:** 1660 East Broadway, Vancouver ([map](#))

**Phone Number:** (604) 879-3456

To view the Full Access Audit, please click [here](#).

The RIO is located smack dab in the middle of East Vancouver, AKA the “other gay village” of Commercial Drive. Easy access to skytrains, buses and bike racks make it the perfect location for transit access, and free street parking is available. Located near grocery stores, cafes, pharmacies and banking, the area also provides spaces to meet up or pick up supplies.

The space itself is all on one level except the balcony, which is only accessible via 22 railed stairs. Several wheelchair/scooter spots both at the front and rear of the theatre allow folks to sit with friends; and there will be additional access seating marked off. The RIO offers the most spacious seating in the festival, a 20” wide with movable armrests.

The washrooms are currently marked as gendered, but will be sporting a variation on the “gender neutral” theme for the duration of the Festival. While on the main floor and marked as “wheelchair accessible”, they are actually not accessible. The entryway and doors to the stalls are not wide enough and there is insufficient room in the largest stalls to maneuver. Additionally, there are no grab bars and the towel dispensers are too high. The saloon style doors do swing outwards. These washrooms could quite easily be converted to create a wheelchair accessible stall in each bathroom, and perhaps this is something the RIO will undertake in the future. The only solution for the time being is for folks to go around the corner to the Starbucks or up to the Safeway a block away to use their accessible washrooms. In and out “privileges” should definitely be in effect at this theatre. Please note that there are no tampon dispensers, scent-free soaps, nor sharps containers provided at this theatre, so come prepared! There is free parking on the surrounding streets, bike lockups outside, and accessible transit within a block.

Please note that there is not currently a scent-reduced policy in place at The Rio, though specific events will have their own policies. Refer to these resources if you’d like to learn more about how you can help create a safer environment for folks with Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS):

A FAQ on MCS and being scent-free is available [here](#).

To make your event scent-free or scent-reduced, see [here](#).

Information on products you can use to reduce your use of scents, available [here](#).

**If you have any questions, concerns, additions, corrections, or kudos regarding this accessibility audit, please email romham at [rampvancouver@gmail.com](mailto:rampvancouver@gmail.com).**

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