



STRATHCONA
COMMUNITY CENTRE

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

STRATHCONA COMMUNITY CENTRE
601 KEEFER STREET, VANCOUVER, B.C. V6A 3V8

STRATHCONA COMMUNITY CENTRE IS JOINTLY OPERATED BY
STRATHCONA COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION AND VANCOUVER BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION



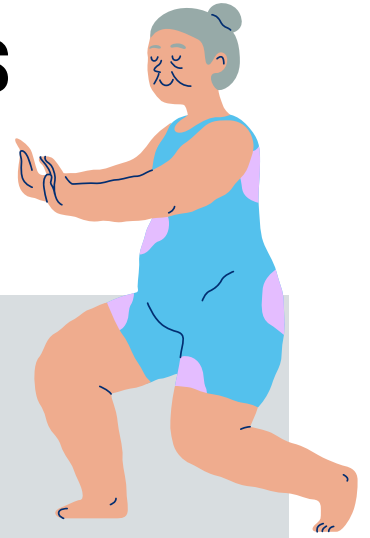
'Cycles' mural by Indigenous artists Bracken Hanuse Corlett, Ocean Hyland, Atheana Picha and Kelsey Sparrow

We acknowledge that Strathcona Community Centre is located in the traditional, unceded, ancestral territories of the $x^w m \theta k^w \acute{a} y \acute{a} m$ (Musqueam), $s k _ w _ x _ w \acute{u} 7 m e s h$ (Squamish), and $s e l \acute{i} l \acute{w} i t u l h$ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

We thank them for their care of these lands and commit to working with them in partnership in our community.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2023

President: Caitlin Jones **Vice-Presidents:** Danielle Lewis & Dan Jackson

Treasurer: Ella Chan **Secretary:** Carrie Bercic

Directors: Maria Reimer John Nguyen Julia McKnight Tiff Jung

Katie Lewis Sally Zhao Micah Goldberg Tristan James

Mike Samra Caitlin Ryan Chloe Leslie Frank Liao

COMMUNITY CENTRE LEAD STAFF

Community Recreation Supervisor:

Karen Chow

Recreation Programmer:

Raymond Eng

Recreation Facility Clerk:

Jenny Lee

Child Care Manager:

Veronica Light

Arts, Culture and Decolonization:

Brenda Racanelli

Recreation Programmer:

Adrianna Teoh

Community Youth Worker:

Aneesh Vashisht

Food Security Manager:

Amy Weeks

Association Manager:

Lindsay Yuasa

Park Board Manager Recreation Services:

Jessica Land

Park Board Commissioner Liaison:

Scott Jensen



SCCA EXECUTIVE REPORT

2023 was a busy year, full of fantastic programming, fun events, and exciting workshops. The staff team, as always, did an excellent job supporting well-loved programs while also giving space for new programs to thrive and grow.

Highlights of the year include the anticipated and much appreciated return of both adult bootcamp and Strathcona’s legendary kids’ basketball competitive league program. Our youth programs also continue to grow. Friday’s youth drop-in included basketball, youth lounge, and a cooking club where youth made food for everyone at the weekly drop in and provided the opportunity for youth to sit and share a meal together. Seniors came daily for Tai Chi, monthly for community luncheons, and filled their summer with our Summer Cruisers senior’s day camp.

The food team worked hard to provide food support to our community. Through our Breakfast and Backpack programs, Strathcona children and their families had a strong start to their school day and fresh vegetables and fruit throughout the weeks. We brought back our Breakfast Buddies program for the first time since COVID, providing grade 6 & 7 students from Strathcona Elementary the chance to learn food and leadership skills while also helping prepare food for our Breakfast Program.



Youth-led Easter event



Food Security staff and volunteers

EXECUTIVE REPORT, CONTINUED

The food team also hosted workshops on food preservation and canning, vegan baking, Kurdish pizza and pickles, and a very popular Mexican cooking series.

Our Licensed Childcare Program also had an excellent 2023. We signed a 3-year agreement with the \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program, ensuring affordable childcare for everyone, a necessary resource in our community. Our inspiring childcare staff kept neighbourhood kids active, engaged, and supported throughout the year.

We are lucky to have such a great staff team, so dedicated to their jobs and this community! We are deeply appreciative of our staff, Board, and volunteers, who work collaboratively to support us all.

SCCA Executive Committee

Caitlin Jones
Ella Chan
Danielle Lewis
Dan Jackson
Carrie Bercic



Seniors share food at Strathcona Centre

COMMUNITY RECREATION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

In 2023, Strathcona Community Centre continued to thrive as more programs became available for the community. We are very fortunate to have a strong team working together with the support of Strathcona Community Centre Association and the Vancouver Park Board.

The Strathcona Community Centre Association (SCCA) offers many services such as childcare, food security and recreation programs under the Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) with the Vancouver Park Board. Our team has done a tremendous job in maintaining the services and creating more programs as we are seeing more families, children, youth, adults, and seniors in our facility.



Day camp kids having fun at MacLean Park

Board of Directors and Community Centre Association summary:

- Caitlin Jones remained in her position as President.
- Deb Miller stepped down from the CCA Board.
- Danielle Lewis remained as Vice President.
- Dan Jackson was elected as the second Vice President.
- Julia McKnight stepped down as secretary and Carrie Bercic was elected as secretary.
- Ella Chan remained as Treasurer for 2023-2024.
- Lily Chan, our longtime CAP-C coordinator retired in June 2023 and Anna Luong was hired to fill this position.

COMMUNITY RECREATION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT, CONTINUED

The Park Board and Strathcona Community Centre Association continued to work on the sustainable funding project in 2023 and will work on it until it is completed.

The Summer Kick Off event in June was a success, and many people came to support and participate. The staff did an amazing job organizing and coordinating the event. The Youth Council was able to raise some money for their programs from the event BBQ.

Over the summer, we faced a few challenges with the Vancouver School Board roofing project. In July, during the VSB's roof replacement, a fire started in the storage room of E300 which displaced childcare from that area for the rest of summer and part of September. We had to relocate the childcare program to the cafeteria as it is already a licensed space. The VSB's restoration company quickly came in to assess the issue. It took them some time to replace the wall and to air out the childcare space in E300 as it smelled like smoke. Many of the childcare items in the storage room had to be thrown out after being contaminated with the smoke particles. In September, we were able to operate childcare in the E300 space again.



Youth volunteers at our yearly Breakfast with Santa event

COMMUNITY RECREATION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT, CONTINUED

In August, we were then faced with a flood in the gymnasium due to the roofing company not sealing the roof properly. The flood affected not just the gymnasium; water seeped through to the lower floor of the community centre. The restoration company was able to bring fans in to dry the affected spaces, including programming rooms and offices. We had to replace some of the ceiling tiles and some flooring of the community centre that were wrecked in the flood. Due to the flood, we had to relocate all the programs that were in gymnasium into difference spaces for August and September.

Vancouver Coastal Health reached out to the Vancouver Park Board to activate a few more vaccination clinics at Strathcona Community Centre to help lower barriers for people to get vaccinated. These vaccination clinics were held in October and November at Strathcona Community Centre and were very successful, as many local residents took part in getting vaccinated in their community.

I am grateful to be working with an amazing team and a supportive Community Centre Association. I look forward to working with the Strathcona Community Centre Association and all the staff at Strathcona Community Centre in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Chow
Community Recreation Supervisor



Youth-run concession at Family Day event

COMMUNITY YOUTH WORKER REPORT

The last year at Strathcona has been a period of growth and cultivation for the youth in the neighborhood. Since January 2023, we have seen an increase of use in the youth spaces in both underrepresented demographics as well as female identifying participants, and a decrease in incidents. For example, the number of Indigenous youth in the space has almost doubled since January 2023 to end of year, female identifying youth participation has increased in the youth lounge, and incidents have been minimal.

Some new programs introduced to Strathcona's youth pertain to large camps. In summer 2023, Strathcona Community Centre was able to bring 4 youth to a city-wide camping trip at Camp Sasamat, which included kayaking, morning jogs, dinner, games, a high-ropes course, and time away from urban infrastructure. In the same summer, a group of 5 youth were able to attend a golf camp at McCleery Golf Course, which included instruction for 2 weeks to learn how to pitch, putt, and drive! Both of these camps were offered at no-cost to the participants.



Youth Worker Aneesh with youth on an out-trip

We are expecting to participate in both Camp Sasamat and Golf Camp again this summer. Summer 2023 also reintroduced the Youth Summer Heat Camp, which ran for 6 weeks and included trips to North Vancouver, swimming, Lynn Canyon, archery tag, kayaking, and more.

COMMUNITY YOUTH WORKER REPORT

2023 also introduced the Friday Night Cooking Club, which is a youth-led community kitchen in which 6 youth join to make meals for all of the youth in the space on Friday night. On the topic of Friday nights, Strathcona has been hosting a drop-in gym space and drop-in Youth Lounge space from afterschool until closing for the youth. This program serves up to 35 regular participants in just the gymnasium, and another 15 participants in the Youth Lounge. Altogether, Friday nights at Strathcona expects 50 regular participants, all of whom are served meals made by Friday Night Cooking Club! Some of the meals they've prepared include spaghetti and meatballs, pizza, poutine, chicken alfredo, beef and bean chilli, quesadillas and much more! All meals are made using halal ingredients, and there is always a vegetarian option. We hope this program becomes a key part of the community and continues to teach participants how to create easy meals for themselves, or to create a safe space for youth to have meals together.



Friday Night Youth Cooking Club feeding all the youth who come for weekly drop-in

COMMUNITY YOUTH WORKER REPORT

In January 2024, a group of 4 youth were able to learn how to snowboard at Seymour Mountain through the CHILL Foundation. This program was also free of cost to participants. We hope that this program becomes an annual activity for this neighborhood.

Our youth council is still going strong! So far, Strathcona Youth Council has successfully planned 2023 Halloween event, in which an open fair was created including games, arts and crafts, and refreshments for guests. They also created a haunted house that was free for the community. Youth Council also planned the 2023 Easter Fair which included an egg hunt, and a fair including arts, crafts, games, and a petting zoo! During the 2023 Fall season, Strathcona Youth Council led a peaceful march for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation from Strathcona to Grandview Park. The efforts of youth council have been an incredible support for the community and their growth is leading into great opportunities.

With gratitude,
Aneesh Vashisht
Community Youth Worker



Youth overnight camp at Sasamat

FOOD SECURITY REPORT

The Strathcona Community Centre's Food Programs support the community through food access, food skills and opportunities for connection. Our programs include the Breakfast Program with the new Breakfast Buddies Program, the Backpack Program, adult and youth Community Kitchens, food preservation, and various cooking classes.



Breakfast Buddies Lead Verdann making breakfast



Mexican Cooking workshop

The Breakfast Program is for students attending Strathcona Elementary and operates from the community centre. Throughout the school year, it served an average of 200-250 breakfasts a day and featured items like grilled cheese, breakfast sandwiches, wraps, cereal, eggs and toast, and fruit. We also introduced new favourites such as chicken and waffles and breakfast cookies.

The Breakfast Buddies relaunched in January 2023 with Verdann as the lead. The program uses a mentorship model and empowers the youth to be community leaders while learning culinary skills. The youth not only assisted with preparing breakfast but also learned to prepare their own lunch, planned meals, and helped with the weekly Friday volunteer lunch.

FOOD SECURITY REPORT, CONTINUED

The Breakfast Buddies had a unique opportunity to visit Ancestral Food Ways at the Strathcona Field House, where they toured the garden and sampled traditional foods like bison, salmon, dried berries, tamales, and cacao.

The Backpack Program provides direct food support to 160 local families. (700 individuals) each week. The program ran for 42 weeks through September-July. The food boxes are primarily made up of fresh fruits and vegetables from Fresh Direct but also consists of dry goods, tofu, bread, and meat when available. Through various grants, we were able purchase eggs and halal chicken throughout the year. Beyond providing food, the program fosters social connections, allowing neighbours to meet, share food, cultures, and resources. It also offers leadership opportunities through volunteer roles and cultural celebrations and it connects families to community kitchens, workshops and other programs at the Community Centre.



Backpack Program volunteer Vuong My

In the fall of 2023 we ran a Canning Immersion Program focused on sharing food preservation skills and knowledge. Fifteen participants, ranging from beginners to experienced canners, came together over 6 weeks to learn and practice canning techniques. Food Stash Foundation provided 150 lbs of rescued fresh fruits, vegetables, and meat. The group produced 124 jars of food, which was shared equally among the participants at the end of each session. Participants of the program continue to meet on a regular basis to practice their skills, connect with other members, and stock their pantries.

FOOD SECURITY REPORT, CONTINUED

We would like to thank everyone who contributes to the Food Security Programs. Without the support of the community donating time and money these programs would not run.

We would like to thank the following funders and donors:

- City of Vancouver
- Adopt A School
- Breakfast Clubs of Canada
- Community Gaming Grant
- Face The World Foundation
- Marleena Markham
- CIBC Wood Gundy
- Click Foundation
- Jane Lee

In Kind Food Support

- Fresh Direct
- Greater Vancouver Food Bank
- Sunrise Soya Foods
- Freya Foods
- Food Runners
- Sweet Thea
- Espresso Tech
- Cobbs Bread



Chef Parwen with cookies at her Kurdish cooking workshop

2023 Community Partners

- Lord Strathcona Elementary School staff, admin and support workers
- Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Network & Food Justice Coalition
- Ancestral Food Ways
- Food Stash
- Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House
- Strathcona Dental Clinic
- UBC Nursing and Pharmacology Students

FOOD SECURITY REPORT, CONTINUED



RECREATION PROGRAMMER'S REPORT

Day Camp | Senior | Family | CAPC | Special Events

2023 was a wonderful and busy year for our centre which was clear from the amount of people entering our doors each day and connecting within our facility. We cannot thank our community enough for all of the support that they have shown from volunteering, attending programs, and participating in the neighbourhood special events. It has been amazing to see the connectivity and togetherness that the Strathcona neighbourhood patrons have created.

We had another year where we were able to support the Red Ribbon Skirt Project by providing them with a space to come together and sew red skirts to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2 Spirited, for the Women's Memorial March on February 14. Being able to provide a safe space for the group to come together and support one another has been rewarding. We hope to continue to provide support to the Red Ribbon Skirt project for years to come.

This year our CAP-C (Community Action Program for Children) Coordinator, Anna Luong, did an amazing job coordinating and running programs to support all the local and immigrant families through workshops, weekly programs for children, and all cultural celebrations. It has been fulfilling to see many families from different ethnic backgrounds come together and teach each other about their cultures. Over the course of the year, we have had 28 seasonal programs that were attended by 150 participants from the 45 families that we currently support.



Weekly Seniors Wellness Program

RECREATION PROGRAMMER'S REPORT, CONTINUED



Supershine Day Camp

Throughout the year, our older adults' programs (55+ years) are continuously busy and thriving with seniors coming out to socialize with one another. Each year we run our Summer Cruisers program which is very popular and always filled with fun out-trips within the Lower Mainland. For 7 weeks that it ran, there were 21 out-trips with 364 attendees registered to enjoy trips ranging from bowling, luncheons, local museums, a Granville Island visit, and out of town trips to Victoria to visit Butchart Gardens and cruising around Whistler.

Within our busy facility in the summer, another great program is our Supershine Day Camp for children ages 5-12yrs. The leaders completed another fantastic summer providing fun activities and out-trips for children for 8 weeks. During registration, we saw the biggest line up to date. Over 8 weeks of camps, we were able to provide care to 390 children. With a bit of restructuring for 2024, we are hoping to provide more spots to combat the 30-40-person waitlist that we saw for each week in 2023.



Seniors Summer Cruisers Day Camp

RECREATION PROGRAMMER'S REPORT, CONTINUED

In addition to all the wonderful programs that our facility has to offer, we are so happy that our community has continuously supported our special events. Each event that we have hosted has had a wonderful turn out and positive feedback from Family Day, our first Summer Kick Off event, and our Breakfast with Santa event. The successes of these events could not have been done without the support of everyone that attended, our amazing youth volunteers, and the hard work of all the staff involved in planning and executing.

This centre and community have been a joy to be a part of and witness, and I cannot wait to see what's in store for the next few years to come!

Respectfully Submitted,
Adrianna Teoh
Recreation Programmer II



Tai Chi Seniors perform at the Summer Kick Off event



Youth Council members at Halloween special event

RECREATION PROGRAMMER'S REPORT

Preschool | Children | Adult | Rentals

Looking back at 2023, we had a very busy year full of programs that saw more community groups come together to meet the programming needs of children attending Strathcona Elementary School. In connection with the Community Schools team, we created many afterschool programs that are referred to us by the Youth and Family Workers at Strathcona Elementary. Those programs include Expressive Arts, Afterschool Basketball, Moresports Volleyball and Moresports Multisport.

In 2023, we reconnected with Red Fox and we are now offering a Life Skills Program for Indigenous children attending Strathcona Elementary. We have brought back a similar feasting program that existed pre-covid and it has been a welcome addition to our afterschool programs.



Children's dance programs



Children's gymnastics

Due to the popularity of our Sunday preschool gymnastics program, we expanded the program by adding an additional class as well as offering 2 classes on Saturday afternoons to children aged 5-9 years and they have all been full every season.

RECREATION PROGRAMMER'S REPORT, CONTINUED

In the Spring of 2023, we brought back our Strathcona Competitive Basketball Program for children in Grades 6-7 and entered 2 teams in the RBL League. One of our teams won the championship and it was fantastic to see the parents all rally together to cheer on their children representing the community of Strathcona. Special thanks to Coaches Jadon and Josh for their commitment to the children.

For Adult Programs, our sports programs have been very busy with the largest uptick in Adult Tennis Lessons and Pickleball. People of all ages are gravitating to the sport of Pickleball. Zumba, Yoga and Pilates are also well received in our community and Strathcona Bootcamp on Mondays and Thursdays has been a wonderful addition to our Adult Programs.

There was a higher interest in rentals in 2023, especially for weekly rentals in the gymnasium. We had more regular rental groups this year than the previous year. However, it did take a little set back as there was a flood in the gymnasium while the roof was being completed in the Summer.

Raymond Eng
Recreation Programmer II



Choy Lee Fut Kung Fu, a longstanding program at SCC

CHILDCARE REPORT

In 2023, Strathcona Licensed Childcare finished our first full year as a 10\$ADay ChildCareBC site. This funding model enables us to provide quality licensed child care with preschool and after school care fees capped at \$140 per month and only \$200 per month for "full days". Full days include before and after school care, VSB professional development days, as well as summer, winter and spring breaks. Childcare allows children and families to thrive, and we are glad to be able to provide this necessary resource for our community.

Regarding the financial picture, we signed a funding agreement with 10\$ADay ChildCareBC for the next 3 years. We are in a very solid funding situation for the years ahead and are hopeful that this is a permanent funding change. Internally, the administrative requirements for tracking and reporting the enrollment numbers as well as the financial picture have increased to the point of needing to look at how our child care program is organized. We would like to thank the board again for their continued support of Strathcona Licensed Childcare's school aged and preschool programs. Thank you for your tireless volunteering to help ensure the children and families of Strathcona have a safe space.

Veronica (Roni) Light
Childcare Manager



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, SUPPORTERS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS

A huge thank you to everyone who gives their time, thought, money, and care to our community. Strathcona Community Centre is the heart of our neighbourhood because of you. In 2023 alone, we received personal donations of over \$30,000, grants of over \$1.5 million, and 600+ volunteer hours in just our food programs.

Thank you for working together with us!



Strathcona Youth Council



Breakfast Program yogurt, granola and fruit



We Take Care of Each Other Mural - Anne Marie Slater, Scott Chan & Coleman Webb



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