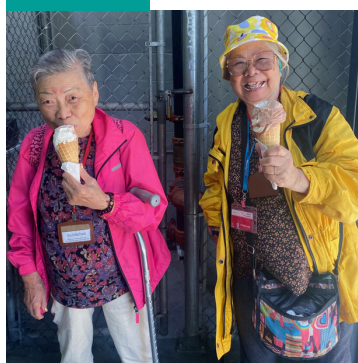


SCCA ANNUAL REPORT

20
24



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





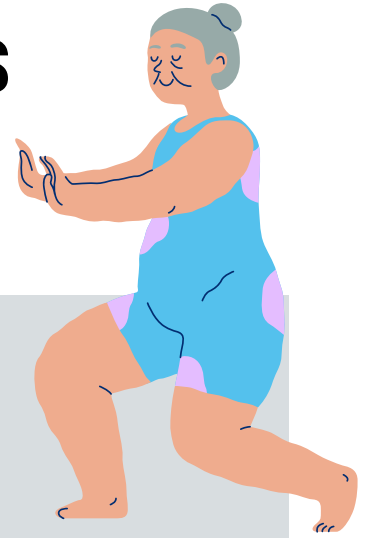
'Cycles' mural by Indigenous artists Bracken Hanuse Corlett, Ocean Hyland, Atheana Picha and Kelsey Sparrow

We acknowledge that Strathcona Community Centre is located in the traditional, unceded, ancestral territories of the x^wməθk^wəy̓əm (Musqueam), sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and selíl'wítulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

We thank them for their stewardship and care of these territories and we reaffirm our commitment to working alongside them to care for our community.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2024

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

Treasurer: Ella Chan & Tiff Jung (Nov 2024) **Secretary:** Carrie Bercic

Directors: Maria Reimer Sylvia Lau Sally Zhao Mike Samra
Tristan James Micah Goldberg Frank Liao Katie Lewis
Caitlin Ryan Chloe Leslie

COMMUNITY CENTRE LEAD STAFF

Community Recreation Supervisor:	Karen Chow
Recreation Programmer:	Raymond Eng
Recreation Facility Clerk:	Jenny Lee
Child Care Manager:	Veronica Light
Arts, Reconciliation & Culture:	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 BOARD REPORT

It's been another incredible year at Strathcona Community Centre, in no small part due to the remarkable community we are. The Centre's dedicated staff, Board, and volunteers, work creatively, collaboratively and with such care to support us all.

In 2024, SCCA's recreation programs provided many opportunities for the community to meet, connect, move their bodies and have fun. Children's programs, like Capoeira and gymnastics as well as adult bootcamp and Zumba classes were continually full; and older adults' programs were expanded this year to welcome new people through floor curling and chair yoga.

It's been thrilling to watch our youth programs grow with record numbers of pre-teens and teens coming to our Friday drop-in for gym time, youth lounge, and to share a meal made by the youth cooking program. With additional staff, our regular weekday lounge time was expanded and able to engage more youth with activities and unstructured time to hang out in a welcoming space. Youth leadership also grew and this year the Strathcona Youth Council planned and executed multiple, fun community events like the Halloween Haunted House in the gym. It is so inspiring to see how their leadership can bring our community together.

Our Licensed Childcare Program remains a cornerstone of the SCCA. As a \$10aDay ChildCareBC program, we can provide affordable childcare to our community. We are incredibly thankful for our childcare staff for navigating this new system and providing an incredible level of care and support to generations of Strathcona children.



Board Members Frank and Sally at our Summer Kick Off Event in June 2024

SCCA BOARD REPORT

Our centre also continues to be a leader in weaving food-based programs into recreation — a commitment that ensures everyone in our neighbourhood has equitable access to health and recreation. Our Breakfast Program made over 40,000 breakfasts in 2024, ensuring Strathcona children had a strong start to their school day. This program both supports and is supported by the Breakfast Buddies Program, which offers the opportunity for grade 6 & 7 students from Strathcona Elementary to learn food and leadership skills while also working to support their peers. Community food programs such as our canning group, Afghani and Kurdish cooking workshops, children's cooking classes and community kitchens bring people from around the neighbourhood (and beyond) to make and share food together.

The Strathcona Backpack Program also continued to support over 600 community members with fresh vegetables and fruit throughout the weeks. A huge thank you to donors, who provided over \$500,000 in food and resources to our programs last year.

Strathcona is a strong, vibrant community and as a Board we remain committed to sustaining the Centre as a resource that builds on our community's many strengths. To all the SCCA Board members, staff and volunteers, your ongoing commitment to this incredible community inspires us daily — thank you.

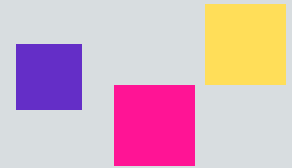
Caitlin Jones

On behalf of the
SCCA Board of Directors



Breakfast Buddies Program

COMMUNITY RECREATION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT



In 2024, Strathcona Community Centre continues to thrive as it maintains its services for the community. 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 worked incredibly hard to keep our services running smoothly and to develop new programs, as we welcome more families, children, youth, adults, and seniors to our facility.

Board of Directors and CCA summary:

- Caitlin Jones remained as President
- Danielle Lewis remained as Vice President
- Dan Jackson remained as Vice President
- Ella Chan stepped down as Treasurer and Tiff Jung took on the role in November 2024
- Sylvia Lau was elected to the Board in 2024

The Vancouver Park Board and Strathcona Community Centre Association have put the sustainable funding project on hold for 2024 because of the ongoing transition work being done by the City Vancouver. Strathcona Sustainable Funding remains stable for SCCA.

The Summer Kick Off event was a success on June 8, 2024, as many people came to participate and support the event. 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 BBQ. Events such as Easter, Halloween, and Breakfast with Santa continue to be engaging for the Strathcona community.



SCC's Winter Solstice lantern walk



COMMUNITY RECREATION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Childcare received another year of funding through \$10 a Day funding from the BC Provincial Government. Our current funding agreement runs until March 31, 2026.

Food Security:

- Lily Nguyen was hired as the summer student and then her role evolved into our part time Backpack Assistant.
- After five years at SCCA, Samantha Patterson, the Breakfast Lead, left her role to pursue a new opportunity in her field. Bonnie Jarvis was hired as the new Breakfast Lead in September 2024.

Recreation Programs:

- The Supershine Summer Day Camp is still a top choice for Strathcona families wanting to put their child in day camp in the summer.
- Our new Solar Explorers Youth Camp turned out to be a great success.
- Anna Luong and Kevin Tang organized the Summer Cruisers Seniors Camp from June to August 2025, and every week the trips were fully booked.
- Strathcona Community Centre Association has successfully secured the Direct Access Grant of \$52,000 and the Canada Summer Jobs Grant for 16 positions, totaling \$88,484.00 for July and August 2024.



Summer Kick Off community event

COMMUNITY RECREATION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Facility Upgrades:

- New upper cabinets have been added to the downstairs kitchen for extra storage, along with a new kitchen island designed for food prep and teaching more classes. We worked with VSB to have the old ceiling tiles replaced with new ceiling tiles in the downstairs kitchen.
- We've installed new window film in the Seniors Room, Family Lounge, Games Room, and office to help reflect sunlight to keep the temperature cooler in the rooms.
- Upstairs, the Community Room and Multipurpose Room underwent renovations in December 2024. To optimize space, we relocated Food Security Storage from the Community Room to the Multipurpose Room. Additionally, we added new cabinets for storage and a sink to the Community Room.
- We worked with VSB to help with paint touch ups in the facility.

I truly appreciate being part of an incredible team and working with a supportive Community Centre Association. I'm excited to collaborate with the Strathcona Community Centre Association and all the staff at Strathcona Community Centre in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Chow

Community Recreation Supervisor



Senior volunteers cooking for Lunar New Year

COMMUNITY YOUTH WORKER REPORT

2024 at Strathcona was a period of deep connection, development, and growth within the youth programs. Since January 2024, not only has the number of youth using the space increased from 2023, the equipment, programs, and enthusiasm for utilizing the space has greatly increased. Youth related incidents continue to be minimal with risk behaviour being addressed and youth supported through adversity. Not only have the staff been a great resource for the local youth, but the support of the Board has also especially helped in the delivery of meaningful and enjoyable programming.



Youth out trip into the forest

There was a multitude of programs introduced to Strathcona in 2024. In January – April 2024, Strathcona was able to take 4 youth to the CHILL Snowboarding program with 10 other helping organizations. This program consisted of free snowboarding lessons, equipment rentals, meals, and transportation, as well as an opportunity for people to try a new activity that is inaccessible for many families in the neighbourhood. The program took place at Seymour Mountain over 6 weeks (granted there were some weather-related cancellations). In Spring 2024, youth participated in a 3-vs-3 indoor basketball tournament with over 9 teams participating, and prizes granted to winners. This was an opportunity for local youth to showcase their skills, practice refereeing, and scorekeeping. Springtime also introduced a Community Cleanup in collaboration with Strathcona Youth Council as well as new immigrant students from Britannia Secondary School.

COMMUNITY YOUTH WORKER REPORT

The summer camp had a shift in branding and execution, with the name changing to Solar Explorers Youth Trips. This series of activities ran on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with an emphasis on leadership and exploration. Some activities included a beach cleanup at Spanish Banks, the Yellow Fish Project to mark fish on storm drains to raise awareness for pollution, a trip to Cultus Lake Waterpark, lunch in Lonsdale Quay, Playland, and much more! This program accepted referrals at no-cost to support youth in access recreation and structured programming during the summer months. The summer then ended with an overnight trip to Camp Sasamat, with 5 participants coming from Strathcona at no cost. The trip includes a ropes course, meals, kayaking, and connection to nature and youth from all around the city. The summer also included golf camp at McCleery Golf Course, which included instruction and meals for 2 weeks to learn how to pitch, putt, and drive, at no cost to participants.



Friday night youth cooking program

One major highlight and a pillar program for the youth has been the Friday Night Cooking Club. The program has changed in operation from 2023 and is now run by a staff member and 6 volunteers who serve halal friendly meals, plus a vegetarian option, to the youth in the drop-in spaces, free of cost. This has allowed people to gain volunteer hours, as well as serving an average of 40 meals every Friday to the youth, totalling over 1800 meals provided in 2024. This number is a conservative number, as not all participants sign-in. This program has benefited the community relationships among youth as participants are encouraged to sit, eat, and clean together.

COMMUNITY YOUTH WORKER REPORT

This program also functioned to provide respite for households that may struggle to provide consistent meals to their growing youth. Through this program, participants have taken ownership of the space and clean, sanitize, and volunteer to help clean. These hours are recorded for the participants who help, and many reference letters were written for employment opportunities or scholarships.

Friday nights at Strathcona also included the implementation of a Night Hoops basketball team, which has continued to gain traction in 2025, and the team is looking stronger than ever. This program specifically targets those who do not play sports in a club as an effort to make sports more equitable.

Another major pillar in the community includes the Drop In Games room – this program is great for preteens and high school aged people to socialize, do arts and crafts, listen to music, and use the equipment (pool table, foosball, etc). We have set up tournaments with prizes, themed days, and take requests from the participants to plan for future activities. Some highlights include Mario Kart tournaments, table tennis tournaments, making friendship bracelets, ice-cream sundaes, and jamming out to the communal guitar.



Letizia (youth staff) and our Solar Explorers at Cultus Lake Water Park

COMMUNITY YOUTH WORKER REPORT

Our youth council is still going strong! Strathcona Youth Council successfully planned 2024 Halloween event, including an open fair with 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 2024 Easter Fair which included an egg hunt, arts and crafts, games, and photo booth for participants. During the 2024 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 Council & Aneesh at an event honouring National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

FOOD SECURITY REPORT

Strathcona Food Security Programs support our community through food access, food skills, and opportunities for community connection. Our Breakfast Program provides children with breakfast every school day, our Backpack Program offers fresh food boxes for local families, and our Breakfast Buddies, Community Kitchens and Food Workshops focus on food skills and community building.



Breakfast team members Sam & Vuong My



Heart pancakes for Valentine's Day

Breakfast Program

Our weekday Breakfast Program ensures students of Strathcona Elementary (attached to our building) start their school days with a healthy homemade breakfast.

2024 Breakfast Facts:

- An average 250 breakfasts/day
- 40,064 breakfasts made in 2024
- Each breakfast costs about \$3.34 (including wages)

All the food is homemade by staff and the Breakfast Buddies. Favourite breakfasts include: pizza muffins, muffins, granola bar, quesadillas, cinnamon toast, cereal and milk, pancakes, eggs . . . and always a choice of fruit.

FOOD SECURITY REPORT

Backpack Program

The Backpack Program, provides food access to families each Friday. The program was designed to help families with supplies of food over the weekends — filling the gap when kids aren't able to access our school-based programs. Every Friday the Strathcona Community Centre's Backpack Program provides local families with produce and staples like fresh produce, eggs, bread, tofu, and when able, yogurt and meat.

Highlights:

- 42 sessions in 2024
- 35 families, 600 participants
- 5,557 food boxes distributed
- All the food for the Backpack Program food is donated by community partners. Last year the value of food the food donated was \$500,000!



Backpack Program Assistant Lily

Volunteers

Volunteers help with packing boxes, preparing breakfasts and lunches as well as helping with the Backpack Program on Friday.

- 64 volunteers (including the Breakfast Buddies)
- 3,203 hours of volunteer time!

Workshops

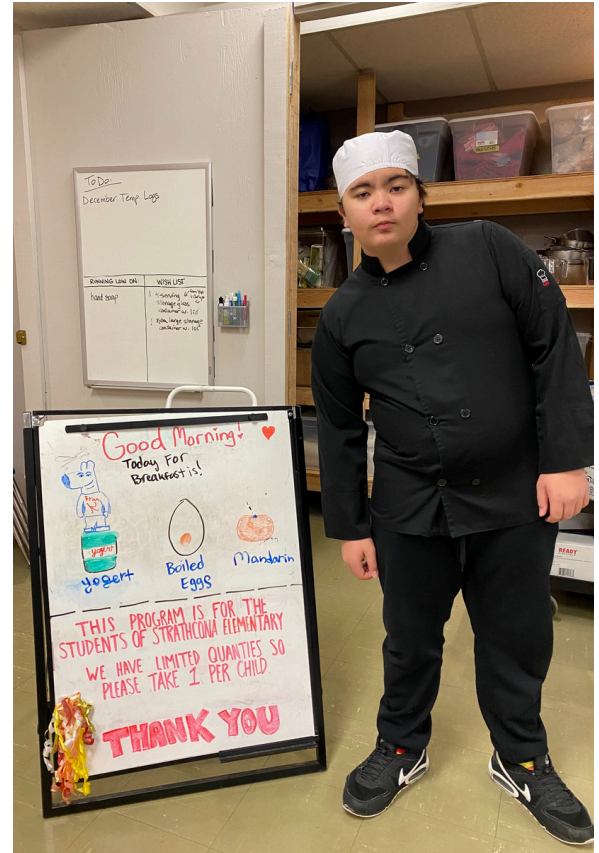
- 32 youth community kitchens
- 16 adult community kitchens
- 9 canning sessions
- 5 cultural cooking classes
- 1 Gardening workshop
- 63 food workshops in total!

FOOD SECURITY REPORT

CULINARY AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP SKILLS THROUGH BREAKFAST BUDDIES

Ren (they/them), a Grade 7 Breakfast Buddies youth, first joined the program in Grade 6. At the time, they had no interest in cooking and little confidence in the kitchen. “Previously, my cooking confidence was zero. I didn’t feel like cooking at all, but then I joined Breakfast Buddies and got to cook more things and learned about cooking”

Ren’s mom has noticed a big change. “The program transformed them. It deepened both their interest in cooking and community leadership.” Since joining, they have also become involved in the Friday evening youth cooking program at Strathcona Community Centre, helping to prepare meals for youth who drop in for the youth lounge. They’ve also joined the Junior Youth Council and their school’s graduation committee, something Ren’s mom says would not have happened had they not had the experience of the Breakfast Buddies.



Ren at the Breakfast Buddies Program

They’ve also said they’ve started cooking simple meals at home and have asked the staff for cooking advice on how to be a better cook.

Breakfast Buddies empowers youth to take on leadership roles while building culinary skills. Participants help prepare breakfast for 250 students each morning — slicing fruit, making granola, and preparing their own lunches. They’re also involved in the Friday lunch, where Breakfast Buddies, volunteers and community members share a meal during the Backpack Program’s food distribution program.

Ren sees firsthand how the program impacts students. “A fed mind is a healthy mind. I don’t think my brain runs without breakfast. It helps students have the energy to learn, do gym, and stay active. Food is a crucial part of life, and the breakfast program is helping with that.”

FOOD SECURITY REPORT

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
- Direct Access Gaming Grant
- Face The World Foundation
- Marleena Markham & CIBC Miracle Day
- CIBC Wood Gundy
- Click Foundation
- Jane Lee

In Kind Food Support

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

2024 Community Partners

- 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

Amy Weeks

Food Security Manager



Amy and the Community Canning Group



Backpack Program good food boxes

RECREATION PROGRAMMER'S REPORT

Senior | Family | CAPC | Special Events

Another year has flown by, and this is the busiest we've seen our facility. It has been amazing to see all the individuals come through our doors to enjoy the programs/events/workshops that we have to offer.

This year, our CAP-C (Community Action Program for Children) Coordinator, Anna Luong, has done amazing work by coordinating and facilitating more programs to support 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 bond and build capacity within this community. Over the course of the year, we have had 22 seasonal programs that were attended by over 200 participants from the 40-50 families that we currently support.

This past year we have seen an increase in older adults (55+ years) attending our programs and it has been amazing to see and meet many new faces interested in our programs. We are now at full capacity within our Tai Chi and our Wellness Programs. In addition, our new Floor Curling program has really hit it off within the last year and it has been fantastic to watch seniors enjoy, socialize, and try new things.

The Summer Cruisers program also had a fantastic summer where they again went exploring all around the Lower Mainland, including Deep Cove, Grouse Mountain, Steveston, Victoria, Whistler and more! Within the 7 weeks this program runs, we had 19 activities and 330 attendees registered.



CAP-C Program participants

RECREATION PROGRAMMER'S REPORT

Last I would like to thank everyone that has been a constant support in our special events for the community. We had another wonderful year of events put on by our staff and youth volunteers and the success could not have been done without them and all the support from every person that attended.

I would like to thank our community for all the hard work and support that we have been given from volunteering, attending programs and supporting our community events. I am very grateful to be able to be apart of the Strathcona community and neighbourhood!

Respectfully Submitted,

Adrianna Teoh

Recreation Programmer II



Seniors Summer Cruisers day camp program



Our team making a thank you for volunteers

RECREATION PROGRAMMER'S REPORT

Children | Adult | Rentals | Basketball | Day Camp

In early 2024, the Red Ribbon Skirt Project continued here at Strathcona CC. We provided them a weekly space to create red dresses representing fallen sisters in the Indigenous Community. Also, we provided a weekly gym time from Jan-Mar 2024 to the Vancity Warriors team to help them prepare for the All Native Basketball Tournament.

Our most successful new program is Axe Capoeira for Children. Kaj, our instructor was raised in Strathcona and also works in our Out of School Care Program. The kids are committed to the program as they attend twice a week. Our Little Chefs and Gymnastics programs are our most popular programs on the weekends, bringing many children and their families into the centre each week.

In the Spring and Fall 2024, we enrolled a team of Grades 6-8 boys in the RBL Basketball League. They did very well representing the community of Strathcona and it's great to see some of them now flourish on their secondary school teams. Coach Jadon has dedicated a lot of time and commitment to the children and he is now coaching some of them on the Britannia Grade 8 team as well.



Zumba moves outdoors in the summer



RECREATION PROGRAMMER'S REPORT

For Adult Programs, our biggest improvement in attendance is our Yoga Program. Our new instructor Linh, is a Strathcona Resident and has been a wonderful addition to our team. She has built quite the following in her short time here and there has been lots of positive feedback about her instruction. Other new classes we have added are adult Capoeira and weekly drop-in badminton sessions on Monday evenings.

Our rentals also picked up in 2024, and there is now more interest in after hours bookings when the community centre is closed.

Raymond Eng

Recreation Programmer II



Popular Bootcamp class for adults

CHILDCARE REPORT

In 2024, Strathcona Licensed Childcare finished our second 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 have the current funding agreement with 10\$ADay ChildCareBC until March 31, 2026. We are in a very solid funding situation for the year ahead as we also have additional funding to support specific children through Aboriginal Supported Childcare as well as the City of Vancouver Childcare Enhancement grant that helps with parent fees as well as additional staffing beyond ratio.

During 2024 we completed a development permit that saw a small increase of 6 spaces in the Community Room as a result of the initial stage of the renovation. Our total licensed space for school aged children increased to 180 and preschool stayed at 40 licensed spaces.

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. Thank you for working together with us!





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



STRATHCONA
COMMUNITY CENTRE

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