

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**Vancity**  
Community Foundation

# Table of Contents

Towards Reconciliation	3
Message from our CEO	4
About Us	6
By The Numbers	7
Philanthropy	8
Affordable Community Housing Program	13
Reaching Home	16
312 Main	18
BC Rent Bank	19
Living Wage for Families BC	21
Our Team	22

# Towards Reconciliation



Vancity Community Foundation operates on the lands of many Indigenous Nations. We bring our hearts and minds together and acknowledge the territory of these nations. Our office, 312 Main, is located on the unceded territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliwəta? / Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

Along with a number of other foundations and charities, Vancity Community Foundation has signed the Philanthropic Community's [Declaration of Action](#) to affirm our commitment to taking action towards Reconciliation. We continue our efforts to embed this commitment in our operations, staffing, grantmaking, investment strategies, and partnerships. We recognize the historical legacy and continued harmful impact of colonization and understand that our Reconciliation and anti-racism work is both urgent and ongoing.

# Message from our CEO

This past year was a testament to our collective commitment to fostering thriving communities through strategic initiatives, impactful programs, and of course the hard work of an incredibly dedicated team. It was also a year of significant internal transformation, setting the stage for even greater impact in the years to come.

## Building a Stronger Foundation

Internally, VCF focused on strengthening our capacity to serve the community more effectively. We expanded our leadership team with the addition of three new Directors, bolstering our expertise in Communications & Advocacy, Operations, and Community Programs. This strategic move positions us for continued growth and influence.

We also embraced balance by implementing a four-day work week, following a successful 18-month trial that saw an increase in engagement and productivity for the team.

## A Renewed Strategic Vision

VCF embarked on a collaborative effort to develop a new strategic plan that outlines our priorities for the coming years. This plan emphasizes three key areas: restoring affordability, climate justice, and community connection. By focusing on these

interconnected issues, we aim to create the economic, social, and environmental conditions necessary for all communities to thrive.

## Community Impact in Action

Externally, VCF played a vital role in supporting communities across the province. In response to the devastating 2023 wildfire season, the Foundation and the Credit Union worked together through the Vancity Humanitarian Fund to assist with relief efforts. By partnering with United Way of BC and First Nations Emergency Services, we were able to provide immediate assistance while also strengthening connections with local communities and organizations.

Furthermore, we prioritized advocacy and research to further our mission. VCF participated in the B.C. Budget lockup and announcement for the first time, marking a renewed focus on government relations work. Throughout the year, we met with key cabinet ministers, including Premier Eby, to raise awareness of our initiatives, such as the affordable community housing program and 312 Main, and their impact.

Our revamped Communications team played a key role in increasing community engagement. We collaborated with housing partners through the annual Housing Central conference and participated in campaigns like One Day's Pay, which shared how little of the philanthropic dollars given in our communities are given to Indigenous-led organizations.



## Community Programs Delivering Results

We have also made significant strides in our community programs.

Our work on the Living Wage Campaign received widespread media attention, highlighting the ongoing gap between minimum wage and living wage in Metro Vancouver. Through this work, VCF has helped advocate for policies to lift the income of low-wage workers, address the affordability crisis, and protect affordable housing stock.

Our Philanthropy program saw growth and engagement from our donor community. The Donor Relations Team successfully opened nine new Donor Advised Funds, reflecting increased referrals and a robust year-end giving pattern. VCF also held our first public donor event since the pandemic. The event, held at The Aspen – an affordable housing development made possible through our Affordable Community Housing Program – underscored our commitment to changing our approach to Philanthropy, away from a donor centric model and towards one rooted in community. Just over \$3 million was granted to the community through the various funds managed by VCF.

## Affordable Housing: A Cornerstone of Our Work

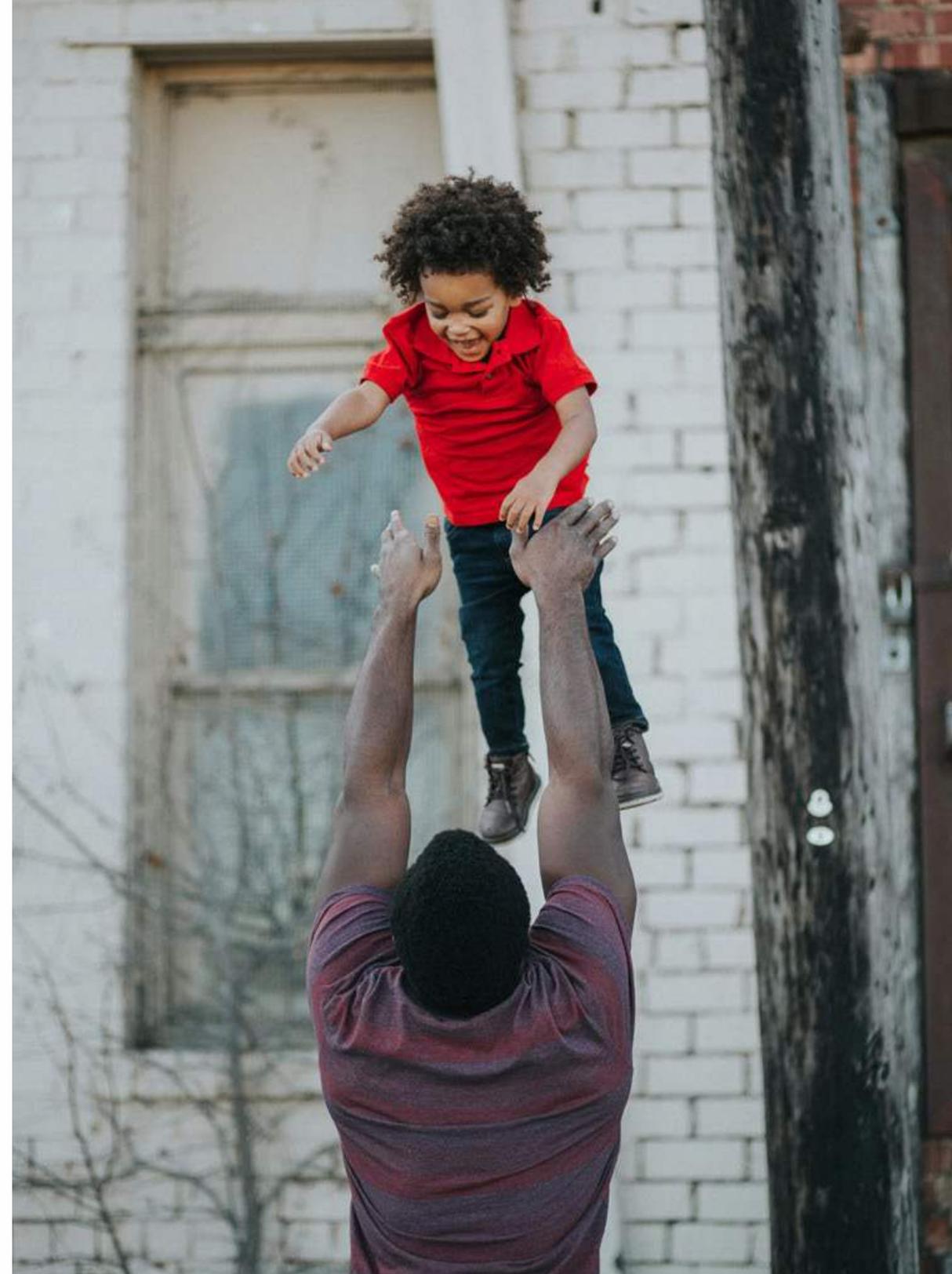
Affordable housing remains a top priority for VCF. By the end of 2023, the Vancity Affordable Community Housing Program had responded to over 100 inquiries for support. Through a combination of grants and loans totaling close to \$8 million – including \$1 million in grants alone – the program supported 35 projects with the potential to create over 4,000 affordable homes. This vital work contributes significantly to addressing the housing crisis in B.C.

Meanwhile, BC Rent Bank, a project of VCF, provided emergency rental assistance to over 2,260 renters across the province during their 2022–23 fiscal year. Recognizing the ongoing need, the BC Rent Bank team secured a further \$7 million investment from the Government of B.C., allowing them to expand their reach and impact even further.

## Looking Ahead with Confidence

2023 was a year of remarkable achievements for Vancity Community Foundation. We navigated challenges with resilience, continued to innovate, and delivered impactful programs that benefit communities across B.C. I am filled with immense gratitude for the opportunity to lead such an extraordinary team. And I am confident that VCF will continue to build on this strong foundation and drive even greater positive change in the years to come.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated team members, donors, and community partners for your unwavering commitment to building thriving communities together.



# About Us

## Vancity Community Foundation & Vancity

Vancity Community Foundation was founded by Vancity credit union in 1989 on the belief that if we work together, we will have the resources we need to build a thriving, vibrant community.

To get there, we use and leverage financial tools, provide innovative support to non-profit organizations, and advocate for policies that help make life more affordable through our various projects including BC Rent Bank, Reaching Home, 312 Main, Living Wage for Families BC, the Vancity Affordable Community Housing Program + Accelerator Fund, and over 240 philanthropic funds.

Along the way, we are rooted in commitments to Truth and Reconciliation, anti-racism, equity, and being in Right Relations with the land.

In much the way Vancity credit union pools member deposits for community good, Vancity Community Foundation pools your donations and gets creative with capital. We leverage an array of financial tools while convening a trusted network of donors, investors, and partners to make impact happen.

Together, we contribute towards a society that is inclusive, just, and sustainable.

## Our Vision

Our vision, shared with Vancity, is a transformed economy that protects the earth and guarantees equity for all.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to be a catalyst for community change. We help communities thrive and prosper by using and leveraging financial tools, and providing direct support to community organizations in innovative ways, through an independent non-profit legal structure and donated contributions.



# By the Numbers

## Financial highlights for the year ending December 31, 2023

Consolidated Total Assets	\$98,057,282
<b>Contributions Received</b>	
Unrestricted Community Foundation	\$1,538,296
Community Programs & Partnerships	\$33,640,342
Restricted Donor Advised Funds	\$5,757,068
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$40,935,705</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	
Grant Distributions	\$33,381,383
Community Programs & Partnerships	\$7,464,576
VCF Management and Administration	\$3,136,634
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$43,982,593</b>

\*Audited financial statements are available in full [on our website](#)

## Investments by Class

### Vancity Community Foundation

Socially Responsible Financial Investments (invested with Vancity/VCIM)	\$56,683,957
Impact Investments	\$3,528,221
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$60,212,178</b>

### Greater Vancouver Community Assistance Foundation (GVCAF)

Short-Term Financial Instruments (invested with Vancity)	\$6,588,961
Affordable Housing Accelerator Fund Loans	\$18,511,320
Other Impact Loans & Investments	\$1,858,342
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$26,958,622</b>

<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$87,170,801</b>
--------------------------	---------------------

<b>Total Invested in SRI/Financial Instruments</b>	<b>73%</b>
--	------------

<b>Total Invested in Impact</b>	<b>27%</b>
---------------------------------	------------



# Philanthropy

Since 1989, Vancity Community Foundation has been supporting individuals, families, community organizations, and for-profits to provide enduring support to communities.

In 2023, the Philanthropy team expanded to include a Resource Development team focused on growing the foundation's resources through community-centric practices, and a Community + Equity team was established to lead the foundation's efforts to shift grantmaking practices so that they are more just and inclusive, ensuring that access, awareness, and funding is increased for Black and Indigenous communities, the Downtown Eastside, and historically and persistently marginalized communities.

The Philanthropy team is profoundly grateful for wisdom and teachings shared by peers in the philanthropic sector and the many instructors and advisors we have had the privilege of learning with and from, including through Partners in Reciprocity and the All My Relations Gathering (hosted by the [Circle on Philanthropy](#)), the JEDI Accelerator (hosted by [Philanthropic Foundations of Canada](#)), Reconnect 2024 (hosted by [Community Foundations of Canada](#)), and the Philanthropic Community of Practice (hosted by [Recast Philanthropy](#)).





## Community and Donor Advised Funds

### Community Advised Funds

Established by charities, non-profits, and community associations, these funds are community-led, creating a sustainable revenue stream for the establishing organization or supporting thriving communities through community-led grantmaking and scholarships.

Number of Funds <b>49</b>	Capital Balance <b>\$14,763,959</b>
Funds Raised <b>43 donations</b> TOTALING <b>\$1235</b>	Funds Granted <b>36 grants</b> TOTALING <b>\$263,932</b>

### Donor Advised Funds

Donor Advised Funds are established by individuals, families, and for-profit organizations, with annual grants designated or advised by the establishing donor(s). The funds support a range of purposes, with many being flexible to respond to changing and immediate community needs,

while others create an enduring legacy of support aligned with individual passions and interests.

Number of Funds <b>183</b>	Capital Balance <b>\$32,684,964</b>
Funds Raised <b>634 donations</b> TOTALING <b>\$4,870,929</b>	Funds Granted <b>689 grants</b> TOTALING <b>\$1,251,434</b>

In 2023 we welcomed 9 new Donor Advised Funds to the portfolio:

- Eugene Chan Fund
- Big Dyl Legacy Fund
- Land-Based Learning Fund
- Norma’s Fund
- Laura Blumenthal Fund
- Logan Family Fund
- Jack Spraak Legacy Fund
- Liz and Gord Carter-Boppart Charitable Fund
- Marlon and Carole (nee Theberge) Ahearn Spirited Legacy Fund

### Kinship Funds

Similar to Donor Advised Funds, Kinship Funds allow individuals and families to become part of something bigger by working more directly with VCF to support charities and non-profits that are creating the social, economic, and environmental conditions to collectively thrive. Vancity Community Foundation pools the annual granting available from all Kinship Funds in ‘Collective Giving Funds’, allowing for larger and more impactful grants and sustainable program delivery that prioritizes Black and Indigenous communities, historically and persistently marginalized communities, and the Downtown Eastside.

Number of Funds <b>9</b>	Capital Balance <b>\$7,030,720</b>
Funds Raised <b>839 donations</b> TOTALING <b>\$855,402</b>	Funds Granted <b>98 grants</b> TOTALING <b>\$1,112,315</b>

## Community and Donor Advised Funds

### An Enduring Legacy of Support

Many of the funds established at Vancity Community Foundation continue to support community long after the donor's lifetime or are established through an estate gift. The Foundation is honoured to have the trust of donors to carry on their legacy of support.

Number of Funds

**16**

Capital Balance

**\$4,379,042**

Funds Raised

**1 donations**

TOTALING  
**\$5,000**

Funds Granted

**42 grants**

TOTALING  
**\$169,073**

### Investment Strategy + Performance

Many of the funds established at Vancity Community Foundation continue to support community long after the donor's lifetime or are established through an estate gift. The Foundation is honoured to have the trust of donors to carry on their legacy of support.

### Socially Responsible Investments

The capital of our long-term funds is pooled and invested together for greater impact. Approximately 90% of the capital of the Donor Advised Fund pool is invested in socially responsible investments with [Vancity Investment Management](#) (VCIM). Socially responsible investments screen out harmful practices and industries, including fossil fuels.

VCIM's approach to investing is hands-on and in-depth. They look for responsible, progressive companies with competitive growth potential. Once a company is selected, it is actively monitored for its environmental, social, and governance (ESG) progress. VCIM uses shareholder advocacy and resolution processes to encourage companies to continually improve their practices. Read more about the impact created through VCIM's [shareholder advocacy](#) reports.

### Performance of Vancity Investment Management (SRI) Portfolio

December 31, 2023	3 Months	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
Vancity Community Foundation	9.78%	11.47%	11.47%	2.20%	8.01%
Blended Benchmark*	7.37%	11.89%	11.89%	5.70%	8.24%

\*39% S&P/TSX Composite Total Return Index, 26% MSCI World Net Total Return Index (CAD), 13% FTSE Universe Bond Index, 20% FTSE Short Term Overall Bond Index, 2% FTSE Canada 30-Day T-Bill Index ports.



## Community and Donor Advised Funds

### Direct Impact Investments

The remaining capital is invested more directly, without sacrificing financial returns. These investments are mainly held in the **Vancity Affordable Community Housing Accelerator Fund**, which advances the creation of climate-ready, community-owned affordable rental housing by working with not-for-profit, cooperative, and Indigenous organizations to fund affordable housing development projects.

Read more about our **Affordable Community Housing Program** on page 13 of this report.



## BLACK HISTORY / FUTURES MONTH

In February, as part of our ongoing commitment to anti-racism, the Foundation became a signatory to the [Halifax Declaration](#) for the Eradication of Racial Discrimination. During Black History and Black Futures months, VCF encouraged peers to read the declaration and share in this commitment. As part of the campaign, we also highlighted the work of several Black-led organizations to raise awareness of the underfunding of Black-led, -serving, and -informed organization in Canada, citing statistics from the [Unfunded Report](#).

## RECONNECT EVENT

In October, VCF brought together donors, individual social investors, and institutional impact investors to learn more about the Accelerator Fund and how their collective contributions are transformed into affordable housing through the hard work and dedication of community organizations. The Reconnect event was held at Aspen, which received pre-construction loans from the Accelerator Fund in 2018 and 2019. Aspen is a 9-story mixed-used building in Vancouver which includes 145 rental homes, with 50% of the homes suitable for families (and a portion of the homes fully accessible), as well as community gardens and shared rooftop terrace. The site is also home to the purpose-built Mid-Main Community Health Centre.

## ONE DAY'S PAY + ORANGE SHIRT DAY

In the lead up to Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 29th, VCF posted a blog called ["Reimagining Philanthropy"](#) articulating the our commitment to the equitable distribution of wealth and resources without colonial constraints. As part of this commitment, Vancity Community Foundation participated in the One Day's Pay campaign, encouraging donors and fund advisors to make a gift directly to an Indigenous-led organization as an act of Reconciliation. Vancity Community Foundation made a donation of \$23,000 (equivalent to one day's operating pay) to the [Kw'umut Lelum Foundation](#) as part of the campaign. Settler and non-Indigenous staff and Board members who were able to give participated in solidarity.

## GIVING TUESDAY

On November 28th, VCF participated in Giving Tuesday, a global giving movement that inspires people to support and champion the causes they believe in and the communities in which they live. We invited donors and fund advisors to give in any way they were able—whether volunteering time and skills, participating in acts of kindness, or supporting a cause that they care about. As part of the campaign, VCF emphasized its commitment to leveraging social finance tools, providing innovative support to non-profit organizations, and advocating for policies that help make life more just and affordable.



## Collective Impact Funds

We know communities are not thriving right now. Through four new Collective Impact Funds established at the end of 2023, Vancity Community Foundation is supporting local leaders, organizations, and networks to advance solutions to social and environmental challenges. Donations to Collective Impact Funds are pooled together and transformed into capacity-building initiatives, community convening, program delivery, advocacy, research, and direct support for (and with) the charities and non-profits serving the people and communities most impacted by the affordability crisis and climate change.

# Affordable Community Housing Program

The Vancity Affordable Community Housing Program works to preserve and grow the supply of community-owned, affordable climate-ready rental homes.

Canada has a vibrant non-profit, co-operative and Indigenous housing sector. These groups often have the land needed to build more housing, but they lack the early-stage capital to advance projects from idea to construction to occupancy. We seek to address this barrier through four key strategies:

## FUNDING EARLY-STAGE PROJECTS:

We provide grants and low-cost flexible financing to support early stage planning and pre-development of affordable and climate-ready housing to unlock approvals and construction or acquisition financing.

## BUILDING DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY IN ORGANIZATIONS:

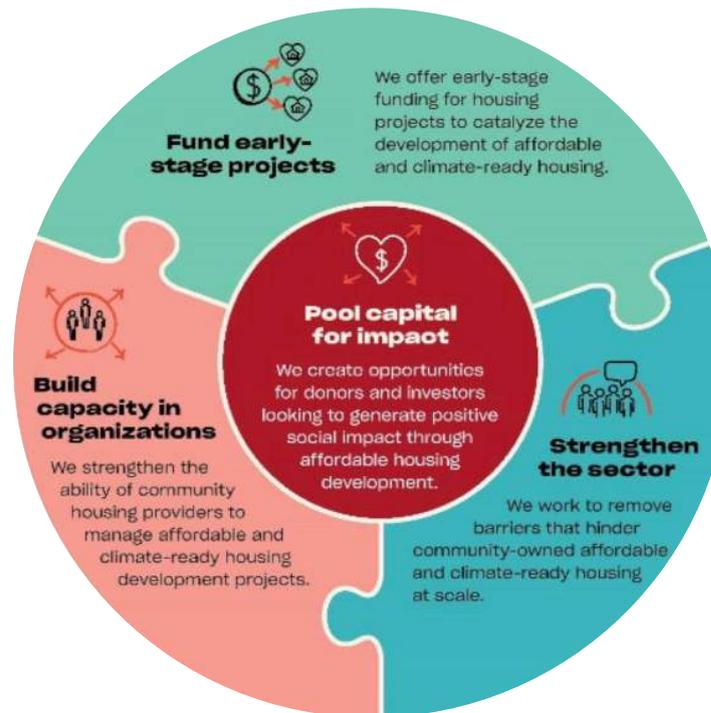
We provide funding and technical support to strengthen the ability of community housing providers to manage and scale-up affordable and climate-ready housing project development.

## STRENGTHENING THE SECTOR:

We support research, advocacy and education initiatives that help to remove the sectoral barriers impeding the development of community-owned affordable housing.

## POOLING CAPITAL FOR IMPACT:

We increase the capital available for community-owned affordable housing by creating opportunities for donors and impact investors looking to generate positive social impact through affordable rental housing development.



## 2023 Program Highlights

### HOUSING PROJECT GRANTS

**\$540,000** of grants

**22 projects** at early stages

**2,240** homes

### HOUSING PROJECT LOANS

**\$6.8 million** in loans approved

**13 projects** close to construction

**1,295** homes

### DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS

**\$390,000** in grants to 8 organizations

### STRENGTHENING THE SECTOR GRANTS

**\$90,700** in grants to 7 initiatives

To find out more information about the Vancity Affordable Community Housing Program, please visit: [vahaf.ca](http://vahaf.ca)

## 2023 Grant & Loan List

### 2023 GRANT RECIPIENTS

- 221A Artist Run Centre Society
- Anglican Diocese of New Westminster
- Aunt Leah's Foundation
- Battered Women's Support Services
- BC Indigenous Housing Society
- BC Non-Profit Housing Association – Sponsorship
- Benediction Lutheran Church
- Bethany-Newton United Church
- Bowen Island Resilient Community Housing Society
- Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness
- Canadian Housing & Renewal Association
- Chilliwack Society for Community Living
- Church of the Nazarene Canada Pacific District
- City of Surrey
- Cowichan Housing Association
- Crisis Intervention & Suicide Prevention Centre of BC
- Delta Community Living Society
- Duncan Housing Society
- Entre Nous Femmes Housing Society

- Fil Coop One Housing Society
- Habitat for Humanity Victoria
- Hogan's Alley Society
- KinVillage Association
- Lesya Ukrainka Housing Society
- More Than a Roof Housing Society
- National Right to Housing Network
- Pacifica Housing Society
- Pakistan Canada Association
- Peace Portal Alliance Church
- Rise Housing & Community Land Trust / Purpose Driven Development
- SHARE & 43 Housing Society
- Simon Fraser University
- Sooke Region Community Health Network
- Squamish Community Housing Society
- The Neighborhood Land Trust
- Trinity United Church
- Vancouver Urbanarium Society

### 2023 LOAN RECIPIENTS

- Aboriginal Land Trust
- Battered Women's Support Services
- Brightside Community Homes Foundation
- Catalyst Community Developments Society
- Entre Nous Femmes Housing Society
- Galiano Affordable Living Initiative Society
- Hogan's Alley Society
- John Howard Society of Victoria
- Kiwanis Soroptimist (1974) Senior Citizens Society
- Sunshine Coast Affordable Housing Society
- Unity Centre for Practical Christianity



In 2023, we provided **37 grants (totaling \$1.03 million)** for affordable housing projects and initiatives. Our grants are essential to help catalyze affordable housing projects. Many projects that receive a grant from our program will go on to access a loan from our accelerator Loan Fund.



## Project Profile: Hogan's Alley Society

Hogan's Alley Society (HAS) is a Black-led non-profit organization committed to advancing the social, political, economic, and cultural well-being of people of African descent in Metro Vancouver. Its work focuses on three key pillars: culturally informed housing, non-profit housing development, and community engagement.

HAS decided to pursue the acquisition of a property at 796 Main Street in Vancouver. This site is significant given its location at the intersection of Main and Union, in close proximity to what was known as Hogan's Alley, which ran between Union and Prior Streets from approximately Main Street to Jackson Avenue.

The Vancity Affordable Community Housing Program and Accelerator Fund supported Hogan's Alley Society's acquisition, first by providing a grant to help them cover expenses related to the due diligence, followed by a \$1 million acquisition loan to be used for the two deposits required for the offer to purchase the property. The acquisition of the site from a market developer will result in the development of 108 units of affordable non-market rental homes, with a focus on serving people of African descent.

This project is the cornerstone of efforts to revitalize a Black neighbourhood that was forcibly displaced decades ago through a series of discriminatory and racially motivated policies enacted by the City of Vancouver. Hogan's Alley was the centre

of a vibrant Black community, and the site of this acquisition maintains a strong cultural memory and sense of identity. In addition to creating more much-needed affordable housing, this project supports a larger social movement led by HAS to reclaim their land, revitalize their neighborhood, and reestablish a thriving Black community.



To find out more information about Hogan's Alley please visit:

[hogansalleysociety.org](http://hogansalleysociety.org)



# Reaching Home

Throughout 2023, Reaching Home focused on significant milestones that aligned with our strategic priorities to reduce homelessness, promote equity, and enhance team capacity. The following is a breakdown of the initiatives, progress, and impact of our efforts:

## Coordinated Access (CA-HMIS) Demos and Implementation

During the summer, three CA-HMIS demos were conducted for Community Advisory Board (CAB) members, gathering valuable feedback. The internal review of the data-sharing agreement and consent form was completed and sent for CAB approval. These steps were crucial for launching the CA-HMIS system, which aims to improve homelessness data and service coordination.

## Community Plan 2024–2028 Preparations

Preparations for a fall engagement session began, including the recruitment of external contractors. The goal was to shape the strategic priorities for the upcoming Calls for Proposals.

## Grant Lifecycle Management Software

The in-person consultations and implementation of

a new Grant Lifecycle Management software began, which was expected to be ready by early next year to facilitate Calls for Proposals.

Homelessness Count Data Sharing Agreement: The 2023 Homelessness Count Data Sharing Agreement was circulated for review.

## Staff Changes and Recruitment

New roles, including a Senior Community Program Officer and Officer of Finance and Contracts, were posted to address recent staff changes.

## San'yas Core Indigenous Cultural Safety Training

The majority of staff completed an 8-week training on Indigenous cultural safety, which became a cornerstone of Reaching Home's commitment to cultural competence and decolonization.

## CA-HMIS Activation

Progress on the Coordinated Access initiative continued, with the Constellation Activation Plan for CA-HMIS implemented in partnership with BC Housing, Fraser Health, and other stakeholders. This included readiness activities in Langley and exploration of discharge pathways for vulnerable populations in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. The process focused on addressing systemic issues like transportation barriers and escalating housing crises.

### Homelessness Count Data

Reports from the 2023 Homelessness Count were finalized and reviewed by the CAB. The official press release was prepared for early October.

### CAB Membership and Governance

With three vacancies in CAB, recruitment processes were initiated for new members, alongside ongoing updates to governance structures. Additionally, CAB agreed to unique funding processes for tenants facing racism.

### Staff Retreat and Capacity Building

A successful staff retreat was held in September, fostering discussions on decolonization, communication, and stress management. Ongoing training sessions focused on leadership, housing, and mental health to enhance team capacity.

### Surplus and Slippage Management

The team focused on addressing projected funding slippage and reallocating funds within the community. Recommendations were made to the CAB to ensure effective use of funds before the fiscal year ended.

### Community Plan Engagement

Engagement sessions with the community continued, gathering data to determine strategic priorities for upcoming Calls for Proposals and the next 5-year Community Plan.

### Additional Winter Funds

Infrastructure Canada provided additional winter funding, which was successfully allocated to meet community needs, with approval from the CAB.

### Governance Manual

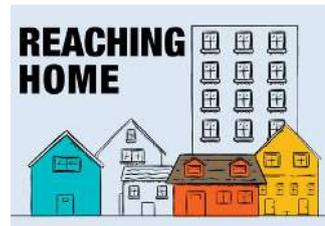
A simplified governance manual was developed, providing a clear framework for managing Reaching Home operations, and updates to this document continued throughout the quarter.

### Relationship Building

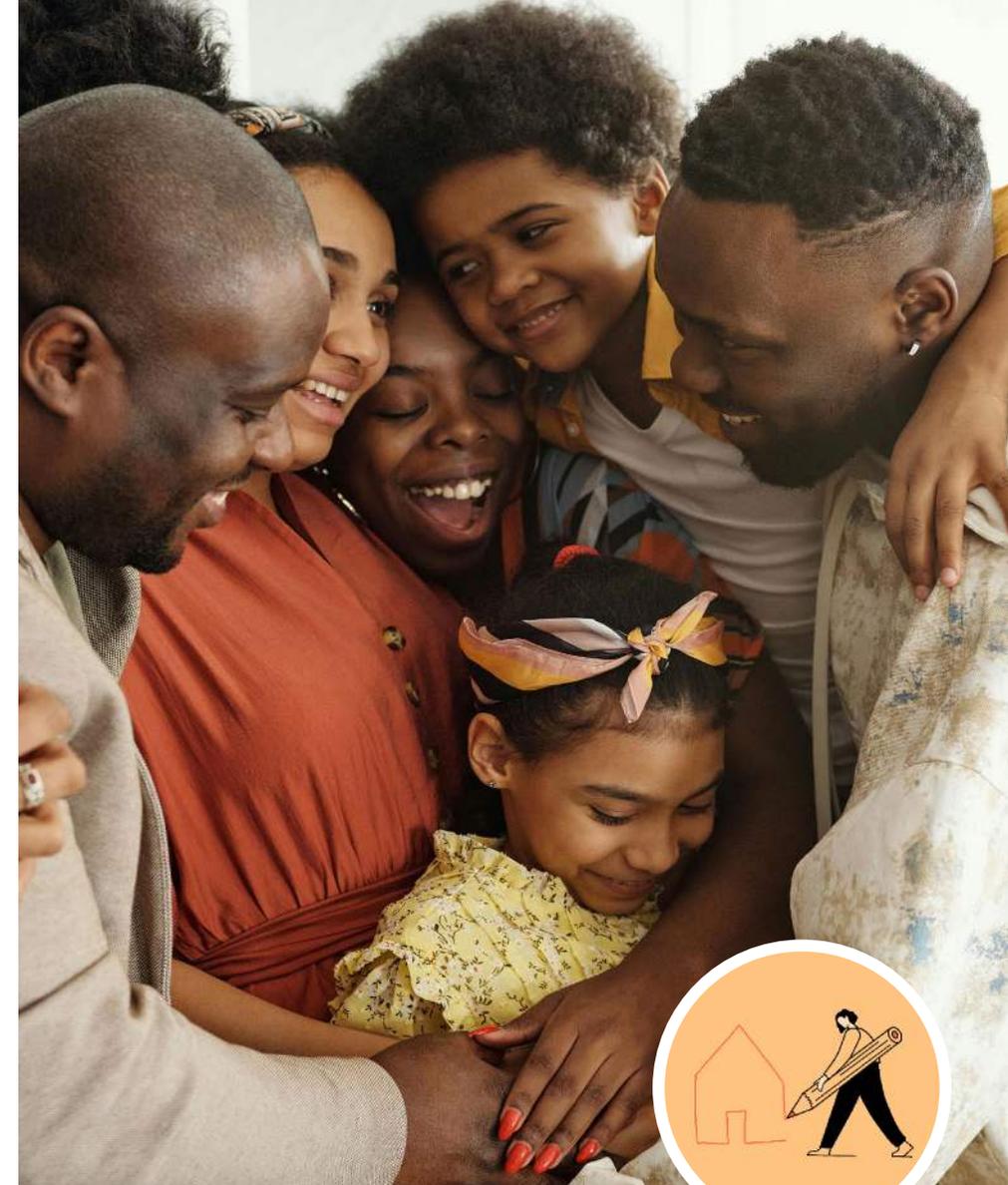
Collaborative relationships with CAB and CE members were deepened, and three new CAB members joined the team during this period.

### Team Capacity Building

Recruitment of two Community Program Officers was initiated to meet the increasing demands of the program. An internal intranet was also created to streamline Reaching Home operations, and various training sessions were planned to boost team expertise in leadership and mental health.



To find out more information about Reaching Home, [click here](#).



This year was marked by significant achievements in aligning Reaching Home's initiatives with **community needs, building capacity within the team, and reinforcing collaborative efforts with partners** to ensure the effective use of resources to reduce homelessness and promote equity.

## 312 Main

In 2023, 312 Main celebrated its 5th anniversary. More than 100 staff, tenants, and community members came together to reflect on and celebrate the incredible work that community organizations and members have together done in this space.

Having opened in 2018, 312 Main provides affordable office, meeting, and event space to not-for-profit and impact organizations working to create social, environmental, and cultural change in our communities.

In 2023, **more than 70 not-for-profit and impact organizations and programs** were members of 312 Main, making up roughly **500 individuals**. Some new members that came into the space included:

- Sanala Planning
- Hogan's Alley Society
- Street Saviours Outreach
- Groundswell
- Hua Foundation
- Coalition of Peers Dismantling the Drug War
- Worker Solidary Network

In addition, **312 Main sponsored more than 700 hours** of community meetings and events to ensure great accessibility to the space. This included:

- Weekly Bidders' Project meetings
- Downtown Eastside social enterprise community breakfasts
- Weekly La Boussole food bank
- Monthly Megaphone vendor meetings
- Annual National Aboriginal Veterans Day ceremony
- Urban Indigenous Self-Governance Symposium
- Naloxone trainings
- Heart of the City cultural events
- Vancouver Street Soccer Society holiday celebration

In the summer of 2023, 312 Main hosted a build-it-yourself air filter workshop for Downtown Eastside community members. With air pollution increasingly impacting folks in this community, the workshop showed folks how they could build their own affordable air cleaner so they can better protect lung health, especially for persons particularly at-risk to particulate matter and wildfire smoke. Led by researchers at Simon Fraser University and funded by the City of Vancouver, more than 20 people participated in the workshop, who each left with their own Air Cleaner that can remove smoke, particulate matter, allergens, dust, bacteria, and viruses from their indoor air at home.



To find out more information about 312 Main, please visit:

[312main.ca](https://312main.ca)

# BC Rent Bank

BC Rent Bank is an eviction prevention program focused on enhancing housing stability for renters across British Columbia. Our goal is to reduce people's immediate stress due to eviction or lack of access to housing, and to give them enough breathing room to create a plan to keep their housing and get back on their feet.

Our model of partnering with local organizations means that frontline services are accessible in communities across B.C. Our partners can focus on responding to renters in crisis, as we keep our eyes on key areas such as resource development, advocacy, research, training, and improving technology.

This past year, we sought to evolve and strengthen the BC Rent Bank network, keeping the focus on renters, while enhancing our data capabilities and learning more about where support is needed most.

## ADVOCACY

BC Rent Bank helped co-found the Canadian Rent Bank Coalition, and we have been working on a large research project called "[Staying Home](#)" which studies rent banks in three Canadian provinces.

We advocated against predatory lending, resulting in an announcement in the 2023 provincial budget indicating the federal government's intentions to reduce the criminal rate of interest from 47% to 35%.

## AWARENESS

BC Rent Bank was highlighted in Imagine Canada's Journey to Impact: [Unlocking Purpose through Social Finance](#) report, featuring 22 inspiring case studies showcasing the transformative potential of social finance.

BC Rent Bank was represented at three key provincial and national housing conferences, in webinars, and in several radio interviews around the topic of the housing crisis and its impact on renters.

## OPERATIONS

We improved the online application to better capture renter requests for additional supports, and implemented a demographic survey to understand how we can better serve all renters in BC.



## FINANCIALS \*

Over **\$2.35 million** distributed to support **3,436** renters in over **1,500** households.

Over **\$655,000** reinvested from renters who repaid their loans.

Increased loans to renters by **40%**, impacting **51%** more people compared to 2022–2023.

Participated in an **\$11 million** funding announcement by the Government of B.C.

Fundraised **\$1.7 million** through the public and private sector.



To find out more information about BC Rent Bank, please visit:

[bcrentbank.ca](https://bcrentbank.ca)

\* BC Rent Bank's fiscal year is April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024



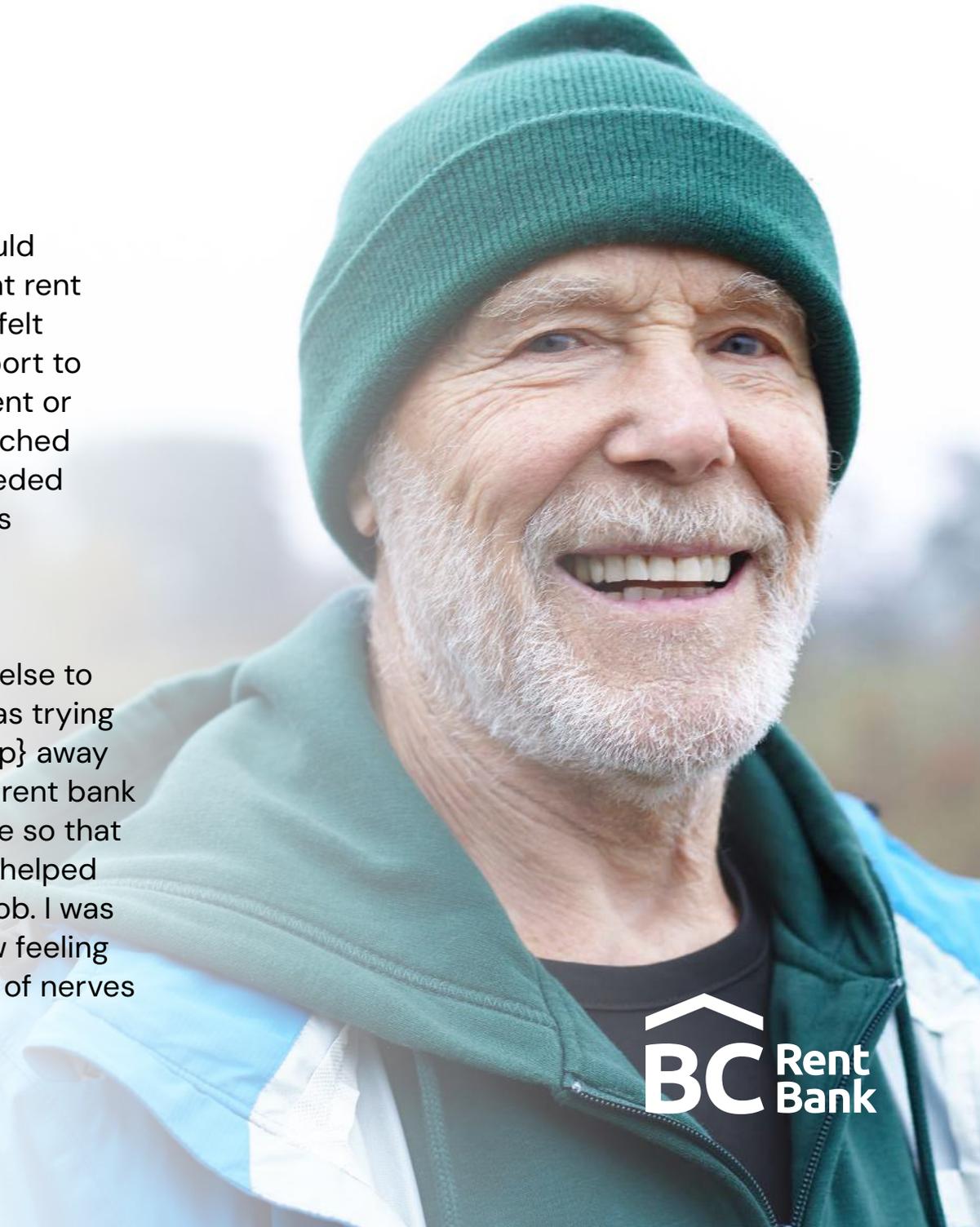
## Rent Bank User Testimonials

"The rent bank was so helpful and the service was exceptional. The person who helped me was responsive and provided emotional support that I needed. Also, he made a great effort to get my application processed quickly so that I could get the help that I needed in a timely manner. Thank you to the rent bank."

"I'm grateful for Rent Bank's help. I would be homeless without it. The last time I checked there were no other options except temporary housing in a shelter. At my age (70) this would likely be the end of me. Rent Bank's service was quick and efficient, very friendly and respectful. I can't imagine it being any better. The service kept me in my home. Thank You!"

"I am not sure how they could improve it more. The staff at rent bank are very welcoming, I felt their compassion and support to be genuine, I felt no judgment or discrimination for how I reached the situation for which I needed their help even though I was embarrassed."

"I really didn't have anyone else to turn to financially when I was trying to start a new life. One {step} away from drugs and abuse. The rent bank helped me pay for my home so that I wasn't homeless and that helped me be able to start a new job. I was able to go into my interview feeling confident and not be a ball of nerves for the wrong reasons."



# Living Wage For Families BC



specialized skillsets. If our society truly wants to meet the needs of a growing carless culture, bike mechanics and cycling service workers need to be properly compensated.” Steve Vanderwoerd, HR Manager, Mobi Bikes.

As part of their commitment to becoming a Living Wage Employer, nearly half of their workforce received a pay increase to be brought up to the Living Wage.

Steve Vanderwoerd, HR Manager for Mobi Bikes says that since making these changes, they’ve seen that it’s helped with recruitment and retention.

## City of Vancouver stops being a Living Wage Employer

In February 2023, we were disappointed to find out that the City of Vancouver voted to stop being a Living Wage Employer. In a private meeting, council voted to pay workers a five-year rolling average of the Living Wage. In our statement released at the time we said

“The rolling average of a living wage, goes against the spirit of the living wage. People across the city are struggling to pay for the cost of essentials right now, not the cost of rent or food averaged out from 5 years ago. It is vital, that anyone working on behalf of the city should be able to live in Vancouver”.

The Living Wage program will keep advocating for the City of Vancouver to rejoin the program.

## What is the Living Wage?

The Living Wage is the hourly amount a worker needs to earn to pay for basic essentials like food and rent. In Metro-Vancouver the Living Wage in 2023 was \$25.68 an hour.

## Mobi Bikes became a Living Wage Employer

In June 2023, Mobi Bikes became a Living Wage employer, committing to paying their staff and contracted workers a living wage and breaking the cycle of underpaid service workers.

“The cycling industry has historically had low wages and seasonal instability that is often met with highly

Living Wage rates calculated for **over 20** communities across BC

**400** certified Living Wage Employers in BC

**2,623** workers received a pay increase to be brought up to the new Living Wage

**1** new strategy developed

**50+** media interviews about the importance of a Living Wage



To find out more information about the Living Wage program, please visit:

[livingwagebc.ca](https://livingwagebc.ca)

# Our Team

## Board of Directors



CLAYTON BUCKINGHAM

CHAIR



JINDY BAINS

SECRETARY



JONATHAN FOWLIE

TREASURER



KHELSEM

DIRECTOR

To learn more about our Board of Directors, please visit: [vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/about/board](https://vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/about/board)

## Staff Leadership Team

AIMÉE  
DANIS

Senior Manager,  
Community + Equity

ALVIN  
SINGH

Director,  
Communications + Advocacy

BRYN  
SADOWNIK

Senior Manager,  
Research + Evaluation

DEBORAH  
BAKER

Director,  
Community Programs

GENESA  
GREENING

Chief Executive Officer

IRENE  
GANNITSOS

Director,  
Strategic Investment

IRIS  
YONG

Managing Director,  
312 Main

MARIE-GENEVIEVE  
LANE

Director,  
Finance

MICHELLE  
DALY

Director,  
Philanthropy

MICHELLE  
KUMAR

Director,  
Operations

NANCY  
MELO

Manager,  
CEO Office

NJERI  
KONTULAHTI

Managing Director, Housing  
and Homelessness

SEAN  
CONDON

Director, Social + Economic  
Innovation

For a complete list of Vancity Community Foundation staff, please visit: [vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/about/staff](https://vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/about/staff)

## Join Us

Vancity Community Foundation has been working to build a society that is more inclusive, just and sustainable since 1989. With our history of working in the community and with Vancity credit union, we are uniquely positioned to bring together people, expertise and financial tools to make the most impactful projects happen. We continue to reflect, learn and act to bring systemic change to the most pressing challenges in our region: economic disparity, social injustice, racial inequity, housing insecurity, the climate emergency and the deep impacts of colonization. We do not and cannot do this alone. Every contribution helps make a difference. Whether you're making a one-time donation, or partnering with us over the long-term, or contributing to an existing Donor Advised Fund, or establishing a new one, you are contributing to community change.



To learn more about supporting our initiatives through a donation, grant, or impact investment, as well as the many ways to give, please contact: [give@vancity.com](mailto:give@vancity.com), call 604-877-7647 or [visit us online](#) for more information.

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### CONTACT US

**Call us**

604-877-7647

**Write us**

give@vancity.com

**Visit us**

[vancitycommunityfoundation.ca](https://vancitycommunityfoundation.ca)

**Vancity Community Foundation**

BN: 892028242 RR0001

**Vancity** Community Foundation

Follow us      – @vancitycommfdn