



ASSOCIATION OF
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES BC

2022-2023

Annual Report

HOW WE GROW TOGETHER



About ANHBC

The Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC (ANHBC) promotes strong, vibrant neighbourhoods by fostering community connection and by responding to the needs of growing communities in a place-based, holistic way.

ANHBC is the network of eight neighbourhood houses and an outdoor centre, through which we operate more than 500 community-based programs and services for a diversity of participants. Together with community, we build strong and supportive relationships at welcoming and inclusive sites throughout Metro Vancouver.

Our Vision

We envision everyone living in a healthy and engaged community.

Our Mission

ANHBC plays a leadership role in building healthy and engaged neighbourhoods by connecting people and strengthening their capacity to create change.



ASSOCIATION OF
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES BC



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Decolonization in Action



Travis Angus, member of the Nisga'a Nation, conducting the Indigenous Heritage Month opening ceremony at South Vancouver NH

We acknowledge that our houses and camp operate on the traditional, ancestral and stolen lands of the Coast Salish people, represented by the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Semiahma (Semiahmoo), q'ʷa:ńλ'əh (Kwantlen), səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh), kʷikʷəƛ̓əm (Kwikwetlem), qiqéyt (Qayqayt), sčəwaθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen), and Stó:lō Nations.

As neighbourhood houses, we are committed to learning and aligning with Indigenous worldviews, which help us build a stronger sense of community and a deeper understanding of the environment in which we live. Our goal is to live our shared understandings of our values and the manifestation of those values. Driven by this commitment, we are working to decolonize our policies, practices, and ways of knowing to promote an inclusive and anti-racist organization.

Throughout the 2022-23 Annual Report, you will see and read examples of this work at all corners of our organization - and we are committed to listening, learning, and growing long beyond this timeframe.

The artwork throughout this document is by Charlene Johnny - Coast Salish artist from the Quw'utsun Tribes of Duncan, B.C. living and working on the unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Sə́l̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Together, we worked with Charlene on creating illustrations for this Annual Report - centred around our theme, "How We Grow Together" - that honour the indigenous flora and fauna that grow on these Coast Salish Lands. You can learn more about these plants and where to find them in our forests and gardens on page 25.

[Learn more about Charlene's interdisciplinary work here.](#)

A Message from Our CEO and President

Across ANHBC - from Alex House in South Surrey, to Sasamat Outdoor Centre in Belcarra, to the seven neighbourhood houses across Vancouver - the last year has been one of reflection, learning, collaboration and growth. As we continue our Strategic Transformation journey, our commitment to decolonizing and becoming more anti-racist remains at the forefront of everything we do. We are demonstrating that the values we uphold aren't just words. They guide our actions every day and pave the way for a more just and inclusive future.

Throughout the 2022/23 Annual Report, you will see stories of growth and impact that uphold our values - a beautiful illustration is John Spence's totem pole at Gordon Neighbourhood House. The project is one of



Over the course of several months, John Spence collaborated with the community and Indigenous youth to carve a new totem pole outside of Gordon Neighbourhood House.



Land Back conversations took place at the ANHBC Board of Directors Retreat, exploring the possibilities of how to further our decolonization efforts as an organization.

deep connection, learning and reciprocity, and is an example of living ANHBC values within our spaces.

We have learned that change takes time and effort. It requires us to be introspective, to challenge our own biases, and to hold ourselves accountable. By creating inclusive and brave spaces where honest conversations can take place, where mistakes are seen as opportunities for growth, and where everyone feels safe to express their perspectives and experiences, we can foster a culture that embraces diversity and makes space for everyone to thrive. One of the examples of how we're having brave dialogue is through our Land Back Conversations across ANHBC, exploring what that looks like for us as individuals and as an organization.

A Message from Our CEO and President

Continued

We know that collaboration has always been a key driver of the success of ANHBC and neighbourhood houses, and it continues to be important as we evolve as an organization. Our achievements and successes would not have been possible without the collective efforts of every individual at the organization. By working together, we have overcome challenges and achieved remarkable milestones.



As part of our Strategic Transformation, a series of Open Space Conversations invite ANHBC staff to discuss how we can build stronger communities in the coming decades.

As ANHBC continues to evolve and grow, thoughtful change is serving us well and will continue to be a guiding principle as we explore opportunities for every one of our neighbours to live in healthy, connected and engaged communities. Staff, volunteers and participants have gathered together for a series of Open Space Conversations to look toward the future within our communities, and explore the role neighbourhood houses will play in the next 10, 20 and 30 years. We asked ourselves - *who are we, how can we be stronger together, what will our communities look like as the world evolves?* Part of our Strategic Transformation work is to continue to invite our communities into these conversations, and this work will be an ongoing part of our practice.

To our committed community of volunteers, participants, staff and supporters, you inspire our evolution and we thank you for your commitment to ANHBC and the work of neighbourhood houses.



Liz Lougheed Green,
CEO



Dan Watson,
President

ANHBC Board of Directors



Dan Watson

President



Rableen Nagra

Vice President



Jeffrey Wang

Treasurer



Aneelma Morsara

Secretary/South
Vancouver
Neighbourhood
House Representative



Terry Stanway

Director at Large



Ming Pilz

Director at Large



Khaled Shariff

Director at Large



Darius Maze

Director at Large



Kingsley Chong

Director at Large



Brian McGibney

Cedar Cottage
Neighbourhood House
Representative



Dakota Lai-Dean

Frog Hollow
Neighbourhood
House
Representative



Deborah Baker

Gordon
Neighbourhood
House
Representative



Ritu Gill

Kitsilano
Neighbourhood
House
Representative



Vijay Gupta

Marpole
Neighbourhood
House
Representative



Anthony Kupferschmidt

Mount Pleasant
Neighbourhood House
Representative



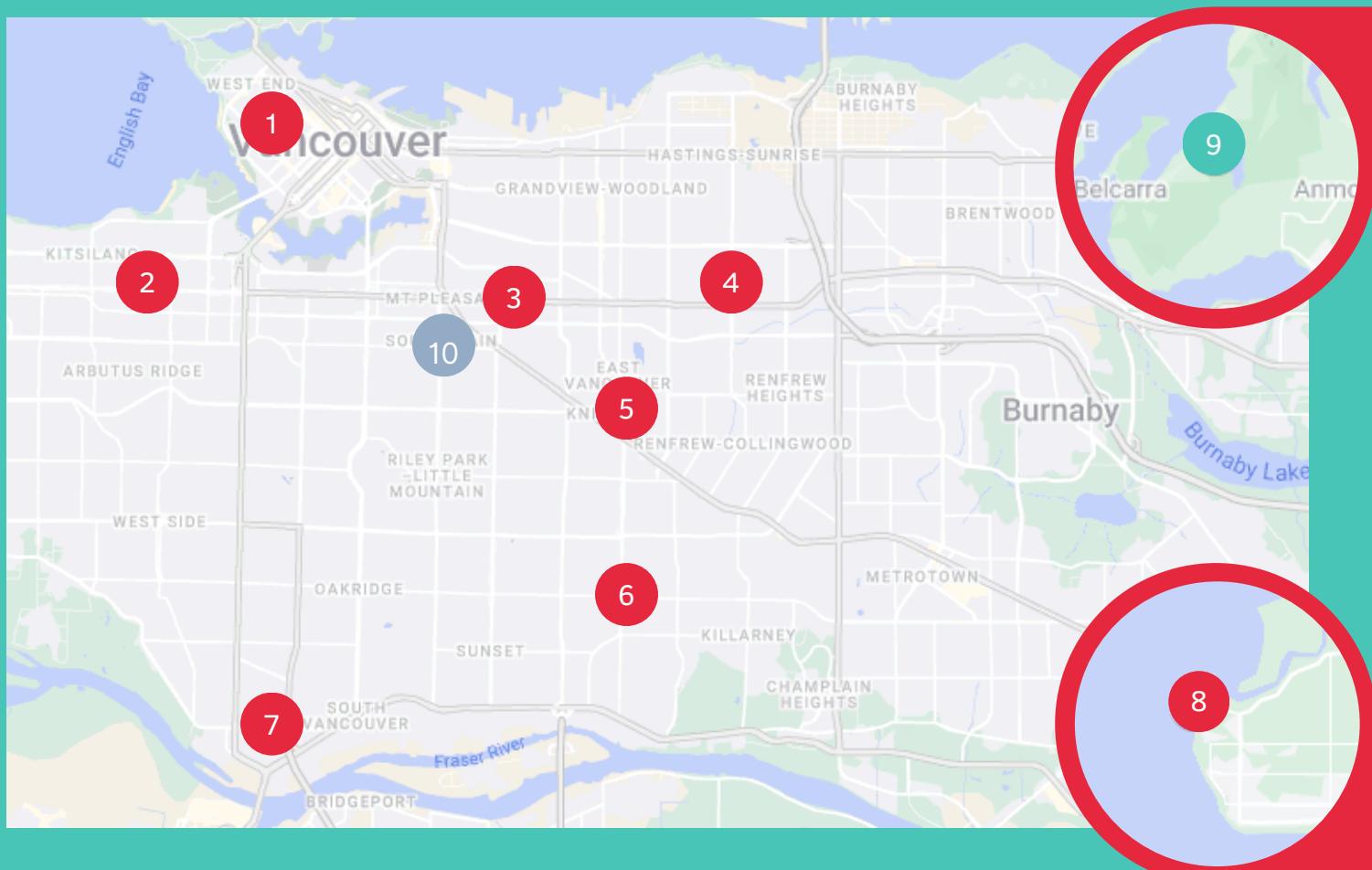
Robert Simons

Sasamat Outdoor
Centre
Representative

Houses, Camp & Central

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Click on a house to visit its website!





2022-2023

Year in Review

HOW WE GROW TOGETHER

2022-2023 ANHBC Highlights



Child Care Growth

ANHBC's role as a quality child care provider across Metro Vancouver continued to grow through the year. Our spaces available for the families in our communities increased from 1293 to 1446 (+153). We also converted four of our child care sites to \$10/day - for a total of six. Throughout the year we activated the Building on Strengths (BOS) Report recommendations - an organization-wide child care project exploring ANHBC's unique approach to this important work. [Learn more about ANHBC Child Care](#)

Redevelopment of Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House



Cedar Cottage has taken a values driven approach to the redevelopment of their neighbourhood house. Their [redevelopment project principles](#) embed decolonization, diversity and inclusion, and actively engaging the community. Kwasən-Naikoon Joint Venture, a majority Indigenous owned and operated business, was hired as the construction manager for the project. The redevelopment of the site and building will use the highest environmental standards. [Learn more about the Redevelopment of Cedar Cottage](#)

2022-2023 ANHBC Highlights

Continued



Strategic Transformation

We have and will continue to host conversations across the organization, exploring topics like child care, climate action, sustainability, collaboration, and looking towards our future as an organization, through the lens of decolonization and anti-racism. This work will help us ensure that our collective principles and values inform our upcoming strategic plan.

Decolonizing & Indigenizing



Land Back

As a part of the Strategic Transformation journey, a Core Team of ANHBC staff and volunteers was formed. Their work together led to the development of a Land Back Dialogue toolkit for conversations hosted across the organization throughout 2022-23. A key part of the Land Back journey is the ongoing conversations and relationship building with the Semiahmoo Nation and Alex House.

Belonging in Unceded Territory Project

In partnership with UBC Migration Studies, Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC (AMSSA), Immigrant Services, Frog Hollow and Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Houses have deeply explored and questioned our situation as uninvited guests on the unceded and stolen territories of the Coast Salish peoples. The project asks us how we reconcile the fact that we are settling here on ancestral land that is not ours, and whose people never gave us the permission to settle here. [Learn more about the Belonging in Unceded Territory Project](#)



Skwetsimeltxw Willard "Buddy" Joseph, member of the Squamish Nation, speaking with Frog Hollow's Susan Liu Woronko and Ancel Zhu at the presentation of the "Belonging in Unceded Territory" project

ANHBC in Numbers



58 sites in Metro Vancouver

1,446 licensed child care spaces

43,000+ people assisted this year

500+ programs and services

734 employees, **276** full-time

1,908 volunteers, **54,307** hours

Funded by **3** levels of government & donations

In Conversation: How We Grow Together



**6,379
families**

Our lovely daughter loves [her day care program] very much. She wakes up everyday with a smile knowing that we're going to Frog Hollow.

Anna Marie Austero, Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House

We are building social support nets together and I truly feel like I am a part of something bigger here, a neighbourhood that takes care of each other, a place where people matter.

Oliver Cowan, Marpole Neighbourhood House

**10,723
youth**



**4,471
newcomers**

As a Multicultural Labour Market Settlement Counsellor, I feel privileged to have worked with exceptional immigrant women who, through their joint efforts, have become empowered and confident. In our supportive environment, emotional assistance and mutual encouragement are encouraged and have helped establish a sense of resilience in the participants.

Kwangyoung Conn, South Vancouver Neighbourhood House

How We Grow Together: Child Care

By: Stefani Chandler, Director of Childcare, Alex House



Six \$10 per day
child care sites
across Metro
Vancouver



Alex House Children's Centre Programs have been growing and evolving since we opened our doors in 2011, from 58 to 358 licensed spaces. This growth lives and breathes with us on a daily basis and is an evolving journey for all of Alex House.

When I first started at Alex House, I didn't fully understand the Reggio Emilia philosophy as an approach to learning. I learned it is in the way that we are present with the children, the sense of belonging that children and families feel, the way that educators are co-learners with the children and families - helping them to learn from the world around them through patience, trial and error, and time. The support and mentorship of ANHBC, Frog's Hollow Learning Centre and Alex House has allowed me to carve a way through this journey with the children, families and staff team. As an educator I have grown both personally and professionally, starting as a childcare coordinator, and then nurtured and mentored into the role of Director of Childcare. Initially, I didn't have the confidence in myself to see that I could grow into a leader. In the field of Early Childhood Education, the only way to be in a leadership position is to be guided and mentored by fellow educators that believe in you, and I found this here at Alex House and ANHBC. Ten years ago, I wouldn't have thought this was possible and it is now a privilege to mentor and guide our team of 50+ educators.

ANHBC's desire to connect people and empower them to create the change they want to see in their communities is evident at Alex House. The team I am surrounded by inspires me to be passionate about supporting our community, to create a place for children, families and educators where there is a true sense of belonging, that provides quality child care which is inclusive, collaborative, leading edge, and innovative in our community.

I want to stop and pause and highlight that none of this would have been possible if it wasn't for the hardworking, dedicated, passionate and diverse team of educators I am surrounded by. Each individual brings their unique strength, passion, love and creativity to our team and assists in creating high-quality, inclusive and collaborative programs at Alex House and across ANHBC.

Neighbourhood houses are forever evolving and responding to their community. How has your neighbourhood house grown in the last year?



Neighbourhood Houses are cornerstones of social change. Collectively, we build communities that are grounded in creating welcoming spaces for citizens to innovate and dream about a world where all people are valued and that they work together to create a sustainable and just society. This unfolds from the smallest of gestures, such as giving water to a senior at the park, to organizing youth movements for change, or - for Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House - building a new building for generations to come.

Donna Chang, Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House



MNH has worked closely with the Marpole community in response to extreme weather events. We provided supports to the neighbourhood's most vulnerable by engaging in collaborative community discussions and providing direct supports that included neighborly check-ins, individual cooling and self-care kits, activating the warming centre over the winter months, and creating opportunities for deeper community connections.

Nilda Borrino, Marpole Neighbourhood House



Sasamat has been through more evolution in the last few years than one ever would have thought possible. Last year was our “restart year”. With the reintroduction of onsite school programming, overnight camping and full capacities in programs, the cancellations of the former two years were notable, as we were challenged with numerous operational gaps in our restart. Despite this, Sasamat still delivered exceptional camping programs to many happy children and youth.

Kristen Hyodo, Sasamat Outdoor Camp



How We Grow Together: Finding My Purpose

By: Natasha Johnson, Program Coordinator, Indigenous Youth Employment Program, Frog Hollow NH



Left: Natasha Johnson, Program Coordinator for the Indigenous Youth Employment Program (IYEP) at Frog Hollow NH; **Right:** Natasha Johnson, John Spence, Liz Lougheed Green, Steven Eastman, and Norm Leech in Lille, France for the 2023 IFS Conference

Aaniin, boozhoo, indinawemaaganidook. Natasha Meryl Miskwaa Dibik Giizis nindizhniikaaz. Mikinak nindodem. Michi Saagiig nindooniibaa.

Hello, all my relatives. My name is Natasha Meryl Miskwaa Dibik Giizis. Turtle is my totem. Michi Saagig is where I am from.

My role within ANHBC is Program Coordinator of the Indigenous Youth Employment Program ('IYEP'), through Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House. I have been in this role since June 2020. IYEP is funded through the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training, and facilitated by members of the Indigenous community (like me!). IYEP is for Indigenous youth aged 16-29 in East Vancouver and surrounding areas. Workshops are presented on a holistic range of topics, thoughtfully curated to increase self-confidence, provide life skills and strategies, and support folks where they are at with the tools and assets they identify that can best help them participate and ultimately become 'work-ready'; but beyond that, there is a lot of healing and community building that goes on. Workshops and presentations include resume and cover letter writing, interview skills, financial literacy, art therapy, and cultural components, led by local Indigenous guest speakers, knowledge keepers, and community members. Eight weeks of pre-employment workshops are followed by a paid 12-week practicum placement with a trusted community partner business or organization.

I am the descendant of a British mother and Ojibwe father. I grew up on the land of Curve Lake First Nation Reservations #35 in Ontario until age 8, when my parents divorced, and my time became divided between the reserve and the nearby village of Lakefield. As time went on, my ties to the Ojibwe reserve and community dwindled. I graduated college as a graphic designer before moving to BC in May of 2013. In the years leading up to me finding Frog Hollow (before I even knew what a 'Neighbourhood House' was), I worked a lot of 'corporate' and menial jobs; mostly retail, dotted with freelance graphic design, and eventually project management for a company serving corporate clients. In the spring of 2019, I received a large cheque from the government for The Williams Treaty (that's another story), which afforded me an opportunity to start over. I came to the conclusion that the 'rat-race' was ➔

not fulfilling for me, and was also pretty stressful, so I made the decision to quit the job I was doing in Corporation Land. I didn't know what I wanted to do next, but I knew I wanted to reconnect with the native community, and, if I was lucky, have an opportunity to do some type of work that would uplift us all. After taking a four-month trip to India for self-discovery and enjoyment, I got back to BC and started working with an Employment Counsellor at Drive Youth Employment Services. I shared with her a bit of my story and experience, and my values, and with all of this information she prompted me to apply for this role with Frog Hollow. I applied, and the rest is history.

As soon as I stepped into this role at Frog Hollow, my path became clearer and clearer, and the inner Decolonization work began. The tight, stiff, and stuffy 'colonized' pieces of me started to fall away; welcoming in love and acceptance, and allowing me to better heal and reconnect with my Ojibwe native ancestry in so many ways, in all aspects of my life. I used to carry a lot of shame around what I should be doing, how I should be acting and dressing, and my personal failure to meet the over-culture's markers of success.

A big part of this internal Decolonization is coming from the community-minded nature of the Neighbourhood House, but most notably from the Decolonization work we are doing with the ANHBC Core Transformation Team with Ta7talíya Nahanee and Norm Leech. More recently, through this work, I had the absolute privilege and amazing opportunity to be able to travel to France for an International Neighbourhood/Settlement House Conference as part of the ANHBC delegation, alongside four indigenous community leaders and our ANHBC CEO to present on the 'big scary' topic of Decolonization. It was an opportunity for me to start to build confidence in sharing my story, and learn how I can use it to spread awareness on a global scale.

Every challenging, confusing, and beautiful experience along the path of my life has brought me to this work, and it is just the beginning. I am learning so much, and try to share all that I learn with the participants of our program. I believe the work ANHBC is doing has hugely positive implications - for our organization and beyond.

Apichiigo miigwetch bizindawiyeg.
That is all I have to share for today.
Thank you for listening.

Natasha Meryl Miskwaa Dibik Giizis



Left: ANHBC Core Transformation Team 'Land Back' workshop. Right: Natasha wearing a custom ribbon skirt wedding gift, delivered by Donna Chang and Steven Eastman (Cedar Cottage NH) on behalf of ANHBC

As communities continue to evolve, how do you see your neighbourhood house growing in the next couple of years?

We have proven our value to the Frog Hollow neighbours, and they trust their children with us, so we have a great sense of responsibility to honour that as best we can. We can advocate for this neighbourhood so that we help shape and guide how we grow together here, rather than simply wait and see what the City and Province think is best for us.

Norm Leech, Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House



There is an important conversation to be had around climate, and our neighbors are keen to have it, whether it be preventing the worst of climate change or learning to adapt to our changing climate. This has led to the creation of novel initiatives, like our Comox Coolway program, which helps people vulnerable to heat events safely navigate the hill between local social housing and the low-cost grocery stores – or work to boost native species along that same walk. We were the first community recycling depot in Vancouver back in the 1990s, and we are proud to continue this spirit of innovation forward.

Siobhan Powlowski, Gordon Neighbourhood House



At MPNH, our goal for future growth is to harness our resources to focus on the inclusion of all neighbours into aspects of our work. We will continue to work towards our goals of social justice, inclusion, and reconciliation.

Devika Ramkhelawan, Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House



We hope to continue being proactive supporters, participants, and leaders to any emerging community need. At Kits House, we will continue to grow in our physical and emotional capacity to host the work we do.

Teddy Chan, Kitsilano Neighbourhood House



How We Grow Together: Indigenizing Our Places & Spaces

Honouring John Spence

By: Jenna Otto-Wray, Manager, Communications & Special Projects, ANHBC Central Services



Left: John Spence, a talented painter and wood carver from the Squamish Nation; **Right:** John proudly displays the completed totem pole, which will be raised outside of GNH in the near future

Gordon Neighbourhood House (GNH) is tucked away in the community now known as the West End of Vancouver, up from the shores of Yulkshun (Squamish place name for English Bay) and walking distance from Xwáy̱xway (Squamish Village in Stanley Park). Surrounded by a dense and vibrant intergenerational community, the Neighbourhood House is a gathering place for families, youth and seniors.

When visiting GNH, you know it is a special place, beloved by those who work there, who participate in events and programs, and volunteer their time - the air is buzzing with community and connection. This energy was amplified once GNH made connections with John Patrick Spence. John was born in North Vancouver, and is a member of the Squamish Nation. He is from the Killer Whale clan, and is a grandson of the late Chief Simon Baker (Khot-la-cha - man with a kind heart), and is a talented wood carver and painter.

John visited GNH in 2021 for a meeting with his colleagues from Watari Counselling & Support Services Society and the GNH team - talking about supports and mental health services for neighbours in the West End - when the conversation between John and GNH's Executive Director, Siobhan Powlowski, moved on to other topics.

“When looking around Gordon Neighbourhood House, I said to Siobhan, ‘You need to Indigenize this place!’” shared John. *“And so we began painting a mural”* responded Siobhan with a smile. And with John’s direction, the community began the mural project in summer 2021!



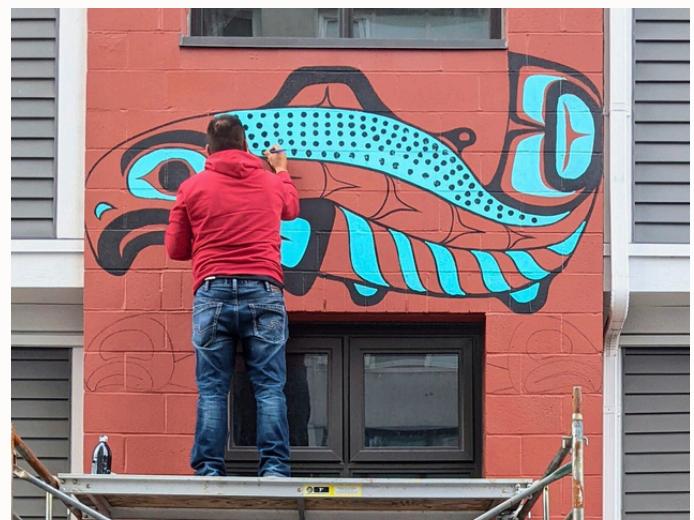
The mural brought together seniors and youth from the Neighbourhood House, as well as a group of Indigenous youth from Watari's Youth Outreach Program, who all contributed to the painting. At first, the youth were withdrawn, shy and quiet. The project took a few weeks, and after a while, the group was very connected with each other - laughing, joking and loving the art. The neighbouring buildings that circle GNH helped by running extension cords for the project, and neighbours brought lemonade and blueberries to nourish the painters. Now, a thunderbird, beaver and salmon welcome guests into the Neighbourhood House - important Squamish cultural and spiritual symbols.

The work of indigenizing and adopting Indigenous worldviews are imperative components of the Decolorizing journey ANHBC and Gordon Neighbourhood House are on. With colonization came a culture ban across Canada, written within the Indian Act, banning expressions of culture, art and spirituality.

"Our people were hidden, our reserves were hidden, the residential schools were hidden," explained John. "The culture ban was across the land, which led to imprisonment or murder - and ultimately mass genocide. The government went to reserves and cut down totem poles, many of which had boxes of the Chiefs' remains in them. They shipped them to museums. Their intention was to wipe us out entirely. But culture is now healing, through projects like these."

One year later, spring 2022, John and the community of GNH got started on another big project - a totem pole. When the cedar log arrived from sacred Squamish territory Elaho, there was a ceremony to welcome the log and invite the community into the carving. John carved throughout the summer, two-three times a week, and the day would start with a smudge and songs before his carving began. Quickly, the neighbourhood surrounded John and his work - elementary school children, neighbourhood seniors, everyone wanted to watch John and learn about his work!

"Everytime John would pick up his chisel to begin carving, someone would join him to ask questions, and he'd put the chisel down," laughed Siobhan. *"The energy was incredible!"* shared John *"[The inquisitive kids, the music playing seniors and the generous food-sharing neighbours] - they all brought me such great energy."*



Left: John receives the helping hand to carve the totem pole outside GNH Right: John painting a beatiful salmon, which is part of the mural he completed on the exterior wall of GNH

While the totem pole was carved and will stand in front of Gordon Neighbourhood House, John led the direction of the design, and his family will ultimately guide the destiny of the pole. Through building relationships with each other, it was important for both John and GNH that everyone involved in the project know it is John's inherent right to practice his culture on Squamish Territory, the land where Gordon Neighbourhood House now sits.

“Being able to do what I want, in my traditional territory, being able to stand [the totem] up here, is so important and meaningful,” explained John.

While the project wasn't without its challenges, the project and process has been astounding for all those involved. Through the relationship with Gordon Neighbourhood House, the mural project and the carving of the totem pole, John has not only made new friendships, but has also connected with community members with links to his grandfathers on both the Squamish and Haida sides of his family.

“[As a carver] I’m inspired by the animals. My grandparents. My ancestors. When I see an eagle I feel a spiritual connection to them. The connection to that eagle leads me back to my grandfather Chief Simon Baker,” shared John. “He taught me the connection to the spirit world and our ancestors. Sometimes when I struggle, when I feel confused, angry or lost, I’ll see an eagle. It’s a sign that I’m where I’m supposed to be. I feel an immense connection when I carve - I feel it radiating out.”

Afterword

John Spence's work can be seen at Gordon Neighbourhood House (1019 Broughton St, Vancouver). The totem pole is planned to be raised this summer, and the community and wider Neighbourhood House Family will be invited to celebrate together. John is carving another totem pole starting June 30, alongside the GNH community, and they have great plans to carve a kuhu7lth (ocean-bound canoe) in the near future - which will live on the shores of Yulkshun (English Bay).



Left: John drums at GNH's event for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Right: The totem pole features three lightning bolts on the head of the thunderbird, painted in orange - John's favourite colour

What is the value of collaborating across ANHBC?

As neighbourhood houses, we actively engage in collaborative approaches in our neighbourhoods, and as part of the ANHBC Strategic Transformation work, we are now engaging intentionally with our colleagues across ANHBC in order to decolonize our approach. Given that our work is place-based, each of the houses focus on priorities that are front and centre in their neighbourhoods. But a common thread at ANHBC is our shared desire to understand the impacts of colonization and make systemic changes that will allow us all to move forward in a good way with Indigenous people in our neighbourhoods.

Penny Bradley, Alex House



The value of collaboration is about growth. It is about being uncomfortable with what is and wanting to connect with others to create something better. By working together, we hold each other accountable in making progress and change. There is power in using the strengths and experiences of others to identify needs, challenges and ways to grow. Our communities across ANHBC are not that different from one another. However, it is what we do with the information that inspires our communities to action.

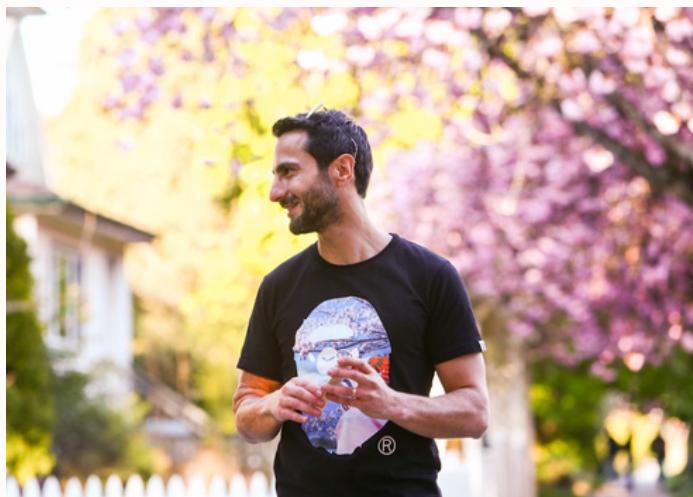
Mimi Rennie, South Vancouver Neighbourhood House



How We Grow Together: Gardening to Give Back

Honouring Saba Farmand

By: Melissa Zapiola, Communication & Engagement Coordinator,
Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House



Left: Saba Farmand has built quite a community following with his East Van boulevard garden tours, the proceeds of which he generously donates to Mount Pleasant NH. Right: A beautiful boulevard garden in East Vancouver. For more garden content, check out Saba at [@eastvan_bld_gardens](https://www.instagram.com/eastvan_bld_gardens) on Instagram.

Introducing Saba, a landscape architect, a passionate community member and advocate for boulevard gardens who has found a unique way to financially support the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House (MPNH). Saba's journey began with his [Instagram project](#), where he posted photos of every boulevard garden he encountered.

To Saba's surprise, [his Instagram account](#) gained a significant following, and soon he received a request from one of his followers to organize a walking tour showcasing his favourite boulevard gardens. Although new to leading tours, Saba embraced the opportunity to share his passion and agreed to be compensated for his time.

Recognizing his strong commitment to community building and the fact that the tour took place in his own neighborhood, Saba made the decision to donate payments to MPNH. This choice was a natural extension of his belief in the power of community and the shared values of his tours and the organization. Inspired by this initial act of giving, Saba decided to structure the tours as donation-based, ensuring that all proceeds directly support MPNH in their mission to foster vibrant and connected communities. "These boulevard gardens are what inspired me to start my project which has in turn inspired members of my community, who were originally strangers, to connect



with me and to inspire and support my walking tour," shares Saba. "This tour has become a fun and popular community-building event, that has connected neighbours from all walks of life who come together through shared movement outdoors to learn environmental education and nature awareness lessons through the lens of boulevard gardens, [while giving back to our local neighbourhood house]."

Saba understands the tremendous contribution of boulevard gardens to the community. These beautiful gardens, lovingly installed and maintained by private residents in public spaces, are like gifts to the neighbourhood. Saba recognized their potential to enhance the streets, promote sustainability, and foster neighbourly interactions. Inspired by this vision, he embarked on organizing the tours, driven by his desire to share the benefits of boulevard gardening with all the folks in the neighbourhood. Since starting Saba has given 10 tours, and plans to host one annually on Earth Day. Through these tours, Saba has brought together community members from different walks of life, creating connections and fostering a deeper appreciation for the transformative power of green spaces.

Saba's efforts showcase the power of individual passions and how they can be harnessed to support the community. MPNH is incredibly grateful for Saba's dedication, creativity, and ability to unite neighbours through shared experiences. Thank you, Saba, for inspiring and supporting the MPNH and for bringing the community closer together through the beauty of boulevard gardens.

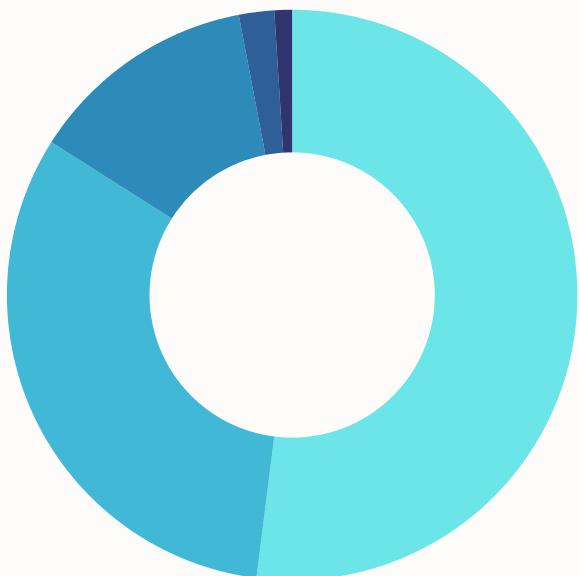
Help our neighbourhood houses grow by becoming a monthly donor at anhbc.org/donate.



Through his walking tours, Saba has built a strong community of others who are interested in the beauty of boulevard gardens and environmental education. Photo credit (left): Hemlock Studio [@hemlock.studio](http://hemlock.studio)

Consolidated Statement of Operations

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

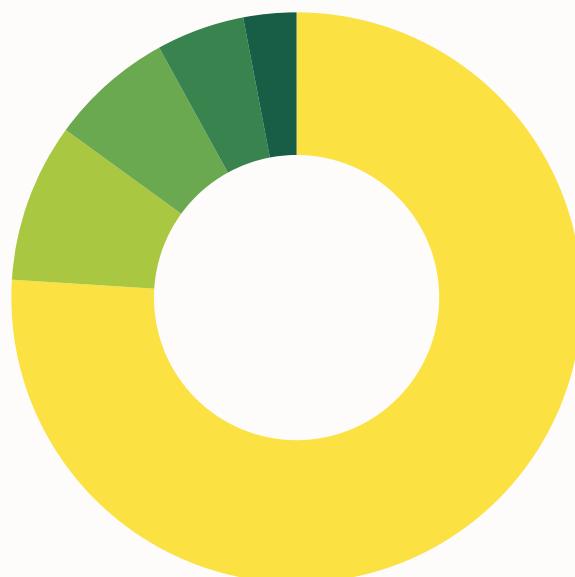


Revenue

Government grants	52%
Earned income	32%
Other contributions	13%
Investment income	2%
Donations and fundraising	1%

Expenses

Salaries and benefits	76%
Building occupancy	9%
Program, food, and transportation	7%
Purchased services and subcontracts	5%
Other	3%



Consolidated Statement of Operations

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

OPERATING REVENUE	2023	2022
Earned income	11,197,420	8,698,972
Province of British Columbia	11,288,231	9,572,945
Federal government	4,308,684	3,866,650
United Way	1,921,036	1,779,984
City of Vancouver	1,382,310	1,850,548
Contributions from foundations	1,926,534	1,350,883
Other contributions and miscellaneous income	678,495	676,357
Gaming	801,939	754,675
Donations and fundraising	325,107	322,809
Investment income	628,998	463,201
	34,458,754	29,337,024
OPERATING EXPENSES	2023	2022
Salaries and benefits	25,253,903	21,515,830
Program, food and transportation	2,501,812	1,975,592
Purchased services and subcontracts	1,568,635	1,739,662
Building occupancy	3,037,909	2,071,056
Other expenses	459,515	468,872
Office expenses	501,560	437,052
	33,323,334	28,208,064
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	2023	2022
	1,135,420	1,128,960
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	642,858	760,448
Amortization	(782,484)	(1,027,137)
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(312,362)	34,996
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$683,432	\$897,267

Note: Full set of consolidated audited financial statements are available on [our website](#).

Auditors: Deloitte & Touche



Join the Movement

Donate

Help us grow stronger together by donating to our neighbourhood houses.

Volunteer

Contact your nearest neighbourhood house to ask about volunteer positions.

Share

Follow us on social media and share our impact with your friends and family.

Careers

Visit our website to see job postings from our Houses, Camp, and Central Services.

[Click to find out more!](#)



ASSOCIATION OF
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES BC

Indigenous Plants

At ANHBC, decolonizing and embracing Indigenous worldviews guide much of our work within our communities. Being a place-based organization and working alongside Indigenous leaders - honouring and celebrating the Coast Salish lands we occupy - guides much of our work. We want to share a bit about the plants we highlighted throughout this annual report, in their Hul'qumi'num, English and Latin names. To learn more about Indigenous plants to these Coast Salish lands, we invite you to check-out ["Luschiim's Plants: Traditional Indigenous Foods, Materials and Medicines."](#)

The artwork throughout this annual report was created by Charlene Johnny, artist from the Quw'utsun Tribes of Duncan, BC. View her work: [@coastsalishart](http://charlenejohnny.com)



Woodland Strawberry

St'i'lukw | *Fragaria vesca*

When spring arrives, many of us watch the strawberry babies emerge again in our gardens, the forests and meadows we enjoy. St'i'lukw are perennial plants that grow at our feet each spring, sharing their joyful flowers, before baring their sweet fruit. The berries are enjoyed not only by the people of the lands, but also our deer and other woodland creatures.



Western Red Cedar

Xpey' | *Thuja plicata*

Experiencing one of these giants is a privilege for all of us living on Coast Salish land. It is a large tree, growing to 60 metres or higher, with long drooping branches that carry the spray of green leaves on their flattened bows. This is one of the most important trees to the Indigenous Peoples of the Coast Salish lands. Parts of an xpey' are used for building canoes, weaving hats, carving sacred objects, and much more.



Salal Berry

T'eqe' | *Gaultheria shallon*

If you've ever had the honour of walking through a Douglas fir forest, you will have seen these evergreen shrubs along your travels. The leaves are bright, the pink/white flowers dangle, and the inky berries are sweet. For over thousands of years, Indigenous Peoples used this plant for food and medicines.



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